

Why I chose Big Data and Digital Futures and how it allows me to follow my passions



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Hi, I'm Ayo. I am enrolled in the Big Data and Digital Futures Master program, and it helps me engage with Data practically and theoretically. But let me tell you about my journey and why I chose this program.

The journey of choosing

I always knew that I wanted to pursue a master's degree in Data. Coming from an engineering background, I always considered enrolling in very technical programs like data analytics, artificial intelligence and computer science. In this search for following my passions and pursuing my dreams, I always wondered if I would ever see any program that would allow me to explore multiple ideas, perspectives and interests. While reviewing my options in data-related courses, one course stood out like a purple blooming flower in a field of golden-orange flowers. It was a program underpinning the technical skills and knowledge I wanted to learn and the impact of these data practices on society through different theoretical approaches. At this moment, I knew my search was over; I no longer felt the need to read the synopsis of other promising programs. It was all I wanted and more.

What happened next?

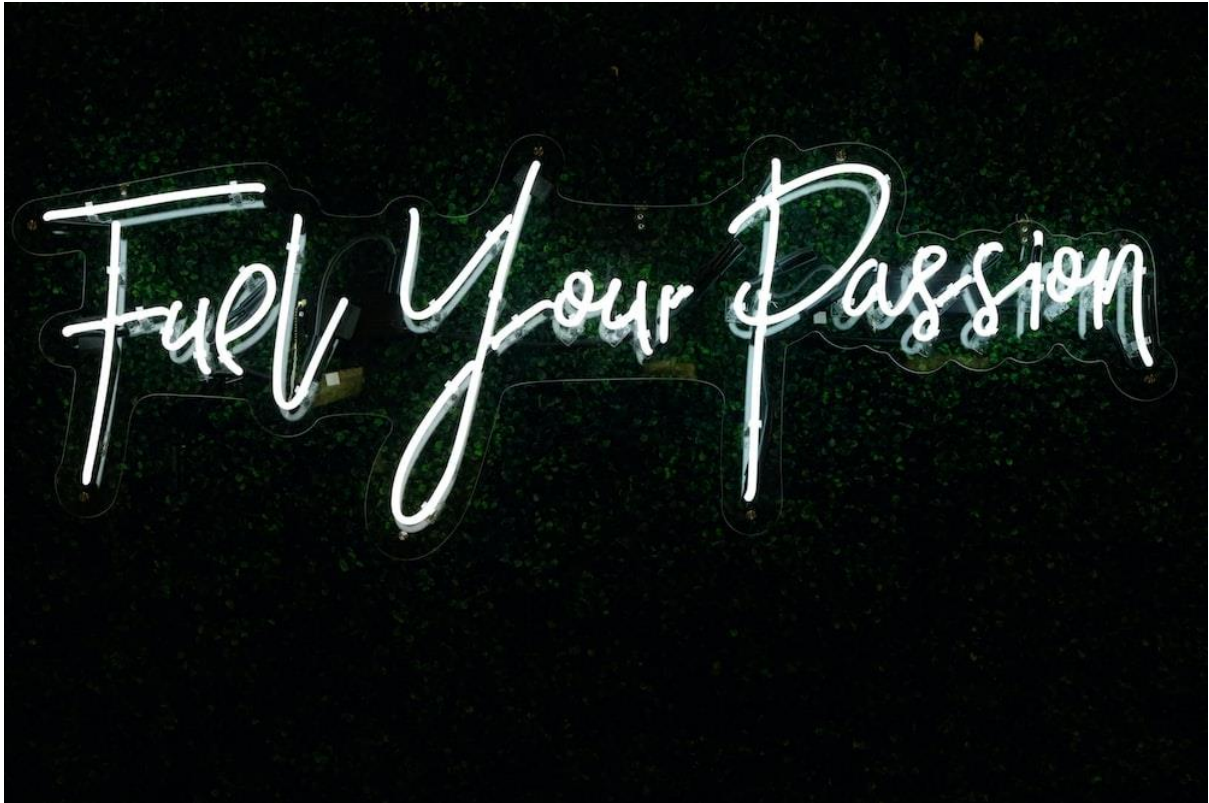


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I started with my curiosity off the charts and my expectations at a grand level; to learn, experience and take a deeper dive into this world of "Big Data" from an interdisciplinary standpoint, exploring areas I never thought my previous experiences (undergraduate and professional) would let me. And I must say, it has not fallen short in any way. Cutting disciplinary boundaries is one thing this program affords me, which aligns with the department as a whole.

It took a lot of restraint for me to choose the modules I am currently taking because I just wanted more; there were a lot of exciting options. From researching big data to a plethora of choices in urban studies, machine learning, visualisation and more, I have my hands full pursuing and fueling my passions. The options are fascinating. Through these modules, I get to express myself more in ways, academically, that I could not do during my undergraduate degree. It is the perfect synergy between academia and satisfying your curiosity, allowing me to explore my evolving interests and passions further.

Having many module options in both the first and the second term also has given me the opportunity to find areas of specialisation, one of which is data visualisation. For instance, although I am in the big data and digital futures program, I enrolled in the visualisation and advanced visualisation modules, which proffers skills that help drive my passion for data visualisation. I get to learn how to use data visualisations to tell compelling data stories and create illustrations using R programming and pretty much any other technology that may help me achieve my goals.

Ultimately, my program opens me to multiple career opportunities within my desired field. The interdisciplinary approach allows me to engage with the coursework from different disciplines critically and, further, gives me the advantage of tackling the core issues in various industries like the energy industry, music and entertainment and more. Within the modules, we get to interact with some industry professionals; this has been the case in two of my modules so far.

TLDR

Big Data and Digital Futures helps me pursue my goals and passion for data by letting me:

- Engage with data theoretically and practically by cutting the boundaries of several disciplines.
- Explore my passions and interests and give me a medium to express myself through my coursework.
- Specialise in different areas through a wide range of module options offered by CIM and the University of Warwick
- Expand my career opportunities by giving me the chance to use my projects to understand industry-specific challenges and network with industry professionals.