To Holborn Tube station on the corner of Kingsway and High Holborn, for the Piccadilly and Central lines.

To Temple Tube station on Victoria Embankment, for the District and Circle lines.

THE NEW ACADeMIC BUILDING
At the Building’s centre is a specially-commissioned artwork by Joy Gerrard featuring hanging globes to represent constellations of ideas and the way that major political or economic thoughts echo through public life.

THE LIBRARY
This site formerly housed a workhouse, a burial ground, a hospital and the warehouse of WH Smith. Remodelling for the LSE Library was completed in 1978, and it was renamed the Lionel Robbins Building, to honour the economist’s fundraising efforts. The redevelopment of the Library into its current guise was undertaken by Foster and Partners and completed in November 2001.

THE OLD BUILDING
The School’s coat of arms, including its motto and beaver mascot, were adopted in 1922. The motto – rerum cognoscere causas – means “to know the causes of things”. The beaver mascot was selected for its associations with foresight and industrious behaviour.

COLUMBIA HOUSE
Built in 1926, Columbia House is now home to the LSE Garrick, serving main meals at lunchtime and a wide range of drinks and light snacks throughout the day.

THE PARISH HALL
With a grand vaulted ceiling revealing the heritage of the building, the space now contains three bright teaching rooms designed to encourage interaction and collaboration between students and academics across a variety of teaching modes.

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THE PEACOCK THEATRE
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TOUR

This self-guided tour has been designed to allow you to explore and discover LSE’s compact campus at your leisure. In light of COVID-19 restrictions, it leads you around the streets and public spaces that surround our buildings. Unfortunately, to maximise social distancing on campus, it isn’t currently practical for visitors to enter our buildings. Please accept our apologies for any disappointment this might cause.

1 OLD BUILDING

Begin your tour outside the Old Building. In 1920 King George V laid the foundation stone by the main entrance of what remains the heart of LSE’s campus. Look up and you will see “Final Sale”, an installation created by the Recycle Group dealing with consumerism, recycling imagery and materials. Today the Old Building is home to one of the School’s principal lecture theatres (the Old Theatre); the Shaw Library (a restful space with a lending collection of general literature and recorded music, daily newspapers and magazines and regular lunchtime concerts); a large restaurant, and the Student Services Centre. The latter brings together LSE’s student support services, with drop-in sessions for immigration, fees and admissions queries held each week.
Walk down Houghton Street, keeping the Old Building on your left. Cross LSE Square, noting the mural above you on the wall of the St. Clement's Building.

Spectra, by artist Tod Hanson, is a five-storey-high artwork intended to illustrate the first priority in LSE’s 2030 Strategy, “educate for impact”, through a spectrum of ideas, locations, buildings and analytical methodologies. The Booth Poverty Map acts as the starting point for the artwork. Part of LSE Library’s archive of Charles Booth’s “Inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People in London” (1886-1903), the section of map the artwork focuses on depicts the area of London LSE occupies. The form of Lincoln’s Inn Fields can be seen at the top and the organic arc of the Thames in the lower section. In an approximation of a centre point, a red square denotes LSE’s Centre Building. The artwork’s elliptical form is distorted through Hanson’s use of trompe l’oeil – from certain vantages the disc will appear to be three dimensional, sinking into or rising from St Clement’s Wall.

Continue up the ramp into John Watkins Plaza. The LSE Library is now in front of you.
2 THE BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE

The LSE Library, founded in 1896 as the British Library of Political and Economic Science, is the largest in the world devoted exclusively to the social sciences. The Library subscribes to over 50,000 e-journals as part of its electronic information provision and has over four million separate printed items including over 33,000 past and present journal titles.

The Library is also home to LSE LIFE. LSE LIFE is a place where you can learn more about yourself, your studies and your ambitions. They offer workshops, one-to-one sessions and other unique events to help you discover your strengths, develop your skills and bring them together to reach your goals.

With the Library in front of you, turn left and walk toward Portugal Street. Turn right and walk along Portugal Street until it meets Serle Street. Turn left and walk a short way along Serle Street, then turn left again into Lincoln’s Inn Fields. On your left is 32 Lincoln’s Inn Fields.
The former Land Registry Building opened its doors as 32 Lincoln’s Inn Fields in 2013. The building enjoys views over the UK’s largest city square. It is home to LSE’s Department of Economics and offers five floors of academic offices plus three lower floors of teaching and student activity areas, which can cater for up to 1,000 students.

Continue along Lincoln’s Inn Fields until you reach the Marshall Building (under construction), on your left-hand side, just before the junction with Portsmouth Street.
4 THE MARSHALL BUILDING

The Marshall Building, due for completion in January 2022, will deliver an additional 18,000 square metres of space and will serve as a link between the buildings around Houghton Street and those in Lincoln’s Inn Fields. The Building will be home to the departments of Accounting, Finance and Management as well as the Marshall Institute for Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship. It will also boast a sports centre with multipurpose sports hall, squash courts and dynamic weights room; arts rehearsal facilities and music practice rooms, and a café.

Walk on, crossing Portsmouth Street and immediately turning right to cross Sardinia Street. You are now outside LSE’s New Academic Building.
5 NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING

The School’s New Academic Building was purchased in 2004. Constructed in 1912, the building has undergone a radical transformation and now provides students with fantastic state-of-the-art facilities. It houses the School’s Department of Law and boasts eight floors of teaching rooms, lecture theatres and offices, built around a soaring central atrium flooded with natural light.

Cross back over Sardinia Street and walk down Portsmouth Street. On your right you will see the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre.
Since opening in 2014, the Student Centre has won a host of architecture awards, including the prestigious RIBA London Building of the Year Award 2014. The building is a student hub and houses the LSE Students’ Union and a large venue space. Here you will find a pub, a fitness centre and a multifaith prayer centre, as well as the LSE Residential Services team and LSE Careers. The Student Centre is also home to the LSE Media Centre, which includes LSE’s Pulse Radio, its weekly newspaper (The Beaver), its termly journal (The Clare Market Review) and LSE’s very own TV station, LooSE TV.

With the Student Centre in front of you turn left and walk to Portugal Street, passing “The World Turned Upside Down”, a sculpture by the Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger. Turn right on Portugal Street, where you will find the Peacock Theatre.
7 PEACOCK THEATRE

LSE uses this 999-seat West End theatre for lectures, public talks, conferences and graduation ceremonies.

Turn around and walk back along Portugal Street, turning right down Clare Market. Walk straight ahead into LSE Square, where you will see the revolving doors of LSE’s Centre Building on your right.

8 CENTRE BUILDING

Opened in June 2019, this 13 storey building is a new home for political sciences at LSE, housing the departments of Government and International Relations, the European Institute and the School of Public Policy. It provides our students with flexible study and teaching space and includes a café on the ground floor.

Walk through the pedestrian passage, next to the Alumni Centre, and down the steps into Clement’s Inn.
Clement’s Inn is home to Pankhurst House, Fawcett House and Pethick-Lawrence House, renamed in 2018 after the suffrage campaigners Emmeline Pankhurst, Millicent Garrett Fawcett and Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence. The three buildings are on the same site as the London headquarters of the Women’s Social and Political Union, also known as “The Suffragettes”. You will see a plaque marking this on the wall next to the entrance to Pethick-Lawrence House. This is also home to the St Philips Medical Centre, providing NHS treatment to LSE students.

Continue along Clement’s Inn and through the gate at the end, leading out onto the Aldwych. Turn right and follow the pavement round until you come to Clement House, on your right.
Clement House was built in 1911, and acquired by LSE in the mid 1990’s. On the ground floor is the Hong Kong Theatre, which is used for both academic and public lectures.

Continue on the Aldwych until you reach Houghton Street on your right.

On the corner of Houghton Street and the Aldwych is LSE Garrick. The ground floor of this café serves a variety of hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and snacks while the lower floor offers a main meal service. It makes an ideal place to rest at the end of your tour.

You have now explored LSE!
FIND OUT MORE

🔍 Explore our range of programmes

📝 Join a Virtual Undergraduate Open Day

📝 Attend a Virtual Graduate Open Day

📺 Watch our student vlogs

📖 Read our blogs about student life

🎒 Attend one of our public events

🏠 Experience LSE from home

💡 View our YouTube channel

🐦 Keep up to date on Twitter

👍 Like us on Facebook

📸 Follow us on Instagram

🔗 Connect with us on LinkedIn

💬 Ask us questions in real-time through our Live Chat service

✉️ Contact us