## NPA Data Science SCQF 5

Access Data and Edinburgh College have launched **NPA Data Science level 5** course to help attendees to gain vital skills that are currently increasingly in demand with employers. The course provides a broader introduction to Data Science, focusing on data analysis and data security knowledge and skills. This includes the legal and ethical considerations, as well as the practical methods to protect personal and corporate data.

## 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.

## When is the course delivered?

W/c 29th January 2024 – w/c 24th June 2024

## How is the course delivered?

This is a **fully online course**. Participants will be able to choose to:

1. Attend optional live online sessions delivered via MS Teams on **Tuesdays, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm**
2. Study flexibly using provided online materials, communicating with the tutor via a dedicated MS Teams channel.

The learning materials will be accessible through Moodle, Edinburgh College’s virtual learning environment at [moodle.edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://www.moodle.edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

You will 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 Microsoft 365 – you can sign into Microsoft Office, Email and Teams at office.com with your Edinburgh College email address and password.

Your dedicated lecturer will be providing feedback on all assignments submitted via Moodle. All assignments will be subject to deadlines. Due date extensions will be possible upon providing a valid reason – this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

For students needing in-person support, starting from **24 February 2024** in-person drop-in sessions will be available on **Saturdays, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**, at Edinburgh College Milton Road Campus, room 302.

## How long will the course last?

The course is studied over 18 weeks (college holidays excluded – see the college calendar [here](https://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/information-and-advice/college-calendar)) with no more than ten hours of studying per week.

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

No. The course is fully funded by the Data Driven Innovation fund and no additional financial support can be offered.

## What are the entry criteria for the course?

Participants should have experience of using MS Excel on a basic to pre-intermediate level (e.g. for data input, creating simple graphs and charts, making calculations, or using simple formulas). Introductory-level knowledge about data and related terminology is also required. In case of doubts as to whether the course level is appropriate, this will be assessed by a short theoretical test.

Our tutors are dedicated to making the course as accessible as possible for students whose first language is not English. However, all participants should be comfortable studying in English with no additional language support. No formal certification is required but language skills will be assessed during the course interviews.

Access Data eligibility criteria apply.

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| **Access Data Eligibility Criteria Check** |
| **Essential criteria – must tick all:**  Unemployed or on a low income (normally below £18,000 pa)  Lives in Edinburgh (EH1 to EH17 & EH28 to EH30)  Wants to move into education, training or employment related to IT or data |
| **Additional criteria – must tick at least one:**  Has a disability or a learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia, ADHD, autism spectrum etc.)  A woman  Armed Forces Veteran  Minority ethnic background  Has parental responsibilities |

## What qualification will I get?

SQA National Progression Award in Data Science at SCQF level 5.

## Further Study

Gaining a National Progression Award provides the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence required to progress to NPA Data Science level 6 or Professional Development Award in Data Science on level 7.

## How to apply?

Complete the below application form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/CtArg39CH6>

Successful applicants will be invited to interviews. As a part of the recruitment process, we will support applicants in filling out an additional online registration form provided by Edinburgh College.

## Support Provided by Access to Industry

Prior to the course start all participants will be asked to register for Access to Industry’s 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.