



## **European Policy Statement (EPS)**

### **Strategy, objectives and priorities for LSE's Erasmus + activities**

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) studies the social sciences in their broadest sense, with an academic profile spanning a wide range of disciplines, from economics, politics and law, to sociology, information systems and accounting and finance. Founded in 1895 by Beatrice and Sidney Webb, LSE has an outstanding global reputation for academic excellence. It is situated in the heart of London and as such is part of one of the most diverse and lively cities in the world. Staff and students come from all walks of life and over 130 different countries, and all are encouraged to achieve their full potential in an environment of dignity and mutual respect.

LSE has a long history of enabling students from other institutions to study part of their degree at the School, with the foundation of the General Course study abroad programme in 1910. LSE also offers many double and joint masters programmes to allow students to study both at LSE and at key partner institutions overseas. LSE offers the opportunity for exchanges at undergraduate and postgraduate level, many of which are supported by the Erasmus + programme. In addition, the School offers a range of Erasmus exchange opportunities teaching staff.

The Erasmus programme enables LSE to collaborate and forge ties with key higher education institutions throughout Europe. The School aims to further promote to prospective and current LSE students and staff the opportunities available for student and staff mobility under the framework of the Erasmus + programme, and to increase the number of international activities currently on offer.

### **Specific actions to give visibility to Erasmus activities**

LSE has a dedicated Erasmus website, where the Erasmus University Charter and the EPS are also published. It provides information to both LSE students and those at our partner institutions, and is continuously updated. In addition, all academic departments with an involvement in Erasmus list opportunities for LSE students on their website.

### **Arrangements to comply with non-discrimination objectives**

LSE promotes equality of opportunity for students and staff from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. It 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. It has a dedicated Disability and Wellbeing Services team and Equality and Diversity Unit for both staff and students. Most buildings are accessible and most large lecture rooms have hearing support systems.

**Specific measures to ensure highest quality in academic mobility**

All incoming and outgoing Erasmus applications are centrally coordinated by LSE's Erasmus Coordinator, in conjunction with administrative staff in each academic department and contacts in each university where bilateral agreements have been signed.

Existing bilateral agreements are reviewed upon renewal to ensure that all those involved are maximising the potential benefit, and proposed agreements are considered on the basis of the benefits for the students involved, the need to maintain academic quality, and the relevant academic department's realistic estimate of the level of co-operative activity they can sustain.

Outgoing Erasmus students receive academic advice from their personal tutors. Study periods or placements abroad are a required part of some of our degree programmes and need to be completed in order to graduate, or are used by research students for thesis research and preparation. Staff mobility is promoted and acknowledged at a departmental level.

For incoming Erasmus students, information about LSE degree programmes and individual courses, such as content, learning outcomes and methods of delivery, is available on the internet in the 'LSE Calendar'. Registration/induction information is provided to students prior to arrival at the School. On departure from LSE, Erasmus + exchanges are recognised either with a transcript detailing the courses they have followed and marks attained or a certificate of attendance depending on the level of study.

Although the School would regard its degrees as fully compliant with the requirements of the Bologna Process, and with the first and second cycle learning outcomes described by the Qualifications Framework for the EHEA, the School does not articulate student achievement in credit terms, ECTS or otherwise.

However, the School does regard its 12-month Master degrees as being equivalent to 90 ECTS credits and 9/10-month postgraduate degrees [Diploma or MSc] as being equivalent to approximately 80 ECTS credits. This assumption is based on the learning outcomes achieved by successful candidates and on the notional learning times required to achieve them.

LSE has an extensive support network to ensure the pastoral care of all students, including incoming Erasmus students. Each student is allocated a personal tutor or academic supervisor as a point of contact for pastoral support within their department. Further support services are provided by the Student Services Centre, a dedicated Health Centre (including a confidential counselling service) and the Accommodation Office which provides students assistance with accommodation in LSE Halls of Residence or private rented accommodation.

**Erasmus + traineeships**

LSE does not currently participate in supporting Erasmus + traineeships, but continues to review this aspect of the scheme on an annual basis.