



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

## Widening Participation

### Information for teachers supporting student applications to LSE CHOICE and LSE Compass

LSE CHOICE: [Click here for teacher guidance](#)

LSE Compass: [Click here for teacher guidance](#)

## LSE CHOICE

LSE CHOICE aims to identify talented Year 12 students from London state schools and colleges, from specific backgrounds, giving them the tools they need to successfully apply to LSE and other competitive Russell Group universities. The programme focuses on five key social science subjects.

### Subjects

- Economics
- Government & Politics
- History
- Mathematics
- Sociology

### The Programme

#### *Summer School*

CHOICE begins with a week-long Summer School which runs from Monday 24 to Friday 28 August 2020, from 9:00am – 4:00pm daily. The Summer School offers greater depth of study in the above subject areas. The programme is designed to stretch able pupils, giving them the opportunity to develop valuable skills in a supportive university environment. Sessions include workshops, lectures and a relevant trip. Key skills are developed and the students receive advice and support with the admissions process. Students will be provided with lunch and refreshments and travel is reimbursed.

#### *Saturday Master Classes*

Sixteen Saturday master classes will then take place between September 2020 and March 2021. Each Saturday session is based on the individual subject (see above). Teachers should note that CHOICE is not an extended revision course. Sessions are delivered by external teachers and will follow a master class format designed to enhance students' knowledge of the subject. Students will be paid a bursary of £20 per Saturday master class attended.

#### *Additional Support*

Students are given special access to the LSE Library and will have the opportunity to attend the LSE public lecture series.

There is a list of FAQs on our website ([lse.ac.uk/lsechoice](https://lse.ac.uk/lsechoice)) which you can direct students to for more information about the programme.

### Selection

We are looking for Year 12 pupils who:

- Are in the top 10% of their year group – predicted A\*- B
- Have an excellent GCSE profile, majority of grades A\*-B
- Intend to study one of the five CHOICE subjects at A2
- Can commit to both the week long-long Summer School and **all** 16 Saturday sessions

Many of our programmes are over-subscribed. We prioritise applicants using the following criteria:

### **School/college**

- Attending a school/college that is performing below the national average and/or has a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals.

### **Family background**

- Eligible for free school meals and/or pupil premium now or in the last six years
- No parental experience of higher education (neither parent has a degree qualification)
- Parents/carers working in low socio-economic classification jobs and/or on receipt of means tested benefits
- Undertakes caring responsibility for a family member (a '[young carer](#)')

### **Neighbourhood**

We use the following three postcode measures to assess areas of disadvantage:

- Living in an area of low progression to higher education (as defined by POLAR4 quintile 1 or 2) as determined by home postcode
- From Acorn groups LMOPQ as determined by home postcode
- From Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) quintiles 1 or 2 as determined by home postcode

### **Specific groups under-represented in higher education**

- Students with a disability
- From an ethnic background currently under-represented at highly selective universities such as LSE; especially Black African, Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Pakistani.
- From a white working class background
- From a Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller community
- Young people who are care experienced or [estranged](#) from their family
- Forced migrants (accompanied or unaccompanied) including refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), persons granted humanitarian protection and limited / discretionary leave to remain and stateless persons
- Children of military families

### **Application process**

Year 12 students will need to complete an online application form, available at <https://lseportal.force.com/wideningparticipation> or by clicking on the link under 'How can I find out more and apply?' on our website ([lse.ac.uk/lsechoice](https://lse.ac.uk/lsechoice)). If students have not applied to any LSE Widening Participation projects before they will first need to create an account.

The application requires personal data, the student's GCSE profile, Year 12 subjects, an indication of their future plans and a short personal statement detailing why they would like to participate in CHOICE. Students will also be required to supply contact details for the link teacher who will be providing their reference.

We will require parental consent for all students accepted on to the programme.

### **Pupil personal statement**

The applicant's personal statement should indicate:

- *Why they want to be part of LSE CHOICE*
- *Why they have chosen the subject/what interests them about the subject*
- *What they hope to get out of the programme/how LSE CHOICE will help them in the future*
- *What they would like to do in the future*

The deadline for students to submit their applications is **Sunday 8 March 2020**. Once the student has submitted their application, they will receive instructions on how to proceed with the teacher reference.

### **Teacher Reference**

Link teachers will be notified by email when a student has listed you as a referee on their LSE CHOICE application.

You will be sent a link to an online portal and asked to produce a set of login details.

Once the student has submitted, please login to the portal to complete your reference. Click on 'View Application Snapshot' to view the student's application, and 'Complete Recommendation' to access the referee form.

The teacher reference is an important part of the process, as generic school references may hinder a student's application. When writing the reference, please cover the following points:

- *The student's academic achievements and any other achievement*
- *Why they deserve a place on the CHOICE programme*
- *What contribution they can make to the overall success of the scheme*
- *Any exceptional circumstances that should be taken into consideration when we review the student's application*

Please ensure you check that the information provided is accurate and that applicants have provided their full GCSE and A Level grades, as well as indicating if they are entitled to FSM, are LAC or have a disability.

It is important to note that applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria, or are incomplete, will be returned to the signatory without consideration. Competition for places is high so it is vital that students submit high quality applications. The final deadline for teacher references is **Sunday 22 March 2020**.

**Please note we are unable to consider student applications without a teacher's reference.**

## LSE Compass: Year 11 Summer School

LSE Compass (formally known as the Year 11 Summer School) is a non-residential programme for students in Year 11 that aims to raise aspirations and encourage students from under represented backgrounds to consider progression to Higher Education. The Summer School will take place from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The summer school offers 120 Year 11 students from non-selective schools in London, the opportunity to spend five days at LSE after completing their GCSE's. Participants discover the subjects available to them at university by navigating their way through the social sciences, and experiencing university life first hand.

Previous summer schools have included workshops in economics, history, law and sociology.

### **Selection**

Places on the LSE Compass are in high demand and we are not able to offer places to all those who apply.

We are looking for:

- Year 11 students who attend a state school in London
- Students expected to achieve at least five 9-6 grades at GCSE.

Many of our programmes are over-subscribed. We prioritise applicants using the following criteria:

### **School/college**

- Attending a school/college that is performing below the national average and/or has a high proportion of students eligible for free school meals.

### **Family background**

- Eligible for free school meals and/or pupil premium now or in the last six years
- No parental experience of higher education (neither parent has a degree qualification)
- Parents/carers working in low socio-economic classification jobs and/or on receipt of means tested benefits
- Undertakes caring responsibility for a family member (a ['young carer'](#))

### **Neighbourhood**

We use the following three postcode measures to assess areas of disadvantage:

- Living in an area of low progression to higher education (as defined by POLAR4 quintile 1 or 2) as determined by home postcode
- From Acorn groups LMOPQ as determined by home postcode
- From Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) or Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) quintiles 1 or 2 as determined by home postcode

### **Specific groups under-represented in higher education**

- Students with a disability

- From an ethnic background currently under-represented at highly selective universities such as LSE; especially Black African, Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Pakistani.
- From a white working class background
- From a Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller community
- Young people who are care experienced or [estranged](#) from their family
- Forced migrants (accompanied or unaccompanied) including refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), persons granted humanitarian protection and limited / discretionary leave to remain and stateless persons
- Children of military families

We review applications holistically; while we prioritise students who meet the above criteria, we will consider all the information contained in an application when making our decisions.

For this reason, we encourage applicants and schools to include any further relevant details – such as any additional information or extenuating circumstances – that they feel ought to be considered to support their application.

### Application process

Year 11 students will need to complete an online application form, available at <https://lseportal.force.com/wideningparticipation> or by clicking on the link under ‘How can I find out more and apply?’ on our website ([lse.ac.uk/lsecompass](http://lse.ac.uk/lsecompass)). If students have not applied to any LSE Widening Participation projects before they will first need to create an account.

The application requires personal data, the student’s GCSE profile, an indication of their future plans and a short personal statement detailing why they would like to participate in LSE Compass. Students will also be required to supply contact details for the link teacher who will be providing their reference.

We will require parental consent for all students accepted on to the programme.

### Pupil personal statement

The applicant’s personal statement should indicate:

- *Why they want to participate in LSE Compass*
- *What they hope to get out of the programme/how LSE Compass might help them in the future*
- *What they would like to do in the future*

The deadline for students to submit their applications is **Sunday 23 February 2020**. Once the student has submitted their application, they will receive instructions on how to proceed with the teacher reference.

### Teacher Reference

Link teachers will be notified by email when a student has listed you as a referee on their LSE Compass application.

You will be sent a link to an online portal and asked to produce a set of login details.

Once the student has submitted, please login to the portal to complete your reference. Click on 'View Application Snapshot' to view the student's application, and 'Complete Recommendation' to access the referee form.

The teacher reference is an important part of the process, as generic school references may hinder a student's application. When writing the reference, please cover the following points:

- *The student's academic achievements and any other achievement*
- *Why they deserve a place on the CHOICE programme*
- *What contribution they can make to the overall success of the scheme*
- *Any exceptional circumstances that should be taken into consideration when we review the student's application*

Please ensure you check that the information provided is accurate and that applicants have provided their full GCSE and A Level grades, as well as indicating if they are entitled to FSM, are LAC or have a disability.

It is important to note that applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria, or are incomplete, will be returned to the signatory without consideration. Competition for places is high so it is vital that students submit high quality applications. The final deadline for teacher references is **Sunday 7 March 2020.**

**Please note we are unable to consider student applications without a teacher's reference.**