Master's programmes summary of actions taken to address matters raised at SSLC meetings

Term	Matter raised	Action
Winter Term 2025-26	1) Students expressed a strong desire for more careers-focused information and events to be made available to them during the course of their studies, and particularly earlier in the academic year. 2) Students mentioned that extra sessions on dissertations were helpful and wondered if it would be possible to have dissertation workshops earlier in the year.	1) LSE Careers provide a large number of careers events across all terms open to – and relevant for – IH Masters students, many of which take place before Christmas. This (LSE Careers in a year) page illustrates the themed events delivered across each term. IH Masters students are interested in a wide range of sectors including finance, law, public policy, consulting, international organisations and political risk. LSE Careers events open to all LSE students, ensures that Masters IH students get exposure to these sectors and more, via events such as recruitment fairs and employer-led skills seminars. There are also department-specific events such as 'thinking of doing a PhD?' event and the 'alumni panel and networking' event which are well received by students and well attended. 2) In 2026-27 the department will introduce separate workshops for HY490, HY4A4, HY498 and HY499 students in Week 2 of the Autumn Term. Subsequent workshops will take place en masse in Weeks 3-7.

Autumn Term 2025-26	1) Students would like to receive a separate e-mail with course selection information before the Welcome week 2) Students noted that class timetables were difficult to find and needed to be more readily available 3) Students would like more course videos and course-specific information available before the course selection opens 4) There was a suggestion to hold a history introduction session that would explain what the history discipline did differently from other disciplines and what the key terms were 5) Students reported high levels of noise in the Library and that it was difficult to find quiet spaces. 6) It was mentioned that course acceptance timings were inconsistent – some teachers made their decisions too early, others too late.	1) This has been taken into consideration, and all 2026-27 students were sent a course selection-specific e-mail before the Welcome week. 2) For 2026-27 intake of students a link to class/lecture timetables was included in the course selection e-mail. 3) The department discussed ways of addressing student demand for course-specific information availability before the course selection opening date and agreed to hold a single Master's Taster Course session during the Welcome week 2026. This should help students to decide which courses to take before teaching begins in Week 1 and ensure a smoother course selection experience. 4) The department considered this suggestion and agreed to hold a Staff Research Welcome Session during the Welcome week. This session showcased faculty members' expertise and research and was a good opportunity for students to get to know their potential dissertation supervisors. 5) Students were sent a list of alternative Libraries/study spaces across London. 6) The department agreed that from 2026-27 all decisions on HY courses will be made by Monday of Week 1.
Winter Term 2024-25	1) Marking criteria seems inconsistent across courses when it comes to use of historiography 2) Students would like to see more recent alumni from different countries/job sectors invited to the department's	1) Historiography is important, but some teachers rank it more highly than others in terms of the overall approach of how you go about writing an essay.

	careers events 3) There was a suggestion of organising careers events that would cater to the sectors that are not as represented in the rest of the LSE careers offerings (e.g. journalism, museums, PhD) 4) The School's library access to resources related to Chinese studies is very limited 5) Students reported issues with broken/incorrect links on Moodle reading lists	As a rule, you need to situate your work in relation to the work of other historians, but just how detailed and specific that situation of your work needs to be is subject to some diversity of view between different teachers. 2) The department's pool of potential alumni is quite limited when it comes to careers events as not everyone would be prepared/available to travel to London. There are also cost considerations. The department will explore an opportunity of organising online careers events that would help to engage a wider range of our alumni. 3) The department will consider this suggestion and try to have a specific focus on the kinds of careers our graduates have headed off to do, which are still quite diverse. 4) The department acknowledges that there are some limitations when it comes to resources the library holds or subscribes to. The department will relay this to our library representative, Dr Paul Horsler, who may be able to make a case for getting access to more resources. 5) Teachers are responsible for ensuring all reading list links are correct for their course on Moodle. Students should alert their teacher about any issues with the reading lists so that s/he could rectify any errors.

Autumn Term 2024-25	1) There are no courses tailored to specific programmes 2) Disappointment that some courses are not available (i.e. HY459 and HY491) and there are no alternatives offered/available. 3) Frustration about the limit of four units that can be selected on LSE For You 4) Lack of clarity on admission criteria to courses 5) Lack of guidance in class on how to write an essay 6) HY400 reading list is very long and there is too little time to prepare for seminars 7) It is not clear how much IR theory students can use in HY498 dissertation 8) Issues with accessing certain resources, some of which are for purchase only (e.g. Oxford Encyclopaedia) 9) Students would like to see core readings being available digitally 10) Students asked if it would be possible to have a microwave and a kettle in the Common Room	1) The department tried a core course on the MSc Empires programme before, but it did not work very well. It was very difficult to design a course that would encompass all students' interests. 2) The department has a limited budget and replacement teachers are not always easy to find when members of permanent staff go on sabbatical leave/research leave. Course availability also depends on student demand and numbers. 3) The limit is set by the School according to the specific programme regulations. Removing restrictions would mean that students could select lots of different courses and thereby prevent other students from being able to select these courses. 4) Teachers have their own preferences and rationale behind using first come, first serve approach or personal statements. List of capped courses and admission criteria are available on the course selection pages. Different departments run their selection process differently and there is not much the department can do about it. 5) There is generic guidance available on each Moodle page and students should use formative essays as a test run or practice for which they will receive feedback. Students should then use this feedback to do better in the summative assessment.

		6) It is specified on the reading list which readings are essential and which ones are optional. Students are not expected to read everything. Some teachers prefer to let students choose what to read. Students are welcome to ask teachers for advice on how to approach/manage a specific book/reading. 7) HY498 dissertation should be a case study in history, but students can use elements of IR theory and ideas. Students can use IR theory in their introduction, but dissertation needs to be based on empirical research. 8) If the issue is course-specific, students should get in touch with the teacher responsible for the course in question. It the issue is programme-specific, students should contact their Programme Director or Master's Tutor. Students can use *Get It For Me* service to access material not currently available at LSE Library. 9) Lack of digitised readings is mainly because some books went out of print, are difficult to find or there are copyright issues (only 10% of each book can be photocopied/digitised). There are limitations on what is possible in terms of digitisation, but the department will continue to try adding more digital resources. 10) The department trialled this in the past (students were given a microwave and a kettle), however it soon became a

		problem as cleanliness standards were not maintained and there was no practical way of monitoring an appropriate use of equipment.
Winter term 2023-24	1) Not all mentors are equally invested in their mentees (some are not approachable/do not respond to e-mails) 2) Double degree students were not sure when their final results would be released and graduation ceremony would take place – they would like this information to be available on the programme pages before they apply. 3) Lack of clarity and communications regarding e-exams. 4) Interest in research travel grants. 5) Interest in weekly departmental newsletter.	1) All academic mentors in the department are required to e-mail their mentees at the start of academic year to introduce themselves and invite their mentees to the first meeting. There is a set minimum of what is expected of academic mentors but there is no maximum hence a perceived variation in students' experiences. Students are encouraged to reach out to their mentors if they need help/guidance. 2) LSE-CU final results are released in mid-July and graduation ceremony takes place shortly after. LSE-PKU and LSE-NUS final results are released in mid-November and graduation ceremony takes place in mid-December. The department will investigate whether it is possible to add this information to the programme pages for 2025 intake. 3) All HY Spring Term exams will be e-exam enabled. TRCs whose courses have an exam element will inform the students that this is the case. MSc Programmes Administrator will send full details on practicalities (including drop-in session dates) to all students in the beginning of March. 4) Currently the department offers 10 travel bursaries sponsored by the department's donor Richard Straus. The department is

		trying to attract additional funding to offer more opportunities to its students. 5) The department produces a monthly newsletter which covers department's activities, news and events as well as programme-related information. At the moment there is no capacity to produce a weekly newsletter, however if there is anything students would like to pass onto their peers (e.g. an event, competition etc.) in between the newsletters, they are welcome to e-mail the details to Max Smith (ih.events@lse.ac.uk) or Milada Fomina (ih.pgadmin@lse.ac.uk) who will be happy to circulate department-wide.
Autum term 2023-24	1) Students would like to have more lectures alongside seminars 2) Stress over finding dissertation supervisor and lack of guidance 3) Lack of focus in terms of course choices on MSc History of International Relations programme	1) At postgraduate level, it is generally expected that students take more responsibility for their learning of the material therefore teaching is delivered in a seminar form. 2) Students are advised in the beginning of academic year to start thinking about their dissertation topic and approach the relevant faculty members as early as possible in the Autumn Term. This is also discussed during the dissertation workshops and clearly stipulated in the dissertation regulations published on Moodle and in the MSc Student Handbook. Faculty members are very flexible, in general, and their expertise is clearly displayed on the department's website. If you are truly set on a certain member of staff, then you should contact them earlier in the year/before you arrive

		as all their contact details are available online. 3) This programme is for students who want broader options as students had complained about the lack of choice in the past.
Lent term 2022-23	1) Uncertainty about feedback return timeline; students have not received feedback for assessed coursework on HY4B6, HY486 and HY489 2) Not all courses with assessed presentation element have assessment criteria posted on Moodle 3) Need for more careers events targeted at history students in the Michaelmas Term 4) Query about travel bursaries for Master's dissertations 5) Lack of communication from the department regarding strike action	1) Feedback on assessed coursework is returned within 5 term weeks of the submission deadline as stipulated in the LSE Academic Code. Teachers responsible for HY4B6, HY486 and HY489 were contacted and reminded to return feedback to students. Students received feedback within two days of the SSLC meeting. 2) All TRCs whose courses have an assessed presentation element were e-mailed and asked to post assessment criteria on Moodle. 3) This was relayed to Dr Edlira Gjonca who is responsible for the alumni relations and careers programme in the department. 4) 10 Richard Straus Travel Bursaries for up to £400 each will be made available to all Master's students. Application details will be sent by e-mail in the next couple of weeks. 5) Faculty members are not obliged to inform the department on whether they intend to strike or not. All faculty members have been advised to communicate with their students regarding strike action and their plans.
Michaelmas term	1) LSE-CU and LSE-PKU students experienced delays in	1) There is not much the department can do

2022-23	obtaining visas due to delays in receiving acceptance letters from LSE 2) Lack of Middle Eastern, Asian, African and Caribbean history courses	as these letters are issued by the Graduate Admissions Office. 2) The department offers courses covering these subject areas but due to sabbatical leave arrangements and Teaching Fellow's visa issues the department has had to suspend some of them.
Michaelmas term 2021-22	1) Earlier and longer course selection period would be preferred 2) Need for Social Representatives for each programme 3) Request to provide feedback on assessed coursework online (Moodle)	1) This will delay courses/teaching starting in earnest as the introductory sessions do not contain any substantive teaching material. If earlier course choices were available, many students would not know what/how to select courses as this information is only available during induction. 2) This will be arranged by the Student Experience and Events Co-ordinator. 3) Online feedback to be released on Moodle once assessed coursework has been marked and moderated.
Summer term 2020-21	1) Need for more Asia-focused courses 2) Assessed essay submission deadlines are too close to each other/overlap 3) LSE-CU students would prefer if HY458 deadline was later in the year, e.g. September	1) The Department will be introducing two new Asia-focused courses in 2021-22. 2) Setting deadlines is a complicated process as the department has tight timelines for marking and sending marks to external examiners for review. 3) Setting deadline later in the year could be problematic for U.S students as they would not graduate until November. This could cause visa and work placement issues.
Lent term 2020-	1) Possibility of accessing exam feedback	1) The department only provides feedback

21	2) Expectations for dissertations, particularly in terms of primary sources and how (un)availability of sources will affect marking 3) Difficulties keeping track of events, assessment info etc.	on assessed essays and dissertations, but not on examinations. Dissertation feedback is available on request from dissertation supervisors. 2) HY498/499 workshops have been brought forward to help students to start thinking about their dissertations earlier in the Michaelmas Term. Students have been already warned about not relying on the possibility of visiting archives and working on the assumption that they will not re-open. TRC for HY498/499 to remind all Master's students that they should focus on digital sources. 3) A lot of events at LSE are recorded and, if students miss any, they can watch/listen to recordings. Assessment information is normally sent via e-mail and is also available on the course Moodle pages. Students are encouraged to use the department's social media handles for keeping up-to-date with the department's events.
Michaelmas Term 2020-21	1) HY423 reading list too long and guidance needed on what to read 2) Issues with inter-library loans and book availability 3) Lack of printing allowance 4) Lack of access to the School's Counselling Service 5) Difficulties with getting admitted to IR courses (LSE-PKU) 6) Possibility of extending HY458 submission deadline 7) Possibility of accessing past essays	1) Students are not expected to know everything, the aim of the course is to make comparisons. Reading fellow students' summaries should help with managing workload. Students are encouraged to e-mail their teachers if they need help or guidance. 2) There was not much the department can do about the issue. Students are encouraged to share books and collaborate with each other. 3) The department has looked into the matter several times and concluded that

		financially it is not feasible to offer printing allowance to all students. Department will look into a possibility of on-demand requests for printing allowance, although there will be administrative burden involved. For environmental reasons the department also does not allow staff to print much anymore as the department is trying to cut down on the printing generally. 4) The School is aware of the issue and has put more money into the service, however the demand is still outstripping supply. Students are encouraged to seek help elsewhere by using peer to peer support, various hotlines and text-based counselling services all of which are free. Links to such services to be sent to all Master's students. 5) Dr Ron Po (LSE-PKU Programme Director) to relay LSE-PKU students' feedback on course selection to IR department and remind IR colleagues to treat IH students equally. 6) The department has discussed dissertation deadlines for all programmes and decided that a deadline extension will not benefit students as it will fall within exam period and make it more stressful for students. The current deadline was chosen to prevent accumulation of deadlines for students in May. 7) In order to use students' essays the department would need to ask for their permission first. In addition, the department does not want to hand out past essays as students might regard them as something to be adhered to in a very rigid

		manner, whereas in reality there are many other ways to get a Distinction/Merit.
Lent Term 2019-20	1) Students unaware of teachers' end-of-term comments on LSE For You 2) HY498/499 dissertation proposal submission deadline is too early in the Lent Term	1) TRCs to tell students during classes that their comments on each student's performance are available on LSE For You at the end of each term. 2) Submission deadline to be moved to week 2 of the Lent Term in 2020-21.
Michaelmas term 2019-20	1) Possibility of including a session on historiography as part of HY400 2) Lack of access to common room in Sardinia House 3) Lack of information and support for part-time students returning to Year 2 of their studies 4) Lack of social events during the Welcome Week	1) Following student feedback for 2018-19, Teacher Responsible for HY400 has included a session on historiography as part of the course. 2) There is now a Common Room on the ground floor of Sardinia House which is open to all International History Master's students. 3) From 2020-21 MSc Programmes Administrator will send an in-depth e-mail to all par-time students regarding re-registering, induction, course selection etc.
Summer term 2018-19	1) Lack of quiet study space 2) Lack of access to reading lists on Moodle at the end of the year	1) The department will allow students to book SAR.1.03A and make use of the lounge area on the first floor for silent study. Postgraduate students that are not on double degree programmes will also have access to SAR.2.09 once private book collections have been removed. 2) Students should download syllabi and other course materials for future use before the annual Moodle refresh.
Lent term 2018-19	1) Lack of access to common room in Sardinia House 2) Status of formative essays on 100% exam courses:	1) School's longstanding policy had been not to provide departments with study/common

	compulsory or optional? 3) Possibility of including a session on historiography as part of HY400	room space for Masters students, however this will be changing from 2019/20. In the meantime, the department can offer the use of the space on the mezzanine floor of Sardinia House, and the SAR 2.09 meeting room, which has limited spaces. 2) There are no formal punitive measures if students do not submit their formative essays, but there can be consequences. Staff may be unable to/refuse to provide references if a student's on-course record is poor, which can impact their employment prospects. Formative essay marks can be used in considering exceptional circumstances cases, which are unpredictable and can befall any student. 3) This will be discussed with the Teacher Responsible for HY400 in 2019-20.
Michaelmas term 2018-19	1) Limited choice of half-unit courses due to requirement to take them in complementary terms 2) Lack of communication from the department regarding Year 2 of LSE-PKU degree 3) Introduction to historiography would be desirable for students without background in history	1) Students were told that they can ask for a suspension of regulations if they have a good reason to take half-unit courses in the same term. Students are also encouraged to take half-unit courses in different departments which would allow for more choice and make complementary term rule easier to adhere to. 2) Dr Ronald Po (LSE-PKU Programme Director) will be visiting Peking University in December 2018 and will make an introduction about Year 2 for next year's cohort of LSE-PKU students. 3) Students will receive podcast links to HY119 (UG course on history skills). In addition, formative essays are a good way of practicing writing history essays.

		Students are also encouraged to meet with their class teachers to discuss essays before they start writing them.
Summer term 2017-18	Concern over lack of uniformity in grading (marking)	There is a standardised grading system (marking criteria) that can be found in the Student handbook. All courses are also reviewed every five years.
Lent Term 2017-18	1) Concern over lack of continuity between Peking University and LSE 2) Students not sure who they can talk to if they have course-related issues	1) Dr. Ronald Po (LSE-PKU Programme Director) raised the possibility of traveling to Beijing in 2018 to be able to be at PKU in person to answer questions for LSE-PKU students and reinforce the link between the two universities. 2) Students should always contact TRCs in the first instance.
Michaelmas term 2017-18	1) More IR courses to be offered to MSc THIR and LSE-PKU students 2) IR students prioritised over MSc THIR and LSE-PKU students during course selection 3) Chaotic course registration process (difficult to register for courses, avoid clashes etc.) 4) Course admission criteria: students prefer personal statements vs first-come-first-served basis for controlled access courses	1) IH department can only offer what IR department is willing to offer. If there are any specific courses that are desired, this should be suggested to the IH department. IR teachers can also be approached directly. 2) Professor Matthew Jones (HoD) raised this issue with IR department and will continue monitoring situation next year. An idea of a joint IR/IH Fellow was explored with the IR department, however after thorough consideration with IR department, it was discarded because students are scattered around IR courses, appointing a Fellow in one course would not help in any way. A designated IR liaison person will hopefully help improve links between the two

		departments and help avoid issues with IH students attending IR courses. This liaison person will also attend Induction meetings at the beginning of the year. 3) Pre-registration for courses would make the process easier, however there are technical issues related to LSE IT system and registration rules. LSE system does not allow pre-registration for courses prior to student registration. Nonetheless, department will explore possibilities. 4) The department will be switching back to personal statements for controlled access courses.
Summer term 2016-17	1) Confusion regarding HY458 submission process – no clear guidelines 2) Not all teachers on HY400 dedicate some class time to essay-planning practice	1) In 2017-18 a simpler way of accessing this type of information will be made available. 2) This to be discussed further within the department, but the revision sessions in the first week of the ST should be considered as an opportunity for everyone to practice planning and structuring their essays.
Lent term 2016-17	1) Library issues: lack of space and available texts, no-food policy, unreliable technology 2) LSE website not consolidated, difficult to navigate 3) More departmental events	1) Students were encouraged to voice these grievances to the LSE Library services or APRC. APRC committee members have visited the study spaces available to HY students in Sardinia House, and the department is hopeful that more satisfactory study spaces will be set up in Sardinia House; alternatively, these may be set up elsewhere. 2) Heather Jones & Paul Keenan suggested that when specific issues arise, it is

		important that students relay concerns to appropriate channels. 3) This has been taken on board; more events were set up in the LT, and there will be more events to come in 2017-18.
Michaelmas term 2016-17	1) Language course reimbursement for LSE-CU students – some students not offered more generous reimbursement for more intense courses unavailable at LSE but on offer elsewhere (SOAS). 2) Formative essay deadlines are difficult to find/not on Moodle 3) Concerns about lack of integration with IR department and THIR specific career events 4) LSE-PKU students concerned about lack of coordination with IR re: course sign-up 5) Lack of study space in the Library 6) Course sign-up – teachers on some courses offered places to students before the taster week was over	1) Department's language funding is limited, however we will try to deepen relationship with SOAS and KCL so additional language courses can be accessed by LSE-CU students wishing to take more advanced course unavailable at LSE. We will also try to find out much earlier in advance from Columbia what languages students are studying and at which level for the joint degree so we can set out what options they will have in London to continue studying these and let them know some rarer courses may be difficult to arrange. 2) Teachers on all HY courses to publish essay deadlines on Moodle in a timely fashion i.e. early in MT. 3) Access to IR events has been provided through social media. Department to explore a possibility of organising a career talk more specific to THIR. 4) Department to discuss this with IR Department 5) Heather Jones suggested using other libraries such as Maughan Library or Senate House Library. Department has offered students to use the coffee/lobby area on the 1st floor of Sardinia House. It was suggested that bean bags could also

		be provided. 6) Teachers on all HY courses to make Saturday of week 1 the deadline for allocation of course places.
Summer term 2015-16	1) Students would like to have lockers installed in the Department 2) Assessed essay submission deadlines are too close to each other	1) Janet Hartley informed that there were no necessary resources and space to action this. 2) Assessed deadlines to be spread out more evenly in the future.
Lent term 2015-16	1) Concerns about HY498/HY499 dissertation proposal deadline being in the first week of January 2) Lack of clarity in the footnoting format in the department handbook for dissertation. 3) Concerns about HY458 dissertation deadline being too close to the start of exam period 4) Concerns on how much IR theory MSc THIR students could include in their dissertations	1) HY498/HY499 dissertation proposal deadline has been moved to the second week of January. 2) All Master's handbooks have been amended to include a paragraph on referencing styles 3) This is beyond Department's control as exam timetabling is managed by the School 4) Kirsten Schulze suggested running a joint dissertation workshop for LSE-PKU and THIR students
Michaelmas term 2015-16	1) Concerns about HY423 re: exam preparation, overemphasis on Europe, and overall course structure 2) THIR students feel that they are 'getting shut out of IR courses and events' 3) LSE-PKU students expressed concerns about lack of integration between the two years (struggle with adjustment to LSE)	1) Gagan Sood responded to these concerns and offered suggestions for exam preparation and navigating the course. 2) Department will look into how many students get rejected from IR courses and raise it with IR Department 3) Kirsten Schulze suggested creating Student Survival Guide similar to that of

		LSE-CU programme – this to be undertaken by current LSE-PKU students for next cohort of LSE-PKU students.
Summer term 2014-15	1) Possibility of booking rooms for students during the exam period (lack of space in the Library) 2) Still no real involvement with IR Department 3) Lack of structure and guidelines on HY423 4) Lack of consistency re: guidelines (e.g. bibliography) on HY400 5) No clarity on how marking process works 6) Request for extra-mock in the middle of Lent Term	1) Milada Fomina booked rooms for several hours on specific dates in the run-up to exams. 2) Mark Hoffman (IR) to follow up on this 3) To be standardised and streamlined for next cohort 4) One session to be held for all HY400 students in the run-up to exams in order ensure the same guidelines are communicated to all students 5) PG Marking Criteria to be put on Moodle for each course. 6) Students are encouraged to contact their class teachers and ask them to mark extra timed essays
Lent term 2014 - 15	1) Wellbeing services during exam preparation 2) More courses with continuous assessment	1) Tanya Harmer to follow up on this 2) Heather Jones explained that the Department is gradually shifting towards more continuous assessment of its courses.
Michaelmas term 2014-15	1) You asked for separate social events for MSc Empires, MSc HIR and MSc THIR students; 2) MSc THIR students would like to be more involved with the IR Department (e.g. be invited to IR events etc.)	1) Agreed to ask Marc Baer to arrange this for MSc Empires; Heather Jones to organise this for HIR and THIR. Such events are already in place for LSE-CU and LSE-PKU students.

	3) LSE-PKU students would like to see more China related courses listed for the programme 4) MSc Empires students would like to see more courses related to East Asia, Latin America and Africa	2) SSLC recommended that IR Department sends an email to Milada Fomina and she can send it onto the MSc THIR students. 3) Paul Keenan to raise with the IR department whether more access to China and Security course for LSE-PKU students might be possible in 2015-16. 4) This to be discussed by the department.