



Caption: 2022-23 UGRA Bashirat Oladele presents at the LSE Interdisciplinary Student Research Conference, June 14, 2023

Undergraduate Research Assistantship Programme, 2022-23

2022-23 was another record-breaking year for the Phelan US Centre's Undergraduate Research Assistantship programme. Our largest ever cohort of 11 students, selected from a competitive pool of 125 applicants, once again demonstrated the immense talent and enthusiasm of undergraduate students to get involved in practical research experience, supported by faculty members.

2022-23 Highlights

The 2022-23 cohort of Undergraduate Research Assistants was marked by considerable collective achievements. From Bashirat Oladele's presentation at the LSE Interdisciplinary Research Conference in June 2023, to Mei Yuzuki's participation in an invitation-only academic seminar on US-China relations in March, and Vani Kant's "invaluable" contribution to Dr Johann Koehler's new published article in *Criminology*, our UGRAs have once again delivered concrete outputs and impressive results.

We are also pleased to bring the 2022-23 cohort and their faculty supervisors together for a Meet & Greet event in November 2022 and a half-way event in March 2023.

11

Undergraduate
Research Assistants,
2022-23

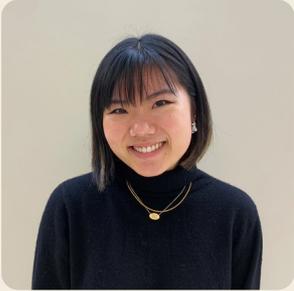
125

Student applications,
2022-23

13

LSE Departments from
which students applied
for the programme,
2022-23

UGRA Projects, 2022-23



Trade, Human Rights, and US-China Relations: 1979-2001

Faculty: Dr Elizabeth Ingleson, Department of International History

Research Assistant: Mei Yuzuki, Department of International History

"The project focused on the types of human rights that U.S. Congressional debates focused on from different periods: civil and political rights on one hand, and economic, social, and cultural rights on the other hand."

Occupational Paranoia: The Case of Chicago Policing, 1862-2022

Faculty: Dr Johann Koehler, Department of Social Policy

Research Assistant: Vani Kant, Department of International Relations

"By working explicitly with police reports rather than academic literature, I gained a unique insight into the historical development of racial and juvenile policing in the United States from the perspective of the state and its more violent assemblage."



Passing the economic torch from the UK to the USA in the 20th Century

Faculty: Dr James Morrison, Department of International Relations

Research Assistant: Irmak Dyonmez, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method

"My role was to work with archival material from J.M. Keynes and organise this material using key aspects, such as the chronology of his writings, recurrent themes, and titles of his pieces."

Anglo-American Relations after the US Civil War

Faculty: Dr Rohan Mukherjee, Department of International Relations

Research Assistant: Maia Halle, Department of Government

"I really enjoyed going to the British Library to look through and scan primary documents. One of the highlights of not only the program, but my study abroad, was going to the British Library and being able to work with documents that were over 150 years old."



Climate change and the US right

Faculty: Professor Laura Pulido, Department of Geography and Environment

Research Assistant: Arjan Singh Gill, LSE Law School

"In this project, I endeavoured to assist Professor Pulido's research in uncovering links between the right and climate refusal by creating a chronological list of climate refusal actions by right-wing policy-makers from the 1990s to the present, and analysing common patterns among these incidents."

State supervision of poor families in Los Angeles

Faculty: Dr Amanda Sheely, Department of Social Policy

Research Assistants: Bashirat Oladele, Department of Sociology, and Maria Constanza Novellino Ron, Department of Sociology



"I have been supporting Dr Amanda Sheely on a project that focuses on the development of the state supervision of poor families in Los Angeles. In particular, we have focused on how probation, the criminal justice system and welfare institutions have affected poor families, namely mothers."

"The project focuses primarily on how for poor mothers, state supervision happens across a variety of systems that often overlap and operate in a disjointed manner, effectively making it harder for the state to properly support poor mothers and children."



Investigating the role of nuclear weapons in US alliance politics

Faculty: Dr Lauren Sukin, Department of International Relations

Research Assistants: Annabelle Gouttebroze, Department of Government, and Adrian Matak, Department of Government



"This research assistantship has developed my skills in research, especially in archival research and in constructing surveys. It has encouraged me to pursue a career in academia and especially in international politics... It has been a truly incredible way to gain first-hand experience into political research and I have learned so much."



"The project addresses the vital question of the conditions under which nuclear guarantees of the U.S. might lead to counterproductive outcomes (backlash), causing fears of a loss of military and political autonomy, especially in the context of international conflict."

The Phelan US Centre Sustainability Syllabus Hub

Faculty: Professor Peter Trubowitz, Department of International Relations, and Chris Gilson, Phelan US Centre

Research Assistant: Honour Astill, Department of Government

"The Syllabus Hub on Climate Change and Sustainability is an online hub of syllabi, reading lists and teaching materials for educators who wish to incorporate sustainability topics into their teaching... Ultimately, the project endeavours to act as an invaluable research for students, educators and academics."



The State of the States

Faculty: Professor Peter Trubowitz, Department of International Relations, and Chris Gilson, Phelan US Centre

Research Assistant: Jimin Oh, Department of Social Policy

"The 'State of the States' project focuses on facilitating policy learning by providing a platform where users can gain insight into the policy landscape and compare different approaches adopted by US states."

Q&A with our Research Assistants

How do you feel you have benefited from the UGRA programme?

"I think one of the major benefits was being able to have 1-to-1 time with a researcher who was able to share her journey into academia and give me advice on my own applications and funding. As someone who doesn't have many connections to people in academia, this was invaluable."

"The guidance received from Professor Sukin allowed me to improve my research skills, understanding of the process of writing and publishing an academic paper, as well as knowledge of research methodologies and techniques."

"Being able to deep-dive into a topic that I have great interest in has been such an enriching experience in and of itself. Meeting other undergraduates who are interested in research has also been wonderful!"

"So far, it has helped me secure a short research assistantship in Australia relating to launching a hub for migration data - I'm not sure I would have had this opportunity were it not for my UGRA on my CV."

What was your favourite aspect of the programme?

"I really liked participating in the LSE Interdisciplinary Conference because of the encouragement from the Centre. I feel like it was a great way to showcase the research work that was done."

"It is emotionally and intellectually satisfying to have worked on a tangible project and seen my work materialise. I also feel proud and lucky to be a part of a project that is quite altruistic in nature; it actually creates a free resource for anyone without being blocked by a paywall."

"Professor Pulido is an extremely patient, kind and caring individual and I am immensely grateful that I had her as a mentor for this experience."

What are your plans for the future? And do you feel the programme has in any way helped shape them?

"I'm really interested in journalism as a career. I feel like the programme has helped in a way because of the skills that both researchers and journalists share."

"Over the summer I will be interning at Opportunity International EduFinance, and I feel like being part of this program was of great help in acquiring this role. They were impressed with my research abilities as well as my understanding of different social welfare systems."

Is there anything you would like to say to the donor who made the programme possible?

"Thank you for funding this programme and giving students like myself an opportunity to immerse ourselves into the world of academia."

"I have to work part-time alongside my degree already, to afford a life in London, and I probably would not have applied for an unpaid position. Your funding really does make a difference to students."

"There are many valuable things that my degree has offered me but I feel that this programme, by fostering exchange between academics and students, faculty and assistants, is one of the intellectual and academic highlights of my time at the LSE."