Get ready for MSc Data Science

Welcome to MSc Data Science. We look forward to meeting you and hope you have an enjoyable time at UWE. You should aim to join the course at the beginning, and attend the induction, in order to receive essential information and get oriented.

Dr Paul Matthews

Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

You can also explore our support for careers and enterprise**.** UWE Careers & Enterprise provide a range of workshops, appointments and a huge range of online resources to support students in realising their future ambitions. The Careers Toolkit is our online portal to finding vacancies, booking onto events and accessing a range of resources.

Enrolment

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

To start becoming familiar with study skills please see the range of library support modules here - Study Skills . Writing well in English, citing properly, avoiding plagiarism and critical reading are essential for success on the MSc.

We will be using Python, R and SQL on the course. You will be programming in R and Python from the start. If you are new to these, you will find it useful to get a head start by working through some introductory tutorials, such as those found at:

https://www.datacamp.com/

https://www.w3schools.com/python/python_intro.asp

https://www.w3schools.com/sql/

https://www.linkedin.com/learning/ (free trial, but you will have unlimitedaccess once you have a UWE login)

Read around your subject

To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive.

Here are some recommended titles for you to read, to be inspired by and to understand your programme:

1. Weapons of Math Destruction - A compelling read on the power and (often adverse) impact of algorithms
2. The Master Algorithm – An excellent overview of machine learning approaches
3. Think Stats - Free online book with some useful Python accompanying code.
4. Data Science from Scratch - This is more advanced and covers many topics that you will study on the course, but you can get started with the introductory chapter.

These web sites include many useful articles:

- https://www.kdnuggets.com/
- https://towardsdatascience.com

Module choices

You will choose two option modules in the autumn. More information about the content of the options is available at the following link
https://fetstudy.uwe.ac.uk/~pmatthew/resources/msc-data-science-structure

Professional Body

The British Computer Society is the professional body for IT and data professionals in the UK, and membership brings a lot of benefits, including specialist groups, networking, career support and discounted resources. Membership for students is discounted and available .

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University provides computers on all our campuses for you to use in your studies. These computers will provide access to our core digital education tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

We strongly recommend that bring your own laptop to enable you to work remotely and on campus. See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

It is recommended that you have the following programs installed before starting the course proper (but don't worry if you want to wait as we can help you out with these further during Starting Block!):

- Anaconda data science platform (Python, libraries and Local Notebooks)
- Git version control software
- RStudio desktop free version (stats programming)
- Visual studio code (multipurpose coding environment)
- XAMPP (database and web server software v7.4.10)

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the programme, please contact any one of us:

- Dr Mahmoud Elbattah via email at Mahmoud.Elbattah@uwe.ac.uk
- **Dr Paul Matthews** via email at paul2.matthews@uwe.ac.uk

Eirini Kalaitzopoulou via email at Eirini.Kalaitzopoulou@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026