

List of documents for passing the entrance exam in the form of a competitive selection (portfolio) for foreign citizens entering in a separate competition, and criteria for evaluating the portfolio

**Educational master's degree program «Master of Data Science»**

Portfolio Section	Comments	Maximum number of points
<b>Required Documents</b>		
Motivation letter	<p>Primary Score (out of 10)</p> <p>Letter of motivation is a text document (docx, pdf) in the volume of 1-2 A4 pages in Arial/Times New Roman 12 font (slightly smaller or slightly larger volume is allowed).</p> <p>No additional documents are required to be attached to the motivation letter.</p> <p>The motivation letter should disclose the following aspects in a free form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the student's education: what and where he/she studied at bachelor's/specialty school, what additional courses/programs he/she may have taken.</li> <li>- story about current employment, if any: where and by whom he/she works, what tasks he/she performs at work (if it is possible to disclose); whether he/she plans to work in the next two years, if he/she does not work now.</li> <li>- motivation for enrolling in the "Master of Data Science" program:              Why did you decide to enroll in our program?              What areas of development in IT are of interest?              What do you want to learn in the program?              What are your goals at the end / during the program? (career advancement; change of career trajectory; research and enrollment in a graduate school or research lab, etc.).</li> <li>- Are you willing to spend 20-30 hours a week on the program? How do you estimate the time you are willing to spend on the program?</li> <li>- What are your strengths and weaknesses in math, data analysis, and programming? Tell us in detail what you think you need (it could be</li> </ul>	10

	<p>"know math analysis well, but not strong in linear algebra" or "have many years of development experience in Python, but have forgotten math" and so on).</p> <p>Criteria for evaluating a motivation letter</p> <p>The motivation letter is independently evaluated by two people (reviewers) - program representatives - on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The motivation letter must contain a text that reveals all the points listed above - 4 points.</li> <li>2. The letter should contain motivation and readiness to study at the program, as well as a story about the availability of relevant knowledge (it is enough to comment on the knowledge of higher mathematics sections within the framework of bachelor's/specialization courses) - 4 points.</li> <li>3. The program office values openness and student involvement in the learning process, so share as much relevant information about yourself as possible in your motivation letter - 2 points.</li> </ol> <p>Each reviewer gives a score on a 10-point scale.</p> <p><b>The final score for the motivation letter is the average of the two reviewers' scores (without rounding).</b></p>	
<p>Interview</p>	<p>An interview with an applicant is an informal meeting lasting 15-20 minutes, conducted in order to familiarize with the motivation, experience and skills of the candidate.</p> <p>The purpose of the interview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To assess the applicant's motivation to enroll in the Master's program.</li> <li>- Get information about the candidate's professional goals and plans.</li> <li>- To determine the level of technical training of the applicant.</li> <li>- Discuss the candidate's portfolio, demonstrating his competence and abilities in the chosen field.</li> </ul> <p>Interview format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free format of conversation.</li> </ul>	<p>40</p>

	<p>- Questions about motivation, biography and technical skills.</p> <p>- Opportunity for the candidate to tell about himself, his projects and interests.</p> <p>- Portfolio discussion.</p> <p>Important points:</p> <p>Interviewing is an important part of the selection process.</p> <p>It allows you to get a more complete picture of the candidate than only from documents.</p> <p>The candidate should be ready to answer questions regarding their motivation, experience and skills.</p> <p>Interviews are evaluated by members of the commission - representatives of the program</p> <p>Each member of the commission scores on a 40-point scale. The final score per interview is the average score from all commissioners.</p>	
Math Exam (in English)	<p>The math test is a required component of the applicant's portfolio. It aims to test the basic mathematical knowledge required for a successful master's degree program.</p> <p>The test consists of tasks covering the main branches of mathematics. The tasks of the test do not require in-depth knowledge, but are aimed at determining the level of proficiency in basic mathematical concepts and the ability to solve problems of a standard difficulty level.</p> <p>The results of the test are taken into account when evaluating the portfolio and help determine the need for additional training in mathematics before starting the master's program</p>	30
<b>Documents that can be included in the portfolio</b>		
Personal achievements	<p>This section takes into account documents confirming the presence of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional education (advanced training, passing courses, professional certificates);</li> <li>2. Scientific publications, speeches at scientific conferences/seminars;</li> <li>3. Research experience;</li> <li>4. International scholarships or grants;</li> <li>5. Relevant professional experience in the form of a copy of a work book, resume or other document;</li> <li>6. Diplomas of the winner or prize-winner in the HSE Olympiads in the relevant areas</li> </ol>	20