July 2017

Dear Student

You should by now have received the formal conditional or unconditional offer of a place on the MSc International Relations (Research) programme for the coming academic session. Congratulations and welcome to the LSE!

I’m writing to give you some further information on the course. It is not part of the ‘official’ offer of admission to the School, but rather some additional background detail on the course arrangements from the Department, so that you can make any necessary preparations before beginning your studies.

Studying at LSE

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) 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 (IRD) is now in its 90th 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 both in the UK and internationally. Your programme will include students from a wide range of academic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Some have had training in International Relations, while others come from related fields.

We deliberately restrict the numbers of students on the MSc as we value the direct contact between students and staff. Competition for places is very intense and we are very proud of our graduates. Alumni of the MSc work in international organisations, government departments, regulatory bodies, the legal profession, commerce, consultancies and academia.

The LSE system may be different to what you have hitherto experienced. Pedagogy works in three parts: lectures, seminars and independent study. Assessment includes both essays and written examinations.
Important Dates: MSc IR (Research) Programme

Formally register as an LSE student with Registry:
**Tuesday 19 September, 4.30pm, Clement House, Hong Kong Theatre, Room CLM G.02**

IR Department Orientation Meeting:
**Thursday 21 September 2017, 4.00-5.00pm, New Academic Building, Room NAB 1.07**

MSc IR (Research) Programme Regulations

*(Please see the enclosed Graduate Course Choice FAQs sheet for further information on MSc IR (Research) programme regulations and course choices)*

The structure of the degree for students on the MSc IR (Research) programme is as follows:

- A compulsory core paper *Theories of International Relations* (IR436)
- A compulsory methods paper, *Foundations of Social Research* (*Quantitative Analysis, Fundamentals of Research Design, Qualitative Research*) taught by the Methodology Department
- An optional paper from a range of courses taught in the International Relations Department. This may be a full unit or a combination of half unit courses
- A compulsory 10,000-word dissertation *IR499*

You can access the 2017/18 programme regulations for MSc IR (Research) at the end of August 2017.

For further information about courses for the MSc IR (Research) programme, including detailed descriptions of the content, some suggested readings and methods of assessment please see the online Graduate Course Guides 2017/18. (These will be updated for 2017/18 at the end of August 2017.)

Background Reading

To ensure that you hit the ground running in September, we suggest that you familiarise yourself with two relevant texts before arriving at the School:


New courses for 2017/18:

The following new courses will be available in 2017/18. Course guides for these will be available at the end of August 2017.

- IR472 Advanced Topic in International Politics (H)*
- IR473 China and the Global South (H)
• IR474 Revolutions and World Politics (H)
• IR475 Gender/ed/ing International Politics (H)
• IR477 Africa: Governance, Peace and Security (H)

*Please note that for the 2017/18 session, IR472 will be taught by Professor Tomila Lankina and will focus on ‘Russia and World Politics’ replacing IR482.

➢ The following optional courses will not be available in 2017/18:
  H = Half unit course
  • IR418 International Politics: Asia and the Pacific
  • IR431 European Union Policy Making in a Global-Context (H)
  • IR439 Diplomacy (H)
  • IR447 Political Economy of International Labour Migration (H)
  • IR452 Empire and Conflict in World Politics (H)
  • IR463 International Political Theory of Humanitarian Intervention (H)
  • IR481 Europe, the US and Arab-Israeli Relations (H)
  • IR482 Russia and Eurasia: Foreign and Security Policies* (see note above)

Choosing Your Courses

Please see the enclosed Graduate Course Choice (GCC) FAQs sheet with information on how you will sign up for your courses once you have registered in September.

Please do not worry unduly about choosing options at this stage - everything will be explained fully at the orientation meeting on Thursday 21 September 2017.

Arrival

We very much hope that you’ll be joining us in London in September. Meanwhile, we strongly recommend that you consult the Frequently asked questions (FAQS) for offer holders on our departmental web pages for further information about the Department and your arrival.

Please see below for information regarding the status of your offer, registration arrangements and programme orientation meetings.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Professor Peter Trubowitz
Head, International Relations Department