



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Welcome to the Department of Mathematics

MSc Handbook 2026/27



lse.ac.uk/mathematics





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Section 1: Welcome from the Head of Department





Welcome to the Department of Mathematics at LSE.

By joining one of our degree programmes, you become part of a vibrant intellectual community, bringing together excellent students (BSc, MSc and PhD), world-leading faculty, experienced professional services staff, and high-achieving alumni. By taking advantage of the rich and diverse learning environment at LSE, you can develop your talents further and deepen your knowledge.

The Department's teaching and research are strongly shaped by its position within LSE, a world-leading social sciences institution with a global outlook. Within this environment, we view teaching and research as complementary activities, each enhancing the other, and we strive for excellence in both. We are equally committed to providing a supportive and friendly environment in which everyone can fulfil their potential. Throughout the year, we organise activities designed to help you get to know your fellow students and other members of the LSE community. We very much hope you will take part in these activities and let us know if there are others you would like to see organised.

In this handbook, you will find detailed information about your degree programme, your studies, the support available from the Department and LSE, and much more. Our website provides additional up-to-date information, including news and events, and a section for current students in the Department.

Finally, if at any point during your time with us you feel there is something I should be aware of regarding your experience in the Department of Mathematics or at LSE, whether positive or negative, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or in person. You are also welcome to attend my regular office hours; appointments can be booked using the LSE Student Hub.

I wish you an excellent start at LSE, and I am confident that your studies here will be both enriching and stimulating.



Professor Luitgard Veraart
Head of Department
[***l.veraart@lse.ac.uk***](mailto:l.veraart@lse.ac.uk)



Section 2: Key Staff





Dr Galit Ashkenazi-Golan is the Programme Director for the MSc Mathematics and Computation degree.

g.ashkenazi-golan@lse.ac.uk



Dr Tugkan Batu is the Programme Director for the MSc Operations Research and Analytics degree.

t.batu@lse.ac.uk



Dr Christoph Czichowsky is the Programme Director for the MSc Financial Mathematics degree for Autumn and Spring Term.

c.czichowsky@lse.ac.uk



Dr Albina Danilova is the Programme Director for the MSc Financial Mathematics degree for the Winter Term.

a.danilova@lse.ac.uk



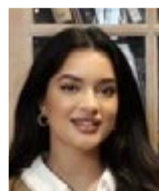
Rebecca Batey is the MSc Programmes Manager for all MSc programmes in the Department. She is your main contact for any administrative queries.

r.batey@lse.ac.uk



Professor Luitgard Veraart is the Head of the Department. She is responsible for all academic activities, students, staff and programmes offered by the Department.

l.veraart@lse.ac.uk



Khadija Ahmed is the Departmental Senior Student Adviser. She is responsible for assisting with your personal welfare and wellbeing needs.

k.ahmed7@lse.ac.uk



Other Professional Services Staff you may need to know are:

[James Johnston](#) – Department Manager

[George Dunn](#) – Programme Administrator

[Joe Faulkner](#) – Communications and Student Experience Manager

Please check the departmental website for a full list of academic staff, their research interests, office hours and contact details:

lse.ac.uk/mathematics/people

lse.ac.uk/mathematics/current-students/office-hours



Name	Email	Room Number
Dr Ahmad Abdi	a.abdi1@lse.ac.uk	COL.2.02
Professor Peter Allen	p.d.allen@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.15
Professor Martin Anthony ***	m.anthony@lse.ac.uk	COL.1.05
Dr Galit Ashkenazi-Golan	g.ashkenazi-golan@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.08
Dr Tuğkan Batu	t.batu@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.04
Dr Ofelia Bonesini	o.bonesini@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.05
Professor Julia Böttcher	j.boettcher@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.03
Professor Graham Brightwell	g.r.brightwell@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.10
Dr Christoph Czichowsky **	c.czichowsky@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.11
Dr Albina Danilova *	a.danilova@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.09
Dr Pavel Gapeev	p.v.gapeev@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.10
Professor Olivier Gossner	o.gossner@lse.ac.uk	COL.5.04
Professor Jan van den Heuvel	j.van-den-heuvel@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.07
Dr Eoin Hurley	e.hurley2@lse.ac.uk	COL.5.05
Dr Stefan Kober	s.kober@lse.ac.uk	COL.5.05
Dr Ioannis Kouletsis	i.kouletsis@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.13
Professor Andrew Lewis-Pye *	a.lewis7@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.12
Dr Arne Lokka	a.lokka@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.08
Dr Neil Olver	n.olver@lse.ac.uk	COL.2.08
Professor Adam Ostaszewski	a.j.ostaszewski@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.06
Dr David O'Sullivan *	d.r.osullivan@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.08
Dr Katerina Papadaki ***	k.p.papadaki@lse.ac.uk	COL.2.05
Professor Johannes Ruf ***	j.ruf@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.06
Professor Amol Sasane	a.j.sasane@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.05
Dr Raimundo Saona Urmeneta	r.saona-urmeneta@lse.ac.uk	COL.5.06
Dr Robert Simon	r.s.simon@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.07
Professor Jozef Skokan *	j.skokan@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.04
Professor Gregory Sorkin	g.b.sorkin@lse.ac.uk	COL.2.07
Professor Bernhard von Stengel ***	b.von-stengel@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.12
Dr Shengding Sun	s.sun28@lse.ac.uk	COL.5.05
Professor Konrad Swanepoel	k.swanepoel@lse.ac.uk	COL.3.09
Professor Luitgard Veraart	l.veraart@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.11
Dr James Ward	j.m.ward@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.14
Professor Giacomo Zambelli	g.zambelli@lse.ac.uk	COL.2.06
Professor Mihail Zervos	m.zervos@lse.ac.uk	COL.4.02

* unavailable for AT 2026/27 ** unavailable for WT 2026/27 *** unavailable for all 2026/27



Section 3: About the Department





The LSE Department of Mathematics is internationally recognised for its teaching and research. Located within a world-class social science institution, the Department aims to be a leading centre for mathematics in the social sciences. The Department's growth trajectory reflects the increasing impact that mathematical theory and mathematical techniques are having on subjects such as economics and finance, and on many other areas of the social sciences. The Department offers eight degree programmes across various levels: undergraduate; postgraduate; and MPhil/PhD.

Department Office

The Department's main office can be found on the 4th floor of Columbia House in COL.4.01. The team is available to assist with general enquiries as well as student support, submission of course work and other non-academic queries. You can also find members of Professional Services Staff in COL.3.03.

During a normal term time, the office would be open between:

10am – 12 noon and 2-4pm

Postal address:

Department of Mathematics, COL.4.01
The London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street
London
WC2A 2AE

Email: maths.teaching@lse.ac.uk

Email

The School will use your LSE email address to communicate with you so you should check it regularly. You can access this off campus using [Webmail](#). If on campus, the email program Microsoft Outlook is available on all student PCs on the LSE network.



Social Media, Blog and Student Hub

- You can follow our [LinkedIn page](#) to connect with our alumni community. To stay up to date with our latest news and events, check out our [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Facebook](#) pages, or catch up on videos on our [YouTube channel](#).
- The Department runs a research blog: blogs.lse.ac.uk/maths
- We are also on the [Student Hub](#) app! Our main departmental page can be found here: studenthub.lse.ac.uk/channel/56





Section 4: Studying and Academic Support





Your Academic Mentor

At the start of term all students will be assigned an Academic Mentor.

Your Academic Mentor will:

- Provide you with academic guidance and feedback on your progress and performance.
- Discuss any academic problems you may be experiencing.
- Provide pastoral support on non-academic issues and refer you, as necessary, to sources of support within the School.
- Meet with you regularly and maintain regular contact with you outside of meetings.
- Likely be one of the people that will write reference letters for you in future, making it important that they get to know you well.

During your first few weeks, you must contact your Mentor to discuss and agree your choice of courses. After this initial meeting, you should arrange other meetings with your Mentor at least once or twice in each term. They will contact you to set up these meetings, unless you wish to discuss something more urgently.

Mentors will be able to discuss with and advise you on a range of academic and pastoral issues. These can include: academic progress; course choices; deferral; exams; and personal circumstances. Academic Mentors are also one of the first faculty points of contact if you are facing difficulties with your studies. Academic Mentors will treat all information you give them with the appropriate level of confidentiality, although sometimes it may be necessary for your Mentor to discuss information with other relevant members of staff. To find out more about the Academic Mentor role, see [here](#).

During your time at LSE, you will also have access to our new [Departmental Senior Student Advisers](#), who are here to support you throughout your degree. Your adviser will help you to navigate (alongside your Academic Mentor and other departmental colleagues) the advice and support services available to you and will assist with your wellbeing needs.

Note that your Academic Mentor is not responsible for assisting you with administrative problems. If something is wrong with your registration, timetable, etc, you should contact the [Student Services Centre](#) or [Rebecca Batey](#).



Programme Directors

The MSc Programme Directors for this year are [Dr Galit Ashkenazi-Golan](#) (MSc Mathematics and Computation), [Dr Tugkan Batu](#) (MSc Operations Research and Analytics) and [Dr Christoph Czichowsky](#) (MSc Financial Mathematics). [Dr Albina Danilova](#) (MSc Financial Mathematics), will be the WT Programme Director for this programme.

The Programme Director is in overall charge of the tutorial system for your degree, and is also responsible for monitoring the progress of students. They approve outside options, as well as any special arrangement requests.

In most cases you should consult your Academic Mentor before seeing the Programme Director. If you have difficulties communicating with your Academic Mentor, you can contact the Programme Director to discuss the situation further. In exceptional circumstances, where you feel the Programme Director is unable to help, you are welcome to instead consult the Head of Department.

Lectures and Seminars

Mathematics courses taught by the Department are taught by means of lectures and seminars/classes. For each course there are usually two lectures hours per week during the teaching terms. (Most half-unit courses run for one term/11 weeks of teaching). For each course, you will also be assigned to a seminar once a week, which normally start in week two of the term and **attendance is compulsory**. Teaching arrangements on courses run by other departments may be different, so check the [course guide](#) for more information.

Postgraduate Study Room

You will have access to the Department of Mathematics study room for MSc students. This room is **COL.2.12** (on the 2nd floor of Columbia House) and is available 7am – 12 midnight on weekdays, and 8am – 10pm on weekends. You will need your ID card for access to the building and to the room.



Graduation Ceremonies

The graduation ceremony for MSc Financial Mathematics students takes place in July on campus in the Peacock Theatre. For MSc Mathematics and Computation and MSc Operations Research and Analytics students, the ceremony is held in December, also at the Peacock Theatre. The Student Services Centre emails invitations, which include details of the ticket booking process, are emailed to students 5-6 months before the ceremonies are scheduled to take place. The ceremony itself usually lasts 60-80 minutes and is immediately followed by an on-campus drinks reception with the Department.

For more information, including the dates of future ceremonies and details of the School's overseas ceremonies, please see: lse.ac.uk/ceremonies





Section 5: Programme Structure





MSc Financial Mathematics

You can view the full 10-month academic year programme of study [here](#).

MSc Mathematics and Computation

You can view the full 12-month academic year programme of study [here](#).

MSc Operations Research and Analytics

You can view the full 12-month academic year programme of study [here](#).





Section 6: Course Selection and Timetables





When to select your courses

Postgraduates: will be able to browse (but not select) courses from 10am on Monday 21 September 2026 until Thursday 24 September 2026. They will be able to select courses from 10am on Thursday 24 September 2026 until 5pm on Friday 09 October 2026. You will be able to make changes to Winter Term half-unit courses early in Winter Term. For more information, please check the [course selection webpages](#). Note that courses you have taken in Autumn Term cannot be dropped in Winter Term.

How to select your courses

If you're looking for information on selecting courses, the LSE website offers step-by-step guidance outlining how to explore your options and make choices. You can also refer to the LSE Calendar and your department's guidance for more detailed information.

The [LSE calendar](#) is the place to check for programme regulations, detailing which courses you are permitted to take. You will need to select your courses on [LSE For You](#) once the system opens. Guidance on how to do this can be found [here](#). Providing your selected courses are ready in Moodle, you should be automatically enrolled on their Moodle pages a few hours after selecting your courses on LSE For You. **You must select compulsory courses for your programme in addition to your optional ones.**

Should you have questions about a particular course the most efficient strategy is to put them to the Course Convenor. If you have any queries about the programme, speak to your Academic Mentor, who may direct you to the Programme Director. If you have questions about the course selection, you can contact the MSc Programmes Manager, Rebecca Batey, via r.batey@lse.ac.uk

Winter Term Course Selection

Course selection will re-open at the start of Winter Term. You are able to change your Winter Term courses during the first two weeks of Winter Term provided the newly chosen half unit courses are not oversubscribed. Late course changes are not permitted in Winter Term once course selection has closed.



Seminar sign up

Where a course is taught in more than one seminar group or in larger lecture groups, students are also required to enrol in seminar groups for the course. This is done through the [Seminar Sign Up facility](#) on [LSE For You](#).

Auditing courses

Some LSE courses allow students to 'audit'. This is an informal arrangement where you can join the lectures but do not take the assessments. These courses do not appear in your course selections or timetable and will not appear on your transcript. Some students choose to audit courses to expand their knowledge in other areas. If you would like to audit a course you should first check that your timetable will allow you to join the lectures. If so, contact the relevant Course Convener and ask permission to audit their course.

Getting help

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. If you are not able to access [LSE For You](#), you can contact [Tech Support](#).

If you have a question about Moodle, please contact eden.digital@lse.ac.uk

For advice around which courses to take and how your programme fits together please contact your Academic Mentor or the Programme Director.



Section 7: Assessment





This section is about the various forms of assessment you might encounter during your studies.

- **Formative assessment** takes place on all courses, but **does not count** towards your final results. In mathematics courses, this will usually take the form of exercises.
- **Summative assessment** can take several forms and **does count** towards your final results. Most MSc courses are primarily assessed by an unseen written exam in the Spring Term, or a project or a piece of coursework. A half unit course (0.5) is usually assessed by a two-hour exam and a full unit course (1.0) by a three-hour exam. There are some Winter Term Exams in January. You should check course guides and with the class teacher.

Please note in order to be considered for a degree, a student **must have attempted and completed all components of summative assessment** as outlined in the [**Taught Masters regulations**](#).

Exams

Most of the courses you will take as part of your degree will be in mathematics. Other Departments have their own traditions and arrangements for assessment, and students are directed to the appropriate Departments to find more about these.

Mathematics courses at LSE are assessed primarily by written, unseen, closed-book exams, although some courses include assessed projects or coursework. The Department of Mathematics has general guidelines on assessment criteria, which provides broad descriptions of the meaning of marks awarded on our exams. You can read the MSc regulations [**here**](#).

Also informative is the national [**QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research**](#). Whilst primarily aimed at undergraduate courses, much of what they say will also apply at graduate level.

Most exams take place during the Spring Term (May/June). There is also a January exam period which takes place just before the start of WT. You can check this information via the MSc Course Guides. The exam timetables are published ahead of the exam periods, either late Autumn or Winter Term.

To help you prepare effectively for your exams you should make yourself fully aware of the format and syllabus to be covered in the exam. Past papers can be accessed via [**the Library web pages**](#) (access restricted to LSE network only).



Marking Criteria

There are specific assessment criteria for larger pieces of assessed coursework. Smaller pieces of assessed coursework are likely to resemble homework exercises in style and nature. One purpose of feedback on formative work is to show students what is expected in assessed coursework and exams..

Coursework will be assessed on accuracy and understanding of the material. It is LSE Policy that students should be given some feedback on assessed coursework. This will often form “collective feedback”, for example, indications of common errors and parts of questions that were answered particularly well or badly. The exact format of such feedback is at the discretion of the course convenor.

Assessed Coursework

In some courses, you will be set one or more pieces of coursework, a project or assignments as part of the summative assessment of that course. The lecturer responsible for the course will tell you the nature of any assessed coursework at the beginning of the course. They will also mention roughly when the coursework will be set, and the due date for coursework submission.

Assessed coursework is normally anonymous. (An exception is Continuous Assessment, which is normally not anonymous.) For this reason do not **write your name or Student ID Number** (eg, 202012345) on any piece of assessed coursework you are submitting – only your **5 digit Examination Candidate Number** (eg, 12345) which can be found on LFY. The Departmental Office will have a record of candidate numbers and names to ensure that a proper record is kept of the submission of coursework.

Please note, students who do not submit all summative coursework components will be considered not to have completed the degree as set out in the **General Academic Regulations** [here](#). This is true regardless of marks in that course or others.

Revise and Submit Policy

In the event a student fails a summative component and it is retaken, they will be required to revise and resubmit that work, or required to submit alternative work on which they will be assessed, depending on what is most appropriate.



Penalties for Late Submission of Coursework and Plagiarism

The School has a clear and strict policy on the late submission of any assessed coursework that counts towards your final degree marks. This information is laid out in the [**General Academic Regulations for Taught Masters Degrees**](#).

Penalties for the Late Submission of Summative Coursework

If you do not submit a piece of summative assessment by the set deadline (or extended deadline as appropriate), a late penalty may apply. For assessments of longer than three weeks, **five marks (out of 100) will be deducted for coursework submitted within 24 hours of the deadline and a further five marks will be deducted for each subsequent 24-hour period (calendar days, not just working days) until the coursework is submitted.** Late penalties may vary depending on the type of assessment (e.g. 24 hour or one week take home assessments). Full information on the range of penalties is available [**here**](#). After five working days, coursework will only be accepted with the permission of the Chair of the Sub-Board of Examiner.





Section 8: Assessment Criteria





The Department has the following general guidelines on assessment criteria, which provide broad descriptions of the meaning of marks awarded on our exams.

Mark (%)	Grade Descriptor	Characteristics
1-9	Bad Fail	• Nothing presented or completely incorrect information or answers contain nothing at all of relevance. • No evidence of understanding. • No competence in core basic techniques of the subject.
10-19	Bad Fail	• Very little information or information that is almost entirely incorrect or irrelevant. • Very little evidence of understanding. • Very little competence in core basic techniques of the subject.
20-29	Fail	• Little evidence of understanding. • Very limited competence in core basic techniques of the subject.
30-39	Fail	• Some understanding evident, but no ability to grapple with anything other than a limited range of very routine questions. • Limited competence in core basic techniques of the subject or competence only in a small part of the material.
40-49	Fail	• A demonstration of a basic understanding of and competence in the subject. • Some knowledge of, and application of, relevant methods and techniques. • A basic range of information and knowledge deployed, with some areas of inaccuracy.
50-59	Pass	• A sound understanding of the subject. • Knowledge of, and some application of, relevant methods and techniques. • A stand, and largely accurate, range of information and knowledge deployed. • May demonstrate ability to grapple with standard problems, but limited capacity to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of significant understanding of the subject.



Mark (%)	Grade Descriptor	Characteristics
60-69	Merit	• A clear understanding of the subject. • Competent application of relevant methods and techniques. • Wide and accurate range of information and knowledge deployed. • Some capacity to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of significant understanding of the subject.
70-79	Distinction	• A thorough understanding of the subject. • Deft application of relevant methods and techniques. • Extensive range and consistent accuracy of information and knowledge. • A significant capacity to solve more unusual or demanding questions, involving application of thorough understanding of the subject and its methods.
80-89	Distinction	• A deep understanding of the subject. • Mastery of relevant methods and techniques. • Highly extensive range and consistent accuracy of information and knowledge. • An impressive ability to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of deep understanding of the subject and its methods.
90-100	Distinction	• A comprehensive and deep understanding of the subject. • Mastery of relevant methods and techniques and an ability to deploy them with flair. • Very extensive range and consistent accuracy of information and knowledge. • An outstanding ability to solve unusual and demanding questions involving application of deep and comprehensive understanding of the subject and its methods.



Section 9: Feedback





Lecturers, class teachers and academic mentors hold regular office hours and are on hand to answer queries throughout the term and provide feedback. They also provide specific written feedback on LSE for You (LFY). Submitting all your homework for marking is also an excellent way of ensuring you get regular feedback.

What is feedback?

- It is part of learning, providing you with ideas and information about how to make improvements.
- It is a dialogue between you and all those other people you come across in your learning, who help you develop and understand ideas.
- It is a joint responsibility: you need to be an active player, not a passive recipient.

How can feedback help you?

- It helps you improve the assignment you are working on.
- It gives you useful pointers for subsequent work.
- It helps you understand the criteria that will be used to assess you in exams and coursework, where the grade counts towards your degree result.
- It is an opportunity to reflect and plan what actions you need to make next.
- It motivates you to reach your potential.



How is feedback provided?

You will get feedback on all sorts of work:

- Problem sets
- Mock exams, “exam type” assignments and tests
- Your contributions to class discussions
- Your participation in Moodle discussion fora
- Questions you raise in lectures or online
- Class presentations
- Course essays
- Group projects
- Your work overall throughout the term.

Feedback comes in many different forms:

- Written comments on work you’ve handed in
- Direct oral feedback from your class teacher
- Group feedback from your lecturer
- Information feedback from discussion with fellow students and teachers
- Online feedback (Moodle, email, LFY, etc.)

Feedback comes from a variety of sources

- Your class teachers and lecturers
- Your Academic Mentor
- Fellow students on your courses/programme
- Fellow students in your hall/housing/neighbourhood.



Useful Links

The following links contain information that you will find particularly useful, as well as being course-specific:

[Department of Mathematics Website](#)

[Exam sub-board local rules](#)

[Classification Scheme for Taught Master's](#)

[Moodle page for MSc Mathematics Students](#)

[MSc Financial Mathematics Programme Regulations](#)

[MSc Mathematics and Computation Regulations](#)

[MSc in Operations Research & Analytics Regulations](#)

[LSE Calendar](#)

[Support and FAQ's](#)



Section 10: Personal and Professional Development





There are many ways in which LSE supports the personal development and wellbeing of students both on and off campus.

One is, there are lectures and group-based workshops across the year on topics such as stress management, overcoming perfectionism and coping with personal difficulties. You can find more information on the links below:

- info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-wellbeing
- info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/lse-life
- info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Academic-Mentoring-Hub/Information-for-Mentees

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The School's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is one of its strategic priorities and one of the core principles set out in the School's Ethics Code.

Find out more about our Equality Officer in the Department of Mathematics here:

lse.ac.uk/mathematics/edi

Women in Mathematics Seminar Series

The Department of Mathematics recognises that women traditionally have been and still are an under-represented group in Mathematics. To learn and discuss why this is the case and what can be done about it, we regularly organise Women in Mathematics Seminars. For these seminars we invite speakers to talk about their background, experiences, and sometimes research, related to the position of women studying or working in mathematics. All members of the Department (students and staff), whatever their gender, are encouraged to attend these seminars. Announcements are made via email and on our [website](#).

Academic Awards and Prizes

The Department of Mathematics likes to celebrate the achievements of its students, both academic achievements and community focused. The following prizes are available to be won by MSc Mathematics students during their time at LSE.



Joseph Abraham Prize

This prize is named after Joseph Abraham who was a student on the MSc Financial Mathematics programme who sadly died in 2015, shortly after completing his degree. He achieved a distinction grade for his studies and made a positive contribution to his cohort, so in his memory the Department and Joseph's family established this award. It will be awarded annually to the student who has shown Outstanding Achievement in their studies on the MSc Financial Mathematics programme, and the prize consists of a monetary prize and a book.

More information on the prize and previous winner can be found [here](#).

Haya Freedman Prize

Dr Freedman died on 19 July 2005. You can find out more about Dr Freedman in her obituary. In her memory, we established the Haya Freedman Prize.

The prize is awarded annually for the best dissertation produced by a student on the MSc in Mathematics and Computation. The prize consists of £250 and a book chosen by the Department. The winner(s) of the prize are selected by the Sub-Board of Examiners.

We hope that this is a positive way of remembering Dr Freedman, and also of rewarding our students for excellence.

More informations can be found [here](#).

The Ailsa Land Prize

Professor Ailsa Land (1927-2021) was a Professor of Operational Research at the London School of Economics. She received her PhD in 1956 under the supervision of George Morton. In a pioneering work with Alison Doig, in 1960 she introduced the branch-and-bound method, which is to this day at the heart of all commercial solvers, and one of the most widely known methods in optimisation.

The prize is awarded annually for the best overall performance by a student on the MSc Operations Research & Analytics. The prize consists of £250 and a book chosen by the Department. The winner(s) of the prize are selected by the Sub-Board of Examiners.

More information can be found [here](#).



John Ying Wah Gibson Prize Fund

The fund is named in memory of John Ying Wah Gibson, a BSc Mathematics and Economics graduate from 2009, who passed away whilst running the Singapore Marathon in December 2016. John is remembered as a dedicated student who made excellent contributions to his cohort, particularly in offering support to his fellow students. The fund comprises two awards, the **John Ying Wah Gibson Citizenship Prize** and the **John Ying Wah Gibson Voluntary Work Award**, which students can apply for or nominate other students for. These prizes are open to all Mathematics student taking undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

More information can be found [here](#).





Section 11: Jargon Buster





Autumn Term

Otherwise known as Autumn Term, first trimester or Fall Term, this is the first part of the academic year starting in September and finishing in December. You may see it written like this, or as "AT".

Winter Term

Winter Term is the second trimester and falls after the Christmas Break and the New Year. This usually lasts until the Easter Break, and after it is Spring Term. You may see it written as "WT".

Spring Term

Spring term is the third trimester and falls after Spring Break. You may see this written as "ST".

The School

This may seem obvious, but if someone says "the School" this is referring to LSE as a whole institution. They may also call it the university or just say LSE. All other names will refer to departments or divisions, which all form part of the wider School.

President and Vice Chancellor

Professor Larry Kramer took office as President and Vice Chancellor of the London School of Economics and Political Science on 1 April 2024.

Programmes and Courses

At LSE, the term "programme" refers to your degree (e.g. MSc Mathematics and Computation), whereas "courses" refer to the modules you take (e.g. MA407: Algorithms and Computation).



Section 12: Useful Information





Location of Departments

Economics	Sir Arthur Lewis Building, 32 Lincoln's Inn Fields – 1 st Floor	020 7955 7542/6426	Econ.Hub@lse.ac.uk
Finance	Marshall Building – 7 th Floor	020 7955 7736	finance@lse.ac.uk
Language Centre	20 Kingsway – Ground Floor	020 7955 6713	languages@lse.ac.uk
Mathematics	Columbia House – 4 th Floor	020 7655 7732	maths.teaching@lse.ac.uk
Statistics	Columbia House – 6 th Floor	020 7107 5416	statistics@lse.ac.uk

Important Contacts

Accommodation Office	accommodation@lse.ac.uk
Careers Office	careers@lse.ac.uk
Crime Reporting/Campus Security	020 7955 6200
Fees Office	020 7955 7765
Financial Support Office	financial-support@lse.ac.uk
IT Information and Help Desk	020 7107 5000 / tech.support@lse.ac.uk
Library Enquiries	library.enquiries@lse.ac.uk
London Nightline (6pm – 8am)	020 7631 0101
LSE LIFE	lselife@lse.ac.uk
LSESU Advice Centre	su.advice@lse.ac.uk
Student Wellbeing Service	020 7955 7567/020 7852 3627
Student Services Centre	lseportal.force.com/studentservices/s/enquiry-form
St Philips Medical Centre	020 7611 5131

See also: [**lse.ac.uk/people/search-people**](https://lse.ac.uk/people/search-people)



Section 13: 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.
- The **Department of Methodology** runs research design and methods courses, required on some master's programmes and optional on others. It also offers **one-to-one support** and **short courses** to complement your learning and support you through your dissertation and other research projects.
- **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.



- **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.



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 14: 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 <i>School closure:</i> 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 <i>School closure:</i> 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. On some taught Master's programmes, your AM may also be your Dissertation Supervisor, but check your department's arrangements.
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
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.





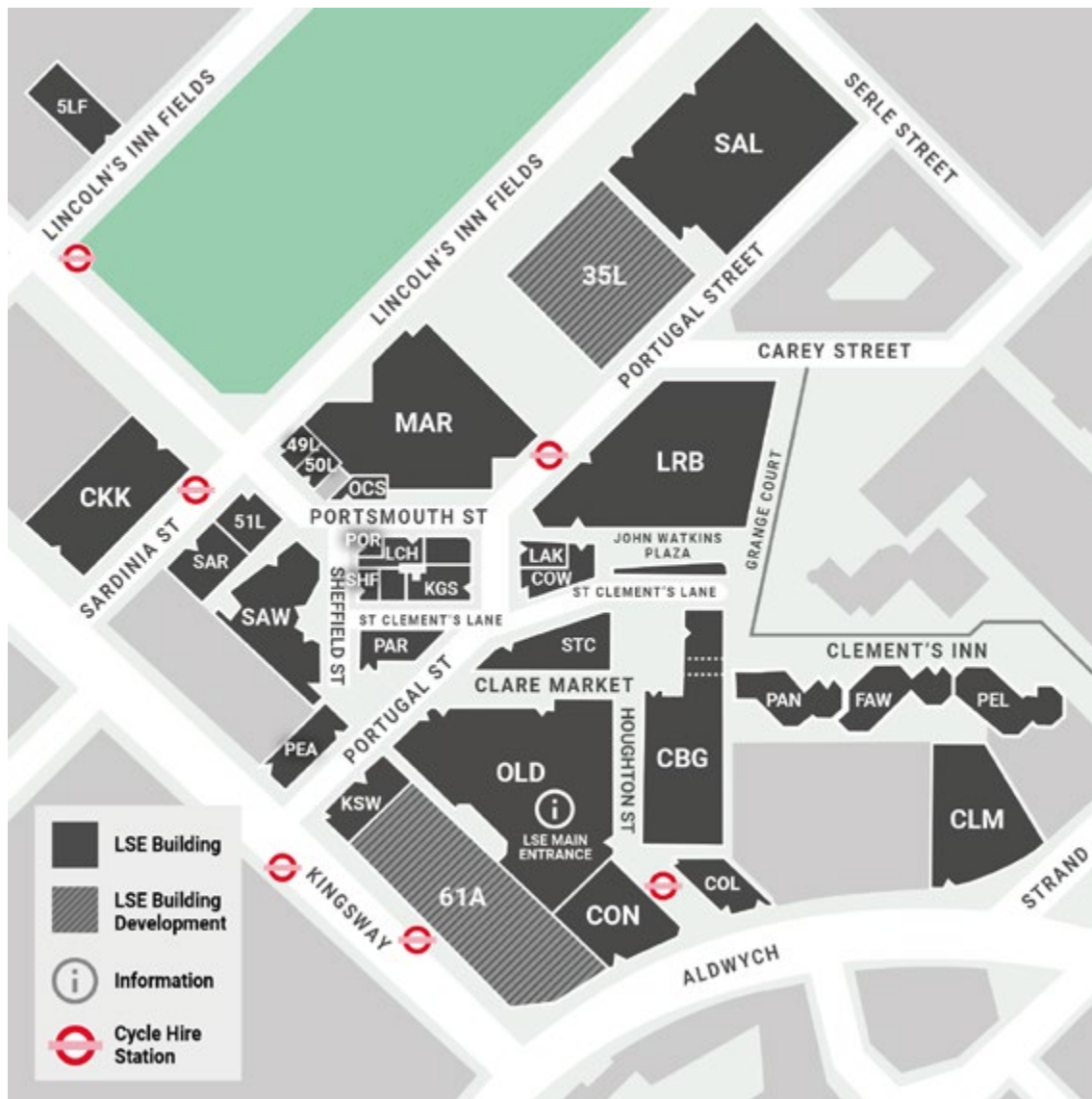
Codes, charters, and action plans

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/Mathematics



**Department of
Mathematics**

The London School
of Economics and
Political Science
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE

E: **maths.info@lse.ac.uk**

T: **+44 (0)20 7955 7732**

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