WELCOME TO LSE

DEPARTMENT OF METHODOLOGY

MSc Social Research Methods Handbook
### Key dates

#### Important MSc Social Research Methods Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michaelmas Term</th>
<th>Monday 1 October 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teaching starts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meet with your Academic Mentor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12pm Monday 15 October 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lent Term</td>
<td>Monday 14 January 2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 25 January 2019</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Summer Term</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>May/June</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 12 July 2019</td>
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<td>Thursday 8 August 2019</td>
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#### Term dates and School closures – Academic Year 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Michaelmas Term</th>
<th>Thursday 27 September – Friday 14 December</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Teaching begins on Monday 1 October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lent Term</td>
<td>Monday 14 January – Friday 29 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Term</td>
<td>Monday 29 April – Friday 14 June</td>
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For departments that operate them, including the Department of Methodology, Reading Weeks are the weeks beginning 5 November 2018 and 18 February 2019.

Department of Methodology exams are held in Summer Term. Note that some other departments will hold examinations for their courses in Week 0 of Lent Term. More information can be found here: [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/exams/exam-timetable](http://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/exams/exam-timetable)

The School will also be closed on English public holidays. In 2018/2019 these will be:

- **Christmas Closure**
  - Thursday 21 December – 1 January 2019

- **Easter Closure**
  - Thursday 18 April – Wednesday 24 April 2019

- **May Bank Holiday**
  - Monday 6 May 2019

- **Spring Bank Holiday**
  - Monday 27 May 2019

- **Summer Bank Holiday**
  - Monday 26 August 2019

This handbook has been prepared to help those on the MSc Social Research Methods programme. Throughout the handbook links are given to web sources that hold useful and important information.
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Connect with the LSE community
lse.ac.uk/studenthub
Dear Incoming Student,

Welcome to the Department of Methodology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. We are one of the most vibrant departments at LSE and, like the LSE as a whole, our MSc attracts incredibly talented students from across the globe. Our world-renowned MSc in Social Research Methods programme offers a huge variety of choice and the opportunity for considerable specialisation.

We hope that you will find LSE in general and the Department of Methodology in particular an exciting intellectual environment for your postgraduate studies. Starting a new degree programme always involves challenges, but your teachers, Academic Mentors and the professional services staff in the department are here to help. Please do ask if anything isn’t clear or you would like more advice.

Finally, I wish you every success in your studies and hope that your year at LSE will be stimulating, engaging, inspiring and fun.

Professor Jonathan Jackson
Head of Department
Dear MSc Social Research Methods Class of 2018-19,

Welcome to this degree programme and congratulations on gaining your place on the MSc in Social Research Methods!

The London School of Economics and Political Science is one of the world’s leading social science institutions, and the Department of Methodology is a national centre of excellence in methodology. At the heart of the teaching we do in the department, is the MSc Social Research Methods.

As a department, we emphasise practical training led by experts in their respective methodological areas. We are confident that you will find studying for this degree to be rewarding and enriching. You have the flexibility to tailor the MSc programme in ways that will both stimulate and challenge you methodologically, and which will reflect your ongoing and developing disciplinary interests.

There will be approximately 30 MSc students this year, studying full-time and part-time. Students on the MSc Social Research Methods come from a wide range of backgrounds, which makes for one of the most exciting aspects of the programme.

I look forward to meeting you all in the first weeks of term and wish you great success in your studies here at LSE. I hope that you will have a stimulating, productive and enjoyable year!

Dr Eleanor Knott
MSc in Social Research Methods Programme Director
About the Department of Methodology

The Department of Methodology is a national centre of excellence in methodology and the teaching of methodology. The Department coordinates and provides a focus for methodological activities at LSE, in particular in the areas of graduate student training and methodological research. Through the degree programmes run by the Department (the MSc Social Research Methods, the MSc Applied Social Data Science, and the MPhil/PhD Social Research Methods), and through provision of courses for postgraduate students from across the School, the aim is to make LSE the pre-eminent centre for methodological training in the social sciences.

The Department faculty are an interdisciplinary group. A key role of the Department is to facilitate collaboration between LSE departments and to provide courses where appropriate. As such, faculty members have close connections to other departments at LSE. The disciplinary backgrounds of the staff include political science, statistics, sociology, social psychology, anthropology and criminology. Reflecting this range of interests, the Department is also home to a number of funded research projects and faculty publish in top journals from across the social sciences (see http://www.lse.ac.uk/Methodology/Research/Recent-publications).

In addition to the MSc in Social Research Methods, the MSc in Applied Social Data Science and MPhil/PhD in Social Research Methods, the Department offers a variety of advanced level courses and workshops in research design, quantitative analysis and qualitative methods, and various departments in the School require students to take these courses as part of MSc and PhD programmes. The Department also hosts regular public seminars in which students are encouraged to attend. Two seminar series are currently run in the Department, the core department seminar series and the Social and Economic Data Science (SEDS) Research Unit ‘Data Science Seminar Series.’ Information about these seminar series can be found here: http://www.lse.ac.uk/Methodology/Events
## Core Programme Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position in the Department</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Assistant Professor of Qualitative Text Analysis | Dr Audrey Alejandro | Room: COL 7.14  
Tel: 020 7107 5199  
Email: a.alejandro@lse.ac.uk |
| Professor of Political Research Methodology (on sabbatical leave 2018/19) | Professor Kenneth Benoit | Room: COL 8.11  
Tel: 020 7955 6812  
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| Associate Professor in Research Methodology (on sabbatical leave 2018/19) | Dr Flora Cornish | Room: COL 8.09  
Tel: 020 7955 6792  
Email: f.cornish@lse.ac.uk |
| LSE Fellow in Qualitative Methodology | Dr Nimesh Dhungana | Room: COL 7.04  
Tel: 020 7955 7642  
Email: n.dhungana@lse.ac.uk |
| LSE Fellow in Quantitative Methodology | Dr Daniele Fanelli | Room: COL 7.07  
Tel: 020 7955 7642  
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| Assistant Professor in Quantitative Methodology | Dr David Hendry | Room: COL 7.05  
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| Research Administrator | To be appointed | Room: COL 8.02  
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Email: methodology.research@lse.ac.uk |
| Professor of Research Methodology and Head of Department | Professor Jonathan Jackson | Room: COL 8.05  
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| Associate Professor in Statistics and Research Methodology | Dr Jouni Kuha | Room: COL 8.04  
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| Assistant Professor in Qualitative Methods | Dr Eleanor Knott | Room: COL 7.08  
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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Tel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor in Quantitative Methodology</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:methodology.manager@lse.ac.uk">methodology.manager@lse.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>020 7107 5044</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.tsvetkova@lse.ac.uk">m.tsvetkova@lse.ac.uk</a></td>
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Fuller biographies of staff members can be found at: [lse.ac.uk/Methodology/People](https://lse.ac.uk/Methodology/People)
Administrative Information

Office hours
All teaching staff in the Department of Methodology hold weekly office hours in term-time in connection with the courses that they teach. These sessions can be used by students seeking additional guidance and support in respect of courses, as well as for queries about assessed coursework. To book an appointment with an academic in Michaelmas term 2018, please log into LSE for You and click on the “Office Hours” application. Please note that from Lent term 2019, students will be able to book office hours with teaching staff via the Student Hub app.

Change of address
It is important that you keep the School informed of your private address and telephone number. Any changes to your current address can be made via LSE for You which is located via the Apps tab on the home page of the LSE website. Your address is protected information and will not be disclosed to a third party without your permission unless it is for reasons of official School business.

Your First Week
In your first week at LSE, please make sure that you register for your degree programme. Information about registration can be found at: lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/registrationTimetablesAssessment/Registration/Programme/Newstudents/Graduate/home.aspx
It is essential that you register before teaching begins, as you will not be able to receive teaching until you are a registered student.

Academic Mentors
At the start of Michaelmas Term you will be allocated an Academic Mentor. All students on the MSc programme have a personal Academic Mentor. The Academic Mentor’s role is to give advice and monitor progress in relation to academic matters affecting your time at LSE. You should make sure you keep your Mentor informed about any problems you are experiencing during your degree. In particular, you should tell your Academic Mentor about any matters such as illness that may affect your work. It will also be your Academic Mentor who will normally provide references in the future.

You should expect to be invited to meet with your Academic Mentor at least twice per term. For more information see the LSE Code of Practice for Taught Masters Students: info.lse.ac.uk/staff/Putting-Students-First/LSE-Academic-Code

The Department Meeting and Seminar Room (COL8.13)
When it is not in use, the Department Meeting and Seminar Room (COL8.13) and its equipment can be used by the MSc Social Research Methods students. It is a useful place to meet fellow students and hold study groups. The PCs within the room are equipped with software packages including statistical analysis packages, qualitative analysis software, and tools for text analysis. The Department Meeting and Seminar Room is accessed by your LSE ID card. The room can also be booked by MSc SRM students – please contact Esther Heyhoe for further details.

Staff-Student Liaison Meeting
The Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) meets once per term. The SSLC provides an opportunity for a general discussion about how you are finding the programme, for you to raise issues of concern and to give feedback. It also enables discussion about issues which affect the student community. All students are invited to attend. You can also send in any comments or issues you would like to raise to Esther Heyhoe.

The SSLC also elects one representative to attend the Taught Graduate Students’ Forum. More information can be found here: lse.ac.uk/studentrepresentation

Print Accounts
Rather than producing hard copy teaching materials/handouts for Methodology courses, the Department adds £30 of funds to your print accounts (part-time students will receive £15 per year). This will allow you to choose what materials you print and what materials you read on screen. It also allows us to save some trees! The funding will be added to your print accounts by the end of October 2018. This will happen automatically so you do not need to do anything. For more information see: info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/imt/help/guides-faqs/campus-facilities

The Ethics Code
The School attaches considerable importance to maintaining high ethical standards in research undertaken by its staff and students. This applies to all research undertaken by students in preparation for essays and dissertations. The Ethics code can be found here: info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Governance-Legal-and-Policy/Ethics/Ethics-Code
The MSc Social Research Methods

This one-year programme draws on the range of expertise within the Department, as well as related academic departments, to provide advanced training in social research methodologies. The syllabus for the MSc meets, and goes someway beyond, the Economic and Social Research Council’s requirements for the first year of a 1+3 PhD programme. It is designed to provide students with training for doctoral research and as a pre-professional training for careers in social research in the public and private sectors. The MSc may be taken full-time over a calendar year, or part-time over two years.

Studying for a Masters at LSE involves independent research and analysis. You are expected to be responsible for your own work, for managing your time and for independently researching essays and other coursework, so that you can present your own analysis and evaluation, with strong supporting evidence. We place a high value on rigour, clarity of expression, organization of empirical evidence, consistency of argument and originality (e.g. in applying new theories to familiar problems or critically evaluating established theoretical paradigms by applying them in novel contexts).

As well as a dissertation, the MSc Social Research Methods comprises core courses (in quantitative methods, qualitative methods and research design) and optional courses. In total, you will take six half-unit courses, in addition to the dissertation.

Quantitative Methods

Different quantitative methods courses are offered according to students’ previous knowledge. MY452 and MY455 are the standard courses for the degree. A decision to deviate from that norm (e.g. to take MY451 and MY452 or a combination of more advanced courses) requires approval from your Academic Mentor. MY451 is designed for students who have no background in quantitative methods. If you fall into that category, then you may be given permission to take MY451 and MY452. However, taking the standard combination of MY452 and MY455 will provide you with a competitive edge in the job market.

At all levels, the lectures will be accompanied by classes in which the methods are implemented using standard statistical software (STATA and/or R).

Qualitative Methods

You will normally take MY421 in Michaelmas Term. You can then take more advanced courses in qualitative methods in Lent Term should you wish to. In MY421, you will learn how to collect data using methods including interviewing, focus groups and participant observation. The course then covers methods of analysis, including thematic analysis and discourse analysis. If you already training in qualitative methods, you may be able to take a more advanced qualitative methods course instead of MY421, subject to the approval of your Academic Mentor.

Research Design

In MY400 (Fundamentals of Social Science Research Design), you will receive training in research design. MY400 runs in Michaelmas Term. This course introduces the broad range of research design options and helps you to appreciate the choices you make, and alternative options, in designing research. Drawing on a variety of examples from the social scientific literature, this course explores designing research across quantitative and qualitative methods.

Optional courses

As well as choosing optional Department of Methodology courses, under Part 2 of the degree, you can also study graduate level courses from across LSE up to the value of one unit. For these optional courses, access is not guaranteed and course choices are subject to timetabling constraints. To register for a course not listed under Part 2 of the MSc Social Research Methods programme regulations students should seek the approval of their Academic Mentor and the MSc Social Research Methods Programme Director.

You can find details of optional courses under Paper 2: http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/programmeRegulations/taughtMasters/2017_MScSocialResearchMethods.htm

Choosing courses

Details of the content and format of all graduate courses offered at LSE are available online at:

ise.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Methodology courses are identified by the “MY4” code. Please note that when registering for courses run in both Michaelmas and Lent Terms you will need to ensure the course code has the correct suffix. For example, to register for MY421 in the Michaelmas Term you need to search for “MY421M”. Further detailed information regarding course choice can be found at:

ise.ac.uk/intranet/students/registrationTimetablesAssessment/Registration/Course/home.aspx
Registering Choice of Courses

Course choice opens for browsing during Welcome Week and you will be able to formally register your course choices, including compulsory courses and your dissertation, online through LSE for You from 10am Friday 28 September. You then have just over two weeks to formally register your course choices online. Please note, the deadline for course choices on LSE for You is 12 noon Monday 15 October (Week 3). Please note that you will only be able to access the ‘Graduate Course Choice’ option in LSE for You once your admissions paperwork is completed.

You will be able to make changes to Lent Term half units between 10am Monday 14 January 2019 and 5pm on Friday 25 January 2019. It is not possible to change full unit courses or half unit courses that were taught in Michaelmas during this period and no changes can be made once the deadline for Lent Term course choice has passed.

To choose your courses first visit lse.ac.uk/coursechoice. Here you will find links to the programme regulations which outline your available course choices and a course guide for each of them. You will also find tutorials on how to use the Graduate Course Choice system. Great efforts have been made to avoid overlap of courses. Occasionally a clash may be unavoidable due to the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of this programme. We regret that no changes to LSE timetable are possible at this stage and you will need to ensure that your non-compulsory courses do not clash.

Seminar sign up

Where a course is taught in more than one seminar group, or in larger lecture groups, you also must enrol for seminar groups within the course. This is done through the “Seminar Sign Up” facility on LSE for You. More information on “Seminar Sign Up” is available at: lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/registrationTimetablesAssessment/Registration/Course/Graduate/pgcoursechoice.aspx

Note: the Seminar Sign Up system operates in parallel with the Graduate Course Choice system. Where a course requires that you apply for entry through the Graduate Course Choice system and takes the form of weekly parallel seminars or lectures and follow-up seminars, you need to apply first for entrance to the course through the Graduate Course Choice system. If you are accepted on to the course, then the Seminar Sign Up System will be open to you, and you can register for a particular parallel seminar or a follow-up seminar group, as appropriate.

Please note that we may reallocate you to a different seminar/follow-up seminar group for the term/year, where timetabling considerations make this necessary.

You need to attend the seminar/follow-up seminar group to which you are assigned. Our performance monitoring and attendance record systems are based on the group to which you are assigned. Failure to attend your group may impact negatively on your performance record.
Assessment

Formal assessment, which counts towards your final degree results (known as ‘summative assessment’), can take several different forms. Many MSc courses are primarily assessed by an unseen written examination in the Summer Term. A half unit course is usually assessed by a two-hour examination, and a full unit course by a three-hour examination.

Some courses also include assessed coursework as all, or part of, summative assessment. Please refer to the course guides on the LSE website to find out the assessment form for each course. Courses also include ‘formative assessment’ which are pieces of work which do not count towards your final degree but are designed to prepare you for the summative assessments. The course convener will give you detailed instructions for any piece of summative and formative coursework you are expected to complete.

The MSc Dissertation: MY499

The dissertation is a key component of the MSc programme (12.5% of degree result). The dissertation is your opportunity to bring what you have learned in your taught courses together your research interests, to develop a substantial piece of empirical research. The research may involve primary data collection or secondary analysis of existing data.

Your dissertation supervisor is normally the member of staff who can provide the best supervision for your particular research interests. The process of matching students to supervisors considers staff area's of expertise, methodological fit, student preferences, guidance from the MSc Programme Director and equal distribution among staff.

Aim of the Dissertation

The dissertation is your opportunity to conduct an empirical investigation of an issue relevant to the programme under the supervision of a member of staff from the Department of Methodology.

By the end of the dissertation, you should have:
- Developed a detailed plan of a research project;
- Reviewed a specific literature on the selected issue;
- Identified a relevant research question or set of questions from the literature;
- Transformed your general research questions into empirical questions;
- Developed an ability to select and justify an appropriate research design;
- Developed the capacity to select and employ suitable methods/techniques to investigate the empirical questions;
- Developed the capacity to analyse the empirical material collected;
- Developed the skills to write-up the dissertation with a review of the relevant literature, the research questions, an explanation and justification of the design, a description of the conduct and analysis of the research, and a discussion of the findings in relation to the literature and methodological issues.

The supervisor

Following the submission of an initial project plan towards the start of Lent Term, the MSc Director will allocate a supervisor to each student. You can expect to see your supervisor up to three times per term (in Lent Term and Summer Term) and you are expected to take the initiative in making appointments with your supervisor. These meetings will be held in term-time only.

The role of the supervisor is to advise on various aspects of the research project including:
- the topic area and relevant literature
- the feasibility of the topic
- the timescale of the research
- the specification of the research questions
- the design and adequacy of methods
- sources of data and access to fields of observation
- analysis of data and interpretation of results
- structure and style of reporting

The MY499 dissertation seminars

A series of dissertation seminars form a part of the dissertation process. The purpose of the seminars is to introduce various skills and resources that are important in the research process and preparation of the dissertation. The seminars are held in the Department of Methodology and a draft timetable will be provided early in the Michaelmas Term. LSE LIFE also run a series of highly recommended dissertation events – see lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/LSE-LIFE/lseLIFE.aspx for more details.

Dissertation project milestones

Michaelmas Term

MY499 Dissertation seminars commence.

Lent Term

In the first few weeks of the Lent Term you should explore possible research topics. You can discuss these with your Academic Mentor and other relevant members of staff in their office hours.

Project plan submission: 18 January 2019 uploaded via Moodle

The MSc Programme Director will allocate you a supervisor on the basis of this plan. Once allocated, you should then promptly arrange an initial meeting with your supervisor. Your project plan should include:
- Project title
- Key words: 2 on concepts, 2 on methods, 1 on the field of observation
- Short summary/abstract (100 words)
- Description of the proposed field/data set(s), how to gain access and a contingency plan in case this proposed access fails
• Methodology
• A time schedule
• A completed ethics checklist and data management plan (see below)
• You should also identify three possible supervisors in the department (and rank these in order of preference). You should also note other Methodology staff with whom the project has been discussed.

Research Ethics Checklist

You need to attach a completed Research Ethics Checklist to the file you upload to Moodle. If required, you should also attach the longer Research Ethics Review Questionnaire. Both can be found at: http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/policies/pdfs/school/resEthPolProForm.docx

Data Management Plan

You also need to attach a completed Data Management Plan to the file you upload to Moodle. Details on how to complete this can be found here: http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/assets/documents/dmp-online-guide-ug-and-pg.pdf

We will discuss more about completing the Data Management Plan and Research Ethics Checklist in the MY499 Dissertation seminars.

End of Easter vacation: Complete first draft of literature review, project design and prepare for project presentation seminar

Preparing an outline text on which to work is an important part of conducting research. With MY400 as a core module on the MSc programme makes this task easier as MY400 is assessed via two research design summative assignments (an initial plan at the end of Michaelmas Term and a fuller research design at the start of Summer Term). In most cases, the work you submit for MY400 will form the basis of your dissertation project outline (and we recommend that you see the MY400 assignments as equipping you for this).

Early May 2019: Project presentation seminar (COL8.13)

You will give a short oral presentation (using slides) on your proposed dissertation project. This presentation should address: your research questions, the social scientific concepts and theories you will be using, your proposed study design and methodology, and an account of the data you will be collecting and/or using.

The presentations will take place over two days and attendance is compulsory on both days so that you can receive feedback from, and provide feedback to, your peers. The presentations are an integral part of the dissertation process as they allow for faculty and peer feedback on your progress in a friendly and supportive environment. Details of how presentations should be structured will be discussed in the MY499 seminars, but you should aim to speak for around 5-10 minutes (using no more than three slides). You should aim to meet your supervisor in the days after your presentation to discuss the feedback you receive and how this could be addressed.

12 July 2019: End of Supervision

Supervision of your dissertations will end on 12 July 2019 at the latest (the exact date will be determined by individual supervisors). In the period between your project presentation and the end of your supervision, you should start to draft your final dissertation, looking
to address feedback on your research design and your project presentation. You are advised to start collecting and analysing some data before the supervision period ends, so that you have the chance to get feedback from your supervisor on how your research is proceeding. If you want your supervisor to review draft sections of your dissertation then please ensure that you provide these to your supervisor in good time for any scheduled meeting. This should be at least 2-3 days in advance.

8 August 2019 (by 5pm): Submission of an electronic copy of dissertation via Moodle
The dissertation should be uploaded as a PDF file to Moodle. You are not required to submit a hard copy of the dissertation.

The maximum word limit for the dissertation is **10,000 words** and must include an abstract and reference list.

N.B. the 10,000 word limit excludes text given in tables, figures (so long as these are not excessively text heavy), the reference list and appendices. There is no minimum word limit, but dissertations are expected to be no less than 1,500 words under the maximum word length. Where the text falls below this range, it may not be regarded as a sustained and rigorous body of work, and this might have implications for the mark awarded.

On the front page of the dissertation please provide: your candidate number, the name of your supervisor, the date and the dissertation title.

**Guidance notes on the writing of the MSc Dissertation**

As in other forms of assessment, the written text that of your dissertation will be evaluated. While much time and effort has gone into the research, the assessment stands or falls on the quality of the report. The structure and clarity of the dissertation is, therefore, crucial. There is no single right way to write a dissertation because each project is unique. The results of your research can invite a variety of different interpretations. One of the most effective ways to learn how to write a good dissertation is to read peer-reviewed research published in your disciplinary area. We will be looking at a variety of write-ups of research of kinds over the course of the degree but further reading in your research area is essential.

That said, the following provide a broad set of guidelines for how you might structure your dissertation.

- **A4 double-spaced, size 12 font**
- **Abstract (300 words)**
- **Introduction (ca. 3,000 words)**
- **Research design and methodology (ca. 1,500-2000 words)**
- **Analysis and discussion of results (ca. 4,000 words)**
- **Conclusion (this can include a discussion of limitations, implications and further research) (ca. 1,000 words)**
- **Reference list:** No particular referencing style is required for your dissertation. However, a standard academic referencing format (e.g., the Harvard referencing system) should be used consistently throughout.
- **Appendices:** The appendices can be used to present 'raw data' (such as summary of interview transcripts, tabulated survey data, text analysis codebooks and so on). The appendix should not normally extend beyond 10 pages.

**Examples of Dissertation Titles by Recent Students**

- Structure of bias in the reporting of Africa’s civil conflicts in the UK press
- Sensitivity of conclusions from choosing latent class models in cross-national research
- Migrant fertility in England and Wales: Measuring fertility convergence
- Post-disaster migration patterns: Analysis of survey data from Myanmar
- Moving to the other side of the fence: An investigation into the association between management experience and socioeconomic attitudes
- Electoral systems and information processing by voters
- Complementary or contradictory dimensions of active ageing?
- Measuring the length of the Chancellor’s foot: Quantifying how legal outcomes depend on the judges hearing the case and whether such variation can be explained by characteristics of the judges
- Ethnic language maintenance and American identity among second generation immigrants in the United States
- Social representations of the HIV infection amongst women
- Welfare typologies and attitudes to the welfare state: a comparative study of 11 countries
- British converts to Islam: Social psychological explanation
- Female labour force participation before and after the Indonesian financial crisis
- Unmet need for contraception in Cambodia – mixed methods research
- Confronting the right and the left: A content analysis of Figaro and Liberation
- Diverging perceptions? The division of household labour
- Approaching the Local Authority as a single homeless woman: a comparative study of the London Boroughs of Camden and Tower Hamlets
• Does mothers’ literacy and schooling increase schooling and academic attainment of children?

• Voices of the People: Exploring the links between education and militancy in Pakistan

• Who blames the poor? Examining predictors of individual-oriented blame-based poverty attributions across the European Union

• Gender: Discourse analysis in and through comics

• Voting after the Crash: The Financial Crisis and the British General Election of 2010

• Roma lack of participation in the labour market: A mixed methods approach

• Are Tea Party supporters in Texas more supportive of education spending if undocumented immigrants are taken

• Out of the equation?

You can consult good examples of previous dissertations by contacting Esther Heyhoe (COL8.07, e.heyhoe@lse.ac.uk)
Academic Matters

Academic Code
LSE’s Academic Code sets out what we are doing to deliver a consistent student experience across the School and clarifies what students can expect from their LSE education. The Academic Code brings together key principles that underpin students’ education into a School-wide policy. Developed in partnership with LSE Students’ Union, it sets the baseline to build on teaching standards, academic support, and assessment and feedback. The Academic Code should be read in conjunction with the LSE-LSESU Student Charter (info.lse.ac.uk/Current-Students/student-charter) and the Academic Code below.

Teaching
1. All taught students, on full-time mainstream undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes, will have an average of at least 8 hours contact time per week during term time in non-examination periods.

Assessment
2. Feedback on formative tasks will be returned to students within 3 weeks of the submission deadline, where students submit their work on time.
3. Students have the opportunity to receive individual feedback on all summatively assessed tasks and exams (including resits):
   • For assessments set in Michaelmas or Lent Term, feedback within 4 weeks of the date of submission / exam;
   • For assessments set in the Summer Term, feedback within 4 weeks of the beginning of the following term for those whose degree programme is continuing;
   • Final year graduates and undergraduates who complete dissertations within the final year of their studies, will receive feedback within 4 weeks of the beginning of the following term in which the dissertation was submitted.

Support
4. All students have an Academic Mentor, to advise on academic matters, who should have the experience to undertake the role and with as much continuity as possible.
5. Students will be invited to meet with their Academic Mentor at least 2 times per term.
6. Staff teaching on LSE programmes will be available to students, through the office hour system, for an average of, at least, 35 hours throughout the academic year.

Student Voice
7. Departments will hold at least 1 Student Staff Liaison Committee and Departmental Teaching Committee meeting each term, following the School guidelines for each type of meeting.

You can find out more about LSE’s Academic Code online via info.lse.ac.uk/staff/putting-students-first/lse-academic-code

Exam Technique
We set exams in courses where it is important to assess your knowledge and capabilities over the full range of course material. The best preparation for an unseen examination is to thoroughly review the whole course. You will then be able to answer any questions that appear on the paper. Cutting corners in preparation for an exam and trying to predict specific questions is therefore a risky strategy as every year’s exam varies and we do ask new and varied types of questions each year.

Most of the exams in our department are "open book". This means that you are allowed to bring any written materials you might find useful, including notes from lectures, slides, prepared sheets of equations, etc. Where we allow these materials, we do so because we do not aim to test your memory for particular equations. Rather, we are testing your ability to reason about questions given the reference materials you would have available if you were applying the methods to your own research.

- Read the exam requirements.
- Read the questions thoroughly. Make sure you understand what the question is really asking - not what you think it ought to ask.
- You do not need to answer the questions in order. You may find it helpful to skip difficult questions and return to them later, but try to avoid spending a lot of time selecting which question to answer next.
- If possible, allow ten minutes to review and correct your answers before the exam ends.

Past papers can be found online via the Library website: library-2.lse.ac.uk/protected-exam/index.html

Examination Dates
Examinations for all Methodology courses take place during the Summer Term (May/June).

Note that once the examination dates are set by the School, no changes to the schedule can be made. The exams timetable is published on the LSE Website, and you can access your personal examination timetables through LSE for You. For detailed information on the examination and assessment process, see:

lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/registrationTimetablesAssessment/examinationsAndResults/home.aspx
Exceptional Circumstances

Each year some students are unexpectedly affected by illness or other circumstances that interfere with their exam preparation and performance. Should you find yourself in this situation you should contact Esther Heyhoe (e.heyhoe@lse.ac.uk), your Academic Mentor and the Examinations Office (exams@lse.ac.uk) at the earliest opportunity.

The options available to students who experience exceptional circumstances include: Deferral of Assessment, Submitting Mitigating Circumstances and Interruption of Studies. Details can be found at the Examination webpage and the specific links below:

- Exceptional Circumstances: https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/727957/mod_resource/content/1/Department%20of%20Methodology%20registrationTimetablesAssessment/examinationsAndResults/exceptionalCircumstances/illnessExceptionalCircumstances.aspx
- Deferral: https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/727957/mod_resource/content/1/Department%20of%20Methodology%20registrationTimetablesAssessment/examinationsAndResults/exceptionalCircumstances/Deferral/Deferral.aspx
- Interruption of Studies: https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/727957/mod_resource/content/1/Department%20of%20Methodology%20registrationTimetablesAssessment/examinationsAndResults/exceptionalCircumstances/illnessExceptionalCircumstances.aspx
- Interruption: https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/727957/mod_resource/content/1/Department%20of%20Methodology%20registrationTimetablesAssessment/Registration/Changes/exceptionalCircumstances/exceptionalCircumstances/interruption.aspx

Important note: the non-attendance at an examination will result in a mark of 0. A 0 is considered a bad fail and may result in an overall fail for the degree. The grade of Bad Fail is used internally by the School to indicate when a fail cannot be compensated and, therefore, must be re-attempted. It will not appear on official transcripts.

Submission of assessed coursework

Department guidelines on the submission of coursework can be found here: https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/727957/mod_resource/content/1/Department%20of%20Methodology%20coursework%20submission%20guidelines.pdf

Late submission of assessed coursework

According to the School regulations, if a student fails to submit by the set deadline (or extended deadline as appropriate) the following penalty will apply:

Five marks out of 100 will be deducted for coursework submitted within the 24-hours of the deadline. A further five marks will be deducted for each subsequent 24-hour period (working days only) until the coursework is submitted. After five working days, coursework will only be accepted with the permission of the Chair of the Sub-board of Examiners.

For further information on this see: https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/pluginfile.php/727957/mod_resource/content/1/Department%20of%20Methodology%20coursework%20submission%20guidelines.pdf

Plagiarism

The work you submit for assessment must be your own. If you attempt to pass off the work of others as your own, whether deliberately or not, you are committing plagiarism. If you are found to have committed an assessment offence (such as plagiarism or exam misconduct) you could be expelled from the School.

Any quotation from the published or unpublished works of other persons, including other candidates, must be clearly identified as such. Quotes must be placed inside quotation marks and a full reference to sources must be provided in proper form. A series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism just as much as a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. All paraphrased material must also be clearly and properly acknowledged.

Any written work you produce (for classes, seminars, examination scripts, dissertations, essays, computer programmes and MPhil/PhD theses) must be solely your own. You must not employ a “ghost writer” to write parts or all of the work, whether in draft or as a final version, on your behalf. For further information and the School’s Statement on Editorial Help, see link below. Any breach of the Statement will be treated in the same way as plagiarism.

You should also be aware that a piece of work may only be submitted for assessment once (either to LSE or elsewhere). Submitting the same piece of work twice (regardless of which institution you submit it to) will be regarded as an offence of ’self-plagiarism’ and will also be treated in the same way as plagiarism. A partial exception to this rule holds for the MY400 second summative assignment and dissertation for MSc Social Research Methods students. This exception will be explained in the dissertation seminars.

Examiners are vigilant for cases of plagiarism and the School uses plagiarism detection software to identify plagiarised text. Work containing plagiarism may be referred to the Regulations on Assessment Offences: Plagiarism which may result in the application of severe penalties.

If you are unsure about the academic referencing conventions used by the School you should seek guidance from your department (webpages, Moodle, Handbook or the administrators), Academic Mentor, LSE LIFE or the Library as soon as possible.

The Regulations on Plagiarism and Statement on Editorial Help can be found at the following web links:

- info.lse.ac.uk/Staff/Divisions/Academic-Registrars-Division/Teaching-Quality-Assurance-and-Review-Office/Assets/Documents/Calendar/RegulationsAssessmentOffences-Plagiarism.pdf
Award of the MSc degree

The School’s “Scheme for the award of a taught Masters degree” can be found at: 
lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/TQARO/Calendar/SchemeTaughtMasters.pdf

It is a set of rules which determine, based on the results of the examinations, when a student is eligible for the MSc degree and, if eligible, what the classification (Pass, Merit or Distinction) of the degree shall be. These general rules are supplemented by the following “local rules” used for the MSc Social Research Methods (the numbers refer to paragraphs of the general classification scheme):

1. Course critical to assessment:
For students entering from 2013/14, a Fail in either MY421 or MY452 shall result in a drop of one class in the overall award classification where a Distinction or Merit would otherwise have been awarded. It shall have no further impact where a Pass is to be awarded.

A Fail in courses to the value of 1.0 unit which includes a Fail in MY421 and/or MY452 cannot be compensated under rules 5.2.3(i) or 5.2.3(ii), and shall result in an overall Fail.

Where a student has substituted a more advanced course for MY452 and/or MY421, rule 1 shall apply to the substituted course(s) in place of the course(s) they replace. Any such substitution must be approved by both the MSc Programme Director and the Chair of the Sub-Board of Examiners.

2. Distinction/Merit borderline (scheme paragraph 3.3.2):
Classification for students with mark profiles falling into this range will be determined according to an aggregate formula: Distinction if aggregate is 270 or higher.

3. Merit/Pass borderline (scheme paragraph 3.3.4):
Classification for students with mark profiles falling into this range will be determined according to an aggregate formula: Merit if aggregate is 240 or higher.

These local rules can also be found at: 
lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/LocalRules/MScSocialResearchMethods.htm
## Taught Masters Assessment Criteria, Department of Methodology

(Please see below for additional comments on courses on quantitative methods.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Descriptive Equivalent for Exams</th>
<th>Descriptive Equivalent for Essays</th>
<th>Descriptive Equivalent for the Dissertation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Good to Excellent</td>
<td>Perceptive, focused use of a good depth of material with a critical edge. Original ideas or structure of argument.</td>
<td>Breadth or intensity of accessed data or literature plus an original or critical contribution or finding.</td>
<td>All the elements of a Merit-level dissertation, plus evidence of excellence in some aspects of the work – for example, a particularly well-chosen research question, innovative or exceptionally well executed data collection, or advanced or innovative methods of analysis used with a high level of skill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Distinction)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(70-100)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Perceptive understanding of the issues plus a coherent well-read and stylish treatment though lacking originality</td>
<td>Thorough, clear treatment shows understanding of arguments, contribution and context. Efficient use of data and literature.</td>
<td>A convincing and competently executed piece of empirical social research, with all of the following elements correctly in place and clearly explained:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Merit)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• one or more clearly stated, meaningful, interesting and answerable research questions, motivated by appropriate theoretical frameworks and a review of relevant literature;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(60-69)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• one or more sets of primary or secondary empirical (qualitative and/or quantitative) data which are appropriate for answering the research questions, with a clear explanation of the data and how they were obtained;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• analysis of the data in order to answer the research questions, using appropriate methods of analysis which are correctly used and explained;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• answers to the research questions, correctly justified by the analysis of the data, and conclusions and interpretation drawn from the answers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>A &quot;correct&quot; answer based largely on lecture material. Little detail or originality but presented in adequate framework. Small factual errors allowed.</td>
<td>Basic treatment of wide literature or database OR adequate treatment of incomplete data or literature &quot;without spark&quot;.</td>
<td>All the elements of a Merit-level dissertation, but with errors or omissions which reveal some lack of competence or understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pass)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(50-59)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Based entirely on lecture material but unstructured and with increasing error component. Concepts are disordered or flawed. Poor presentation. Errors of concept and scope or poor in knowledge, structure and expression.</td>
<td>Very basic approach to a narrow or misguided selection of material. Lacking in background or flawed in arguments. Little effort. Shallow and poorly presented. Lacking in conclusions or conclusions incorrect.</td>
<td>A project where some elements of a Merit-level dissertation are incorrect or incomplete to the extent that the work does not constitute a meaningful and informative piece of empirical social research. For example, this may be because:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Fail)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• the research questions are missing, uninteresting, unmotivated or unanswerable;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30-49)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• empirical data are missing, inappropriate or inadequately explained;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• analysis of the data is missing or incorrect;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• answers to the research questions are missing or not justified by the analysis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment of quantitative methods courses:
The criteria listed above apply also to courses on quantitative methods where appropriate, for example, to any parts of their examinations which call for essay-type answers. However, many of these examinations involve instead shorter questions, to which the answers can be relatively unambiguously coded as (fully or partially) correct or incorrect. In the marking, these questions may be further broken down into smaller steps and marked step by step. The final mark is then a function of the proportion of parts of the questions which have been answered correctly. In such marking, the principle of partial credit is observed as far as feasible. This means that an answer to a part of a question will be treated as correct when it is correct conditional on answers to other parts of the question, even if those other parts have been answered incorrectly.

Results
The LSE Graduate School Board of Examiners meets in November each year to ratify the exam marks and classifications for 12 months masters programmes. Provisional results will be posted on LSE for You by 1 August and finalised results and classifications will be posted on LSE for You at the end of November. For further information, please see lse.ac.uk/results

To ensure that your results are released as scheduled, please check your balance on LSE for You to see if you have any outstanding fees. You should contact the Credit Control Office on fees@lse.ac.uk if you have any queries, as the School will not release your results if you have an outstanding debt.

Transcripts
Transcripts for finalists are issued digitally within ten working days of publication of final results. Continuing students will be able to request an ‘intermediate transcript’ of results as soon as they are officially published.

For more information, please see lse.ac.uk/transcripts

Degree Certificates
The degree certificate gives your full name, level of award, programme of study, and class of degree or other award obtained.

It will be available for collection on the graduation ceremony days for the relevant graduation period in July or December. If you don’t collect it at the ceremony, it will be posted to your home address within four to six weeks. It is therefore essential that you keep your details up-to-date on LSE for You. For more information, see lse.ac.uk/degreeCertificates

Graduation Ceremonies
Graduation ceremonies are held twice a year: in July for students who have followed undergraduate or nine or ten months taught postgraduate degree programmes, and in December for students who have followed twelve months taught postgraduate degree programmes (including the MSc in Applied Social Data Science). MPhil/PhD research students are presented at both the July and December ceremonies – July for those awarded by 30 April and December for those awarded by 30 September.

For more information, including the dates of future ceremonies and details of the School’s overseas ceremonies, please see lse.ac.uk/ceremonies

MSc Prizes
The Department currently awards two prizes each year to graduating MSc students. These are the prize for best overall performance in the MSc and prize for best dissertation.

Appeals Against Examination Results
For information about how to make an appeal, please refer to the LSE Regulations for the Consideration of Appeals: info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/results/challenging-results-and-appeals

There are mandatory deadlines and formal requirements for all such appeals. You are advised to consult your Academic Mentor or the MSc Programme Director before pursuing this option.
IT, Moodle And LSE For You

Email
LSE, the Department and your teachers will use your LSE email address to communicate with you, so you should check it regularly. When contacting staff in the Department of Methodology please ensure that you use your LSE email account. The email program Microsoft Outlook is available on all student PCs on the LSE network. You can also access email off-campus using webmail and remote desktop or on the move, using email clients for laptops and mobile phones. For instructions on how to access your email off campus, visit lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/IMT/remote

GDPR
The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has been designed to strengthen and unify data protection for those within the European Union and for data of EU nationals handled elsewhere. GDPR compliance (enforceable from May 25th 2018) will improve data security as well as reduce risk, costs and importantly improve our customer experiences around how we manage personal and sensitive data. As an organisation, the LSE will have more stringent data management processes, affecting some of our technology systems, controls and importantly how individuals process data.

For more information on your responsibilities and rights as a data subject please see our pages: https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Secretaries-Division/Information-Rights-and-Management/GDPR

IT Support

Student IT Help Desk – first floor, Library

Contact the IT Help Desk (it.helpdesk@lse.ac.uk) for support for School-owned hardware and software on the LSE network, network and email account issues, and general IT queries.

IT Support for students with disabilities
The School is committed to providing facilities and support for students with disabilities, please visit: lse.ac.uk/imt/accessibility for full details. IMT also provides one-to-one support for students who wish to become familiar with assistive technologies and software. To book a session contact: Sebastiaan Eldritch-Boersen via imt.disabilities.support@lse.ac.uk

LSE for You
LSE for You is a personalised web portal which gives you access to a range of services. For example, you can:

- view or change your personal details
- reset your Library and network passwords
- monitor and pay your tuition fees online
- check your exam results

You can also access online tutorials on how to navigate and personalise LSE for You via its login page. Use your LSE network username and password to login via lfy.lse.ac.uk

Moodle
Moodle is LSE’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). It is a password protected web environment that contains a range of teaching resources, activities, assignments, information and discussions for your course. The content of Moodle is the responsibility of your teacher and so it will vary from course to course.

You can access Moodle from any computer connected to the internet, on and off campus. Go to moodle.lse.ac.uk/ and use your LSE user name and password to log in. This page also has links to help/advice on using Moodle. You will also find links to Moodle from a number of web pages, including the webpage for “Staff and Students”. If you have any technical problems with Moodle you should contact the helpdesk at it.helpdesk@lse.ac.uk

Phishing Attacks
Always look out for scam emails which try to fool you into giving away information which can be used to hack your network account, perpetrate identity theft or compromise your financial accounts. Don’t become a victim. Scam emails are often quick and easy to identify:

- Generic greetings
- Urgent wording
- Short, vague messages
- Requests for your personal information
- Poor spelling and grammar

If it matches the above criteria, it’s most likely a scam. If in doubt, don’t click.

Report it to it.servicedesk@lse.ac.uk and help keep your accounts secure.
Alumni Association

LSE's Alumni Association is your lifelong network of over 100,000 alumni. You automatically become a member upon graduation. The network includes over 70 international and special interest groups as well as a diverse programme of events for all alumni to enjoy.

Membership is free and by registering with the Houghton Street Online community, you will be able to stay connected with former classmates and the School after your graduation. You will receive a monthly e newsletter and the biennial alumni magazine, LSE Connect.

LSE alumni also have access to:
- Alumni Professional Mentoring Network
- LSE Careers Service
- An email forwarding address to continue using an LSE email address
- The Library's superb printed collections on a reference basis, and can borrow free of charge

For more information about the benefits and services available to alumni, please contact the Alumni Relations team on alumni@lse.ac.uk

LSE Catering

Information about the wide range of restaurants and cafes available on campus.
lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/cateringServices/Home.aspx

LSE Library

lse.ac.uk/library

LSE LIFE

LSE LIFE is the School's centre for academic, professional and personal development.

LSE LIFE are here to help you find your own 'best' ways to study, think about where your studies might lead you, and make the most of your time at LSE. LSE LIFE offer:
- guidance and hands-on practice of the key skills you'll need to do well at LSE: effective reading, academic writing and critical thinking
- workshops related to how to adapt to new or difficult situations, including development of skills for leadership, study/work/life balance, and preparing for the working world. These workshops are thoroughly recommended and you are strongly advised to register for workshops relevant to your study needs
- a place to meet and work together with your peers on interdisciplinary group projects and research
- support in making the transition to (or back to) university life
- advice and practice on working in study groups and on cross-cultural communication and teamwork
- ideas and inspiration about academic pursuits and pathways into professional life.
and much more ...

LSE LIFE is located on the ground floor of the library and is your first port of call to discover what is available for you. The LSE LIFE team, together with advisers and specialists from LSE Careers, LSE Library, the Language Centre and other parts of the School, will be on hand to answer your questions. Sign up for a workshop, come by for help with your homework, or just drop in.
lse.ac.uk/lifelife
LSE Volunteer Centre
The LSE Volunteer Centre is based within LSE Careers and is there to help you develop new skills and new friendships while making an impact through volunteering. They advertise volunteering opportunities at different charities across London and internationally, with positions ranging from one-off opportunities to part-time internships with charities. The annual Volunteering Fair takes place at the beginning of Michaelmas term and is a great opportunity to meet a wide range of charities and get a feel for the work they do. You can find out more, as well as tips and advice about volunteering, on the LSE Volunteer Centre website lse.ac.uk/volunteercentre or @LSEVolunteering

Student Hub
The Student Hub is a new LSE app, on mobile and web, that transforms the LSE student experience. It has been designed to give you a joined up view of the School, create opportunities to connect and build communities with one another, and help you organise your day-to-day life as a student.

The features on the Hub include: personal timetables and assessment deadlines, notifications, news, events and updates from around the School, a digital space to chat with peers and friends, and an interactive map of campus. From Lent Term onwards, students will be able to book office hours with teaching staff via the Student Hub.

https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/putting-students-first/student-hub
Wellbeing Advice

In the first instance, your first point of contact with any concerns should be your Academic Mentor. Sections 2 and 3 (above) provide details of other contact points within the Department, such as the Programme Director, in the event that your Academic Mentor is not able to assist you. The list below gives a summary of other sources of support (and the weblinks) within the School.

**Academic Support Services**
[lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/academicSupportServices/home.aspx](http://lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/academicSupportServices/home.aspx)
Information about Library Subject Guides, Moodle and links to Study Advisers.

**Careers and Vacancies**
[lse.ac.uk/careersService](http://lse.ac.uk/careersService)
Careers guidance, information on graduate employment, and vacancies exclusive to students and alumni, plus jobs at LSE and information on what it is like to work here.

**Disability and Well-being**
[lse.ac.uk/disability](http://lse.ac.uk/disability)

The Disability and Well-being Service (DWS) runs three specialist services, all of which are free and confidential:

- The Disability Service, for students with physical/sensory impairments and those with long-term or chronic medical conditions
- The Neurodiversity Service, for students with dyslexia, dyspraxia, Asperger syndrome and other neurodiverse conditions
- The Mental Health and Well-being Service, for students with mental health concerns.

The DWS can also set up Individual Student Support Agreements (ISSAs), outlining reasonable adjustments such as extended library loans, negotiated deadlines and rest breaks in exams. If you think you require an ISSA then you are encouraged to make an appointment with the DWS at the earliest opportunity. DWS also runs several interest and support groups, for example the Neurodiversity Interest Group and the Circles Network.

For further information please visit [lse.ac.uk/disability](http://lse.ac.uk/disability) or email disability-dyslexia@lse.ac.uk

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at LSE**

To uphold the School's commitment to equality of respect and opportunity, as set out in the Ethics Code, we will treat all people with dignity and respect, and ensure that no-one will be treated less favourably because of their role at the School, age, disability, gender (including gender identity), race, religion or belief sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and social and economic background.

In practice, this means we expect you to:

- Treat all members of the School community fairly and with respect;
- Act courageously and openly, with respect for the knowledge and experience of others;
- Play your part in creating an environment that enables all members of the School community to achieve their full potential in an environment characterised by equality of respect and opportunity; and
- Actively oppose all forms of discrimination and harassment, including challenging and/or reporting unacceptable behaviour.

The School is committed to embedding and mainstreming equity, diversity and inclusion. For further advice or information, please visit the School's Equality and Diversity website ([lse.ac.uk/equityDiversityInclusion](http://lse.ac.uk/equityDiversityInclusion)), see their blog, and follow them on Twitter [@EDI_LSE](https://twitter.com/EDI_LSE).

**Faith Centre**
[lse.ac.uk/faithcentre](http://lse.ac.uk/faithcentre)
For information about religious services, events, support and the Interfaith Forum.

**Fees, Income and Credit Control Office**
[https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Finance-Division/Fees-Income-and-Credit-Control](https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Finance-Division/Fees-Income-and-Credit-Control)
For information about – Fees Office, Table of Fees, Loans, Financial Problems, and more.

**Fieldwork Safety**

If you are planning fieldwork or any other off site activity please complete the relevant risk assessment on our website: [lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/healthAndSafety/policy/FieldworkOffsiteVisits.aspx](http://lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/healthAndSafety/policy/FieldworkOffsiteVisits.aspx)

We recognise that you may want to carry out fieldwork in areas of the world that are subject to social or political unrest, high threat of kidnap and ransom or to areas with Foreign and Commonwealth Office warnings. If you do, we are there to help you achieve your aims. We can help provide specialist country or area threat assessments to help you make an informed decision about the viability of traveling to your destination of choice. We can also provide specialist training and equipment to help keep you safe. Please note that the Health and Safety Team may not cover the costs of additional specialist control measures and you may have to secure your own funding.

For any further information or advice, please contact the Health and Safety Team.
Telephone: 020 7852 3677
Email: Health.And.Safety@lse.ac.uk

**Financial Support Office (FSO)**

FSO is responsible for the administration and awarding of scholarships, bursaries, studentships and School prizes. It holds drop in sessions in the Student Services Centre. Advice can also be given by telephone on 020 7955 6609 (9.30am-5.30pm).

FSO provide information about funds such as the Student Support fund, LSE Access Fund and the Postgraduate Travel fund.

Full details and application forms are available from [lse.ac.uk/financialsupport](https://lse.ac.uk/financialsupport)

**Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

[info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing)

For information about the Student Counselling Service, the Disability and Wellbeing Office, the Students’ Union Advice and Support service, and more.

**Healthcare**

[lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/healthSafetyWellbeing/healthIssues.aspx](https://lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/healthSafetyWellbeing/healthIssues.aspx)

For information about registering with a doctor or dentist, finding an optician, and where to go for help with emergency health issues.

**Language Centre**

[lse.ac.uk/language/EnglishProgrammes/EnglishHome.aspx](https://lse.ac.uk/language/EnglishProgrammes/EnglishHome.aspx)

Information about the Insessional Support Programme, Learning Support Workshops, and more.

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Students**

[lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/LGBTstudents.aspx](https://lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/LGBTstudents.aspx)

For information about the Students’ Union LGBT Society, the LSE Diversity Blog, external support services and more.

**LSE Students’ Union**

[lsesu.com](https://lsesu.com)

LSE SU is a not-for-profit organisation run by LSE students, for LSE students. As well as being a social hub, the SU also provides advice and support for students during their time at LSE.

**Health and Safety within the Department of Methodology**

You can learn more about the Department of Methodology’s Health and Safety Policy and fire action instructions online via [lse.ac.uk/Methodology/Health-and-Safety-within-the-Department/Health-and-Safety-Local-Policy-Statement](https://lse.ac.uk/Methodology/Health-and-Safety-within-the-Department/Health-and-Safety-Local-Policy-Statement) and [lse.ac.uk/Methodology/Health-and-Safety-within-the-Department/Fire-Action-Instructions](https://lse.ac.uk/Methodology/Health-and-Safety-within-the-Department/Fire-Action-Instructions)
Money Matters:
lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/moneyMatters/home.aspx

Off Campus Support Scheme
lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/offcampusSupportScheme.aspx
Information about the scheme for new students and those wishing to become a student mentor.

Student Services Centre:
The Student Services Centre is located on the ground floor of the Old Building. The SSC provides a counter service for students between 11am and 4pm every weekday. They can also be contacted by telephone. Details of who to contact and more information can be found on their website: lse.ac.uk/ssc

Students with children:
lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/studentsWithChildren.aspx
Advice on pregnancy, finances, accommodation and impacts on studies.

Visas and Immigration:
International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) provides detailed immigration advice for international students on their website which is updated whenever the immigration rules change. They can advise you by email (if you complete a web query form on the ISVAT web pages) or at the drop-in service in the Student Services Centre reception. ISVAT run workshops to advise students applying to extend their stay in the UK; and in complex cases, they will make individual appointments.

For more information including drop in times and dates of workshops go to: lse.ac.uk/isvat

ISVAT also manages staff and student exchanges through the Erasmus + programme at LSE. For more information on our exchanges, go to: lse.ac.uk/Erasmus
Suggested Reading for MSc Social Research Methods


M Bauer & G Gaskell, *Qualitative Researching with Text, Image and Sound* (Sage, 2000)


AF Chalmers, What is this Thing Called Science? (3rd Ed., Open University Press, 1999)


BH Flyvberg, *Making Social Science Matter: Why social inquiry fails and how it can succeed again* (Cambridge University Press, 2001)


Dr Audrey Alejandro (Assistant Professor of Qualitative Text Analysis): knowledge and discourse; the Commonwealth of Dominica; the Caribbean; agricultural sustainability and resilience; community-based data systems; international cooperation; technical assistance programs; international political sociology; anthropology of knowledge; discourse analysis; reflexivity; methodology of writing, action research; participatory research.

Dr Pablo Barberá (Assistant Professor of Computational Social Science): Social media and elections; comparative electoral behaviour; political polarization and misinformation; social network analysis; text as data methods; ideal point estimation.

Professor Kenneth Benoit (Professor of Political Research Methodology) (on sabbatical leave in 2018/19): Quantitative text analysis; computational social science; comparative party competition; statistical methodologies for the social sciences.

Dr Flora Cornish (Associate Professor in Research Methodology) (on sabbatical leave in 2018/19): Community health interventions; HIV prevention; community participation and multi-stakeholder partnerships; the social constitution of intervention success; evidence and evaluation of social interventions; dialogue between grassroots communities and their significant others; pragmatist social science; ethnography; quality/rigour in qualitative research, community response to disasters.

Dr Nimesh Dhungana (LSE Fellow in Qualitative Methodology): development and disaster; social accountability in the global South; rights based development/humanitarianism; community mobilisation in health sector; participatory governance; qualitative research in aid and disaster context.

Dr David Hendry (Assistant Professor in Research Methodology): laboratory, survey and field experiments; social networks; social pressure; cultural evolution; racial and ethnic politics; survey design; event history analysis.

Dr Alasdair Jones (Assistant Professor in Research Methodology): Relationship between built form in cities and social practices; public space; masterplanned developments; public transport; citizenship as experienced in urban settings; sustainable living practices; ethnographic methods; qualitative methods in evaluation.

Dr Eleanor Knott (Assistant Professor in Research Methodology): politics of ethnicity and nationalism; citizenship; democratization; post-Soviet politics (Crimea, Ukraine, Russia, Romania and Moldova); comparative political ethnography/interpretivism.

Dr Jouni Kuha (Associate Professor in Statistics and Research Methodology): social statistics; categorical data analysis; measurement; missing values; latent variable modelling; analysis of cross-national survey data.

Dr Benjamin Lauderdale (Associate Professor in Research Methodology): US politics, UK politics, measurement, survey methods, latent variable models; Bayesian methods.

Dr Sonja Marzi (LSE Fellow in Qualitative Methodology): urban socio-spatial mobility; aspirations, gender and the right to the city; place-making; urban youth; participatory research methodologies.

Dr Eleanor Power (Assistant Professor): social network analysis; ethnography; religion; South Asia; signaling theory; social capital.

Dr Indraneel Sircar (LSE Fellow in Quantitative Methodology): Comparative politics; Europeanization; EU enlargement; environmental governance; rule of law; western Balkans; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Serbia.

Dr Kate Summers (LSE Fellow in Qualitative Methodology): poverty, riches and inequality; working age social security policy; welfare reform; sociology of money.

Dr Jen Tarr (Associate Professor in Research Methodology): chronic pain; ethnography; visual and sensory methods; ethnography; qualitative interviewing; qualitative research methodologies; sociology of health.

Dr Chana Teeger (Assistant Professor in Qualitative Methods) (on leave in MT and LT 2018/19): Inequality; race and ethnicity; education; collective memory; culture; transitional justice; elites; research design; in-depth interviewing; ethnography.

Dr Milena Tsvetkova (Assistant Professor in Quantitative Methods): computational and experimental social science; online experiments; network analysis; social phenomena such as cooperation, contagion and inequality.
The geography of the School can seem complicated at first, especially with all the building works going on around campus, but you will find direction signs spread around the buildings. This map will also help you find your way.