LSE Ethics

The
Ethics
Code

Intellectual freedom

Responsibility and Accountability

Collegiality — ETHICS — Integrity

Equality of Respect and Opportunity

Sustainability

April 2014

The Ethics Code

The whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in this Code under the following headings:

- **Responsibility and Accountability**
- **Integrity**
- **Intellectual Freedom**
- **Equality of Respect and Opportunity**
- **Collegiality**
- **Sustainability.**

Council, Academic Board, their subsidiary committees, and the management of the School are responsible for the promotion, implementation, and application of the Code.

The principles set out in this Code should be taken into account when making decisions at all levels of the School.

Ethical Guidelines

It is impossible to devise a single set of rules to resolve every ethical dilemma which members of the LSE community may face. Instead, the principles in the Ethics Code should guide the exercise of judgement in individual cases. The following guidelines provide further information on how each principle should apply in practice, and lists some of the policies and procedures by which individual issues are presently addressed.

Decision making step-by-step

Three simple steps should be followed to identify and resolve the ethical implications of individual decisions and actions:

1 Consider whether what you plan to do is compatible with the principles in the Ethics Code. Further guidance is often available from existing policies, several of which are listed in the following text.

2 Ask yourself how you would explain your actions if you had to justify them to close friends and family, or if they were on the front page of a newspaper. What would be the impact on your reputation, or that of the School? How would you feel about asking someone else to do what you are proposing to do?

3 Seek advice from an appropriate person, such as a colleague or line manager, or one of the School committees tasked with handling ethical matters. Specific committees handle research ethics and the ethics of receiving external grants and donations, while the Ethics Policy Committee will consider dilemmas of particular difficulty where principles may conflict.

4 Where possible, keep a record of your decision making and the rationale behind it.

For general queries please email **ethics@lse.ac.uk**

1. Responsibility and Accountability

In order to uphold our commitment to responsibility and accountability, we will:

1.1. Embed the principle of individual responsibility at every level of the School's management and governance structures.

1.2. Raise concerns relating to ethical matters as they arise.

Further Information

- Ethics website
- Ethics Policy Committee
- Public Interest Disclosure Procedure.

2. Integrity

In order to uphold our commitment to integrity, we will:

2.1. Be honest and truthful.

2.2. Act in accordance with all relevant legislation and statutory requirements.

2.3. Declare interests and appropriately manage possible conflicts.

2.4. Be transparent and consistent in our decision making.

2.5. Maintain our independence in engaging with outside parties.

2.6. Conduct fundraising activities in line with the principles set out in the Ethics Code.

Further Information

- Policy against Bribery and Fraud
- Data Protection Policy
- Freedom of Information Guide
- Procedure for Ethical Screening of Grants and Donations
- Guidance on Personal Relationships at Work
- Procurement (Financial Regulations)
- Service Complaints Procedure
- Student Complaints Procedure
- Statement on Socially Responsible (Ethical) Investment
- Disciplinary Procedure for Students.

3. Intellectual Freedom

In order to uphold our commitment to intellectual freedom, we will:

3.1. Protect individuals' freedom of expression.

3.2. Uphold the freedom to research and convey research findings.

Further Information

- Code of Practice on Free Speech
- Research Ethics Policy
- Research Policy Documents.

4. Equality of Respect and Opportunity

To uphold our commitment to equality of respect and opportunity, we will treat all people with dignity and respect and ensure that no person will be treated less favourably because of her/his role at the School, age, disability, gender (including gender reassignment), race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and social and economic background.

Further Information

- HR Strategy and Policies, including Equality, Diversity and Wellbeing policies
- Harassment and Bullying Policies: Staff and Students
- Rules Relating to Student Activities
- Single Equality Scheme
- Student Charter

Links to all the documents listed under further information are available on the online version of this booklet: **lse.ac.uk/ethicscode**

5. Collegiality

In order to uphold our commitment to collegiality, we will promote within the School an inclusive and participatory working and social environment in which we encourage, support and behave appropriately to one another.

Further Information

- Codes of Good Practice for Undergraduate, Taught Masters, and Research Students
- Disciplinary Procedure for Students
- General Academic Regulations
- Harassment and Bullying Policies: Staff and Students
- Rules Relating to Student Activities
- Student Charter.

6. Sustainability

In order to uphold our commitment to sustainability, we will minimise any negative impact we may have on the natural and built environment by effectively managing our resources.

Further Information

- Environmental Policy
- Socially Responsible Investment Policy
- Financial Regulations, including Procurement policies and procedures.

For further information
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