Entry into statistics

Questions for Peter Diggle (PD)

PD mentioned the option of studying general statistics or specialising, for example in statistics for biomedical research.

Is there a preference in his opinion of one over the other? What would be the specific benefits of each?

Is it possible to specialize without having a detailed general statistical background?

Without having much experience in statistics, how would PD suggest I prepare for a statistics masters degree? Is he aware of foundation courses to prepare graduates with non-cognate bachelors degrees to enter into study of statistics at post-graduate level?