LSE Consulting



Consulting at LSE

Extend your research beyond academia



> When doing academic consulting, you don't have to embellish the evidence, suppress disagreement, or exaggerate your degree of certainty in any way. Our reports are full of language that conveys uncertainty and varying degrees of confidence. Their honesty is what makes them robust and authoritative.

Jonathan Birch
Professor of Philosophy, LSE

About LSE Consulting

We support academics, early career researchers and PhD students who want to work with external organisations on real world challenges, while retaining academic independence and intellectual control over their work.
Part of LSE's Research and Innovation Division, LSE Consulting is the School's dedicated route for undertaking and managing consulting and advisory activities alongside academic responsibilities. Whether your goal is to generate research impact, access new data and networks, collaborate with organisations aligned with your research interests, or earn additional income through consulting, we help make external engagement both possible and manageable.

LSE Consulting provides operational, contractual and commercial support throughout the project lifecycle, including:

- **Identifying** opportunities and liaising with clients
- **Supporting** proposal writing and budgeting
- **Handling** contracts, due diligence, conflicts of interest and risk
- **Managing** project delivery and reporting
- **Taking care** of the financial management and invoicing
- **Ensuring** institutional compliance
- **Promoting** the impact of your work

Where helpful, we can also contribute to the research itself, for example by providing support such as analytical assistance, literature reviews, interviewing, transcribing and help with specific defined components of the work under academic direction.

Our support is flexible and can be tailored to your needs. For some academics, this means comprehensive end-to-end project support. For others, it may simply involve institutional oversight and contract management for opportunities they have secured directly.

Commercial Support

LSE Consulting helps academics with pricing, budgeting and financial negotiations to build sustainable consulting activity. A fixed overhead on projects is returned to the School as Gift Aid, supporting research and teaching.

30+ years of consulting experience

Successfully completed over **5000** projects

Access to **3000+** leading **academic experts**

Projects delivered in **25+** countries

Independent, evidence-based research and advice

University-based quality assurance including peer review and ethical oversight

> “Consulting engagements that lead to demonstrable change in organisational practice or public policy can provide strong evidence for REF impact case studies, particularly where influence, reach and attribution are clearly evidenced.”







Consulting and Advisory

High-impact research and strategic advice for governments, corporations, NGOs and civil society organisations.

Our consulting and advisory work connects clients with leading academic expertise to address specific challenges, answer complex questions and inform decision-making. Engagements are tailored to a defined scope, timeframe and budget, drawing on rigorous research and evidence-based analysis.

Typical engagements include:

- Evidence reviews and systematic analysis
- Programme and impact evaluation
- Economic modelling and forecasting
- Policy and socio-economic analysis
- Strategic advisory grounded in data and research

Through our opportunities platform, OppsLink, academics can browse the latest project and tender opportunities, create tailored alerts and be notified when new opportunities matching their expertise become available.

Project Examples

Public Sector and Government

Investing in Early Warning Capability for Floods and Storms: An Appraisal of Benefits and Costs for New Zealand

Client: National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), New Zealand

A cost-benefit and value-for-money analysis assessing the economic and societal benefits of investing in New Zealand's early warning capability for floods and storms.

Study on Participation of Citizens with Disabilities in Elections

Client: European Commission, DG for Justice and Consumers

An extensive literature review examining best practices for supporting the participation of citizens with disabilities in elections across the European Union, recommending measures to improve electoral accessibility and inclusion.

Private Sector and Industry

Building Healthy Sleep Habits: The Next Frontier in Prevention

Client: Vitality Research Institute

An evidence-based research and data analysis project examining how sleep habits affect health, productivity, and longevity, drawing on scientific literature and a large dataset to inform prevention strategies.

European Media Literacy Policy Study

Client: Google

A policy research and evidence analysis project examining media literacy ecosystems, policies, and practices across Europe, including the impact of emerging technologies such as generative AI, approaches to tackling disinformation, and strategies for improving digital literacy and online safety.

Foundations, Charities and Non-Profit Organisations

Ethnicity and Family Dynamics

Client: Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

A literature review and evidence synthesis project examining the relationship between ethnicity, racism, and family dynamics to understand the drivers of poverty disparities among ethnic minority groups in the UK.

The Economic Impact of Identity Exclusion on Organisations: A Qualitative Study

Client: Women in Identity

A qualitative research study examining the economic impacts of identity exclusion on organisations to identify hidden costs, business risks, and opportunities for organisations to improve identity inclusion and inform the development of an ID Code of Conduct.

Consulting hubs

Specialist topic-led units built around academic expertise.

Our consulting hubs enable individual academics or Departments, Centres or Institutes to move beyond one-off projects by creating a platform for sustained, repeatable work with clients, built around their research expertise and interests.

LSE Consulting provides hands-on support across business development, strategy, marketing and client engagement, helping hubs establish a strong market presence, attract opportunities and grow their consulting activity over time.

Examples of our hubs:

- Trade Policy Hub
- Education, Youth and Civic Engagement Hub
- Foreign Policy Hub
- FORGOOD Initiative
- Inclusive Leadership Hub
- Wellbeing Appraisal, Valuation and Evaluation Hub

If you are interested in building a consulting hub that extends the reach and impact of your research, we would love to hear from you.



Hub Development Journey

Identify Opportunity
Agree on hub development

Validate Market
Undertake market assessment and competitor analysis

Design Business Model
Define services and complete Business Model Canvas

Develop Proposition
Create stakeholder narrative and positioning

Create Delivery Toolkit
Develop proposal, report and contract templates

Standardise Pricing
Set up financial model and revenue structure

Build Brand Presence
Develop website, social media and visual identity

Launch & Grow
Focus on marketing, networking and business development





Academic Speakers Bureau (ASB)

The world's first speakers' bureau dedicated exclusively to academic experts.

The Academic Speakers Bureau, an LSE Consulting initiative, helps academics amplify the impact of their research by connecting them with paid speaking opportunities around the world. We work with organisations seeking authoritative, evidence-based perspectives, creating opportunities for academics to engage influential audiences beyond academia.

Our team manages every aspect of the engagement process, from fee negotiation and contracting to intellectual property protection, logistics and client communications. This allows speakers to focus on delivering exceptional insights while we handle the details.

Through a dedicated profile on the ASB platform, speakers gain access to a diverse range of clients and audiences globally, helping them extend the reach and influence of their expertise.

ACADEMIC SPEAKERS BUREAU

Types of events include:

- Keynotes
- Panel discussions
- Expert interviews
- Board sessions
- One-to-ones with senior executives
- Fireside chats
- Company presentations
- After-dinner events
- Roundtables

If you want to join our platform as a speaker, visit academicspeakersbureau.com and fill out the form.

Engaging as an early career researcher or PhD student

LSE Consulting actively supports PhD students and early career researchers who want to explore consulting alongside their research.

Whether you're just getting started or already have experience, we can help you:

- **Understand** what academic consulting involves
- **Explore** opportunities aligned with your expertise
- **Develop** your professional skills
- **Build** your external profile and networks
- **Identify** funders and funding opportunities aligned with your research

There are many ways to get involved: joining a project team as a researcher, offering expert insight on a niche topic, supporting literature reviews or data analysis, co-authoring reports with academics you work with from your Department or Centre, contributing to client workshops or roundtables, or developing your own consulting proposal with our support.

This can complement doctoral training and early career development without detracting from academic progression.



Benefits of consulting

Increase the reach and visibility of your research

Generate additional income to support your personal or research goals

Shape real-world decisions, policy and debate

Explore new research questions inspired by practice

Build partnerships for future projects

Contribute evidence and relationships that support strong and credible REF impact case studies

Gain external recognition for your expertise

Generate funding for research assistance, data collection or future projects

ADB
AstraZeneca
Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals
Bloomberg
British Council
Cancer Research Horizons
Crisis Together we will end homelessness
Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
An Roinn Sláinte Department of Health
Department for Business & Trade
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Education
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology
Ericsson
European Commission
EY
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
frA
Fundación Ramón Areces
Google
Government of Meghalaya
Hogan Lovells
JRF Joseph Rowntree Foundation
London Councils
mastercard
Mercer
Meta
Microsoft
Penguin Random House
pepsico
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Reserve Bank of Australia
Roche
Royal Foundation
Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba
South African Reserve Bank
UNESCO
Vitality
Wales Centre for Public Policy Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru
WOMEN IN IDENTITY
World Health Organization
50 World Fifty Group
World Bank Group

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