Please note that we are introducing a wider range of optional courses from 2018/19 entry, to ensure that students can pursue topics that best suit their interests.*

September

Behavioural Science and Policy

Examines the main concepts and tools of the growing fields of behavioural science. Topics covered include: What is behavioural science?; What are preferences to economists and psychologists?; Dual-process models of behaviour and the role of the unconscious mind; Dual processing into policy using the MINDSPACE checklist; the role of emotions in decision making; compensating behaviours; breaking and creating habits.

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. The course will cover topics such as: Origin of Behavioural Decision Science; the Building Blocks of Behavioural Decision Science: Preferences, Utility and Value; Probability, Uncertainty and Risk; Choice Architecture and Behavioural Change; Heuristics and Biases in Decisions about Money, Health, Consumer Products and People.

January

Research Methods for Behavioural Science

Introduces students to the main methodological concepts and tools in behavioural science. In doing so, it combines rigorous conceptual discussion with hands-on practical applications. The topics that the course covers include randomization and controlled online, lab, and field experiments; the inference problem; different types of experimental design; introduction to econometrics and the analysis of experimental data; experimental best practices and challenges; and conducting research when randomization is not possible. The seminars involve hands-on practical applications using Stata.

Either

Policy Appraisal and Ethics

Aims to introduce students to the main concepts and tools of policy appraisal and yield insight into key moral and political values that are essential for policy-makers when they draw on behavioural science. The topics that the course covers include architecture of cost-benefit analysis for market and non-market goods; elicitation of monetary values through revealed and stated preference methods; welfare analysis of policy interventions; evaluating welfare beyond monetary choices; and moral problems associated with libertarian paternalism or Nudge.

Or

Corporate Behaviour and Decision Making

Discusses behavioural sciences in the context of corporate firms and high stakes decisions. From their core courses students will be familiar with biases in decision making in general and this course builds on these courses. The course will discuss contexts in which behavioural biases affect high stake decisions in corporate settings. Specifically, it will cover behavioural biases in: trade and investment, compliance, search and hiring processes and day to day decision making in business. It will draw on empirical evidence from experiments, quasi-experimental, observational and qualitative research.

March/April

Frontiers in Behavioural Science Methods

Offers 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 as the two disciplines that constitute behavioural science. The topics covered include measuring preferences, attitudes, beliefs, and willingness-to-pay; analysing judgment and decision-making through the prism of quantum cognition approach to statistics; behavioural game theory and experimental games of strategic interaction; designing behavioural priming experiments and measures that tap into implicit cognition; state-of-the-art physiological research techniques; and analysing the mechanisms behind behavioural effects.

One of:

Behavioural Science in an Age of New Technology

The course aims to a) introduce major technological advancements that are relevant for predicting, influencing, and understanding human behaviour; b) outline how they supplement and extend commonly used tools of behavioural change; and c) examine how they can be used to propel behavioural science into the future. The course will tackle behavioural science in relation to motion tracking, virtual environments, gadgets, artificial intelligence, and other relevant developments in the field of technology. Emphasis will be placed on how the technological tools covered throughout the course can be used to change behaviour in applied settings, and students will be encouraged to discuss implications for their organisations and other areas of interest.

Or

Behavioural Science for Health

Introduces the main state-of-the-art applications of behavioural economics and behavioural science to health economics, policy, practice, and management. The course is designed to enhance students' abilities to apply rigorously and critically behavioural science tools to concrete challenges in the health area, to critically identify and measure the behavioural mechanisms potentially leading to heterogeneity in behavioural change, and to account for them in the design and interpretation of the behavioural science interventions. It covers behavioural health economics and policy; behavioural experiments in health; behavioural principles for information policies in health; financial and non-financial incentives in health; nudging behavioural change in health; behavioural principles for regulation of health and healthcare; risk, time, and social preferences and health; behavioural spillovers in health.

Or

Organisational Culture

The course aims to introduce to students the concept of Organisational Culture, its relationship with behaviour in institutional settings, and methodologies for utilising this knowledge to elicit behavioural change. The course will draw on a mixture of seminal research, state-of-the-art literature, and research being conducted at the LSE. The following topics will be covered: key models of organisational culture and their applications in organisational settings; the relationship between organisational culture and behaviour; cutting-edge and traditional approaches to measuring organisational culture; collisions of different organisational cultures; changing organisational culture and behaviour.

**You can find the most up-to-date list of optional courses for the Programme Regulations section of the current School Calendar.*

You must note however that while care has been taken to ensure that this information is up to date and correct, a change of circumstances since publication may cause the School to change, suspend or withdraw a course or programme of study, or change the fees that apply to it. The School will always notify the affected parties as early as practicably possible and propose any viable and relevant alternative options. Note that that the School will neither be liable for information that after publication becomes inaccurate or irrelevant, nor for changing, suspending or withdrawing a course or programme of study due to events outside of its control, which includes but is not limited to a lack of demand for a course or programme of study, industrial action, fire, flood or other environmental or physical damage to premises.

You must also note that places are limited on some courses and/or subject to specific entry requirements. The School cannot therefore guarantee you a place. Please note that changes to programmes and courses can sometimes occur after you have accepted your offer of a place. These changes are normally made in light of developments in the discipline or path-breaking research, or on the basis of student feedback. Changes can take the form of altered course content, teaching formats or assessment modes. Any such changes are intended to enhance the student learning experience. You should visit the School's Calendar, or contact the relevant academic department, for information on the availability and/or content of courses and programmes of study. Certain substantive changes will be listed on the updated graduate course and programme information page.