



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Welcome to the Centre for Language Studies

Undergraduate Handbook 2026/27



lse.ac.uk/languages



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Section 1: Welcome and congratulations





About the Centre for Language Studies

Firstly, welcome to LSE and to our Centre. I was, a long time ago, a first year at LSE too and remember arriving in London with a mix of excitement and uncertainty. However, through meeting the other students on my programme (this is what Tuesday's Welcome events are for), it all settled into place. Through this site, our events and the chance we will give you to meet Year 4 students, we hope to help things settle for you.

Languages have been taught at LSE for over 100 years. The current Centre for Language Studies was founded in 1996 to offer institution-wide language programmes for staff and students at the School. We offer degree courses in five languages (French, German, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish) and in literature and linguistics. In addition, we offer non degree courses in nine languages, and as language students, you can enrol free of charge on these courses (see the section on Non degree language courses).

We teach our courses in the context of social scientific study and research. Our language courses are "language and society", and economic, social and political themes run through all the courses we teach. Our literature courses are similarly focused on placing literature in the social context in which the works you study were written. Sociolinguistics and intercultural communication also have to be taught in ways that emphasise the setting and cultural contexts of language use.

Staff at the Centre are experienced language teachers, many of whom have taught at the Centre for years. LSE is a fascinating institution for anyone interested in understanding human behaviour, and we try to bring our own professional expertise to students' thinking about social, economic and political life. Although we teach around 2,000 LSE students each year, we only have 30 degree programme places per year, so you are joining a small and collegial Centre, where we know each student by name. We look forward to having you on our degree programmes and in our classes.

Finally, I'll hand you over to Melisande and Marie-Solveig who will tell you **three things you need to know about the Centre for Language Studies** and their experience as language students.



Dr Neil McLean

Director, Centre for Language Studies



Welcome to our Language Community



During Welcome there are many events you can take part in. These are organised by ourselves, the School and the LSE Student Union. Throughout the year we have a planned programme of events and opportunities. These range from small events to bigger celebrations such as Chinese New Year and Burns Night, as well as LSE Language Community get togethers to which all LSE language learners are invited.

The LSE Language Community: extra-curricular language practice

We run extra-curricular language learning opportunities, including Conversation Circles, Bitesize Speaking sessions, Tandem Learning and Improvisation sessions. It is the perfect way to practise your languages outside the classroom and meet students from other departments. Join the [LSE Language Community](#) on Moodle where extra-curricular opportunities can be booked.

Volunteer for the Centre

There are many opportunities to volunteer at LSE starting with the Centre for Language Studies – as part of the LSE Language Community you could volunteer to lead a Conversation circle or Bitesize speaking sessions, as well as help out at our get togethers. If you are interested, please [contact us](#) or sign up directly using the [volunteer application form](#).

Other volunteering opportunities around LSE include the [LSE Volunteer Centre](#) and you could also get involved with the LSESU Modern Languages Society, who run coffee breaks, games nights and cultural events.

Keeping up to date with Centre news and events

Details of our events are on the [current Undergraduate Students' website](#), but please also follow us on the [Student Hub](#), including any groups we set up for your programme, so we can keep you informed and remind you about events that will be of interest. You can also follow us on [Instagram](#) where we post news and updates, as well as photos and reels taken during events.



Section 2: Professional Services Team





Our Professional Services Team can help you with any questions you might have, such as who to speak to about your course, the location of a building or a classroom at LSE – this will especially be the case in your first few weeks at LSE. They also organise our events and socials, as well as Conversation Circles, Bitesize speaking sessions, group tutorials and Language Community get togethers.

Please feel free to contact them with your questions, either by email or drop by The Huddle!

Our Professional Services Staff are:

Helen Mayer

Maggie Evans

Inés Alonso García

Sabrina Rabi

We will keep in touch with you via the **Student Hub** so, if you have not done so already, please make sure you download this and join the Centre for Language Studies page and the Centre for Language Studies: BSc students 2026/27 group.

The Huddle

The Huddle, STC.02, is your space on campus. It provides language students with some much needed study space and a place to meet. Our Professional Services Team are based here too.

Teaching staff are based in Pethick-Lawrence House.

Email: [**languages@lse.ac.uk**](mailto:languages@lse.ac.uk)

Postal address:

Centre for Language Studies

The Huddle, STC.02

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street

London, WC2A 2AE



Section 3: Key Programme Staff



**Dr Neil McLean**

Director

Neil is responsible for managing the Centre and its relationship with the rest of the School. He is also our Departmental Tutor.

Email: N.D.McLean@lse.ac.uk

Alison Standring

Deputy Director

Alison is responsible for educational quality and monitoring, and responding to student feedback within the Centre. She is also our Academic Mentoring Lead.

Email: A.Standring@lse.ac.uk

Dr Catherine Hua Xiang

Programme Director

BSc International Relations and Chinese. **Catherine** co-ordinates Mandarin, Japanese and Korean teaching.

Email: H.Xiang@lse.ac.uk

Dr Olga Sobolev

Programme Director

BSc Language, Culture and Society

Olga is Chair of our Examination Sub-Board and responsible for the smooth running of all assessment processes within the Centre.

Email: O.Sobolev@lse.ac.uk

John Heyworth

Centre Manager

John is responsible for the efficient management of the Centre's human, financial and space resources. As well as being the Programme Manager for the Centre's BSc programmes, he also manages the Centre's Professional Services Team.

Email: J.Heyworth@lse.ac.uk



Academic Mentors

At the start of each academic year all students will be assigned an Academic Mentor. You will meet your Academic mentor several times over the course of your first year.

The Role of the Academic Mentor

Your Academic Mentor will:

- Provide you with academic guidance and feedback on your progress and performance;
- Discuss any academic challenges you may be experiencing;
- Provide pastoral support on non-academic issues and refer you, as necessary, to the appropriate support agencies within the School;
- Meet with you regularly and maintain regular contact with you outside of meetings via email and other appropriate methods.

Mentors will be able to give you advice and discuss a range of academic and pastoral issues. These can include academic progress, course choices, internships, deferral, examinations and personal circumstances. Academic Mentors are also one of the first points of contact for you if you are facing difficulties with your studies.

Office Hours

All teaching staff at LSE, including class teachers and Academic Mentors, hold regular office hours. Office hours give you the opportunity to speak to teaching staff or to your Academic Mentor about any questions you might have. [John Heyworth](#), the Centre Manager, also offers a weekly drop-in during term time.

You can book an Office hour appointment via the [Student Hub](#). Please note that Office Hours only run during LSE term time.



Centre for Language Studies

General Aims

We teach a range of courses and our degree programmes are unique to LSE. We offer two joint degree programmes with the Departments of International Relations and Sociology. We also offer a range of degree courses in languages, literature and linguistics. In addition, we teach around 1,500 LSE students a language each year through our non degree language programme.

BSc International Relations and Chinese

This programme offers the chance to study China as a global power, while developing Mandarin to a level that will allow graduates to work in China, or with Chinese counterparts. The programme includes a year abroad in Shanghai, studying at Fudan University.

BSc Language, Culture and Society

This programme offers the study of language in its own right, as well as understanding language as a social institution and cultural resource. Students can choose from five languages, with years abroad in China, France, Germany, Russia or Spain. Graduates will leave LSE not only able to use their chosen language in professional contexts, but also with a deep insight into the use of language itself, and how its use influences social outcomes.





Assessment

Assessment Types

Formative assessment

Many courses include a formative assessment component, which does not count towards your final degree results, but which is compulsory. Formative assessment components are designed to help you with your studies and provide opportunities for individual feedback from teachers in order to give you an idea of how you are progressing. Course teachers will provide you with feedback, usually in the form of written comments and a mark. This feedback is useful in your preparation for the summative assessments as it should help you to improve and develop.

Summative assessment

Each LSE course will be summatively assessed by coursework and/or examination. Summative assessment results will count towards your final degree classification.

In the Centre for Language Studies, you will benefit from continuous assessment throughout the year. This rewards you for working consistently, and is normally complemented with a final examination in Spring term.

Please see the online course guides for specific information about what is required regarding formative and summative assessments. You will also be notified of this by your class teacher.

Assessment Criteria and Guidelines

All compulsory courses on your programme will have a presence in Moodle. This will include information on how your courses are assessed, the criteria used as well as guidelines when submitting coursework. If you are not sure about anything, always consult the teacher(s) of the course in question. There is more information on Moodle itself in this guide.



Feedback

You will get different kinds of feedback on your work. Feedback on essays tends to balance what you did well with what you can improve next time. Markers want to guide you to better argumentation in general, as well as to challenge your thinking and ideas. Feedback on language learning tends though to focus on developing your own ability to edit your communication in your chosen language. For instance, we often use marking symbols to tell you the kind of error you've made, so you can correct the text yourself. This will personalise your learning, helping you to learn from your own mistakes – perhaps the most valuable kind of learning. This kind of feedback is designed to be regular, and will be given to you within a week of submitting your work, as long as you keep handing in your coursework throughout the academic year.

Your Study Abroad

We have **five study abroad destinations in China, France, Germany, Kazakhstan and Spain**. We try to ensure that you can visit your destination during your first or second year, so that when you arrive for your year abroad, you are already familiar with the institution and the city where you will be living.

During your year abroad, your primary focus will be on improving your language skills, but you will also be able to audit courses in your other discipline – International Relations or Sociology. Those completing research projects in their final year in London will also be able to gather data for these projects during their time “in-country”.

Non Degree Language Courses

We offer a **Non degree language programme** to the LSE community:

This puts you in a privileged position as we have decided that all students taking a BSc programme at the Centre will be able to register, for free, on one of these courses each year they are at LSE. This means, in addition to your degree programme, you will now have a second choice from one of nine languages. You will need to follow the normal registration procedure as outlined on the programme website but then, when you come to register, you will not need to pay an additional fee.



Section 4: Course Selection and Timetables





Programme structure and what you need to do

Each year of an undergraduate programme comprises four papers. Each of these papers is completed by taking either one full, or two half units.

You can view the regulations for our programmes using these links to the LSE Calendar:

[BSc International Relations and Chinese](#)

[BSc Language, Culture and Society](#)

You will need to select all your courses in [LSE for You](#) – both your compulsory courses and any options. Your timetable will then be created by the Timetables Team.

When to select your courses

- Undergraduate course selection will open for all new LSE students on **Tuesday 8 September 2026**.
- Course selection across LSE will close at 5pm on **Monday 12 October 2026**.

If something goes wrong, emergency changes to course selections can be made until **19 October 2026**. After this no changes can be made, no matter the circumstances.





How to select your courses

- 1 Find out about your courses** – Go to lse.ac.uk/findcourses to access tools and information on the courses you can take in Year 1.
- 2 In your pre-arrival communications**, we advised who to contact regarding your modern language course. The appropriate Language Co-ordinator will have been able to advise you on which course to select.
- 3 Select your courses in [LSE for You](#)** – Go to lse.ac.uk/selectcourses for step-by-step instructions on how to select your courses on [LSE for You](#). Remember you need to input all four courses for Year 1.
- 4 Check you have Moodle access for your selected courses** – Providing your selected courses are ready in Moodle, you should automatically be enrolled on their Moodle pages a few hours after selecting your courses on [LSE for You](#).

Capped courses

Some courses are capped; this means that there are only a limited number of places available on that course. You can access a full list of [capped courses online](#).

In Year 1, given your programme regulations, this will not be an issue for you and throughout your programme we will always prioritise your language studies course choices.

Each department handles this slightly differently and information about the likelihood of getting a place on a course will be included in the relevant Course Guide in the LSE Calendar.

So, in future years, if your preferred outside option is capped, it is sensible to have a backup in case you cannot get a place. If you cannot get a place on your preferred outside option, remember that you can potentially take it in your fourth year.



Timetables

Undergraduate students are allocated to all teaching centrally by the Timetables Team. We recommend that you make your initial selections in [LSE for You](#) before **5pm on Monday 21 September 2026**. You should receive your personal timetable at **10am on Friday 25 September 2026**. After this, if you make changes to your course selections it can take up to three working days for these to be reflected on your personal timetable.

Can't see your timetable?

Personal timetables are published at the end of September on LSE for You. Before you start selecting courses on LSE for You, you should complete [online pre-enrolment](#) (new students) and activate your IT account, as part of the pre-enrolment process, in order to see your timetable. If the timetable still does not show, after pre-enrolment, it is possible this is due to a timetable clash.

There is a "Student Timetable Clashes" screen in LSE for You which may help to identify your clash. This screen provides details of simple clashes, these are the straightforward lecture to lecture clashes. Some clashes are more complex and do not appear on the list in LSE for You. Complex clashes may involve more than two courses and often arise when a clash free seminar/class group can't be found even though there are multiple groups.

You are also advised to consult the School-level timetables (found on the Timetables webpage) and check all of your course timings so you understand the full nature of the clash(es).

For more information about timetable clashes and how to access your personal timetable, please refer to the [Undergraduate Course Selection and Timetables](#) Student Guide section 7 and the information on [Timetables webpages](#).

If you can't see your timetable, or it is incomplete, **after 25 September** check that you have:

- Completed [online pre-enrolment](#) and campus enrolment
- Selected all your courses in [LSE for You](#)
- Not selected a course which creates a timetable clash (check the [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/timetables](#). Timetable viewed by course Code).
- Not made changes within the last three working days.



Changing your timetable

It is not possible to change the lectures in your timetable; there is usually only one lecture for each course, and it takes place at a fixed time. You can potentially change class/seminar group in exceptional circumstances. To request a group change apply using the "Undergraduate Class/Seminar Group Change Request" tool within [LSE for You](#). You should include details of why you need to change group and outline your availability for alternative groups. We may request evidence in support of your request.

You can request a class group change via [LSE for You](#), but you should be aware that this is at the discretion of the department running the course. You may need to provide evidence justifying the need to change classes. It is at the discretion of each department to define what reasons are valid for a class change. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch with the teaching department for the course directly. Please also note that any potential class group changes are subject to availability. You can find more information on the [class and seminar group change requests webpage](#).

Your main contact in the Centre, should you have any questions or problems relating to Course Selection and Timetabling, is [John Heyworth](#).

Auditing courses

Some LSE courses allow for students to "audit". This is an informal arrangement where you join the lectures but do not go to classes/seminars or take the assessments.

As an informal arrangement, it is not possible for LSE to confirm whether you have audited a course; it will not appear in your course selections, on your timetable or on your transcript. If you do choose to audit a course you should first check that your timetable will allow you to join the lectures. If so, contact the relevant course leader and ask permission to audit their course. **You must not attend any classes/seminars for courses you are auditing.**

We do not recommend that you audit any courses in Year 1; you have got a full year ahead of you and should concentrate on the courses that you are formally registered for.



Winter term course selection

Course selection will reopen at the start of Winter term 2026, however as you are only selecting full units or paired courses (ie, courses that run over Autumn and Winter term) you will not be able to make any changes.

Getting help

Your main contact in the Centre, should you have any initial questions or problems relating to Course Selection and Timetabling, is the Centre Manager, **[John Heyworth](#)**.

There are some central services you can also check in with for specific issues:

- For queries about the course selection process, you can contact the Student Services Centre (SSC) via **[their enquiry form](#)**. The SSC can help if you are experiencing issues with the **[LSE for You](#)** system.
- For queries about your timetable, you can contact the Timetables team at **lse360.my.site.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form**. Please do check the list of common problems above first.
- If you are not able to access **[LSE for You](#)** at all then contact **[Tech Support](#)**.
- If you have a question about Moodle, please contact **eden.digital@lse.ac.uk**





Section 5: LSE100





LSE100 is LSE's flagship interdisciplinary course, taken by all undergraduate students in the first year of their degree programme. The course is designed to build your capacity to tackle multidimensional problems through research-rich education. It also provides unique opportunities to examine global challenges in collaboration with peers from other departments and leading academics from across the School.

Your LSE100 Theme

Before enrolling at LSE, you will have the opportunity to select one of three themes to focus on during LSE100. Each theme foregrounds a complex and pressing question facing social scientists. In 2026/27, the available themes are:

- How can we control AI?
- How can we transform our climate futures?
- How can we create a fair society?

For more information about each theme, visit: info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/lse100/welcome

LSE100 is a single course, and the themes are highly interconnected. Whichever theme you choose, you will have opportunities throughout the course to explore how issues from different themes relate to one another, including in both your individual and group assessments.

Alongside learning about your chosen theme from a range of disciplinary perspectives, you will also study the tools and frameworks of systems thinking and systems change. These interdisciplinary fields are increasingly adopted by academics, policymakers, corporations, and NGOs. During LSE100, you will develop a holistic understanding of how complex systems operate and how the social sciences can enable positive change at a systemic level.



How will I study in LSE100?

LSE100 is a half-unit course running across the Autumn and Winter Terms in the first year of your undergraduate degree. Each term, you will attend five 90-minute, interactive, discussion-based seminars held in alternating weeks.

Before each seminar, you will use Moodle to watch short video lectures featuring leading LSE academics and complete carefully selected readings that explore ideas and arguments from across the social sciences.

How will I be assessed?

Your LSE100 mark is based on two summative assessments:

- One individual written assessment (50 per cent).
- One group research project (50 per cent), which you will complete and present as a team.

Your final mark will be included with your other first-year marks and, if it is one of your six highest marks, will count towards your overall first-year average.

Chat with the LSE100 Team

If you have any questions, please get in touch at LSE100@lse.ac.uk or visit the LSE100 Course Office in KSW 4.10, located on the fourth floor of 20 Kingsway (KSW).

You can find out more about LSE100 at lse.ac.uk/LSE100, and you can also follow the course on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Student Hub](#).





Section 6: LSE beyond your department





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LSE beyond your department

Your department is at the heart of your LSE experience – your academic home. But it's only one part of a large, dynamic university full of opportunities to learn, connect, and grow. It can take time to explore what's available, and you're not expected to do everything. Your experience is yours to shape.

This section of your handbook introduces that wider offer and is structured around a set of themes covering different aspects of your LSE experience – from developing as a scholar and looking after your wellbeing to building connections, broadening your horizons, and shaping your future. You can explore each of these themes further with [LSE LIFE](#) – your one-stop shop for opportunities beyond your programme. There's no need to have it all figured out – just start where you are, follow your curiosity, and take opportunities that feel right for you.

You will also see mention of [LSE Students' Union](#) (LSESU) – the student-led organisation that represents all LSE students. It is independent to LSE, and organises student-run societies, activities, and campaigns.

LSE LIFE – your personal guide to LSE

So many opportunities, so many choices, so much to explore. Think of LSE LIFE as your personal guide to LSE – helping you find the skills, experiences, and opportunities that feel right for you during your time with us. LSE LIFE is here for you throughout the year – both online and on the Ground Floor of the Library:

- The **LSE LIFE events and opportunities listings** are regularly updated, central listings of all the extracurricular happenings across LSE. You can filter by provider and theme, or just browse and see what strikes your interest!
- **LIFE Conversations** are one-to-one appointments providing personalised guidance about student life, settling into London, or making the most of what's on offer. LSE LIFE advisers can help clarify your goals, make a plan for your next steps, and help you find the teams and programmes that best fit your interests.
- The **LSE LIFE space** is a bright, open space located right on the ground floor of the Library. Perfect to study by yourself or with friends, attend a workshop or event, or drop by at the reception with any questions you might have.



Own your learning

Shape your intellectual journey – whether for success in the classroom or world-changing research

Studying at LSE is probably unlike anything you've done before – and that's part of what makes it exciting. You'll encounter ideas that challenge your assumptions, arguments that demand a response, and questions that don't have easy answers. You'll be expected to read critically, write persuasively, question evidence, speak up in classes and seminars, and develop a point of view that is genuinely your own. It can feel like a shift from being told what to think to working out how to think: reading independently, testing ideas, and deciding how to use your time. Lectures and seminars matter, but much of your progress happens in the hours around them.

That's a lot to ask. It's also one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do. You're not expected to arrive knowing how to do all of this, and you won't get there simply by putting in more hours. A common misconception is to confuse effort with progress: reading endlessly or spending long days in the library can feel productive without making your thinking much clearer. Progress tends to come from smaller, more deliberate habits – reading selectively, turning notes into arguments, and testing your understanding in discussion with your peers.

Your department, teachers, and academic mentor are your first point of contact – but there's extensive support beyond that. Across LSE, specialist teams can help you at every stage of your academic journey.

- **Learning Lab** is there for you at every stage of your learning journey – from finding your footing to thinking more critically, writing more convincingly, and getting more from your reading. **Workshops** run throughout the year on a variety of topics such as academic writing, critical reading, research planning, exam preparation, dissertation writing, and using AI tools critically and effectively. You can also book **one-to-one sessions** with Learning Lab Study Advisers to discuss specific aspects of your work.
- **LSE Library** is a central part of your learning environment, providing access to course readings and extensive research collections, alongside a wide range of study spaces. From Winter Term, it's open 24 hours a day. You can also discover alternative study spaces across campus with the **Facilities Guide**. Each department also has a **dedicated librarian** who can help with any Library questions, such as finding, evaluating, and referencing resources.



- The **Centre for Language Studies** offers free **English for Academic Purposes (EAP)** courses in Autumn and Winter Terms. EAP focuses on the skills required to perform in an English-speaking academic environment across the core subject areas you will encounter during your time at LSE.
- **Digital Skills Lab** can support you in developing key digital and data skills that underpin many courses and assessments.

Using these resources early can help you find your footing more quickly. It's also worth coming back to them at key points in the year – for example, before your first summative assessments or when you start working on longer pieces of research. Over time, you'll develop a sense of what works best for you – whether that's how you organise your study, approach your reading, or make use of different kinds of support.

Three ways to start

- Join a Getting Started with the Library session during Welcome to learn more about what it has to offer!
- Attend a **Learning Lab session** in your first fortnight.
- Find a study space that works for you – the Library, a café, or your hall's common room.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Own your learning**





Centre your self

Prioritise your wellbeing, adapt to change, and build strength from the inside out.

Looking after yourself isn't a distraction from your studies. It's the foundation on which you build everything else, and it means different things at different times. Sometimes it's about building habits that help you stay on track: managing your workload, knowing your limits, finding routines that work for you. Sometimes it means genuinely switching off – a yoga session, a workout, or a mindful break. Sometimes it means recognising that you need support and knowing how to find it.

Unwind and recharge: make time to relax and enjoy yourself

Whether you're deep in revision or simply spending time on campus between lectures and seminars, it's important to make space to relax, recharge, and enjoy yourself – even during the busiest periods of the academic year. From sports and wellbeing sessions to creative arts and crafts events: explore upcoming activities and events with the [Unwind and recharge](#)-filter on the [LSE LIFE events](#) listing.

You don't have to measure whether an issue is "serious enough" to raise with someone. A better question is whether it's making it harder for you to work, think clearly, or stay steady. If it is, that's enough reason to seek support – and early help usually gives you more options than late help. The following teams are here for you at every stage:

- The [Student Wellbeing Service](#) offers [wellbeing appointments](#), counselling, workshops, and guidance when you're struggling or simply unsure what kind of support would help. They can help you talk through stress, anxiety, low mood, loneliness, homesickness, or a situation you're finding hard to manage. For students with disabilities, long-term health or mental health conditions, or specific learning difficulties, there's also a dedicated [Disability and Mental Health Service](#).
- [Peer Supporters](#) are trained student volunteers who help by offering a non-judgemental, confidential listening space to any LSE student. They will listen, and if you wish, can help you explore options for how to move forward. Any student can speak to any peer supporter and reaching out is a chance to build connections and speak to students you might not otherwise meet.



- The [Faith Centre](#) offers spaces for worship, quiet reflection, chaplaincy, and interfaith activity for all students, whether faith is central to your life or not. For some it's a place of worship, and for others it's a calm, reflective space. They offer weekly [Ashtanga Yoga and Tai Chi sessions](#) throughout the year. The [Faith Centre Director and Chaplain to LSE](#), Revd Canon Prof James Walters, offers confidential support regardless of your background or beliefs. You can also directly contact our Muslim, Catholic, Jewish, and Orthodox [Associate Chaplains](#).
- The [Halls Wellbeing Team](#) can provide wellbeing support and guidance if you live in LSE halls of residence. Check the [Halls Life platform](#) for more halls wellbeing information and resources.
- [LSESU Sports](#) has plenty of options to get involved, from the gym and drop-in sessions to sports clubs, the inclusive sport programme, and departmental sport. Staying active is a great way to support your wellbeing, lift your mood, and ease your stress – whether you're trying something new or getting back into a routine.

Three ways to start

- Make time to attend one [Unwind and recharge](#)-event that strikes your interest.
- Pick up a wall calendar from the [LSE LIFE reception desk](#) to help you stay organised.
- Take a walk through Lincoln's Inn Fields between lectures or seminars.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Centre your self](#)



Build your community

Get involved, connect with others, and make the most of what LSE and London have to offer.

LSE is a genuinely global institution. Your peers come from every corner of the world, bringing with them different perspectives, experiences, and ways of understanding the challenges that define our time. You'll meet people whose beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of seeing the world differ profoundly from your own. That's one of the most valuable things LSE offers – and it asks something of you in return: the willingness to listen and to engage thoughtfully, even if that means experiencing the discomfort of genuine difference. An LSE education doesn't just consist of lectures and assignments: it's also built from conversations, collaborations, and debates that don't appear on any transcript. Sometimes those conversations will challenge you. Sometimes they'll change you. The relationships you build and the communities you find here are fundamental parts of your experience and your education.

Building that community takes a little intention – showing up, trying things, and being open to connections you didn't necessarily expect. Societies, student groups, volunteering, and School-wide events are often the easiest routes in, but different things work for different people. Find what feels right for you, and don't try to do everything at once: one society, one regular event, or one study group will do more for your sense of belonging than signing up to many things and struggling to commit to any of them.





Find your people at LSE

Whatever your background, interests, or experiences, you are at home in the LSE community.

One of the best ways to meet new people is to connect over something you already share. The [Find your people](#)-filter on the LSE LIFE [opportunities listings](#) is designed to help you do just that. It gathers activities built around a common background, identity, or interest – covering cultural and national societies, sports clubs, music groups, and faith communities. You'll also find peer mentoring for undergraduate and neurodivergent students, [Professionals at LSE](#) events for students with five or more years of work experience, alumni mentoring for ethnic minority students, tailored programmes for female, disabled, and LGBTQIA+ start-up founders, and an [LGBTQIA+ role models directory](#), among many other events and programmes. The School also hosts celebrations for Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, and Women's History Month, amongst others. You will be able to find many of these online on the EDI calendar and on campus in the Hall-Carpenter Room – a dedicated space to cultivate an environment of inclusivity, available for student use.

Creating an inclusive experience for every student is a core priority for the School. The [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#) team actively works with the community to deliver action plans that advance equity and inclusion for students with protected characteristics and those who are underrepresented at the School through targeted work and initiatives. There is also work to foster good relations and positive dialogue across our diverse School community which you can find out more about on the [Campus Relations webpages](#).

Last but not least, don't forget London itself is part of the offer, too! Our campus is located right in the centre of the city – moments from the River Thames, Covent Garden, the Royal Courts of Justice. Make time to explore! You can find detailed accessibility guides on [AccessAble](#), that cover all buildings on campus and include route maps.



- **LSESU Societies** are one of the main ways to meet fellow students through shared interests, identities, and activities. With over 200 individual societies covering academic interests, cultural identities, sports, politics, media, the arts, and more, they are great for getting together with others on a regular basis.
- The **Faith Centre** is home to the LSE's diverse religious activities, transformational interfaith **leadership programme**, and a quiet, reflective space for both students and staff.
- **LIFE in London** is a series of free events and trips designed to connect you to London, fellow students, as well as some of the great experiences the city has to offer. From concerts and workshops to heritage-themed trips, there is something for everyone.
- **Halls Life** is the platform for student life in LSE accommodation, offering events, student-written guides and experiences, and key information to help you make the most of your time in halls.

Three ways to start

- Check out the Discover LSE Fair and the LSESU Welcome Fair in Autumn Term, and the Welcome Back Fair in Winter Term – the offer is vast!
- Explore a London neighbourhood you've never been to.
- Talk to someone on your programme you haven't talked with before.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Build your community**



Broaden your horizons

Develop a global perspective and engage with ideas, cultures, and questions that challenge and inspire you.

LSE is a place where people come together to debate, question, and explore the major issues shaping the world. Your degree is part of that conversation, but the intellectual life of the School extends far beyond your programme. Public events, lectures, discussions, and research talks give you the chance to encounter ideas, arguments, and perspectives that sit alongside – or sometimes challenge – what you study in class.

You don't need to attend everything. In fact, it's usually more valuable to engage selectively and thoughtfully: follow a question that genuinely interests you, explore a topic just outside your subject, or listen to people whose views differ from your own. Sometimes a single event or conversation is enough to change how you think about an issue, or to introduce you to a field, debate, or perspective you want to pursue further.

- **LSE Events** hosts one of the most active public lecture programmes of any university in the world. From heads of state and Nobel laureates to leading researchers, journalists, and policymakers: this is your chance to hear from some of the most influential figures in the social sciences first-hand. You can join the debate by posing your questions to the panel and even possibly meet the speakers at a book signing or reception after the event.
- **LSE Research Showcase** is a series of regular coffee-break research talks on campus, with free hot drinks and pastries, showcasing some of the fascinating research from our academic community.
- **World Cafés** are your chance to discover and debate important questions and ideas alongside students, teachers, researchers, alumni, and others from the LSE community. Short presentations from leading LSE researchers are followed by informal round-table conversations with scholars and other students.

Discover more – [**LSE LIFE: Explore the big questions**](#)

Broadening your horizons also means more than studying global topics though: it means learning from the people around you and becoming more curious about lives and perspectives beyond your own. The opportunity is to leave LSE not only with expertise in your subject, but with a wider frame of reference: more aware of complexity, more comfortable with uncertainty, and more connected to the world beyond your own experience.



- **GO LSE** offers undergraduates the opportunity to study at one of the School's overseas partner institutions for a full year. Applications for the following year typically open in November.
- **CIVICA** is the [European University Alliance of the Social Sciences](#), of which LSE is a member alongside nine other European universities. Through CIVICA, you can take part in a range of activities and programmes, including immersive learning experiences abroad and online collaborative courses.

The world at your doorstep

You don't need to travel to encounter different cultures and perspectives at LSE: you can also engage with our international community right here on campus! [The LSE Language Community](#) – run by the Centre for Language Studies – offers bitesize speaking sessions with native speakers, weekly conversation circles, and tandem learning partnerships. The LSESU's [national and cultural societies](#) host events, food and film nights, and celebrations throughout the year. The [Faith Centre](#) offers interfaith events and activities open to students of any background, where you can learn about and connect across different cultures and traditions. Their [Beecken Faith and Leadership programme](#) is designed to help you develop key skills in reasoning and leadership in the context of engaging with religious difference, covering diverse topics, including the climate crisis and geopolitical conflict.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Connect across cultures](#)

Three ways to start

- Attend a [public lecture](#) on a topic completely outside your degree and note one idea or name to follow up afterwards.
- Join a [LSE Language Community](#) session or find a tandem learning partner.
- Visit the [Faith Centre spaces](#) – if you have a moment, why not take a break in The Cave, their silent room for meditation, prayer, and reflection?

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Broaden your horizons](#)



Make your impact

Discover what matters to you and contribute to creating change, big or small, at LSE and beyond.

LSE's approach to social sciences is understanding the causes of things *for the betterment of society*. After more than 130 years, that tradition still flourishes in the research produced here, in the public debates hosted here, and in the careers of the people who've studied here. It's also alive in what students do while they are here.

We invite you to ask yourself: what are the causes that matter to you? Meaningful action isn't necessarily about doing more. Often, it's about committing to something you care about deeply and staying with it long enough to understand it properly. The value of that kind of involvement lies not only in what you achieve, but in what it teaches you – about responsibility, about other people, and about your own limits.

- The **Volunteer Centre** is there to inspire and empower you to volunteer for causes that you are passionate about during your time at LSE. They provide a range of long term, short term, and one-off opportunities to suit your interests and schedule. You can also drop in to their space in Lincoln Chambers or book an appointment to talk through what might suit you.
- **Sustainable LSE** is the School's sustainability team, where you can learn about contributing to sustainability on campus and in residences while building new skills – whether you want to come to a one-off event or volunteer with the team more regularly. Their activities range from beekeeping and wildlife workshops to carbon literacy training and sustainability auditing.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Change the wider world**



Impact at LSE doesn't only happen outside the School. It can also come from helping to shape the institution itself, from contributing to discussions about how LSE operates to simply showing up for another student who needs support. Alongside sharing your feedback at [departmental level](#), you can also take part in a wide range of School-wide groups and programmes.

[LSESU Student Voice](#) gives you countless opportunities to make yourself heard in what is one of the most politically active Students' Unions in the country – whether that's getting involved with ongoing [campaigns](#) or starting your own, submitting a [policy proposal](#), or standing in the [LSESU leadership elections](#).

- [Student Education Panels](#) are a chance to share your perspective and discuss your LSE experience with peers from diverse backgrounds, programmes, and levels of study, helping to inform processes and improvements across the School.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Shape your school](#)





Support your peers

Your greatest impact on other students' experience at LSE can sometimes take place on a personal level, through supporting fellow students and helping to build a strong, welcoming community. There are several formal programmes through which you can support your peers:

- The **Student Academic Mentoring Programme** is an undergraduate-only initiative that helps first years to settle into their department and meet other students by matching them with second- and third-year undergraduate mentors. Neurodivergent undergraduate and postgraduate students can also apply to the **Neurodivergent Student Academic Mentoring scheme** – you don't need a formal diagnosis to take part.
- **Peer Supporters** are trained student volunteers who offer a confidential, non-judgemental listening space to any LSE student. All students who have already been studying at LSE for at least a year can become a peer supporter, including continuing undergraduates and those in the second year of a two-year master's programme.
- **Widening Participation** offer a range of paid roles, including Student Ambassador, Tutor, and Mentor positions, enabling current LSE students to share their experiences of applying to and studying at LSE with prospective students and young people considering higher education.

Three ways to start

- Drop by the **Volunteer Centre** on campus to learn more about your options.
- Join a **Student Town Hall** to learn about and debate policies that shape the way the LSESU runs.
- Attend a Meet LSE leadership event to get to know leaders from across LSE in an informal setting – keep an eye out for upcoming events in Student News.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Make your impact**



Expand your skills

Unlock the talents, tools, and mindsets that set you apart.

You've arrived at LSE with a distinctive set of abilities, built on everything you accomplished, studied, and experienced before you got here. You'll apply, test, and extend those skills every day: speaking up in a seminar, shaping a group project, and adapting to new ways of thinking and working. Some strengths deepen in new contexts, and other gaps only become visible when you're stretched. Part of university is learning to recognise both, and to think about what else you want to be able to do.

It's natural to think about skills in terms of outcomes – what mark will this help me get, or how can I highlight this on my CV. Some skills are worth being deliberate about, and focusing on one practical skill with long-term value is often more effective than an ambitious self-improvement plan. If you want to study or work abroad, invest in the language skills that will get you there. If your dissertation or internship is likely to need technical skills, build them gradually before they become urgent.

- The **Digital Skills Lab** offers practical, face-to-face workshops, bootcamps, and self-paced resources covering data analysis and visualisation, coding, AI literacy, and assistive technology – including tools like Excel, Power BI, Python, R, Stata, SPSS, and generative AI (Claude and Copilot). It's open to all students and designed to be accessible whether you're a complete beginner or building on existing knowledge.
- The **Centre for Language Studies** runs **non-degree language courses** at all levels, from beginner to advanced, designed to fit around your programme commitments.
- **Student Media** is your chance to practise writing, editing, production, presenting, and media management with a genuine audience – across video, radio, *The Beaver* student newspaper, and the student-run journals within **Houghton Street Press**.
- The **Laidlaw Scholars Leadership and Research Programme** is a two-year programme open to first-year undergraduates in any department. It offers a unique opportunity to develop your leadership and research skills alongside, and beyond, your academic studies.



Some skills develop without you even thinking about it though – you pick them up just by being here, doing the work, and being around other people doing the same. In fact, you could pick any programme, event or initiative listed in this guide – whether it is related to making your impact, broadening your horizons, or building your community – and it would help you grow. Volunteering, leading an LSESU society, building a start-up, working on your academic skills, or pulling together a study group – each is a chance to get better at communicating clearly, leading and collaborating, or approaching problems creatively and critically.

Reflect on your skills

Reflecting on how you're developing is hard to do alone – it's easier to explore, understand, and articulate your experience with someone who can help you take a step back.

- **LSE Careers** offers [one-to-one appointments](#) with Careers Consultants to help you identify and assess the skills you're building, and think about how to develop and articulate them for the path you want to take.
- **LSE LIFE** offers [one-to-one conversations](#) to help you make sense of everything LSE offers beyond your academic programme, and figure out which opportunities might be right for you.

Three ways to start

- Identify one technical skill that you might need during or after your degree – when would be a good time to learn it?
- Try one thing outside your comfort zone – leading a meeting, presenting a new idea to your classmates, organising a group trip, or speaking first in a seminar.
- Use the [LSE Careers Skills Framework](#) to recognise your skills, reflect on your experiences, and identify areas for further development as you prepare to enter the world of work.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Expand your skills](#)



Shape your future

Prepare for life after LSE by exploring your options and following your ambitions.

Thinking about life after university is a fundamental part of being at university. The futures LSE graduates go on to build are as diverse as the people who study here – in every corner of the world and every kind of organisation, and across every sector. What they share is a capacity to explore carefully, act purposefully, think critically, and keep learning. Some students arrive at LSE with a clear sense of the path they want to pursue. Others discover it gradually, through conversations, experiences, and opportunities they couldn't have foreseen.

Ask an Alum

Many cohorts of LSE students have gone on to build and shape their own unique career paths before you – and there's a great deal you can learn from their experiences. During your time at LSE, and even after graduation, you can access our global network of more than 240,000 curious and accomplished minds through [Ask an Alum](#), our online platform that connects students and alumni for advice, support, and networking. Whether it's exploring different career options, developing your professional skills, or building your first business, just submit your questions and we'll connect you with someone who can help.





As you begin to think about your own future and explore the possibilities available to you, teams across LSE can help you navigate and pursue your options. Early conversations can be valuable for testing ideas, understanding different sectors, and learning what employers really mean when they describe particular roles. If you already have a specific career path in mind, it's equally important to understand the expectations and timelines associated with it, especially in fast-moving sectors, where work experience opportunities like short placements, vacation schemes, and internships often begin recruiting early.

The important thing to remember is that thoughtful and curious people rarely settle their futures once and for all. Instead, they keep shaping them. Explore what intrigues you, build familiarity with different kinds of work and sectors, and begin to understand how your interests and strengths might translate into possible next steps.

- **[LSE Careers](#)** can help you explore your career options, reflect and build upon your skills, and offer insight into the world of work. They offer appointments, varied events and workshops, application, interview and assessment centre support, sector insights, and access to opportunities and vacancies through **[MyCareer](#)**.
- **[LSE Generate](#)**, our entrepreneurship hub, is here to help you innovate for the betterment of society. Drop by their co-working space on campus, or join their events, programmes, and mentoring schemes to develop entrepreneurial skills, test business ideas, and meet others interested in innovation.
- **[LSESU Careers Societies](#)** are run by students, for students. From finance and consulting to technology and the creative industries, they offer opportunities to explore different sectors through networking events, conferences, workshops, and talks.

Three ways to start

- Register with LSE Careers and browse **[MyCareer](#)**.
- Attend one **[Shape your future](#)**-event in your first term – even just to see what's out there.
- Ask an alum or anyone working at LSE how they've shaped their professional path so far.

Discover more – **[LSE LIFE: Shape your future](#)**



Section 7: Navigate your LSE





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Navigate your LSE

Find the resources, guidance, and support you need to thrive throughout your time at LSE.

There are moments at university when you need further advice – about administrative and procedural matters related to your degree or more generally about navigating student life and London. Where you start often depends on the nature of your question.

Here are three key teams at LSE who can act as a good starting point for any general queries, even if you're not sure exactly what you're looking for. If they can't help you directly, they can connect you with someone who can.

- The **[Student Services Centre \(SSC\)](#)** is your first point of contact for advice on a wide range of administrative and programme-related enquiries including enrolment, visa advice and compliance, course selection, exams, and graduation. Contact them via their **[Live Chat](#)** or use the **[SSC enquiry form](#)**.
- **[LSE LIFE](#)** is your one-stop shop for extracurricular opportunities and support at LSE. Browse the **[LSE LIFE events and opportunities page](#)** and if you'd like some personalised guidance, **[book a one-to-one LIFE Conversation](#)** to talk through any aspect of your experience and find the programmes, events, and groups that are right for you.
- The **[LSESU Advice Service](#)** offers free, impartial advice on a wide range of issues – from academic matters and assessments to finances, funding, and housing. As part of the LSE Students' Union, they are independent from LSE, and thus free from a conflict of interest. To contact them, fill out the **[Advice Service Form](#)**.

This section covers some of the mechanics behind your programme and the wider School: how things work, who's responsible for what, and where to go when something needs sorting. You can use it as a reference throughout the year – when a term isn't clear, when you're not sure what your options are, or when you need more information on a procedure or regulation. Click through to the webpages linked for the most up-to-date information and don't hesitate to reach out to someone if you need further advice.



Specialist guidance and support

For those times when you do have a specific question or concern, you may want to seek specialist advice and support directly. Here are some of the teams you might turn to.

- **Fees, finances, and money matters**

[LSE Fees Office](#) manages queries relating to the payment of tuition fees, tuition fee refunds, sponsor invoicing, and US or Canadian student loans. The [Financial Support Office](#) administers a range of bursaries, scholarships and studentships. Use the [Student Finance Hub](#) to check your fees, invoices, payments and instalment arrangements.

If you are facing unexpected financial difficulty during your programme, the LSE Financial Support Office or the independent LSESU Advice Service may be able to help you.

- **Wellbeing and counselling**

The [Student Wellbeing Service](#) offers confidential one-to-one wellbeing and counselling appointments, and workshops. If you need to speak to someone on the phone immediately or outside of working hours, you can call the 24/7 mental health support line provided by our partners [Spectrum.Life](#).

- **Disability and mental health**

LSE's [Disability and Mental Health Service \(DMHS\)](#) offers advice and support to all disabled students, including those with physical or sensory impairments, long-term health conditions, mental health conditions, neurodivergence, specific learning difficulties, and autistic spectrum conditions. DMHS will work closely with you to explore any academic adjustments ([My Adjustments](#)) that may be available and provide tailored support to help make your time at LSE as accessible and inclusive as possible. It is recommended that students contact DMHS before arriving at LSE, or as soon as possible afterwards, so they can collaborate with you to put in place appropriate support from the start of the academic year.

- **Discrimination, bullying, harassment, or sexual misconduct**

If you experience or witness discrimination, bullying, harassment, or sexual misconduct you can report it – anonymously or with your contact details – on [LSE's Report and Support](#) system. You do not have to navigate these situations alone; you can contact any of [LSE's Safe Contacts](#) for confidential guidance. The School also partners with [external specialists, Rape Crisis South London](#) and [SurvivorsUK](#) who offer an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service.

In an emergency, call 999 for the emergency services (police, ambulance, or fire brigade). On campus, [LSE security](#) can also help; call them on 020 7955 6555.



Term dates and LSE closures

The academic year has its own rhythm – terms, breaks, reading weeks, exam periods. It's helpful to see the whole picture before you get into specific procedures and regulations. This table shows the key dates for 2026/27. The notes below give a sense of what you can expect from each period and ideas about ways to approach them. Always check the [Term Dates](#) page for the latest information.

Academic year 2026/27

Welcome week Friday 18 September – Friday 25 September 2026

Autumn Term (AT) Monday 28 September – Friday 11 December 2026

Reading week Monday 2 November – Friday 6 November 2026

Winter break Monday 14 December 2026 – Friday 8 January 2027
School closure: Wednesday 23 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027

January exam period Monday 4 January – Sunday 10 January 2027

Winter Term (WT) Monday 11 January – Thursday 25 March 2027

Reading week Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027

Spring break Friday 26 March – Friday 23 April 2027
School closure: Friday 26 March – Thursday 1 April 2027

Spring Term (ST) Monday 26 April – Friday 11 June 2027

Spring exam period Tuesday 4 May – Friday 11 June 2027

Welcome week is the week before teaching begins. Systems come online, departments run their introductions, and the practical infrastructure of being an LSE student gets set up. It's also a chance to find your feet, meet people, and begin to feel at home. There will be other Welcome activities running before and after Welcome week, so you don't have to try and do everything in seven days!

Autumn Term is the first 11 weeks of teaching of the academic year. For many, it's a period of adjustment where you settle in and learn ways to manage independent study. You might see term weeks referred to as "AT4" or "AT week 4", for example – the fourth week of Autumn Term.



Reading weeks fall midway through Autumn and Winter Terms, though not every programme has them. It is not a holiday, but a pause to catch up and consolidate the work you've already done in the term so far.

The **January exam period** is the final week of the **Winter break**, bringing exams and coursework deadlines into sharp focus.

Welcome Back is a series of events and social gatherings at the beginning of Winter Term where you can make a new start, meet new people, and explore more of what LSE has to offer, once you've had one term to learn your way around. **Winter Term** is also 11 weeks. Longer projects, the start of dissertation work, and other deadlines tend to land here.

Spring break runs from late March to late April, with the School closed for a week around Easter. For most students with exams in May and June, this is when you'll do most of your revision. **Spring Term** is seven weeks long, and most of it is taken up by the **Spring exam period**. There is generally very little teaching: this is a term defined by assessment.

Outside term time, during closure periods and bank holidays, services and opening hours may change. During **School closure**, most School services are not available, though some buildings, such as the Library, may still be open.





Systems and online resources

LSE uses a set of core digital systems, but they do different jobs. It can be helpful to get an overview of which platform is for which task.

System	What it does	Find out more
Claude for Education	Generative AI chat from Anthropic, free to all LSE students. Each course sets its own AI use policy on Moodle, so check what is permitted before using Claude in assessed work.	Claude for Education ; Academic integrity
Digiexam	The software platform used for e-Exams, in-person exams where you use a laptop computer. It locks down your personal laptop to create a secure exam environment. Not all courses use e-Exams – check your specific course regulations.	e-Exams ; Exams
eduroam	The Wi-Fi network available across LSE and at universities worldwide. Connect using your LSE email address and password.	eduroam at LSE
Library Search	The online catalogue for finding books, journal articles, and other materials held by the LSE Library.	Library Search ; Library
LSE Calendar	The official publication containing programme regulations, classification schemes, assessment offence regulations, appeals regulations, and codes of practice.	LSE Calendar
LSE for You	LSE's system for completing your course selection.	LSE for You
LSE LIFE events	Your starting point for browsing and booking onto events outside your department. Because teams promote events in various places, using different booking systems, this is the easiest way to find most opportunities in one place.	LSE LIFE events



System	What it does	Find out more
Moodle	LSE's virtual learning environment. Each course has its own Moodle page where you'll typically find lecture slides, recordings, reading lists, quizzes, discussion forums, and where you submit assignments and receive marks and feedback. Important: joining a Moodle page is not the same as enrolling on a course – course selection can only be done through LSE for You.	<u>Moodle</u>
MyCareer	LSE Careers' online portal. Use it to register for careers events, browse the jobs and internships board, book one-to-one appointments with Careers Consultants, and set preferences for sector-specific information.	<u>MyCareer</u> ; <u>LSE Careers</u>
Parchment	The electronic platform through which final transcripts are issued and can be shared with employers or other institutions.	<u>Accessing Parchment</u> ; <u>Transcripts</u>
Student Finance Hub	An online portal where you can review your tuition and accommodation fees, invoices, payments, and instalment arrangements once you're enrolled.	<u>Student Finance Hub</u> ; <u>Paying fees</u> ; <u>Tuition fees</u>
Student Hub	LSE's app (iOS, Android, and web) for everyday student life. Use it to view your timetable, check deadlines, browse the campus map, read about news and events, and book appointments with academic staff, LSE LIFE advisers, and departmental support teams.	<u>Student Hub</u> ; <u>About Student Hub</u>
Student LfY	LSE's main administrative system. You'll use it for updating your address, finding your candidate number, accessing your assessment results and booking appointments with some School services.	<u>Student LfY</u> ; <u>What's in LfY</u>



System	What it does	Find out more
Turnitin	LSE's text-matching software. It produces a similarity report that can be used to monitor for potential plagiarism. Some departments allow or require you to submit drafts through Turnitin before your final submission, so you can review the report and use it to improve your writing and referencing.	Academic misconduct guidance ; Moodle

If you run into IT issues, you can visit the [Data and Technology Services \(DTS\)](#) team at the [Tech Centre](#) on the first floor of the Library, or raise a request via the [DTS Service Portal](#). They offer a range of support services, including the [iRoam Laptop Loan Service](#), and guidance on [cyber security, assistive technology, educational discounts](#) on tech and software, and free software available to LSE students. This includes free access to [Microsoft Office 365](#), which provides essential tools like Word, Excel, and Outlook. Outlook is LSE's main email platform and primary method of communication, so it's important to check it regularly.

DTS also provides support for [printing on campus](#). There are lots of printers available across the LSE campus, which you can connect to and use both from LSE computers and your personal devices. If you need to get something printed professionally, there is also a dedicated [Reprographics](#) team on site. They can help with anything from printing posters and leaflets to dissertation binding.



Your programme and courses

Glossary

The language of course choice, units, and regulations can seem unfamiliar at first. The [LSE Calendar](#) is the School's official resource for programme regulations, course information, and other important details related to studying at LSE. This list is here to help you get your bearings. It's a friendly introduction to terms you'll hear mentioned often, but it's not a substitute for the Calendar or advice from your department. For the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and relevant information, always consult both the [Calendar](#) and your department's guidance.





Term	What it means	Where next
Programme	The full degree comprising of all units studied, for example a BSc or MSc.	LSE Calendar
Programme regulations	The formal rules governing your degree. They specify which core courses you must take, which optional courses are available to you, how many units you need, and any dissertation or project requirement. Published in the LSE Calendar.	LSE Calendar
Unit	The measure of a course size at LSE. A half-unit course is typically taught over one term; a full-unit course is typically taught over two terms. A master's degree usually requires four units; an undergraduate degree usually requires 12 units (usually four each year).	LSE Calendar ; Course selection
Core course	A compulsory course required by your Programme regulations.	LSE Calendar
Optional course	A non-compulsory course you choose alongside the core requirements, from a list in your Programme regulations (or, with approval, from elsewhere at LSE).	Course selection ; LSE Calendar
Auditing a course	An informal arrangement where you follow a course's lectures for interest, but do not attend classes/seminars or sit assessments, and the course does not appear on your transcript or timetable. You need the course convener's permission to audit their course.	Course selection ; your course guide
Controlled access/ capped course	A course where the number of places is limited. "Controlled access" courses require departmental approval (you may need to write a supporting statement). "Capped" courses fill on a first-come, first-served basis through LSE for You. Some courses are both.	Course selection
Course selection period	The main window in Autumn Term, when you formally choose your courses for the full year through LSE for You. A second, shorter window reopens in January for changes to Winter Term half-units only. Deadlines and processes vary by department.	Course selection



Term	What it means	Where next
Timetable clashes	When two of your courses are scheduled at the same time. LSE for You has a “Student Timetable Clashes” screen to help identify simple clashes. Complex clashes may require contacting your department or the Timetables Team.	Timetables
Course guide	The guide for an individual course, giving details such as the convener, syllabus, course content, modes of assessment, and indicative reading lists.	Course selection ; Moodle ; your department pages
Seminars/Classes	Small-group teaching sessions where you discuss readings or work through problems with a class teacher and peers. Attendance is compulsory and active participation is expected, so come prepared. Master’s programmes tend to call these seminars; undergraduate programmes tend to call them classes.	Moodle
Office hours	Regular weekly slots when academic staff are available for one-to-one conversations. You can speak to any teacher during their hours, even if you’re not on their course. Some are drop-in; others require booking via the Student Hub.	Student Hub ; Academic support





Making changes to your programme

If you would like to make changes to your programme or mode of study, you have options. An **interruption** is a year-long approved break in your studies, with a return the following academic year. **Withdrawal** is permanent. A **programme transfer** moves you to a different degree at the same level, with approval from both old and new departments. A **change of mode** switches you between full-time and part-time study, usually on postgraduate programmes. All of these should be discussed with your department and may have implications for your visa, fees, and funding.

Who's who – the people behind your degree

There are plenty of people within your department who can support you, and knowing who handles what will get you to the right answer faster. The entries below indicate typical roles and job titles of people in your department.

Role	Who they are
Academic Mentor (AM)	A member of staff in your department assigned to you personally. They are there to support your progress – both in your studies and more broadly – and are an excellent point of contact whenever you have a question or concern. Your AM may also provide references for employment.
Class Teacher	The person who leads your weekly class or seminar group. They may be a member of academic staff or a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA; possibly a PhD candidate). They mark work, give feedback, and hold office hours, where you can discuss topics from class further.
Course Convener	The academic responsible for running a particular course – setting its content, syllabus, assessments, and policies.
Departmental Senior Student Adviser (DSSA)	A confidential point of contact when something non-academic is affecting your studies. DSSAs can help you think through options around extensions, deferrals, changes to your studies (interruption, transfer, withdrawal), and how to access wellbeing and support services. Not all departments have DSSAs; some provide this support through other roles.



Role	Who they are
Departmental Tutor	A senior academic responsible for running undergraduate studies in your department. They handle complex academic or personal issues your academic mentor cannot resolve, and consider requests around interruption, programme transfer, and exceptions to programme regulations.
Programme Director	The academic responsible for the overall delivery and development of your degree programme. They handle programme-level issues and can approve requests to take courses outside your Programme Regulations.
Programmes Support Team/ Professional Services Team	The administrative team in your department and a valuable source of knowledge when you have practical queries about course selection, timetabling, Moodle, assessment processes, and student representation. They are led by the Department Manager.
Student Academic Representative	A student selected to represent the views of their peers at departmental committees such as the Student-Staff Liaison Committee. Selection takes place shortly after the start date of your programme, mostly from the first week of Autumn Term onwards.

One-to-one appointments with academic staff can usually be booked via [Student Hub](#). If you need to get in touch about anything via email, you can find contact details for your programme director, course conveners, and teachers on [Moodle](#). For any other contacts, check out your department's People page.

Student Voice: feedback on your programme

Your feedback is extremely important. There are several ways you can use your voice and shape the teaching and learning on your courses and programme.

Within your department, **Student Academic Representatives** (or programme reps) are students recruited to represent the views of their peers. They sit on [Student-Staff Liaison Committees \(SSLCs\)](#) (or Programme Forums), the main forum where elected reps discuss your feedback on your teaching and learning experiences with departmental staff on a termly basis.



There are also broader [Undergraduate/Postgraduate Taught Consultative Fora](#), made up of SSLC reps from across the School, as well as the LSESU Education Officer and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education, allowing for School-wide feedback. Some of your reps will also attend your [Departmental Teaching Committee](#) each term, which oversee teaching and learning within departments, and help ensure effective student participation in educational decision-making.

You will have a chance to give feedback through [regular surveys](#) at both course and programme level, alongside broader surveys of the whole student experience including the [National Student Survey](#) for final-year undergraduates. These are generally coordinated by the [Teaching Quality Assurance and Review Office \(TQARO\)](#).

Beyond your department, you can shape LSE at a School-wide level, for example, through [LSESU Student Voice](#), [Student Education Panels](#), and [LSESU leadership elections](#). See [Make your impact](#) earlier in this handbook for more opportunities.





Exams and assessments

Assessment at LSE comes in two forms. **Formative assessment** is practice – essays, problem sets, presentations, or mock exams that don't count towards your final grade. Formative assessments are where you can test ideas, experiment, and get helpful feedback. **Summative assessment** does count towards your final mark for a course, and might take the form of exams, coursework essays, group projects, presentations, or a dissertation.

Each department publishes **marking criteria** describing what markers are looking for – typically covering knowledge and understanding, use of literature, argument and analysis, and clarity of expression. Most written work also has a **word limit**, with rules on what exactly counts towards it and penalties for exceeding it set at department level.

If your programme includes exams, they'll usually take place in either the January or Spring exam period. Before you take any exam, read the School's official [Exam Procedures for Candidates](#) for full details of all exam regulations including personal items you're allowed to take into the exam room, writing in exam booklets or using computers for e-exams, and your **candidate number** – a unique five-digit number that ensures anonymous marking.

Another important element of exams that you'll find explained fully in the exam procedures is the School's [Fit to Sit](#) policy. This means that by entering an exam room or submitting an assessment, you declare yourself well enough to do so. If you are unwell or affected by serious circumstances, request an extension or deferral *before* the assessment – your [options](#) are much more limited afterwards.

Re-taking an exam or re-attempting an assessment is called a **resit**. Resits are normally held in one of two formal periods: the **In-Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period (IRDAP)**, which typically runs in late August, or the **Resit and Deferred Assessment Periods (RDAP)**, which take place during the main Winter and Spring assessment periods the following year. Full details of taking resits and deferred assessments can be found on the [School's Re-entry pages](#). Eligibility, timing and rules vary by programme, so check the [Calendar](#) and your department's guidance.

If you think a result or decision needs to be challenged, there is a formal appeals process. Full details about the appeals process can be found [here](#).



Who can I talk to?

You can talk with your academic mentor, course convenor, or class teacher about feedback you receive.

You can talk with a [Learning Lab Study Adviser](#) about interpreting the marking criteria for an assignment or ways to use feedback to make progress.

For questions about the exam procedures, resits, or other administrative matters around exams and assessments, contact the [SSC Student Advice and Engagement Team](#).

The [SSC Student Regulations Team](#) handles appeals, allegations of misconduct and plagiarism, and complaints about academic matters. They also administer the process around exceptional circumstances and deferrals.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is the principle that the work you submit is your own and that you've taken responsibility for referencing others accurately and following your department's guidelines on working with other people and with AI tools. Here are some specific terms you should understand.

Plagiarism is presenting other people's words or ideas as your own, whether deliberately or accidentally, including failing to reference sources properly.

Collusion is collaborating with others on individually assessed work beyond what is permitted. **Contract cheating** is having someone complete an assessment on your behalf, and can also include the unauthorised use of GenAI tools. **Self-plagiarism** is reusing material from your own previously submitted work without proper attribution. More information about academic misconduct is in the [Regulations on Assessment Offences](#).

LSE provides all students with access to [Anthropic Claude for Education](#) and [Microsoft Copilot](#), however each course has its own **AI use policy**, set out on the course's Moodle page. Some courses permit some forms of AI use; others prohibit them entirely. **Turnitin** scans submissions for matches against other sources. Some departments let you submit drafts to Turnitin first to check your referencing. The **Turnitin similarity report** shows what percentage of your submission matches other sources. There is no safe maximum score: a low percentage can still be investigated and a high one does not automatically indicate misconduct.

When you submit summative work, you confirm an [academic integrity statement](#) affirming that the work is your own, that you have not colluded, and that you have followed AI and referencing rules. Suspected cases of misconduct are considered by an **Assessment Misconduct Panel**, and penalties can be severe.



Who can I talk to?

If you have questions about Turnitin, referencing, paraphrasing, using generative AI tools, or any other aspect of academic integrity, you can book an [Academic integrity one-to-one appointment](#). Sessions take place online and everyone will be seen individually in order to provide personalised advice – no question is too silly! The [Learning Lab](#) and [Library](#) also provide general guidance on academic integrity, referencing, and paraphrasing, through workshops, one-to-one appointments, and online resources.

Do note that some rules and regulations may vary from department to department, so it is worth checking your course guides and speaking to your teachers or academic mentor when in doubt, too.

The [SSC Student Regulations Team](#) handles allegations of misconduct and plagiarism, and complaints about academic matters.

When something affects your work

LSE has formal routes for situations where circumstances affect your assessed work. Ideally, these circumstances should be addressed before the work is due or attempted.

An **extension** is extra time on a coursework deadline, requested in advance and normally accompanied by supporting evidence. It is the most common route for short-term issues with submitted work. Full details can be found in the [Student Guidance on Extension Requests](#) document.

A **deferral** postpones an assessment to a later sitting, usually the next exam period. It is used when an extension is not enough or when the assessment has a fixed date, such as an exam. Like an extension, it is requested in advance, normally at least 24 hours before the deadline or exam start.

LSE publishes guidance on [religious observance and assessments](#) for students whose faith commitments may affect assessment participation.

[My Adjustments](#) refers to personalised plans of reasonable adjustments to adapt teaching, learning, and assessments to the needs of students with sensory or physical impairments, mental health conditions, or specific learning difficulties. They include **Teaching and Learning Adjustments** (TLAs) and [Central Exam Adjustments](#) (CEAs) and might feature extra time in exams, assistive technology, or changes to your study environment.



There is also a procedure to follow where circumstances cannot be addressed in advance. Submitting **Exceptional Circumstances (ECs)** is the only way to inform examiners about circumstances beyond your control that affected an assessment you have already attempted or were absent for. Find out more on the [Student Services Centre pages about ECs](#).

Who can I talk to?

The [Disability and Mental Health Service \(DMHS\)](#) is the service who puts My Adjustments in place, including Central Exam Adjustments. There is no requirement to tell the School about a disability. However, letting the DMHS team know about any long-term condition that has a substantial impact on your studies or your day-to-day life enables them to arrange adjustments and support.

The [SSC Student Advice and Engagement Team](#) answers questions and provides advice about academic matters including ECs, progression, deferral, interruption, withdrawal, and the School Regulations and Codes of Practice more generally.





Codes, charters, and action plans

LSE has several codes and charters in place that outline the standards of education, conduct, and partnership between LSE, its staff, and students. Below is a selection of important codes, charters, and plans. A comprehensive list of School [Policies and Procedures](#) is available online.

- **[LSE Academic Code](#)**: Sets out what you can expect from your education in four areas: teaching standards, academic support, assessment and feedback, and student voice.
- **[LSE-LSESU Student Charter](#)**: Describes the community you're joining and how its members are expected to relate to each other.
- **[Codes of Good Practice](#)**: Explain the responsibilities of staff and students in relation to teaching, learning, and assessment.
- **[Ethics Code](#)**: Sets out the values the LSE community is expected to live by – covering responsibility, integrity, intellectual freedom, equality, collegiality, and sustainability.
- **[LGBTQ+ Inclusive Action Plan](#)**: Outlines six priorities to advance LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion.
- **[Race Equity Action Plan](#)**: Outlines six priorities to advance racial equity and inclusion, as part of the [Race Equity Framework](#).



LSE campus



Find out more on the [LSE campus map webpage](#).

[AccessAble](#) provides detailed accessibility guides for campus buildings, residences and study spaces, including route maps between locations to help students navigate campus confidently and independently. Explore more campus facilities with the [Facilities Guide for Current Students](#).

lse.ac.uk/languages



Centre for Language Studies

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The London School of Economics and Political Science is a School of the University of London. It is a charity and is incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts (Reg no 70527).

The School 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.

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