



Dear ,

[Welcome to the Department of Social Policy!](#)

To help you navigate course selection, we recommend that you read the below in conjunction with the School's course selection guide. You can find information on Course Selection [here](#), and the LSE Course Selection Guide for postgraduates can be found [here](#) – under 'Taught Postgraduate'.

IMPORTANT UPDATE for Students on the MSc ISPP Research Stream

We would like to let you know that MY451W and MY551W will be suspended for 2026/27. Meanwhile, MY451A and MY551A, which cover the same content, will run as usual in the Autumn Term.

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When can I select my courses?



You will be able to browse (but not select) courses from **10am on Monday 21 September 2026** until **10 am on Thursday 24 September 2026**.

You will be able to select and officially apply for courses from **10am on Thursday 24 September 2026** until 5pm on **Friday 9 October 2026**.

Where can I find information about the courses available?

- The [programme regulations](#) list all the courses which are **compulsory** and **optional** for your degree.

Through the programme regulations you can also access the course guides. [Course guides](#) provide information about the content of the course, which term the course will run, the hours of teaching and the types of assessment

- Watch [our course convenor videos](#) to discover more about the content of Social Policy courses.
- Look at the [Social Policy course brochure](#) where you'll find a list of all the postgraduate Social Policy courses and a summary of their content. **The prefix for all Social Policy courses is 'SP'.**

Which courses do I need to take?

- The [programme regulations list](#) all the courses which are **compulsory** and **optional** for your degree.
- All Social Policy MSc degrees require you to complete 4 units' worth of courses.
- **MSc full-time** students must take courses to the value of 4 units over the course of the year.
- **MSc part-time** students should take courses (including core courses) to the value of 2 units each year (completing your dissertation in the second year).

We recommend that you try to balance the number of units over the two terms (Autumn and Winter terms). Overloading courses in one term can be quite challenging, and you are advised to speak to your Academic Mentor if you are considering this.

Can I take courses not listed in my programme regulations?

It is possible to take non-Social Policy courses and/or courses from outside of your programme regulations, but you will need permission from your Programme Director to do so.

Once you arrive at Welcome 2026, please complete the [Outside Course Request Form](#) if you would like to take a course which is not listed on your programme regulations. Please explain in the free text box the reasons why you would like to take the outside course.

IMPORTANT:

- Do not complete the Outside Course Request Form until you arrive at LSE and are making your course choices.
- You should apply for the outside course at the same time as requesting permission, so that you do not lose out on a place on your desired course. Please apply early to avoid disappointment.

Is there a limited number of places on courses?

All Social Policy courses are 'capped' as well as most other courses in at LSE. This means that there is a limit to the number of students that can be accepted onto a course. As a Social Policy student, you will be given priority on Social Policy courses.

Social Policy course convenors will not start offering places until 1pm on Monday 28 September 2026. *(This gives you enough time to decide on the courses you wish to apply for).*

How do I select my courses when I arrive at LSE?

- You will select your courses through [LSE for You](#) (LFY). When you sign in to LFY, you will see an option for 'Graduate Course Choice', and this is where you will select and make applications for the courses you would like to take.
- The course selection system will open for a 'browsing' period during Welcome so that you can familiarise yourself with the system. **You can choose your courses once course selection officially opens at 10am on Thursday 24 September 2026.**

- When you apply to take a course through LFY, you will need to make a short statement (approximately 250 words) explaining why you wish to take the course.

Your statement can include information such as the reasons why you are interested in taking the course, how the course fits in with your goals, whether it's related to your potential dissertation interests or future career aspirations, and how your experience can contribute to the course etc.

- Course convenors will review applications and statements and start to offer places through LFY. When you are offered a place, you will have 48 hours to accept it, otherwise it will 'time out' and the place will be offered to someone else.
- Please choose courses for both the Autumn and Winter terms.

How many courses can I apply to?

You must select 4 units' worth of courses in accordance with your programme regulations. Please note that this includes your compulsory required courses.

I have been accepted onto 4 units' worth of courses, and I wish to apply for another, what do I do?

If you have already accepted 4 units' worth of courses and wish to apply for another you must drop a course. Please be aware that if you drop a course there is no guarantee that you would then be offered a place on the new course you apply to. You will also lose the place on the course you had previously accepted.

We would recommend that you contact the convenor of the course you wish to apply for before dropping a course and applying to see if there is a place available for you.

Where can I get advice and support on my course choice?



There will be lots of time and opportunities for you to seek advice in relation to your course choice:

- In the week before Welcome you will be allocated an [Academic Mentor](#). You should contact your Academic Mentor if you are unsure about which courses

are suitable or are right for you. If you have any questions about courses before your Academic Mentor is allocated, then please email the Programmes Support Team: socialpolicy.msc@lse.ac.uk. **Please do not contact course convenors directly about courses until Welcome.** Instead, please email the Programmes Support Team.

- We will also have an in-person Course Selection session when course selection opens on Thursday 24 September, so that you can get in person support with your selections. You can find more information on the [Welcome Programme](#).
- Email us (socialpolicy.msc@lse.ac.uk) or visit us during office hours in OLD 2.03 if you have any unanswered questions on course selection.

I'm on a waitlist, what should I do?

Social Policy courses do not have a waitlist. Other departments may operate waitlists, and you must contact them directly if you apply for a course there.

Can I change my courses in Winter Term?

Yes. However, you should make your choices for the full year in the Autumn term course selection period. There is no guarantee there will be a place left on the Winter Term course you wish to take if you wait!

TOP TIP

Make a list of courses you are interested in and write some brief notes as to why you would like to take those courses. This will help give you a head start when you come to write your statements when course choice opens!

When will I receive my timetable and seminars?

The timetable for all courses in the School is available [here](#). When you are accepted onto courses, your timetable will appear in [LFY](#) and in your [Student Hub](#) app. There may be a time-lag between your acceptance of a place and when it appears on your personal timetable – please be patient.

It is important that you take into consideration potential lecture and seminar clashes when applying for courses. You can do this by checking the [lecture and seminar timetable](#) of the course you wish to apply for.

Complete your mandatory Consent.Ed training

Our Consent.Ed programme equips you to become an active bystander and make positive decisions about relationships.

You must complete both Level 1 and 2 of the programme:

- **Level 1:** [take the online training before you arrive on campus](#).
- **Level 2:** a 90-minute workshop that everyone in our department must attend.

Information about the Level 2 session has been added to your Student Hub calendar and attendance will be monitored.

[More information](#) (including information on alternative provision for survivors) is available online.

Next Steps

- Familiarise yourself with [your programme regulations](#), [course guides](#) and [course brochure](#) which includes information about your compulsory and optional courses.
- [Complete your Level 1 Consent.Ed training](#) before you arrive on campus!
- You will next hear from us in September on the topic of '**Welcome Week**' – giving you information about the exciting programmes and sessions for Welcome 2026

Note: You will be able to log in and view the Welcome schedule only after you [online enrol](#) at LSE (you will receive an email notification when it's time to [enrol](#) so don't panic now!).

When prompted, please online enrol and confirm your LSE student email before or **AT THE LATEST by 18 September 2026** so we can start contacting you with department news via your LSE email address!

IMPORTANT: After 18 September, we will contact you by your LSE Email address ONLY - in order not to miss any key communications, please make sure to online enrol by 18 September, and check your LSE email from that point.

Best wishes,

Social Policy Postgraduate Programmes Support Team

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My Support