



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

# LSE update: Michaelmas Term

Thursday 22 July 2021

Dear Student,

I am writing to share our plans for Michaelmas Term at LSE, including an overview of what this means for your teaching and learning activities and how we plan to maintain a safe campus environment.

The arrangements are designed to ensure you receive an excellent education and student experience from the very start of term. Alongside this, we've paid careful attention to balancing the needs of our community, with being prepared for the possibility of further changes, as the impact of the pandemic continues, so we can maintain a safe and supported environment.

We will keep you updated over the summer to help you prepare for the start of term. More information, guidance and resources are also available via our [offer holder webpages](#) and our [COVID-19 guidance for student webpages](#), which we'll continue to add to in the coming weeks.

Please take a moment to read the guidance below and continue to protect yourself and others over the summer. We're looking forward to welcoming you in September.

Best wishes,  
Minouche Shafik  
LSE Director

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## Teaching and learning in Michaelmas Term 2021

Our expectation for the 2021/22 academic year is that all LSE students will be in London and studying on campus, where many of your learning experiences will be in-person, supplemented by some online elements. This approach has been informed by our student and academic community, building upon the innovations and improvements we have put in place over the past year.

From the start of Michaelmas Term 2021, we anticipate the following to be in place:

- We will deliver all compulsory teaching and learning activity in person, including seminars, tutorials, workshops, classes and Harvard style teaching sessions. However, there may be occasional rare circumstances which must be well-justified where we may need to move an activity online.

- We are not planning to have mandated social distancing in classrooms. However, we are prepared to reintroduce this if the need arises.
- The standard expectation is that other types of staff-student engagement will take place in-person on campus. These include office hours, academic mentoring and dissertation / thesis supervision.
- Some other aspects of your programme may also be online but when this happens, we will always prioritise on-campus opportunities for interactive engagement.

### **Lecture arrangements for Michaelmas Term 2021**

- Lectures, which are non-compulsory, will normally be delivered online -either synchronously or asynchronously. We will aim to deliver a small number of lectures in-person.
- All lectures, whether in-person or online, will be recorded for your benefit.
- It may be possible to deliver more lectures in-person in Lent Term and we will continue to explore this.
- This approach towards lectures means that, should we need to reintroduce social distancing measures, we would be able to continue providing face-to-face class and seminar teaching for a much larger number of courses in-person on campus. This will also enable us to use these spaces for community building, networking activities as well as peer and faculty engagement while these measures are not in place.

### **Coming to campus for Michaelmas Term 2021**

- We expect new students to join us on campus in London for the start of Welcome, Monday 20 September. Term starts on Monday 27 September. However, we understand that due to exceptional circumstances outside of your control, such as visas or local COVID challenges, you may not be able to arrive at this time.
- If this is the case, we will continue to support you remotely during the first few weeks of term before your arrival. We will aim to offer hybrid teaching to ensure your experience at LSE is maintained despite other delays outside of your control.
- You will still need to come to London for your studies which will include in-person components for all students, and you should aim to arrive within a few weeks of the start of term, enrolling by Friday 22 October at the latest.

### **Maintaining a low-risk environment and preparing for future scenarios**

- We will continue to monitor the situation and may extend the COVID-secure measures that we currently have in place or introduce further protocols if required, such as mask wearing in classrooms and lifts and negative testing requirements to enter LSE buildings. All staff and students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks in LSE buildings particularly in high-traffic or confined areas.

- We strongly encourage all new and continuing students to get fully vaccinated, if you are not already. We are working on plans to offer on-campus vaccinations via our St Phillips Medical Centre.
- To support students arriving from overseas, over the summer we will also be introducing [Day 2 and Day 8 testing](#), to help students comply with government-imposed testing requirements for international travellers. At this stage, we do not expect to be able to provide managed quarantine facilities ("hotel quarantine") for arrivals from countries included on the government's red list for travel.
- We are also preparing for a range of scenarios that will allow us to flex our approach to teaching and learning swiftly and with minimum disruption to our community, should we need to respond to changing health advice over the winter months. You can [read more about this online](#) and we will continue to keep our community updated as we progress towards the start of term and beyond.



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