

Get ready for BSc (Hons) Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

A warm welcome to BSc (Hons) Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. I hope that you are enjoying your summer and looking forward to starting at UWE Bristol in September 2026.

This one-year top-up programme will enable you to turn your IT, ICT or Computing Higher Diploma or equivalent qualification into a full BSc (Hons) degree. You'll develop vital professional skills in areas like programming, data analytics, and business. You'll also learn the essential technical knowledge needed in the industry to develop, implement, and manage data science and AI solutions across various business environments and application areas. Through an individual project, you'll have the opportunity to apply what you learn to real-world challenges.

Upon graduating, a broad range of data science and artificial intelligence career paths will be open to you, including data analysis, database administration, business analytics and more. The business-oriented aspects of the programme also make careers in management consulting, training and similar roles an option.

I'm sure you're eager to build on your existing computing education and take this major step towards an exciting and rewarding technology career. We look forward to welcoming you to UWE Bristol and supporting your success.

The information below will help you prepare for when you start with us. I'm sure you're looking forward to it as much as I am.

Xiaodong Li (Email: xiaodong.li@uwe.ac.uk)

Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 15 September 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 enrolment 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 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.

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

We have curated a list of useful resources that you are encouraged to go through ahead of your start in September. Depending on the module options that you choose on this programme, you could be learning any of the following: applications of artificial intelligence, data visualisation and big data analysis.

You may want to start by brushing up your English:

- [English for Developers](#)

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:

- [Python tutorial](#)
- [Python for Everybody](#)
- [Programming in Python](#)
- [Data Analysis with Python](#)

Read around your subject

To help you to enhance your 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>
- <https://www.datacamp.com/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/> (free trial, but you will have unlimited access once you have a UWE login)

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 during 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.

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](#) team for advice and guidance.

The software used in your course includes will depend on your option choices.

You may be considering buying a new computer for your studies, and your choice will depend on many factors, including your budget. See the UWE website, [Choosing the right IT equipment for university](#) for advice. For Data Science and Artificial Intelligence we recommend a recent PC laptop, or a Mac with at least the Enhanced Specification. If you already have a laptop with a reasonable spec, my advice is not to rush to purchase before you join UWE and have a chance to try out your existing machine with our systems.

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offers 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.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact me: **Dr Xiaodong Li** via email at Xiaodong.Li@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: September 2026

Last updated: Spring 2026