



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

PhD in **Accounting**



Wim A Van der Stede

Head of Department of Accounting

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To use accounting analogies, I see a PhD programme like a commitment to ‘R&D’ – an ‘asset’ in development requiring patient ‘investments’ for indirect, delayed ‘returns’ several years in the future. Training and nurturing future scholars like PhDs is essential for every academic field, requiring the involvement of all the ‘stakeholders’ of a scholarly community on the basis of collectivity and reciprocity, because one’s PhD students become another one’s faculty, but also because rigorous, relevant research is invaluable for the economy and society. PhDs are a learned community’s lifeblood, not only as researchers but also as future educators. I am pleased that the Department of Accounting has a long tradition of doing its part to support research students. ”



Nadine De Gannes

AOI Track, 2018

Assistant Professor, Ivey Business School

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The PhD journey, for me, was one of discovery. Personally, I unearthed the depths of my work ethic and perseverance. In focusing intently upon a particular area of study, questioning what was known, and puzzling over what remained unknown, I discovered the types of questions I wanted to ask, and how I wanted to go about finding the answers. Both methodology and methods training are central pillars in doctoral research, and the Department of Accounting enabled these in spades. I was never left wanting for opportunities to enhance skills that were critical to the successful completion of my thesis. There was also no shortage of outstanding academics to challenge and inspire critical thinking and discussion. The PhD was not an easy road, but undoubtedly one that I believe was worthwhile. ”





PhD in Accounting programme

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a leading social science institution, internationally recognised for its excellence in teaching, research and public engagement. The Department of Accounting at LSE is strongly committed to creating and disseminating knowledge related to accounting and has long been at the forefront of research and teaching in the field. Our PhD programme provides rigorous academic training aimed at preparing students to undertake research of the highest international standards.

Our students benefit from a truly international and interdisciplinary environment. The department is home to around 24 full-time faculty from across the globe, all deeply engaged with the PhD programme. You will have access to a wide range of taught courses and research seminars across different departments and research centres within the School. You will work closely with faculty in the department throughout the programme, and you will interact with leading scholars from other universities thanks to our active external workshop series. All students admitted to the programme are normally fully funded, and financial assistance is also available for you to present your work at conferences. You will further benefit from the privileged location of the School. London is a vibrant, multicultural city, and the LSE campus, situated in central London, is only a stone's throw away from the financial district, but also Westminster, the political heart of the UK.



We provide our students with the skills necessary to become successful scholars. We offer a wide selection of courses in accounting, finance and economics, which enable students to undertake rigorous and innovative research. Our faculty is fully committed to the development of our students. ”

Ane Tamayo

Professor of Accounting



Our programme equips students to work at the cutting-edge of the field and to explore fundamental questions about the role of accounting in organisations and society. We aim not only to train but also to inspire a future generation of accounting academics. ”

Michael Power

Professor of Accounting



Supervision

During the first two years of your study (the MRes period) you will have the opportunity to meet and discuss your research interests with a range of faculty members to help ensure you have the right fit with your supervisors for your PhD.

On progression to PhD registration, you will be assigned a principal and secondary supervisor whose research interests will be a close fit to your own. Because of the close relationship

between the supervisor and their subject area, you will be able to develop a solid intellectual relationship with an experienced researcher who is directly engaged with your research progress. The direction and guidance you are given occurs through frequent student – supervisor meetings and reviews, as well as discussions of relevant academic issues during seminar presentations by faculty and visiting academics.



Programme structure

You will be expected to complete the programme within five years. In the first two years, you will take a set of core and elective courses in accounting and related fields, and complete a research paper. After the second year, you will focus on your PhD thesis. Our faculty will engage closely with your work throughout your studies. You will regularly present your research to faculty and fellow students. This provides an important source of feedback and an opportunity to develop your presentation skills.

Our PhD programme is structured in two tracks: The **Accounting, Organisations and Institutions (AOI) track**, which is devoted to the study of interrelationships between accounting, organisations and institutions, and the **Economics of Accounting (EoA) track**, which primarily examines accounting and financial reporting issues from an economics perspective.

For more information about the programme visit:
lse.ac.uk/accounting/study/MResPhD-in-Accounting



Programme requirements

Coursework: During the first two years of study (the MRes period) you will be required to complete six coursework units. The different research-led teaching components of the programme will ensure you will have exposure to different research methodologies, as well as to the literature in your field.

Research paper: During your second year, you will produce an original research paper.

PhD Thesis: After the second year, you will begin to work on your thesis. Your PhD thesis will be a significant contribution in your designated field.

Progression and assessment: To progress at the end of each year, you must pass your examined courses at grades specified by the department and make satisfactory progress in your research. AOI and EoA track progression criteria can be found here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/research.htm

Faculty review your performance and progress regularly and provide critical feedback aimed at enabling you to succeed.



Finia Kuhlmann

AOI Track, current student



As the founding and leading institution on the type of accounting research that I am interested in, I was hoping to join the Department of Accounting at LSE to learn in person from the academics whose texts I have admired since my first accounting undergraduate courses.

In doctoral seminar discussions I am humbled by the number of faculty that contribute to these sessions, and I am grateful for their time. In general, the availability of staff and faculty to help has exceeded my expectations so far. ”





AOI track

Research in the AOI track is mainly qualitative in approach, focusing on accounting processes and practices within and across organisations. Our intention is that your chosen topic will involve the investigation of how accounting practices are shaped by their institutional contexts, have behavioural consequences and can be vehicles for operationalising different values. Efforts to design internal and external accounting practices are both a function of specific economic and political interests, but are also shaped by social and political aspirations. Research in this track can potentially embrace a wide variety of accounting areas, such as studies in management accounting and organisational control processes, analyses of the impact of new accounting systems in the private and public sector, event-based work on transformations of auditing and risk regulation regimes, historical studies of accounting, as well as broader contributions to social theory.

Faculty supervising students in the AOI track have close links with LSE's Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR). They publish in leading international journals, serve as editors and editorial board members of these, and have strong relationships with the profession, policy makers and regulators.

For more information about the AOI track visit: lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Graduate/Degree-programmes-2020/MResPhD-Accounting-Accounting-Organisations-and-Institutions

Hami Amiraslani

EoA Track, 2017

Assistant Professor, INSEAD



LSE's PhD in Accounting programme offers an intellectually invigorating environment for learning and sharing ideas and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of that environment. While the structure of most PhD programmes is fairly similar, for me what distinguishes LSE's programme is the high quality of research training and mentoring that students receive.

The programme is relatively small, which fosters a highly collaborative atmosphere, both among doctoral students and between students and the faculty. This means that as a research student, you receive a lot of individual attention and support from the faculty as a whole; they not only provide high-quality guidance for your independent dissertation research, but also afford you with the discretion to develop a research agenda that plays to your strengths, allows you to forge your own research identity, and supports a successful career in academia. ”





EoA track

The emphasis is on building a good foundation in theory and research methods in economics, finance, and accounting. In the first two years of the programme, students take core courses in microeconomics, econometrics, finance, and accounting, as well as elective courses in related fields.

Research by faculty members in the EoA group covers a wide range of topics, including: the use of financial and non-financial information in internal and external decision making; the role of accounting information in financial and non-financial (eg, labour) markets; corporate governance; budgeting, performance measurement, and incentive systems; disclosure regulation; the interaction between financial reporting and legal and economic institutions; corporate social responsibility; the role of information intermediaries; financial risk management; auditing. The group extensively publishes in top-tier academic journals and serves on the editorial boards of these journals. It also actively engages with professional bodies, standard setters and policy makers, corporations, financial intermediaries (eg, auditors, financial analysts, rating agencies), as well as investors and other stakeholders.

For more information about the EoA track visit: **lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Graduate/Degree-programmes-2020/MResPhD-Accounting-Economics-of-Accounting**

Felix Vetter

EoA Track, 2020

Assistant Professor, University of Mannheim



Having just handed in my PhD, I look back at a stimulating and formative time at LSE. Throughout the years I have grown not only as an aspiring academic but also as a person. The Department of Accounting has provided me with conditions in which I thoroughly enjoyed researching and writing my PhD thesis. After my experiences here, I am excited for the next steps into the job market and future career.

I initially joined LSE not only because of its reputation as a world-leading research institution, but also because of how it links into a global network of research. The opportunities to connect with scholars in the wider academic community were something I was able to utilise over the years of my PhD in seminars, conferences, and research visit abroad. ”



Recent theses and placement highlights

Accounting Organisations and Institutions (AOI) track

Brett Considine 2019

Monash University

Auditor professional scepticism: a qualitative exploration of its development and operation in the United Kingdom

Nadine de Gannes 2018

Ivey Business School

The emergence and work processes of executive remuneration consultants

Robert Charnock 2016

University of Birmingham

Accounting and climate change: the two degrees target and financing the transition to a low-carbon economy

Dorothy Toh 2016

King's College London

The changing constellations of audit quality

Economics of Accounting (EoA) track

Felix Vetter 2020

University of Mannheim

Essays on financial gatekeeper regulation

Yang Wang 2019

Lancaster University

Essays on financial analysts and broker-hosted conferences

Daphne Hart 2019

University of Illinois at Chicago

Essays on the relation between accounting and employment, risk and valuation

Rodney Brown 2018

University of New South Wales

Essays at the intersection of taxation and financial accounting

Hami Amiraslani 2017

INSEAD

Essays on debt contracting

Funding and resources offered to our students

All our students are normally fully funded. The department will provide you with well-equipped, dedicated research space, and it will support your attendance at international conferences and workshops. The department also offers support for your placement on the job market during your final year. We offer tailored seminars for your presentation and communication skills and provide support for attending international recruitment conferences.



PhD Academy

Located in a space designed by award winning architects, the PhD Academy provides a support and advice hub for the doctoral student community. As well as being responsible for managing the administration and regulations for PhD programmes, the PhD Academy also offers the following facilities and services:

Multi-disciplinary social space: The PhD Academy common room is a dedicated space for PhD students from across disciplines to get together, to talk and socialise. An ideal space to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues this space is also used for interdisciplinary social events, training and other development activities during the year, including student-led events.

An Academic and Professional Development Programme for PhD Students which includes:

- Writing workshops
- Coaching
- Presentation skills
- Wellbeing
- Research ethics and integrity
- Research Council events

info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy



The Library

Founded in 1896, the British Library of Political and Economic Science is the major international library of the social sciences. The Library offers long opening hours, excellent resources and a superb study environment for students. Students have access to a specialist accounting Academic Support Librarian who provides subject expertise and personalised support. The following resources are also available:

- access to specialist subject databases
- over 4 million printed items, 130,000 ebooks and more than 120,000 ejournals
- over 2,000 seats, with group and silent study zones
- over 500 networked PCs, more than 35 iMacs and over 100 MacBook Airs (iRoam)
- regular exhibitions showcasing the Library's unique collections

LSE students also have access to a number of other academic libraries in Greater London and nationwide.

lse.ac.uk/library

The background image shows a multi-level university building. On the left, a wide wooden staircase with metal railings leads up, with several students walking on it. To the right, there's a lounge area with white tables, blue and yellow armchairs, and a curved yellow sofa. The building has blue structural columns and white railings on the upper levels.

How to apply

Applications for the PhD in Accounting
can be made online though LSE's
Graduate Admissions Office:

[lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Graduate](https://lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/graduate)



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This information can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact, **accounting@lse.ac.uk**

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The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances.

Design: LSE Design Unit (lse.ac.uk/designunit)

Acknowledgements: Thanks to all the students and staff who gave permission for us to publish their photographs in this prospectus. Please recycle this publication after use. **Please note:** a number of photographs in this document were taken before UK social-distancing guidance was in place.

LSE takes every step to ensure the safety of all their staff and students.



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