

MRes/PhD in Accounting Information Session

Tuesday 24 February 2026



Department of
Accounting



Welcome & Introductions

■ Doctoral Programme Directors

- Dr Xi Li (EoA Track)
- Dr Tommaso Palermo (AOI Track)



■ Programme Manager

- Rebecca Baker



This session will cover:

- What is an MRes/PhD?
- Why a PhD in Accounting?
- Programme Structure
- Research Areas
- Application Process
- Funding a PhD
- Q&A



What is an MRes/PhD?

- It's **hard work!**
- You attend taught courses, research seminars, workshops; you give seminar presentations and work-in-progress seminars – all from your first year!
- It requires **full-time commitment** – usually 5 years of your life. Part time applications may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- But ... it is **rewarding** for those who have a passion for research and want a career in academia



Why a PhD in Accounting?

- Excellent research environment for PhD students
- Top-ranked researchers in Accounting
- Faculty at the cutting edge of their disciplines – working on relevant, topical and interesting problems
- Opportunity to interact with well-known senior faculty as well as up-and-coming younger researchers



Why a PhD in Accounting?

- An opportunity to carry out research on fundamental and challenging problems and questions in a broad range of accounting and accounting-related subject areas (e.g., economics, finance, sustainability, social policy)
- Links with Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR)
- Access to research seminars, workshops, and national and international conferences



Why a PhD in Accounting?

- Research facilities:
 - Individual desks
 - Shared research student office
 - Computer facilities
 - Support for conference attendance
 - Library and data support



Programme Structure:

- Five year programme
- MRes → Two years, taking taught courses to the value of six units
- PhD → Three years, focussing on your thesis
- Progression criteria apply for each year
- Offered in two tracks
 - **AOI Track:** Accounting, Organisations and Institutions
 - **EoA Track:** Economics of Accounting



Research Areas

■ Accounting, Organisations and Institutions (AOI Track)

- Financial regulation and financial reporting
- Use and interpretation of financial numbers in capital markets
- Accounting reforms in the public sector
- Valuation processes and the social consequences of quantification
- Transformations of the auditing profession and auditing practices
- Social studies of markets and risk regulation
- Historical studies of accounting
- Management accounting in the digital economy

..... to study the societal, institutional and organisational roles of accounting broadly conceived mainly through **qualitative research methods**



Research Areas

■ Economics of Accounting (EoA Track)

- Financial reporting and capital markets
- Economic and real effects of accounting and disclosure
- Non-traditional financial intermediaries (e.g., crypto currency) and social media
- Corporate governance (e.g., executive compensation, board of directors, ownership structure)
- Credit markets and green debt
- Sustainability and environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing
- Financial misconduct, fraud, and political connections
- Auditing and analysts
- Employees and labor markets
- Contracting and performance evaluation

.....mainly **empirical archival** analysis.



Outline of MRes: AOI Track

Year 1:

- AC502 Foundations of Accounting, Organisations and Institutions
- AC500 Topics in Accounting Research (AOI) (examined in Year 2)
- Methodology courses (e.g. MY500, MY521, MY551)
- Other elective courses (e.g. SO470 The Sociology of Markets)

Year 2:

- AC599 Research Paper in Accounting
- AC504 Topics in Accounting Research (AOI)
- Other elective courses
- AC507 Accounting work in progress seminar (not examined)

Plus attendance of research seminars and workshops.



Outline of MRes: EoA Track

Year 1:

- EC400 Introductory Course in Mathematics and Statistics (pre-sessional)
- AC506 Topics in Accounting Research (EoA) (examined in Year 2)
- EC411 Microeconomics
- EC402 Econometrics
- FM436 Financial Economics

Year 2:

- AC599 Research Paper in Accounting
- AC501 Topics in Accounting Research (EoA)
- Other elective courses (e.g. MY474 Applied Machine Learning for Social Science, MY559 Quantitative Text Analysis, FM502 Corporate Finance)
- AC507 Accounting work in progress seminar (not examined)

Plus attendance of research seminars and workshops.



Graduate Destinations

- Copenhagen Business School
- Deutsche Bank
- Harvard Business School
- HEC Montreal
- HEC Paris
- Imperial College London
- INSEAD
- Ivey Business School
- King's College London
- Lancaster University
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Monash University
- Oxford University
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Mannheim
- University of New South Wales



Recent Theses and Placement Highlights: AOI Track

Charlotte Bartels (2024) Deutsche Bank: *Shifting corporate concerns: Three papers on sustainability, corporate responsibility and the changing role of accounting*

Finia Kuhlmann (2023) HEC Paris: *Accounting for vulnerability*

Rani Suleman (2022) HEC Montreal: *Accounting for altruism: tracing the transformation of the modern-day charity in the United Kingdom*

Dmitrii Zhikharevich (2020) European University at St Petersburg: *Heuristics of capital: A historical sociology of U.S. venture capitalism, 1946-1968*

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*



Recent Theses and Placement Highlights: EoA Track

Andreya Perez-Silva (2022) University of California, San Diego
Essays on Firm Stakeholders

Felix Vetter (2020) University of Mannheim (now M.I.T)
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



Application Process

- Look at the research interests of faculty members
- Apply for each track separately - have an idea of the general direction you want your research to take and articulate this in your application
- Apply through the Graduate Admissions online system and include all required documents. Incomplete applications will not be released to selectors
- GMAT/GRE score must be included for EoA. English Language test scores can be provided later
- When the initial evaluation is favourable, you will be invited to interview



PhD Funding

- **Full funding is available.** Applicants are entered for funding when application is made, no separate process or form.
 - **Fees + generous bursary, including:**
 - LSE stipend equivalent **£23,802** for 2026-27
 - Plus **£5,000** top up from the Department for:
 - Class teaching, marking and RA work
 - Reimbursement of **UK Visa fees and healthcare surcharges** for the duration of PhD study
 - **£5,000 research budget** for years 2-5 of the programme
- **Successful applicants are normally fully funded**



Application deadline

- Application deadline: **27 May 2026**
- However, the selection process for funded places takes place earlier so **the Department strongly encourages early applications.**
 - Consideration for LSE PhD Studentships, subject to availability: **Final application deadline 27 May 2026.**
- Selection for funding is based on receipt of a **complete application** – including all ancillary documents, references etc.



Top Tips

■ **Apply Early:** Applications are reviewed, and offers are made on a **rolling basis**, so places may fill up early.

■ **Do NOT** contact individual faculty. **All inquiries** should be directed to Doctoral Programme Directors (DPDs) or Programme Manager.

■ **What are we looking for?**

- Outstanding academic performance in previous degrees
- Strong **quantitative** skills (EoA track)
- Demonstrated **commitment** and **determination** for research
- Strong **communication** skills: the ability to effectively convey ideas both orally and in writing
- Intellectual curiosity



Common Q&As (EoA Track)

■ **Do I need to have a master's degree or a degree in accounting/finance to apply?**

No, but you need to have relevant knowledge in economics, accounting, and/or finance.

■ **Is there a minimum requirement for GPA or GMAT/GRE score?**

No, we evaluate applications holistically. However, we place greater emphasis on quantitative courses and scores.

■ **Do I need to have prior research experience?**

No, but we look for candidates with a strong commitment and determination for research. Prior research experience is one way to demonstrate these qualities.

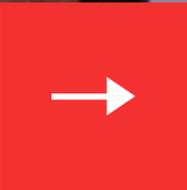
■ **Do I need to have programming skills?**

No, you can learn them during the PhD programme. However, familiarity with programming languages (e.g., Python, R, SAS, Stata) is a plus, as it demonstrates your commitment to research.





ANY QUESTIONS?





Thank you for joining us

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch:

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Graduate Admissions:
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/graduate/contact-graduate-admissions>



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