

How to Apply

Application forms and further details
can be found at

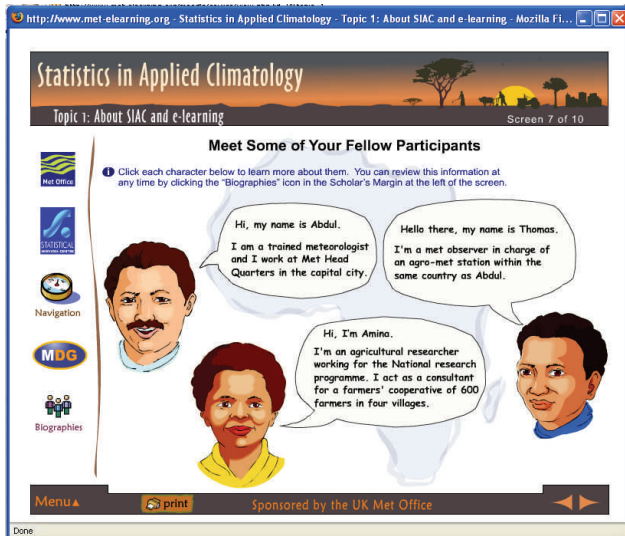
<http://www.ssc.rdg.ac.uk/courses/siac>

Applications should be made online.
For more information contact us at

siac@lists.rdg.ac.uk

Course fees

The fee for e-SIAC is UK£800 (approximately
\$1300 US dollars). This fee covers all the
course costs and materials, and participants
don't have to travel away from home!



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e-SIAC

SSC
Statistical Services Centre

Using Climatic Data Effectively

An online training course

Starting dates

January 2010

July 2010

January 2011

The Statistical Services Centre
of the University of Reading
supported by
the UK Met Office and the
World Meteorological Organisation

Statistics in Applied Climatology



What is e-SIAC?

e-SIAC is an innovative e-learning course on statistical analyses of climatic data. The purpose is to provide useful information for decision-makers in sectors where climatic variability is a critical issue. These sectors include, for example, agriculture, food security, emergency relief, health, construction and tourism.

The course enables participants to face the challenge of managing and analysing data, with emphasis on climate variability, to be better prepared for the effects of climate change. e-SIAC provides participants with the skills necessary to produce relevant and practical statistical products from historical climatic data.

e-SIAC is a facilitated programme that exploits the internet to enable world-wide access. Participants complete modules and assignments on a weekly basis. It is followed on a part-time basis from each participant's normal work place. This makes it cost-effective, and accessible to those who do not have the time to attend a residential training course.

Our team at Reading

Ian Dale is our learning management system expert



Roger Stern is our content expert and

Cary Clark is our instructional designer and facilitation expert.



Topics

Topic 1. About e-SIAC and its aims; getting started with e-learning. Describes the rationale behind the course, the aims of e-SIAC, and the format of e-learning.

Topic 2. Using the statistical software package Instat. Demonstrates the basics of using statistical software.

Topic 3. Acquiring and preparing daily data for analysis. Discusses the steps needed to obtain daily climatic datasets; describes how to import them into Instat.

Topic 4. Producing a standard report or presentation. Teaches the computing skills needed to produce a standard statistical report based on daily climatic records.

Topic 5. Thinking statistically: How to explain and interpret descriptive statistical concepts, in particular variability and risk.

Topic 6. Turning data into information: tailoring products for specific applications. Shows how data analyses can be tailored to meet the needs of the application area.

Topic 7. Thinking statistically: making good generalizations. Reviews basic inferential statistical concepts that are needed to address a range of applications.

Topic 8. Building a portfolio of climatic products; taking climatology to the public. Discusses how a portfolio of tailored statistical analyses of climatic data can contribute to development activities.

How does e-SIAC run?

The e-SIAC course is managed and facilitated by staff at the University of Reading Statistical Services Centre and is supported by the UK Met Office and the WMO.

The course runs over a period of 10-12 weeks. Each topic runs for roughly one week and includes assignments. There is a 'half-term' break after topic 4. A certificate is given to those who complete the course.

The work can be done at times of the day to suit each participant. On average a participant needs to work about eight hours per week.

e-SIAC can be taken on its own or as part of the broader SIAC programme that includes face-to-face training and applied work.

What facilities are needed?

The work is entirely computer-based, and participants should be computer literate. They need regular access to a computer (with a CD or DVD drive) ideally with internet connection. The main teaching materials are provided on CD, hence the course is appropriate for those who have a computer without internet access, provided they can regularly and easily connect to the web, perhaps at an internet café.

As this may be the first facilitated e-learning course for many participants, there is an introductory module specifically to introduce online learning.