



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

# Institute of Public Affairs Master of Public Administration (MPA)



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## HOW TO CONTACT US

If you have any queries about the MPA, our team will be happy to answer your queries.

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“ The MPA at LSE’s Institute of Public Affairs is the ideal pathway to becoming a high-level policy professional, one who is sought after by employers in both the public and private sectors. The degree equips students with the rigorous theoretical knowledge and practical skills that enable them to confront and resolve interdisciplinary challenges of the highest relevance and to seek out and achieve effective long-term solutions to policy problems. ”

**Professor Conor Gearty FBA**, Director of the Institute of Public Affairs

# Programme director's welcome

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Formally launched in 2011, the Institute of Public Affairs is LSE's global centre for public policy training and analysis. We draw on academic faculty from across LSE to harness the very best research and teaching expertise and provide an outstanding interdisciplinary two-year Master of Public Administration degree.

Our main objective is to prepare professionals for the ever-changing field of public administration. Our graduates add value to organisations confronting the global policy challenges of the 21st century. In order to rise to these challenges, there is no substitute for a solid foundation of knowledge and tools that guide our thinking through complex issues. The MPA provides you with a series of analytical frameworks in political science and economics to understand policy-making and on this foundation we build applied knowledge on specific policy issues, from economic development to social policy, in a process that culminates in the Capstone project in the second year.

The faculty and personnel directly involved in the MPA and the much wider world-class community of the LSE are here to support you as you acquire these new skills and perspectives.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Master of Public Administration.

**Professor Gerard Padró i Miquel**  
MPA Director

# Why LSE?

LSE offers a unique opportunity to study the social sciences at a university with a worldwide academic reputation, while enjoying the cultural, social and recreational facilities of one of the world's foremost cities.

## A world centre of research and teaching

Our research informs and constantly invigorates our teaching. LSE supports the research of its staff through academic departments and institutes, and also through a range of interdisciplinary research centres. Some 97 per cent of LSE academics are actively engaged in research. Staff are regularly sought out as advisers, consultants and commentators, becoming involved in the practical impact of the subjects they teach and research.

The School's international reputation and its London location ensure that in times of crisis it is to LSE that the media turn first for a response. Professor Lord Nicholas Stern (climate change), Professor Conor Gearty (human rights), Professor Tim Besley (economic uncertainty) Professor Simon Hix (European politics), Dr Heather Jones (evolution of wartime violence) and Professor Emily Jackson (medical law and ethics) will all be familiar names to many news addicts. For a guide to staff research and consultancy experience, and their leading publications, please see [lse.ac.uk/experts](http://lse.ac.uk/experts)

## The heart of London

The character of LSE is inseparable from its location. Situated in the heart of central London, the School is located in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world. A short distance from Europe's financial centre – the City of London – and close to one of the world's oldest Parliaments, LSE stands at the crossroads of international debate. This is fundamental to our identity as an outward-looking institution with an active involvement in UK and world affairs. LSE is stimulating and cosmopolitan; these qualities derive from the diversity of its staff and students, from its active academic and political concerns, and from the easy interchange of ideas between the School and the world outside – Government, Parliament, business and financial institutions, the Law Courts and media all of which are on LSE's doorstep. Each year, there are many influential outside speakers at the School (national and international politicians, business leaders, industrialists and civil servants) as well as leading academics from all around the world who visit to participate in teaching, to give public lectures and to pursue their own research. LSE is compact and full to the brim with students and staff – this contributes to the vitality and friendliness of the place.

## Research at LSE

LSE is globally recognised as one of the world's great social science research institutions. Rated 2nd in the UK, and the top UK research university solely focused on the social sciences<sup>1</sup>, LSE is "the élite of the élite" according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings<sup>2</sup>. This position is confirmed by the 2014 results from Research Excellence Framework (the UK-wide assessment of research at universities undertaken by the Higher Education Funding Council every five to seven years) which positioned LSE as a world leading research university, with the School topping or coming close to the top of a number of rankings of research excellence.

## The student community

Students who choose LSE are intent on experiencing an active and varied programme. The structure of our degrees emphasises the need for self-study and rigorous intellectual skills where an individual student's opinion matters. The student community at LSE is one of the most internationally diverse in the world, with students from over 145 countries living and studying on campus. This mix encourages a truly global and international approach to intellectual discovery and academic life at LSE, which cannot be matched elsewhere. The total student population at LSE is around 9,250 full-time and 900 part-time, 59 per cent of whom are studying at graduate level. If you are the kind of student who enjoys being challenged – intellectually, socially and personally – then choose LSE.



“ The MPA gives you the skills needed in the 21st century. ”

**Gero Elerd (alum 2007)**, Analyst,  
Norges Bank Investment Management

<sup>1</sup> Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, see [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk)

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/news/archives/2015/03/THEWRR2015.aspx>

# Programme overview

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The MPA is an interdisciplinary degree devised to meet the demand from government departments and public agencies across the world for highly skilled and professional policy-makers. It also meets the needs of people who aspire to work at a high level in the private sector with governments, including consultancy, public-private partnerships, public affairs, media, non-governmental organisations and interest groups.

The programme is taught over two academic years, bringing together LSE's unrivalled expertise in the social sciences with individual and group working experience of public sector problems, policies and management. In the first year, students take a set of core courses in political science, economics and quantitative methods, which develop the skills required for in depth political and economic analysis. During their second year, students work in groups on a Capstone project in which they advise a public sector organisation, international body or private sector consultancy on a current policy challenge. Students choose option courses (electives) and also have the option to prepare a 10,000 word dissertation or a 6,000 word policy paper. Students take additional courses specific to the MPA stream in which they choose to specialise.

## The Master of Public Administration (MPA):

Equips talented students with the professional skills and knowledge to undertake and advise on public policy-making and implementation in a wide range of contexts.

Provides relevant skills and training for students entering government service careers or those intending to work in the private sector dealing with government.

Offers strong practical applications to students' learning combined with rigorous academic development in individual and group based work.

Is highly flexible to respond to students' desired specialisations and interests through their second year course choices.

Offers outstanding 'real-world' insight to complement classroom learning.



“ I am a true believer in the contribution that interdisciplinary programmes like ours can make to society. The training we provide our students with, like the cross-cutting research of our diverse faculties, is an invaluable social resource. ”

**Dr Lloyd Gruber**, Department of International Development



# Curriculum information

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## MPA programme – Year 1

**MPA Core**  
3.0 units

GV478 Political Science and Public Policy

EC455 Quantitative Approaches and Policy Analysis

EC440 Micro and Macroeconomics

**Option Course(s)**  
1.0 unit

### Courses to the value of one unit

Students choose one full unit course or two half unit courses from a wide range of options across LSE's academic departments (some restrictions apply).



“ If more officials around the world had studied the MPA, the world would be a better place. ”

**Daniele Viappiani (alum 2009)**, Economic Advisor,  
UK Department of Energy and Climate Change

## MPA programme – Year 2

**MPA Core**  
**1.0 unit**

**MPA Capstone Project**

Students choose one policy stream at the start of Year 2

**Policy stream**

**1-2 units** depending on choice of Policy Stream

**EUROPEAN PUBLIC  
AND ECONOMIC  
POLICY**

**EU452** Political  
Economy of Europe  
(1 unit)

**INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**DV448** Political  
Economy of  
Development I  
(0.5 units)

*and*

**DV449** Political  
Economy of  
Development II  
(0.5 units)

*and*

**EC454** Development  
Economics (1 unit)

**PUBLIC AND  
ECONOMIC POLICY**

**EC406** Economic  
Policy Analysis  
(1 unit)\*

**PUBLIC POLICY AND  
MANAGEMENT**

**MG419** Public  
Management –  
Strategy, Innovation  
and Delivery  
(1 unit)

*or*

**GV4E4** Public  
Budgeting  
and Financial  
Management  
(1 unit)

**PUBLIC AND SOCIAL  
POLICY**

**SA4X6** Welfare  
Analysis and  
Measurement  
(1 unit)

**Option courses**

**Courses to bring the total unit value of courses selected to 4.0 units using any of the following:**

**MPA Policy Paper** (0.5 units – not to be taken with MPA Dissertation)

**MPA Dissertation** (1 unit – not to be taken with MPA Policy Paper)

**Other MPA Policy Stream courses**

**Option Courses from across LSE** (subject to availability)

\*Subject to change in 2016/17

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## MPA policy streams

### MPA European Public and Economic Policy

This stream focuses on the economic and policy analysis of Europe, broadly understood. Typically, graduates from this policy stream pursue careers related to public policy making working with EU institutions, regional organisations, national administrations and the private sector.

### MPA Public and Social Policy

This stream focuses on the analysis of public and social welfare. Typically, graduates from this policy stream pursue careers related to public service at local, national and international levels in the fields of education, employment, health policy and social protection.

### MPA Public Policy and Management

This stream focuses on understanding decision-making and management in the public sector and budgetary processes. Typically, graduates from this policy stream pursue careers in public management or public sector consulting.

### MPA Public and Economic Policy

This stream focuses on the economic and political analysis of public policies. Typically, graduates from this policy stream pursue careers in economic policy-making.

### MPA International Development

This stream focuses on the analysis of economic and public policies for developing countries by teaching analytical tools and how to apply them to development policy. Typically graduates from this policy stream pursue careers in international development organisations, government development agencies, NGOs, or private sector companies.

For more information, please visit [lse.ac.uk/IPA/MPA/Curriculum](https://lse.ac.uk/IPA/MPA/Curriculum)



“Through core studies we analyse political will, constraints that impede pro-development policies, and strategies for manoeuvring around these.”

**Dr Tasha Fairfield**, Department of International Development



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## The MPA Capstone

The Capstone project is a compulsory course undertaken by all second year MPA students. This one unit course is a key part of the MPA core curriculum and it is designed to ensure that students have an intensive and closely supervised experience of working in a group on a real-world public policy project. The Capstone groups tackle socially relevant and topical policy issues and the contribution of MPA students is highly valued by the Capstone clients. The project is a team effort to carry out analysis and research in order to address a practical policy issue relevant to the client organisation. It allows students to extend their capabilities and apply what they have learnt in the MPA core courses in a professional manner.

During their second year of study, MPA students are assigned to groups of 3 to 6 and team members are expected to devote around 1.5 to 2 days a week to the project between October and February, including some vacation time.

Each project is supervised by a member of the MPA staff, who provides advice and monitors progress. The project earns a collective grade and students are expected to manage the division and development of work amongst themselves.

### Student Benefits

The MPA Capstone provides an excellent opportunity to:

- Learn and improve organisational skills required for successful planning and implementation of public policy projects.
- Strengthen policy analysis skills through the involvement in a variety of activities, such as reviewing policy literature, designing a methodological framework, gathering data, developing evaluation indicators, carrying out the analysis, and drawing policy recommendations.

- Sharpen policy report writing skills. Students learn how to effectively frame a policy problem and make strong and compelling arguments, whilst tailoring the presentation to a specific policy audience.
- Improve group working skills. Group working is an area that potential employers are increasingly focusing on during recruitment.

**"Being able to participate in the Capstone Project improves your working skills and brings you closer to a real-world experience where there is need of day-to-day collaboration, coordination and leadership to reach success."**

**Adriana Ornelas Herrera**  
(alum 2015)

**"Overall I think that the Capstone was a great experience and it can be definitely considered one of the highlights of the MPA. Thanks a lot for the opportunity."**

**Dayanna Verlarde Rubalcava**  
(alum 2015)

**"The Capstone project has been an enriching and positive experience and relevant for my future professional experience."**

**Ana Maria Ruiz Rivadeneira**  
(alum 2015)

## Skills Development Seminars (SDS)

MPA students benefit from Skills Development Seminars (SDS) to strengthen their analytical, evaluative, writing and presentation skills. The seminars comprise lectures, participatory workshops and practice sessions. In year one, seminars focus on writing for a policy audience, working in groups and delivering effective presentations. In year two, they provide academic and practical support for writing Policy Papers

and Dissertations. This training helps students develop transferable skills that are essential for effective policy analysis and research.

## Policy in Practice seminars (PiPs)

Our extra-curricular Policy in Practice seminars (PiPs) are delivered by policy professionals or researchers who share their experience in public policy. PiPs provide students with an opportunity to connect classroom learning to real world scenarios. These seminars are informal and students have an opportunity to ask questions and interact with the speakers in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Previous speakers include Professor Ruth Simmons, Brown University's first female president and first black president of an Ivy League institution; Prince Turki bin Abdulaziz bin Faisal Al Saud, retired ambassador and member of the Saudi Arabian Royal family; and Alice Rivlin, former Director of the Office of Management and Budget under Bill Clinton, and the founding Director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

## MPA Dual Degree

During their first year, MPA students may apply for the chance to spend the second year of their MPA at one of the following partner schools for a MPA Dual Degree:

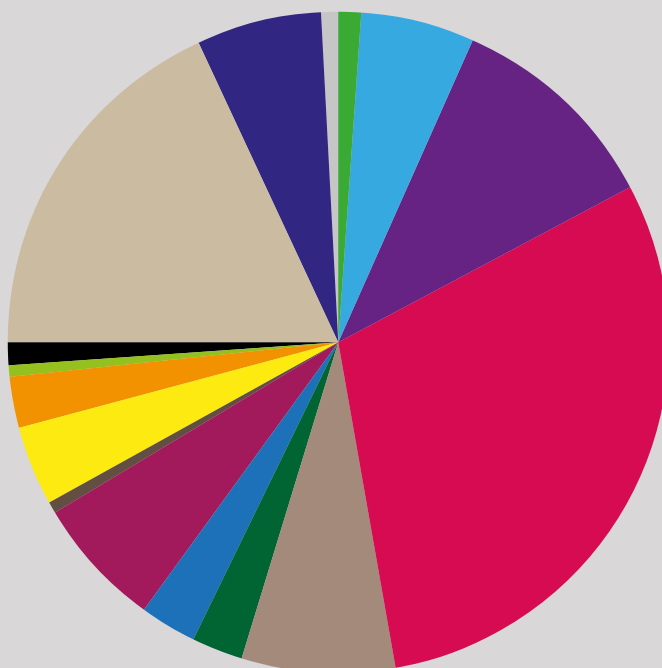
- The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University in New York
- The School of Public Affairs at Sciences Po in Paris
- The Hertie School of Governance in Berlin
- The Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY) at the National University of Singapore
- The Graduate School of Public Policy (GraSPP) at the University of Tokyo

In any year, a number of students also join the MPA at LSE from these partner schools, under special curriculum arrangements. This ensures that the MPA remains highly diverse and international and provides a global perspective to students' study.

# MPA class profile 2015

## By first degree

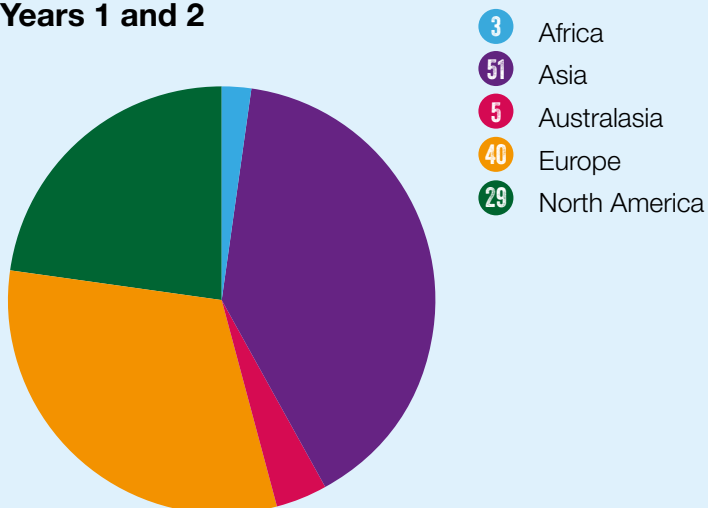
Years 1 and 2



2	Accounting
10	Arts
18	Business Administration
52	Economics
13	Engineering
4	Finance
5	International Development
11	International Relations
1	Journalism
7	Law
4	Management
1	Medicine
2	Natural Sciences
31	Political Science
11	Social Sciences
1	Theology

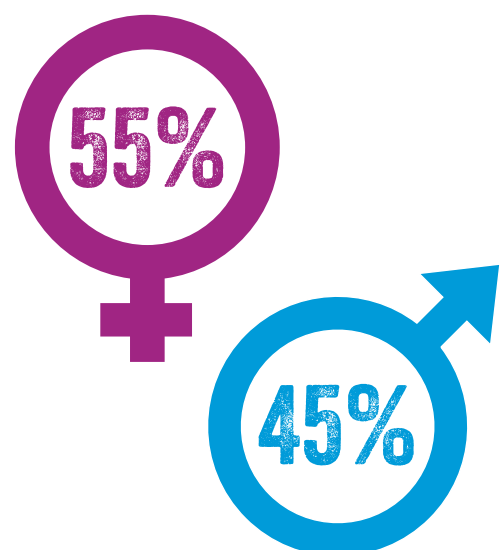
## By region

Years 1 and 2



3	Africa
51	Asia
5	Australasia
40	Europe
29	North America

## Gender Years 1 and 2



# MPA class profile 2015

## By country Years 1 and 2



American	20	Egyptian	2	Pakistani	3
Argentinian	1	Finnish	1	Peruvian	5
Armenian	1	French	5	Portuguese	1
Australian	5	German	6	Qatari	1
Austrian	1	Greek	1	Romanian	1
Belgian	2	Indian	9	South African	1
Brazilian	2	Indonesian	5	South Korean	10
British	9	Italian	2	Spanish	4
Canadian	8	Israeli	2	Sri Lankan	2
Chilean	9	Japanese	8	Thai	1
Chinese	7	Jordanian	1	Tibetan	1
Colombian	15	Libyan	1	Trinidadian	1
Danish	1	Mexican	4	Turkish	4
Ecuadorean	7	Norwegian	1	Venezuelan	2

## Age range Years 1 and 2



## Work experience

Years 1 and 2



## Number of countries represented

Years 1 and 2





# The faculty

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## The faculty



**Professor Oriana Bandiera**

Professor of Economics



**Professor Robin Burgess**

Professor of Economics



**Dr Jeremiah Dittmar**

Lecturer in Economics



**Professor Patrick Dunleavy**

Professor of Political Science and Public Policy



**Dr Tasha Fairfield**

Assistant Professor of International Development



**Dr Greg Fischer**

Lecturer in Economics



**Dr Lloyd Gruber**

Associate Professor of Political Economy of Development



**Dr Rafael Hortala-Vallve**

Associate Professor in Political Science and Public Policy



**Dr Ethan Ilizetzi**

Lecturer in Economics



**Dr Ryan Jablonski**

Assistant Professor of Government



**Prof Stephen Jenkins**

Professor of Economic and Social Policy



**Dr Mareike Kleine**

Associate Professor of EU and International Politics



**Professor Gerard Padró i Miquel**

Professor of Economics, MPA Programme Director



**Dr Vassilis Monastiriotis**

Associate Professor of Political Economy



**Dr Berkay Ozcan**

Assistant Professor of Social Policy



**Dr Thomas Sampson**

Lecturer in Economics



**Dr Daniel Sturm**

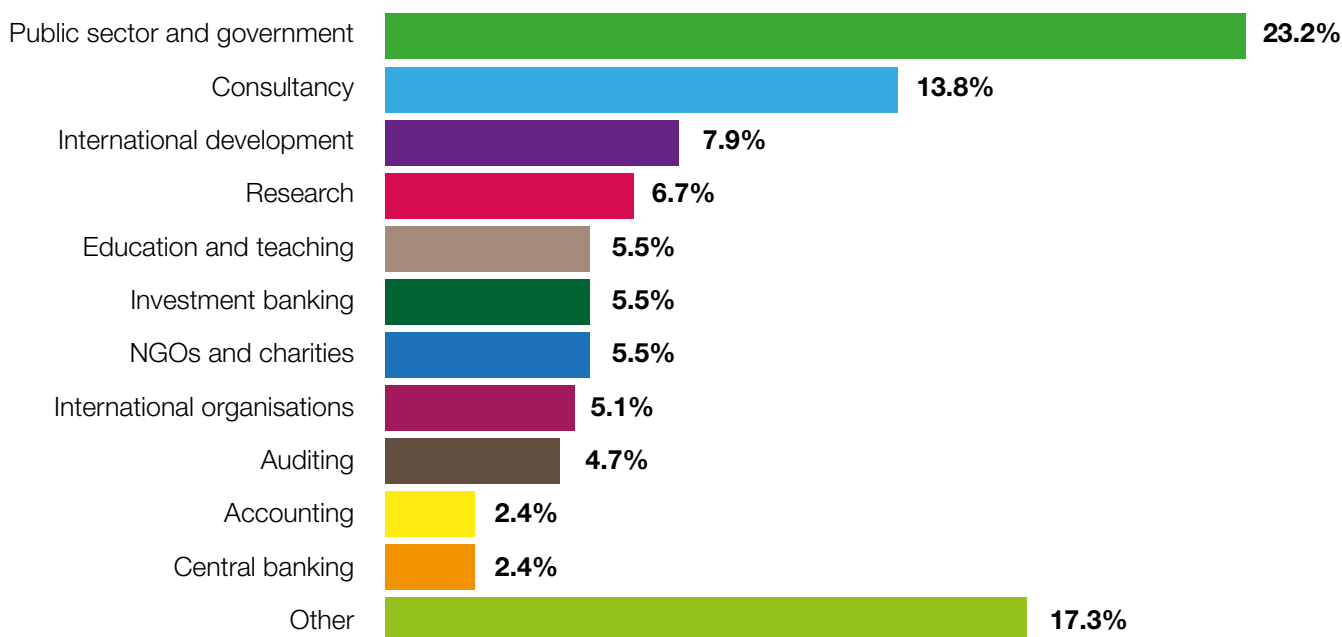
Associate Professor of Economics



**Dr Joachim Wehner**

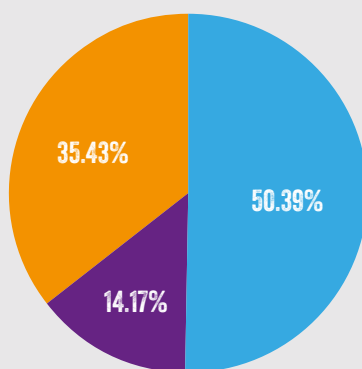
Associate Professor in Public Policy

## Employment sectors



## Destination of employment

- United Kingdom
- Europe (not including UK)
- Rest of the world



“ The MPA gave me quantitative and qualitative skills in critical thinking, analysis and problem solving which are highly essential to my current work. But, by far, the best aspect was the incredibly talented, international students I met and worked with. ”

**Sarah Moauro (alum 2014)**, Monitor Deloitte



# Frequently asked questions

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## What are your entry requirements?

The minimum entry requirements for the MPA programme are:

- 2:1 degree or equivalent in any discipline\*
- At least one year's minimum relevant work experience, eg, internships, voluntary work, paid employment
- Standard level of English\*\*
- Two references\*\*\*
- Personal statement
- Résumé or CV

\* Proven academic ability and strong academic grades are essential. Economics and/or quantitative course work is particularly helpful but there is no specific subject requirement for the first degree.

\*\* If your first language is not English and if your previous degree has not been taught entirely in English, you will be required to provide evidence of your English language ability. Please see [lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/enquirer/entryRequirements/englishLanguage](https://lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/enquirer/entryRequirements/englishLanguage)

\*\*\* This programme requires two academic references (from tutors who have taught you at university). Applicants who graduated more than two years ago may supply one non-academic reference in place of one of the academic references. This should normally be a reference from your most recent employer. For further guidance, please see [lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/home](https://lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/home)

## What is the fee level?

The current fee level for the MPA programme can be found on the LSE website:

[lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/moneyMatters/tableOfFees/home](https://lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/moneyMatters/tableOfFees/home)

## How do I apply to the MPA?

All applications are made through LSE's Graduate Admissions Office ([lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/home.aspx](https://lse.ac.uk/study/graduate/home.aspx)). Full details of how to apply are available on the LSE Graduate Admissions homepage. This includes information about the entry requirements and the documents applicants are required to submit with their application.

## What are the application deadlines?

The MPA does not have a deadline for applications. However, we recommend that applicants submit their applications as early as possible as the MPA has a limited number of offers to make each year and once this limit has been reached, no further applications can be considered. The application process opens in October of the year preceding entry to the degree.

## What is your GRE/ GMAT policy?

We do not require applicants to have taken GRE/GMAT tests. However, if you have taken one of these, and you feel your results will support your application, you are welcome to include it. As this is not a requirement for the MPA we cannot advise what the Selectors would consider a good score. We are also unable to advise applicants what the average GRE score is as only a minority of applicants choose to include this information.

## Do you accept transfer students?

No, the MPA does not accept transfer students. It is also not possible for students to attend individual courses without being registered for a degree programme at LSE.

## Can I visit the campus?

There is open access to many parts of LSE's campus and visitors are welcome to take a self-guided tour using a campus map.

If you visit London and would like to visit us, please contact [mpa@lse.ac.uk](mailto:mpa@lse.ac.uk).

## What happens after I submit my application?

The LSE Graduate Admissions Office will process your application. They will confirm to you that it has been received and if any further action or documents are required from you. Graduate Admissions receive applications and documentation for all graduate programmes. This means that it may take some time for your application to be processed. You can see the current processing times online. Once you have received your application number you can track the status of your application. Please note that all queries relating to application documents should be directed to Graduate Admissions.

## How do I find out more about the MPA?

Please visit our website to find out more about the MPA, [lse.ac.uk/mpa](https://lse.ac.uk/mpa)



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The London School of Economics and Political Science holds the dual status of an exempt charity under Section 2 of the Charities Act 1993 (as a constituent part of the University of London), and a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act 1985 (Registration no. 70527).

Freedom of thought and expression is essential to the pursuit, advancement and dissemination of knowledge. LSE seeks to ensure that intellectual freedom and freedom of expression within the law is secured for all our members and those we invite to the School.

The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances. Equality and diversity are integral to the School's priorities and objectives. We will support inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding and engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider engagement with society.

This brochure can be made available  
in alternative formats, on request.

Please contact:

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**[lse.ac.uk/mpa](https://lse.ac.uk/mpa)**