# Application Form

Ref No (admin only):

# ONS Data Science Campus Sponsorship for the MSc in Data Analytics for Government (MDataGov) Programme

# 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Applicant Details** | | | | | | | |
| **Title:** | **Last name:** | | | | | | **First name:** |
| **Work Address (include Department name) :** | | | | | | | |
| **Tel (work):** | | | | | | | |
| **Email (work):** | | | | | | | |
| **MDataGov provider university:** | | | | | | | |
| **2. Academic and Professional Qualifications** | | | | | | | |
| **2.1 Most Recent/Relevant Academic Qualifications**  Please give details of your most recent /current undergraduate or postgraduate degree | | | | | | | |
| **University/College** | | **Degree/ Subject** | | | | **Degree grade** | **Date Degree Awarded** |
|  | |  | | | |  |  |
| **2.2 Professional Qualifications/Memberships**  Please provide details of relevant professional qualifications or memberships | | | | | | | |
| **Name of Qualification/Membership** | | **Date Achieved/To be taken** | | **Method of Study (part-time/full-time/distance learning)** | | | **Name of Institution/Awarding Body** |
|  | |  | |  | | |  |
| **3 Employment information**  Please give details of any current/previous employment history (with dates) which may support your application. | | | | | | | |
| **Employer** | **Position** | | **Relevant responsibility** eg. Lead on statistical model for health outcomes | | | | |
|  |  | |  | | | | |
| **4 Suitability for the MDataGov Programme** | | | | | | | |
| **Why you?** Describe your motivation to complete an MSc in Data Analytics for Government. Highlight relevant interests and skills that will help you make a success out of the opportunity (refer to technical knowledge and skills in guidance). [up to 400 words] | | | | | | | |
| **Existing Evidence:** Describe where you have provided the drive and initiative to develop an innovative piece of research/work. [up to 400 words] | | | | | | | |
| **5 Support of application by Line Manager and DD** | | | | | | | |
| Does your Department support a **full-time**/**part-time** study period? (Delete as appropriate) | | | | | | | |
| **Line Manager (email):** | | | | | **Deputy Director**  **(email)**: | | |
| Line managers - In the space below, please provide authorisation to release applicant for the MDataGov programme, if selected: | | | | | DDs – In the space below, please provide confirmation of your support for the applicant to undertake the MDataGov programme: | | |

**Guidelines for the Campus MDataGov Sponsorship**

This note provides guidance on completing an application to receive the Campus sponsorship for an MSc in Data Analytics for Government.

**Timetable**

The deadline for applications is **23:59 on 12 May 2019**. We will inform successful candidates in the week starting **13 May 2019.** Applications to the academic institutions in the MDataGov Framework are now open. Successful applicants will start their study in the 2019-2020 academic year (October 2019).

**Sponsorship Details**

One of the commitments of the Data Science Campus is to grow data science capability across government. In line with this commitment, a cohort of candidates will be selected to receive the Campus sponsorship to cover their tuition fees (**up to £10,000**) to complete the MDataGov programme. Travel and subsistence related to the study will not be covered by the Data Science Campus, although expenses related to participation in ONS MSc events will be considered.

**Successful candidates are required to take at least half of their optional module credits in Data Science related topics and sign the Campus Sponsorship Agreement available below, returning it to** [gss.capability@ons.gov.uk](mailto:gss.capability@ons.gov.uk)**.**

**Eligibility**

Applications are invited from all public servants (e.g. civil servants, employees of departmental agencies, local authorities, the NHS and regulatory bodies) with the required academic qualifications.

**Commitment**

It is preferred that applicants complete the study period part-time and retain their employment status with their host department. While on the programme, MSc students are expected to participate in the ONS Data Science Campus community. This will include attending virtually and in person events organised on a regular basis. At these events, the Campus data scientists and PhD students will be available to support you in your study and projects.

**MSc Dissertation Projects**

Dissertation projects will need to be agreed through discussion with the ONS Data Science Campus, and we are happy to support project proposal development. The project should align with the Data Science Campus research strategy, and should, ideally, also be relevant to your host department.

Data Science Campus research uses the tools and technology of data science, and explores novel data sources and novel uses of data to support the public sector in three areas:

* Improving or enhancing official statistics
* Developing new insights to inform decision-making
* Improving operational efficiency.

Projects may fall under one or more themes, for example, the economy, people, places and population, health and well-being, natural capital, etc. And they may make use of structured or unstructured data, including text, images, or numerical data.

The questions we ask when assessing projects include:

* What is the impact?
  + Does the project align with one or more of the Campus’ three research objectives?
  + How will the project improve decision-making or operation efficiency and effectiveness, and what is the impact for citizens?
* Technical component?
  + How will the tools and techniques of data science be deployed?
* Data novelty
  + How does the project use new data sources, or use data sources in a novel way?
* Feasibility
  + What is the goal of the project?
  + Do you have access to appropriate data?
  + Is the approach likely to succeed in the time available?

An overview of our research can be found on our [project summary page](https://datasciencecampus.github.io/projects/).

**Technical Knowledge and Skills**

Please use the table below to complete section four of the application form:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Statistical techniques  (Multiple Regression, Multivariate techniques such as Principal Components Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Generalised Linear Models, etc) |  |
| Digital skills (Application Programme Interface, Open Data, etc) |  |
| Machine learning (Classification, Cluster Analysis, Bayesian Statistics, k- nearest neighbour, etc) |  |
| Coding skills (SAS, R, Python, etc) |  |

**Support of application**

Applicants must have their application supported by their line manager and or Deputy Director (or budget holder equivalent) before applying. Only those applications with this agreement will be considered. The programme will be taught through modules that comprise formal lectures, worked examples, computer workshops and tutorials.

Submit queries to:[gss.capability@ons.gov.uk](mailto:gss.capability@ons.gov.uk) .

**Submit applications to the same address (only emailed applications will be accepted).**

**MSc in Data Analytics for Government**

**Sponsorship Agreement**

The primary aim of the Data Science Campus (DSC) in providing sponsorship for Civil Servants undertaking the MSc in Data Analytics for Government (MDataGov) is to increase the application and understanding of data science within government.

1. **Allocation of MSc sponsorship**

DSC sponsorship for MDataGov is subject to an individual being accepted by their chosen University. Funding will only be granted following receipt of the University acceptance notification.

It should be noted that DSC sponsorship is limited to course fees and will not cover ‘other costs’ such as a student’s T&S costs or purchase of course literature. These costs must be met by the student and/or their department.

1. **Data Science Pathway**

All students who are being sponsored by DSC to complete MDataGov will be required to take at least half of the optional module credits in *data science* related topics. For example, if twelve modules of 10 CATS each are to be taken, plus a dissertation, then they must be composed of:

* Four compulsory modules: Data Science Foundations; Statistics in Government; Survey Fundamentals and Statistical Programming;
* Four *data science* related optional modules (these will vary depending on the University of choice but may include data mining, data visualisation, machine learning, etc); and
* Four self-selected modules of your choice, plus a *data science* dissertation.

1. **Collaboration with the Data Science Campus**

All DSC sponsored students will be asked to present their work at the MDataGov annual symposium organised by the Data Science Campus. Students are also encouraged to become active members of the MDataGov Slack channel and the Government Digital Service’s Community of Interest (CoI), sharing their knowledge with colleagues across government.

1. **Length of Studies**

Students are expected to complete their MSc studies within 5 years. An agreement has been made with each of the universities delivering MDataGov to allow students to take time out of their studies, where required. Where this occurs, students are required to keep DSC informed.

1. **Moving Department mid-way through Studies**

Where a student moves department before completing their MSc studies, DSC must be informed. DSC will issue a further ‘Sponsorship Agreement’ form for completion by the new line management.

1. **MSc drop-out**

Where a student has been provided with sponsorship to study MDataGov, they are expected to complete their studies. Where a student drops out of the programme, it is expected that the sponsorship fees already paid to support the individual will be paid back to DSC – this will either be through the individual or their department. In all cases, any extenuating circumstances will be considered in full by DSC before requesting reimbursement of MSc sponsorship fees.

1. **Civil Service expectation**

Where funding is provided to a student to study MDataGov, participants are expected to remain employed as a Civil Servant during their studies and for at least 12 months after the completion of the MSc. Where a participant leaves the Civil Service during or within 12 months of completing the MSc, it is expected that the full sponsorship fees will be paid back to DSC and that Line Managers will assist us in our efforts to recoup these (e.g. through providing us with an individual’s contact details, etc). Please note that in this situation, it is unlikely that an individual’s department will reimburse the fees, hence the payment is likely to rest with the individual. In all cases, any extenuating circumstances will be considered in full by the DSC before requesting reimbursement of MSc sponsorship fees.

**Agreement - Student and Line Manager Signatures**

I hereby certify that I, …………………………………………….(Print name), will follow the *data science pathway* through the MSc in Data Analytics for Government programme and complete my studies within 5 years. In the event that I should drop out of my MSc studies or leave the Civil Service (during my studies or within 12 months of completing the MSc) I will notify the Data Science Campus immediately to discuss the reasons and to discuss the return of sponsorship fees.

Signed (Student) ……….…………………. Department……………………….

Line Manager’s acceptance to assist DSC to recoup fees in the event that their staff member drops out of their MSc studies or leaves the Civil Service within 12 months of completing the MSc.

Line Manager’s signature……………………. Print name………………………..