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.ac.uk/study
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19:1 Finance</td>
<td>9:1 Geography &amp; Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:1 Philosophy</td>
<td>8:1 Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:1 Law</td>
<td>8:1 Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:1 International Relations</td>
<td>8:1 Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.1 Economics</td>
<td>7:1 Sociology</td>
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LSE Admissions Requirements

- 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

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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
LSE Admissions Requirements

- 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
LSE 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
LSE Admissions Requirements

- 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 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
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 30th June for IB, 31st 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 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?