



THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## Advising the Advisers 2017

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

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## **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

#### 2017 Entry

- 18,428 UCAS applications
- 1,561 registered places
  - 976 UK/EU, 585 Overseas
- Applications to places ratio:
  - 12:1 overall

Highest L	Lowest
18:1 Philosophy817:1 Law816:1 International Relations8	9:1 Geography & Environment 8:1 Statistics 8:1 Mathematics 8:1 Anthropology 7:1 Sociology





- UCAS tariff not used as part of the admissions criteria
- Three 'full' A levels: A\*AA AAB
- Fourth AS level may be a requirement for some programmes
- 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
- Drama/Theatre Studies
- Film Studies

- Health and Social Care
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Leisure Studies
- Media Studies
- Music Technology
- Sports Studies
- Travel and Tourism



This list is published online and in the undergraduate prospectus



- GCSE and AS grades are taken into consideration minimum B grades 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 not be counted
- A level Mathematics is required for some programmes





- 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: <u>http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/howToApply/lseEntry</u> <u>Requirements.aspx</u>





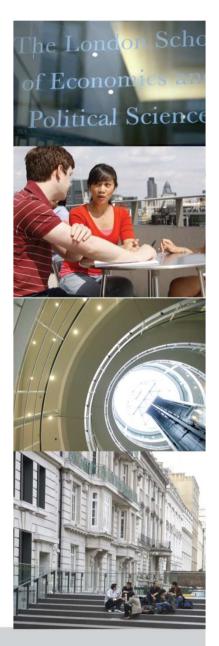
- Meeting or exceeding academic entry requirements does not guarantee an offer
- Personal statement is a very important aspect of admissions criteria – key element of selection process
- Reference is also important particularly helpful when detailed and specific to applicant
- Educational and social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





## **LSE** Admissions Process

- Equal consideration given to ALL applications received at UCAS by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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





## **LSE** 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





## **LSE** Admissions Process

#### Confirmation

- Very few 'marginally missed' offers are confirmed
- Relevant additional information is welcomed, particularly regarding extenuating circumstances
  (by 30<sup>th</sup> June for IB, 31<sup>st</sup> July for other qualifications)

#### Clearing

LSE has not been in Clearing for several years

#### **Adjustment period**

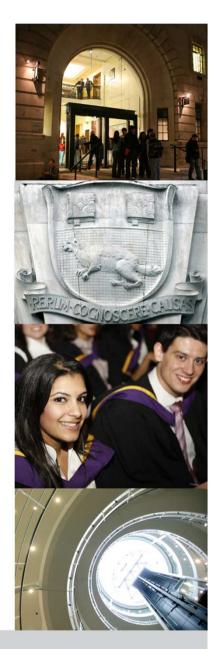
 LSE has not participated in Adjustment since its commencement





## 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"





## **Qualification Reform** How are qualifications changing?

- Linear A Levels
- Reformed in 3 Phases from 2015 to 2017
- New GCSEs with a different grading system





## **GCSE Reform**

- New grading system (1 9)
- LSE grade 5 and above is a 'good pass'
- Grade 5 = Grade B
- Grade 7 = Grade A
- Grade 8/9 = Grade A\*





# Qualification Reform LSE's Position:

- Fierce competition for places
- AS levels are an effective indicator of performance
- LSE will continue to use AS levels in our admissions assessments where possible
- If possible, applicants are advised to sit the new AS levels
- Applicants from schools not offering AS levels will not be disadvantaged







# **Any questions?**

