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 acquiring a detailed general statistical background first?

Since I have very little background in statisics 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? Would he advise that this approach would be necessary or (just) desirable? What would be the position taken at Lancaster University for example?