Dear all,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Anwar Musah, and I will be your instructor for the Introduction to Bayesian Inference and Modelling course hosted by the UCL Social Data Institute. I am very much looking forward to meeting you in person on Monday, 9 June, starting at 10:30am.

I would like to share a few pieces of information:

**[1] Location & Schedule**

All sessions will take place in Room G04 (Seminar Room 2) at Charles Bell House, University College London, 43–45 Foley Street, London W1W 7TY.

Please remember to bring your own laptop so you can gain the full benefit of the lessons – especially during the line-by-line walkthroughs of the R and Stan code and the practical computer session that follows. We will be working in RStudio and Stan via the rstan package.

You can view the full timetable and course structure here:

**Timetable:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topics** |
| 09/06/2025 | Introduction to Probability Distributions |
| 10/06/2025 | Introduction to Bayesian Inference |
| 11/06/2025 | Bayesian Generalised Linear Models |
| 12/06/2025 | Bayesian Hierarchical Regression Models |
| 13/06/2025 | Spatial Intrinsic Conditional Auto-Regression (ICAR) Models |

**Programme:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Times** | **Format** |
| 10:30am – 12:00pm (1.5h) | Lecture |
| 12:00pm – 01:00pm (1h) | Lunch Break |
| 01:00pm – 02:00pm (1h) | Live Demonstration Walkthrough |
| 02:00pm – 02:15pm (0h15mins) | Short Break |
| 02:15pm – 04:15pm (2h) | Computer Practical Seminar |
| 04:15pm – 04:30pm (0h15mins) | Summary |
| 04:30pm | Close |

**[2] Information and Learning materials**

All lecture notes, datasets, and practical-session handouts will be available here:

<https://uclpg-msc-sgds.github.io/UCL-SODA-CPD-RStan/>

Materials will be uploaded one day in advance of each lesson, and I’ll email everyone once they are ready. The same site also contains the timetable and programme structure. Lectures and the live, line-by-line code demonstrations will be recorded and embedded on that page.

**[3] Getting Started with the installation**

I have prepared some guidance notes for installing the latest version of R and RStudio, and ‘rstan’ package to interface RStudio. See the “Installation” chapter on the website for step-by-step instructions on installing the latest versions of R (4.5.0), RStudio (2025.05.0 + 496), and the rstan (version 2.36.0.9000) package. The process can be a bit involved, so please follow the directions carefully for your operating system—macOS (Intel or Apple Silicon) or Windows. I have put direct links to the needed software and so please make sure all required software and R packages are installed before Monday.

**[4] Troubleshooting**

If the installation doesn’t go smoothly, please email me as soon as possible at [a.musah@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.musah@ucl.ac.uk) and we can set up an online meeting on Friday to sort it out together.

Should you have any questions – please feel free to contact me.

Thanks, and best wishes,

Anwar.