

# Undergraduate Research Assistantship Programme, 2021-22



**Left to right:** 2021-22 UGRAs Namrata Anil Menon, Isolde Hegemann, Ariba Fatima, Jan Jakob Kruger, Kasia Micklem, Rosalie Roechert and Matthew Prescod at the half-way session in March 2022

## 2021-22 At a Glance



9 Projects



150 Applications

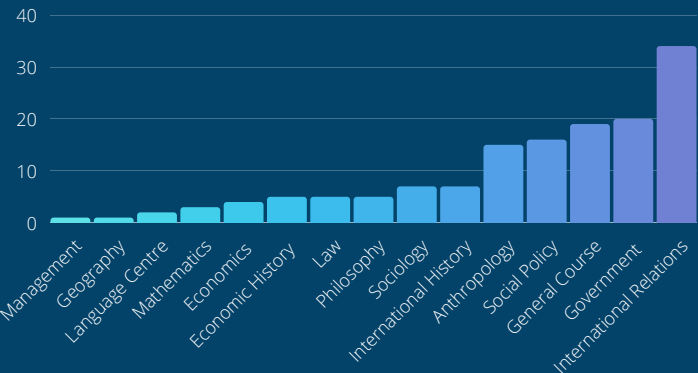
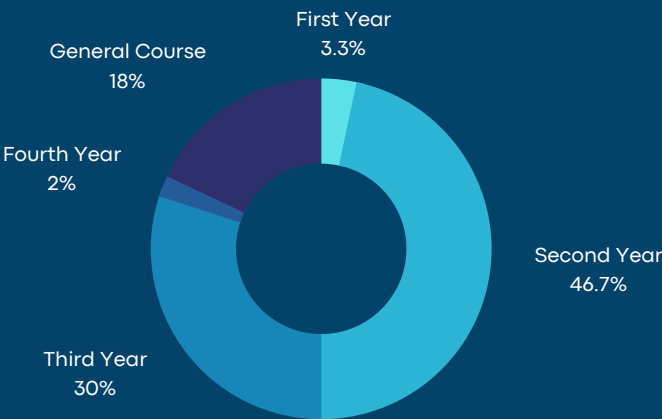


Applications received from 15 academic departments at LSE



+10k impressions generated on social media

### Applications by academic year



### Applications by academic department

# Project Summaries



## **Anglo-American financial cooperation from the First World War and beyond**

**Faculty:** Dr James Morrison, Department of International Relations

**Research Assistant:** Matthew Prescod, Department of International Relations

*"Working on this research project has made me grasp and appreciate the complex processes of thought generation, revision and deliberation that went into producing Keynes' General Theory of Money and Employment."*

## **China and the United States Since 1949**

**Faculty:** Dr Elizabeth Ingleson, Department of International History

**Research Assistant:** Rosalie Roechert, Department of International Relations

*"I had the exciting opportunity to help Dr Elizabeth Ingleson with the research for her upcoming book 'China and the United States since 1949: An International History'. The aim of the research project was to analyse the changes and continuities in US administrations' perceptions of China from 1949 to the present day."*



## **Effective policy approaches to support single-parent families**

**Faculty:** Dr Amanda Sheely, Department of Social Policy

**Research Assistant:** Isolde Hegemann, Department of Social Policy

*"The research assistantship provided me with the opportunity to explore the editorial tasks academics and researchers have to execute so their research adheres to appropriate academic conventions."*

## **Latinx Futures: The Civil, Cultural and Political Stakes for Southern California Latinx Communities**

**Faculty:** Dr Paul Apostolidis, Department of Government

**Research Assistant:** Fernanda Alvarez Piñeiro, Department of Government

*"This multidisciplinary project in collaboration with the University of California, Riverside, USC, UT Austin, UC Merced, UCLA and UNAM and UAM in Mexico sought to develop methods to empower the community to actively dismantle barriers to Latinx learning and participation."*



## **Public housing, politics and ideology**

**Faculty:** Dr David Madden, Department of Sociology

**Research Assistant:** Jan Jakob Krüger, Department of Social Policy

*"Together with [Dr] Madden I engaged in foundational research in preparation of a journal article on the role of ideology and discourse in the development of New York City public and social housing policy."*

# Project Summaries

## Progressive Policing in the Gilded Age

**Faculty:** Dr Johann Koehler, Department of Social Policy

**Research Assistant:** Vaneeza Jawad, Department of Anthropology

*"This project... presented me with an opportunity to deconstruct the processes which eventually allowed the creation and maintenance of the carceral culture at the centre of social organisation in the US."*



## Religion, party loyalty, and the Utah LDS Church

**Faculty:** Dr Fenella Cannell, Department of Anthropology

**Research Assistant:** Kasia Micklem, Department of International History

*"As Research Assistant, my role was to create monitoring lists on published sources in order to create a dynamic picture of the dominant strands of Utah opinion and trace their evolution through the months, November 2021 to June 2022."*



## The Bayou of Pigs: The US-led plot to invade Dominica

**Faculty:** Dr Imaobong Umoren, Department of International History

**Research Assistant:** Ariba Fatima, Department of Law

*"I have the privilege of working alongside Dr Umoren with regard to her research project on the US-led plot to invade the island of Dominica in the early 1980s... Particular regard was given to the political context in which the attempted coup was situated; namely, one in which white power internationalism was gaining traction."*



## The State of the States

**Faculty:** Professor Peter Trubowitz, Department of International Relations, and Chris Gilson, Phelan United States Centre

**Research Assistant:** Namrata Anil Menon, Department of Philosophy

*"Over the past academic year, I have worked as a Research Assistant for Chris Gilson, helping develop this digital resource [The State of the States] further and immersing myself in the American state policy landscape... This project has provided a framework with which I can better understand the American political landscape."*

**Image:** UGRA **Rosalie Roechert** presenting her research on 'China and the United States Since 1949' at *Knowledge Beyond Boundaries*, LSE's interdisciplinary student research conference, in June 2022.

In addition, in April 2022, **Dr Paul Apostolidis** gave a talk at the University of California, Riverside, entitled 'Racial Capitalism and Resistance: Latinx Civil Society in the Inland Empire', on the research project that he and his UGRA, **Fernanda Alvarez-Piñeiro**, worked on. Please click [here](#) for the link (Video credit: UC Riverside).





# Q&A With Our Research Assistants

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

*"I now have a much deeper understanding of public policy in New York City and particularly housing policy... On an organisational level I have learned to work with new software called Aeon Timeline which has been the backbone during the UGRA."*

*"As the focus of my own independent research so far has also been on the intersection between religion and politics, working on this project provided a fantastic opportunity to experience the mechanics of research within academia and learn from a specialist on a subject in which I hope to continue building broader expertise."*

*"I think the program and the specific project I was an RA for have definitely cemented my interest in policy and political science research as something I want to pursue long-term."*

## What was your favourite aspect of the programme?

*"I really cherished being able to speak to my project lead about things other than our research, such as university in general and plans for graduate school. It's been invaluable and has helped me narrow down potential interests."*

*"I enjoyed meeting the other RAs at the mid-way session. This gave a sense of being part of a wider programme, as the research itself is independent. It was interesting to hear about all the other research projects and catch the general feeling about the projects so far."*

*"I'm grateful for the regular meetings I had with my project lead, both for feedback and updates. These were very valuable parts of my work – they helped guide the scope of my research and were where I learned the most about the area of research."*

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

*"I want to go to grad school next year, and this experience has strengthened that conviction: I really enjoy research and writing. I was initially hesitant about applying to fully research-focused master's programmes but now I'm excited."*

*"I have plans to continue working in the research area that covers religion, politics, and minority rights. Assisting on this project at the LSE US Centre has contributed to shaping a path into further work in this field through the development of research skills and specialised knowledge."*

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

*"I'd like to say thank you for making this program possible – it was one of the most rewarding parts of this academic year for me, and I'm grateful for the interests it has helped cement and the skills it has helped build."*

*"Just: thank you! I'm also a recipient of the Undergraduate Support Scheme at LSE, which means without funding from the university I would not have been able to enrol. This research assistantship has allowed me to fully explore my interests in a manner I didn't think would ever be possible, and I'm very grateful."*