



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Welcome to the Department of Sociology

MPhil/PhD Handbook 2026/27



lse.ac.uk/sociology



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Section 1: About your Department





Established in 1904, and the oldest Sociology Department in the UK, we are committed to empirically rich, conceptually sophisticated, and socially and politically relevant research and scholarship. Based at one of the world's leading social science universities, we champion a critical sociological imagination to lead new intellectual areas, and address social problems and ethical dilemmas that face our society today. Our research is organised in clusters around five priority areas.

Research clusters

Economic Sociology

This research cluster brings together colleagues working on a diverse array of topics related to the economy and economic life. The shared premise of our work is that economic action and economic institutions are fundamentally and unavoidably social and should be analysed as such. We draw upon classical and contemporary social theory to explore topics such as finance/financialisation, digital platforms, commodity and labour markets, work, consumption and consumer culture, climate change, risk, fiscal relations, valuation, and expertise. Our economic sociology is also oriented towards bridging other disciplines and subfields, such as science and technology studies (STS), environmental sociology, cultural sociology, stratification, family sociology, international migration, economic geography, and political economy. Our research cluster includes colleagues who use both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Knowledge, Culture and Technology

This cluster starts from the analytical, methodological and political recognition that meaning and materiality are co-constituting in their organisation and performance. Within this perspective, members of the cluster share concerns with: bodies in relations (gendered, raced, [dis]abled, reproduced, dead, aged, human and other than human); material cultures and practices of everyday life (technological mediations, science, design, media and representation); and the politics of (gendered, racialised, expert, everyday, embodied, emplaced, intimate and globally circulating) knowledges. Amongst these topics, current activities in the cluster address such strategic concerns as death and the life course, the dead body, material and political cultures of care, health and disability, scientific knowledge, varieties of expertise, design and other logics for producing material futures. The cluster shares a commitment to methodological creativity, particularly in generating new modes of engaging and co-producing knowledge with non-academic collaborators; and a background in broadly ethnographic traditions.



Politics and Human Rights

This research cluster builds on a strong intellectual tradition in the Department of Sociology at LSE. Research focuses on several themes: the social bases of political parties and movements; the theory and practice of human rights; democracy and participation in states, firms and civil society organisations; political ideologies, including liberalism and neo-liberalism, socialism, conservatism, secularism and cosmopolitanism; political violence, including war and its opponents, transitional justice, trauma and the investigation of atrocities; and the politics of cities and housing. Members work on the US, UK and Australia as well as Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa, and collaborate with leading scholars around the world. They use comparative, historical, case-based, ethnographic, critical, post-colonial, and institutionalist methods and approaches, among many others. The cluster is associated with LSE Human Rights, regular Political Sociology research seminars, dedicated postgraduate degrees in both Political Sociology and Human Rights, and a lively programme of public events.

Social Inequalities

This research cluster brings together colleagues working on multiple dimensions and crystallisations of social inequality, including class, race and ethnicity, gender, and age, to critically analyse contemporary challenges across the globe. Driven by an awareness of the dramatic increase in economic inequality in recent decades associated with contemporary neo-liberal capitalism we seek to develop new paradigms and methodologies for the sociological analysis of inequality. We are especially attracted to developing relational perspectives on inequality which draw on intellectual currents including field analysis, social network analysis, science studies, material culture studies, feminism, and critical race theory. Our research uses both quantitative and qualitative methods, including ethnography, social network analysis, and multiple correspondence analysis. We directly collaborate with colleagues in the Economic Sociology cluster on the theme of “Inequalities, Culture and Expertise” as well as with LSE’s International Inequalities Institute. Our members have obtained research funding from the ESRC, Wellcome, EPSRC and Leverhulme.



Urban Sociology

The Department of Sociology has a distinctive cluster of urban sociologists and ethnographers, who work alongside urban designers and planners to address the dynamism of urban transformations. Processes of urbanisation are examined in relation to global systems of power and regulation, cultural hierarchies and subversions, and forms of association and exclusion. Current research interests include pronounced conditions of urban inequality, the role of housing in an era of dispossession, the practice of new media and technology in global contexts, cross-disciplinary explorations of architecture and cultural space, and the configurations of migrant urbanisms. LSE Cities brings together interdisciplinary and applied research and teaching activities. LSE Cities' core focus is on space and society, the environment and climate change, and urban governance, and it employs innovative social, spatial and visual approaches to analyse contemporary urban conditions and to conceptualise urban futures, contributing to academic debate and policy formation.

Researching Sociology blog

Researching Sociology is the Department of Sociology's blog. It was first established by a group of PhD students in 2013, used as a forum to share research and ideas.

Since then, it has evolved into a hub for both our academics and our students; a space to discuss sociology of all varieties, sociological understandings and reflections on current affairs, and experiences of studying or teaching sociology.

Read the blog here: [**Researching Sociology @ LSE | Encouraging debate and discussion; and responding to the social world**](#)

If you have an idea for a blog post, contact the [**Researching Sociology blog editorial team**](#) with a brief outline. It's always better to get in touch first, before writing the whole post. Contact details for all Department staff can be found here: [**People \(lse.ac.uk\)**](#).



LSE Human Rights blog

LSE Human Rights blog is a student-led project based in LSE Human Rights. It is a place for open discussion of ideas, events, and critical views on the topic of human rights – whatever the term means to you.

Read the blog here: [LSE Human Rights | A student-led blog from LSE Human Rights](#)

Anyone is free to contribute ideas for articles to the blog. LSE MSc Human Rights students and members of the LSE Human Rights Doctoral Network are welcome to join the Editorial Team. If you are a student interested in joining the editorial board, just send an email to humanrights.blog@lse.ac.uk

The Sociology Research Seminar Series

The Sociology Research Seminar is the main venue for scholars at the Department to present work in progress and features innovative sociological research from a variety of perspectives.

The seminars are open to Sociology staff and students and are held in room OLD.3.24. They are a key part of our research culture and you are strongly encouraged to attend them.

The latest schedule can be found here: [Research Seminar Series](#).





LSE Sociology Departmental Conference

The annual Sociology Conference showcases the Department's research, particularly spotlighting the work of upper-year PhD students and recent graduates. This is also a precious opportunity for faculty members from respective clusters to introduce the Department at large to some of the projects they are working on. The central aim of the Conference is to strengthen LSE Sociology's research culture and community.

The conference is usually held in the Autumn Term. The organising committee includes Sociology research students and academic staff from each cluster.

A call for new organisers is made annually.

Information about the previous conference is available [here](#). If you would like to get involved, please email the Sociology Conference organising committee at lse.sociologyconference.phd@gmail.com

Sociology PhD Students' spaces

The Department has approximately fifteen desks and computers, as well as a networked printer, dedicated to research students. These can be found in room OLD.3.31.

Staff Common Room

PhD Students are welcome to use the Staff Common Room and kitchen, which is located in room OLD.3.07. Please keep the kitchen clean and tidy at all times and remember to load and unload the dishwasher or wash up and put away anything you use. It is not the job of cleaners or professional support staff to do this.

Student Kitchen

PhD students are also welcome to use the Student Kitchen and have lunch in the kitchen, which is located in room OLD.3.25. Please keep the kitchen clean and tidy at all times and remember to load and unload the dishwasher or wash up and put away anything you use. It is not the job of cleaners or professional support staff to do this.



Study areas

There are a number of study areas around the School including LSE Library, Centre Building, Cheng Kin Ku Building, Sir Arthur Lewis Building and Saw Swee Hock Student Centre.

Private meeting room

The PhD private meeting room (OLD M3.02) is a quiet space that can be booked by Sociology PhD students. The booking system is managed by the PhD student community.

The GTA office

The GTA office (OLD M2.02) is a quiet space provided for Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) for teaching preparation and office hours.

Sociology Department Meeting Room

The Sociology Department Meeting Room (OLD.3.24) is a Department-managed space primarily used for Departmental meetings and events.

When not in use, the room is available for quiet study.

To reserve the room for student-run events such as reading groups, research seminars, brown bag lunches, blog editorial meetings and conference organising team meetings, please contact the [**professional services team**](#).



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. Please note the Department will not send emails to LSE students at non-LSE email addresses. If you wish to use a non-LSE email address you will need to set up your account to have your LSE emails directly forwarded to your non-LSE address.

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 web page for more details at: [Data and Technology Services \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)

Both Academic and Professional Service staff aim to reply to individuals within five working days during term time. Please do not expect an immediate reply. Professional Service staff aim to provide an initial response or acknowledgment to questions or concerns within three working days. If you need help quickly, please email sociology.phd@lse.ac.uk and mark your email as urgent.

In person

Members of the Department can always be contacted during their office hours.

If you want to request a different time for a meeting, please contact the staff member via email. Contact details for all staff can be found on the Departmental web page: [People \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)



Student Hub

Download the Student Hub, LSE's student app, available on IOS and Android app stores or as a web app.

Student Hub provides your timetable, events and key academic dates all in one place. You can receive notifications about timetable changes and view upcoming deadlines.

You can also use it to connect with friends, peers and the LSE community.

There is a helpful campus map and regular updates so you can keep up with news and events from across the School.

You can follow the Department of Sociology on the Hub to keep up to date with what's happening in the Department. Search for Sociology to find us.

Social media

The Department is active on social media, which is often the first place we share news and events. To keep up to date on what's happening in the Department you should follow us. We are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X.



LSE Sociology



@lsesociology



@lsesociology



Department of Sociology, LSE



Department of Sociology, LSE



LSE Sociology





Section 2: Research student supervision





The supervisory relationship

The student-supervisor(s) relationship is the core of the doctoral programme. It is a professional relationship, in which both parties have obligations and responsibilities. Please speak to your supervisor in the first instance about any concerns you may have, but do not hesitate to reach out to any of the doctoral programme team if you feel the need. The Department recommends that there is an annual meeting at the start of each year to discuss working practices and to review how the supervisory relationship will work over the next academic year. If you have any concerns that cannot be addressed via these routes, please speak to the Doctoral Programme Director.

“Team” supervision

LSE operates “team” supervision for its research degrees. All doctoral students will have two supervisors, in some cases more than that. Supervisors should in the first instance be permanent LSE faculty. In exceptional circumstances, one member of the supervisory team may be from outside LSE – though the primary supervisor must be a permanent member of the LSE faculty. In cases where the student’s co-supervisor or second supervisor is from outside the Sociology Department, it is recommended that a third ‘advisor’ from Sociology join the team to assist the student with Departmental procedures.

The Department has two supervisory models:

- “primary” and “secondary” supervisor;
- “joint” or “co-” supervisor.

In the case of joint supervision, the norm is for the student to meet with both supervisors at most supervisory meetings, though this can vary where agreed. A supervisory plan should be developed at the start of each academic year to make it clear to all parties how supervisory arrangements will operate.

Where there is a primary and secondary supervisor, both may have the necessary expertise to oversee the student’s work, but the secondary supervisor may be pre-Major Review or have specialist knowledge related to one aspect of the student’s research.



In the case of the former, the second supervisor will be mentored by the primary supervisor, who will take an active role in supervision. Alternatively, in the case of the latter, the second supervisor plays a substantive role but a lesser one than a joint supervisor – they might, for example, be helping with a particular subsection of the thesis. In either case, a supervisory plan should be developed at the start of each academic year. The team should consider how differences in supervisory input will be addressed if the student is meeting with supervisors separately.

Primary and Co-supervisors are responsible for submitting necessary paperwork to the Department and the PhD Academy “Joint” supervisions occur when supervisors have equal and complementary skills (for instance, one with a theory perspective, the other with particular expertise in methods or context).

Establishing basic working arrangements in the supervisory team

During the first meeting with the doctoral student, there should be a discussion of how supervision will operate, including supervisory styles; respective roles and responsibilities (for monitoring progress, offering feedback, etc.); how supervisory meetings can best be organised/attended/recorded. A written record of this discussion (drawn up by the student and agreed by supervisors) should be kept as a reference point.

Any arrangements made will need to be periodically reviewed and re-negotiated when appropriate.

PhD log

The PhD Log is used by the School to monitor student engagement. Completion of the Log to record attendance at supervision meetings is compulsory and is PhD students’ responsibility. Student and supervisor can also log notes recording progress and actions if they wish, or they may prefer some other means. Log entries are initiated by the student and then reviewed by their supervisor. You should also lodge a copy of how supervision will operate on the PhD Log.



Changes to supervisor(s)

As student's research develops, it may be the case that the supervisory team could be reorganised to reflect change of topics, staff turnover, or for some other reason.

The Department will endeavour to be supportive, and students are encouraged to speak to their supervisors and/or the DPD, who will take the final decision on supervision arrangements. Please note that any changes depend on alternative supervisors being available and cannot be guaranteed. Changes will be registered by the DPD with the PhD Academy.

If you have a concern about any aspect of supervision

Ideally, you should initially discuss concerns with your supervisor so you can come to an amicable agreement about how to address your concerns. Where this has not resolved issues, where supervisors do not respond after at least two email requests, or if the student feels unable to raise issues directly with the supervisor, then the student should contact the DPD (or deputy DPD). The DPD will discuss student concerns on a confidential basis and if appropriate liaise with supervisor and student to seek to resolve issues informally and amicably.

If the situation is still not resolved, then the DPD will confer with the Head of Department, who will seek to reach a satisfactory arrangement. Please rest assured we will take student concerns seriously and we encourage you not to keep worries to yourself.





The supervisory relationship

Responsibilities of research students

It is the student's responsibility to initiate meetings with Supervisors. Students should submit written work regularly to their Supervisors as agreed between them.

Students should discuss with their Supervisors any ethical and risk issues which are raised by their research plans which will then need to be approved through a formal ethics review and/or health and safety review.

If supervisors do not respond to meeting requests after one month during term time, students should notify the DPD.

Students should plan their work in order to meet the various deadlines for Upgrade and completion. It is not a requirement for supervision to be provided over the summer, though this may be agreed where it is useful.

Responsibilities of supervisors

Full-time students have the right to at least three supervisory meetings per term. Part-time students have the right to at least two supervisory meetings per term. In cases where students have a third 'advisor', they should plan to meet once every academic year whether full time or part time.

- The term supervisory meetings include any meeting with any member of your supervisory team, including one-to-one meetings with your primary, secondary, co-, or third supervisor, meetings with the full supervisory team and group meetings with multiple students and one or more supervisors.
- Supervision sessions will naturally vary in length but on average they can normally be expected to last for around one uninterrupted hour.
- Supervisors should respond to meeting requests and ensuring the progress of students.
- If students do not respond to supervisor after one month during term time or two months out of term time, it is the supervisor's responsibility to notify the DPD, who will investigate the reasons.
- Students have a right to feedback on written work, orally or in writing. Students should give supervisors one month to read and review work in progress.



- Drafts of the SO500 paper, Upgrade Package, Third Year Progression Package and Final submission should all be discussed.
- The Supervisors and the Department should introduce the student to the wider research community within and outside the School. The Supervisors should take an active part in introducing the student to meetings of learned societies, seminars, and workshops and to researchers in the field. The Supervisors should give advice on publication and put the student in touch with publishers where appropriate.
- Supervisors are expected to continue supervision over their sabbatical, and may plan to undertake remote supervision over this period. Supervisors may also be granted an extended period of leave. In all cases the supervisors are responsible for notifying students of an extended period of leave or sabbatical, and for making a plan with students so that supervision is adequately addressed during that time. This should be done as far in advance as possible and a short plan must be logged with the DPD and Research Manager and placed on the PhD log. This plan should explain how supervision will take place and should be signed off by the student and supervisor.
- The supervisors are responsible for working with students to create a reasonable timeline and deadlines in preparation for the School and Department requirements (eg, Upgrade and final submission). This should take into account visa status, and the requirements of Student visa holders.
- The Supervisors are responsible for nominating the external and internal examiner for a student's viva and for arranging a mutually convenient date. There should be no unreasonable delay in examining a thesis once it has been submitted to the University.
- Meetings with supervisors need to be recorded on PhD Log (see above) by students. The Supervisors will sign off on the student's entries in the PhD Log and insert comments or clarifications as necessary.



Section 3: The programme structure





Aims of the MPhil/PhD programme

The doctoral programme runs for four years (full-time). The aim of the doctoral programme is to provide research training and career development in the broadest sense: to reach the highest possible standards in research and fieldwork; in the ability to engage with existing literatures and debates; in theoretical and analytical development; in writing and public presentation of your work; in teaching; in IT and information skills. The evidence and culmination of all this is the production of an original contribution which attains a professional academic standard: the doctoral examination – conducted by a panel of leading specialist academics – is a judgement by the academic community that you are now a potential colleague, rather than a student.

The best sources of information on doctoral matters are the PhD Academy webpage [here](#) and A-Z Guidance and Regulations for PhD students [here](#). These sites include regulations and financial support information, as well as all necessary forms and procedures. For all research training and course guides, you should consult the LSE Calendar [here](#).

Full-time registration

Year 1

- **SO500:** You must attend these weekly seminars in Autumn Term and Winter Term of the 1st Year. For formative assessment, you will need to make a presentation during Winter term. The course will be examined with a 5,000-word research paper, which is to be submitted in Summer Term of the 1st Year. The paper will set out the 'aims and methods' of the research based on your reading and thinking so far. SO500 will assist you with preparations for the upgrade. All first-year students are required to attend and pass SO500.
- Additional courses agreed with your Supervisors for purposes of research training.



Year 2

- **Upgrade:** To upgrade, you must submit a 10,000-word upgrade package, which is due on Friday of Week 6 in AT of the 2nd Year. This will be examined by a viva to be held by the end of the AT of the 2nd Year. Full-time students must upgrade by the end of their second year.

Year 2-3

- **S0501 *Data Analysis Workshop*.** All students are required to take this course once in their 2nd or 3rd years and may wish to take this in both years if this is helpful.

Year 3

- Submission of **a third year review package**, which needs to be reviewed at a viva by two colleagues (see below for details).

Year 4

- Students will undertake S0505 *Becoming a Professional Sociologist* which will advise about publication strategy, applying for jobs, and completing your studies.
- **Completion:** Full time students must submit their dissertation by the end of their fourth year.

Part-time registration

- **S0500:** The formative and summative assessment has the same deadlines as for full-time students. For formative assessment, you will need to make a presentation during WT. For summative, a 5,000-word research paper has to be submitted in ST of the 1st Year. All first-year students are required to attend and pass S0500.
- **Upgrade:** Part-time students must Upgrade by the end of their third year.
- **Completion:** Part-time students should submit their dissertation by the end of their eighth year.



It is quite common to start full-time and switch to part-time (or vice versa) one or more times over the course of your programme. Please understand, however, that the switch to part-time registration is governed by School rules. The eligibility criteria for switching to part-time status can be found in the Regulations for Research Degrees [here](#) and are as follows:

- employed or self-employed where the employment is in excess of 20 hours per week;
- on the basis of a protected characteristic recognised in the Equalities Act 2010 which precludes undertaking full-time study; and
- are not restricted by funding or visa conditions relating to their registration.

CRICA - The Consortium for Researching Inclusive Cultures in the Arts

Our MPhil/PhD programme has been created by LSE and the [University of Roehampton](#) together with non-academic partners from the performing arts. The programme explores how inclusive cultural practices and spaces are created and experienced, and how these can inform broader societal and economic changes. The primary research theme of CRICA is the intersection of disability and the creative economy, specifically the performing and participatory arts sectors.

CRICA students are expected to attend their additional training programme. This will vary each year.

Each academic year, the following training events will occur.

Three major community building events will occur each academic year and includes:

- CRICA Induction, bringing the students from Roehampton and LSE together.
- A Sandpit, led by a dramaturg, engaging the theme of difference in language, bodies and methodologies.
- An Embodied Conversation Jam, that will also invite partners and other Doctoral Focal Awards in the Creative Economy.

Training workshops will be held each year that are tailored to CRICA and includes:

- Wellbeing and Resilience
- Podcasting
- Social Media
- Public Engagement
- Practice as Research (at Roehampton)



A Reading Group (at LSE) will be held twice per academic year.

Writing support in varying forms will be provided each year. Writing retreats will occur at intervals. A training session on Disability, History and Archival Research will be held as requested at Roehampton.

Registration period and interruptions

Students are required to submit their dissertation within four years of registration (full- time students) or eight years (part-time students). Periods of leave of absence (eg, for fieldwork) do count towards the maximum period of registration but periods of interruption do not.

Any student unlikely to submit the thesis by the end of the maximum period of registration will need an extension. The Department will only consider these requests where exceptional circumstances have arisen, with clear evidence that only one or two terms will be sufficient to complete the dissertation; the intention is not to allow stalled research to drag on indefinitely. The student must complete the Request for Extensions form available [here](#), seek their Supervisor's approval and obtain the Doctoral Programme Director's signature. The form should be returned to the Department Research Manager and will be passed to the PhD Academy who will pass it to the Chair of the Research Degrees Sub-committee (RDSC) for final approval.

LSE regulations also require a minimum period of registration before a student is allowed to submit a thesis: two academic years for full- time students, and four years for part-time students.

Students are required to remain in continuous registration, and to remain in residence in London until they have completed their minimum period of registration. Residence outside London or the UK (other than leave of absence for field work) is only permitted if the minimum residence requirement has been met and with the agreement of the Supervisor, and approval by the Doctoral Programme Director and Chair of the RDSC. The request form can be found [here](#).



Interruptions

Students are allowed to interrupt their studies for a maximum of two years (which is only extended in exceptional circumstances). Periods of interruption do not count towards maximum or minimum registration allowances. If you are unable to carry out your studies fully for any reason (medical, personal, employment) you are strongly advised to discuss with your Supervisor the possibility of interrupting. It is unlikely that retrospective interruptions will be permitted, and you will have to make a clear case for why you could not have foreseen the need to interrupt in advance.

Summer vacations

During the summer, outside of term time, you are considered a registered student, continuing your studies during each summer; this is therefore not vacation time. You can request one short vacation (of up to 4 weeks) during each summer vacation in years 1 to 3 (or 1 to 7 if part-time). This does not normally apply in the summer of your final year when you are expected to be completing your thesis for submission.

Vacations during the summer must be agreed with your Supervisor and approved by Doctoral Programme Director, followed by notifying the Department Research Manager, in good time before you plan to leave. Final agreed vacation periods should be notified to the PhD Academy (phdacademy@lse.ac.uk).

Vacation periods cannot be used as a reason for needing to extend your maximum period of registration in order to complete your thesis. Further guidance on term dates, vacations and working during your study can be found [here](#).

Employment and supervision

You should not enter into commitments that hinder your research or unduly delay Upgrade or completion. If you are full-time and are going to do more than 15 hours a week of paid employment, you should talk this over thoroughly with your Supervisors.

Student visa holders should be aware of the requirements of their visa and before taking on any work, should consult with their Supervisor and, where needed, the Student Advice and Engagement Team using the contact details [here](#).



Student visas

Students who hold a Student visa should make themselves aware of the visa requirements. If you're unsure on restrictions or other aspects of your visa, you should get in touch with the Student Advice and Engagement Team at the School using their contact details [here](#).

Student visa holders are required to have regular check-in meetings with their Supervisor(s) and these should be logged on the PhD Log, as the School reviews the number of meetings to ensure they are taking place to meet the requirements of the UKVI. Additionally, fieldwork and other leave from the country should be requested and approved well in advance of departure as the School is required to update the UKVI on a visa holder's departure and return to the country. Failure to update the PhD Academy regarding leave from the country could put those students at risk of not being let back into the country, and at further possible risk of not being re-registered on the programme.

Courses

In addition to progressing with your research, you may take courses as follows. This is not required for your doctoral studies but may be useful where agreed with your supervisors.

Year 1: compulsory courses (examined)

- **[SO500 Aims and Methods Research Class for MPhil Students \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)**
Research Class for MPhil Students
- Students may be asked to attend and pass up to one further course unit (or two half units) chosen with their Supervisors based on the assessment of their research training needs.

Year 1: optional courses (examined)*

- MY400 Fundamentals of Social Science Research Design (half unit)
- MY521 Qualitative Research Methods (half unit)
- MY551M or MY551L Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (half unit)
- MY552M or MY552L Applied Regression Analysis (half unit)
- SO491 Quantitative Social Research Methods (half unit)
- SO492 Qualitative Social Research Methods (half unit).



Year 1: optional courses (not examined)*

- MY591 Computing Packages for Qualitative Analysis
- MY592 Workshop in Information Literacy: Finding, Managing and Organising Published Research and Data

Years 2 to 4: optional/required courses (not examined)*

- **[SO501 Data Analysis Workshop \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)** Data Analysis Workshop (required but not examined for all students who started the course in 2018/19 and later; option for students who started the programme earlier)
- **[SO505 Becoming a Professional Sociologist \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)** Becoming a Professional Sociologist
- **[SO511 Research Seminar in Political Sociology \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)** Research Seminar in Political Sociology
- **[SO521 Research Seminar on Cities and Space \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)** Research Seminar on Cities and Space
- Course guides for all courses are available here: lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm

* Please note that some optional courses may not be available each year. Please see details [here](#).





Section 4: The programme: In detail





Annual Review Board

All doctoral students are required to complete an Annual Progress Review Form at the end of each academic year. The form is circulated at the end of Winter Term and needs to be completed by the start of Spring Term. It is confidentially reviewed by the Doctoral Programme Director (or Deputy DPD in case DPD is your Supervisor) before ultimately being reviewed at the MPhil/PhD Board in Spring Term. Re-registration depends on the submission and approval of this form.

Years one and two

Your first year will focus on identifying and refining your research questions; exploring and deciding on appropriate research methods and strategies; and identifying and reviewing relevant literatures. This is primarily done through the required course SO500 Aims and Methods. To progress from the 1st to 2nd year, you must attend SO500 and make a presentation during the WT for your formative assessment and submit a 5,000-word research paper during the ST of your first year for your summative assessment. You should be working closely with your Supervisor(s), clarifying your interests to them, and taking on board their comments and steers.

The Upgrade

Upgrade from MPhil to PhD student is assessed by submission of a package of material which must meet and demonstrate the following criteria:

- a 10,000-word paper submission, which must include a literature review;
- a clear sociological research question;
- appropriate research methods;
- ability to deal with any ethical issues that arise from the research;
- preliminary data collection and analysis (eg, a pilot study, initial review of key documents/ archives, a preliminary analysis of a data set) that indicates the feasibility of the proposed research and demonstrates the ability of the student to conduct research; and
- a schedule for completion of the dissertation in a timely fashion and within the programme length.

The paper is examined by viva voce examination before a panel comprising of two members of staff, often but not necessarily including the SO500 course convenor.



If the convenor is also the student's Supervisor then another member of staff will be asked to examine in their place. Supervisors attend the viva, and may be consulted by the panel, but must otherwise leave the defence to the student.

Full-time students must submit the Upgrade package on Friday of Week 6 of the AT in Year 2. Part-time students can submit on Friday of Week 6 of the AT in Year 3.

The Upgrade viva voce will occur within the AT of submission. Upgrade assessments will result in a written report, detailing comments, suggestions and criticisms, which is sent to both Supervisors and the student. There are three possible outcomes:

- An unproblematic pass;
- Pass, subject to minor revisions;
- Fail with major revision and additional viva

In order to Upgrade from MPhil to PhD student, students must successfully pass the Upgrade.

Full-time students who have an outcome requiring a re-submission must re-submit on the 1st Monday of the ST in Year 2. Part-time students who have an outcome requiring a re-submission must resubmit by the 1st Monday of the ST in Year 3.

There are two possible outcomes of the second attempt to Upgrade:

- Pass
- Fail.

In the case of a fail at the second attempt, the panel's recommendation for the MPhil/PhD Board will be made either for de-registration or to allow the student to continue in registration with the aim of submission for the degree of MPhil if they so wish. A third attempt to Upgrade will not be allowed. Appeals procedures are available (see below).

The Upgrade process is governed by the [**Regulations for Research Degrees**](#).

Other obligations

You will discuss your research training needs at your first meeting with your Supervisor(s) and decide on any additional courses to take during your first year. These courses may be substantive or methodological. If your Supervisor(s) consider that you have insufficient background in a relevant aspect of sociology, they may require you to be assessed in one or more MSc courses and to attain a minimum of 60 per cent in examination as a condition of re-registration.



It is important to address any research or substantive weaknesses through courses. It is equally important not to succumb to the temptations of all the enormously interesting courses and seminars provided at LSE. Doctoral programmes in the UK unlike, eg, the US – are degrees by research, rather than taught degrees. Your focus in the first year must be on establishing your research question and strategy and laying the basis for your substantive research in Year 2. Discuss any other potential commitments thoroughly with your Supervisors where places are available.

First year students often take courses offered by the Methodology Department. Other courses from Sociology Masters programmes or specialist research courses may be taken with the agreement of the student's Supervisors.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is commenced in the 1st year and should be completed by the AT of the 3rd year for full time students.

Whether in the UK or abroad, you must seek leave to undertake fieldwork, which will include an ethics review and risk assessment. The Application to Undertake Fieldwork form can be found [here](#). This application must be supported by your Supervisors and the Doctoral Programme Director and must be accompanied by both an ethics review and a risk assessment. The form is then passed to the RDSC Chair for final approval, and you cannot leave or begin your field work until this approval is confirmed by the PhD Academy. Periods of fieldwork leave will count towards both your minimum period of registration and your maximum period of registration allowed by the School.

Often before completing your fieldwork form, you do have to consider two issues: risk assessment and ethics. In case of doubt about how these apply to you, please consult your Supervisors, the Doctoral Programme Director or the two School divisions most concerned with these matters: Research and Innovation or PhD Academy.

Risk assessment

School policy requires a risk assessment when students 'are engaged in academic work away from LSE which produces what can be termed "serious additional risk"'. In the first instance this should simply be a conversation between the student and Supervisors that should routinely take place. It is a common sense discussion of any problems that might arise during fieldwork. The checklist can be found within the Application to Undertake Fieldwork form.



School policy requires that this conversation takes place. To finalise the fieldwork application you will further be required to then complete the risk assessment section of the form, as well as the ethics review (both found within the Application to Undertake Fieldwork form available from the link above). This form then needs to be signed by the student, Supervisors and Head of Department. This should then be forwarded to both the Doctoral Programme Director and Department Research Manager for processing. At the end of five pages of risk assessment (to avoid School legal liability) this form also contains one paragraph on Research Ethics, which must also be duly signed.

All students should ensure they have received notification from the PhD Academy that their fieldwork has been approved before commencing their fieldwork, and before travelling to do so, if applicable.

Research ethics

All School policy and forms concerning research ethics can be found [here](#) and are overseen by the Research and Innovation Division. We take research ethics enormously seriously in the Department and seek to inculcate sophisticated, informed, and appropriate research practices that match up to our responsibilities to research subjects, communities, users and colleagues. Developing such understandings and practices is intrinsic to developing as a professional researcher and we expect you not only to address ethics directly at strategic moments but to keep the ethical and political status of your actions constantly in mind.

This educational process is of course loosely related to the formalised procedures and forms by which institutions cover themselves legally and in relation to public bodies and public opinion. School ethics policy – particularly with respect to students – is based on a ‘light touch approach’. The aim is to ensure 1. that ethical issues are identified and dealt with in research design; and 2. that only the most problematic cases have to be referred upwards to School level ethical review procedures.

Formal treatment of ethical issues should happen between student and Supervisors. Have your normal discussions of ethics and politics but in addition you should look at the School ethics policy (see above link) to see if you are in accord.



If the proposed project (or publication) is problematic with respect to School policy or any other recognised guidelines, you can consult the Doctoral Programme Director or the Research Ethics Committee in the Research Division. At this point you may, or may not, be advised to fill in a full ethical review form and submit your project to a School review. Again, this can be light or heavy touch: eg, quick scrutiny by Chair of Research Committee.

Most funding applications require evidence of ethical scrutiny by your institution, and this will require filling out an ethical review form which may be scrutinised outside the Department. In such cases, please follow this procedure with your Supervisors' help and approval and refer any questions to the Doctoral Programme Director.

Year three: The Third Year Review

On Friday of Week 6 in the WT of the 3rd Year for full time students, a Third Year Review package is submitted. Students are to submit the following:

- Two draft chapters (an introduction and a substantive chapter) totalling no more than 20,000 words;
- A thesis outline;
- A timeline for completion.

The submission is read by two members of staff, at least one of whom is from the Sociology Department. The goal of the Third Year Review is to register the view of academics that you are pursuing a research project to doctoral standard. It is also a chance for students to get detailed feedback from academics other than their Supervisors, and for issues or critiques to emerge and be dealt with. The review ensures that you have completed your fieldwork and substantial data analysis; are writing at the appropriate level; and that you are developing a central argument and presenting your findings with clarity. Students are in a good position to progress to completion following this Review.

Assessment is carried out by viva voce during week 7-11 of the WT. One or both of your Supervisors will normally attend the viva, but in a purely supportive and silent role; they are there to take notes only and should not enter the conversation unless explicitly asked by the panel for comment. The panel should be chosen in consultation with your Supervisors, with a view to getting useful comments and critique. Typically, one panel member will be chosen for specialist expertise; the second either for expertise in another relevant area or for their more general skill in crafting a dissertation.



Once you and your Supervisors have agreed on a panel, it is the Supervisors' responsibility to approach the prospective panel members, obtain their agreement and organise a date for viva during the 2nd half of the WT.

The panel assesses whether satisfactory progress is being made. The decision may be:

- Pass;
- Conditional pass, where specified additional material or amendments are required;
- Fail, requiring resubmission and additional viva.

Feedback on the Third Year Review is verbal in the case of a Pass. Feedback is made by report in the case of a Conditional Pass or Fail. The purpose of the report is to clearly state what the student needs to add or amend.

In the case of a fail at the first attempt, the student must resubmit their Third Year Review package within six months of the viva voce date. No extension will be granted except for extreme and documented medical or personal reasons. Students should prepare resubmission in close contact with their Supervisors and in relation to the report.

The panel assesses whether satisfactory progress is being made. The decision for the second attempt may be:

- Pass
- Fail.

In the case of a fail at the second attempt, the panel's recommendation to the MPhil/ PhD Board will be made, which could include either allowing the student continued registration as an MPhil Candidate or termination of registration. A third attempt to Third Year Review will not be allowed. The MPhil/PhD Board is responsible for making the final decision regarding progression based on this report. Appeals procedures are available (see below).

The Third Year Review process is governed by the **Regulations for Research Degrees**.



Year four

The fourth year of the programme is focused on completing the PhD.

Students will be encouraged but not required to attend SO505 *Becoming a professional sociologist*.

Supervisions may be less frequent, or even mediated through email in the 4th year. Moreover, the work may become increasingly editorial. Bear in mind that with a complex 100,000 word document students need to leave plenty of time both for Supervisors to read and comment and for their own revisions in response to comments. The Department expects full-time students to submit their thesis for examination within three to four years of registration (part time students within eight years).

Word limits

The maximum allowed word length is 100,000, including footnotes but excluding tables, diagrams, bibliography and appendices. It is not advisable to submit a dissertation under 85,000 words as a shorter text is unlikely to meet examiners' expectations of this genre.

Award of the PhD

A thesis to be submitted by monograph. The thesis will consist of the candidate's own account of their investigations. Work already published, either by the candidate or jointly with others, may be included only if it forms an integral part of the thesis and so makes a relevant contribution to its main theme and is in the same format as the rest of the thesis. The student must clearly state the part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow researchers;

- be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument;
- be written in English and must be presented in line with published School guidance;
- include a full bibliography and references.



Criteria of assessment

The thesis must...

- Offer a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power;
- Give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, include a discussion on those findings, and indicate in what respects they appear to advance the study of the subject; and so demonstrate a deep and synoptic understanding of the field of study;
- Demonstrate relevant research skills;
- Be of a standard to merit publication in whole or in part or in a revised form.

Students are encouraged to seek advice on the different aspects of their research in the form of 'peer review' (for example, by presenting at conferences). It is also legitimate for a student to seek outside help with particular aspects of their research, for example, in using research organisations to facilitate fieldwork trips. But it is important that external input of this kind is not excessive. Also, there will be aspects of research that students are expected to conduct themselves, within the context that their eventual thesis is expected to be their own original work.

Students should discuss with their Supervisor(s) any help they are considering using with any aspect of the research process. This includes any advice being sought from other Departments at the School or from sources outside of the School. The student should ensure that any help received is credited appropriately within their work.

The examination entry process is handled by the PhD Academy. For instructions and forms, as well as advice on formatting and printing your final copy, see guidance [here](#). You should complete the exam entry procedures at least two months before submitting your dissertation.



Editorial help

You may wish to seek help from a third party in editing your thesis before you submit it. See [here](#) for the School Statement on the permitted level of editorial help. You will need to provide a copy of the statement to any third party you might use when editing your thesis and declare what help you have received from them in the front pages of your thesis.

In addition to editorial help, you may wish to seek outside help of different varieties during any stage of your research process. To ensure that the levels of outside help are within acceptable norms, you will need to

- Discuss with your Supervisors any help which you are considering using with any aspect of your research;
- Discuss with your Supervisors any advice which you are seeking from other Departments at the School or from sources outside the School;
- Ensure that any help received is credited appropriately within your work.





Choosing the examiners

Discuss potential examiners with your Supervisor(s). Normally the examination panel includes two examiners, with at least one examiner external to LSE. If there are significant reasons to appoint two internal examiners, a third examiner without links to the School should be proposed. Examiners from outside the UK are possible so long as a good case is made for them. Examiners should have experience of examining dissertations in the UK, and should have subject expertise.

They must not be connected to the candidate and Supervisors: normally this means that they have no close personal connection, and have had no major formative influence on the dissertation. In practice, an examiner whom you have simply met at seminars would be fine; one who has read and commented on your dissertation work in the past would not.

Be very aware that choice of examiners is vastly consequential and should be done carefully and in very close discussion with Supervisors: it is one of the most important decisions you will make. Bluntly, examiners should be as senior and eminent as possible so that they can fully legitimate your work in the academic community as well as be able to support you in the future with references.

At the same time, they should be intellectually in tune (if not in agreement) with your work so that they are likely to judge it on its own terms. They should also have a reputation for fairness and even-handedness. Please find more information in the Guidelines on “Nominating Examiners for MPhil and PhD Examinations” [here](#).

Students should not contact the potential examiners: it is the Supervisors’ job to get their agreement and organise a viva date. Once this is agreed, you will need to fill in an Examination Entry Form available at the above website, which is then completed by your Supervisors and passed on to the Doctoral Programme Director. The form is then sent via the Department Research Manager to the PhD Academy and then to the Board of Examiners to approve and appoint the examiners. After this point you will be notified by the PhD Academy when the examiners are approved and they will arrange the distribution of your dissertation.



The PhD viva

Examinations should be held within two to three months after submission but in reality this is variable: the viva depends on two senior and incredibly busy academics not only reading and commenting on a complex text but also coordinating their diaries. Vivas may also be done remotely either via Zoom or Skype or in hybrid format. This process would be coordinated by the Department Research Manager and remote/hybrid vivas are normally chaired by the DPD.

The PhD viva is an art-form of sorts, each one is unique and difficult to predict. The Aims and Methods viva and Upgrade viva should give you some experience and understanding of the process, but it would be absurd to claim it is anything less than nerve-wracking for both student and Supervisors. It is a formal occasion and it is a defence: the examiners' job is to ask probing questions that clarify intentions, logic, evidence and claims. In a substantial proportion of examinations, a good defence can have a real impact on the outcome (often in shifting the examiners' verdict from major to minor revision). A good viva generally has a constructive element as well, with advice on future research directions and publishing strategy.

The LSE Sociology convention is that it is entirely the student's choice as to whether their Supervisor(s) will attend the viva, and their choice should have no bearing on the outcome. If the Supervisor(s) attends, they are not meant to interact or intervene in anyway, unless specifically asked to by the examiners.





There are three main outcomes to the PhD viva:

- Straight pass: you are now a doctor. The examiners may still ask you to correct a few typos or references before binding and you will be given up to one month to do so.
- Minor revisions: you have between one and six to revise according to detailed specifications. This might involve adding a few pages; adding or revising a chapter; considering additional literatures; revising or extending data analysis. The revised dissertation is normally checked by one or both examiners, but without a second viva. Minor revisions are very common these days and bring no shame, but you are not a doctor until the revised text has been approved.
- Major revision: you have from seven to twelve months to make substantial revisions in response to a detailed report from the examiners with or without the second viva. Examiners cannot move the goalposts by coming up with new demands after resubmission; on the other hand, the requested revisions may be far-reaching and complex. It is crucial to discuss the comments and proposed revisions thoroughly with your Supervisor(s).

Appeals

If a decision is made, as part of the Upgrading procedure or annual progress review, not to allow Upgrade to PhD or re-registration, the Department must inform the student in writing of its decision and the reasons for that decision.

Students have the right to appeal an upgrade or de-registration decision and the process is outlined in the Appeal Regulations for Research Students.

Further information and advice can be sought from the PhD Academy.

Funding and funding deadlines

A range of facilities offered by the Financial Support Office are available, as well as a number of funds operated by or through the Department. You should be clear about what they offer and what the procedures are. Please also check the Financial Support Office webpage [here](#). Two important points:

- Many funding applications deadlines are in late January/February. It is advisable to think through your funding strategies in autumn.
- Please give your Supervisors as much notice – and as much detail – as possible as regards references. One Supervisor can receive many requests at the same time, so do liaise closely over this.



LSE Scholarships and ESRC Scholarships

LSE awards scholarships/studentships each year, with only a few awards granted to each Department. These awards also include those funded by the Economic and Social Research Councils. Applications to the School will be considered by prospective Supervisors, and the best will be put forward for Departmental consideration.

The Department Selection Committee will then shortlist and rank candidates for the LSE Scholarships and nominated ESRC candidates for selection by a central School panel. In order to qualify for consideration by the Department, the student's application to the Department's MPhil/PhD programme must be submitted (with all ancillary documents) to the School by the relevant deadline. For further details and deadlines see [Fees and funding \(lse.ac.uk\)](#).

LSE is now a Doctoral Training Centre under the auspices of the ESRC. Please see [Fees and funding \(lse.ac.uk\)](#) for more detail.

CRICA

The Consortium for Researching Inclusive Cultures in the Arts (CRICA) is a Doctoral Focal Award funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. CRICA PhD Programme Studentships will cover full fees and provide an annual stipend for four years. There will be additional funding available to support related research activities.

The Departmental Postgraduate Research Fund (PGRF)

The PGRF is available for self, LSE and externally-funded students from the 2nd to the 4th year of study (or part-time equivalent). The fund can be used for various purposes including conference fees and travel, society membership, fieldwork travel, and research-related training not provided by the School (eg, languages, software).

Final year funding

This financial support is in place for registered students who are in their final writing year for completion of their thesis. Please note that only students who have not submitted their thesis for examination yet are eligible.

Supervisors will also be asked to support an application. For further details and the application form see [In-course financial support for final stage PhD students \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)



Section 5: Using your Voice – Student representation





Committees and Student Representation

Each term, a number of meetings give staff and students the opportunity to discuss issues relating to their programme of study and wider School issues.

Staff-Student Liaison Committee

Student representatives from each degree programme are elected in the first two weeks of Autumn Term to represent the views of their peers at their Departmental Staff-Student Liaison Committees (SSLC).

The Department has a Research Programme Student-Staff Liaison Committee (RPSSLC), which deals with academic concerns and issues affecting students in the Department. This is a key consultative forum and includes elected student representatives from the programme, it usually meets once per term and is chaired by the Doctoral Programme Director.

Normally in attendance are the Department Research Manager, and the Student Academic Representatives.

The RPSSLC also elects one representative to attend the relevant School level Students' Consultative Forum.

One Student Academic Representative will also sit on the Department Research Committee, in order to represent the PhD community and contribute to the research culture of the Department.

School Committees

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

The Department will recruit for these posts at the beginning of the Autumn Term.



Student Academic Representatives

We work with Student Academic Representatives who sit on the Staff Student Liaison Committees (SSLC) to ensure that your voices are heard, and that we act on your feedback as much as we can. The role of an SSLC representative is central to ensuring that courses and programmes at LSE work effectively.

At the start of the year you will be asked if you would like to represent your programme on the Staff Student Liaison Committee. While the SSLC deals with problems encountered by students, it also allows them to make a constructive contribution to the life of the Department, airing positive feedback and suggestions for change. Each year group will have at least one representative member of the committee; more information on the process of becoming a rep will be provided during your welcome meeting.

Being a rep is a great opportunity to feedback on behalf of your colleagues and play a vital role in helping the Department shape its practice and provision to the benefit of both the current cohort and future cohorts!

More information on this can be found [here](#).

LSE Student's Union

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](https://www.lsesu.com)



Section 6: Plagiarism





The work you submit for assessment must be your own and all source material must be correctly referenced. Plagiarism is not just submitting work with the intention to cheat. Plagiarism could occur simply as a result of failing to correctly reference the sources you have used. If you are found to have committed an assessment offence (such as plagiarism or exam misconduct) you could be expelled from the School.

Any quotation from the published or unpublished works of other persons, including other candidates, must be clearly identified as such. Quotes must be placed inside quotation marks and a full reference to sources must be provided in proper form.

A series of short quotations for several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism just as much as a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. All paraphrased material must also be clearly and properly acknowledged.

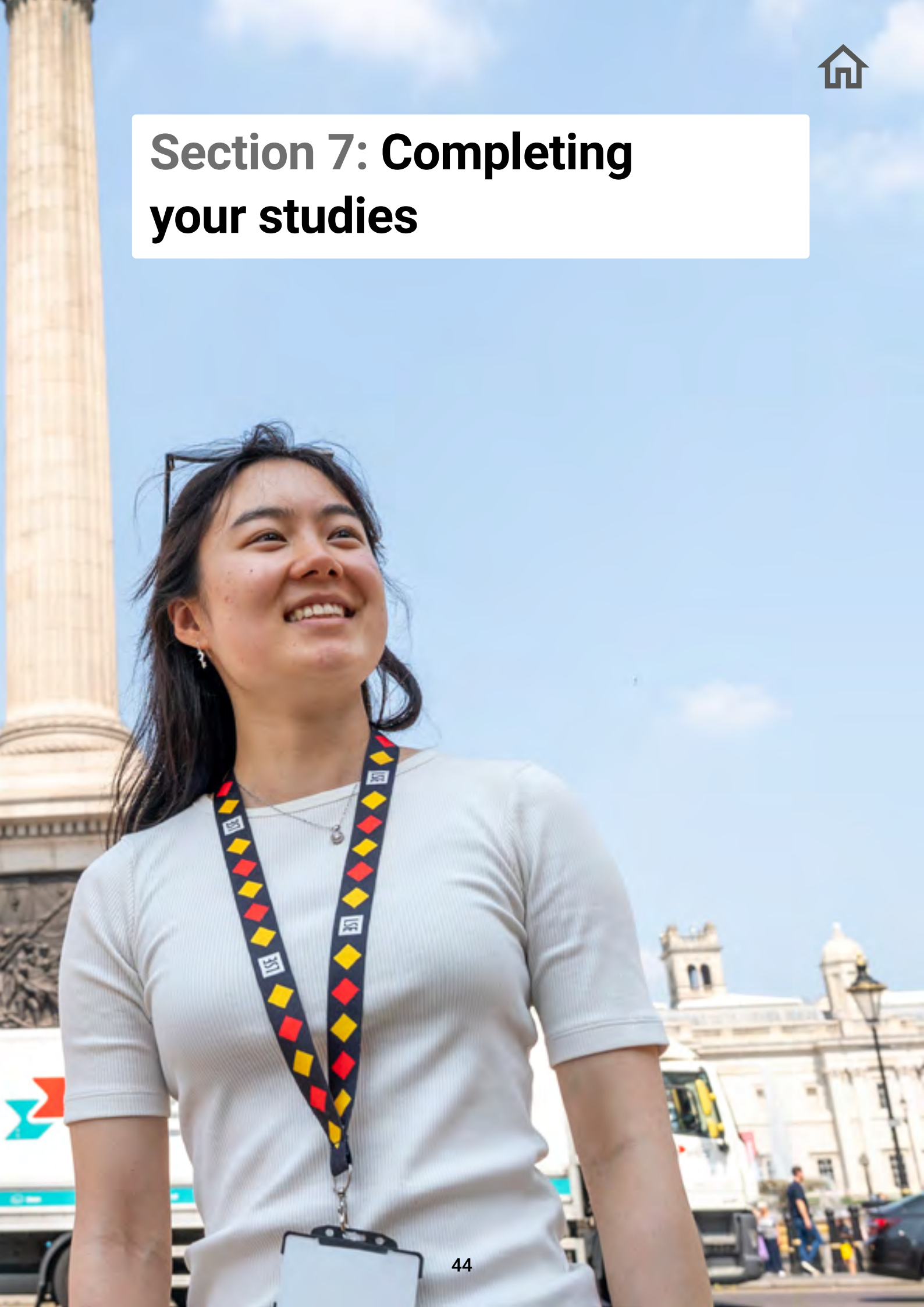
Any written work you produce (for classes, seminars, exams, dissertations, essays and computer programmes) must solely be your own. You must not employ a “ghost writer” to write parts or all of the work, whether in draft or as a final version, on your behalf. For further information and the School’s statement on Editorial Help visit lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar. Any breach of the Statement will be treated in the same way as plagiarism.

You should also be aware that a piece of work may only be submitted for assessment once (either to LSE or elsewhere). Submitting the same piece of work twice (regardless of which institution you submit it to) will be regarded as the offence of “self-plagiarism” and will also be treated in the same way as plagiarism. Examiners are vigilant for cases of plagiarism and the School uses plagiarism detection software to identify plagiarised text. Work contained plagiarism may be referred to the Regulations on Assessment Offences: Plagiarism which may result in the application of severe penalties.

If you are unsure about the academic referencing conventions used by the School you should seek guidance from your Department, Supervisor, LSE LIFE or the Library as soon as possible. The Regulations on Assessment Offences: Plagiarism can be found at lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar



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 [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:

- **[LSE Alumni - Community Home](#)** – 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.
- **[LSE Alumni - Alumni Groups](#)** – This career networking resource allows LSE alumni to share their valuable professional experience and expertise with current students. 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 **[Your key contacts \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)** 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 **[LinkedIn](#)**. 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 **[Alumni, friends and partners \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)** 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 LSE Alumni Relations 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 - Community Home**](#), 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**](mailto: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**](https://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 Officer, [**sociology.alumni@lse.ac.uk**](mailto:sociology.alumni@lse.ac.uk). You are also welcome to stay affiliated with LSE Sociology as Affiliated Research Fellow upon graduation; please email [**sociology.research@lse.ac.uk**](mailto:sociology.research@lse.ac.uk) to request this.



Section 8: Key Information





Online Pre-Enrolment and Campus Enrolment

Your LSE Card

PhD Academy

Student representation

Quality Assurance

LSE Services to Support You With Your Studies and in Your Career

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Your Wellbeing and Health

Support for Students with Children

Exams and Assessments

Assessment Misconduct and Plagiarism

Examinations and Beyond

Fees and Finance

Codes and Charters

Systems and Online Resources

LSE Campus

“ At LSE, you don't just get to study our changing world, you can see it and experience it. With history being made every day, why would you want to be anywhere else? ”



Online Pre-Enrolment and Campus Enrolment

New students will be required to undertake a two-stage process: Online Pre-Enrolment and Campus Enrolment. You will receive email notification when it is time to complete the pre-enrolment process for your programme. Campus enrolment takes place in-person, is where we check your official documents and is the point at which you are issued with your LSE Card. Accordingly, it is very important that you attend Campus Enrolment. For more information, visit info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/phd-journey/Campus-Enrolment

Usually, you can re-enrol for subsequent years of study online. However, in some situations we may need to see you in person again. For more information, visit lse.ac.uk/enrolment

Your LSE Card

Your LSE card provides access to buildings and acts as your Library card. It is important that you keep it safe and never share it with anybody else. If your LSE card is lost, stolen or damaged visit lse.ac.uk/studentidcards to find out how to get a replacement.

[My Adjustments](#)

[Student Status Documentation](#)

[Changes in your circumstances](#)

[Authorisation to undertake fieldwork](#)

[Regulations](#)



My Adjustments

If you have a disability, long-term medical or mental health condition you are advised to apply for My Adjustments (MA) as soon as possible. The earlier that you let the Disability and Mental Health Service (DMHS) know about your condition the earlier they can work with you to put appropriate support in place. Advisers in DMHS can potentially set up one-to-one learning support, mentoring and help you access assistive technology designed to remove barriers to studying. For more detailed information about My Adjustments, and to apply for My Adjustments, visit lse.ac.uk/myadjustments

Student Status Documentation

During your time at LSE, you may need official documentation to prove that you are studying with us. A Certificate of Registration provides proof to organisations such as council tax offices, embassies, and banks that you are registered as a current student at LSE. You can order a self-service Certificate of Registration by using the online query form at lse360.my.site.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form

This will be delivered immediately to your LSE email address in PDF format. If this is insufficient for your needs, you can request a Customised Confirmation of Student Status document to be produced by the PhD Academy. More information about these documents is available from info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/phd-journey/Certificates-and-Letters

Changes in your circumstances

Your PhD programme is expected to be a continuous programme of study. However, you can apply for adjustments to your enrolment in a number of circumstances, such as if you become ill or are going to become a parent, or if you need to conduct fieldwork or study away from the School.

An indicative, non-exhaustive list of potential changes to help manage these circumstances includes applications for permission to:

- interrupt your studies, and/or;
- change your study mode (from full- to part-time mode, or from part- to full-time), and/or;
- temporarily reside outside the UK.



The right adjustment will depend on your circumstances, including any visa conditions, and will require permission from your department. For more information on the PhD journey overall, change of circumstances processes and permission to conduct fieldwork, please visit the following pages:

info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/phd-journey

info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/Change-of-circumstances-students

info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/Risk-and-Compliance-Unit/Health-and-Safety

Authorisation to undertake fieldwork

If you're going to undertake fieldwork, or any other kind of data-collection, you need to seek permission from the School. You seek permission through the following three steps.

Securing approval from LSE Research Ethics

Ethical approval protects participants, satisfies legal and institutional obligations, and underpins the integrity and credibility of the research. This is also essential as data collected without the proper School approvals can't be used in your research.

Securing approval from LSE Health and Safety (including completion of the Notification of Travel Form)

Health and Safety approval safeguards your welfare, fulfils the School's duty of care, and enables staff to respond quickly if problems arise during your fieldwork. This is also essential because travel undertaken without this breaches School policy, and may invalidate your insurance cover.

Submitting the PhD Academy's Fieldwork Authorisation form

This is necessary to ensure that the School has appropriate records of where you're going to be, and when. This is particularly important for visa-holders, to ensure that the School is able to demonstrate that we are managing your enrolment appropriately, and report your travel to UKVI. If you're a visa-holder, you should always speak the Student Advice and Engagement Team while planning your fieldwork – please don't leave this to the last minute!

Please note: You're required to submit a fieldwork approval form whenever you carry out research away from the LSE campus. This rule applies whether the work is in London, elsewhere in the UK, or overseas. It also applies in your home country, if this is somewhere other than the UK.



You should begin the approval process a minimum of 3 months before departure, and 4–5 months in advance if you think you'll be travelling to a high risk destination. Once you've secured approval from both of these teams, you should attach proof of your approvals to the PhD Academy's Fieldwork Authorisation Form. (Please remember to complete every part of the form in full!) Once you've done this, , secure signatures from your lead supervisor and Head of Department, and submit it by email to phdacademy@lse.ac.uk at least 4 working weeks before departure. You are advised not to book any travel or make any financial commitments until the PhD Academy confirms approval in writing.

Regulations

You should familiarise yourself with the LSE regulations, policies and procedures that cover many aspects of student life. Some of the regulations explain the organisation and conduct of your academic study. These include information about the structure of your programme, assessment requirements, how your final degree is calculated and what to do if you face exceptional circumstances.

For information on appeals regulations, general academic regulations, assessment offences including plagiarism, the regulations for research degrees, the research ethics policy and procedure, visit lse.ac.uk/calendar

For a detailed set of guidance and policy documents governing the PhD journey, please visit the following pages:

info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/phd-journey

info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/a-z-guidance

You can also find a full A-Z listing of LSE's policies and procedures online at lse.ac.uk/policies





PhD Academy

The PhD Academy is located in the Lionel Robbins building and can be contacted via the online Enquiry Desk at lse360.my.site.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form

The PhD Academy is responsible for organising research and career development training to complement what is offered at departmental level. It is a hub for students from different disciplinary backgrounds to meet and interact, both socially and academically.

The PhD Academy is also responsible for managing degree registration and advising students and Academic Departments on rules, regulations, and other issues that students face during their programme of study. It also provides support and advice to Research Council (ESRC and AHRC) funded students.

The PhD Academy works closely with other services relevant to research students, and therefore acts as an information hub, for example on financial support, visa regulations, careers advice, etc.

PhD Academy Advice Team

The PhD Academy has a dedicated advice team that can provide advice on academic matters (particularly around progression, interruption, withdrawal, regulations, and exams). If you are not sure who to contact about a query please contact the advice team via lse360.my.site.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form

Further information on accessing their services can be found on their website at info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy

PhD Academy Director

The PhD Academy Director, Professor Bingchun Meng, is available for informal discussions about your student experience and your research and training needs. Feel free to contact her at b.meng@lse.ac.uk

Student Advice and Engagement Team

The Student Advice and Engagement Team provide detailed immigration advice for international and EU/EEA students on their website which is updated whenever the immigration rules change. The best way to contact The Student Advice and Engagement Team is to use the query form at info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-services/Student-Advice-and-Engagement to attend one of their drop-in sessions.



Student representation

Student-Staff Liaison Committees and Student Consultative Fora

Student-Staff Liaison Committees (SSLCs) are one of the most important bodies in the School. Their purpose is to create a forum for students to discuss their experiences, both in and outside of the classroom, with LSE staff. SSLCs are a shared, collaborative endeavour between Departments, the Students' Union, central School Services, and, most importantly, students themselves.

SSLCs are your chance to engage with LSE and enact change for the benefit of yourself, your cohort, and even future cohorts. Volunteer to represent your peers and take a leading role in the student body.

At the start of the year, you will be asked by your department if you would like to represent your programme on the SSLC as a Student Academic Representative.

More information, including access to minutes from SSLCs across the School, and other ways you can use your voice, can be found online at info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/part-of-lse/student-voice





Research Degree Students' Consultative Forum (RDSCF)

The Forum considers research students' opinions on matters affecting their research at the school, for example by considering issues arising from the reports of departmental student-staff liaison committees. Students in each department select a representative to sit on the forum.

For more information, visit lsesu.com/voice/academic-reps/consultative-forum/

Student Education Panel

The Student Education Panel aims to engage students of all backgrounds in the development of education at LSE. The panel consists of 20-50 panellists meeting two to three times per year to discuss a specific education-related topic, question or proposal. They contribute to these discussions by reflecting on their personal experiences and perspectives, not as a representative of their peers. Applications to become a panellist will open in Autumn term 2026 and you can find out more at lse.ac.uk/studenteducationpanel





Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance Strategy

LSE's approach to assuring the quality of our teaching is set out in the Strategy for Managing Academic Standards and Quality which can be found online in the "quality assurance (internal)" section of the website at lse.ac.uk/tqaro. As an awarding body LSE must be in a position to assure the standards of its degrees. At the same time, we believe that the design of quality assurance should respect different departmental cultures and academic histories. The strategy sets out broad principles and processes for assuring academic standards and for enhancing the quality of educational provision. The overall framework includes devolved quality assurance arrangements for academic departments, with responsibility for the oversight and modification of existing provision resting with Departmental Teaching Committees. The Teaching Quality Assurance and Review Office (TQARO) supports the activities of the Education Committee and several of its sub-committees, with further details available in the "Committees" section of the website at lse.ac.uk/tqaro. Queries relating to devolved quality assurance responsibilities, the work of Education Committee or the process for the consideration of proposals for new courses and programmes of study should be sent to ard.capis@lse.ac.uk

Student Teaching Surveys

In both Autumn term and Winter term TQARO conducts course-level surveys to assess students' opinions of teaching.

Course survey scores are made available to teachers, Heads of Departments, the Director of the Eden Centre, the Pro-Director (Education) and the Pro-Director (Faculty Development). In addition to producing reports for individual teachers TQARO produces aggregated quantitative data for departments and School-wide bodies. The results can be found online in the "Surveys" section of the website at lse.ac.uk/tqaro

TQARO also conducts annual programme-level surveys of undergraduate and taught master's programmes and supports LSE's participation in the National Student Survey in coordination with the Communications Division and academic departments. Queries relating to the delivery of teaching surveys at course- or programme-level should be sent to tqarosurveys@lse.ac.uk



LSE Services to Support You With Your Studies and in Your Career

LSE LIFE – your personal guide to LSE

We help you make sense of everything the School offers and find the skills, opportunities, and experiences that feel right for you

Welcome can be a whirlwind – with so many people to meet, places to find, and information to take in (just look at everything on this website!). It's exciting, but also completely normal to wonder: how can I make the most of LSE? How will I stay on top of my studies? How will I feel at home in London?

That's where **LSE LIFE** comes in. Think of us as your personal guide to LSE – helping you find the skills, experiences, and opportunities that feel right for you during your time with us. We're 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 listings, bringing together all the extracurricular happenings across LSE in one place. 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.

Ready to get started?

Take our **Me+LSE quiz** to discover your campus creature – a quick way to get personalised recommendations for how you can make more of LSE based on your interests and goals.

Contact us at lselife@lse.ac.uk or drop by our space on the ground floor of the Library (Opening hours: 9.30am – 5.30pm, Monday – Friday).



Learning Lab – support at every stage of your academic journey

We help you discover and develop your academic skills and support you throughout your studies.

Starting at LSE is exciting, but it's normal to have questions and doubts about studying, too! What does a university-level essay look like? What's expected in seminars and discussions? And of course, how are you meant to manage your time when everything feels urgent?

You're not meant to know all those things when you get here, and you're not meant to figure everything out on your own. **Learning Lab** is here 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. Think of us as your academic gym: regular visits will build your confidence and skills over time – you don't need to wait until you're stuck!

- **Practical workshops** cover the skills you'll need to succeed at LSE – from essay writing and time-management strategies to techniques to read more effectively. Most are available both online and on campus.
- **Personalised one-to-one advice** from our experienced Study Advisers is available throughout the year. They can work with you on essay structure, argument development, research techniques, exam preparation, or any other academic challenge you're facing. Bring your essay plans, assignment briefs, or just your questions – we'll meet you wherever you are in your academic journey.
- **Online resources and activities** on our Moodle page offer guides, templates, and interactive materials you can work through anytime, anywhere at your own pace.

Ready to get started?

Come to one of our introductory **workshops** during the first weeks of Autumn Term.

Contact us at learninglab@lse.ac.uk



[Listen to our podcasts](#)

[LSE Library](#)

[Centre for Language Studies](#)

[LSE Careers](#)

[LSE Volunteer Centre](#)

[LSE Generate](#)



LSE Library

LSE Library is the major international library of the social sciences. The collections, both print and online, cover the discipline in the widest sense, and will support your studies and research.

The two main print book collections are:

- The course collection, located on the first floor, which holds multiple copies of essential books for your courses. Many of these titles are available online
- The main collection is located across three floors, holding wider items for social sciences research.

You can use Library Search to find books and other materials for your studies via lse.ac.uk/library. Once you have found what you need, write down its location to help you find it in the Library. To borrow books, use your LSE card and the self-service machines on the ground floor. Research students can borrow up to 50 books at any one time. You can renew your books online by logging into your Library account at lse.ac.uk/library. If you do not return books on time, you will be unable to borrow any more until your overdue item is returned or renewed. We do not charge fines on late returns.

Each department has a dedicated professional Librarian, a subject expert offering email support and in-person and online appointments to help you locate and access information resources on any topic. This support ranges from identifying key resources to support your studies to high-level systematic literature searching for researchers. They also provide expert help in managing references.

The Library is a focal point of the School and we are open seven days a week during term time and vacation and 24 hours daily from the beginning of the Winter term until the end of the examination period. There are over 2,300 study spaces, including group study rooms, and extensive IT facilities, including over 500 PCs, laptop points, a laptop loan service, wireless Internet access via eduroam, and photocopying and printing facilities.





Centre for Language Studies

Whether you are an international student looking for support with your English, interested in taking a Centre for Language Studies course as part of your undergraduate degree, or want to learn or improve a language, the Centre for Language Studies can help.

If English is not your first language, there are plenty of ways you can improve and practise using the English language for your academic work. English for Academic Writing courses are available for any postgraduate student who does not have English as a first language and would like a weekly English language class to help with academic writing for coursework. You can find out more information on what is on offer and how to sign up at info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/lse-life/events/english-language-skills

You may be eligible to take a language, literature, or linguistics course as part of your degree. As an LSE student you can also sign up for a non-degree language course at a discounted rate. As part of the LSE Language Policy, if you are a UK-EU graduate and you do not have a GCSE Grade 4 (or equivalent) in a language that is not your mother tongue, you are eligible to take a course for free!

For more information visit lse.ac.uk/languages

LSE Careers

LSE Careers is here to help guide, support, and work with you throughout your time at LSE. We provide a range of careers services including events, one-to-one appointments and access to resources, tools, and careers information. We also offer bespoke services for disabled students and PhD students.

There is lots of information and support at lse.ac.uk/careers including:

- Information about the services offered by LSE Careers and how to access them
- Support with your career planning, no matter where you are in your career thinking
- Information and insight on a range of careers topics, from applications to employment sectors to further study
- Details of what graduates have gone on to do.



- LSE MyCareers, our online careers portal, allows you to:
 - View personalised activities based on where you are in your career journey
 - Discover jobs and opportunities
 - Book one-to-one discussions to talk about your career options and receive feedback on your applications
 - Explore upcoming events including employer and alumni insights, professional development skills sessions and recruitment events
 - Record your experiences.

You can access MyCareer at careers.lse.ac.uk

Keep up-to-date with events and advice by following [@LSECareers](https://twitter.com/LSECareers) on social media.

LSE Volunteer Centre

Volunteering is a great way to help develop new skills and meet new people while making a difference. The LSE Volunteer Centre is here to inspire and empower you to volunteer for causes that you are passionate about during your time at LSE.

We work with multiple organisations to provide you with short term and long-term volunteering opportunities across London, the UK and internationally. We also know that students are busy, so we run a comprehensive one-off volunteering programme to make sure you can fit it in. You can find out more, as well as the advice and support we can offer, at lse.ac.uk/VolunteerCentre or by following [@LSEVolunteering](https://twitter.com/LSEVolunteering).



[Read our blog](#)

LSE Generate

LSE Generate is the home of entrepreneurship at LSE.

We aim to support and scale socially driven student and alumni ventures, here in the UK and across the globe. We welcome all students and alumni, from those eager to develop and learn entrepreneurial skills to LSE entrepreneurs who have already launched their ventures and need support and advice from the team. Join us for our events, enter the Generate funding competition, pop by and meet us in our co-working space and access all our start-up resources for free. Discover more on our website lse.ac.uk/generate or keep up to date with Generate news through our social media [@LSEGenerate](https://twitter.com/LSEGenerate).



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Promote equity, champion diversity, and help develop an inclusive LSE

One of our guiding principles in LSE's 2030 Strategy is to sustain excellence through an inclusive and diverse community. We work to build a School – and a society – in which everyone is able to fulfil their potential, and everyone's contribution is valued.

Through events celebrating Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, Disability History Month and International Women's Day, we have consistently demonstrated our commitment to an inclusive LSE.

LSE has a number of important initiatives that are designed to lead to equity, diversity and inclusion for us all:

- **Ethics Code:** The LSE community is expected to act to the highest standards of ethical integrity, in accordance with the ethical principles set out in our Ethics Code. Visit lse.ac.uk/ethics to read about the School's commitment to equality of respect and opportunity.
- **Report it, Stop it:** If you have experienced, or witnessed, any form of bullying, harassment (including that based on protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010), hate crime or sexual violence, we encourage you to report this to LSE.
 - **Online Form:** Incidents can be reported via the online Report it Stop it form. This report can be completely anonymous, if you prefer. If you do leave your contact details, LSE can take action with your permission to find a resolution to your case. Find out more at info.lse.ac.uk/report-it/Report-an-incident
 - **Safe Contacts:** Reports can also be made to LSE Safe Contacts, who are trained members of LSE staff offering confidential support and guidance to individuals who have experienced, or are experiencing, any form of bullying, harassment, hate crime or sexual violence. Visit info.lse.ac.uk/report-it/Safe-Contacts for more information.
 - **Consent.ed:** LSE's educational programme focused on consent, fostering respectful and inclusive behaviour on campus. All students are expected to participate, though opting out is respected for personal reasons. Learn more on info.lse.ac.uk/report-it/Consent.Ed



- **Rape Crisis:** Rape Crisis Centres provide frontline specialist, independent and confidential services for women and girls of all ages who've been subjected to any form of sexual violence, at any time in their lives. LSE has partnered with Rape Crisis so that any student or staff member can book appointments with a designated Sexual Violence Support Worker anytime. Find out more: info.lse.ac.uk/report-it/Sexual-violence-support-worker
- **Survivors UK:** LSE has recently partnered with Survivors UK to provide independent sexual violence advisor services to any man, boy, transgender or non- binary person in the LSE community. Any staff or student can book a confidential appointment. Learn more here: info.lse.ac.uk/report-it/Sexual-violence-support-worker-Survivors-UK
- **AccessAble:** Accessibility guides of all LSE campus buildings, ensuring inclusivity for everyone. Visit accessible.co.uk/london-school-of-economics/
- **LGBTQ+ Role Models and Allies Directory:** provides a list of staff who are LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer) Role Models and Allies. Visit lse.ac.uk/LGBTplus
- **Our Race Equity Framework** has been developed for improving the representation and attainment of Black, Asian and minority ethnic students¹ at the postgraduate taught and post-graduate research levels, and improving the representation and progression of Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff in academic and PSS (professional services staff) roles. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)
- **Our Athena SWAN action plan** has been developed for the advancement of gender equality at LSE. The plan includes actions to embed EDI in departmental culture, to support women in applying for research grants, to support trans staff and students and increase the proportion of female students undertaking postgraduate research programmes. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)
- **LSE Students' Union:** You can view all student representatives, including Women's, LGBTQ+, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, and Neurodiversity and Disability Officers on their website lesu.com/voice/student-reps/

For further information about these initiatives and the support available – plus our partnerships, training and workshops, and inclusive EDI policies – please contact the EDI Team on edi@lse.ac.uk or visit our website – info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/Home

¹ Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) are umbrella terms that are sometimes used in the UK to refer to all non-white people. However, we recognise that these terms are imperfect, in that they mask differences in lived experience and outcomes for many different ethnic groups. Improving our community's understanding of these differences will be part of our work on race equity at LSE.



Your Wellbeing and Health

Student Wellbeing Service (SWS)

SWS brings together two key student facing services: the Disability and Mental Health Service (DMHS) and the Student Counselling Service (SCS). SWS also facilitates the Peer Supporter Scheme. SWS aims to provide you with a single integrated source of help and assistance.

SCS provides a professional, free, and confidential service to help you with any problems that you may be experiencing. You can speak to them about academic stresses, as well as personal and emotional difficulties. Visit lse.ac.uk/counselling to book an individual appointment, read about drop-in appointments or find out about groups and workshops.

DMHS are the first point of contact for students with disabilities, long term medical and mental health conditions, and Specific Learning Difficulties such as dyslexia. DMHS can help you to create My Adjustments which is a way of putting in place agreed “reasonable adjustments” to support your studies. Visit lse.ac.uk/disability to find out more.

Peer Supporters give you the opportunity to talk to fellow students about anything that is worrying you. Peer Supporters are trained to offer confidential emotional support, help and reassurance. You can find out more about the scheme and arrange a chat with a Peer Supporter at lse.ac.uk/peersupport





Health Care in the UK

You are likely to need to access medical care while you are at LSE, even if this is just for routine appointments. In the UK most health care is provided through the National Health Service (NHS).

You are typically eligible for free treatment on the NHS if you fall into one of the following categories:

- You are a UK resident
- You have a Tier 4 student visa and have paid the immigration health surcharge
- You have applied for the EU Settlement Scheme and hold either Pre-settled or Settled status.

This list is not exhaustive and was correct at the time of print. The UK Council for International Student Affairs maintains an up-to-date listing on their website available at ukcisa.org.uk

If you are unfamiliar with the NHS search for “NHS Services explained” to find out more. You are usually required to register with a local General Practitioner’s (GP) surgery before you can book an appointment. You should register as soon as possible and not wait until you are unwell. The nearest GP surgery is St Philips Medical Centre who are based on the second floor of Pethick-Lawrence House. This surgery will register most LSE students. For more information about the services offered and how to register please visit stphilipsmedicalcentre.nhs.uk or call 020 7611 5131.

Alternatively, you can find your nearest GP by using the GP finder function on the NHS website available at nhs.uk

As well as dispensing medicines, pharmacies can also offer advice on common health problems. You do not need to make an appointment, just visit a pharmacy, and ask to speak to the duty pharmacists. In an emergency you should dial 999 to call an ambulance. You can also visit your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department at your local hospital or visit an Urgent Care Centre.

There is a lot more information about Health Care, including details about dentists and opticians, available at lse.ac.uk/studenthealth



LSE Faith Centre

The Faith Centre is open to students of all faiths and none. It's home to LSE's diverse religious activities, transformational interfaith leadership programmes, and provides spaces for worship, prayer, and quiet reflection.

Finding your feet

It can be challenging arriving in a new city for a new start. We want to help you settle into London and find a community that suits you – and there are lots of options!

We provide spaces for LSESU Faith Societies to meet, worship, and plan their activities. Details of contact information for faith groups and other helpful information can be found in our [resources](#).

Wellbeing

Looking to recharge and reconnect? Explore our wellbeing activities on offer: from guided meditation to yoga – as well as dedicated [spaces](#) for prayer and reflection – there's something for everyone. Find out more on our ["wellbeing" page](#).

Facilities

The Faith Centre comprises Islamic Prayer Rooms, a space for silent prayer/meditation (The Cave), and a multifaith space (The Desert Room) which is bookable for LSESU Faith Societies or faith/wellbeing-based staff groups. Find out more [here](#) or email faithcentre@lse.ac.uk for booking enquiries.





Support

You can contact the Faith Centre Director and Chaplain to LSE, Revd Dr James Walters, on j.walters2@lse.ac.uk for confidential support regardless of your background or beliefs.

We also have Muslim, Catholic, Jewish, and Orthodox Associate Chaplains, whose contact details can be found on the Faith Centre's ["People" page](#).

Beecken Faith and Leadership Programme

Religion has the power to challenge, connect, and transform. Our flagship faith and leadership programme invites all LSE students to engage deeply with difference, ask big questions, and build bridges across beliefs. These free, extracurricular sessions are where leadership meets reflection. Learn more about the module [here](#).

LSE Religion and Global Society

The Faith Centre is also home to the Religion and Global Society research unit; an interdisciplinary unit conducting, coordinating, and promoting religion-related social science research at LSE.

LSE Religion and Global Society Blog

The [LSE Religion and Global Society blog](#) is an interdisciplinary platform that explores the place and role of religion in our globalised world. The blog is a platform for experienced and early career academics, PhD and Master's research students, and other expert commentators to share their insights on this complex, wide-reaching topic. We welcome contributions from all researchers working on religion and global society.

If you are interested in contributing to the blog, have a look at [our guidelines](#) or get in touch with us at faithcentre.rgs@lse.ac.uk

Religion Scholars Network

This is a network for current LSE PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers across departments whose work relates to the social scientific study of religion. We offer an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with peers across disciplines through informal events held throughout the year. For more information contact us at faithcentre.rgs@lse.ac.uk

Keep up to date with the Faith Centre: [X](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [TikTok](#)

Visit us: 2nd Floor, SAW Building, 1 Sheffield Street, WC2A 2AP



Support for Students with Children

During and Beyond Pregnancy

It is important that you let the School know that you are pregnant as soon as you can. We advise you to speak to your Supervisor so that we can ensure that any necessary adjustments or provisions are made for you, as much as possible.

Please visit info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/what-if/expecting-a-baby for more information on how the School can support you during your pregnancy and beyond.

If you have queries on parental leave for research degree students, please contact James Ringer, Head of Scholarships and Financial Support (j.ringer@lse.ac.uk).

For an overview of the School's Medical and Childcare Provision, please visit info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/estates-division/facilities-guide/medical-and-childcare-provision

Breast Feeding

LSE provides rest and breastfeeding facilities for staff and students in the New and Expectant Mothers' Room, which is on the first floor of Fawcett House (FAW). The room has a lockable door and contains a comfortable chair with footstool, a fridge, a microwave, and lockers.

Study Options

There will be a number of options available to you in relation to your studies. The advice that you are given will largely depend on your individual circumstances and the timing of the academic year in relation to your pregnancy and due date. Please speak to your department or the PhD Academy for advice on the best options for you.

Options may include:

- Flexibility around supervision arrangements
- Interruption of studies
- Changing from full time to part time study.



Financial Support

Childcare Costs

Financial support is available for you as a student parent if you are having difficulty in paying nursery fees.

For more information, visit info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/financial-support/student-parents

ESRC Students

ESRC has its own family leave policy. You will be able to find information about this on the [LSE ESRC DTP Moodle site](#).

Nursery Partnerships

We're partnering with three local nurseries to support LSE families wanting to access discounted childcare close to campus.

Staff and students have been able to take advantage of these spaces since September 2021.

When choosing the nurseries to partner with, a number of considerations were taken into account, including their Ofsted rating, location, availability of spaces, outside space, operating hours, fresh food provision, emergency care support and more. In addition, there will be an LSE representative on the management committees of all three nurseries, ensuring that the decisions made provide the best possible outcomes for our community.

For the latest information on this scheme, visit info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/nursery/Nursery-partnerships



Exams and Assessments

Candidate Numbers

Your candidate number is a unique five-digit number that ensures that your work is marked anonymously. It is different to your student number and will change every year. Candidate numbers can be accessed in early Autumn term using LSE for You. Further information about LSE for You can be found in the Systems and Online Resources section.

[Systems and Online Resources section](#)

Exam Timetables

Course by course exam timetables will be available online at [**lse.ac.uk/exams**](https://lse.ac.uk/exams). For January exams the timetable is usually available towards the end of Autumn term, for summer exams it is usually available in Winter term and for students taking in-year resit and deferral exams, it is usually available in late July. Closer to each exam season, you will also be given access to a personal exam timetable with your room and seat numbers in LSE for You.

[Central Exam Adjustments](#)

[Deferral](#)

[Extension Policy](#)

[Exceptional Circumstances](#)

[Fit to Sit Policy](#)

Exam Procedures

Anybody taking exams at LSE must read the Exam Procedures for Candidates. It contains all the information that you need to know and is updated each year. The document is less than ten pages and covers topics ranging from candidate numbers to permitted materials to what to do if things go wrong. You can download your copy at [**lse.ac.uk/exams**](https://lse.ac.uk/exams)



You may only use a calculator in an exam if this is permitted by the relevant academic department. If you are permitted a calculator, it must be one of the approved models. For more information on the types of calculators allowed, please visit lse.ac.uk/exams. If you bring an alternative model, it will be removed by invigilators and no replacement will be given. The permitted calculators are readily available in many supermarkets, online retailers and in the LSE Shop.

Central Exam Adjustments

Central Exam Adjustments (CEAs) can be made if you have a documented medical, physical, or mental health condition and/or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia. The purpose of CEAs is to provide an environment that gives all students an equal opportunity in exams. These adjustments are confidential and will not be listed on your degree certificate or transcript. In most cases you should apply for CEAs as part of getting your My Adjustments in place. However, there is a different process for applying for CEAs for short-term, unexpected, conditions. For more information visit lse.ac.uk/CEA

Deferral

If you have difficulties in the lead up to, or during, the assessment or exam then you can seek to defer the assessment or exam. For more information visit lse.ac.uk/deferral





Extension policy

If you have difficulties in the lead up to an assessment deadline but think you may be able to successfully submit if you had extra time, you can seek an extension request. You must make this request before the deadline has taken place and you will need permission from the Chair of your Sub-Board of Examiners to do this. For more information visit lse.ac.uk/extensionpolicy

Exceptional Circumstances

You should submit an Exceptional Circumstances Form and corroborating evidence to the Student Services Centre if there are any circumstances which may have affected your performance. These could include (but are not limited to):

- missing an assessment which you did not defer, or submitting an assessment late and incurring penalties
- experiencing difficulties which could have affected your academic performance in an exam or coursework
- adjustments such as CEAs, My Adjustments or deadline extensions being insufficient to compensate for the impact of your circumstances
- a late diagnosis of a condition meaning that you could not apply for adjustments until after you had completed some or all assessments.

Submitting an EC Form is the only way for you to alert the Sub-Board of Examiners to the circumstances which may have affected your performance. For more information visit lse.ac.uk/exceptionalcircumstances

Fit to Sit Policy

By attempting any type of assessment, including but not limited to sitting exams, submitting coursework, class participation, presentations, or dissertations, you are declaring yourself fit to sit. If you have experienced disruption to your studies (including but not limited to illness, injury, or personal difficulties) you must think carefully about whether you should attempt the assessment or whether you should consider requesting an extension or deferring the assessment. Requests for an extension or deferral must be made in advance of the assessment deadline.



Assessment Misconduct and Plagiarism

If you are found to have committed an assessment offence, such as plagiarism or exam misconduct, you could be expelled from the School.

The work you submit for assessment must be your own and all source material must be correctly referenced. Plagiarism is not only submitting work with the intention to cheat. Plagiarism could occur simply as a result of failing to correctly reference the sources you have used.

Any quotation from the published or unpublished works of other persons, including other candidates or your own previous work, must be clearly identified as such.

Quotes must be placed inside quotation marks and a full reference to sources must be provided in proper form. A series of short quotations for several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism just as much as a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. All paraphrased material must also be clearly and properly acknowledged.

Any written work you produce (for classes, seminars, exams, dissertations, essays, and computer programmes) must solely be your own. You must not employ a “ghost writer” to write parts or all the work, whether in draft or as a final version, on your behalf.

For further information and the School’s statement on Editorial Help visit lse.ac.uk/calendar. Any breach of the Statement will be treated in the same way as plagiarism.

You should also be aware that a piece of work may only be submitted for assessment once (either to LSE or elsewhere). Submitting the same piece of work twice (regardless of which institution you submit it to) will be regarded as the offence of “self-plagiarism” and will also be treated in the same way as plagiarism.

Examiners are vigilant for cases of plagiarism and the School uses plagiarism detection software to identify plagiarised text. Work containing (or that contains) plagiarism may be referred to the Regulations on Assessment Offences: Plagiarism, which may result in the application of severe penalties.

If you are unsure about the academic referencing conventions used by the School you should seek guidance from your department, Academic Mentor, LSE LIFE or the Library as soon as possible.

The Regulations on Assessment Offences: Plagiarism can be found at lse.ac.uk/calendar



Examinations and Beyond

When your thesis is nearly ready for submission, your department will nominate Examiners, who will be appointed by the Research Degrees Sub-Committee. These nominations should normally be submitted at least eight weeks before the date on which you submit your thesis. This is important, as your examiners will normally require at least four weeks to read a thesis once it has reached them. Your viva will therefore usually take place between four and twelve weeks from the point at which you submit.

Submission of Thesis

When preparing your thesis for submission, you should refer to and comply with the Guidelines for MPhil and PhD examinations, which you can find by visiting info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/a-z-guidance

If you need any further information or advice regarding the presentation of your work, you should speak to your supervisors.

Where to Send Your Thesis

Please submit your thesis electronically to the PhD Academy.

Please refer to the guidance on formatting your thesis, available from info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/a-z-guidance

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

Degree Certificates

You should contact the PhD Academy to make arrangements to receive your certificate. A confirmation of your award can also be requested from the PhD Academy for the purposes of job hunting whilst your degree certificate is being produced.

For more information, please see info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/graduating-from-lse/degree-certificates



Appeal rights

Under the Appeals Regulations for Research Students, you are entitled to appeal decisions made by your department. You can do this if you think something went wrong in an assessment process that affected the decision, during annual progress reviews or upgrade assessments processes, or decisions made by your examiners after your final thesis submission. A summary of appeal-able decisions can be found below.

Progress review decisions that mean your enrolment is subject to conditions, or that you're only allowed to remain enrolled for an MPhil degree, or that you will be de-registered.

Failure to pass the upgrade assessment, whether at your first or your second attempt.

Examiners' decisions to require you to make amendments to your thesis, whether minor or major, or to require you to be re-examined, or to award you an MPhil degree, or not to award you any degree.

It's important to note that you can't appeal just because you disagree with your assessors'/examiners' academic judgement. Your appeal needs to be based on a problem with the process – for example, if the correct procedures weren't followed, or if there's evidence of bias affecting the decision, or if you had serious personal circumstances that you couldn't disclose at the time but which affected your performance.

Full guidance, including the appeal form and deadlines, is available on the PhD Academy website. You can also seek advice on the appeals process from the PhD Academy by emailing phdacademy@lse.ac.uk





Fees and Finance

Fees

All administration around your fees is handled by the Fees, Income and Credit Control Team.

LSE offers two options for payment of your tuition fees. You can either pay them in full prior to registration or by payment plan. If you have not paid your fees in full before you register, you will be placed on a termly payment plan. For payment plan options relating to Executive programmes please see Instalment options [**Executive Programmes**](#).

For tuition fee levels please visit [**lse.ac.uk/tableoffees**](https://lse.ac.uk/tableoffees)

To pay online or to find out about the different payment methods available, visit [**lse.ac.uk/feepayments**](https://lse.ac.uk/feepayments)

Once you are registered you can access your financial details at any time to view your tuition and accommodation fees, invoices, payments, and instalment arrangements by accessing the Finance Hub. Please visit our webpage to get full details [**lse.ac.uk/ficc**](https://lse.ac.uk/ficc)

Unfortunately, it is not possible for you to pay in person.

The Fees, Income and Credit Control Office also run drop-in sessions for students who wish to discuss fees and payment related enquiries. For further information, please visit [**lse.ac.uk/ficc**](https://lse.ac.uk/ficc)

For full details regarding tuition fees, charging policy, payment, and instalment options, visit [**lse.ac.uk/feespolicy**](https://lse.ac.uk/feespolicy)



Financial Support Office (FSO)

FSO are responsible for the administration and awarding of scholarships, bursaries, studentships, and School prizes.

FSO can also provide information about hardship funds for current students such as the Student Support fund and the LSE Access fund. You can find out more about FSO and download application forms at lse.ac.uk/financialsupport

FSO hold drop-in sessions in the Student Services Centre, drop-in sessions are currently conducted via Zoom, more information can be found at lse.ac.uk/find-support/finances/funds-and-financial-support

FSO are contactable by phone on 020 7955 6609 or by email at financial-support@lse.ac.uk





Codes and Charters

LSE Academic Code

LSE's Academic Code sets out what we are doing to deliver a consistent student experience across our School and clarifies what you can expect from an LSE education.

The Academic Code brings together key principles that underpin students' education into a School-wide policy. Developed in partnership with LSE Students' Union, it sets the baseline to build on teaching standards, academic support, and assessment and feedback – areas that students have told us matter the most to them.

The Academic Code should be read in conjunction with the [**LSE-LSESU Student Charter**](#).

- 1** All full-time undergraduate and taught postgraduate students taking a taught course will receive a minimum of two hours taught contact time per week when the course is running in the Autumn and/or Winter terms, or a minimum of four hours taught contact time per week for a full unit taught course running entirely in Autumn or in Winter term.
- 2** Students will have the opportunity to receive feedback on formative and summative work, as set out below. Feedback on assessment due in Spring term is not required for non-continuing students except for dissertations or capstone projects. There may be exceptional circumstances where the below time frames are not possible and, if this is the case, the reasons for extending the time period will be clearly explained to students as early as possible.
 - 2.1** All assessment submission deadlines and feedback time frames will be clearly communicated to students at the start of each course, including on the course Moodle page.
 - 2.2** Feedback on formative tasks will normally be returned to students within three term weeks of the submission deadline, where students submit their work on time.
 - 2.3** Feedback on summative assessment (excluding exams, dissertations, or capstone projects) will normally be provided within five term weeks of the submission deadline, where students submit their work on time.
 - 2.4** Feedback on January exams will normally be provided within six term weeks of the end of the exam period.
 - 2.5** Feedback on Spring exams will normally be provided within four term weeks of the following Autumn term.



- 2.6** Feedback on dissertations and capstone projects will normally be provided within four term weeks of the final mark being made available to students.
- 2.7** For any summative assessment which is failed, students will have the opportunity to receive feedback in time to prepare for the resit or resubmission. For summative assessment failed in Spring term, feedback may take the form of general guidance on how to have approached that assessment.
- 3** All students will have an Academic Mentor to advise on academic matters. Academic Mentors should have the necessary expertise and guidance to undertake the role. Ideally, students will keep the same mentor throughout their time at LSE.
- 4** Students will be invited to meet their Academic Mentor at least twice during each of the Autumn and Winter terms. These meetings may take the form of 1-2-1 sessions or small group gatherings, so that mentees can meet one another and discuss issues of mutual interest.
- 5** In addition to academic guidance provided by the Academic Mentor, students will have access to personal advice, for example with respect to mental health and wellbeing. Students will be clearly informed about who to go to for what kinds of advice and this will be available through various mechanisms, such as Disability and Wellbeing Services, Student Services, and Departments.
- 6** Staff teaching on LSE programmes will be available to students through a minimum of 35 office hours (for full-time teaching staff) during term time. Normally, the expectation is to meet face-to-face, but contact may take other forms that are mutually agreed between the teacher and students.
- 7** Departments will hold at least one Student-Staff Liaison Committee and one Departmental Teaching Committee meeting during each of the Autumn and Winter terms, following the guidelines for each type of meeting that we have agreed in partnership with the Students' Union.

The Student Charter

Codes of Good Practice

The Ethics Code

Research Ethics



The Student Charter

Our Student Charter, written by students and staff, sets out how LSE's mission and ethos are reflected in the education you can expect to receive at the School, and in the diverse, equitable and inclusive community that we all contribute to and value.

The charter covers:

- Your education – what an LSE education is and how you can make the most of it
- Our community – what it means to be part of the LSE community and how to contribute
- Your future, our future – how to inspire future generations of LSE students.
- You can find out more about the charter, and read the full version online – just search “LSE Student Charter” or visit info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-charter

Codes of Good Practice

The Codes of Good Practice explain the basic obligations and responsibilities of staff and students.

They set out what you can expect from your department in relation to the teaching and learning experience. The codes cover areas like the roles and responsibilities of Academic Mentors and Departmental Tutors, the structure of teaching at LSE and exams and assessment. The codes also lay out your responsibilities as a member of our community. You can find the codes of practice at lse.ac.uk/calendar



The Ethics Code

The Ethics Code details the principles by which the whole LSE community are expected to act.

We expect the highest possible ethical standards from all staff, students, and governors. The Ethics Code sets out the School's commitment to the six ethics principles:

- Responsibility and Accountability
- Integrity
- Intellectual Freedom
- Equality of Respect and Opportunity
- Collegiality
- Sustainability.

You can find the code, as well as guidance and support at lse.ac.uk/ethics

Research Ethics

If you conduct research, you'll need to follow the Research Ethics policy and procedures.

Search online for "LSE Research Ethics and Guidance" to find resources, training, and support. If you have any questions regarding research ethics or research conduct, please email research.ethics@lse.ac.uk





Systems and Online Resources

Need IT Help?

Visit the Technology Centre on the first floor of the Library.

Email: tech.support@lse.ac.uk

Call: 020 7107 5000

The Help Desk is open seven days a week during term time and offers a range of services including a laptop surgery. For further information visit info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/dts

Student LSE for You

Student LSE for You is a web portal which gives you access to a range of services. You can access LSE for You at lse.ac.uk/lseforyou

Student LSE for You allows you to:

- View and update your term time (contact) and home (permanent) address
- Access your candidate number
- View your results
- See your taught course timetable.

[Student Hub](#)

[Moodle](#)

[Reset your IT Password](#)

[Email](#)

[Training and Development System](#)

[Information Security Awareness Training](#)

[Multi-Factor Authentication \(MFA\)](#)



Student Hub

The Student Hub is LSE's app, designed to help you navigate your day-to-day life at LSE. With the Student Hub, you can:

- View your timetable and upcoming deadlines
- Find your way around with the campus map
- Follow your department, LSE events, Careers the Students' Union and more to keep up to date with news and events from around LSE
- Book appointments with academic staff (office hours) or support services
- Create or join groups with friends and course mates to carry on the conversation outside of class.

Download the app to help you organise your time, connect with coursemates and discover everything that LSE has to offer.



Available on iOS and Android app stores or as a web app.

Visit studenthub.lse.ac.uk to find out more!

Moodle

Moodle is LSE's virtual learning environment.

The majority of taught courses have a corresponding course on Moodle, the online learning platform used at LSE. Moodle courses contain essential resources such as lecture slides, lecture recordings and reading lists. Moodle also enables activities such as quizzes and discussion forums and allows for online assignment submission, marking and feedback. How Moodle is used is determined by the course convenor and so this may vary from course to course. LSE also provides a Moodle Archive service which provides teachers and students with a snapshot of previous year's courses.

You can access Moodle by visiting moodle.lse.ac.uk



Reset your IT password

To reset your IT password you can do so at [LSE Remote Access](#).

Email

LSE will use your LSE email address to communicate with you so check it regularly.

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 setup".

Training and Development System

The Training and Development System allows you to book a place on many of the personal development opportunities offered around LSE.

You can access the Training and Development System at apps.lse.ac.uk/training-system and login using your LSE username and password.

Information Security Awareness Training

LSE provides Cyber Security Awareness Training, for which you can self-enrol on moodle. We strongly advise you to complete the training which equips you with the skills to spot phishing emails, keep your data and devices safe, and protect your privacy.

More information and tips are available at lse.ac.uk/cyber

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

To add an extra layer of security for your account and data, please set up Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) via lse.ac.uk/mfa



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



Department of Sociology

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The London School of Economics and Political Science is a School of the University of London. It is a charity and is incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts (Reg no 70527).

The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances.

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