



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BSc (Hons) Data Science and Analytics

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	Data Science and Analytics
Final Award	BSc (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, BSc
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U2686PYC
Mode of study	Full Time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2023 onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Technology
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Computing
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-technology/school-of-computing
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-data-science-and-analytics
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

This academic programme aims to equip students to work as professional data scientists, particularly in environments where in-depth knowledge, critical awareness and competence in data manipulation, data analytics, data mining, software engineering and statistical analysis is required in support of building complex information systems. These aspects are covered via core units at each level, integrated via a large, compulsory, individual project in the final year and tailored to individual students' key interests via a range of options. In addition, and more generally, the course aims to:

- Provide a strong emphasis on discipline of data science and analytics and its application within contemporary commercial and applied contexts.
- Provide a challenging, stimulating and self-rewarding study environment.
- Provide a framework whereby individual study paths may be forged based on choice from a range of options.
- Develop a range of graduate and employability skills by means of opportunities provided in the course units.
- Enable students to broaden their studies, at level 6 by including study units from outside their discipline as substitutes for degree option choices such as languages.
- Enable students to deal effectively within the social, ethical and legal frameworks associated with the data and IT profession.
- Accommodate student needs in relation to maximising their career potential by enabling them to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in their chosen subject area.
- Promote career aspirations by including study topics on general professional and ethical practice and study skills.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	The main aspects and underlying methods of data science including data cleansing, preparation, statistical analysis, data analysis, data mining, security and visualisation.	Lectures, workshops and Lab work	Coursework, portfolios and examinations
A2	The fundamentals and underlying theory of computer science, programming, business analytics, database systems, software systems.	Lectures and Lab work	Coursework, portfolios and Examinations
A3	The theory and practice of requirements analysis, specification and prototyping, implementation, testing, integration, documentation, delivery and	Lectures, workshop, group work, case studies and	Coursework, Reports and Examinations

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
	maintenance and their roles in software development.	Lab work	
A4	The methods for processing and analysing complex and large datasets for business and enterprise use, including international considerations.	Lectures, workshops, lab work and demos	Coursework, portfolios, artefacts and Examinations
A5	The business and financial environment, including role of data science in the operations and decision making and the main ethical and legal constraints within which organisations have to follow when dealing with data.	Lectures, lab work, guest lectures, and case studies	Coursework, presentations and Examinations

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Apply high-level skills of an intellectual, analytical, creative and problem-solving nature.	Lectures, workshops, lab work and case studies	Coursework, artefacts and Examinations
B2	Make use of common skills with an ethical and critical awareness, which are necessary and appropriate for a reflective practitioner.	Lectures, workshops and lab work	Reports and examination
B3	Select and apply appropriate knowledge of data science, statistics, computing and business principles to design and implement data and software solutions.	Lectures, workshops, lab work, demos and case studies	Coursework, portfolios, artefacts and Examinations
B4	Develop critical skills with regard to research methods, literature searching, appraising and evaluating information from a variety of sources and viewpoints, and synthesising the results.	Lectures and lab work	Reports
B5	Plan, manage, undertake and report on a significant final year project related to the field of data science, analytics and data-driven software development.	Lectures and one-to-one supervision meetings.	Final year project (report and artefact).

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Select or create appropriate, effective and productive methods and tools for the successful construction	Lectures, workshops, lab work and guest	Coursework, artefacts and Examinations

	and timely delivery of reliable, secure and usable data applications and business information systems.	lectures	
C2	Competently and critically assess, analyse and use current and future technologies in the main data science aspects i.e. data cleansing, preparation, visualisation, analysis and mining.	Lectures, workshops, lab work and case studies	Coursework, portfolio and Examinations
C3	Ability to deal with complex and large data sets for building business and enterprise solutions.	Workshops, lab work, demos	Coursework and examination
C4	Apply professional codes of conduct and appreciate the ethical considerations that underpin them.	Lectures and lab work	Coursework and report

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communicate effectively in writing, speaking and in appropriate forms of presentation. Read, understand and analyse complex documents related to software products and system requirements.	Lectures and lab work and group projects	Coursework, report and essay
D2	Use information technology to efficiently handle data, simulation and assist with design and testing.	Lectures, workshops and lab work	Coursework and examination
D3	Deal with the numerical, structured and unstructured data that can be found in many real-world problems and computing applications.	Lectures, workshops and lab work	Coursework and portfolio
D4	Assess problem domains and formulate appropriate problem-solving strategies.	Lectures, workshops and lab work	Coursework and examination.
D5	Build on previous experience in order to enhance personal development and, work teams to achieve goals efficiently and effectively but nevertheless be distinctively individual.	Lectures, workshops and lab work	Coursework and examination

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

Data Science related support services:

- Have access and training in our new SAP Next-Gen Lab

- Work on our supercomputer, SCIAMA, which has 3,702 computer cores and networked clusters that offer more processing power than most commercial platforms
- Several general-purpose computer laboratories and special-purpose laboratories including a Networking Lab, Mobile Application Development Lab, Big Data Lab and Human Computer Interaction Lab.
- Apply your analytical abilities to practical problems and real-world datasets, such as our research in cosmology, health information and cyber security
- A library of devices loanable to students for project work (including smart watches, tablets, sensors, smart-home devices, eye trackers) and lockers of laptops for student loan.

General support services:

- Flexible teaching and study facilities including multiple areas ideal for individual and group study.
- An induction programme that introduces the student to the University and their course.
- A Course Leader who manages the course and provides students with course-specific advice and guidance.
- A Personal Tutor, responsible for student pastoral support and guidance.
- Course specification for BSc (Honours) Data Science and Analytics.
- A Faculty Learning Support Tutor (Computing) who provides additional subject-specific one-to-one support.
- A Faculty Student Placement and Employability Centre (SPEC) to support students finding
- placements, a Placement Coordinator to manage placements for Computing students, and a
- Placement Tutor who visits students whilst on placement and provides additional support.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: [British Computing Society](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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