Introduction
Data science is a relatively recent field in which very large datasets (‘big data’) are analysed in order to resolve a problem, confirm a hypothesis or improve a service.

Data scientists use algorithms and machine learning to look for meaning in the data. They might also work closely with designers, to communicate their findings or to develop new programmes and apps.

A very wide range of organisations employ data scientists. Particularly big players are the technology, finance, retail, logistics, e-commerce, telecoms, oil and gas and transport sectors, but data scientist roles are also to be found in media companies, charities, local and national government and academia.

What might working as a data scientist involve?
You are likely to be working in an office as part of a wider team. You could be working closely with cross-functional teams of data scientists, designers, and engineers.

You may be involved in writing and maintaining code (Python or R) and using technical skills in data manipulation and extraction (e.g. using SQL).

The work may involve extracting and analysing data, forming a hypothesis, conducting A/B tests, and reflecting on results. You could be called upon to explain complex topics in simple terms, using data visualisation skills.

Which skills and qualities might be required?
- Programming languages (e.g. R or Python)
- Strong database design and coding skills
- Experience with data interrogation and analysis tools (statistical competence)
- Knowledge about machine learning
- Attention to detail
- Communication skills
- Collaboration skills
- Business/commercial awareness

Possible routes into data science
Your degree(s) might be in a related area such as computer science, mathematics, statistics, operational research, science, engineering or economics.

King’s College London (KCL) runs a large number of postgraduate degrees in these areas, including an MSc in Data Science - https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught-courses/data-science-msc.aspx

It’s always worth building a strong LinkedIn profile and getting in touch with King’s alumni who are working in the field you are interested in - https://www.linkedin.com/

Job Sites
Kaggle Jobs
https://www.kaggle.com/jobs
Kaggle is a platform dedicated to data science and machine learning and has a worldwide jobs board focusing exclusively on these areas.

Data Elixir
https://jobs.dataelixir.com/
An online weekly newsletter for those interested in data science, including a jobs board.

Data Scientist Jobs
https://datascientistjobs.co.uk/
A UK-based job search engine with weekly job alerts and an accessible user interface.

KD Nuggets
https://www.kdnuggets.com/jobs/index.html
A US-based web platform with some worldwide (inc. UK-based) roles but mainly US jobs, in data mining, analytics and data science.

Glassdoor
https://www.glassdoor.co.uk/index.htm
A helpful source of current job adverts as well as reviews of interview processes and workplace environments from across the UK.

Competitions
Some candidates enter the sector by taking part in competitions, including:

Kaggle competitions
https://www.kaggle.com/competitions

Topcoder competitions
https://www.topcoder.com/community/competitive-programming/

Roles in associated areas
Alternative job titles you might investigate include:
- Data: data analyst, data engineer
- Business: business analyst, analytics scientist, analytics manager, business intelligence developer
- Mathematics: mathematician, statistician
• Computing: computer scientist, database administrator, machine learning engineer, software engineer
• Other: researcher, visualise, communicator, strategist, app developer

Key Resources

KCL MSc in Data Science
http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught-courses/data-science-msc.aspx
The Data Science MSc at King’s is in high demand and provides students with advanced technical and practical skills in the collection, collation, curation and analysis of data. It also examines the professional, legal and ethical responsibilities of data scientists.

KCL Dept of Informatics
https://www.kcl.ac.uk/nms/depts/informatics/index.aspx
Following the department website’s news feed can help you keep up to date with the innovative programmes and activities happening at King’s in this area.

Prospects profile (2017): Data Science
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/data-scientist
This guide provides a clear and helpful overview of careers in data science.

Kaggle
https://www.kaggle.com/
A web platform focused on data science and machine learning, including opportunities for developing knowledge and skills in these areas and to network and discuss with others in the field.

Topcoder
https://www.topcoder.com/community/data-science/
An online community focused on solving problems using data science, through competitions, collaborative learning and more.

Github
https://github.com/
A software development platform with a strong open source community and a marketplace of coding tools.

Stackoverflow
https://stackoverflow.com/
A developer community with an extensive set of questions and answers relating to coding, using searchable tags.

Government Statistical Service
A UK Government department very likely to be employing data scientists. Has a formal application process with clear deadlines for data scientists to apply to join the department.

Defence Science Technology Laboratory
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations(defence-science-and-technology-laboratory/about/recruitment
Another UK Government department that employs data scientists. Hosts a range of graduate hire schemes, internships and formal work experience placement opportunities.

A not-for-profit professional association of data scientists providing practical resources for data professionals, accreditation of courses and model ethical codes. Membership is open to all those interested in science and the data science profession.

British Computer Society
https://www.bcs.org/
A membership organisation describing itself as 'The Chartered Institute for IT’. Includes guides, qualifications and events relating to data science.

Industry News and Commercial Awareness

The web platforms named above (for example, Kaggle, Github and Topcoder) and the Data Science Association are helpful sources of industry news. The global media may also be a helpful source of information relating to data science careers in general terms.

“Glassdoor has once again named Data Scientist the #1 best job in America.”

“IBM Predicts Demand For Data Scientists Will Soar 28% By 2020”

King’s CareerConnect
www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect
King's CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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This material can be provided in alternate formats. Please discuss your requirements with a member of staff.

Professional Organisations

Data Science Association (US-based)
http://www.datascienceassn.org/