

COVID-19: LSE General Course Student Update 2

Thursday 12 March 2020

Further to our first message on Tuesday 10 March we can now update you on the next phase of our action plan in response to COVID-19.

Teaching

- All teaching activity for General Course students will be delivered online from Monday 23 March, or before where possible, for the remainder of the 2019/2020 academic year. There is no expectation that online teaching will mirror traditional face-to-face teaching practices. Individual faculty will have the autonomy to consider how best to conduct teaching and learning activities.

Assessment

- All General Course exams and assessments scheduled for the Summer Term will be delivered online or by other methods of alternate assessment. Assessment methods will be at the discretion of academic faculty. There will be **no additional fee** for these alternative means of assessment.
- The specific arrangements as to how this will operate are not yet clear so please read all email communications regarding the arrangements for assessment for your individual courses.
- As a result of this decision you **do not have to apply to sit exams overseas** (whether because of the COVID-19 situation or internships). Nor do you have to supply details of local invigilation arrangements.

LSE's campus and halls of residence remain open

- LSE's campus will remain open. We have had no indication from Public Health England that we should close, and buildings, services and facilities will run as usual. Staff and students can be on campus and halls of residence will also be open. The School will continue to monitor and comply with guidance from Public Health England and take any necessary steps, such as campus closure, if instructed to do so in the future.

Leaving LSE before the end of the academic year

- If you are leaving LSE before the end of the Lent Term and/or will not be returning for the Summer Term you **must notify the Dean of the General Course and Global Mobility by email at gc.dean@lse.ac.uk**

This information is correct as of Thursday 12 March 2020. Please continue to regularly check the LSE [website](#) and General Course [webpage](#) for further information.

Mark Hoffman, *Dean of the General Course and Global Mobility*

Will Breare-Hall, *Student Recruitment and Study Abroad Manager*

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LSE is continuing to monitor closely, and proactively follow, healthcare and government advice from the [World Health Organisation](#) and [Public Health England](#). This advice suggests that the risk to the LSE community is low. We have robust processes and procedures and are ready to put additional measures in place, should the need arise.

The General Course team appreciate that this is an anxious and uncertain time so, whilst this evolving situation remains under daily review, we hope you find the following information on LSE's current position helpful.

Leaving LSE before the end of the academic year

- If you are considering leaving, or your home institution requires you to leave, LSE before the end of the academic year you must first speak with the Dean for the General Course and Global Mobility, Mark Hoffman. He can be reached at gc.dean@lse.ac.uk.
- Authorised early departure due to the COVID-19 situation need not adversely affect your academic record if you continue studying remotely and sit your final LSE exams/assessment overseas.

Overseas examinations

- General Course students whose home institutions prevent them from returning to LSE after the Easter vacation, or who decide they do not wish to return, *due to the COVID-19 situation* are encouraged to request permission to sit their LSE exams overseas. Details of how you do this can be found [here](#). The deadline for receipt of requests is 8 April 2020.

Online learning

- General Course students who return home before the end of the academic year and who apply to sit their exams overseas are advised to continue studying their course material remotely through [Moodle](#).
- General Course students who return home before the end of the academic year and who wish to contact their class teachers and/or fellow students are advised to do so through an online medium such as Skype or [Teams](#).
- General Course students who notify the Dean for the General Course and Global Mobility that they will be leaving the School before the end of the academic year due to the COVID-19 situation will not have the absence counted against them.

Transcripts

- General Course students who return home before the end of the academic year due to COVID-19, continue studying remotely and then sit their LSE exams overseas will receive full academic transcripts for their year at LSE, as normal.
- General Course students who formally [withdraw](#) from LSE due to COVID-19 before the end of the academic year, i.e. who do not continue studying and do not sit their LSE exams overseas, will receive an 'Early Leavers' Transcript' listing only their class grades. In such circumstances, the amount of credit awarded will be at the discretion of your home institution.

Tuition fee refunds

- General Course tuition fee refunds will not be made if you continue your learning remotely and sit your LSE exams overseas.
- A pro-rata [refund](#) of the General Course tuition fee will be made if you formally withdraw from LSE, i.e. you don't receive remote teaching and don't sit your LSE exams overseas.

Accommodation costs

- A decision on whether or not General Course students will remain liable for their accommodation costs if they leave LSE due to COVID-19 before the end of the academic year has not yet been taken. As soon as we have further information on this we will provide updated guidance.

This information is correct as of Tuesday 10 March 2020. It will be updated as and when necessary. Students are advised to regularly check the [Coronavirus FAQs](#) page on the LSE website.

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