

# Postgraduate Welcome

# School of Mathematics and Statistics

## **Academics**

Libo Li (Director of Postgraduate Studies)

Kristen Hunter (Deputy Director of Postgraduate Studies)

## **Teaching Support Administrative Staff**

Li San Chew

# Master Programs (Face to Face)

- **Master of Mathematics (MMath 8719)**

[Handbook - Mathematics](#)

- **Master of Statistics (MStat 8750)**

[Handbook - Statistics](#)

- **Master of Financial Mathematics (MFinM 8161)**

[Handbook - Financial Mathematics](#)

- **Master of Data Science and Decisions (MDSD 8959)**

[Handbook - Data Science and Decisions](#)

- **Master of Physical Oceanography (MPhyOc 8518)**

[Handbook - Physical Oceanography](#)

# Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate

## Postgraduate Diploma – 5659 or 5959

[Handbook - Mathematics and Statistics](#)

[Handbook - Data Science and Decisions](#)

WAM (Weighted Average Mark) of 65 to move to the Masters Degree completed 24 UOC.

Receive up to **48UOC** of advance standing (credit transfer) for the Master Degree.

UOC = units of credit.

## Postgraduate Certificate – 7659 or 7959

[Handbook - Mathematics and Statistics](#)

[Handbook - Data Science and Decisions](#)

WAM (Weighted Average Mark) of 65 to move to the Masters Degree completed 24 UOC.

Receive up to **24UOC** of advance standing (credit transfer) for the Master Degree.

# Course structure

- Lectures are formal structured presentations given to all students enrolled in a course (also known as Seminars).
  - Lectures are recorded for most courses.
- Tutorials or labs are small-group settings to review material and go through practice questions.
  - Tutorials/labs are not usually recorded.
  - Good opportunity to ask questions.
- Attending tutorials/labs is highly recommended for the best learning.

<https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/guides-to-lectures-tutorials-group-work-discussion-skills>

# Term structure

- Each teaching period is 10 weeks
  - Weeks 1-5, 7-10: normal timetable.
  - Week 6: "flexibility week"
    - **Usually** no lectures or tutorials (but check timetable).
    - Opportunity to catch up.
- Study period
- Final exams

# Moodle

- Course website.
- Contains all important course information.
- All course announcements go to your UNSW email address.
  - Check your student email address regularly!
  - Also where you will be contacted from the School or your course lecturer.

The screenshot displays the Moodle interface for the course 'DATA5002-Data Visualisation (2023\_T2)'. The left sidebar contains a 'Table of Contents' with links to 'Quick Links', 'General Course Resources Hub', 'Assessments Hub', 'Final Exam', 'R Tutorials', 'Inspiration', and a list of weeks from 'Week 1. Introduction' to 'Week 10. Specialised visualisations...'. The main content area features a yellow header with the course title and a grid of icons for 'Announcements and Forums', 'Course Schedule', 'Course Outline', 'Zoom (Lecture, Lab, Consultation)', 'Class Recordings (Ed360)', 'Leganto (Course readings)', 'Student Life', and 'myExperience'. Below this is a section for 'General Course Resources Hub' with expandable sections for 'Assessments Hub', 'Final Exam', 'R Tutorials', 'Inspiration', and 'Week 1. Introduction'. The right sidebar includes a 'Teaching Contact' section with a photo of Kristen Hunter, her title 'Course Instructor & Coordinator', and contact details. It also lists 'Consultation Hours' as 'Tuesday 11:15 AM - 12 PM' and provides a 'Moodle Enhance Resources' section with a 'User Tour' button.

# Moodle, cont'd

- Read the **course outline**.
- Keep track of **assessment dates**.
- See the **contact information** for your lecturer.
- Reference the **reading list** if there are recommended textbooks.

The screenshot displays the Moodle interface for the course 'DATA5002-Data Visualisation (2023\_T2)'. The left sidebar contains a 'Table of Contents' with links to 'Quick Links', 'General Course Resources Hub', 'Assessments Hub', 'Final Exam', 'R Tutorials', 'Inspiration', and a list of weeks from 'Week 1. Introduction' to 'Week 10. Specialised visualisations...'. The main content area features a yellow header with the course title and a grid of icons for 'Announcements and Forums', 'Course Schedule', 'Course Outline', 'Zoom (Lecture, Lab, Consultation)', 'Class Recordings (Eds360)', 'Leganto (Course readings)', 'Student Life', and 'myExperience'. Below this is a section for 'General Course Resources Hub' with expandable sections for 'Assessments Hub', 'Final Exam', 'R Tutorials', 'Inspiration', and 'Week 1. Introduction'. The right sidebar includes 'Teaching Contact' with a photo of Kristen Hunter, 'Contact' information, 'Consultation Hours' (Tuesday 11:15 AM - 12 PM), and 'Moodle Enhance Resources' with a 'User Tour' button.

# Consultation Hours

- Open-ended sessions where you can meet with your course lecturer.
- Consultation hours are posted for each course on Moodle (if available).
- Any student is welcome to drop by without an appointment during these times.
- Opportunity to ask questions or just get to know your lecturer.
- If you are struggling with a course, it is a good idea to go to consultation hours!

# Thesis Project

- End of program: usually in your last 1 or 2 terms.
- If you are going to take MATH5836 Data and Machine learning, a good idea to take it before the project.
- It is **not recommended** to enrol in the project earlier in your program.
- After you have completed at least 36 UOC (6 courses).
- You cannot overload credits during your project term (no more than 18 UOC allowed).
- Review the Master Project Guidelines – linked:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/our-schools/maths/student-life-resources/postgraduate-coursework/postgraduate-coursework-project>

# Thesis Project - Request enrolment in the project early!

- Requesting enrolment early ensures you have a spot and graduate on time. We need to allocate supervision resources for enrolment numbers.
- Fill in the "Intention to start" project Webform up to a year in advance – link here and in the *Masters Project Guidelines* document - <https://forms.office.com/r/yempMSm5Sn>
- Last deadline: **3 weeks BEFORE O-week** of your project term.
- If you do not request enrolment by the deadline, you are NOT guaranteed a spot in the thesis course. Being early is preferred.

# Thesis Project (12UOC)

## Group Project (1 term – 12 UOC)

- MATH5925
- DATA5925

### Information:

- By default everyone does the group project (**except Master of Physical Oceanography**).
- Topics are mostly in areas of statistics or financial mathematics.
- Project topics and supervisors vary each term.
- **Recommendation:** WAM of 65+, but ALL students will be allowed to enrol in project with any WAM.

# Thesis Project (12UOC)

## Individual Project (2 terms – 12 UOC)

- MATH5005/MATH5006
- DATA5011/DATA5012

### Information:

- It is recommended that you have a WAM of 85+.
- For students who want to pursue a PhD or research career in the future.
- For students who want to do a project in pure maths or another specialised area.
- You need to **find your own supervisor**. Well in advance of when you want to start a project, communicate with potential supervisors to work out a topic and supervision arrangements.
- **Recommendation:** WAM of 85+. Students will be permitted to enrol into the project if they have a Supervisor agreed to supervise their project, even when the WAM is lower than recommended.

# Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

- **Postgraduate courses** and **Honours courses** with mark of **65+** can be considered for advance standing, with limits.
  - An honours year in Australia is a year in which the UG student takes postgraduate level courses and conducts a year-long individual research project.
- MATH or DATA "undergraduate" courses are not recognised.
- For assessing advanced standing or exemption, please provide the **course outline** and nominate a **UNSW equivalent course & send webform for RPL to:**  
[www.unsw.to/webforms](http://www.unsw.to/webforms)

**Advancing Standing/Credit Transfer (RPL):** Reduces total credit requirement of the degree.

**Exemptions:** You are exempt from doing the chosen **core course** but must take an extra elective (total credit requirement does not change).

# RPL, cont'd

- In limited cases, **exemptions** to core courses can be given using undergraduate courses (COMP and ECON courses for MDSD and certain UNSW undergraduate MATH courses) when there is a mark of 65+ or 75+ depending on course levels.

**Advancing Standing/Credit Transfer:** Reduce total credit requirement of the degree.

**Exemption:** You are exempt from doing the chosen core course but must take an extra elective (total credit requirement does not change).

# Advanced Standing (RPL) - Examples

**Example 1:** Jack has done [INFO20003 Database Systems](#) at Melbourne University (2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduate course) and it was assessed and deemed equivalent to [COMP9311 Database systems](#).

- If Jack is in Master of Data Science and Decisions, then an exemption can be given for COMP9311 since COMP9311 **is a core** course.
- If Jack is in Master of Statistics, then no exemption can be given since COMP9311 **is not a core** course.

**Example 2:** Jack is currently in a Graduate Diploma or Masters program at Melbourne university and have done [Stochastic Calculus and Applications MAST90059](#). This is considered a Postgraduate course and is equivalent to [MATH5975 Introduction to Stochastic Analysis](#) and Advance Standing can be given.

# Internal Program Transfer (IPT)

- It is possible to transfer between the programs. You need to have good academic standing.
- However, it is probably best to consult with us before applying, by email to [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au)

# Course selection

## Course Offerings

[Postgraduate courses | School of Mathematics and Statistics - UNSW Sydney](#)

## Special Rules

- Be careful to check that courses count toward your intended degree.
- **Example:** For Master of Statistics **MATH5901 Stochastic Processes** cannot be credited and you need to take **MATH5835 Advanced Stochastic Processes**.

# Course Selection for Master of Mathematics

Students who wish to consolidate their background in **applied mathematics** are recommended to take:

- MATH5161 Optimization
- MATH5303 Computational Mathematics for Science and Engineering
- MATH5201 Dynamical Systems and Chaos

Students who wish to consolidate their background in **pure mathematics** are recommended to take:

- MATH5605 Functional Analysis
- MATH5735 Modules and Representation Theory
- MATH5705 Modern Analysis
- MATH5700 Modern Differential Geometry and Topology
- MATH5706 Modern Algebra

# Course Selection for Master of Data Science and Decisions

## Advice

**Consider taking the following early in your degree:**

- DATA9001 Foundations of Data Science
- COMP9020 Foundations of Computer Science or COMP9021 Principles of Programming
- MATH5846 Introduction to Probability and Stochastic Processes
- MATH5856 Introduction to Statistics and Statistical Computations

# Course Selection for Master of Data Science and Decisions

Two pathways

## **Option 1: For students with limited statistics background**

- MATH5846 Introduction to Probability and Stochastic Processes
- MATH5856 Introduction to Statistics and Statistical Computations
- These courses cover foundational material.
- If you want to take further postgraduate statistics courses, they will give you the necessary background for further study.

## **Option 2: For students with statistics background**

- MATH5905 Statistical Inference
- MATH5XXX elective

# Overloading Rule

- When applying to enrol in up to 4 coursework courses - 24 UOC courses.
- You need WAM of 65+ to be eligible and completed 36 UOC with good standing.
- PG director must approve overloading requests not automatic.
- **No overloading is allowed when enrolled in a Masters Project course.**

Overloading policy linked:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/student-life-resources/student-resources/faculty-science-rules>

# Academic standing

[Academic Standing for Postgraduate Students | UNSW Current Students](#)

**Good standing *if Failed fewer than 12 UOC***

**PG Academic Risk *if failed between 12 and 18 UOC*** : Make an appointment with the Nucleus Hub – via webform [www.unswto/webforms](http://www.unswto/webforms)

**PG Academic Suspension *if failed between 19 UOC and 35 UOC***: Make an appointment to talk to Director of PG studies (Dr Libo Li) [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au)

# AMSI Summer School

- The Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) offers a limited number of summer courses.
- Can be taken as an elective for Master of Statistics, Master of Mathematics, or Master of Financial Mathematics students.
- Enrol in UNSW MATH5015 course for AMSI enrolment in Term 1.
  - School enrolls only with consent; overriding overload rule (only overloaded in week 1).

## Resources

- School website: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/our-schools/maths/student-life-resources/honours-year/amsi-summer-school-course-approval>
- AMSI school guidelines: [https://www.unsw.edu.au/content/dam/pdfs/science/math-stats/amsi-guidelines/AMSI\\_Guidelines\\_PG.pdf](https://www.unsw.edu.au/content/dam/pdfs/science/math-stats/amsi-guidelines/AMSI_Guidelines_PG.pdf)

**Note:** Not listed in Guidelines is advice that due to program requirements, 8959 Masters of Data Science and Decisions and 8518 Masters of Physical Oceanography are **excluded from AMSI enrolment offerings**.

# Two step enrolment process

## 1st step: The Course Enrolment

- Course offerings for term in the new year, available from late September.
- Select courses and enrol, noting there are no timetable classes created yet.

## 2nd step: The Class Registration

- When timetables are created (term by term), you must select the tutorials, seminars and other activities associated
- Pay attention to when timetables are released to get in quick to avoid disappointment.
- Note: UNSW unenrols (drops) all students from courses that are "not class registered" on Tuesday in Orientation week, to free those places for other students.
- To avoid this, you need to be class registered ASAP, or contact [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au) if there is a problem.

# The Waitlist

## The "Waitlist"

- If you find the course is full; **or**, the tutorial you prefer is full.
- You can register for the Waitlist for a course to be "enrolled", **or** register to swap a tutorial, whichever applies to you, via the Waitlist.
- Waitlist is referred to when considering to add more places due to demand.
- When students unenrol from the course, the waitlist chooses students to automatically enrol them.
- The Waitlist is preferred to a *Full Class request webform* – students are advised to join the Waitlist if classes are full.

# Enrolment issues

- **Timetable clash or Full class requests**

email [www.unsw.to/webforms](http://www.unsw.to/webforms) to seek help for either request

The School email will receive your webform and answer quickly. You can also email [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au) for help – but not both please.

# General Enrolment Advice

## **External Courses listed in Handbook**

You can contact the School to request consideration for a course not listed in your program to be permitted by emailing the School PG email account [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au).

# Prerequisites

## Meeting pre-requisites

- Refer to Handbook first.
  - <https://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/>
- Submit webform for support with evidence of completion of pre-requisite requirements.
  - [www.unsw.to/webforms](http://www.unsw.to/webforms)

## MATH and DATA courses

- All School of Maths & Statistic course offerings should be automatic enrolments
  - Prerequisites are assumed to have been met through Admission process.
  - **Exception:** MATH5816 (T3) which requires MATH5975 (T1).
- Email [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au) if you experience difficulties with enrolment into MATH or DATA courses.

# Census date

- Last date to drop the course in time to: refund your fees and remove from transcript without academic / financial penalties.
- **Week 4 Thursday** each term.
- Check your progress/mark in each course prior to the census date.
- <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/census>

# First term

- In your first term, some students might benefit from taking only 2 courses.
- The first term in your program will be the most challenging due to the new working environment, ie., Often the poorest performance in the program (understandably), but not necessarily for all students.
- For students on a visa, 48 UOC per year can mean 2 + 3 + 3 course enrolment over the terms annually.
- Consider dropping a course (before census date) if you run into difficulties keeping up.
- Contact the School if you're concerned about whether dropping a course impacts your progression – [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au) **for advice.**

# Special Consideration

- When illness or circumstances beyond your control interfere with your assessment performance, you may be eligible to apply for **Special Consideration**.
  - A process for assessing the impact of unexpected, short-term events on your ability to complete a specific assessment task.
  - Includes all types of assessments: take-home assignments and exams.
- If you are unwell, do not attempt the assessment, see a doctor to receive a medical certificate and apply for "**Special Consideration**" so it can be re-scheduled for you.
- Check UNSW website for details: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>
  - Apply through the website, not by contacting your course convenor/lecturer.

# Equitable Learning Services

- Students with disabilities (either physical or mental), seek registration with **Equitable Learning Services** (ELS) as soon as possible.
- Visit website and download the form required for your doctor to complete.
  - <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/equitable-learning>
  - <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/els/register>
  - Fill in the form with your doctor **prior** to your first meeting with ELS.
  - This will save time if you bring the completed document to your first appointment with the Equitable Learning Services unit.

# Progression Plans

Now on myPlan – visit website

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/student/managing-your-studies/resources/myplan>

Or for advice - contact PG account [pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au)

# Useful Websites

- MyUNSW
  - <https://my.unsw.edu.au/>
- Timetable
  - <https://timetable.unsw.edu.au/2026/subjectSearch.html>
- Academic Calendar
  - <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/calendar>
- Key Dates
  - <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/dates>
  - Census date, exam period, etc.
- NSW public holidays
  - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/about-nsw/public-holidays>

# UNSW Resources

- Library: <https://www.library.unsw.edu.au/>
- English language success: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/english>
- Academic skills: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/skills>
- Student life: <https://www.arc.unsw.edu.au/>
- Writing skills: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/writing>

# School Postgraduate Website

Postgraduate advice:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/our-schools/maths/student-life-resources/postgraduate-coursework/postgraduate-programs>

# How to get help

## **School Email:**

**[pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au](mailto:pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au)**

For all general enquiries about your program and course selections and enrolment support.

Full Class requests are managed quicker if you contact the School directly.

Please use your official UNSW student email and include your zID. Including your academic record can also be helpful.

## **Nucleus Hub:**

**<https://www.unsw.edu.au/student/contact-us>**

All webforms are listed in this weblink:

**[www.unsw.to/webforms](http://www.unsw.to/webforms)**

## **International Student Support:**

**<https://www.unsw.edu.au/study/your-future/international-student-support>**

Contact for visa or CoE issues via email.

# Pop Quiz!

- **Question 1:**
  - Can you get advanced standing for undergraduate courses?
- **Question 2:**
  - What is the recommended WAM for doing an individual Master thesis project?
- **Question 3:**
  - Who do you contact for general enquiries relating to your program or course enrolment?

# Question & Answer Session

