



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

MSc

# Advanced Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

**Study mode**

Full-time

**Duration**

12 months

Apply by: **13 December 2025**

Starts on: **26 January 2026**

## About this course

Gain hands-on experience of big data analytics, data mining and visualisation techniques using high-performance computer technology. This MSc is accredited by BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, and enables you to develop IT solutions to big data problems in a sector with a significant skills shortage.

---

## Introduction

Big data is increasingly important in the contemporary business and IT world. For many public and private enterprises, analysis of large-scale data sets is critical to growth.

This MSc will prepare you for employment in an IT industry where big data professionals are in high demand.

You'll learn how to interrogate vast amounts of structured and unstructured data and make informed insights from datasets that are too large to be readily processed using standard techniques.

We'll provide an overview of the key algorithms, algorithmic approaches and software environments you'll use when solving big data problems and explore data mining techniques.

Hands-on programming experience with the latest multi-core and multi-processor platforms will ensure your expertise in big data is underpinned by knowledge of high-performance computing. Further opportunities to specialise and enhance your

knowledge of algorithms, optimisation and machine learning are available through a range of optional modules.

You'll work as part of a small group on a practical project to find a solution to a big data problem. We'll also provide a thorough grounding in how to plan and conduct research in preparation for your dissertation.

---

## What you'll learn

- Theoretical and practical aspects of programming for the latest multi-core and multi-processor platforms
  - Key algorithms, approaches and software environments for developing solutions to big data problems
  - Data mining techniques and challenges using real-world datasets
  - Application of visualisation methods to data mining
  - Research skills in computer science
  - Bio-inspired algorithms for optimisation and machine learning
  - How to model continuous and discrete optimisation problems
  - The benefits and weaknesses of selected algorithmic techniques
  - Algorithmic aspects of game theory
  - Neural networks for artificial intelligence
  - How to validate systems against safety specifications
- 

## Accreditation

The programme is accredited by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, the leading professional body for those working in IT. It is continually updated to reflect new technologies and trends.

---

### Accreditation in detail

**BCS**

The Chartered Institute for IT for the purposes of fully meeting the academic requirement for registration as a Chartered IT Professional.

---

^ [Back to top](#)

---

# Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

---

## September start

The course is available to start in September or January. If you choose to start in September, you'll undertake taught modules from September to May. This will be followed by your research project over the summer.

You'll study three compulsory modules and one optional module in semester one.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<a href="#">RESEARCH METHODS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (COMP516)</a>	15
<a href="#">BIG DATA ANALYTICS (COMP529)</a>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#">EFFICIENT ALGORITHMS (COMP526)</a>	15
<a href="#">MULTI-CORE AND MULTI-PROCESSOR PROGRAMMING (COMP528)</a>	15
<a href="#">QUANTUM COMPUTING AND SECURITY (COMP535)</a>	15
<a href="#">OPTIMISATION (COMP557)</a>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

---

## January start

The course is available to start in September or January. If you choose to start in January, you'll undertake taught modules from January to May. This will be followed by your research project over the summer and then your final set of taught modules from September to January. On successful completion of the course, following a January start, you can expect to graduate at our summer graduation ceremonies.

You'll study two compulsory modules and two optional modules in semester two.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>RESEARCH METHODS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (COMP616)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>DATA MINING AND VISUALISATION (COMP527)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>MSC GROUP PROJECT (COMP530)</u></a>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>ONTOLOGIES AND SEMANTIC WEB (COMP318)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>SAFETY AND DEPENDABILITY (COMP524)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>MACHINE LEARNING AND BIOINSPIRED OPTIMISATION (COMP532)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>ALGORITHMIC GAME THEORY (COMP559)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (COMP575)</u></a>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Final project

The course is available to start in September or January. If you choose to start in January, you'll undertake taught modules from January to May. This will be followed by your research project over the summer and then your final set of taught modules from September to January. On successful completion of the course, following a January start, you can expect to graduate at our summer graduation ceremonies.

The dissertation project is completed over the summer.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u><a href="#">MSC PROJECT (COMP702)</a></u>	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Teaching and assessment

### How you'll learn

Teaching on this programme comprises formal lectures, small group tutorials and practical sessions in PC and Mac laboratories. You will also take part in one or more group projects. At the end of the year, you'll complete a major individual research project under expert supervision.

### How you're assessed

Modules are assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework. The examinations take place at the end of each semester and typically take the form of an in-person written assignment, usually to be completed in a couple of hours. You'll be assigned coursework across the length of each semester. This typically takes the form of class tests, programming assignments or small projects.

Your dissertation is assessed through a combination of written reports and a presentation of your achievements.

## Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

---

^ [Back to top](#)

---

# Careers and employability

The programme is accredited by BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, for the purposes of partially meeting the academic requirement for registration as a Chartered IT Professional.

Designed to address a skills gap in the employment market, this MSc will enable you to apply your skills working with big data and your knowledge of high performance computing to real-world challenges.

The MSc has been developed, and is delivered, in close collaboration with the Hartree Centre in Daresbury, near Warrington. Hartree operate the UK's largest supercomputer, capable of a thousand trillion calculations per second. They collaborate with both industry and the research community to help UK businesses and organisations explore and adopt supercomputing, data science and artificial intelligence technologies.

Potential roles working with big data include:

- Data analyst
- Data scientist
- Mathematical modeller
- Database administrator
- Machine learning engineer
- Statistician.

The transferable skills you develop will also prepare you for a variety of other roles across the IT industry, while your expertise working with data will mean you're well suited to potential PhD study.

In the UK, a machine learning engineer can expect a graduate entry level salary of £35,000.

With three to five years experience, this can rise to £50,000 to £80,000.

At senior level or in a specialised or lead role, this can rise to £120,000.

source: [Prospects](#), Sept 2024

---

## Career support from day one to graduation and beyond



---

**Career planning**

---

**From education to employment**

---

**Networking events**

---

^ [Back to top](#)

---

# Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

## Tuition fees

### UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £13,300

### International fees

Full-time place, per year – £30,800

Fees stated are for the 2025–26 academic year.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can [pay your tuition fees in instalments](#).
- All or part of your tuition fees can be [funded by external sponsorship](#).
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to [pay a tuition fee deposit](#).

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. [Learn more about paying for your studies](#).

---

## Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

---

[^ Back to top](#)

---

# Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

---

## Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in computer science or a closely related subject.

---

## International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

---

# English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

---

## IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

---

## TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

---

### **Duolingo English Test**

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 95.

---

### **Pearson PTE Academic**

61 overall, with no component below 59

---

### **LanguageCert Academic**

70 overall, with no skill below 60

---

### **PSI Skills for English**

B2 Pass with Merit overall and no band below B2 Pass

---

### **INDIA Standard XII**

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

---

### **WAEC**

C6 or above

---

## **Pre-sessional English**

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

---

### **Pre-sessional English in detail**

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

<b>Your most recent IELTS score</b>	<b>Pre-sessional English course length</b>	<b>On campus or online</b>
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

---

[^ Back to top](#)

Generated: 20 Aug 2025, 11:04

© University of Liverpool