



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

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June 2019

Dear Student

I am writing to give you a little more information about the start of your MSc programme at LSE. The programme you are joining in September, the MSc in Political Economy of Late Development (PELD), is an exciting combination of economic history and development studies developed in cooperation with the Department of International Development. As a student on this programme you belong to the Economic History family, and our department is your principal affiliation. Nevertheless, you will have ample opportunities to widen your horizons by being at the Department of International Development and through interaction with staff and students there as well. I have no doubt that this year's programme will be a great success, as this and previous year's programmes have been.

PROGRAMME REGISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT MEETINGS:

Term begins on Thursday 26th September and teaching on the programme begins on Monday 30th September. But we have a number of important events and meetings in the days before term begins.

Details of Graduate School registration will be posted here: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/your-first-weeks/registration/post-graduates> when finalised.

We will also write to you with details of the programme and department induction meetings as soon as they are finalised.

COURSE CHOICES

We are currently finalizing the range of courses that will run next year to ensure you have access to a broad and interesting syllabus. As you will appreciate, the exact range of courses offered each year varies: some courses have to be suspended because the faculty are on research leave, while new courses are introduced to reflect changing research interests and new appointments. Please check our website [MSc Political Economy of Late Development](#) for the most up-to-date course list. Be aware, though, that this list remains provisional and occasionally a course may be withdrawn at a later stage.

You do not need to apply for specific courses until after you arrive. Course choices will be made via our online systems, but please **do not** attempt to register for courses until you have attended the induction events and been to a class to get a sense of whether this is the right option for you. We strongly recommend that you consult with your mentor before making your choices. You will have until the **end of Week 1** to decide.

Please note that although we do everything we can to ensure that all students receive a place on their preferred options, sometimes unexpected peaks in demand and teaching and timetabling constraints prevent us from accepting every student who applies for a specific course. To help us in these situations, when you request a place you will be asked to complete a [statement of intent](#) in the online application system. Use this to outline why you want to take a particular course. You will also be asked to [rank your choices](#) to enable us to offer places accordingly.

ACADEMIC MENTORS:

Upon arrival, you will be assigned an academic mentor from among the Economic History staff. This person will be your first contact and personal tutor throughout the year, and will direct your MSc thesis. Your mentor will also assist you in getting expert advice from other staff members whenever appropriate. To assist us in making the best match, we will be asking for you to give as an indication of the areas you are interested in during the summer. Please ensure you respond to that message, so that we can find you the best supervisor.

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION:

Please do keep an eye on our [New Arrivals](#) page, as this information, and more, is repeated there and will be updated regularly.

You can follow the department on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LSEEcHist>; or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LSEEconomicHistoryDepartment/> and there is also a page for students following our Masters' programme: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/19320108373/>

We are looking forward to meeting you in September, for what will be an exciting year of academic study and intellectual endeavour. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us should you require any further information.

Best wishes,

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- 1. This information is being sent to everyone offered a place. If your offer is conditional, you must, of course, fulfil the conditions of your offer letter to commence the programme. If you have decided not to accept your offer, please let us know, and disregard this letter.**
- 2. If English is not your first language, you should be aware that students who meet the minimum formal requirements in this respect sometimes find that they are at a disadvantage when the course begins. If you are not confident that your English is adequate, it may be a good idea to take lessons over the summer and again after you arrive, and contact the LSE Language Centre before term begins:**
<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/language/Home.aspx>