

The Health Service Modelling Associates Programme

Questions – and Answers from the MAN Huddle on 30/11/23

Question

1. What is the criterion to determine eligibility - for acceptance onto the course?

Answer

- To be eligible for the course, the candidate must :
 - have a role within a health, social care or policing organisation (or related organisation, such as Public Health, or a third sector health, social care or policing organisation) in England, and
 - not be employed by a commercial organisation, and
 - have the support of their organisation to undertake this programme, including being released from their usual role for one day per week for 15 months
- Assuming applicants meet the above criteria, applications will be judged primarily on their reasons for wanting to join the course, and why their organisation supports them to do so. We are looking for people who want to apply these methods to real world problems, and organisations to support them to do that and build these skills into their work
- We will always endeavour to avoid turning people away who we think meet the above, and will often provide additional places where possible to accommodate

Question

2. As Python is used, will my organisation need to have the use of python and installations for associated IDE approved ?

Answer

Your organisation will need to agree to install the necessary software on a work machine ahead of the course (we also recommend wherever possible HSMA's install on personal machines too in case there are delays ahead of the training phase). This can sometimes present obstacles, but all our HSMA's have managed to overcome them, and we recommend your manager or other senior person liaises with the IT department if you have any issues. A full list of the software requirements can be found here (under the question "What software will I require to undertake the programme?") :

[HSMA Resource Site - Apply to become a HSMA \(google.com\)](#)

Question

3. Could we see the list of projects that have been covered / are being covered? Might be something others could learn from?

Answer

You can find details of previous projects from HSMA 3 and 4 here :

[HSMA Resource Site - HSMA Projects \(google.com\)](#). HSMA 5 projects will also appear here once HSMA 5 has completed (and we'd recommend attending the open day to hear about this work).

Question
4. Anything other than Python and Sheets for system dynamics?"
Answer
We use InsightMaker (Insight Maker Build simulations and models for free) for System Dynamics, which doesn't require a software install (it's a web app) or coding knowledge (it uses a drag and drop interface). All other methods we teach are Python-based.
Question
5. Are there any software access/installations requirements (Python IDE, GIT)? Concerned there might be some installations/usage challenges from my organisations ICT.
Answer
See above question - yes there will be challenges, they will push back, but keep plugging away (and use your manager!). All of our HSMA's managed to overcome this, and things are getting better (slowly) as the NHS moves towards data science.
Question
6. not a Q: Looks like a wonderfully high-tech but very practical programme!
Answer
Thanks for the feedback! Practical skills are at the heart of HSMA, and have been since its inception - we've always wanted people to be able to go back to their manager and show them something cool they'd learned that day that they could immediately use.

KEY LINKS

- Sign up for the open day : <https://bit.ly/hsma-open-day>
- Sign up for the mailing list if you can't attend the open day : email penchord@exeter.ac.uk
- Our website : [HSMA Resource Site \(google.com\)](#)
- Our YouTube channel (watch HSMA lectures and event recordings) : <https://www.youtube.com/@hsma>
- Our GitHub organisation (access HSMA materials and code) : [HSMA \(github.com\)](#)