



## Student Charter

### Introduction

This Charter was written by LSE students and staff with the aim of helping you understand the vision and ethos of LSE. It is not a contract. Instead, it aims to set out the School's core principles and to signpost key information about our structures and services. We will review it regularly to make sure that it continues to reflect our intentions and expectations.

### Our vision<sup>i</sup>

- to deliver challenging, stimulating research-led degree programmes in an environment that supports learning and develops independent thinking among our students;
- to ensure that our research and teaching remain at the forefront of the social sciences, addressing the evolving challenges of society;
- to be among the most internationally-oriented centres of social science excellence in the world;
- to extend our engagement with society across our full academic portfolio and key regions of the world; and
- to enrol the best students from around the world to benefit from, and contribute to, the learning environment at the School.

### The LSE Community

LSE is a unique institution which values its international and diverse community. It aims to provide an inclusive and accessible environment, which supports learning and the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and ideas. Its purpose can only be achieved if students can work and conduct their business peacefully, in a welcoming and non-threatening environment – one that permits freedom of thought and expression in a framework of collegiality and respect for the rights and dignity of others.

LSE aims not only to nurture debate, but also to ensure that it is conducted with mutual respect and consideration for all those involved. At LSE respect for the cultures, opinions and backgrounds of others, as well as for the physical environment of the institution and our neighbours, is an integral part of our culture.

LSE is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for students and staff from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The School aims to be an environment which is free from discrimination on the basis of race, disability, gender, age, religion, belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity.<sup>ii</sup>

As a student at LSE you are encouraged to be an active citizen, both of the School and the wider community, for example by taking part in volunteering opportunities, engaging with societies and attending the public lectures programme.

You are expected to uphold the School's reputation by behaving in accordance with its Ethics Code<sup>iii</sup> at all times and in all forms of interaction, spoken, written and virtual. We encourage those involved in any disagreement to seek informal resolution wherever possible. However, the School has regulations on appeals<sup>iv</sup>, complaints<sup>vi</sup> and discipline<sup>vii</sup> to protect both students and the community as a whole.

### Teaching, learning and assessment

As a student at LSE you will receive research-led teaching from internationally renowned academic staff. You will also be offered individual and group support from academic advisers and supervisors.

In order to make the most of your time at the School you are expected: to attend meetings with academic advisers and/or supervisors to discuss progress and raise concerns if need be; to seek guidance and support from academic staff in their office hours; to attend and take part in classes, seminars, lectures and mandatory departmental events; to inform the department of any essential absences; to manage your learning responsibly through private study; to understand guidance on good scholarly practice and assessment regulations<sup>viii</sup>; to submit course work by the deadline; and to seek and respond to feedback on coursework.

Undergraduate assessment is normally by end of year examinations, while graduate assessment relies on a combination of methods. The School is committed to high academic standards and all assessment is rigorous.

### **Academic, personal and professional development**

A variety of support services and programmes exists across LSE to support teaching and supervision by academic staff. Their purpose is to enhance your academic and, personal development and to help maximise your future employability.<sup>ix</sup>

Support services available to you include: a programme of orientation events and transitional support (e.g. a student mentor for all new undergraduate students) to help you adapt to studying at LSE; study skill resources from the Teaching and Learning Centre; language teaching through the Language Centre; a specialist Disability and Well-Being Service for students who experience permanent, long term or temporary disability; a professional Counselling Service for students with personal difficulties; and expert advice and recruitment events provided by LSE Careers.

You can get information on academic provision and support services via the library, websites, documentation, LSE for You and Moodle, our virtual learning environment.

### **Student Engagement**

LSE values your opinion, and gives you opportunities to contribute to course and programme development and to provide feedback on academic provision and support services.

Student participation and representation on committees helps to ensure that your voice is heard across the School and in your Department. The School expects that you will support programme representatives and encourages you to take part in Staff Student Liaison Committees and Student Fora.

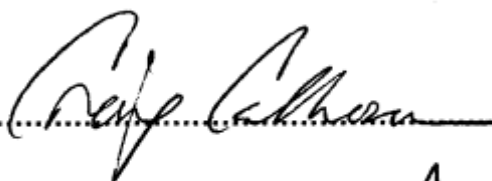
LSE will ask for your opinion on teaching and other issues via internal and national surveys. Your responses give us important information about how we can improve our services for students.

LSE Students' Union is an independent student-led, democratic organisation, which you will join automatically on becoming a student at LSE. Its focus is on improving the lives of students, through representation, campaigns and support. It exists to help students with academic, social and welfare problems, and to provide a range of sports clubs, societies, services and social activities.<sup>x</sup>

### **LSE and your future**

The School trusts that your relationship with LSE will be enjoyable and fruitful. We also hope that it will continue long after you have graduated, when you will join the worldwide network of our Alumni Association.<sup>xi</sup>

**Date last reviewed** ...May 2012 .....

**Director** ..... 

**General Secretary, Student Union** ..... 

**Further Information**

Head of the Student Services Centre

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