



Department of  
**Mathematics**

Dear Incoming Student

My name is Gregory Sorkin, and I am the Programme Director for the **MSc in Operations Research & Analytics** degree 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 2025/26.

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, and the locations of buildings can be found on the [Campus Map](#).

### **Orientation Welcome Meeting**

The Department will hold its official Welcome Meeting for the **MSc in Operations Research & Analytics** students on **Tuesday 23 September at 10.30-12.30 in CBG 1.06 (Centre Building, Houghton Street)**. 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 24 September from 13.30-15.30 in the Kinta Alley, Sir Arthur Lewis Building (SAL), Lincoln's Inn Field**. 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 24, Thursday 25 and Friday 26 September, 11.00– 13:00** in room, **STC.S.08 (St Clement's)**.

This introductory course is optional but will be of interest to you if you do not have any programming background. It's particularly important for the compulsory [MA429](#) Algorithmic Techniques in Machine Learning course and the optional courses [MA407](#) Algorithms and Computation and [MA421](#) Topics in Algorithms. All three courses require basic knowledge of Python, covered in this 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 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 set up your accounts, you will have full access to all online teaching and learning resources.

### Campus Enrolment

Campus enrolment for the MSc Operations Research & Analytics programme will take place on **Tuesday 23 September, 14.45-15.00 in the Great Hall, The Marshall Building, 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields**. Information can be found [here](#) and the postgraduate 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 and for any summative assessment periods that fall outside the term dates such as completion of the project or dissertation. 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, completion of campus enrolment and adhering to the working conditions. Further information about registration requirements can be found [here](#).

### Teaching

Lectures start in week 1 beginning **Monday 29 September**. Seminars will start in week 2 or 3, depending on the course. Attendance at seminars is compulsory and is recorded on LSEforYou. Any student who is absent on two consecutive occasions or is regularly absent without good reason will automatically be 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. The graduate course guides, which also include reading lists, can be found [here](#) on the calendar website pages. These will be updated at the end of August/early September. The School timetable, confirming times and days of lectures, seminars, will be made available [here](#).

### Choosing Course Options

You will be able to browse the course options available from Monday 22 September and select your courses from **Thursday 25 September 10.00 until Friday 10 October 17.00** via LSE For You.

Information about course options and the selection process will be given at the Departmental Welcome meeting on Tuesday 23 September. In the meantime, you can review the information

on the School website pages [here](#). There may be short videos 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 Tuesday 23 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](#).

### **Departmental Senior Student Adviser**

Our Departmental Senior Student Adviser, Kadija Ahmad, can also support you during your time at LSE by helping you to navigate the advice and support services available to you at LSE, and assist with your wellbeing needs. Information can be found [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.

Computer programming will be useful to you in your career, and gives a sense of what computers can and cannot do that is useful in all algorithmic courses. Once you have learned one programming language it is easy to learn others. The pre-sessional Python course has already been mentioned. If you would like to do something before you come to LSE, you could learn the language R (which will be used in MA424), starting with *Introductory Statistics with R* by Peter Dalgaard and/or this [Coursera course](#).

### **Contact with other students**

We have created a LinkedIn Group that you can use to connect with other new students in the MSc in Operations Research & Analytics programme before you arrive. Please note that we will need to recognise your full name in English to accept requests to join the group. The link to the LinkedIn 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; and information about exciting opportunities taking place at LSE.

### **LSE Welcome Presentation**

The School Welcome Presentation will offer you an introduction to LSE from key members of staff. It will include information about the many opportunities and support available to you while you study. You can sign up to watch the presentation [here](#) once you have completed online pre-enrolment. The presentation will take place on Wednesday 17 September from 12 noon to 1pm. A recording of the presentation will also be available online.

### **Consent.Ed Programme**

All students are required to complete the Consent.Ed programme. Information about this programme and the online course can be found [here](#) and should be completed before you arrive.

## **Prepare to Learn at LSE Course**

To help you get off to a good start and make the most of what LSE has to offer, the School has developed, a short online, self-access course to complete before you arrive on campus. Details can be found [here](#). Our research shows that students who complete the course are more likely to do well in their studies. <https://welcome.lse.ac.uk/my-lse/enrol-in-our-prepare-to-learn-at-lse-course>

## **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>

All queries relating to conditions of your offer, CAS numbers, visas, submission of transcripts, degree certificates, IELTS and any other required documentation should be sent to Graduate Admissions. Information and guidance 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, [r.batey@lse.ac.uk](mailto: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 LSE.

Kind regards,

Professor Gregory Sorkin  
MSc Operations Research & Analytics Programme Director  
Department of Mathematics

## Campus Map

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/lse-information/campus-map> <https://www.lse.ac.uk/lse-information/campus-map>

***Please note: this message is sent in advance to all those who, according to our records, hold a conditional or unconditional offer for this programme. You will need to have an unconditional offer to join the programme and completed campus enrolment before you can attend any lectures or seminars. If you have any queries about a conditional or unconditional offer, please contact the [Graduate Admissions Office](#) or check the [Knowledge Base](#)***