LSExplorer
Self-guided campus tour
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.

With the Library in front of you, turn left and walk past LSE’s resident penguin and Tembo the baby elephant, 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 the Sir Arthur Lewis Building.

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 access to four million separate printed items including over 33,000 past and present journal titles. The Library is also home to LSE LIFE - a place where students learn more about themselves, their studies and their ambitions. LSE LIFE offers workshops, one-to-one sessions and other unique events to help the School’s students discover their strengths, develop their skills and come together to reach their goals.

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With the Library in front of you, turn left and walk past LSE’s resident penguin and Tembo the baby elephant, and up the ramp into John Watkins Plaza.

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 arc of the Thames in the lower section. In an approximation of a centre point, a red square denotes LSE’s Centre Building (located behind the artwork). The artwork’s elliptical form is determined through Hanson’s use of triangulated faces from certain vantage points, and it appears to be three dimensional, sinking into or rising from St. Clement’s Wall.

Practice, 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 arc of the Thames in the lower section. In an approximation of a centre point, a red square denotes LSE’s Centre Building (located behind the artwork). The artwork’s elliptical form is determined through Hanson’s use of triangulated faces from certain vantage points, and it appears 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.

1 Old Building

Begin your tour outside the main entrance to the Old Building in Houghton Street. In 1920 King George V laid the foundation stone 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.

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1,000 students.

The Sir Arthur Lewis Building is LSE's largest building. It covers 50,000 square feet and it is home to the Economics Department, the UK's first black professor. Enjoying views over the UK's largest city square, the Building is home to the Department of Economics and offers five floors of academic offices. The building was renamed in recognition of a commitment to LSE's permanent endowment by alumnus Mr. Vincent Cheng. It is named in honour of Mr. Cheng Kin Ku, the University's Director of Information and Technology who made a significant contribution to the development of the University's IT infrastructure.

2 The Marshall Building

The Marshall Building, completed in January 2022, provides 18,000 square metres of state-of-the-art facilities. It is home to the Marshall Institute of Innovation and Public Policy, the Department of Accounting, Finance and Management as well as the Marshall Institute of Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship.

3 The Old Curiosity Shop

Dating from the end of the 1500s, The Old Curiosity Shop is one of London's oldest shops and boasts the overhanging second floor and sloping roof typical of structures of that time. Although the name was added after the 1841 publication of Charles Dickens' novel, as a business, it is likely known to Dickens. It is notable for its empty shop windows, which Dickens describes in his novel as 'a Sloane Square the Block'.

4 The Musical Building

The Musical Building is a landmark example of post-modern architecture that opened in 1996. It was originally called the LSE New Academic Building before being renamed the Sir Arthur Lewis Building in 2023. The building has undergone a radical transformation and now provides students with fantastic state-of-the-art facilities. It is home to the LSE Law School and College of Social Sciences.

5 Cheng Kin Ku Building

The Cheng Kin Ku Building was acquired in 2004 and originally called the Beaver's Brew. It is the home of the LSE Students' Union and a large multipurpose sports hall, including a 999 seat West End theatre for lectures, conferences and public talks, conferences and graduation ceremonies. The Student Centre is also home to the LSE Law School and College of Social Sciences.

6 The Old Curiosity Shop

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.
9 Clare Market
On your right is the Student Services Centre, which among others is the main student support services, with regular drop in sessions for comprehensive guidance on all LSE services and fee questions. Allow the window are services of face rates by the resident 24-7. It is you left in the shade, a working space for LSE’s entrepreneurial community.

Continue on and enter LSE square. You will see the Centre Building in front of you, with the entrance on your right.

10 Centre Building

Updated June 2019, our 13 story building is home to political science at LSE, housing the departments of Government and International Relations, the European Institute and the School of Public Policy.

It provides students with flexible study and teaching space and includes a cafe on the ground floor. The building is also home to the Alumni Centre as well as the School’s signature with space prospective students, education and resources with friends.

Walk through the pedestrian passage, next to the Alumni Centre, and down the steps into Clement’s Inn.

11 Clements Inn
Clements Inn is home to Pankhurst House, Fawcett House and Pethick Lawrence House. Established in 2018 after the Alumnus campaign (with the support of Miss Garrett Fawcett and Clementine Pethick Lawrence) the building is home to LSE’s Women’s Suffrage Campaign, the Women’s Social and Political Union and also known as "The Suffragettes". It will be a plaque marking this on the wall next to the entrance of the Tsui Lawrence House. This is also home to the St Philips Medical Centre, providing NHS treatment to LSE students.

Continue along Clements Inn and through the gate at the end, leading out into the Aldwych. Turn right and follow the pavement round until you come to Clement House on your right.

12 Clement House
Clements Inn was built in 1911 and is open all year round, enjoyed by LSE students in the end 1950s.

On the ground floor is the 125 seat Theatre, which is used for lectures and public lectures.

Walk through the pedestrian passage, next to the Alumni Centre, and down the steps into Clement’s Inn.

13 LSE Garrick
On the corner of Houghton Street and the Aldwych is LSE Garrick.

The ground floor of this café offers 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.

Walk through the pedestrian passage, next to the Alumni Centre, and down the steps into Clement’s Inn.

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

Continue along Clement’s Inn and through the gate at the end, leading out into the Aldwych. Turn right and follow the pavement round until you come to Clement House on your right.

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The Student Recruitment and Study Abroad team operate drop-in consultations for prospective students every Monday to Friday between 11.00am-12.00pm and 2.00pm-3.00pm in the Student Services Centre (ground floor of the Old Building).

You can also ask us questions in real-time through our Live Chat service, available from 10.00am-3.00pm every Monday to Friday.

Find out more:

- Undergraduate study
- Graduate study
- Summer schools
- Study abroad
- Information for international students
- Attend one of our public events
- Experience LSE from home
- Undergraduate and graduate fees and funding

LSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- @StudyLSE
- facebook.com/lseps
- @londonschoolofeconomics
- youtube.com/lsewebsite
- tiktok.com/@lse
LSE aims to create an environment that enables all students to participate fully in university life.

Access guides to the School's buildings are available at AccessAble.co.uk