



# MRes/PhD in Accounting Information Session

Thursday 20 November 2025

This session will be recorded



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:

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- 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

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## 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

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## 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

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**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

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**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 (currently £27,780)
  - Supplemented with class teaching, marking and RA work
  - Reimbursement of UK Visa fees and healthcare surcharges for the duration of PhD study
- **Successful applicants are normally fully funded**



# Application deadline

- Application deadline: **27 May 2026**
- However, the selection process for funded places takes place earlier:
  - Guaranteed consideration for LSE PhD Studentships and ESRC funding: **Deadline 14 January 2026**.
  - 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.

**The Department strongly encourages early applications.**



# 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?**

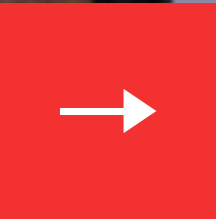
No, you can learn them during the PhD programme. However, familiarity with programming languages (e.g., Python, R, SAS, Stata) is a plus, as it demonstrates your commitment to research.







**ANY QUESTIONS?**







Department of  
**Accounting**

# Thank you for joining us

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

Rebecca Baker, Programme Manager:  
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Graduate Admissions:  
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Graduate/Contact-Graduate-Admissions>

