

### What should you discuss with your Academic Mentor?

- Social Policy students should expect to receive the equivalent of a minimum of 2 meetings per term with their Academic Mentor AM - no less than 3 hours in total - before the last day of Spring Term. These may be individual or as part of their Mentor Group.
- Social Policy students should expect to receive comments on draft written work (e.g., a draft chapter such as a literature review) by the end of the Spring Term. AMs should advise students by when they will need to submit work in order that the AM will be able to provide comments by the end of the Spring Term.
  - As Supervisor support concludes at the end of Spring Term, students are advised to start work on their Dissertation, and discuss this with their AM, from early in the Programme and throughout the teaching year – and not to leave working on their dissertation until the Summer, after teaching.

**Please note that it is STUDENTS' Responsibility to contact/book an appointment with their AM if they wish to speak to them on a 1-1 basis**

Below is a guide to topics which you may wish to discuss with your Mentor at various points in the year. This is intended as a guide– your pattern of meetings with your Mentor may differ depending on you and your Mentors' timetable and needs. NB: Mentors will combine AM sessions on specific topics into group sessions for their Mentees, where sensible. However, they will continue to be available for 1-1 advice where students book appointments.

In addition, remember that you have been organised into mentor groups for the year. You should think creatively about how you could use these productively – are there any topics or subjects it might be helpful to discuss? As a Mentor group, would you like to discuss any issues collectively with your AM? You are particularly encouraged to use your mentor groups throughout the year as a source of support and peer feedback in relation to your dissertation.

## MSc Academic Year – Academic Mentor Timetable

### Autumn Term

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| <p><b>Welcome Week/Week 1:</b><br/>AMs will meet with the Mentor Groups they are Mentoring during Welcome or Week 1.</p>  | <p>Half of this meeting will relate to the 'Meet the Researcher' activity with which Mentor Groups are tasked in Welcome.</p> <p>The second half of this meeting will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the AM Role – Academic and Pastoral elements; AM and Mentor Group getting to know each other; availability and how to arrange an appointment</li> <li>• Signpost to other support (eg. Programmes Support Office; LSE Life; <b>DWS</b>): Please note – if you believe that you may need My Adjustments* from the Disability and Wellbeing Service (DWS), it is advantageous for you to contact them as early as possible.</li> <li>• Your Academic Interests – what would you be interested in studying during the year? Early thoughts on Dissertation topic(s)? Course selection</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Week 7 – 10:</b><br/>Your Mentor Group will meet with your AM at the end of AT (Time TBC) as part of the SP498/9 'Dis-co'<br/>(Dissertation Conference)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main purpose of the Mentor Group Dis-Co meeting is to allow members of each Mentor Group to informally discuss their Dissertation progress so far with the Mentor Group and their AM.</li> <li>• Your AM may also wish to use this meeting to discuss: Any issues affecting your studies? Positive lessons from this term? Anything which could be worked on/improved next term?</li> </ul>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please note that in addition to these Mentor Group AM meetings, each student can book appointments with their AM where necessary – in most cases, these can be booked through the Student Hub. Details on how to book appointments with all faculty can be found on the Department's <a href="#">People webpage</a>.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Winter Term</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reminder: Your Dissertation Outline form is due in Winter Term <b>Week 1</b>.</i></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Week 4- 8:</b> You may wish to make an appointment with your AM at this point in WT</p>   | <p>Useful topics of conversation may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formative &amp; summative feedback/lessons/issues?</li> <li>• Dissertation Progress so far; Are there any ethical considerations?</li> <li>• Any pastoral issues/wellbeing or academic support that is needed/not being received?</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Week 9- 11 – SP498/9 'Dis-Co' 2 Mentor Group-AM meeting</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentor Groups and AMs will meet (time TBC) to allow students an opportunity to present on their dissertation to the Group and their AM, and receive feedback at this more advanced stage of their dissertation.</li> </ul>   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please remember that each student can book appointments with their AM where necessary – in most cases, these can be booked through the Student Hub.</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>Spring Term</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember if you want feedback on a draft Dissertation Chapter by the end of Spring Term, your AM must have time to read this – when is the deadline they need the Chapter by?</li> </ul>  |
|                    | <p>Things you may find useful to discuss with your AM in Spring Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation for exams (if relevant) and summative assessments</li> <li>Remember the various sources of support through the exam period: Programme Support Office; SSC – if in doubt, Programme Support Office can advise.</li> <li>Next Steps: what do you want to do after your career? Remember that you have access to the Career's Hub and LSE Life, who may also be able to help you think about your next steps.</li> </ul> |

*\*My Adjustments* are put in place to ensure that all students are able to learn on a level playing field. They are tailored to individual students' needs, to ensure each student receives any support they need. If you feel you may need an inclusion plan due to anything which may adversely affect your ability to study (this can include anything from a physical disability, specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia, or anxiety and mental health issues). Please contact DWS as soon as possible if you feel you may benefit from that support.