

Thesis submission: monograph or as a series of papers

The School allows your thesis to be submitted in one of two formats, depending on which department you are registered in:

- (1) a monograph; or
- (2) a series of papers, with an introduction, critical discussion and conclusion.

The School does not allow a 'PhD by publication', which is a PhD awarded on the basis of a series of peer-reviewed academic papers, books, citations or other materials. Submitting a thesis as a series of papers concerns the format of the thesis being examined rather than the criteria for the doctoral award.

The following departments currently allow students to submit their thesis as a series of papers:

Accounting
Anthropology
Economics
Geography
Government
International Development
Management
Social Policy
Statistics
European Institute

All other departments require a thesis to be submitted as a monograph.

Regardless of the format of your thesis, the requirements for the PhD award are the same, please see paragraphs 29-34 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) to ensure you understand the criteria your thesis will be assessed against.

You might also find it useful to look at PhD theses of our doctoral graduates which you can access in the School's online repository [LSE Theses Online](#).

Additional to the requirements set by the School, your department is responsible for providing any additional guidelines relating to a thesis submitted as a series of papers that might be specific to your particular discipline. Such guidelines would normally include (discipline-specific) information on:

- **when a decision** might be taken to submit a thesis in this particular format, and who is involved in making it – some departments require this of their students and thus the decision is known from the beginning of the programme, other departments allow flexibility over the decision-making depending on the direction of an individual student's research topic;
- whether the **requirements for department progress review and/or upgrade procedures** differ for students preparing a thesis as a series of papers;
- the **expected length** of the introduction, conclusion and linking papers; and
- the number of papers contained within the thesis (co-authored work)

If you have further questions relating to the information above, you can discuss this with your supervisor, department and/or a member of the Research Degrees Unit team.