

# Detailed Advisory for Applicants

## 1. Advisory on Programming Proficiency

Applicants are expected to have a **basic level of programming proficiency** before joining the M.Sc. DS & AI programme.

At the time of admission, applicants should ideally be comfortable with:

- **Fundamental Programming Concepts:** variables, data types, conditionals, loops, and functions
- **Problem Solving using Algorithms**
- **Data Structures:** lists, arrays, and dictionaries
- **Python Basics:** writing and executing scripts, handling input/output, simple data manipulation
- **Introduction to Libraries:** using libraries such as NumPy and pandas for data handling

Applicants are advised to **self-assess** their comfort with these areas. Those with little or no prior experience in programming are strongly encouraged to take the **Programming Bridge Programme** before entering the M.Sc. DS & AI.

## 3. The Programming Bridge Programme

**Duration:** 4 months (one trimester)

**Objective:** To equip learners with the foundational programming and computational skills necessary for success in the M.Sc. DS & AI.

**Mode:** 100% online

**Design:** Tailored by BITS Pilani Digital faculty to build programming readiness for data science applications.

Upon successful completion, learners will receive **confirmed admission** into the next available batch of the M.Sc. DS & AI programme. Students opting for the bridge programme will **pay only the bridge course fee (INR 8,500 only) initially**. After successful completion, they will **pay the admission and first trimester fees** for the M.Sc. programme.

## 3. Enrolment Options

Eligible applicants receiving an admission offer can choose between:

1. **Direct Enrolment** into the M.Sc. DS & AI programme, if confident in programming preparedness; or
  2. **Bridge Pathway**, where they first complete the 4-month Programming Bridge Programme and then join the next M.Sc. cohort.
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