



August 2023

Dear Incoming student,

My name is Katerina Papadaki, and I am the Programme Director for the **MSc in Operations Research & Analytics** at the London School of Economics and Political Science. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our MSc and to the Mathematics Department; we are all looking forward to meeting you in the new academic year 2023/24.

Please find below some preliminary information and advice on what is required of you when you join the LSE. This information can also be found on our Offer Holder and New Arrivals page at the following link: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/Mathematics/Offer-Holders/WelcomeMScORA>

All times below are London time (BST) and the locations of buildings can be found on [Campus Map](#).

Orientation Welcome Meeting

The Department will hold its official Welcome Meeting for the **MSc in Operations Research & Analytics** students on **Monday 18 September at 11.00-13.00 in CKK LG.09 (Cheng Kin Ku Building)** This will be an introduction to the programme and department, followed by a Q&A session.

Welcome Reception

The Departmental Welcome Reception for all our MSc students will be held on **Wednesday 20 September from 13.30-15.30 in the Shaw Library, 6th floor of Old Building**. There will be drinks and light refreshments.

Pre-sessional Introductory Course on Python Programming

The Mathematics Department is providing a 3-day pre-sessional course on Python programming on **Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 and Friday 22 September, 11.00– 13:00** in rooms FAW 4.01, FAW 4.02, FAW 4.03.

The introductory course is optional, but may be of interest to you if you do not have any programming background, and may be essential if you wish to take either [MA407](#) (Algorithms and Computation) or [MA421](#) (Topics in Algorithms) as an optional course; both of these courses require basic knowledge of Python, covered in the introductory course. You will need to pre-enrol online with the School before you can access teaching and learning resources. (Please be sure to activate your LSE network and email account when you pre-enrol online for the degree programme and also log on to Moodle to activate this account.)

School Enrolment

Enrolment at the LSE will be in two-stages: Online pre-enrolment and campus enrolment

Online Pre-enrolment

You will receive an email notification from the School's Registry Team when it is time to pre-enrol online for the MSc Operations Research & Analytics programme. As part of the online pre-enrolment process, you will activate your LSE network and email accounts. Once you have completed online registration and setup your accounts, you will have full access to all online teaching and learning resources.

On Campus Enrolment

On campus enrolment for the MSc Operations Research & Analytics programme will take place on **Tuesday 19 September, Great Hall, Marshall Building**. Information can be found [here](#) and the enrolment schedule is available [here](#).

Important Information

Please note as part of your registration you agree to stay in London or within reasonable distance of the School from which you can commute during term time, including Spring Term, and also for any summative assessment periods that fall outside the term dates which includes completion of the MA425 project or MA426 dissertation. This includes but is not limited to on campus examinations in the week preceding Winter Term and the examination period during Spring Term.

Students are required to be physically present in London until the end of August when they submit their final summative assessment in MA425 or MA426. Hence, when you are booking accommodation either with LSE dormitories or out of campus, make sure you book it until the end of August.

In addition, if you are an overseas student in the UK who requires immigration permission to study at the School, you must abide by the conditions of your visa as defined by UK Visas and Immigration, including engaging with your teaching, mode of attendance and the completion of campus enrolment and adhering to the working conditions. Further information about registration requirement can be found [here](#)

Teaching

Lectures start in week 1 beginning **Monday 25 September**. Seminars and classes will start in week 2 or 3, depending on the course. Attendance at classes is compulsory and is recorded on LSEforYou. Any student who is absent on two consecutive occasions or is regularly absent without good reason will be automatically reported to their Academic Mentor.

The provisional Timetable outline covering Autumn and Winter Term can be found [here](#). Courses listed under Papers 1, 2 and 3 are compulsory.

MSc Operations Research & Analytics Mathematics Courses

The degree regulations listing the compulsory and optional courses available can be found [here](#) on the School calendar. More detailed graduate course guides which also include reading lists can be found [here](#) on the calendar website pages. The School timetable confirming times and days of lectures, seminars and classes will be available [here](#).

Choosing Course Options

You will be able to browse the course options available from Monday 18 September and start selecting your courses from **Thursday 21 September 10.00 until Friday 6 October 2023, 17.00** via LSE For You.

Information about course options and the selection process will be given at the Departmental Welcome meeting on Monday 18 September. In the meantime, you can review the information on the School website pages [here](#). There may also be short videos made available to view for some of the optional Mathematics courses, on the MSc Mathematics Moodle page. Optional courses from other departments may require previous knowledge of particular areas. This may be indicated on the course guides, or their departmental website.

Academic Mentor Meetings

You will be assigned an Academic Mentor who will discuss your course choice options with you in more detail and offer guidance. Confirmation of your Academic Mentor will be announced during the departmental welcome meeting on Monday 18 September. The Academic Mentor is also the person who will provide academic guidance, support and feedback during your studies. You can find further information about the role of the Academic Mentor [here](#).

Academic preparation

If you have forgotten linear algebra it would be helpful to refresh it, as it plays a major role in the field of OR and in several key courses. There are many good textbooks to choose from; one taking a relatively concrete approach to the topic is *Linear Algebra* by Martin Anthony and Michele Harvey.

If you would like to gain some experience of computer programming before you arrive, you could learn the language R, which you will use in [ST447](#) Data Analysis and Statistical Methods.

Once you learn any language it is easy to learn others, and programming will be useful in your career. Programming will also give you a sense of what computers can and cannot do, that will be useful in all algorithmic courses. You may find the following useful as a starting point: [Introductory Statistics with R](#) by Peter Dalgaard, and the [Coursera course](#).

Contact with other students

We have created a Facebook Group that you can use to connect with other new students in the MSc in Operations Research & Analytics programme before you arrive. Please note we will need to recognise your name in English to accept requests to join from within Facebook. The link to the Facebook Group can be found [here](#).

Welcome Guide

The School has produced a welcome [guide](#) which includes the essential tasks you should complete before and after arriving at LSE, resources for support, now and during your studies, plus information about exciting opportunities taking place at LSE.

Student Hub

The [Student Hub](#) is LSE's app, designed to help you navigate your day-to-day life at LSE. You can download the Student Hub to start connecting with your department and course mates and get information to help you familiarise yourself with everything that LSE has to offer. Download the Student Hub app on iOS or Android, or access the web app at <https://welcome.lse.ac.uk/my-lse/download-the-student-hub>

The above information has been posted on the departmental website page for Offer Holders and New Arrivals at the following link: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/Mathematics/Offer-Holders/WelcomeMScORA>

Please note that all queries relating to conditions of your offer, CAS numbers, visas, submission of transcripts, IELTS and any other required documentation should be sent to [Graduate](#)

Admissions. Information can also be found in the Graduate Admissions offer holders website [page](#) and their [Knowledge Base](#)

If you have any questions about the programme or information contained in this letter, please contact: Rebecca Batey, MSc Programmes Manager, Department of Mathematics. Email: r.batey@lse.ac.uk

Once again, we are looking forward to meeting you in September and we hope you have a happy and rewarding year at the LSE.

Kind regards,

Dr Katerina Papadaki
MSc Operations Research & Analytics Programme Director
Department of Mathematics

Please note this message is being sent in advance to all those who, according to our records, hold a conditional or unconditional offer for this programme. Please note, you will need to have an unconditional offer to join the programme and completed on campus enrolment to attend lecture/seminar classes in September. If you have any queries about a conditional or unconditional offer, please contact the [Graduate Admissions Office](#) or check the [Knowledge Base](#)