

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 S. M. Ahsan Kazmi & Dr Paul Matthews

Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 20 January for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and 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 webpage](#) for more details.

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

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, 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 [Career Toolkit](#) is our online portal to finding vacancies, booking onto events and accessing a range of resources.

Registration

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 register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) 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

Have a go at these activities to start preparing for your programme:

- You will be contacted separately to join the "Thrive in Datascience" pre-enrolment course. It is highly recommended that you engage with this to help you self-assess your learning needs and prepare for study with us. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/data-science-artificial-intelligence>
- 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 unlimited access once you have a UWE login)

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. 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. Explore the [Library](#) webpages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Here are some of our recommended titles for you to read, to be inspired by and to understand the scope of your degree 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:

5. <https://www.kdnuggets.com/>
6. <https://towardsdatascience.com>

Module choices - You will choose two option modules when you arrive. More information about the content of the options can be found here:

<https://fetstudy.uwe.ac.uk/~pmatthew/resources/msc-data-science-structure>

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 has computers on all our campuses for you to use in your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning 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 also having your own laptop, particularly if your access to on-campus facilities is limited. UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) for advice and guidance.

See the UWE webpage for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#). For this programme we recommend the **Enhanced Specification**.

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 settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol, and they organise social events to help you adapt to your new environment.

OfS Scholarships

A number of OfS scholarships will be available and will be advertised to applicants. These are for groups traditionally underrepresented in data science and intended for UK nationals and UK-settled students, with the same eligibility as the [UK Masters Loans](#). Unfortunately international students are not eligible.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact: **Dr S. M. Ahsan Kazmi** (email at ahsan.kazmi@uwe.ac.uk) or **Dr Paul Matthews** (email at paul2.matthews@uwe.ac.uk)

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: January 2025

Last updated: Autumn 2024