University of Sheffield

Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Statistics		
2. Award type	Graduate Certificate		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 6	**Mode of Study:** Distance Learning	**Duration:** 9 months
4. Faculty	Science		
5. School	**Owning:** School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 100406 **Percentage:** 100	**Code:** **Percentage:**	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code(s) (internal use)	MPSU015		

9. Programme aims

The programme aims to:	
A1	Provide high quality training in statistics and in the mathematical and probabilistic ideas that underpin it.
A2	Prepare students for further statistical training at masters level.
A3	Familiarize students with the distance learning mode of study.
A4	Provide an intellectual environment conducive to learning.
A5	Provide students with assessments of their achievements and to identify and support academic excellence.

10. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	
K1	Have acquired a working knowledge and understanding of calculus and linear algebra.
K2	Have acquired a working knowledge and understanding of probability and distribution theory.
K3	Have acquired a working knowledge and understanding of basic statistical theory and methods.
Knowledge-based skills (SK)	
SK1	Be able to formulate simple problems in statistical terms and analyse data using standard techniques.
SK2	Show judgement in the selection and application of mathematical tools and techniques.
Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:	
S1	Have acquired skill in calculation and manipulation.
S2	Have developed the skills to model and analyse physical or practical problems.
S3	Be able to present arguments and conclusions effectively and accurately.
S4	Have facility in using a major statistical computer package, and general computing skills.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Development of the learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

The main teaching and learning is through: directed reading of set texts, with guidance and supplementary material provided through My Online Learning Environment (MOLE); practice through weekly tasks and self-marked exercises; feedback on written assignments; and discussion (with staff and other students) on MOLE discussion boards. These methods cover **all** of the knowledge, understanding and skills listed in Q.17, although the emphasis on different methods varies between outcomes. In addition, a series of interactive computer demonstrations and simulations provided to the students are important in developing knowledge and skills in probability and statistics (K2, K3, SK1, S2) and general computing skills (S4).

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

Assessment is by a combination of coursework (20%) and unseen examinations (80%).

The coursework will be based on 15 equally weighted assignments (5 per module, preceded by a 'mock' assignment in each module), spread over the duration of the programme, submitted electronically or by post.

There will be 3 formal, invigilated, unseen examinations (1 per module), taking place in a single week during the usual undergraduate summer examination period. These will be 'restricted open book' examinations. Normally, examinations will take place in Sheffield, and be followed by a visit to the department to meet the MSc admissions tutor, discuss progression to the MSc, and meet other staff informally. Exceptionally, the Department may give permission (and make arrangements) for examinations to be held elsewhere e.g. at recognised British Council examination centres.

Version Number:	**Purpose / Change:**	**Cohort affected: (academic year and level)**	**Date change approved:**
1			December 2006
2			February 2009
3			March 2012
4			March 2016
5	Copied to New Template		March 2026

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