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 2024/25.

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 **Monday 23 September at 10.30-12.30 in CBG 2.06 (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 25 September from 14.00-15.30 in the Shaw Library, 6th floor of Old Building, Houghton Street.** 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 25, Thursday 26** and **Friday 27 September**, **11.00– 13:00** in rooms **FAW 4.01, FAW 4.02, FAW 4.03.**

The introductory course is optional, but may be of interest to you if you do not have any programming background, and may be essential if you wish to take either MA407 (Algorithms and Computation) or MA421 (Topics in Algorithms); both of these 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 24 September, 2.45-3pm in the Great Hall, The Marshall Building, 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields. I**nformation can be found here and the 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 also 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 30 September**. Seminars and classes will start in week 2 or 3, depending on the course. Attendance at classes 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. More detailed graduate course guides which also include reading lists can be found here on the calendar website pages. The School timetable, confirming times and days of lectures, seminars and classes, will be available here.

Choosing Course Options
You will be able to browse the course options available from Monday 23 September and select your courses from **Thursday 26 September 10.00 until Friday 11 October 17.00** via LSE For You.

Information about course options and the selection process will be given at the Departmental Welcome meeting on Monday 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 Monday 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.

If you would like to gain some experience of computer programming before you arrive, you could learn the language R, which you will use in ST447 Data Analysis and Statistical Methods.

Once you learn any language it is easy to learn others, and programming will be useful in your career. Programming will also give you a sense of what computers can and cannot do, that will be useful in all algorithmic courses. You may find the following useful as a starting point: Introductory Statistics with R by Peter Dalgaard, and the 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 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. Also 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 'Prepare to learn at LSE', that you can complete before you arrive. Further information can be found here.

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.

Please note that all queries relating to conditions of your offer, CAS numbers, visas, submission of transcripts, IELTS and any other required documentation should be sent to Graduate Admissions. Information 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

Once again, we are looking forward to meeting you in September and we hope you have a happy and rewarding year at the LSE.

Kind regards,

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

Campus Map

Please note: this message is being 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 have 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