# Introduction to Data Science

Access Data and Edinburgh College have launched an Introduction to Data Science course to help to equip attendees with vital skills that are becoming increasingly in demand with employers, in education, and as a part of our everyday lives.

## What is Data Science?

The field of Data Science combines digital and data skills, specific knowledge about a particular topic or subject area, and numeracy skills to extract insights and knowledge from data. The ability to identify the problem to solve, the correct data to use, carry out the analysis and then implement the outcome requires the three abovementioned areas to be brought together.

Data Science is becoming an essential part of how we live, learn and work. It is all about how we turn those insights extracted from data into actions. Many people are keen to learn more and understand this topic, and more and more employers are seeking applicants with experience of Data Science. Using the knowledge and skills from this short course will help you to develop in your current or future job role.

## Who is this course suitable for?

The course is suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

## When does the course start?

21st February 2022

## How is the course delivered?

The first half of the course (8 weeks) will be delivered in person, in Access to Industry’s Cowgate Community College (156 Cowgate, EH1 1RP).

The second half of the course (8 weeks) will be delivered virtually through Microsoft Teams. The learning materials can be accessed through Moodle, Edinburgh College’s virtual learning environment at-

[moodle.edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://www.moodle.edinburghcollege.ac.uk).

You should be able to sign in with your Edinburgh College student number once the course has started. The college also provides all students with access to Office 365 – you can sign into Microsoft Office, Email and Teams at office.com with your Edinburgh College email address.

## How long will the course last?

The course is studied over 16 weeks with no more than ten hours of studying per week. The planned end date of the course is 27th June 2022.

## Will I receive financial support to complete this course?

This course is a free short course – no financial support is available.

## How much is the course?

This course is free to study as it is funded by the Data Driven Innovation fund.

## Will it affect my benefit entitlement?

As the course is under 16 hours a week, it should not affect your benefit entitlement.

## What are the entry criteria for the course?

There are no formal entry requirements but eligibility criteria apply:

The course is available to those meeting Access to Industry’s Access Data project criteria. Access Data is made for **parents**, or **those with parental responsibilities, living in the City of Edinburgh, who are either unemployed or on low income**, and find themselves in one or more of the groups listed below:

* They are disabled or have a disabled child
* They are from a minority ethnic background
* They are a lone parent
* They have 3 or more children
* They have a child below 1 year of age
* They are below 25 years of age

Additionally, we will offer spaces to **veterans** looking to upskill in data.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please contact Magda Gucman at [MagdaGucman@accesstoindustry.co.uk](mailto:MagdaGucman@accesstoindustry.co.uk) 07809 555 709 for further information.

## What qualification will I get?

SQA National Progression Award in Data Science at SCQF level 4.

## Further Study

Gaining a National Progression Award provides the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence required to progress to NPA Data Science level 5 or 6.

## When and where will the course be delivered?

For the first 8 weeks – starting 21st February 2022 – the course will be delivered in person in Access to Industry’s Cowgate Community College (156 Cowgate, EH1 1RP), on **Mondays from 9:30 am to 2:45 pm** (lunch break included).

After the week 8, the course will be delivered online, via Microsoft Teams.

## How to apply?

Complete the enclosed application form and return it to [MagdaGucman@accesstoindustry.co.uk](mailto:MagdaGucman@accesstoindustry.co.uk) or call Magda Gucman on 07809 555 709 to apply by phone.

Successful applicants will be invited to interviews. As a part of our interview process we will support applicants in filling out an online application form provided by the Edinburgh College.

## Additional Support Provided by Access to Industry

Prior to the course start all participants will be asked to register for Access to Industry Access Data programme, which will give them access to a dedicated Access Data caseworker to help with any issues they may face in or out of the course (e.g. getting IT equipment if you have none).

Access to Industry can provide Day Saver tickets to all students commuting to the course using Lothian Buses.