

Department of Economics
MSc Two Year Economics Offer Holders' Frequently Asked Questions
February 2026 Offer Holder Session

Is the programme exam-heavy?

The programme follows LSE's traditional assessment structure, which is largely exam-based. While the research paper and some applied or group work components are assessed differently, written examinations remain a central feature of the programme.

Which courses should I take if I want to pursue a PhD?

Students considering a PhD are generally advised to take at least one, and possibly more, of the advanced courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, or econometrics. These courses demonstrate strong foundational knowledge and signal readiness for doctoral-level study. Econometrics is particularly valuable for research-oriented students. Tailored advice is provided during the programme, and course choices may also depend on a student's academic background. Two-year MSc students benefit from already having completed a full first year of core training.

Is training provided for econometrics software?

Yes, students are supported in learning econometric software. Stata support is currently provided, and resources are available for students who wish to use R. While this training is not credit-bearing or formally examined, it is designed to support students in successfully completing their coursework and research.

How do I apply for scholarships?

Scholarships are administered centrally through LSE's Financial Support Office, primarily via the Graduate Support Scheme (GSS). Candidates may apply for GSS funding via their Graduate Applicate Portal (GAP) account – deadline 23 April 2026 (5pm UK time). While most funding decisions are made by around May, occasional one-off awards may also be made up to early July. As funding is highly competitive, candidates are strongly encouraged to explore all funding opportunities, including local/regional sources.

Are there opportunities to work as a Research Assistant?

Yes, there are opportunities to work as a Research Assistant (RA). Students are generally advised to focus on their studies during the initial months of the programme and begin exploring RA opportunities around February. Two-year MSc students are particularly well positioned because they have a summer break between years, which can be used for research work. Opportunities vary from part-time roles during term to summer positions, and these are regularly circulated by the department.

Is academic support available if I struggle?

Yes, extensive academic support is available. Students are assigned academic mentors, and there are two dedicated MSc Tutors within the department. MSc Tutors can support both on the academic side as well as pastoral and wellbeing. In the first year, core courses include structured support sessions and labs. If technical difficulties arise, mentors can coordinate with course lecturers to ensure appropriate support is provided. The programme recognises that students come from diverse academic backgrounds and has systems in place to support them.

What if I have limited econometrics background before joining?

Prior econometrics training is not assumed. However, a solid background in statistics is beneficial. All students will take econometrics in the first year at a level equivalent to second-year undergraduate study at LSE. The pre-session course begins approximately three weeks before term starts, and recommended preparatory reading is sent in advance to help students prepare.

Is career guidance available?

Yes, students have full access to [LSE Careers](#) services during their studies and even after graduation. The department runs dedicated careers events, including alumni panels and sector-specific sessions. Students can also use the "Ask an Alum" service, which connects them with alumni working in specific industries or organisations. Career support continues for alumni beyond completion of the programme.

Can MSc students attend department seminars?

Yes, MSc students may attend departmental seminars, although these are primarily targeted at faculty and PhD students. Two-year MSc students are particularly well placed to take advantage of LSE's wide range of academic events. There is also an MSc-specific seminar series, and additional support events for PhD applications are

offered early in the second year. In general, the department run a variety of [events and seminars](#) throughout the academic year.

Will there be any learning loss under the new curriculum?

There will be no learning loss under the revised curriculum (as detailed in the offer holder's letter). Core subjects such as microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics will each include 30 hours of lectures to ensure comprehensive coverage of material. Advanced second-term courses are designed to be more rigorous and to signal higher-level achievement on transcripts. The changes are intended to strengthen both academic depth and external signalling rather than reduce content.

What kind of supervision will I receive for the research paper in year two?

Every student who completes a research paper in year two will be assigned an expert supervisor in their chosen area. Students are typically entitled to up to three scheduled meetings, although in practice many supervisors meet students more frequently. In addition to academic supervision, there is also wider support available, including help with coding and technical aspects where needed.

Does the research paper help with PhD applications?

The research paper strongly supports PhD applications. It functions as a substantial piece of independent research and will appear as a separate line on the transcript under the new curriculum, making research skills more visible to PhD admissions committees. It provides students with research ideas to discuss in applications and interviews, and it also supports applications for pre-doctoral or research assistant positions. Faculty members can refer directly to this research work when writing recommendation letters.

Will additional research training be offered to assist with the preparation of the research paper?

Under the new structure, the research paper component is expected to include dedicated sessions on how to conduct research effectively. These may cover topics such as formulating research questions, conducting literature reviews, and developing a sound research design. This structured support complements individual supervision.