



Advising the Advisers

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2019



Applying to a competitive university:
LSE's Admissions Policies
and Processes

LSE Admissions Policy



- The School is committed to admitting students:
 - with the merit, potential and motivation to succeed at LSE
 - who can benefit from and contribute to the LSE community

- UG Admissions seeks to achieve these aims by:
 - providing clear and concise information about entry requirements, application procedures and the admissions process
 - upholding the principles of fairness, transparency and consistency that underpin the admissions process

LSE Admissions Figures



- **2019 Entry**
 - 21,497 UCAS applications
 - 1,727 registered places
 - 1051 UK/EU, 676 Overseas
 - Applications to places ratio:
 - 12:1 overall

| Highest | Lowest |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 17:1 Philosophy | 9:1 Sociology |
| 16:1 Government | 9:1 Statistics |
| 15:1 Law | 9:1 History |
| 15:1 Economics | 9:1 Anthropology |
| 15:1 International Relations | 8:1 Psychology |

Admissions Requirements



- UCAS tariff not used as part of the admissions criteria
- Three 'full' A levels: A*AA – AAB
- Prefer grades to be achieved at first attempt
- A levels in generally preferred (traditional, academic) subjects or two generally preferred subjects and one 'non-preferred' subject

Non-preferred A Level Subjects



- Any Applied A Level
- Accounting
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Citizenship Studies
- Communication and Culture
- Creative Writing
- Design and Technology
- Film Studies
- Health and Social Care
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Leisure Studies
- Media Studies
- Music Technology
- PE/Sports Studies
- Travel and Tourism

This list is published online and in the undergraduate prospectus

Admissions Requirements



- GCSE and AS grades are taken into consideration – minimum grade 6 or B required in GCSE English & Maths
- General Studies, Critical Thinking, Thinking Skills, Knowledge and Enquiry, EPQs, – excluded from the conditions of any offer made
- A-Level in a first/native language may be excluded if there is significant prior exposure to the language
- A-Level Mathematics is required for some programmes

Admissions Requirements



- IB grades: 38(766) – 37(666)
- Cambridge Pre-U: D2 D3 D3 – D3 D3 M1
- BTECs: considered when offered in combination with A Levels
- Access Courses: considered alongside LSE Undergraduate Admissions Assessment (UGAA)
- Further, specific, qualification and departmental information regarding requirements available on website:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/howToApply/lseEntryRequirements.aspx>

Admissions Requirements



- Meeting or even exceeding academic entry requirements does not guarantee an offer
- Personal statement is a very important aspect of admissions criteria – key element of selection process
- Reference is also important – particularly helpful when detailed and specific to applicant
- Extenuating circumstances also taken into account

Contextual Admissions



- Educational and social context taken into consideration
 - School Performance (GCSE + A-Level)
 - Low Participation Neighbourhood (POLAR4)
 - Time Spent in Local Authority Care
 - Participation in an LSE WP Programme
 - Any Other Relevant Factors
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- This information allows selectors to assess academic performance within a wider educational and social context

Contextual Admissions



- The Admissions Selector may use the contextual information in the following ways:
- To make a standard offer where the application is marginally less competitive than the cohort overall
- To make a standard offer where the applicant is predicted marginally below the standard entry requirements
- When making confirmation decisions for offer holders that have marginally failed to meet the standard entry requirements

Admissions Process



- Equal consideration given to ALL applications received at UCAS by the 15th January deadline
- All applications are first read by Admissions Assessors, who can decline if the application does not meet minimum entry requirements – decisions are verified by Senior Admissions Assessors
- Remaining applications then passed to Admissions Selectors (Specialists and Tutors) for a decision
- Selector decisions are made holistically, usually based solely on the information provided in the application



Admissions Process

- We do not currently interview any applicants
- Some applicants may be asked to sit LSE Undergraduate Admissions Assessment (UGAA)
- Applications may be considered as part of 'gathered field'
 - enables fair and equal consideration of all 'on time' applications
 - may mean earlier applications are held until later in the cycle to be reconsidered alongside later applications
- Applicants are kept informed about progress of application
- We aim to make all decisions by the 31 March UCAS deadline, although many decisions are made earlier

Admissions Process

- **Confirmation**
 - Very few 'marginally missed' offers are confirmed
 - Relevant additional information is welcomed, particularly regarding extenuating circumstances (by 30th June for IB, 31st July for other qualifications)
- **Clearing**
 - LSE has not been in Clearing for many years
- **Adjustment period**
 - LSE has not participated in Adjustment since its commencement

LSE Admissions 'Myths'



- “LSE will reject me if I apply to Oxford or Cambridge”
- “I will improve my chances of gaining admission if I apply to more than one programme”
- “LSE will reject me because my predicted grades aren't AAA”
- “LSE will reject me if I don't have 10 A*s at GCSE”
- “LSE will reject me because of the school I attend”

GCSE Reform



- New grading system (1 – 9)
- LSE - grade 6 and above is a 'good pass'
- Grade 6 = Grade B
- Grade 7 = Grade A
- Grade 8/9 = Grade A*



THE LONDON SCHOOL
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Any questions?



lse.ac.uk/study