

## How to Apply?

Applications and further information for e-SIAC can be found at

<http://www.ssc.reading.ac.uk/n/esiac.htm>

Applications should be made online  
For more information contact us at  
[siac@lists.reading.ac.uk](mailto:siac@lists.reading.ac.uk)

## Course fees

The fee for e-SIAC is £800 (approximately \$1200 US dollars). This fee covers all course costs and materials, and participants don't have to travel away from home!

Contact us with enquiries on group discounts



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.met-elearning.org>. The page title is "Statistics in Applied Climatology" and the topic is "Topic 1: About SIAC and e-learning". The main content area is titled "Meet Some of Your Fellow Participants" and includes a navigation menu on the left with icons for Met Office, STATISTICS, Navigation, MDG, and Biographies. The main content features three cartoon characters with speech bubbles: Abdul (a trained meteorologist at Met Head Quarters), Thomas (a met observer in charge of an agro-met station), and Amina (an agricultural researcher for a farmers' cooperative). The page is sponsored by the UK Met Office.

SSC  
Statistical Services Centre  
University of Reading, UK



PO Box 240  
Reading RG6 6FN  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 (0) 118 378 8689  
Fax: +44 (0) 118 378 8458  
E-mail: [siac@lists.reading.ac.uk](mailto:siac@lists.reading.ac.uk)  
<http://www.reading.ac.uk/ssc>

# e-SIAC

SSC  
Statistical Services Centre

## Using Climatic Data Effectively

An online training course

Starting dates

September 2011

February 2012

and at six months intervals  
thereafter

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





## 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 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 current team

Emma Hollands is our training co-ordinator



Ian Dale is our learning management system expert



Marcel Belmont is our content expert and main facilitator



Roger Stern is our content expert



Sandro Leidi is our content expert and instructional designer



## Topics

**Topic 1.** About e-SIAC and its aims; getting started with e-learning. Describes the rationale behind the course, aims of e-SIAC and 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 steps needed to obtain daily climatic records; describes how to import datasets into Instat.

**Topic 4.** Producing a standard report for presentation. Teaches 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 12 weeks. Each topic runs for roughly one week and includes assignments. There is a short 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 a component of the broader SIAC programme that includes face-to-face training and applied work.

## What facilities are needed?

The work is largely computer-based, and participants must be computer literate. They need regular access to a computer (with a CD or DVD drive) with internet connection.

As the main teaching materials are provided on CD, the course is also appropriate for those who have a computer without internet access.

However, participants will need to regularly connect to the web, maybe at an internet café.

As this may be the first facilitated e-learning course for many participants, there is an Orientation module to introduce on-line learning.