



Dear offer holder

We can't wait to welcome our new cohort to the Department of Social Policy! We know that preparing for undergraduate study and embarking on your first steps at university can feel exciting, but also daunting. Don't worry — to help you feel prepared ahead of starting at LSE, we have a few tips and pointers for you!

As your BSc Programmes Support Team, we'd like to provide you with some useful information about preparing for your degree programme and how you'll study.

Remember we're here to support you throughout your time at LSE, so if you have any questions before or whilst you're on the programme we're always happy to help!

In this edition

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- Preparatory reading suggestions and accessing your reading list
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Preparatory reading suggestions and accessing your reading list

Preliminary reading over the summer isn't essential. In September, once you arrive, you'll start to access reading lists for your courses.

When you become a registered LSE student, you'll have full access not only to the [LSE Library](#) but also to numerous electronic texts and publications. For this reason, we don't recommend purchasing texts before you arrive which should later be available to you via the School's library.

However, we appreciate that some of you may wish to begin exploring the types of topics you'll be engaging with. Here are some examples of podcasts and articles you may wish to listen to or read, to start immersing yourself in topics relevant to Social Policy.

Podcasts, articles and blog posts to explore

- [Catch 22 minutes \(a UK-based social enterprise\)](#)
- [Radio 4 Analysis programme \(UK based\)](#)
- [Policy Forum Pod \(Asia and Pacific Region, run by ANU\)](#)
- [Brookings Institution \(US\)](#)
- [Social Europe podcast](#)
- ["What does it really mean to be a citizen?"](#), a podcast featuring Dr Robtel Neajai Pailey, Department of Social Policy
- ["Top-income adjustments and official statistics on income distribution: the case of the UK"](#), an article written by Professor Stephen Jenkins, Department of Social Policy

If you wish to explore more, you can find the department's recent publications, articles, podcasts, and more [here!](#)



Your Programme structure and courses

The [programme regulations](#) list all the courses which are compulsory and optional for any degree programme offered at LSE. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the relevant regulations for your degree programme before you arrive.

From time to time, LSE has to change the course modules it makes available to new and continuing students. The [LSE Calendar website](#) will set out any undergraduate course changes for the 2026-27 academic year.

LSE100: your interdisciplinary course

Alongside your Social Policy courses, all first-year undergraduate students take LSE100, our [flagship interdisciplinary course](#) designed to shape the future leaders of tomorrow. It's a unique opportunity for you to delve into complex global challenges, alongside peers from outside of the Department and leading academics across the School.

As part of pre-enrolment, you'll be asked to select one of these three compelling themes as the focus of your LSE100 studies:

- [How can we control AI?](#)
- [How can we transform our climate futures?](#)
- [How can we create a fair society?](#)

You're encouraged to select a theme that sparks your curiosity and enthusiasm. You don't need prior expertise in your chosen theme; seminars will support you in developing your knowledge throughout the course.



Receiving your timetable

The timetable for all courses in the School will be found [on the website](#). Your personal timetable is expected to be updated in [LSE for You](#) and in your [Student Hub app](#) calendar from 10am on Friday 25 September.

Your scheduled lectures are at a set time each week, and you're expected to attend these. You'll attend the same lecture as all other students taking the course. You'll also be allocated to a class group (15 – 17 students) for each course you take.

It's expected that you should remain in the class group you are allocated to by the School, and any extra-curricular activities you engage with or part-time employment you undertake should be planned around your timetable. Changes to class groups are granted on exceptional grounds only.

Understanding the academic year

Please make a note of the [2026/27 term dates](#). LSE's academic year is divided into Autumn Term (from September to December); Winter Term (from January to March); and Spring Term (from April to June).

Teaching takes place in the Autumn and Winter Terms. Assessments for any courses which are assessed by exam will take place in the Spring Term (some courses from other departments may have exams during the January exam period). Throughout the Spring Term you will have some revision sessions ahead of your end of year assessments.

Support for your learning

It's very normal to have questions or concerns about the academic side of your degree ahead of joining. LSE offers a range of services to help support your transition and make the most of your time at university, and you can check some of them out below.



Next steps and reminders

Here are your most important tasks and to-dos right now.

- Familiarise yourself with the information on the programme webpage for your specific programme:
 - [BSc International Social and Public Policy](#)
 - [BSc International Social and Public Policy with Economics](#)
 - [BSc International Social and Public Policy with Politics](#)
- Read your [Undergraduate Offer Guide](#) for information on visas, fees, accommodation, what to do before you arrive at LSE, and general information about student life and London.
- Browse our [department webpage](#), [LSE LIFE](#), [Student Services Centre](#), and [funding information](#) for more insight into life at LSE.
- Follow us on [social media](#) to get updates on all things Social Policy!

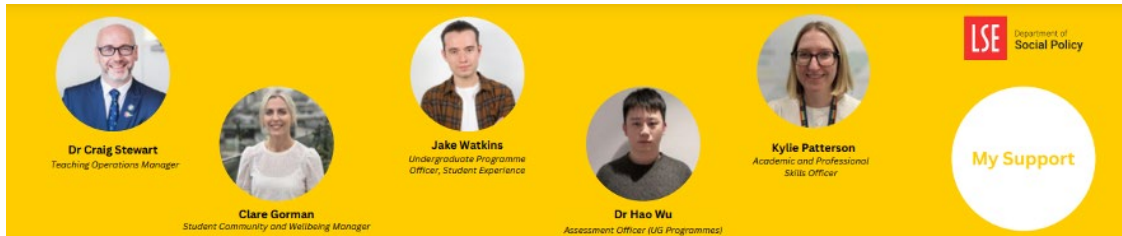
You'll next hear from us on the topic of 'My support' - giving you information about the key sources of support you can access whilst studying with us.

We look forward to hopefully welcoming you in September. In the meantime, if you have any queries about your programme, please don't hesitate to email us on

socialpolicy.ug@lse.ac.uk. You can also keep in touch by following us on [Bluesky](#) & [Instagram](#).

Best wishes,

The Department of Social Policy



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