



June 5, 2015

Dear participant,

Thanks for registering to our short course on “Model fitting and inference for infectious disease dynamics”, 16–19 June at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). A few notes ahead of the course:

1. Remember that you are expected to bring your own laptop with R installed. Please make sure you have a recent version of R installed, ideally the most recent one (3.2.0). If any of that is a problem, let us know and we will come up with a solution. We will also have some replacement laptops available, in case something breaks during the course.
2. An internet connection will be required for the course. The easiest way for most of you is probably to connect through *eduroam* — if you don’t have this set up on your laptop it might be worth checking how you can get access. If you are not based at an academic institution or can’t get access to eduroam for another reason, we will set you up to connect through LSHTM’s own wireless network.
3. Attached is an introduction to some R commands and concepts we will use during the course. If you don’t use R in your daily work, it would be useful to work through this ahead of the course. If you are a regular R user, perhaps have a quick read to make sure we will be on the same page.
4. We will use the R package `pomp` in one of the sessions. To save time, it would be great if you could try and install it using the instructions provided at the [package web site](#), paying particular attention to the “Important information for Windows and Mac users.” Again, let us know if you encounter any problems with this.
5. Also attached is a rough timetable. We will start at 10am on Tuesday 16th, and close at 3pm on Friday 19th. Lunches are not included in the course fee. There are plenty of very reasonably priced lunch options in and around the London School — we will give you more information on this during the course.
6. We have booked a nearby restaurant serving simple English cuisine for Thursday, 18th June, 7pm. We are hoping that as many as possible of you can join — if you already know that you won’t be able to come to this, please let us know to facilitate planning. The price of the dinner will be covered by the course fee. There will be vegetarian options — if you have any other dietary requirements, please let us know as soon as possible.
7. We are hoping for an interesting and stimulating course. If there are any burning issues on your mind that you would like discussed, please let us know and we’ll try our best to accommodate your wishes. Note that on Thursday we’ll have an open session to discuss any questions on model fitting and inference you have come across in your own work.

Any further questions, please do not hesitate to email us at mfiidd.lshtm@gmail.com.

See you soon in London,
Seb, Anton & Helen