

Lancaster University

Lancaster University is a modern, campus-based university 5km south of Lancaster's historic centre. Lancaster is a small city, located in the North-West of England, close to the coast and the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The city has a large student population, good motorway links and can easily be accessed by bus or by train. The nearest international airport is Manchester (85km). The campus has all the facilities of a well-established university, including student residences, shops, banks, bars and sports facilities.

The Department

The Statistics group at Lancaster forms one of the strongest statistical research groups in the UK. It provides a stimulating study environment within a vibrant and supportive statistical research community.

The Department also has a proven record in teaching postgraduate level courses and in 2005 was awarded a large HEFCE grant to establish a *Centre of Excellence in Teaching and Learning*, the Postgraduate Statistics Centre, which uniquely specialises in postgraduate statistics.

The Postgraduate Statistics Centre is the working base for MSc students. It provides state-of-the-art teaching facilities, including a lecture theatre, computer laboratories, seminar rooms, access grid room and open social learning space.



MSc/MRes in Applied Social Statistics

This one year programme gives training in the application of statistics to a wide range of problems in the social and health sciences, and has a strong methodological and practical emphasis. It does not require a very high level of mathematics and is suitable for social science graduates interested in quantitative empirical work and for science and mathematics graduates wishing to develop expertise in social and health statistics.

Students are encouraged to explore ways of relating their work to the increasingly interwoven areas of criminology, economics, education, health, psychology and sociology. Module topics include: methodological debates in the social sciences, sampling and questionnaire design, secondary data analysis, generalised linear models, methods for missing data, duration analysis, structural equation modelling, data mining . . . and lots more! Tuition is also given in the use of a wide range of statistical software including R, SPSS and STATA.

Part-time study (2 - 5 years) is also available, for example, for those in employment who wish to take the course modules as Continuing Professional Development over a longer period of time.

Course Structure

The course consists of a set of core modules and some optional modules. Students can study a self-designated selection of optional modules or follow pathways in:

- Scientific Research Methods
- Crime and Social Statistics
- Statistical Methods for Health Research
- Teaching Statistics

Assessment is mostly by coursework and an in-depth project.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should normally hold, or expect to obtain, at least an upper second class honours degree (or equivalent) in a social science subject, science, mathematics or statistics, or other relevant discipline.

A background of at least 'A level' mathematics or equivalent is an advantage. However, we welcome applications from well-motivated candidates with a demonstrable interest in quantitative methods, who are willing to undertake prior study in important areas of mathematics.

For more information please see:
www.maths.lancs.ac.uk/psc/applied

Funding and Studentships

Self-funding students on our MSc course are always welcome and we offer a flexible payment scheme for full-time or part-time study.

ESRC studentships are available for the one year MRes course followed by a three year PhD. These studentships are appropriate for students who intend to continue post-graduate study towards a PhD.

Full awards (tuition plus maintenance) are only available for students who satisfy the ESRC's UK residency criteria, whereas for non-UK but EU citizens, the studentship pays tuition only.

Students who are awarded an ESRC-funded studentship are registered for an MRes.

Career Opportunities

There are excellent career opportunities for social scientists with quantitative skills. The statistical methods taught on this course have applications in a wide range of areas, including criminology, economics, educational and health research, management science, psychology and sociology and in the Government Statistical Service.

Our recent MSc graduates work in diverse areas such as market research, public health and financial statistics or have gone on to study for PhDs in medical statistics, empirical bioethics and criminology.

Statisticians are in great demand in both public sector and private sector organisations. The Royal Statistical Society gives some indication of the range of opportunities open to statisticians. For more information visit : www.rss.org.uk



Applications and Enquiries

The course begins in October each year. Applications and enquiries are welcome at any time.

Applications are made online. The form can be accessed via the link:

www.lancs.ac.uk/admissions/postgrad.htm

Further information can be obtained from the MSc/Short Course Co-ordinator:

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LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY



Department of Mathematics and Statistics



**MSc in Quantitative Methods
for Science, Social Science and Medicine**



Postgraduate Statistics Centre

www.maths.lancs.ac.uk/psc