

Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Data Science (PGDipADS – 120 points)

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the General Regulations for the University.

1. Version

- (a) These Regulations came into force on 1 January 2026.
- (b) This Diploma was first offered in 2017.

2. Variations

In exceptional circumstances the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate may approve a personal programme of study which does not conform to these Regulations.

3. The structure of the qualification

To qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Data Science a student must complete a total of at least 120 points including:

- (a) up to 45 points from the Foundation courses listed in Schedule C: Group 1 to the degree.
 - i. A student who has completed an undergraduate degree that includes related undergraduate courses may substitute one or more foundation courses with other approved courses from Schedule E by approval of the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate.
- (b) 60 points of courses listed in Schedule C: Group 2.
 - i. With approval of the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate a student may substitute one or more of these courses with a more advanced course on the topic.
- (c) At least 15 points from Schedule E courses listed in the Schedule to the degree.

4. Admission to the qualification

A student for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Data Science (PGDipADS), before applying to enrol in the Diploma, must have:

- (a) qualified for a university degree in an area which is relevant to data science eg, biological sciences, computer science, digital humanities, economics, engineering, environmental science, finance, geography, geology, mathematics, physics, psychology, statistics, or any other relevant degree subject to approval of the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate; and
- (b) at least 90 points in relevant 300-level courses passed with a B Grade Point Average that meets the approval of the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate; and
- (c) met the prerequisites as specified in the BSc(Hons) or BA(Hons) Regulations in at least one relevant major; and
- (d) been approved as a student for the qualification by the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate.

5. Subjects

There are no majors or minors for this qualification.

6. Time limits

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University with a time limit of 60 months.

7. Transfers of credit, substitutions and cross-credits

This qualification adheres to the Credit Recognition and Transfer Regulations, with no additional stipulations.

8. Progression

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University, with the following stipulations:

- (a) A student may only fail up to 30 points, and must pass the repeated courses within the following year.
- (b) Enrolment in an alternative course in its place will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and requires a recommendation from the Kaihautū Hōtaka | Programme Director and the permission of the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate.

9. Honours, Distinction and Merit

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University, with no additional stipulations.

10. Exit and Upgrade Pathways to other Qualifications

- A student who has completed the requirements for the PGDipADS but has not yet graduated, may apply to the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate to be admitted to the Master of Applied Data Science and have credits transferred.
- A student who has graduated with the PGDipADS from Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury, may apply to the Amo Matua, Pūhanga | Executive Dean of Engineering or delegate to be admitted to the Master of Applied Data Science and have their PGDipADS subsumed in accordance with the General Regulations to the University.
- There are no exit qualifications for this Diploma.

Schedule C: Compulsory Courses for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Data Science

For full course information, go to courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz

Group 1: Foundational Data Science Competencies

Course Code	Course Title	Pts	2026	Location	P/C/R/RP/EQ
COSC480	Computer Programming	15	X9	UC Online	P: Subject to approval of the Head of Department.
			S1	Campus	
			S2	Campus	
			X3	UC Online	
			X4	UC Online	
DATA401	Introduction to Data Science	15	S1	Campus	P: Subject to approval of the Head of School.
			S1	Distance Learning	
			X2	UC Online	
			S2	Campus	
			S2	Distance Learning	
			X4	UC Online	
MBIS623	Data Management	15	S1	Campus	R: INFO260
			S1	Distance Learning	
			S2	Campus	
			X3	UC Online	

A student will be required by the Kaihautū Hōtaka | Programme Director to enrol in all the foundation courses unless there is evidence of prior learning in the fundamentals of data science:

Group 2: Advanced Data Science Competencies

A student will be required to take the following courses. With approval of the Kaihautū Hōtaka | Programme Director, other relevant courses can be substituted:

Course Code	Course Title	Pts	2026	Location	P/C/R/RP/EQ
DATA420	Scalable Data Science	15	S1	Campus	P: Subject to approval of the Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics.
			S1	Distance Learning	
			X2	UC Online	
			S2	Campus	
			S2	Distance Learning	
			X4	UC Online	
DIGI405	Texts, Discourses and Data	15	S1	Campus	P: Subject to approval of the Programme Coordinator.
			S1	Distance Learning	
			X3	UC Online	
			S2	Campus	
			S2	Distance Learning	
			X4	UC Online	
STAT448	Big Data	15	X1	UC Online	P: Subject to approval of the Head of School
			S1	Campus	
			S1	Distance Learning	
			S2	Campus	
			S2	Distance Learning	
			X3	UC Online	
STAT462	Data Mining	15	X1	UC Online	P: Subject to approval of the Head of School.
			S1	Campus	
			S1	Distance Learning	
			S2	Campus	
			S2	Distance Learning	
			X4	UC Online	

Schedule E: Elective Courses for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Data Science

400 or 600-level courses in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, Data Science, Digital Humanities, Economics, Environmental Science, Finance, Geography, Geology, Geospatial Data Science, Health, Information Systems, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Project Management, Psychology, Statistics, or in any other relevant degree subject as approved by the Kaihautū Hōtaka | Programme Director and the Tumuaki o te kura tika | Head of the relevant school. This group would normally include a course with a specified work integrated learning component.