



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Welcome to the

Department of Sociology

Postgraduate Handbook 2026/27



lse.ac.uk/sociology





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Section 1:

New Students Checklist





What to do in your first weeks at LSE

- ✓ **Complete** your campus enrolment and ensure you've set up LSE IT account
- ✓ **Meet** your Academic Mentor
- ✓ **Attend** Welcome events
- ✓ **Attend** your programme treasure hunt
- ✓ **Download** the LSE's Student Hub app
- ✓ **Visit** the Library and LSE LIFE
- ✓ **Login** to LSE for You and Moodle and familiarise yourself with these platforms
- ✓ **Take** a stroll through Lincoln's Inn Fields
- ✓ **Check** out LSE's public lecture programme
- ✓ **Check** out the Department's MSc Common Room and Student Kitchen
- ✓ **Like and follow** the Sociology Department's social media accounts
- ✓ **Go to** the LSESU Freshers Fair
- ✓ **Sign up** to a GP and dentist
- ✓ **Take** a self guided walking tour



Section 2: The Department of Sociology





Established in 1904, the Department of Sociology at LSE is committed to empirically rich, conceptually sophisticated, and socially and politically relevant research and scholarship. Building upon the traditions of the discipline, we play a key role in the development of the social sciences into the new intellectual areas, social problems, and ethical dilemmas that face our society today. You can find out more about the Department, our research and our people here:

[**lse.ac.uk/sociology**](https://lse.ac.uk/sociology)

The Sociology Department is located in the Old Building, with the Sociology Professional Services Staff Office and student common spaces found on the 3rd floor. Please see our Department web pages for more information:

[**lse.ac.uk/sociology/study/new-current-students**](https://lse.ac.uk/sociology/study/new-current-students)





Section 3: Key Staff in the Department





Programme Director

Each programme has a dedicated Programme Director, who has academic oversight of the programme. They are the academic point of contact for students on the programme, and work with our student representatives concerning course and programme-level matters.

Academic Mentor

Your main “contact person” during your time with us is your Academic Mentor. Your Academic Mentor is a member of the Department’s full-time teaching staff.

They are academically responsible for you during your course of study, although they are not the only person with such a responsibility; your course lecturers and class teachers have such duties too. Your Academic Mentor is the person to whom you should turn to for academic advice on issues other than those arising directly from the courses that you are studying. You can also discuss pastoral issues with your Academic Mentor.

There is no single model for the relationship between you and your Academic Mentor. However, the relationship is important when you are preparing your MSc dissertation as they will become your dissertation supervisor. We strongly recommend students start thinking about their dissertation early in the academic year and start conversations with their Academic Mentor.

Your Academic Mentor will be available to see you during term time only, and dissertation supervision will be until the end of Spring Term Week 7. Your Academic Mentor will not be available for dissertation support during the Summer vacation period when you are writing up your dissertation. You should therefore plan your work so you are in a position to receive final advice on your dissertation outline before the end of Spring Term. In the interest of equity between students, your Academic Mentor may comment on your early efforts of the dissertation before the end of Spring Term but you cannot expect your Academic Mentor to read or offer extensive comments on your final dissertation draft.

It is your responsibility to make sure you meet with your Academic Mentor regularly, and we would recommend meeting at least twice a term. You can make an appointment to see your Academic Mentor via email or via the Student Hub. For a list of staff email addresses, see lse.ac.uk/sociology/people



MSc Programmes Team

The MSc Programmes Team has two MSc Programme Managers, who have administrative oversight across all eight MSc programmes and can be your first point of contact for any administrative queries. You'll most frequently hear from your Programme Manager during your induction to LSE, when being invited to Department events and regarding any information relating to your programme and assessments. They can signpost you to the right service and contact information if you are unsure who at LSE to turn to. Your Programme Manager can be contacted on sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk. For non-academic queries, your Academic Mentor may suggest you speak to your Programme Manager to assist you in navigating departmental policies and LSE services.

Department Senior Student Adviser

The Student Adviser is available to support you throughout your time at LSE, helping you to navigate the advice and support services available to you (alongside your Academic Mentor and other departmental staff), and to assist with your personal, welfare or wellbeing needs. They will also be the best person to ask for support if at any point your engagement or assessments have been impacted - they can discuss the options available to you and ensure you receive appropriate support.

You can book a 30min appointment with your Student Adviser (in-person or online) or attend an online drop-in session for quick queries – please refer to the [Departmental Senior Student Advice Team webpage](#) for the Sociology booking form and drop-in information.

Office hours

All Department of Sociology academic staff have weekly office hours in term time, which can usually be booked on Student Hub. Academic colleagues are happy to meet any students (not just academic mentees) in office hours to discuss issues relating to their teaching, research or any other aspects of student life, but they may reserve certain office hours for their dissertation supervisees or academic mentees. This is a great opportunity to spend time with world leading academics, so we urge you to take advantage of the office hour system, even if it is just for a brief chat about their work or your classes.



Section 4: Our programmes





The Department runs and teaches eight 12-month Masters programmes:

MSc City Design and Social Science

MSc Culture and Society

MSc Economy and Society

MSc Human Rights

MSc Human Rights and Politics

MSc Inequalities and Social Science

MSc Political Sociology

MSc Sociology





MSc City Design and Social Science

Programme Director: Dr David Madden (d.j.madden@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Teaching faculty for the MSc City Design and Social Science programme can be found in the Department of Sociology and in the LSE Cities research centre on the eighth floor of Fawcett house.

A dedicated studio, with computers and work-space for the sole use of MSc City Design and Social Science students, can be found on the 3rd floor of the Old Building, in rooms 3.22 and 3.23. You will need your student ID card for swipe access into these spaces.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk). They will be located in the Sociology Hub, room OLD 3.19, 3rd floor of the Old Building.

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at:

lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc City Design and Social Science programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **SO448** City Design: Research Studio (full unit);
- **SO449** Independent Project (full unit).

You will have the choice of two of the following courses:

- **PP465** City-Making: The Politics of Urban Form (half unit);
- **SO451** Cities by Design (half unit);
- **SO477** Urban Social Theory (half unit);
- **SO480** Urban Inequalities (half unit)

The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half unit. You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.



Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here:

lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.





MSc Culture and Society

Programme Director: Dr Jana Melkumova-Reynolds (y.m.reynolds@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk). They will be located in the Sociology Hub, room OLD 3.19, 3rd floor of the Old Building.

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at:
lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Culture and Society programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **S04D3** Culture and Society (half unit);
- **S0492** Qualitative Social Research Methods (half unit);
- **S0493** MSc in Culture and Society Dissertation (full unit).

The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units. You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.

Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.



MSc Economy and Society

Programme Director: Dr David Pinzur (d.pinzur@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk). They will be located in the Sociology Hub, room OLD 3.19, 3rd floor of the Old Building.

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Economy and Society programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **S04D1** Economic Sociology (full unit);
- **S0491** Quantitative Social Research Methods (half unit) **OR** **S0492** Qualitative Social Research Methods (half unit);
- **S0495** MSc in Economy and Society Dissertation (full unit).

The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units. You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.

Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.



MSc Human Rights

Programme Directors: Professor Chetan Bhatt (c.bhatt@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme directors.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk). They will be located in the Sociology Hub, room OLD 3.19, 3rd floor of the Old Building.

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Human Rights programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory Courses

- **SO496** MSc in Human Rights Dissertation (full unit).
- **SO4D8** Legal and Critical Approaches to Intentional Human Rights (half unit)
- **SO4D9** The Sociology of Human Rights (half unit)

Under Paper 2, students must select from the approved list of Department of Sociology courses. The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units. You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.

Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.



MSc Human Rights and Politics

Programme Directors: Dr Sara Salem (s.salem3@lse.ac.uk), Dr Mahvish Ahmad (o.u.rutazibwa@lse.ac.uk) and Dr Olivia Rutazibwa (O.U.Rutazibwa@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk). They will be located in the Sociology Hub, room OLD 3.19, 3rd floor of the Old Building.

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Human Rights and Politics programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **S04B1** Contemporary Politics of Human Rights (full unit);
- **S04B2** MSc in Human Rights and Politics Dissertation (full unit).

Under Paper 2, students must select from the approved list of Department of Sociology courses. The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units. You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.

Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.



MSc Inequalities and Social Science

Programme Director: Professor Aaron Reeves (a.s.reeves@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk). They will be located in the Sociology Hub, room OLD 3.19, 3rd floor of the Old Building.

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Inequalities and Social Science programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **S0488** Social Scientific Analysis of Inequalities (half unit);
- **S0497** MSc in Inequalities and Social Science Dissertation (full unit).

At least one of the following methodology courses (or another quantitative methods course agreed with the Programme Director):

- **MY421A** Qualitative Research Methods (half unit)
- **MY421W** Qualitative Research Methods (half unit)
- **MY423** Interview Methods for Social Science Research (0.5)
- **MY425** Case Studies and Comparative Methods for Qualitative Research (half unit)
- **MY426** Doing Ethnography (half unit)
- **MY428** Qualitative Text and Discourse Analysis (half unit) (suspended for 2026/27)
- **MY451A** Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (half unit)
- **MY422** Participatory Research (half unit)

For students enrolled on the Atlantic Fellows Social and Economic Equity Programme the following course is compulsory:

- **S04A8** Leadership and Social Change (half unit)

The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units.



Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.

About the International Inequalities Institute

The III is a centre for rigorous research into the nature, causes and consequences of the multiple inequalities afflicting our world today. Because social, economic, political and cultural inequalities are inherently intertwined, the institute welcomes methods and approaches from across the social sciences and encourages interdisciplinary dialogue. Because those inequalities inevitably cut across national boundaries, our work is international in scope. We believe that rigorous research can and should engage with practice and policy, and we seek to promote linkages between theory, empirics and practice. These are our core values:

Rigour: We seek to promote research of the highest academic standards, all the more so because we intend it to inform practice and the policy debate. We will promote innovative research on the global political economy of inequality, to draw out the dynamics of economic and social change, and to use these insights to address contemporary political challenges.

Interdisciplinarity: Based at one of the world's premier social science universities, we believe that bringing together scholarly perspectives from across the social sciences enriches the analysis of inequality in its multiple dimensions. We will use the LSE's distinctive profile as a highly international platform to learn from models and experiences across the world where there are positive stories to tell about how inequality has been addressed.

An international scope: Through the ebbs and flows of globalization, the world is increasingly interconnected and so are its inequalities. We promote research on inequality around the world, ranging from the local to the global in scope

Engagement: We believe research can be rigorous and intellectually independent while simultaneously informing and being informed by the challenges of practice and policy. As a core part of that engagement, we provide a platform to support students and Atlantic Fellows from across the globe who are passionate about addressing inequality. We learn from their experiences, help them enhance their knowledge and expand their repertoires, and provide them with confidence and support.



Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme, based at the III, is building a catalytic values-led global community of people who are committed to using collective leadership to work towards social and economic justice for all. By drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies, and the Fellows' own experience and expertise, AFSEE is empowering a new generation of change-makers, including policymakers, activists, researchers, practitioners, and campaigners to work together across disciplines, backgrounds, and borders.

The AFSEE programme offers two tracks: Residential and Non-Residential. Residential Fellows move to London for a full academic year to complete the MSc in Inequalities and Social Science, and take part in the AFSEE modules. Non-Residential Fellows remain based in their home and professional environments, and travel to attend in-person modules. They focus on a practice-based project work during the year and are awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Economic Equity after successfully completing the active fellowship year. On completion of the programme, all Fellows join a lifelong fellowship community.

Stay connected

The III hosts a dynamic seminar series on inequalities together with a range of other public events and discussions. Videos and podcasts of previous events can be found on the III events webpage: lse.ac.uk/International-Inequalities/events. Follow the III on Bluesky: [@lseinequalities.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/lseinequalities.bsky.social)

The III connects research about inequalities from across LSE on its website where you can find published research exploring inequality from leading academics across the School. See: lse.ac.uk/International-Inequalities



MSc Political Sociology

Programme Director: Dr Robin Archer (r.archer@lse.ac.uk)

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk).

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Political Sociology programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **S0407** Politics and Society (full unit)
- **S0494** MSc in Political Sociology Dissertation (full unit)

The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units.

You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.

Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseguides/graduate

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this.



MSc Sociology

Programme Director: Dr Carrie Friese (c.friese@lse.ac.uk).

About the programme

The overall management of the MSc programme is dealt with by the programme director.

The specific details of teaching, including coursework assessment and seminars, are the responsibility of the Course Convenor for each unit you are taking.

Your MSc Programme Manager can be contacted via email (sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk).

Full programme regulations and course guides can be found at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/Default.htm

The MSc Sociology programme consists of four units, made up of compulsory and optional courses.

Compulsory courses

- **S0491** Quantitative Social Research Methods (half unit),
or
- **S0492** Qualitative Social Research Methods (half unit);
- **S0499** MSc in Sociology Dissertation (full unit).

The remaining units can consist of optional courses, either full or half units.

You can find which optional courses are available to you by checking your programme regulations, and information shared with you by the Department at the start of the academic year.

Course Guides and Timetable Clashes

Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

Please note that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses, and if you do have a timetable clash, you will be expected to change your course selection. It is a good idea to consult with your Academic Mentor or Programme Director about this..



Section 5: Teaching and Assessments





Teaching normally begins in the first week of term. Details of lecture times and locations are available at info.lse.ac.uk/Current-Students/Timetables and in your personal teaching timetable. The majority of courses are taught via lectures and seminars, with some using workshops. Attendance at classes, seminars and workshops is compulsory.

Lectures

Lectures are usually one hour long and are considered compulsory in the Sociology Department. They provide a crucial guide to the subject and a framework for your own reading. The point of the lecture is to focus on listening and to make notes that will help guide your approach to the readings, class discussions and coursework exercises.

Classes and Seminars

Classes and seminars are an essential element of the educational process, which is why they are compulsory. Seminars are usually made up of a small group of students led by the course teacher, providing a forum for discussion and debate. Sometimes seminars will include student presentations. Seminars aim to help students resolve academic problems and develop oral and written presentation skills. Seminars are interactive meetings between students and staff, and you are expected to contribute to these sessions.

Student attendance and performance is regularly recorded and failure to attend classes or to complete written work is reported to Academic Mentors; persistent non-attendance may result in students being ineligible to enter for summative assessments. It's also possible the lack of attendance can impact your ability to continue on your degree programme, and will be discussed with you if raised as a concern by a member of staff.

At the end of each term, class teachers write reports on class participation and formative assessments. Students should discuss these reports with their Academic Mentor at the beginning of the following term to review their academic progress. These reports form a permanent record of performance, and also provide a basis for academic and professional references in the future.



Assessment information

Classification schemes

Degrees are awarded according to the classification scheme applicable to the year in which you started your programme. These schemes are applied by the Boards of Examiners when they meet to ratify your results. You can find the classification schemes at: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/taughtMasters.htm

Department of Sociology exam sub-board local rules

The Sub-Board of Examiners can set additional criteria for the award of Merit/Distinction. The Sub-Board of Examiners can also designate a course or courses as being critical to assessment for a programme and establish “local rules” where the specific course(s) and/or marks will be given special consideration in the awarding of the degree. For taught master’s degrees in the Sociology Department, you must pass the dissertation/independent project with a mark of at least 50 to be awarded the degree. The Department of Sociology also has an additional local rule for the award of a Distinction. The Department of Sociology exam sub-board local rules are published in the Calendar here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/LocalRules/SO/DeptSociology.htm

Assessment types

LSE uses a diverse range of assessments, including in-person exams, individual and group presentations, essays, projects and dissertations. These usually fall into two categories:

1. Formative Assessments

These are assessments set within your class by the course convenor or class teacher. Formative marks do not usually count towards your final degree classification but are a compulsory part of your learning and all students are expected to complete them. Completing formative assessments and receiving feedback is designed to prepare you for the summative assessments.



2. Summative Assessments

These are assessments that count towards your degree classification and must be completed. Each course may be assessed by one piece of summative assessment, or by a combination of different types of assessment. They are designed to assess your learning and understanding of the course, and the type of assessment will be published on the course guide. It's important to note that a failure to submit a summative assessment can result in a student being unable to graduate or progress to the next academic year. Queries regarding your summative assessments should be asked during term time classes and office hours, as teaching staff are usually unavailable during the Winter and Spring teaching breaks.

Assessment Feedback

Feedback is fundamental to learning. It is best seen as a process of dialogue – putting your ideas, arguments, evidence and sources forward and seeing how others see them. Feedback also helps you to understand what standard of work you need to achieve to progress and ultimately pass your programme.

Feedback on formative assessment

You will receive feedback on formative assessment, including ongoing dissertation work as follows:

- Verbal feedback during office hours, supervisions, class presentations and dissertation workshops;
- Written feedback in hard copy, or via email, Moodle or LSE for You.

The Department's policy is to provide feedback within three term weeks of submission, where students submit their work on time, as per the LSE Academic Code.

Feedback on summative assessment

Please note that the provision of qualitative feedback is a separate process from the formal marking process for assessment, which is completed by two internal examiners and moderated by an external examiner.

The Department aims to provide feedback on summative assessment in line with the LSE Academic Code. Please note that feedback on assessment due in Spring Term is not required for non-continuing students except for dissertations or capstone projects, so you may not receive feedback on assessments submitted in Spring Term.

Dissertation feedback in the form of qualitative comments will be provided to students within four term weeks of the final mark being made available to students, as per the LSE Academic Code.



The Dissertation

Dissertation abstract

Students on all MSc programmes are normally required to submit an initial dissertation abstract followed by a more extended piece of formative work as their work progresses; dates for these submissions are set at programme level. Please refer to the online course guide for the compulsory Dissertation course for details or speak to your Programme Director.

Research ethics

The School attaches great importance to high ethical standards in research undertaken by staff and students. Once you have confirmed your dissertation topic, and before you begin data collection, you may be required to review and complete the LSE Research Ethics Checklist under the oversight of your Academic Mentor. At LSE, all students must complete an ethics review form. This is regardless if your project involves human participants, personal data, or vulnerable groups. You must submit a formal application through the online **LSE Research Ethics Submission System** for approval. It is essential you have received approval needed before conducting any research.

The ethics guidance and the checklist can be found at info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-division/research-policy/research-ethics

Purpose of the dissertation

The dissertation is an integral part of the MSc programme. It is an opportunity to study in depth a topic of special interest to you and to apply the knowledge and skills that you have gained over the year within the master's programme. In your dissertation you will apply one or more research approaches covered in other parts of the MSc programme to a question that falls within the rubric of the degree.

Your dissertation accounts for one quarter of your final grade. It should be logically structured, well researched and clearly written. Please allocate your time and effort accordingly, and plan your work in order to ensure you can meet with your supervisor during term time. Your supervisor will not be available for office hours after Spring Term Week 7, and will not be available during the Summer vacation period for any further supervision. You are expected to have developed the structure of your dissertation and to start work independently by the end of Spring Term.



Content and approach

The dissertation is an extended piece of written work that critically appraises evidence and opinion to reach a conclusion about a sociological question. The key requirement is that the dissertation should demonstrate a high level of independent critical ability.

You must show your ability to organise your material clearly and logically and to sustain a reasoned and cogent argument from beginning to end. Where appropriate you should explain clearly the research method(s) that you have applied and the reasons for your choice of approach. You should show awareness of any shortcomings of your study in relation to methods employed and quality or quantity of the data.

The dissertation is a report of a research project that explores a specified research question; that includes reflection on the methodology deployed; and that demonstrates ability to analyse research material to generate understanding of the chosen questions. Dissertations often take the form of a research report based on empirical material generated by the student, but can also centre on the analysis of existing published data. Dissertations can be an analysis of scholarly literatures (a “theoretical dissertation”) so long as it is clearly a research report guided by a research question rather than simply a review or survey of existing literature.



Course Selection and Timetables

Programme structure and what you need to do

Your MSc degree programme consists of courses to the value of four full units, made up of compulsory and optional courses. Courses can be either worth half (0.5) or a full (1.0) unit. **You are expected to complete your course selection in accordance with your [programme regulations](#).** You should familiarise yourself with your programme regulations in advance of the course selection period.

You will need to select all of your courses in [LSE for You](#) in September for both Autumn and Winter terms – this includes your compulsory courses and your option courses.

Controlled access (capped) courses

Many courses at LSE are controlled access (capped), which means the numbers of student places are limited and/or there are prerequisites required to take the course. Please do be aware that this means you might not get all of your first choices, so be sure to have alternate options in mind. You should carefully check the information [listed in the controlled access course pages](#) to check how applicants are selected and the different deadlines set by departments for applying to their courses.

All Sociology option courses are controlled access – please see the “Controlled access courses” section for more information on these.

Balance of courses and assessments

We strongly advise that you take an equal balance of courses in both Autumn and Winter term where possible – i.e., the equivalent of two units per term. The academic year is a very busy one, and students who balance their course selections evenly find it easier to manage their time. Please be aware that half units only run once a year, in the designated term, so you may find it not possible to balance your courses as advised – this is dependent on your interests and if you do want to take more courses in one term than another, then you should discuss this with your Academic Mentor to ensure that your course and assessment load will be manageable. Your Academic Mentor has final approval of your course selection.



I'm a part-time student – what should I register for this year?

You should only select the courses that you will be studying for in this academic year. You will be able to register for your second-year courses in the next academic year.

Part-time students are required to take the dissertation in their second year of study. You are strongly encouraged to work closely with your Academic Mentor to split your teaching load equally across the two years of your study.

When to select your courses

MSc course selection will open for browsing (but not selection) **on Monday 21 September 2026 at 10am**, giving students the opportunity to browse courses before course selection formally opens. **MSc course selection will formally open at 10am on Thursday 24 September 2026.**

We encourage you to make your course selections as soon as possible after course selection opens as some courses allocate places on a first come, first served basis, and there may be earlier deadlines set by departments for applying to controlled access courses.

The deadline to apply for Department of Sociology courses is Friday 25 September 2026 at 12pm (midday). When applying for a Sociology course, students are required to provide a written statement explaining why they wish to take the course. Course Convenors will review requests to take courses and **make offers of places to students by 12pm (midday) on Monday 28 September 2026.** Any places remaining on courses after this date will be allocated on a rolling basis until courses are full or course selection closes. More information on applying to courses taught by the Sociology department is further below.

Course selection will close at 5pm on Friday 9 October 2026 for all postgraduate students across LSE. In exceptional circumstances, emergency changes to course selections can be made after this deadline and you must contact your home department as soon as possible.

You will be able to make changes to Winter Term half unit courses early in Winter Term. For exact dates check the [course selection webpages](#). It is important to keep in mind that Winter term course availability may be limited by the time the course selection system opens for the second time at the beginning of Winter term. As a result, you should choose your Winter term courses as accurately as you can when course selection opens in September.



How to select your courses

Course selection takes place in three stages – you need to work out which options you'd like to take; you then need to make your course selection in [LSE For You](#).

Once that is complete you'll be given access to your courses in Moodle.

1. Find out more about the options you're interested in

- Look at the [course guide](#) in the LSE Calendar. Details of the content, format, teaching and assessment of all graduate courses offered at the LSE are available online in the course guides. Sociology courses are identified by the "SO4XX" code. You should check the course guide for specific information about a course, including whether there are any prerequisites or permission needed in order to take the course.
- Review the course timetable to see when the teaching for the course takes place. Please keep in mind that as the list of option courses is long, timetable clashes may occur. You might therefore find that you are unable to take some combinations of courses. The timetables are available on the [timetable webpages](#).
- Check if the course is controlled access (see below).

It is important that you take the time to review the course timetable before selecting your courses to ensure that you do not select courses with a timetable clash (courses scheduled at the same time), as this is not permitted. Although the system may initially allow you to sign up for clashing courses, these will not be formally approved. It is better to check the timetable before choosing your courses to avoid disappointment.

2. Select your courses in LSE for You

Once [LSE For You](#) opens on the designated date, you should complete your course selection in line with your programme regulations. [LSE For You](#) will display which courses are available to select under each paper.

Go to lse.ac.uk/selectcourses for step by step instructions on how to select your courses in [LSE for You](#). **Many courses in LSE are designated as "controlled access" which means you will need to apply for a place on these courses due to limited places and/or there are prerequisites required to take the course. Please see "controlled access courses" below.**



3. Check you have Moodle access for your selected courses

Once you are enrolled onto a course, providing the selected courses is ready in Moodle, you should be automatically enrolled on their Moodle pages a few hours after being granted a place your courses on [LSE for You](#). Please make sure you check you have access to the Moodle pages and contact the relevant department if you are unable to enrol onto a Moodle page.

Please remember that the number of students that can be accommodated on most LSE courses is limited. If a course is over-subscribed, places will be allocated at the department's discretion. Therefore, you are advised to have a few alternative courses in mind as back-ups in case you are unable to secure your first-choice course selection.

If you have any questions about your course selection, you can seek guidance from your Academic Mentor or Programme Director if your Academic Mentor has not yet been allocated to you. Should you have questions about a particular course the Course Convener is also often best placed to answer these. If you need help or are unsure on the process, you can contact the MSc Programmes Team on sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk

Controlled access courses

Many graduate courses are designated as “controlled access” due to limited places and/or prerequisites that are required in order to study the course. To gain a place on a controlled access course you must apply through the Graduate Course Choice application on [LSE for You](#) and be offered a place by the department running the course. To maximise your chances of being enrolled onto the courses you are interested in, **it is imperative that you select your courses as early as possible.**



Sociology courses

All Sociology courses are “controlled access” which means the Department of Sociology decides which students will be accepted on to their courses. Other than for students in the first category below, when applying for a Sociology course all students are required to provide a written statement of 150 words explaining why they wish to take that course and how it fits their research interests. Statements are considered by the Course Convenor and, where merited by the statement, places are usually awarded in the following priority order:

1. Students for whom the course is a “**core course**” on their Programme Regulations (no written statement is required).
2. Students for whom the course appears as an “**optional core course**” on their Programme Regulations (where students have to choose between a small number of core options).
3. Students for whom the course appears as an “**optional course**” on their Programme Regulations, space permitting.
4. All other students – with priority given to MSc students within the Sociology Department.

Once an offer has been made to you, you have 48 hours to accept it after which your offer will time out. Once you accept your offer you will automatically be enrolled on the course Moodle page and the course will appear on your personal timetable.

Controlled access courses in other departments

Each department will manage the allocation of places on their controlled access courses differently. Some departments will set early deadlines, or allocate places to students on a first-come, first-served basis as soon as course selection opens in [LSE For You](#). You can find information about controlled access courses, how applicants are selected, and deadlines for applying at [controlled access courses](#).

You are also encouraged to get in touch with the relevant department about their course when considering an option in their department.

Please remember that if you are offered a place on a controlled access course, you must log in to LSE for You and accept the place within 48 hours.



Seminar sign up and timetables

Where a course is taught in more than one seminar group, students are also required to enrol in seminar groups within the course. Once you are registered on a course, enrolling on seminars is done through the Seminar Sign Up facility on [LSE for You](#). Note: the Seminar Sign Up system operates in parallel with the Graduate Course Choice system. Each course may operate a different system for seminar sign up. Some courses will assign you to a group, and others will allow you to select a group while there is space available.

For most Sociology courses with more than one seminar group, you will need to select your seminar group once you are registered on the course. Please note that you will be unable to select a particular seminar group once it reaches capacity. Where this happens please select another seminar group. In some cases, we may ask students to change groups to assist other students with clashes.

You should avoid selecting courses and/or seminars that create timetable clashes, seeking guidance from your Academic Mentor if you need advice on selecting alternative courses. Please also note that we may reallocate you to a different seminar group for the term/year where timetabling considerations make this necessary. Considerable efforts have been made to avoid overlap of courses but occasionally a clash may be unavoidable. When selecting your courses please check the [timetable webpages](#) to ensure you do not have any clashes. Once you have successfully registered for your courses and seminars in LSE for You, your personal timetable will be automatically updated for you.

You need to attend the seminar group to which you are assigned. Our performance monitoring and attendance record systems are based on the group to which you are assigned. Failure to attend your group may therefore impact negatively on your performance record. It may also impact on the terms of your visa.

Please be aware that Seminar Sign Up may differ in other departments if you are considering taking outside course options. Do contact the relevant department should you have any queries about enrolling in seminar groups for their course.



Timetables

Once you complete your course selection, you will be automatically allocated to the relevant lecture for each course. For seminars and classes, you will then need to go back into LSE For You (LFY) and complete your seminar selection – where there is more than one seminar available for a course, you will have the option to select which seminar you want to be in, providing there is space. There is no guarantee you will get a space for the seminar timing you prefer, so we recommend completing your seminar selection as soon as you are ready. If you have completed your course selection and seminar selection by the set deadlines, you should receive your personal timetable by the start of term. After this, if you make changes to your course selections it can take up to 48 hours for these to be reflected in your personal timetable.

Can't see your timetable?

If you can't see your timetable, or it is incomplete, after the release date then check that you have:

- Completed [online registration](#) for this academic year
- Selected all your courses in [LSE for You](#)
- Not selected a course which creates a timetable clash (check the [course by course timetable](#))
- Not made changes within the last 48 hours.

Getting help

If you have questions about the course selection process or encounter any problems, then please contact your MSc Programme Manager on sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk and they will be able to assist or redirect your query as appropriate. If you are not able to access [LSE for You](#) at all then please contact [Tech Support](#) in the first instance



Section 6: Communication and Student Representation





Communication within the Department and within the School

Email

Please bear in mind that email is used in the Department and throughout the School as the standard form of communication.

It is therefore essential, once you have set up your LSE email address that you check it regularly. This will be the primary way that staff across LSE communicate with you, and you are expected to read and respond to emails as required. Please note the Department will not send email to LSE students at non-LSE email addresses after they have enrolled as a student and we expect you to contact us via your LSE email address. Emails from non-LSE email addresses after you have enrolled may not receive a response. Microsoft Outlook is available on all public PCs. You can also access your email off- campus using webmail (mail.lse.ac.uk) or on the move using clients for laptops and mobile phones. For help setting up email on your device search “LSE mobile email set up”.

See the IT service desk webpage for more details at: info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/dts

Appropriate use of email

The Department and all its staff receive a high volume of email and ask that you bear the following guidelines in mind when using email:

- Please make use of the subject field and give a clear and concise description of the content of the message e.g., “Request for tutorial meeting Thursday 7 May”. This helps us prioritise emails, and get responses to you faster.
- Do not mark your email as urgent unless it really is.
- If you do not know the person you are contacting, it is good practise to include your full name, programme and student ID information.
- Email should be used for requests for information that only require a brief response. We expect you to attend and utilise office hours if you would like to discuss academic material; emails asking staff to summarise entire classes/lectures will not receive a reply.

We try to reply to students within 5 working days. If emailing Professional Service staff we will provide an initial response to any questions, concerns or feedback within 3 working days. Please do not expect an immediate reply. If your matter is urgent please book and attend office hours, email the Programmes Team at sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk or come to the Professional Services Staff office on the 3rd floor of the Old Building, OLD 3.19.



In person/online

Members of the Department can always be contacted during their office hours, and you can expect office hours to take place in person. You should book office hours via the Student Hub in the first instance.

If you want to set up a different time for a meeting, contact the staff member via email. Contact details for all staff can be found on the Departmental webpage:

lse.ac.uk/sociology/people

Using Your Voice – Committees and Student Representatives

At LSE, student feedback is extremely important to us. You are strongly encouraged to share your views about your time here and to make suggestions for improvement by working with your department and other services to enhance your student experience, and that of the whole student body. Some of the feedback mechanisms are listed below and more can be found on our [Student voice homepage](#).

Student-Staff Liaison Committee

Each term, a number of meetings give students and staff the opportunity to discuss issues relating to their programme of study and wider School issues. The Department has a Graduate Student-Staff Liaison Committee (GSSLC) which deals with academic concerns and issues affecting MSc students in the Department. This is a key consultative forum and includes elected Student Academic Representatives from all MSc programmes in the Department. It usually meets in Autumn and Winter Terms. Departmental staff normally in attendance include the Programme Directors and the Programme Managers.

The role of a Student Academic Representative is central to ensuring that courses and programmes at LSE work effectively. While the SSLC often deals with problems encountered by students, it also allows you to make a constructive contribution to the life of the Department, airing positive feedback and suggestions for change. Each MSc programme should have two Student Academic Representatives. More information on the process of becoming a Rep will be provided during your programme Welcome presentation.

More information on Student Staff Liaison Committees can be found [here](#).



School Committees

One student representative from each of the Undergraduate, Taught Graduate and Research Student programmes also serve on the Students' Consultative Fora.

More information on this can be found here: info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/part-of-lse/student-voice

What if I have a problem?

Unfortunately, students sometimes run into difficulties whether it be health, accommodation or finance related, or a more personal matter. It is important that your Academic Mentor knows about these difficulties as early as possible so as to be able to offer advice. Our Department Senior Student Advisor is also available to provide advice and support on difficulties impacting your studies.

If the problem is likely to affect exam performance, attendance at classes or lectures, or the submission of written work, then a formal record is necessary. Your Academic Mentor should be informed promptly so that they can ensure that such a record is made or that they can provide support and advice. They will be able to help signpost you to appropriate services within the School so that you receive the support to enable you to continue studying successfully. You can also contact the MSc Programmes team if you are unsure of where to seek advice – they too can signpost you to the most suitable member of staff.

If there are circumstances that may mean you will be unable to submit your summative assessment on time, it is vital you inform us in advance, and seek advice on what best to do. A late submission or non-submission of summative work can have consequences on your final degree or ability to graduate. Please see our assessments information webpage for guidance and contact your Programme Manager on sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk for more advice.

What if I have a concern or complaint?

If you have concerns about any aspect of your studies, we would like to hear from you so that we can take steps to address and resolve them. Your Academic Mentor is often best placed to advise you, but if you are unsure of who to speak to, please email the MSc Programmes Team on sociology.msc@lse.ac.uk in the first instance who will do their best to assist you or direct you to the right person. You can also broach concerns that affect your class or cohort more generally by asking your Student Academic Representatives to raise them at the department's next SSLC meeting.



If you have a complaint, you should first speak to the person concerned to seek an informal resolution. If you are unsure of who to speak to, please contact the MSc Programmes team. If you are unhappy with the content, teaching or organisation of a course you should first speak with the course convenor. If the situation remains unresolved, you can contact your Programme Director. If you feel that the issue is still not resolved, you may wish to contact the Sociology Head of Department. If you feel that the issue is still not remedied or you are unhappy with the outcome, you may wish to follow the School's formal complaints process. More information on this can be found here:

info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/what-if/make-a-complaint

LSE Student's Union

LSE has one of the most active student communities at any university. The Students' Union is independent from the School. It will help you out if you get into trouble, tell you how you can meet students with similar interests and views, and provide opportunities to have the sort of student experience you want.

Here are some of the ways in which the Student's Union achieves this:

- Student activities – the Union funds and supports over 200 societies, sports clubs, Media Group societies and Raising and Giving charitable fundraising
- Campaigns and democracy – getting students together to take action on and influence the issues they care about within the School and wider society
- Representation – led by a Student Executive, working with representatives across the School, you influence and shape the decisions and direction of the School
- Welfare and student support – independent, legally-trained advice workers offer free, confidential advice when things go wrong or you need help

You can find out more here: lsesu.com



Section 7: Completing your Studies





Graduation ceremonies

For more information, including the dates of future ceremonies and details of the School's overseas ceremonies, please see info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/graduating-from-lse

LSE Alumni Community

The international LSE alumni community comprises more than 142,000 people in over 200 countries. The Alumni Relations team works to keep the LSE alumni community engaged with each other and with the School at every stage, from student to new graduate to post-retirement, providing a programme of communications, events, services, volunteering and opportunities to connect. As a current student, there are many opportunities for you to get involved with the alumni network:

- **Register for LSE Alumni Online** - The alumni website and networking community features news from campus, our world leading academics and alumni all over the world, and provides access to the alumni programme offered by the School. To use this service, please register for a student Alumni Online account with your Student ID number.
- **Alumni Professional Mentoring Network** – This career networking resource allows LSE alumni to share their valuable professional experience and expertise with current students.
- **Alumni groups** – LSE's network of regional and special interest alumni groups organise regular professional and social events that students can attend. There are more than 80 regional groups and 11 special interest groups.
- **Involve alumni in your events** – Looking for alumni speakers? Wish to invite alumni to a networking session or event? Want to learn from the experiences of LSE alumni in a wide range of industries? Connect with alumni through the Alumni Relations team for your events and other endeavours.
- **What do LSE graduates do?** Find statistics about the careers undertaken by graduates and also many alumni career profiles.
- **Social Media** - Follow the School on Facebook and X to keep up to date with alumni events and activities. Students are welcome to join the official LSE Alumni LinkedIn group. There are also a number of LSE alumni groups on LinkedIn, many of which accept students as current members.

For more information about the benefits and services available, please visit the LSE Alumni Hub [here](#) or contact the Alumni Relations team via alumni@lse.ac.uk



LSE's Alumni Association is the official voice of LSE's global alumni community, comprising more than 130,000 people in over 200 countries, nearly 100 regional groups, and 11 special interest groups. Its primary role is to support the alumni programme coordinated by the LSE Alumni Relations team by a) developing and supporting the network of international and special interest alumni groups and contact networks, and, b) representing the voice of the alumni community within the School.

You automatically become a member upon graduation. Membership is free. By registering with the LSE Alumni Online community, you will be able to stay connected with former classmates and the School after your graduation. You will also receive the monthly LSE Alumni Echo e-newsletter and the annual LSE Connect alumni magazine.

LSE alumni also have access to:

- Alumni Professional Mentoring Network
- LSE Careers for up to two years after graduation
- An email forwarding address to continue using an LSE email address
- The Library's printed collections on a reference basis, and can borrow free of charge.

For more information about the benefits and services available to alumni, please contact the Alumni Relations team on alumni@lse.ac.uk

Sociology Alumni network

You can keep in touch with the Department on X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn where we will share our news and celebrations with you.

We also send a Sociology Newsletter, you can subscribe to the newsletter on our website: lse.ac.uk/sociology/events

We are planning to introduce regular events for Sociology Alumni in future. If you would like to join these, as well as receive updates on public lectures and other events hosted by the Department, please provide your private email address before graduation to the Sociology Department's Communications and Events team on sociology.media@lse.ac.uk



Section 8: LSE beyond your department





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LSE beyond your department

Your department is at the heart of your LSE experience – your academic home. But it's only one part of a large, dynamic university full of opportunities to learn, connect, and grow. It can take time to explore what's available, and you're not expected to do everything. Your experience is yours to shape.

This section of your handbook introduces that wider offer and is structured around a set of themes covering different aspects of your LSE experience – from developing as a scholar and looking after your wellbeing to building connections, broadening your horizons, and shaping your future. You can explore each of these themes further with [LSE LIFE](#) – your one-stop shop for opportunities beyond your programme. There's no need to have it all figured out – just start where you are, follow your curiosity, and take opportunities that feel right for you.

You will also see mention of [LSE Students' Union](#) (LSESU) – the student-led organisation that represents all LSE students. It is independent to LSE, and organises student-run societies, activities, and campaigns.

LSE LIFE – your personal guide to LSE

So many opportunities, so many choices, so much to explore. Think of LSE LIFE as your personal guide to LSE – helping you find the skills, experiences, and opportunities that feel right for you during your time with us. LSE LIFE is here for you throughout the year – both online and on the Ground Floor of the Library:

- The **LSE LIFE events and opportunities listings** are regularly updated, central listings of all the extracurricular happenings across LSE. You can filter by provider and theme, or just browse and see what strikes your interest!
- **LIFE Conversations** are one-to-one appointments providing personalised guidance about student life, settling into London, or making the most of what's on offer. LSE LIFE advisers can help clarify your goals, make a plan for your next steps, and help you find the teams and programmes that best fit your interests.
- The **LSE LIFE space** is a bright, open space located right on the ground floor of the Library. Perfect to study by yourself or with friends, attend a workshop or event, or drop by at the reception with any questions you might have.



Own your learning

Shape your intellectual journey – whether for success in the classroom or world-changing research

Studying at LSE is probably unlike anything you've done before – and that's part of what makes it exciting. You'll encounter ideas that challenge your assumptions, arguments that demand a response, and questions that don't have easy answers. You'll be expected to read critically, write persuasively, question evidence, speak up in classes and seminars, and develop a point of view that is genuinely your own. It can feel like a shift from being told what to think to working out how to think: reading independently, testing ideas, and deciding how to use your time. Lectures and seminars matter, but much of your progress happens in the hours around them.

That's a lot to ask. It's also one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do. You're not expected to arrive knowing how to do all of this, and you won't get there simply by putting in more hours. A common misconception is to confuse effort with progress: reading endlessly or spending long days in the library can feel productive without making your thinking much clearer. Progress tends to come from smaller, more deliberate habits – reading selectively, turning notes into arguments, and testing your understanding in discussion with your peers.

Your department, teachers, and academic mentor are your first point of contact – but there's extensive support beyond that. Across LSE, specialist teams can help you at every stage of your academic journey.

- **Learning Lab** is there for you at every stage of your learning journey – from finding your footing to thinking more critically, writing more convincingly, and getting more from your reading. **Workshops** run throughout the year on a variety of topics such as academic writing, critical reading, research planning, exam preparation, dissertation writing, and using AI tools critically and effectively. You can also book **one-to-one sessions** with Learning Lab Study Advisers to discuss specific aspects of your work.
- **LSE Library** is a central part of your learning environment, providing access to course readings and extensive research collections, alongside a wide range of study spaces. From Winter Term, it's open 24 hours a day. You can also discover alternative study spaces across campus with the **Facilities Guide**. Each department also has a **dedicated librarian** who can help with any Library questions, such as finding, evaluating, and referencing resources.



- The **Centre for Language Studies** offers free **English for Academic Purposes (EAP)** courses in Autumn and Winter Terms. EAP focuses on the skills required to perform in an English-speaking academic environment across the core subject areas you will encounter during your time at LSE.
- The **Department of Methodology** runs research design and methods courses, required on some master's programmes and optional on others. It also offers **one-to-one support** and **short courses** to complement your learning and support you through your dissertation and other research projects.
- **Digital Skills Lab** can support you in developing key digital and data skills that underpin many courses and assessments.

Using these resources early can help you find your footing more quickly. It's also worth coming back to them at key points in the year – for example, before your first summative assessments or when you start working on longer pieces of research. Over time, you'll develop a sense of what works best for you – whether that's how you organise your study, approach your reading, or make use of different kinds of support.

Three ways to start

- Join a Getting Started with the Library session during Welcome to learn more about what it has to offer!
- Attend a **Learning Lab session** in your first fortnight.
- Find a study space that works for you – the Library, a café, or your hall's common room.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Own your learning**





Centre your self

Prioritise your wellbeing, adapt to change, and build strength from the inside out.

Looking after yourself isn't a distraction from your studies. It's the foundation on which you build everything else, and it means different things at different times. Sometimes it's about building habits that help you stay on track: managing your workload, knowing your limits, finding routines that work for you. Sometimes it means genuinely switching off – a yoga session, a workout, or a mindful break. Sometimes it means recognising that you need support and knowing how to find it.

Unwind and recharge: make time to relax and enjoy yourself

Whether you're deep in revision or simply spending time on campus between lectures and seminars, it's important to make space to relax, recharge, and enjoy yourself – even during the busiest periods of the academic year. From sports and wellbeing sessions to creative arts and crafts events: explore upcoming activities and events with the [Unwind and recharge](#)-filter on the [LSE LIFE events](#) listing.

You don't have to measure whether an issue is "serious enough" to raise with someone. A better question is whether it's making it harder for you to work, think clearly, or stay steady. If it is, that's enough reason to seek support – and early help usually gives you more options than late help. The following teams are here for you at every stage:

- The [Student Wellbeing Service](#) offers [wellbeing appointments](#), counselling, workshops, and guidance when you're struggling or simply unsure what kind of support would help. They can help you talk through stress, anxiety, low mood, loneliness, homesickness, or a situation you're finding hard to manage. For students with disabilities, long-term health or mental health conditions, or specific learning difficulties, there's also a dedicated [Disability and Mental Health Service](#).
- [Peer Supporters](#) are trained student volunteers who help by offering a non-judgemental, confidential listening space to any LSE student. They will listen, and if you wish, can help you explore options for how to move forward. Any student can speak to any peer supporter and reaching out is a chance to build connections and speak to students you might not otherwise meet.



- The [Faith Centre](#) offers spaces for worship, quiet reflection, chaplaincy, and interfaith activity for all students, whether faith is central to your life or not. For some it's a place of worship, and for others it's a calm, reflective space. They offer weekly [Ashtanga Yoga and Tai Chi sessions](#) throughout the year. The [Faith Centre Director and Chaplain to LSE](#), Revd Canon Prof James Walters, offers confidential support regardless of your background or beliefs. You can also directly contact our Muslim, Catholic, Jewish, and Orthodox [Associate Chaplains](#).
- The [Halls Wellbeing Team](#) can provide wellbeing support and guidance if you live in LSE halls of residence. Check the [Halls Life platform](#) for more halls wellbeing information and resources.
- [LSESU Sports](#) has plenty of options to get involved, from the gym and drop-in sessions to sports clubs, the inclusive sport programme, and departmental sport. Staying active is a great way to support your wellbeing, lift your mood, and ease your stress – whether you're trying something new or getting back into a routine.

Three ways to start

- Make time to attend one [Unwind and recharge](#)-event that strikes your interest.
- Pick up a wall calendar from the [LSE LIFE reception desk](#) to help you stay organised.
- Take a walk through Lincoln's Inn Fields between lectures or seminars.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Centre your self](#)



Build your community

Get involved, connect with others, and make the most of what LSE and London have to offer.

LSE is a genuinely global institution. Your peers come from every corner of the world, bringing with them different perspectives, experiences, and ways of understanding the challenges that define our time. You'll meet people whose beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of seeing the world differ profoundly from your own. That's one of the most valuable things LSE offers – and it asks something of you in return: the willingness to listen and to engage thoughtfully, even if that means experiencing the discomfort of genuine difference. An LSE education doesn't just consist of lectures and assignments: it's also built from conversations, collaborations, and debates that don't appear on any transcript. Sometimes those conversations will challenge you. Sometimes they'll change you. The relationships you build and the communities you find here are fundamental parts of your experience and your education.

Building that community takes a little intention – showing up, trying things, and being open to connections you didn't necessarily expect. Societies, student groups, volunteering, and School-wide events are often the easiest routes in, but different things work for different people. Find what feels right for you, and don't try to do everything at once: one society, one regular event, or one study group will do more for your sense of belonging than signing up to many things and struggling to commit to any of them.





Find your people at LSE

Whatever your background, interests, or experiences, you are at home in the LSE community.

One of the best ways to meet new people is to connect over something you already share. The [Find your people](#)-filter on the LSE LIFE [opportunities listings](#) is designed to help you do just that. It gathers activities built around a common background, identity, or interest – covering cultural and national societies, sports clubs, music groups, and faith communities. You'll also find peer mentoring for undergraduate and neurodivergent students, [Professionals at LSE](#) events for students with five or more years of work experience, alumni mentoring for ethnic minority students, tailored programmes for female, disabled, and LGBTQIA+ start-up founders, and an [LGBTQIA+ role models directory](#), among many other events and programmes. The School also hosts celebrations for Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, and Women's History Month, amongst others. You will be able to find many of these online on the EDI calendar and on campus in the Hall-Carpenter Room – a dedicated space to cultivate an environment of inclusivity, available for student use.

Creating an inclusive experience for every student is a core priority for the School. The [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#) team actively works with the community to deliver action plans that advance equity and inclusion for students with protected characteristics and those who are underrepresented at the School through targeted work and initiatives. There is also work to foster good relations and positive dialogue across our diverse School community which you can find out more about on the [Campus Relations webpages](#).

Last but not least, don't forget London itself is part of the offer, too! Our campus is located right in the centre of the city – moments from the River Thames, Covent Garden, the Royal Courts of Justice. Make time to explore! You can find detailed accessibility guides on [AccessAble](#), that cover all buildings on campus and include route maps.



- **LSESU Societies** are one of the main ways to meet fellow students through shared interests, identities, and activities. With over 200 individual societies covering academic interests, cultural identities, sports, politics, media, the arts, and more, they are great for getting together with others on a regular basis.
- The **Faith Centre** is home to the LSE's diverse religious activities, transformational interfaith **leadership programme**, and a quiet, reflective space for both students and staff.
- **LIFE in London** is a series of free events and trips designed to connect you to London, fellow students, as well as some of the great experiences the city has to offer. From concerts and workshops to heritage-themed trips, there is something for everyone.
- **Halls Life** is the platform for student life in LSE accommodation, offering events, student-written guides and experiences, and key information to help you make the most of your time in halls.

Three ways to start

- Check out the Discover LSE Fair and the LSESU Welcome Fair in Autumn Term, and the Welcome Back Fair in Winter Term – the offer is vast!
- Explore a London neighbourhood you've never been to.
- Talk to someone on your programme you haven't talked with before.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Build your community**





Broaden your horizons

Develop a global perspective and engage with ideas, cultures, and questions that challenge and inspire you.

LSE is a place where people come together to debate, question, and explore the major issues shaping the world. Your degree is part of that conversation, but the intellectual life of the School extends far beyond your programme. Public events, lectures, discussions, and research talks give you the chance to encounter ideas, arguments, and perspectives that sit alongside – or sometimes challenge – what you study in class.

You don't need to attend everything. In fact, it's usually more valuable to engage selectively and thoughtfully: follow a question that genuinely interests you, explore a topic just outside your subject, or listen to people whose views differ from your own. Sometimes a single event or conversation is enough to change how you think about an issue, or to introduce you to a field, debate, or perspective you want to pursue further.

- **LSE Events** hosts one of the most active public lecture programmes of any university in the world. From heads of state and Nobel laureates to leading researchers, journalists, and policymakers: this is your chance to hear from some of the most influential figures in the social sciences first-hand. You can join the debate by posing your questions to the panel and even possibly meet the speakers at a book signing or reception after the event.
- **LSE Research Showcase** is a series of regular coffee-break research talks on campus, with free hot drinks and pastries, showcasing some of the fascinating research from our academic community.
- **World Cafés** are your chance to discover and debate important questions and ideas alongside students, teachers, researchers, alumni, and others from the LSE community. Short presentations from leading LSE researchers are followed by informal round-table conversations with scholars and other students.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Explore the big questions](#)

Broadening your horizons also means more than studying global topics though: it means learning from the people around you and becoming more curious about lives and perspectives beyond your own. The opportunity is to leave LSE not only with expertise in your subject, but with a wider frame of reference: more aware of complexity, more comfortable with uncertainty, and more connected to the world beyond your own experience.



- **CIVICA** is the [European University Alliance of the Social Sciences](#), of which LSE is a member alongside nine other European universities. Through CIVICA, you can take part in a range of activities and programmes, including immersive learning experiences abroad and online collaborative courses.

The world at your doorstep

You don't need to travel to encounter different cultures and perspectives at LSE: you can also engage with our international community right here on campus! [The LSE Language Community](#) – run by the Centre for Language Studies – offers bitesize speaking sessions with native speakers, weekly conversation circles, and tandem learning partnerships. The LSESU's [national and cultural societies](#) host events, food and film nights, and celebrations throughout the year. The [Faith Centre](#) offers interfaith events and activities open to students of any background, where you can learn about and connect across different cultures and traditions. Their [Beecken Faith and Leadership programme](#) is designed to help you develop key skills in reasoning and leadership in the context of engaging with religious difference, covering diverse topics, including the climate crisis and geopolitical conflict.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Connect across cultures](#)

Three ways to start

- Attend a [public lecture](#) on a topic completely outside your degree and note one idea or name to follow up afterwards.
- Join a [LSE Language Community](#) session or find a tandem learning partner.
- Visit the [Faith Centre spaces](#) – if you have a moment, why not take a break in The Cave, their silent room for meditation, prayer, and reflection?

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Broaden your horizons](#)



Make your impact

Discover what matters to you and contribute to creating change, big or small, at LSE and beyond.

LSE's approach to social sciences is understanding the causes of things *for the betterment of society*. After more than 130 years, that tradition still flourishes in the research produced here, in the public debates hosted here, and in the careers of the people who've studied here. It's also alive in what students do while they are here.

We invite you to ask yourself: what are the causes that matter to you? Meaningful action isn't necessarily about doing more. Often, it's about committing to something you care about deeply and staying with it long enough to understand it properly. The value of that kind of involvement lies not only in what you achieve, but in what it teaches you – about responsibility, about other people, and about your own limits.

- The **Volunteer Centre** is there to inspire and empower you to volunteer for causes that you are passionate about during your time at LSE. They provide a range of long term, short term, and one-off opportunities to suit your interests and schedule. You can also drop in to their space in Lincoln Chambers or book an appointment to talk through what might suit you.
- **Sustainable LSE** is the School's sustainability team, where you can learn about contributing to sustainability on campus and in residences while building new skills – whether you want to come to a one-off event or volunteer with the team more regularly. Their activities range from beekeeping and wildlife workshops to carbon literacy training and sustainability auditing.

Discover more – **[LSE LIFE: Change the wider world](#)**



Impact at LSE doesn't only happen outside the School. It can also come from helping to shape the institution itself, from contributing to discussions about how LSE operates to simply showing up for another student who needs support. Alongside sharing your feedback at [departmental level](#), you can also take part in a wide range of School-wide groups and programmes.

- [LSESU Student Voice](#) gives you countless opportunities to make yourself heard in what is one of the most politically active Students' Unions in the country – whether that's getting involved with ongoing [campaigns](#) or starting your own, submitting a [policy proposal](#), or standing in the [LSESU leadership elections](#).
- [Student Education Panels](#) are a chance to share your perspective and discuss your LSE experience with peers from diverse backgrounds, programmes, and levels of study, helping to inform processes and improvements across the School.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Shape your school](#)





Support your peers

Your greatest impact on other students' experience at LSE can sometimes take place on a personal level, through supporting fellow students and helping to build a strong, welcoming community. There are several formal programmes through which you can support your peers:

- The **Student Academic Mentoring Programme** is an undergraduate-only initiative that helps first years to settle into their department and meet other students by matching them with second- and third-year undergraduate mentors. Neurodivergent undergraduate and postgraduate students can also apply to the **Neurodivergent Student Academic Mentoring scheme** – you don't need a formal diagnosis to take part.
- **Peer Supporters** are trained student volunteers who offer a confidential, non-judgemental listening space to any LSE student. All students who have already been studying at LSE for at least a year can become a peer supporter, including continuing undergraduates and those in the second year of a two-year master's programme.
- **Widening Participation** offer a range of paid roles, including Student Ambassador, Tutor, and Mentor positions, enabling current LSE students to share their experiences of applying to and studying at LSE with prospective students and young people considering higher education.

Three ways to start

- Drop by the **Volunteer Centre** on campus to learn more about your options.
- Join a **Student Town Hall** to learn about and debate policies that shape the way the LSESU runs.
- Attend a Meet LSE leadership event to get to know leaders from across LSE in an informal setting – keep an eye out for upcoming events in Student News.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Make your impact**



Expand your skills

Unlock the talents, tools, and mindsets that set you apart.

You've arrived at LSE with a distinctive set of abilities, built on everything you accomplished, studied, and experienced before you got here. You'll apply, test, and extend those skills every day: speaking up in a seminar, shaping a group project, and adapting to new ways of thinking and working. Some strengths deepen in new contexts, and other gaps only become visible when you're stretched. Part of university is learning to recognise both, and to think about what else you want to be able to do.

It's natural to think about skills in terms of outcomes – what mark will this help me get, or how can I highlight this on my CV. Some skills are worth being deliberate about, and focusing on one practical skill with long-term value is often more effective than an ambitious self-improvement plan. If you want to study or work abroad, invest in the language skills that will get you there. If your dissertation or internship is likely to need technical skills, build them gradually before they become urgent.

- The **Digital Skills Lab** offers practical, face-to-face workshops, bootcamps, and self-paced resources covering data analysis and visualisation, coding, AI literacy, and assistive technology – including tools like Excel, Power BI, Python, R, Stata, SPSS, and generative AI (Claude and Copilot). It's open to all students and designed to be accessible whether you're a complete beginner or building on existing knowledge.
- The **Centre for Language Studies** runs non-degree language courses at all levels, from beginner to advanced, designed to fit around your programme commitments.
- **Student Media** is your chance to practise writing, editing, production, presenting, and media management with a genuine audience – across video, radio, *The Beaver* student newspaper, and the student-run journals within Houghton Street Press.



Some skills develop without you even thinking about it though – you pick them up just by being here, doing the work, and being around other people doing the same. In fact, you could pick any programme, event or initiative listed in this guide – whether it is related to making your impact, broadening your horizons, or building your community – and it would help you grow. Volunteering, leading an LSESU society, building a start-up, working on your academic skills, or pulling together a study group – each is a chance to get better at communicating clearly, leading and collaborating, or approaching problems creatively and critically.

Reflect on your skills

Reflecting on how you're developing is hard to do alone – it's easier to explore, understand, and articulate your experience with someone who can help you take a step back.

- **LSE Careers** offers [one-to-one appointments](#) with Careers Consultants to help you identify and assess the skills you're building, and think about how to develop and articulate them for the path you want to take.
- **LSE LIFE** offers [one-to-one conversations](#) to help you make sense of everything LSE offers beyond your academic programme, and figure out which opportunities might be right for you.

Three ways to start

- Identify one technical skill that you might need during or after your degree – when would be a good time to learn it?
- Try one thing outside your comfort zone – leading a meeting, presenting a new idea to your classmates, organising a group trip, or speaking first in a seminar.
- Use the [LSE Careers Skills Framework](#) to recognise your skills, reflect on your experiences, and identify areas for further development as you prepare to enter the world of work.

Discover more – [LSE LIFE: Expand your skills](#)



Shape your future

Prepare for life after LSE by exploring your options and following your ambitions.

Thinking about life after university is a fundamental part of being at university. The futures LSE graduates go on to build are as diverse as the people who study here – in every corner of the world and every kind of organisation, and across every sector. What they share is a capacity to explore carefully, act purposefully, think critically, and keep learning. Some students arrive at LSE with a clear sense of the path they want to pursue. Others discover it gradually, through conversations, experiences, and opportunities they couldn't have foreseen.

Ask an Alum

Many cohorts of LSE students have gone on to build and shape their own unique career paths before you – and there's a great deal you can learn from their experiences. During your time at LSE, and even after graduation, you can access our global network of more than 240,000 curious and accomplished minds through [Ask an Alum](#), our online platform that connects students and alumni for advice, support, and networking. Whether it's exploring different career options, developing your professional skills, or building your first business, just submit your questions and we'll connect you with someone who can help.





As you begin to think about your own future and explore the possibilities available to you, teams across LSE can help you navigate and pursue your options. Early conversations can be valuable for testing ideas, understanding different sectors, and learning what employers really mean when they describe particular roles. If you already have a specific career path in mind, it's equally important to understand the expectations and timelines associated with it, especially in fast-moving sectors, where work experience opportunities like short placements, vacation schemes, and internships often begin recruiting early.

The important thing to remember is that thoughtful and curious people rarely settle their futures once and for all. Instead, they keep shaping them. Explore what intrigues you, build familiarity with different kinds of work and sectors, and begin to understand how your interests and strengths might translate into possible next steps.

- **LSE Careers** can help you explore your career options, reflect and build upon your skills, and offer insight into the world of work. They offer appointments, varied events and workshops, application, interview and assessment centre support, sector insights, and access to opportunities and vacancies through **MyCareer**.
- **LSE Generate**, our entrepreneurship hub, is here to help you innovate for the betterment of society. Drop by their co-working space on campus, or join their events, programmes, and mentoring schemes to develop entrepreneurial skills, test business ideas, and meet others interested in innovation.
- **LSESU Careers Societies** are run by students, for students. From finance and consulting to technology and the creative industries, they offer opportunities to explore different sectors through networking events, conferences, workshops, and talks.

Three ways to start

- Register with LSE Careers and browse **MyCareer**.
- Attend one **Shape your future**-event in your first term – even just to see what's out there.
- Ask an alum or anyone working at LSE how they've shaped their professional path so far.

Discover more – **LSE LIFE: Shape your future**



Section 9: Navigate your LSE





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Navigate your LSE

Find the resources, guidance, and support you need to thrive throughout your time at LSE.

There are moments at university when you need further advice – about administrative and procedural matters related to your degree or more generally about navigating student life and London. Where you start often depends on the nature of your question.

Here are three key teams at LSE who can act as a good starting point for any general queries, even if you're not sure exactly what you're looking for. If they can't help you directly, they can connect you with someone who can.

- The **[Student Services Centre \(SSC\)](#)** is your first point of contact for advice on a wide range of administrative and programme-related enquiries including enrolment, visa advice and compliance, course selection, exams, and graduation. Contact them via their **[Live Chat](#)** or use the **[SSC enquiry form](#)**.
- **[LSE LIFE](#)** is your one-stop shop for extracurricular opportunities and support at LSE. Browse the **[LSE LIFE events and opportunities page](#)** and if you'd like some personalised guidance, **[book a one-to-one LIFE Conversation](#)** to talk through any aspect of your experience and find the programmes, events, and groups that are right for you.
- The **[LSESU Advice Service](#)** offers free, impartial advice on a wide range of issues – from academic matters and assessments to finances, funding, and housing. As part of the LSE Students' Union, they are independent from LSE, and thus free from a conflict of interest. To contact them, fill out the **[Advice Service Form](#)**.

This section covers some of the mechanics behind your programme and the wider School: how things work, who's responsible for what, and where to go when something needs sorting. You can use it as a reference throughout the year – when a term isn't clear, when you're not sure what your options are, or when you need more information on a procedure or regulation. Click through to the webpages linked for the most up-to-date information and don't hesitate to reach out to someone if you need further advice.



Specialist guidance and support

For those times when you do have a specific question or concern, you may want to seek specialist advice and support directly. Here are some of the teams you might turn to.

- **Fees, finances, and money matters**

[LSE Fees Office](#) manages queries relating to the payment of tuition fees, tuition fee refunds, sponsor invoicing, and US or Canadian student loans. The [Financial Support Office](#) administers a range of bursaries, scholarships and studentships. Use the [Student Finance Hub](#) to check your fees, invoices, payments and instalment arrangements.

If you are facing unexpected financial difficulty during your programme, the LSE Financial Support Office or the independent LSESU Advice Service may be able to help you.

- **Wellbeing and counselling**

The [Student Wellbeing Service](#) offers confidential one-to-one wellbeing and counselling appointments, and workshops. If you need to speak to someone on the phone immediately or outside of working hours, you can call the 24/7 mental health support line provided by our partners [Spectrum.Life](#).

- **Disability and mental health**

LSE's [Disability and Mental Health Service \(DMHS\)](#) offers advice and support to all disabled students, including those with physical or sensory impairments, long-term health conditions, mental health conditions, neurodivergence, specific learning difficulties, and autistic spectrum conditions. DMHS will work closely with you to explore any academic adjustments ([My Adjustments](#)) that may be available and provide tailored support to help make your time at LSE as accessible and inclusive as possible. It is recommended that students contact DMHS before arriving at LSE, or as soon as possible afterwards, so they can collaborate with you to put in place appropriate support from the start of the academic year.

- **Discrimination, bullying, harassment, or sexual misconduct**

If you experience or witness discrimination, bullying, harassment, or sexual misconduct you can report it – anonymously or with your contact details – on [LSE's Report and Support](#) system. You do not have to navigate these situations alone; you can contact any of [LSE's Safe Contacts](#) for confidential guidance. The School also partners with [external specialists, Rape Crisis South London](#) and [SurvivorsUK](#) who offer an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service.

In an emergency, call 999 for the emergency services (police, ambulance, or fire brigade). On campus, [LSE security](#) can also help; call them on 020 7955 6555.



Term dates and LSE closures

The academic year has its own rhythm – terms, breaks, reading weeks, exam periods. It's helpful to see the whole picture before you get into specific procedures and regulations. This table shows the key dates for 2026/27. The notes below give a sense of what you can expect from each period and ideas about ways to approach them. Always check the [Term Dates](#) page for the latest information.

Academic year 2026/27

Welcome week	Friday 18 September – Friday 25 September 2026
Autumn Term (AT)	Monday 28 September – Friday 11 December 2026
Reading week	Monday 2 November – Friday 6 November 2026
Winter break	Monday 14 December 2026 – Friday 8 January 2027 <i>School closure:</i> Wednesday 23 December 2026 – Friday 1 January 2027
January exam period	Monday 4 January – Sunday 10 January 2027
Winter Term (WT)	Monday 11 January – Thursday 25 March 2027
Reading week	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027
Spring break	Friday 26 March – Friday 23 April 2027 <i>School closure:</i> Friday 26 March – Thursday 1 April 2027
Spring Term (ST)	Monday 26 April – Friday 11 June 2027
Spring exam period	Tuesday 4 May – Friday 11 June 2027

Welcome week is the week before teaching begins. Systems come online, departments run their introductions, and the practical infrastructure of being an LSE student gets set up. It's also a chance to find your feet, meet people, and begin to feel at home. There will be other Welcome activities running before and after Welcome week, so you don't have to try and do everything in seven days!

Autumn Term is the first 11 weeks of teaching of the academic year. For many, it's a period of adjustment where you settle in and learn ways to manage independent study. You might see term weeks referred to as "AT4" or "AT week 4", for example – the fourth week of Autumn Term.



Reading weeks fall midway through Autumn and Winter Terms, though not every programme has them. It is not a holiday, but a pause to catch up and consolidate the work you've already done in the term so far.

The **January exam period** is the final week of the **Winter break**, bringing exams and coursework deadlines into sharp focus.

Welcome Back is a series of events and social gatherings at the beginning of Winter Term where you can make a new start, meet new people, and explore more of what LSE has to offer, once you've had one term to learn your way around. **Winter Term** is also 11 weeks. Longer projects, the start of dissertation work, and other deadlines tend to land here.

Spring break runs from late March to late April, with the School closed for a week around Easter. For most students with exams in May and June, this is when you'll do most of your revision. **Spring Term** is seven weeks long, and most of it is taken up by the **Spring exam period**. There is generally very little teaching: this is a term defined by assessment.

Outside term time, during closure periods and bank holidays, services and opening hours may change. During [School closure](#), most School services are not available, though some buildings, such as the Library, may still be open.





Systems and online resources

LSE uses a set of core digital systems, but they do different jobs. It can be helpful to get an overview of which platform is for which task.

System	What it does	Find out more
Claude for Education	Generative AI chat from Anthropic, free to all LSE students. Each course sets its own AI use policy on Moodle, so check what is permitted before using Claude in assessed work.	Claude for Education ; Academic integrity
Digiexam	The software platform used for e-Exams, in-person exams where you use a laptop computer. It locks down your personal laptop to create a secure exam environment. Not all courses use e-Exams – check your specific course regulations.	e-Exams ; Exams
eduroam	The Wi-Fi network available across LSE and at universities worldwide. Connect using your LSE email address and password.	eduroam at LSE
Library Search	The online catalogue for finding books, journal articles, and other materials held by the LSE Library.	Library Search ; Library
LSE Calendar	The official publication containing programme regulations, classification schemes, assessment offence regulations, appeals regulations, and codes of practice.	LSE Calendar
LSE for You	LSE's system for completing your course selection.	LSE for You
LSE LIFE events	Your starting point for browsing and booking onto events outside your department. Because teams promote events in various places, using different booking systems, this is the easiest way to find most opportunities in one place.	LSE LIFE events



System	What it does	Find out more
Moodle	LSE's virtual learning environment. Each course has its own Moodle page where you'll typically find lecture slides, recordings, reading lists, quizzes, discussion forums, and where you submit assignments and receive marks and feedback. Important: joining a Moodle page is not the same as enrolling on a course – course selection can only be done through LSE for You.	<u>Moodle</u>
MyCareer	LSE Careers' online portal. Use it to register for careers events, browse the jobs and internships board, book one-to-one appointments with Careers Consultants, and set preferences for sector-specific information.	<u>MyCareer</u> ; <u>LSE Careers</u>
Parchment	The electronic platform through which final transcripts are issued and can be shared with employers or other institutions.	<u>Accessing Parchment</u> ; <u>Transcripts</u>
Student Finance Hub	An online portal where you can review your tuition and accommodation fees, invoices, payments, and instalment arrangements once you're enrolled.	<u>Student Finance Hub</u> ; <u>Paying fees</u> ; <u>Tuition fees</u>
Student Hub	LSE's app (iOS, Android, and web) for everyday student life. Use it to view your timetable, check deadlines, browse the campus map, read about news and events, and book appointments with academic staff, LSE LIFE advisers, and departmental support teams.	<u>Student Hub</u> ; <u>About Student Hub</u>
Student LfY	LSE's main administrative system. You'll use it for updating your address, finding your candidate number, accessing your assessment results and booking appointments with some School services.	<u>Student LfY</u> ; <u>What's in LfY</u>



System	What it does	Find out more
Turnitin	LSE's text-matching software. It produces a similarity report that can be used to monitor for potential plagiarism. Some departments allow or require you to submit drafts through Turnitin before your final submission, so you can review the report and use it to improve your writing and referencing.	Academic misconduct guidance ; Moodle

If you run into IT issues, you can visit the [Data and Technology Services \(DTS\)](#) team at the [Tech Centre](#) on the first floor of the Library, or raise a request via the [DTS Service Portal](#). They offer a range of support services, including the [iRoam Laptop Loan Service](#), and guidance on [cyber security, assistive technology, educational discounts](#) on tech and software, and free software available to LSE students. This includes free access to [Microsoft Office 365](#), which provides essential tools like Word, Excel, and Outlook. Outlook is LSE's main email platform and primary method of communication, so it's important to check it regularly.

DTS also provides support for [printing on campus](#). There are lots of printers available across the LSE campus, which you can connect to and use both from LSE computers and your personal devices. If you need to get something printed professionally, there is also a dedicated [Reprographics](#) team on site. They can help with anything from printing posters and leaflets to dissertation binding.



Your programme and courses

Glossary

The language of course choice, units, and regulations can seem unfamiliar at first. The [LSE Calendar](#) is the School's official resource for programme regulations, course information, and other important details related to studying at LSE. This list is here to help you get your bearings. It's a friendly introduction to terms you'll hear mentioned often, but it's not a substitute for the Calendar or advice from your department. For the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and relevant information, always consult both the [Calendar](#) and your department's guidance.





Term	What it means	Where next
Programme	The full degree comprising of all units studied, for example a BSc or MSc.	LSE Calendar
Programme regulations	The formal rules governing your degree. They specify which core courses you must take, which optional courses are available to you, how many units you need, and any dissertation or project requirement. Published in the LSE Calendar.	LSE Calendar
Unit	The measure of a course size at LSE. A half-unit course is typically taught over one term; a full-unit course is typically taught over two terms. A master's degree usually requires four units; an undergraduate degree usually requires 12 units (usually four each year).	LSE Calendar ; Course selection
Core course	A compulsory course required by your Programme regulations.	LSE Calendar
Optional course	A non-compulsory course you choose alongside the core requirements, from a list in your Programme regulations (or, with approval, from elsewhere at LSE).	Course selection ; LSE Calendar
Auditing a course	An informal arrangement where you follow a course's lectures for interest, but do not attend classes/seminars or sit assessments, and the course does not appear on your transcript or timetable. You need the course convener's permission to audit their course.	Course selection ; your course guide
Controlled access/ capped course	A course where the number of places is limited. "Controlled access" courses require departmental approval (you may need to write a supporting statement). "Capped" courses fill on a first-come, first-served basis through LSE for You. Some courses are both.	Course selection
Course selection period	The main window in Autumn Term, when you formally choose your courses for the full year through LSE for You. A second, shorter window reopens in January for changes to Winter Term half-units only. Deadlines and processes vary by department.	Course selection



Term	What it means	Where next
Timetable clashes	When two of your courses are scheduled at the same time. LSE for You has a “Student Timetable Clashes” screen to help identify simple clashes. Complex clashes may require contacting your department or the Timetables Team.	Timetables
Course guide	The guide for an individual course, giving details such as the convener, syllabus, course content, modes of assessment, and indicative reading lists.	Course selection ; Moodle ; your department pages
Seminars/Classes	Small-group teaching sessions where you discuss readings or work through problems with a class teacher and peers. Attendance is compulsory and active participation is expected, so come prepared. Master’s programmes tend to call these seminars; undergraduate programmes tend to call them classes.	Moodle
Office hours	Regular weekly slots when academic staff are available for one-to-one conversations. You can speak to any teacher during their hours, even if you’re not on their course. Some are drop-in; others require booking via the Student Hub.	Student Hub ; Academic support





Making changes to your programme

If you would like to make changes to your programme or mode of study, you have options. An **interruption** is a year-long approved break in your studies, with a return the following academic year. **Withdrawal** is permanent. A **programme transfer** moves you to a different degree at the same level, with approval from both old and new departments. A **change of mode** switches you between full-time and part-time study, usually on postgraduate programmes. All of these should be discussed with your department and may have implications for your visa, fees, and funding.

Who's who – the people behind your degree

There are plenty of people within your department who can support you, and knowing who handles what will get you to the right answer faster. The entries below indicate typical roles and job titles of people in your department.

Role	Who they are
Academic Mentor (AM)	A member of staff in your department assigned to you personally. They are there to support your progress – both in your studies and more broadly – and are an excellent point of contact whenever you have a question or concern. Your AM may also provide references for employment. On some taught Master's programmes, your AM may also be your Dissertation Supervisor, but check your department's arrangements.
Class Teacher	The person who leads your weekly class or seminar group. They may be a member of academic staff or a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA; possibly a PhD candidate). They mark work, give feedback, and hold office hours, where you can discuss topics from class further.
Course Convener	The academic responsible for running a particular course – setting its content, syllabus, assessments, and policies.
Departmental Senior Student Adviser (DSSA)	A confidential point of contact when something non-academic is affecting your studies. DSSAs can help you think through options around extensions, deferrals, changes to your studies (interruption, transfer, withdrawal), and how to access wellbeing and support services. Not all departments have DSSAs; some provide this support through other roles.



Role	Who they are
Programme Director	The academic responsible for the overall delivery and development of your degree programme. They handle programme-level issues and can approve requests to take courses outside your Programme Regulations.
Programmes Support Team/ Professional Services Team	The administrative team in your department and a valuable source of knowledge when you have practical queries about course selection, timetabling, Moodle, assessment processes, and student representation. They are led by the Department Manager.
Student Academic Representative	A student selected to represent the views of their peers at departmental committees such as the Student-Staff Liaison Committee. Selection takes place shortly after the start date of your programme, mostly from the first week of Autumn Term onwards.

One-to-one appointments with academic staff can usually be booked via [Student Hub](#). If you need to get in touch about anything via email, you can find contact details for your programme director, course conveners, and teachers on [Moodle](#). For any other contacts, check out your department's People page.

Student Voice: feedback on your programme

Your feedback is extremely important. There are several ways you can use your voice and shape the teaching and learning on your courses and programme.

Within your department, [Student Academic Representatives](#) (or programme reps) are students recruited to represent the views of their peers. They sit on [Student-Staff Liaison Committees \(SSLCs\)](#) (or Programme Forums), the main forum where elected reps discuss your feedback on your teaching and learning experiences with departmental staff on a termly basis.



There are also broader [Undergraduate/Postgraduate Taught Consultative Fora](#), made up of SSLC reps from across the School, as well as the LSESU Education Officer and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education, allowing for School-wide feedback. Some of your reps will also attend your [Departmental Teaching Committee](#) each term, which oversee teaching and learning within departments, and help ensure effective student participation in educational decision-making.

You will have a chance to give feedback through [regular surveys](#) at both course and programme level, alongside broader surveys of the whole student experience including the [National Student Survey](#) for final-year undergraduates. These are generally coordinated by the [Teaching Quality Assurance and Review Office \(TQARO\)](#).

Beyond your department, you can shape LSE at a School-wide level, for example, through [LSESU Student Voice](#), [Student Education Panels](#), and [LSESU leadership elections](#). See [Make your impact](#) earlier in this handbook for more opportunities.





Exams and assessments

Assessment at LSE comes in two forms. **Formative assessment** is practice – essays, problem sets, presentations, or mock exams that don't count towards your final grade. Formative assessments are where you can test ideas, experiment, and get helpful feedback. **Summative assessment** does count towards your final mark for a course, and might take the form of exams, coursework essays, group projects, presentations, or a dissertation.

Each department publishes **marking criteria** describing what markers are looking for – typically covering knowledge and understanding, use of literature, argument and analysis, and clarity of expression. Most written work also has a **word limit**, with rules on what exactly counts towards it and penalties for exceeding it set at department level.

If your programme includes exams, they'll usually take place in either the January or Spring exam period. Before you take any exam, read the School's official [Exam Procedures for Candidates](#) for full details of all exam regulations including personal items you're allowed to take into the exam room, writing in exam booklets or using computers for e-exams, and your **candidate number** – a unique five-digit number that ensures anonymous marking.

Another important element of exams that you'll find explained fully in the exam procedures is the School's [Fit to Sit](#) policy. This means that by entering an exam room or submitting an assessment, you declare yourself well enough to do so. If you are unwell or affected by serious circumstances, request an extension or deferral *before* the assessment – your [options](#) are much more limited afterwards.

Re-taking an exam or re-attempting an assessment is called a **resit**. Resits are normally held in one of two formal periods: the **In-Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period (IRDAP)**, which typically runs in late August, or the **Resit and Deferred Assessment Periods (RDAP)**, which take place during the main Winter and Spring assessment periods the following year. Full details of taking resits and deferred assessments can be found on the [School's Re-entry pages](#). Eligibility, timing and rules vary by programme, so check the [Calendar](#) and your department's guidance.

If you think a result or decision needs to be challenged, there is a formal appeals process. Full details about the appeals process can be found [here](#).



Who can I talk to?

You can talk with your academic mentor, course convenor, or class teacher about feedback you receive.

You can talk with a [Learning Lab Study Adviser](#) about interpreting the marking criteria for an assignment or ways to use feedback to make progress.

For questions about the exam procedures, resits, or other administrative matters around exams and assessments, contact the [SSC Student Advice and Engagement Team](#).

The [SSC Student Regulations Team](#) handles appeals, allegations of misconduct and plagiarism, and complaints about academic matters. They also administer the process around exceptional circumstances and deferrals.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is the principle that the work you submit is your own and that you've taken responsibility for referencing others accurately and following your department's guidelines on working with other people and with AI tools. Here are some specific terms you should understand.

Plagiarism is presenting other people's words or ideas as your own, whether deliberately or accidentally, including failing to reference sources properly.

Collusion is collaborating with others on individually assessed work beyond what is permitted. **Contract cheating** is having someone complete an assessment on your behalf, and can also include the unauthorised use of GenAI tools. **Self-plagiarism** is reusing material from your own previously submitted work without proper attribution. More information about academic misconduct is in the [Regulations on Assessment Offences](#).

LSE provides all students with access to [Anthropic Claude for Education](#) and [Microsoft Copilot](#), however each course has its own **AI use policy**, set out on the course's Moodle page. Some courses permit some forms of AI use; others prohibit them entirely. **Turnitin** scans submissions for matches against other sources. Some departments let you submit drafts to Turnitin first to check your referencing. The **Turnitin similarity report** shows what percentage of your submission matches other sources. There is no safe maximum score: a low percentage can still be investigated and a high one does not automatically indicate misconduct.

When you submit summative work, you confirm an [academic integrity statement](#) affirming that the work is your own, that you have not colluded, and that you have followed AI and referencing rules. Suspected cases of misconduct are considered by an **Assessment Misconduct Panel**, and penalties can be severe.



Who can I talk to?

If you have questions about Turnitin, referencing, paraphrasing, using generative AI tools, or any other aspect of academic integrity, you can book an [Academic integrity one-to-one appointment](#). Sessions take place online and everyone will be seen individually in order to provide personalised advice – no question is too silly! The [Learning Lab](#) and [Library](#) also provide general guidance on academic integrity, referencing, and paraphrasing, through workshops, one-to-one appointments, and online resources.

Do note that some rules and regulations may vary from department to department, so it is worth checking your course guides and speaking to your teachers or academic mentor when in doubt, too.

The [SSC Student Regulations Team](#) handles allegations of misconduct and plagiarism, and complaints about academic matters.

When something affects your work

LSE has formal routes for situations where circumstances affect your assessed work. Ideally, these circumstances should be addressed before the work is due or attempted.

An **extension** is extra time on a coursework deadline, requested in advance and normally accompanied by supporting evidence. It is the most common route for short-term issues with submitted work. Full details can be found in the [Student Guidance on Extension Requests](#) document.

A **deferral** postpones an assessment to a later sitting, usually the next exam period. It is used when an extension is not enough or when the assessment has a fixed date, such as an exam. Like an extension, it is requested in advance, normally at least 24 hours before the deadline or exam start.

LSE publishes guidance on [religious observance and assessments](#) for students whose faith commitments may affect assessment participation.

[My Adjustments](#) refers to personalised plans of reasonable adjustments to adapt teaching, learning, and assessments to the needs of students with sensory or physical impairments, mental health conditions, or specific learning difficulties. They include **Teaching and Learning Adjustments** (TLAs) and [Central Exam Adjustments](#) (CEAs) and might feature extra time in exams, assistive technology, or changes to your study environment.



There is also a procedure to follow where circumstances cannot be addressed in advance. Submitting **Exceptional Circumstances (ECs)** is the only way to inform examiners about circumstances beyond your control that affected an assessment you have already attempted or were absent for. Find out more on the [Student Services Centre pages about ECs](#).

Who can I talk to?

The [Disability and Mental Health Service \(DMHS\)](#) is the service who puts My Adjustments in place, including Central Exam Adjustments. There is no requirement to tell the School about a disability. However, letting the DMHS team know about any long-term condition that has a substantial impact on your studies or your day-to-day life enables them to arrange adjustments and support.

The [SSC Student Advice and Engagement Team](#) answers questions and provides advice about academic matters including ECs, progression, deferral, interruption, withdrawal, and the School Regulations and Codes of Practice more generally.





Codes, charters, and action plans

LSE has several codes and charters in place that outline the standards of education, conduct, and partnership between LSE, its staff, and students. Below is a selection of important codes, charters, and plans. A comprehensive list of School [Policies and Procedures](#) is available online.

- **[LSE Academic Code](#)**: Sets out what you can expect from your education in four areas: teaching standards, academic support, assessment and feedback, and student voice.
- **[LSE-LSESU Student Charter](#)**: Describes the community you're joining and how its members are expected to relate to each other.
- **[Codes of Good Practice](#)**: Explain the responsibilities of staff and students in relation to teaching, learning, and assessment.
- **[Ethics Code](#)**: Sets out the values the LSE community is expected to live by – covering responsibility, integrity, intellectual freedom, equality, collegiality, and sustainability.
- **[LGBTQ+ Inclusive Action Plan](#)**: Outlines six priorities to advance LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion.
- **[Race Equity Action Plan](#)**: Outlines six priorities to advance racial equity and inclusion, as part of the [Race Equity Framework](#).



LSE campus



Find out more on the [LSE campus map webpage](#).

[AccessAble](#) provides detailed accessibility guides for campus buildings, residences and study spaces, including route maps between locations to help students navigate campus confidently and independently. Explore more campus facilities with the [Facilities Guide for Current Students](#).

lse.ac.uk/sociology



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