FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Admission:

What makes the Applied Data Analytics program different to other ANU Masters programs?

The ANU's Applied Data Analytics program differs from other similar programs in that it offers both a broad-ranging curriculum and an opportunity to develop specialised skills in one particular area. Students enrolling in the Graduate Diploma or Masters are required to complete courses across three different academic disciplines – computer science, social science and statistics. Students cannot complete the program without attaining a certain level of proficiency in all three areas, resulting in graduates with an integrated and well-rounded understanding of cutting-edge data analytics. Masters students are also able to specialise in a discipline of their choosing, taking higher-level courses to give them the expertise they need in their professional fields. The ANU's program focuses on real-world applications of data analytics techniques and toolsets, equipping graduates with the academic background to tackle practical problems.

Is the program open to international students?

From Semester 2, 2018, the program is available to international students.

However, international students are not able to complete the program in the online intensive mode described in these FAQs and elsewhere on the website. Owing to student visa restrictions, international students are required to study in the traditional on-campus semester mode, and to maintain a full-time study load of four courses per semester.

Details of how to apply as an international student are available at the above tab labelled 'Application process'. International students should be aware that the Data Analytics program has a work experience component as part of the admission requirements. This may mean that some international students are not eligible for admission, but students should check with international.admissions@anu.edu.au to be sure.

Finally, international students should note that the Data Analytics program is a 72-unit Masters, which takes 1.5 years to complete in full-time mode. Therefore, this program does not meet the eligibility requirement for students to apply for permanent residency. Students should consult the Department of Home Affairs for further information.

What are the admission requirements for the Graduate Diploma and Masters programs?

Applicants for the Graduate Diploma must hold **either** an Honours degree (AQF8) with a minimum GPA of 4.0 / 7.0; **or** a Bachelor degree (AQF7) with a minimum GPA of 4.0 / 7.0 plus one year's relevant work experience; **or** a Bachelor degree (AQF 7) with a minimum GPA of 5.0 / 7.0.

Applicants for the Masters must hold **either** an Honours degree (AQF 8) with a minimum GPA of 5.0 / 7.0; **or** a Bachelor degree (AQF 7) with a minimum GPA of 5.0 / 7.0, plus three years' relevant work experience.

Applicants with a completed higher qualification (e.g. Masters, PhD) are admissible to either program. Applicants to the non-award program must meet the entry requirements of the Graduate Diploma. Please note that there is no discipline-specific requirement for this program – applicants are eligible with a Bachelor degree in any field. For information on the Australian Qualifications Framework, see here.

International students are eligible for admission with the equivalent of an Australian Bachelor or Honours degree – subject to the above GPA requirements – but will be required to submit a CV to demonstrate relevant work experience for admission to the Masters.

What is the difference between 'award' and 'non-award' programs?

Both the Graduate Diploma and the Masters are 'award' programs – this means that they are programs of study which enable the student to graduate with a formal academic award, once all requirements are met.

The non-award program enables students to enrol in any course which interests them and for which they meet the pre-requisites. The completion of non-award courses does not enable students to graduate with a Graduate Diploma or a Masters, regardless of how many courses they complete. However, students who have completed non-award courses which are part of the Applied Data Analytics program are able to request academic credit for these courses, should they subsequently enrol in the Graduate Diploma or Masters programs.

Am I admissible if I don't have a Bachelor degree?

Domestic applicants who do not have a Bachelor degree may be eligible for admission to the program on the basis of professional equivalency. This means that the applicant has been assessed by the relevant delegated authorities as meeting the academic entry requirements without completing formal university study.

Applicants wishing to discuss whether they are eligible for admission without a degree should consult the program convenor, Assoc. Prof. Kerry Taylor (Kerry.Taylor@anu.edu.au).

What is the ANU's English language policy, and to whom does it apply?

The ANU's English language policy applies to all students of the ANU, whether domestic or international. The policy is available here: https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_000408

Australian citizens and permanent residents whose university studies were conducted in countries other than those listed under 'Group A' in the above policy will be required to provide evidence of English language competency. This policy applies regardless of whether you have separately had to meet these requirements for the Department of Home Affairs (formerly Immigration and Border Protection).

Please note that holding Australian citizenship or being employed by an Australian organisation does not constitute grounds for admission under the English language policy – applicants must provide an approved form of evidence, as outlined in the policy above.

How do I apply for the non-award program?

The ANU is not currently accepting non-award applications for the Data Analytics program. Students wishing to make enquiries about non-award study should contact StudentAdmin.cecs@anu.edu.au for further information.

How do I apply for the Graduate Diploma or Masters program?

The application process differs for domestic and international applicants.

Domestic students can apply for either the Grad. Dip. or the Masters program through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC). International students apply direct to the ANU through the university's StudyLink portal.

Domestic students applying through UAC should use the 'course search' function to identify the ANU's Data Analytics programs, which have the following numerical codes:

- Graduate Diploma – UAC ID: 830813
- Masters – UAC ID: 830812

What are the application closing dates for each academic session?

For domestic applicants, there is a different application closing date for each academic session of the year (Winter, Spring etc.). The closing dates for all sessions are available under the 'course search' function on the UAC website.

For international students, application closing dates are fixed – the end of May for students commencing in Semester 2; the middle of December for students commencing in Semester 1. The University calendar contains exact dates for each year.

What documents do I need to include with my application?

You will need to include colour scans of original academic transcripts, as well as an up-to-date copy of your curriculum vitae (CV) and of any change-of-name documentation (e.g. marriage certificate). Please note that greyscale scans of academic transcripts are not acceptable, nor are colour photographs of original transcripts.

International students will also need to include an up-to-date copy of an approved English language test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS).

How do I know if my application has been successful?

You will receive an email from the ANU's Admissions team within four weeks of your application date, to the email address nominated on your application. Depending on the information you provided, you may receive either a full offer for study or a conditional offer for study. Conditional offers for study require you to meet certain conditions before you can accept the offer.

Teaching and assessment:

Why does the Applied Data Analytics program teach outside normal university semesters?

Because the Applied Data Analytics program was designed to be taught in online intensive mode for working professionals, normal university semesters aren't suitable for this teaching format. Instead of being constrained by fixed dates for Semesters 1 and 2, the Data Analytics program teaches courses staggered throughout the year in the ANU's non-standard teaching sessions – Autumn, Winter, Spring etc. This model is also used by other areas in the ANU which teach specialised professionally-focussed courses, including the College of Law and the Crawford School of Public Policy.

The courses included in the Data Analytics program are also available in on-campus semester-long mode for international students, and for students enrolled in other ANU programs. For example, COMP8410 (Data Mining) is a compulsory course under the Master Applied Data Analytics and an elective/specialisation course under the Master of Computing.

What is an 'academic session'?

An academic session is the specific period of the academic year to which a course belongs. The Data Analytics program teaches in both standard and non-standard academic sessions. Non-standard academic sessions are seasonal:
- Summer – January to March
- Autumn – April to June
- Winter – July to September
- Spring – October to December

Non-standard seasonal sessions run in parallel with Semesters 1 and 2. Semester 1 runs from January to June, at the same time as the Summer and Autumn sessions; Semester 2 runs from July to December, at the same time as the Winter and Spring sessions.

Students need to know in which academic session their course is being taught, because this is how you make sure you're enrolling in the right course in your ISIS account. Once you've successfully added a course to your enrolment, the course will display on the ISIS home screen under the relevant academic session.

How do online intensive courses work?

As described in the tab above labelled 'Delivery mode', online intensive course in the Applied Data Analytics program are run over nine weeks. The first four weeks comprise online learning and assessment through the ANU's Wattle portal; the fifth week is spent full-time on campus at the ANU; and the final four weeks are a further period of online teaching and assessment. We call this mode 4+1+4. Therefore, eight weeks of each course can be completed online from anywhere, and one week must be spent on campus in Canberra.

Can I take two online intensive courses which are running simultaneously?

Students cannot take two intensive courses with same start and finish dates. This is because they will have the same on-campus intensive week, and students can only attend one of these at a time. Where courses are offered concurrently (e.g. Spring 2019 – STAT7055 / SOCR8202), students will be required to choose one or the other.

Can students complete the program in full-time mode?

At present, it is not possible for students to undertake the online intensive program in full-time mode. The maximum number of online intensive courses available is five per annum – this is slightly more than a 50% study load.

Students who reside in Canberra and who are prepared to enrol in a mixture of online courses and traditional on-campus semester-long courses are able to complete the program in full-time mode. For advice about how to mix on-campus and online courses, please contact

StudentAdmin.cecs@anu.edu.au. Please note that mixing on-campus and online courses is only available to domestic students; international students are required to study on campus and to maintain a full-time study load.

Is the on-campus intensive week compulsory?

Yes, the on-campus intensive week is compulsory for all students. Exceptions will be made only in the case of serious and unforeseen circumstances (e.g. sudden illness, accident or bereavement). Otherwise, all students are expected to participate in all aspects of the on-campus intensive week, and students will not be given exemption on the grounds of professional workload. The intensives are a crucial part of learning development and cohort-building for all courses, and students should fully consider this expectation when choosing to undertake the program.

What is the timetable for the 2019 online intensive courses?

The online intensive timetable is available at the above tab labelled 'Course schedule'. Students wishing to consult the timetable for courses taught in on-campus semester-long mode should consult the relevant Programs and Courses entry for their course.

The 2020 intensive mode timetable will be updated in mid-late 2019, and will be substantially the same as this year's schedule, with the addition of some extra courses (e.g. COMP8600 Statistical Machine Learning and SOCR8204 Advanced Social Science Approaches).

How do I know what the pre-requisites are for any particular course?

Pre-requisites and any assumed knowledge are detailed on the Programs and Courses entry for each course. Below is a table of the pre-requisites for the courses included in the Applied Data Analytics program.

Please note that these pre-requisites only apply to students enrolled in the Applied Data Analytics program; students enrolled in other programs may be subject to other pre-requisites, as detailed on Programs and Courses.

	Course	Pre-requisites
Stage One	STAT7055 Intro Stats for Business	
	STAT7001 Applied Statistics	STAT7055
	COMP7230 Programming for Data Scientists	
	COMP7240 Introductory Databases	
Stage Two	SOCR8201 Introductory Social Science	
	SOCR8202 Using Data to Answer Policy Questions	
	STAT6039 Mathematical Statistics	STAT7055 or STAT7001
	STAT7026 Graphical Data Analysis	STAT7055
	COMP8410 Data Mining	COMP7230 and COMP7240
	COMP8430 Data Wrangling	COMP7230 and COMP7240
Stage Three	SOCR8203 Advanced Social Science Techniques	SOCR8201 or SOCR8202
	SOCR8204 Policy Development and Service Delivery	SOCR8201 or SOCR8202
	SOCR8006 Online Research Methods	SOCR8201 or SOCR8202
	SOCR/DEMO8082 Social Research Practice	SOCR8201 or SOCR8202
	STAT7016 Bayesian Data Analysis	STAT7001 and STAT6039
	STAT7030 Linear Models	STAT7001
	STAT7040 Statistical Learning	STAT7001 and STAT6039
	STAT8002 Applied Time Series Analysis	STAT7001 and STAT6039
	COMP6490 Document Analysis	COMP7230 and COMP7240 and COMP8410 and STAT6039
	COMP8420 Bio-Inspired Computing	COMP7230 and COMP7240, plus either COMP8410 or COMP8430

	COMP8600 Machine Learning	COMP7230 and COMP7240 and COMP8410 and STAT6039

What is the assessment structure for each course?

The assessment structure varies from course to course, depending on the individual convenor and on the material being taught. However, all ANU courses include multiple forms of assessment, both formative (identifying areas of academic strength and weakness) and summative (finding out how well you've achieved the learning outcomes of the course). You can expect to be assessed in different ways throughout the course, not just at the end. Many courses will include some form of group assessment, reflecting the real-world concerns of the program, because large-scale data analysis is often performed in a team environment.

How do I find out if a particular course is suitable for my skill-set?

You should consult the relevant Programs and Courses entry for the course in question, which will provide you with a summary of the course material, and of the learning outcomes for the course. You may also consult the convenor for the relevant course, who will be able to answer specific questions and to provide you with a course outline.

Fees:

Is this program eligible for a FEE-Help loan?

Australian citizens enrolled in this program are eligible to defer their tuition fees through a FEE-Help loan. New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents can access FEE-Help in certain specific situations, which are outlined here.

Australian citizens who wish to defer their tuition through FEE-Help must complete an electronic Commonwealth Assistance Form (eCAF). This form is available to students through their ISIS account (the ANU's student enrolment and information portal) once they have accepted their offer for study.

International students are not able to access FEE-Help, and will be required to pay tuition in full at the start of each semester.

What is the 'census date' for each course?

The census date for a course is the date at which students are regarded as liable for their tuition fees, regardless of whether they complete the academic requirements of the course. Up to census date, students can 'drop' a course online through their ISIS account without incurring any financial penalty. Students dropping a course after census date will remain liable for the tuition. The only exception to this is students who are approved for late withdrawal from a course. Late withdrawals apply to students who encounter sudden and unexpected circumstances which prevent them from completing the course (e.g. serious illness, accident or bereavement).

The census date for a course is determined by its starts date – the census date occurs roughly 1/3 of the way through the course. The census dates for all of the 2019 courses are listed under the above tab labelled 'course schedule'.

For courses taught in typical semester-long on-campus mode, census dates remain the same every year: 31 March for Semester 1 courses, and 31 August for Semester 2 courses.

Are there any Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) for this program and how do I apply?

As a result of the 2018 federal budget, the number of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) available across the university has decreased. At present, the College has no CSP to allocate for the Data Analytics program, and students should expect this situation to continue going forward.

Applications for CSPs are considered once per semester for the College as a whole. CSPs are awarded strictly on the basis of academic merit and competition is fierce. A GPA of 6.5 or above is recommended to have a realistic chance of securing a CSP. Applicants must complete and submit the form available at the following link in order to be considered for a CSP: https://cecs.anu.edu.au/study/commonwealth-supported-places

Please note that applicants must have an unconditional offer for study to the Applied Data Analytics program, or be already enrolled, before they can be considered for a CSP.

The College has a small number of tuition-reduction scholarships available to domestic postgraduate students, offering a 25% reduction in tuition over the typical lifespan of a coursework degree (up to two years). Applications for these scholarships are considered once per semester. Information is available here: http://www.anu.edu.au/students/scholarships-fees/scholarships/college-of-engineering-and-computer-science-postgraduate

What is the difference between the Services and Amenities Fee (SAF) and Domestic Tuition Fees (DTF)?

The Services and Amenities Fee (SAF) is incurred by every student enrolled at the ANU. This fee is a contribution by students towards the cost of the ANU facilities which are available to students: physical buildings as well as information services and other online study supports. Students are

charged SAF at a rate of AUD $74.50 per seasonal academic session, up to a maximum of AUD $149 per annum for part-time students or AUD $298 per annum for full-time students (2018 rate).

Domestic Tuition Fees (DTF) are the cost of individual academic courses – these are the fees domestic students incur by being enrolled in a particular course. Students will see two different items on their tuition invoices: SAF is the service and administration component, and DTF is the academic tuition component. Neither component is negotiable, although both can be deferred under the FEE-Help program by Australian citizens and eligible permanent residents and New Zealand citizens.

International students incur International Tuition Fees (ISF) instead of DTF, but will also have two different items on their invoices – SAF, which is the service and administration component, and ISF, which is the academic tuition component.

How can I organise for my employer to pay my tuition fees?

Students whose employers wish to pay their tuition invoices need to set up a tuition sponsorship through the ANU's Student Finance team. Sponsored students will *not* receive a tuition invoice through their ISIS accounts – the invoice goes straight from ANU Student Finance to the nominated contact at the sponsoring organisation. Students who have a tuition sponsorship will not be charged late fees if their sponsor does not pay by the due date on the invoice – the ANU's Student Finance team negotiates directly with the sponsor for payment.

Students who choose to download their invoices from ISIS and to provide these to their employers for payment should note that the student will be charged late fees if payment does not arrive by the due date. This is because the above arrangement does not constitute a tuition sponsorship, even if the student has provided the invoice to their employer. From the ANU's point of view, students are considered to be self-funded unless they have an official ANU tuition sponsorship in place.

Students who do not wish to set up a tuition sponsorship are recommended to pay their own tuition by BPay or credit card through their ISIS account, and then to seek reimbursement from their employer. This arrangement minimises the chance that students will be left with additional fees if an employer does not pay the invoice on time.

How do I view and pay my tuition fee invoice?

From the home screen in ISIS, students should select 'check your invoice' to see their most recent outstanding invoice. Students wishing to consult previous invoices should click 'invoice history' for a full list.

What are the indicative tuition fees for each course?

Indicative tuition fees for each academic year are available under the relevant course entry on the Programs and Courses website.

Students should expect that tuition will increase by roughly 5% per annum. For 2019, fees are between AUD $3660 and AUD $4400 per course.

Does DTF cover the cost of the intensive week?

Domestic Tuition Fees (DTF) are the cost payable for enrolling in the course. DTF does not include the cost of any textbooks (which not all courses will require), or the cost of travelling to and attending the on-campus intensive component.

Am I Centrelink-eligible while studying in the Applied Data Analytics program?

The Applied Data Analytics program is not considered an approved coursework Masters program for the purposes of student-support payments from Centrelink. However, students who believe they qualify for Austudy or for Youth Allowance (Student) should contact the Department of Human Services directly for clarification.

General questions:

Do I need a student card if I am a domestic intensive student?

Students who do not reside in the ACT and who do not intend to use ANU infrastructure during their degree may not need a student card. However, we recommend that all students acquire a student card just in case – these can be obtained in person during one of your on-campus intensive weeks. Student cards are available over the counter with approved photo identification (e.g. passport, driver's licence) from the ANU Student Central services counter at 121 Marcus Clarke Street.

Please note that students must have accepted their offers for study and be enrolled in a course before they are eligible to hold a student card. Interstate students can request that a student card be mailed to them, subject to certain restrictions.

Students who reside in the ACT and who wish to use ANU library or computer laboratory facilities will need a student card to access the relevant buildings.

What are the arrangements for the on-campus intensive week for each course?

Arrangements for the on-campus intensive week vary from course to course, but students should expect to be on campus every day (Monday to Friday) from 0900 to 1700. Details of the building locations and timetables for the intensive weeks will be emailed to all enrolled students one week in advance, along with maps of the ANU campus and other information to assist those new to Canberra and to the ANU.

Can I get recognition of prior learning (RPL) for some of my previous university study?

You may be eligible for recognition of prior learning (RPL) if you have completed related studies in a previous university degree. At the ANU, RPL is called academic status and takes two forms – credit and exemption.

As described in the above tab labelled 'credit', students who are awarded credit will have their total academic program shortened by the number of course for which they are granted credit. In other words, they are regarded as having completed the courses in question.

Students who are granted exemption do not have to take the course for which they have been granted exemption, and are permitted to replace the exempted course with another course of their choosing, from an approved list of program enclosures. A student who receives exemption does not have their program shortened.

For more information about the restrictions on the awarding of academic status, please see section 3.1 of the Coursework Awards Rule: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01980

Some examples of credit and exemption scenarios:

- *Student A has worked in the Australian Public Service for 15 years but has no formal qualifications. He has had significant experience in programming and is able to demonstrate this. On the basis of his work experience, he is admitted to the Master of Applied Data Analytics. He does not receive any credit, thus the duration of his program remains the same. Due to his experience in programming, he is able to get an exemption for COMP7230, a compulsory course, which he chooses to replace with another course under the 'Data Science' category.*

- *Student B has worked in the Australian Public Service for 5 years and has completed a Bachelor of Economics within the last 10 years. After submitting a credit application – including his transcript and course outlines – he is granted credit for STAT7055. He is not required to replace this course with another and so his program is shortened by one course.*

- *Student C applies to study three courses included in the Master of Applied Data Analytics as a non-award student. She has completed a Master of Computing within the last 10 years. She is not able to receive credit as she is studying as a non-award student. However, as she is considering applying for the Master of Data Analytics later, she seeks advice regarding the credit she would be eligible for. She is told that she would receive credit for COMP7230 and COMP7240 and so does not have to complete these courses. When she transfers into the Masters program, the duration of her course will be shortened by two courses, plus whatever courses she has undertaken as a non-award student.*

Does the ANU consider MOOCs for admission and/or recognition of prior learning?

If the MOOC for which the student is seeking credit is determined to be equivalent in learning and assessment to a 6-unit ANU course, then the ANU may choose to grant credit, at the discretion of the program convenor. For a MOOC to be credit-eligible, it must be taught by a reputable university, as defined by the Australian government Department of Education and Training's policy on the recognition of overseas qualifications.

Can I appeal a decision about academic credit?

If you are unhappy with the decision of the College regarding your application for academic status, you can appeal to the Associate Dean (Education) for the relevant College. The Data Analytics program teaches across three ANU Colleges – Business and Economics, Engineering and Computer Science, and Arts and Social Sciences – and each College has its own AD(E).

Applications to appeal a credit decision must be submitted in writing to StudentAdmin.cecs@anu.edu.au, and the Data Analytics team will identify the correct College for the resolution of your appeal.

Information for members of the Australian Public Service:

Do I need departmental support/endorsement to enrol in this program?

You do not need departmental support to enrol in the Data Analytics program – if you meet the admission requirements, then you are eligible.

However, if you wish to access study leave or other flexible arrangements through your employer, then the ANU recommends consulting your professional development or learning support contacts before enrolling in the program.

If my department has encouraged me to apply for this program, and has coordinated my application process, does this mean my tuition is fully funded?

Students should not assume that their tuition is employer-funded unless they have specifically consulted their employer about tuition arrangements, and have received written assurance that the employer has entered into a tuition sponsorship with the ANU. The ANU will not solicit tuition sponsorships on behalf of students. It is the student's responsibility to secure the employer's financial support, at which point the Data Analytics team (StudentAdmin.cecs@anu.edu.au) is happy to assist with the logistics of setting up the sponsorship.

Students should check their ISIS account regularly to see whether they have any invoices owing. Even if you are a sponsored student, it's a good idea to keep an eye out for invoices, because an unexpected account is a sign that something may not be functioning correctly with your sponsorship.

Can APS students access FEE-Help?

APS students can access FEE-Help, provided that they are Australian citizens. Permanent residents and New Zealand citizens are able to access FEE-Help in certain limited situations, as explained above.

Glossary of useful ANU terms:

Award	A qualification conferred by the University and certified by a testamur. • Award names and relevant specialisations appear on a graduate's testamur. • Different plans may lead to different awards though some lead to the same award.
Program	In an academic sense, a program is a structured sequence of study – normally leading to the Award of one or more degrees, diplomas or certificates. In a system sense, a program is a grouping of one or more academic plans around a particular theme, Awards, or set of admission requirements.
Course	A subject of scholarly study taught: • In a connected series of lectures or demonstrations. • By means of practical work including the production by students of essays or theses or case studies, or the attendance and participation by students in seminars or workshops. Each course requires a course outline. A four character alphabetic subject area code and a four digit numeric catalogue number identify each course. The first digit denotes the state/year of the program in which the course is normally taken. Each course is normally assigned a unit value that is a measure of the proportion of the academic progress that a course represents within the total credit for the program
Unit	This is an indicator of the value of the course within the total program. Most courses are valued at 6 units. Units are used to track progress towards completing a plan. Full-time students normally undertake 24 units of courses each semester.
Non-award study	Study that does not lead to the award of a degree, diploma, or certificate, but consists of a course or work requirement that may be at undergraduate or graduate coursework level. [Note: non-award study does not include studies undertaken on a non-award basis within the meaning of HES Act.]
Credit	The granting of credit is an evaluation process that assesses the individual's prior formal, non-formal, and informal learning to determine the extent to which the individual has achieved the required learning outcomes, competency outcomes, or standards for entry to, and/or partial or total completion of, a qualification.
Exemption	Some students may be exempt from undertaking a compulsory course for the program on the basis of previous completion of the course, or an equivalent course. However, a course of equivalent unit value must be substituted. An exempted course counts towards program requirements and satisfied pre-requisite requirements for other courses but the unit value of the exempted course does not count towards the units taken towards the program.

Other terms can be found in the Student policies and procedures glossary
< https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppl/document/ANUP_002601 >