Executive MSc Behavioural Science

Uncover the science behind behaviour

The programme

This unique and dynamic programme provides the opportunity for full-time professionals working in any sector to obtain a graduate qualification in behavioural science, allowing you to pursue new and expanded opportunities within this emerging and exciting field.

Recognising the limitations of traditional practice and research methods, many organisations now engage with the idea of applying behavioural insights to their organisational challenges. Behavioural science may be an area directly related to your current professional role, or you may wish to pursue the programme for your own personal or career development.

The Executive MSc Behavioural Science is taught by specialists at the forefront of research in behavioural science, in a multidisciplinary environment with links to specialist research groups based in departments across LSE. It is a 16 month programme starting in September each year, and comprises six taught courses and a dissertation. Students come to the LSE campus for three two-week teaching sessions. Sessions take place in September, January, and April. Between sessions, students will continue to interact with and receive support from both academic and administrative staff. After the April session, students work on their dissertation with support from their supervisor.

Our students

Students on this programme come from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds from all over the world. This diversity is incredibly valuable as it allows students to consider issues from a variety of different perspectives.

Executive students are likely to choose this EMSc for two reasons; because behavioural science is an area directly related to their current professional role, or because they wish to pursue it for their own personal/career development. The programme provides students with the opportunity to study alongside their employment to enhance and support their professional development.

Courses

This 16-month programme starts in September and is divided into six half-unit taught courses for the first eight months, followed by a dissertation unit for the remaining eight months.

First year

September

Behavioural Science and Policy
Examines the main concepts and tools of the growing fields of behavioural science.

Behavioural Decision Science
Examines the field of behavioural 'decision' science and explores a selection of current research topics relevant to personal and managerial decision-making as well as policy-making.

January

Research Methods for Behavioural Science
Covers the main methodological concepts and tools in behavioural science.

Either

Policy Appraisal and Ethics
Introduces main concepts and tools of policy appraisal and provides insights into moral and political values that are essential for policy-makers when they draw on behavioural science.

Or

Corporate Behaviour and Decision Making
Discusses behavioural science in the context of corporate firms and high stakes decisions.

March/April

Frontiers in Behavioural Science Methods
Offers an integrated training in advanced behavioural science methods by introducing students to state-of-the-art techniques that stretch across the spectrum of psychology and economics.

One of:

Behavioural Science in an Age of New Technology
Covers major technological advancements that are relevant for predicting and influencing human behaviour and can complement traditional behavioural science tools of behaviour change.

Behavioural Science for Health
Aims to introduce the main principles, tools, methods, and insights from the behavioural science, and to illustrate their key state-of-the-art applications to contemporary challenges in health economics, policy, practice, and management.

Organisational Culture
Introduces the concept of Organisational Culture, its relationship with behaviour in institutional settings, and methodologies for utilising this knowledge to elicit behavioural change.

Second year

Dissertation in Behavioural Science
An independent research project of 10,000 words on an approved topic of your choice.

> The programme has great integrity from an academic perspective, so it incentivizes and demands a much deeper, nuanced reflection about behavioural insights, how strong is the evidence, what are the limitations, how can it be applied and what are the challenges, including from a philosophical standpoint. On day 2 we were already in deeper territory than the standard trade book discussions on behavioural science/economics. I sense we leave the program not as behavioural tool users, but as informed craftsmen and developers.

Guilherme, 2016/17 cohort

Faculty

Paul Dolan is Professor of Behavioural Science and Head of the Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science at LSE. Professor Dolan has over 18000 citations and is author of the Sunday Times Bestseller Happiness by Design.

Barbara Fasolo is Associate Professor of Behavioural Science in LSE's Department of Management. She is an expert on choice processes and choice architecture.

Matteo M Galizzi is Assistant Professor of Behavioural Science. He is an experimental and behavioural economist conducting behavioural experiments between the lab and the field in the area of health and public policy.

Dario Krpan is Assistant Professor of Behavioural Science at LSE. His main research interest lies in uncovering how human body and various contextual forces can be used to influence and predict human motivation and eventually behaviour.

Grace Lordan is Associate Professor at the LSE. She spends her time trying to understand just why individuals have different life outcomes, mainly at work, beyond factors that are in their own control.

Tom Reader is Associate Professor and the Deputy Head of Department for research in the Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science at LSE. His work examines the relationship between organisational culture and risk management.

“When I enrolled at the LSE for the Executive MSc in Behavioural Science, over 20 years had passed since my graduation from university. I thought that people would think I had lost my mind, voluntarily putting myself through this demanding course at the age of 48 – and paying good money for it too. How else could one explain a decision to dedicate the next 16 months of spare time to intensive study, while at the same time juggling a demanding career, plus family and social commitments?

All such thoughts vanished as soon as I started the course at the LSE. From day one, my fellow students and I were exposed to cutting-edge research, as well as field and lab studies in the fascinating field of Behavioural Science and how it affects everything from decision-making in business to social policy-making and adoption of healthier lifestyle choices. It was clear right from the start that the EMSc in Behavioural Science would have great impact on both my personal and professional life.”

Pavlos, 2017/18 cohort

Application process

Applications are considered on a rolling basis, meaning that the admissions cycle will close once the programme becomes full. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified prospective students and want to recruit students with the very best academic and professional merit, potential and motivation, irrespective of their background.

We carefully consider each application on an individual basis, taking into account all the information presented on your application form, including your:

- Academic achievement (we require an Upper second class honours (2:1) degree or international equivalent)
- Personal statement
- Two references*
- CV

For detailed information on how to apply, please visit lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Graduate/Applicants

* Ideally one academic and one professional reference, but applicants who graduated from their most recent academic study more than five years ago may provide two professional references.

Contacts

For more information about the programme, please visit lse.ac.uk/MScBehaviouralScience

You are very welcome to contact our Programme Manager Therese Holmqvist to discuss the programme’s suitability for you and your goals and interests.

Email: behavioural.science@lse.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7955 7205

AGE RANGE

25 • 65

AVERAGE AGE

36

CLASS SIZE

45

“The benefits of the exec masters is that it allows you to position yourself uniquely across your industry / expertise and behavioural science. And if you are smart about it, being at a crossroad like this allows you to move in all sorts of professional directions.”

Antoine, 2014/15 cohort

Department of
Psychological and Behavioural Science

LSE Department for Psychological and Behavioural Science

Department contact for issues relating directly to EMSc study:

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