GETTING STARTED WITH DATA SCIENCE

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In this packet you will find all the information you need to navigate through your course and beyond. In order to best prepare and ensure success in the course, we've gathered a list of resources that we'd like you to complete. We want to ensure that when you arrive on your first day, you will be up to speed and familiar with the necessary skills needed to succeed in this course.

We can't tell you how excited we are to have you join the General Assembly community and we hope you will have as much fun with data as we do. :)

LOCATION

General Assembly
Level M, 56-58 York Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

CONTACT

Olivia Basher
Student Experience Lead
olivia.basheer@generalassemb.ly
0428 676 762

TO-DO LIST

☐ Install Anaconda with Python 3.6 onto your computer. Check that it runs by opening the Navigator application and then launching a jupyter notebook from the navigator interface.

☐ Download and install a Github client and sign up for a public Github account. Send your Github username to your course contact above.

☐ Introduce yourself on the course Slack channel and put a picture of yourself in your profile.

☐ Read any 2 chapters of the Data Science Handbook (www.thedatasciencehandbook.com/).

☐ Read the first 2 chapters of Introduction to Statistical Learning (http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~gareth/ISL/ISLR%20Fourth%20Printing.pdf)

☐ Complete the Intro to Python for Data Science course on DataCamp. We will expect to see the certificate. (https://www.datacamp.com/getting-started?step=2&track=python)

☐ Answer all the questions on Data Science in your student survey, linked in your welcome email.

☐ Make your first payment and send us your signed contract.

GUIDANCE ON STUDENT MACHINES

We will be installing various software packages throughout the course, some not planned in advance. It is very important that you have full administration rights to your laptop machines and are free to install whatever software you wish. For this reason it is highly recommended that you use a personal computer and not a work computer. Even if you have admin rights on your work machines, there may be restrictions around networking (physical ports such as USB being blocked, firewalls on your machine, redirection to proxy servers etc).

Screen size is important. It is recommended that the screen size of your laptop be at least 13 inches as a small screen means less space for code, visualisations and software tools which you will want to view concurrently.

The following operating systems are acceptable: Mac, Linux, Windows.

Those with a Mac will tend to have an easier time getting software to work. If you are a regular Linux user then Linux is a sensible option. Windows can be problematic as it is much more common to come across software issues that will slow down progress. If you are a Windows user, we highly recommend updating to the latest Windows 10 version which also includes "Windows Subsystem for Linux", which allows Ubuntu Linux to run natively. This will likely improve your experience and would be a worthwhile investment.

OPTIONAL PRE-WORK

- Python for Data Analysis: Read chapters 1, 2 and 5. http://shop.oreilly.com/product/ 0636920023784.do
- Command Line Crash Course: http://cli.learncodethehardway.org/book/

OFFICE HOURS

Your teaching assistant will schedule one hour per week throughout the course for you to ask them questions. These will typically be held on a day outside of class or weekends and are optional.

CAMPUS

Campus is open from 8:30 am to 9 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturdays. You are welcome to come to campus outside your class time to do coursework in a welcoming environment!

Wifi: The wifi username is GA-GUEST and the password is yellowpencil.

Kitchens: There is one kitchen on campus with coffee, tea, water, and a microwave.

Bathrooms: There are bathrooms in the front corridor on campus.

GRADUATION

In order to receive a letter of completion, we require that you:

- attend at least 80% of class;
- complete at least 80% of mandatory homework; and
- present a satisfactory final project that fulfils all project requirements in class.

MISSING CLASS

While we hope that you will attend every class, we know that sometimes things come up. If you absolutely must miss a class, please let us know. Reach out to your teaching assistant to figure out the best way for you to stay on top of the material. We are committed to making this a great educational experience for you, and want to make sure a couple bumps along the way don't stop you from reaching your goal.

PAYMENT

Submitting Payment: Log into your student account at https://generalassemb.ly/account/orders to find your payment information and submit payment. Please adhere to your scheduled payment plan so that your course participation remains in good standing. If you have questions about your payments or due dates, please contact your course producer.

Payment Policy: Tuition must be paid in full to receive a Letter of Completion. You can find more information in your Student Contract.

TRANSFERS & WITHDRAWALS

Before you start your course, you will be able to cancel your enrolment and receive a refund of all money you have paid minus a $250 deposit.

After the first class of your course, but before 5:00 pm of the first Saturday of your course, you are entitled to one of two options:

‣ withdraw your enrolment and receive a refund of all money you have paid minus 25% of the tuition fee. You are liable for payment of 25% of the tuition fee after the first class.

‣ transfer your enrolment once to a future cohort (pending class numbers), upon payment of an additional $250 transfer fee.

After 5:00 pm of the first Saturday of your course, you are not entitled to any refund or transfer, and will be liable for full payment of your course tuition.