



Ref.: UBIR16-17/PT/AK

July 2016

Dear Student

You should by now have received the formal conditional or unconditional offer of a place on the BSc International Relations programme for the coming academic session. Welcome! The purpose of this letter is to give you some further information on the course. It is not part of the 'official' offer of admission to the School, but rather provides additional background detail on the course arrangements so that you can make any necessary preparations.

The London School of Economics and Political Science is one of the world's leading social science institutions. Many influential developments in thinking about society, economics and politics have originated in work done here. The International Relations Department is now in its 89th year and was established to address the major intellectual challenges posed by international relations. In addition to providing teaching at BSc, MSc and MPhil/PhD levels, the Department serves as a focus for international relations research across LSE, nationally and internationally.

The Department will have about 190 undergraduate students on the three years of the programme in 2016/2017 as well as a large postgraduate intake. On official confirmation of your place you will be joining a group of students from a wide range of backgrounds. Competition for places is very high and we are very proud of our graduates. Alumni of the BSc work in international organisations, government departments, regulatory bodies, regulated industries, consultancies or go on to further study and careers in academia.

There will be 41 full-time teachers, plus part-time teachers and various distinguished visitors who will contribute to our very full teaching programme. We like to think that ours is a department which has always placed a high value on easy, open relations between members of the staff, between staff and students, and between graduates and undergraduates. We shall do our best to make you feel welcome so that you should be able to find someone to give sympathetic help and advice on any problem which might arise, large or small, academic or personal.

Much of the work you will do on the degree is reading, backed up by regular lectures and classes, and by occasional one-to-one meetings with your Academic Adviser. This culminates in a set of written examinations at the end of the first and second years of the programme and a mixture of assessed essays and exams in the final year.

If you wish to do some preparatory reading for your first-year course the Concepts of International Society and for your degree in International Relations more generally - and this is something we advise - it would be wise to begin by reading a general overview of the subject, such as one of the following:

John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, eds. (2011), *The Globalization of World Politics*, 5th ed. (Oxford University Press);

Scott Burchill, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Terry Nardin, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit and Jacqui True (2009), *Theories of International Relations* (Palgrave Macmillan);

T. Dunne, M. Kurki and S. Smith, eds. (2010) *International Relations Theories: discipline and diversity*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press).

We would then suggest familiarising yourself with the outlines of twentieth century international history. Most libraries and good bookshops will have suitable books such as:

J. M. Roberts and Odd Arne Westad (2013), *The Penguin History of the World*, 7th ed. (Allen Lane);

Peter Calvocoressi (1999), *World Politics since 1945* (Addison Wesley Longman);

William R. Keylor (2001), *The Twentieth Century World: An International History*, 4th ed. (Oxford University Press).

More closely related to the core syllabus of the degree would be:

Chris Brown and Kirsten Ainley, eds. (2009), *Understanding International Relations*, 4th ed. (Palgrave). To prepare for the first class discussion you should carefully read the introduction, 'Defining International Relations'.

For further information about courses for the BSc IR programme, including detailed descriptions of the content, some suggested readings and methods of assessment, please see the online course guides at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/undergraduate.htm>

We also recommend that you consult the 'Frequently Asked Questions' on our departmental web pages for further information about the Department and your arrival. If you do not have easy access to the internet, please write to Adnan Khan, BSc IR Programme Administrator, at the above address for a hard copy.

Yours sincerely



Professor Peter Trubowitz
Head of the International Relations Department