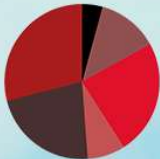




Department of
Statistics



LSE Department of Statistics

Promoting excellence in research
and education in statistics and
data science.

Department of Statistics Offer Holder Q&A

MSc Data Science

Introduction

- Josiah Phoenix:
 - MSc Programmes Manager
 - Office: COL 6.11 ([campus map](#))
 - E-mail: j.phoenix@lse.ac.uk
- Zoltan Szabo:
 - Programme Director and academic mentor to all MSc Data Science students
 - Office: COL 5.14; E-mail: z.szabo@lse.ac.uk
- Ieva Kazlauskaitė:
 - Deputy Programme Director
 - Office: COL 5.12; E-mail: i.kazlauskaite@lse.ac.uk

How can Josiah help you?

- Answer **non-academic queries** related to:
 - Department policies,
 - School policies,
 - wellbeing,
 - events, . . .

Wellbeing



How can Zoltan (and Ieva) help you?

- Provide **advice** on and give **final approval of course choices** at the beginning of Autumn and Winter Term.
- Discuss any **academic challenges** you may experience.
- Provide pastoral guidance on non-academic issues and **refer** you, as necessary, **to other support services** in the School.
- Maintain **regular contact** with you through direct one-to-one meetings and through regular email contact as needed.
- Follow up on any concerns regarding your **attendance and progress**.

Programme structure: 4 units

- Compulsory:
 - ST443 Machine Learning and Data Mining (H),
 - ST445 Managing and Visualising Data (H),
 - ST447 Data Analysis and Statistical Methods (H),
 - ST498 Capstone Project (F).

⇒ 2.5 = 3 × 0.5 + 1.
- Optional courses: 1.5 = 3 × 0.5 (≥ 0.5 unit of ST***)
 - next pages.

- Data science options [ST = statistics]:
 - ST446 Distributed Computing for Big Data (H),
 - ST449 Artificial Intelligence (H),
 - ST451 Bayesian Machine Learning (H),
 - ST455 Reinforcement Learning (H),
 - ST456 Deep Learning (H),
 - ST457 Graph Data Analytics and Representation Learning (H),
 - ST459 Quantum Computation and Information (H).

- Other statistics [ST = statistics]:
 - ST405 Multivariate Methods (H),
 - ST411 Generalised Linear Modelling and Survival Analysis (H),
 - ST418 Advanced Time Series Analysis (H),
 - ST429 Statistical Methods for Risk Management (H),
 - ST436 Financial Statistics (H),
 - ST444 Statistical Computing (H),
 - ST454 Applied Spatio-Temporal Analysis (H),
 - ST458 Financial Statistics II (H).

- Options from other departments [MA = maths, MY = methodology]:
 - MA407 Algorithms and Computation (H),
 - MY459 Computational Text Analysis and Large Language Models (H),
 - MY461 Social Network Analysis (H),
 - MY470 Computer Programming (H).

Note on course selection

- Most courses in the Dept. of Statistics: **controlled access**
 - limited numbers and you must meet their pre-requisites.
- Many other departments operate similarly: [complete list](#).
- **Essential:**
 - Select your courses ASAP to maximize your chances of being accepted!

Capstone project

- Real-world data science project with a company (Nov – Aug)



Useful skills to pick up

- [LaTeX \(Overleaf\)](#): high-quality article/book/TR/poster/business card/. . . with minimal effort.
- Writing etiquette:
 - Top ML conferences: [NeurIPS](#), [ICML](#), [AISTATS](#), [UAI](#), [COLT](#),
 - Top journal: [JMLR](#).
- Publication morale: open, often conference; [arXiv](#) (stat.ML, cs.LG, math.OC).
- Mailing lists: [ML-News](#), [UAI](#), [allstat](#), [Connectionists](#).
- Programming language: [Python](#), [R](#).
- Operating system: [Linux](#) (mini-course planned: Sept. 25)

Academic support throughout your studies

Academic Mentor – Programme Director

Programmes manager

[LSE Life: academic workshops](#)

[Language Centre](#)

[Academic Support Librarians](#)

[Digital Skills Lab](#)

Getting in touch

Questions about the Department or the MSc Data Science:

Josiah Phoenix – MSc Programmes Manager

- First point of contact for administration
- Email: j.phoenix@lse.ac.uk

Zoltan Szabo – MSc Data Science Programme Director

- First point of contact for academic queries
- Email: z.szabo@lse.ac.uk

Questions about your application: Graduate Admissions Office

Search 'LSE Graduate Admissions' then go to the Knowledge Base. If your question is not answered, submit an enquiry through the Knowledge Base.



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Questions?

Questions+

- **Q1:** Useful resource(s) to learn Python and Linux?
- **A1a:** Python:
 - Book: Mark Lutz. [Learning Python](#) (6th edition), 2025.
 - Note: [Digital Skills Lab](#): pre-sessional course on Python (& R).
- **A1b:** Linux:
 - We are planning to offer a free mini-course on how to get started with Linux (right before the [Autumn term](#)).
 - For the curious-minded: see [Zoltan's website](#): [Teaching](#): 'Mini-course: Getting Started with Linux'.

Questions+

- **Q2:** Session for working professionals to transition back to school?
- **A2:** [LSE Summer School](#).
- **Q3:** Expected cohort size?
- **A3:** 50-60.
- **Q4:** Orientation?
- **A4:** We plan to have a dedicated orientation session on the week before the [term starts](#).

Questions+

- Q5: Interaction / engagement with [DSI](#)?
- A5:
 - Their aim: combine the data science & social science expertise present across various units of LSE.
 - [DSI Events](#).
- Q6: PhD opportunity at the department, preparation?
- A6:
 - Yes, (i) 1 year Msc + PhD (at MSc application), (ii) regular route.
 - Contact your target supervisor(s) to discuss and form a strong research plan.



Department of
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