

GENERAL ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

(For all postgraduate students registered in the 2025/26 academic year)

These regulations are approved by the Academic Board.

Last updated: August 2025

General

1. These Regulations apply to all persons having registered for a Postgraduate course or programme of study at the School (which includes Diploma and Certificate programmes or exit awards) and should be read in conjunction with the [Conditions of Registration and Enrolment 2024/25](#). All Undergraduate students have their own [General Academic Regulations](#). These regulations are made subject to the Articles of Association of the School and to the School bye-laws, where appropriate. Any disputes arising from the application of the Regulations shall be governed by the Laws of England currently in force.

2. In these regulations the following terms shall have the meanings given:

Assessment	An assessed component of a course such as an examination, essay, dissertation, field project, presentation etc. which counts towards the award of a degree, also referred to elsewhere as summative assessment;
Course	A distinct part of a programme comprising lectures, classes, seminars, workshops and / or other learning activities;
Degree regulations	The Regulations for the Certificate, Diplomas, Master's Degrees, Research Degrees and their associated classification schemes, as appropriate;
Qualification	An academic award such as a, Graduate Certificate or Diploma, Master's Degree or Research Degree;
Programme	A whole programme of study, comprising courses, whether or not it is intended that it should lead to an award of the School;
Resit	In the context of assessment, an attempt at a failed assessment other than the first attempt opportunity, such as an examination resit or resubmission of a piece of written coursework;
School	The London School of Economics and Political Science;
Sitting/Submitting	Entering an exam room to attempt an examination or attempting any other form of assessment (e.g. submitting coursework);
Student	A person registered as a student of the School under these Regulations;
Unredeemed fail	A failed course that is not passed (or redeemed) at resit.

3. Communications the School sends to an individual student will apply to that student only.

Admission

4. An applicant for admission shall be required to:
 - 4.1 satisfy, or to be formally exempted by the School from, the entry requirements prescribed for the programme concerned, and
 - 4.2 apply through the prescribed procedure and to comply with subsequent administrative requirements.

5. The School may offer a place to an applicant on the programme applied for or on any other programme, or reject the application. An offer of a place may be conditional on the applicant obtaining a particular set of qualifications, either at pass level or at particular levels of pass, before a date determined by the School.

6. Competence in the English language is required of all applicants. The School will determine the level of competence required of each applicant and may make its achievement a condition of admission.

7. The School may from time to time determine the age or ages below which it will not admit students or will not admit them without special consideration.

Registration

8. As per the [Conditions of Registration and Enrolment](#) a person who has not completed both pre-enrolment and on-campus enrolment is not considered as registered or enrolled at the School and shall not be entitled to take part in any activity in the School as a student. A person who is not enrolled as a student may not receive teaching at the School.

9. The Academic Registrar or their designated deputy may require any relevant documentation to be produced for inspection to establish the personal details and educational attainment of a person seeking registration and enrolment.

10. A student is required to register annually during the programme of study, according to procedures determined by the Academic Registrar or the Deputy Director of the [PhD Academy](#) or their designated deputy. The requirements for registration beyond initial registration are as follows:
 - 101 to have satisfied the academic requirements for progression from the previous year of study or to have been granted repeat teaching, and
 - 102 to have completed all forms and/or provided all information required by the School as part of the re-registration process, and
 - 103 to have paid all fees and charges due to the School or to have provided guarantees of such payment satisfactory to the School, and
 - 104 not to have been barred from further registration or enrolment at the time concerned by application of these or other Regulations.
11. Students are entitled to take part in all prescribed learning activities and to use all relevant services of the School for the period of their enrolment.
12. On full completion of pre-enrolment and on-campus enrolment a representative of the School shall provide the student with an ID card. Any member of staff of the School may require production of this card at any time to establish entitlement to enter the School or to take part in its activities. A replacement may be obtained for a lost or damaged card, on payment of a fee to be determined by the Academic Registrar or their designated deputy.
13. Registration may be withdrawn at any time under these and other Regulations. After withdrawal a student is no longer entitled without special permission to use any facilities or services of the School or to receive any teaching or to be assessed.
14. The normal maximum period of registration for a postgraduate programme will be as follows: two years for 9-, 10- and 12-month programmes; three years for 21-month programmes; and four years for 24-month programmes or part-time study of any programme. The normal maximum period of registration for Executive MSc programmes will be six years. Failure to achieve an award within the maximum period of registration allowed will result in deregistration in accordance with the Conditions of Registration.
15. A full-time student will normally register for courses to the value of four full course units in each year. A part-time student will normally register for courses to a value of three full course units or fewer. Courses must be chosen to comply with the programme regulations.
16. A student may not register or remain registered without the special permission of the School, if simultaneously registered for another programme of higher education. In such circumstances the School reserves the right to terminate their registration.

Programme Interruptions

17. The School may at its discretion permit a student to [interrupt their studies](#) on grounds of illness or other relevant cause for a period of up to one year. Such students are required to apply for an interruption in accordance with the specified deadlines. In very exceptional circumstances, the School may permit a further interruption of up to one year. Requests to interrupt are usually only authorised on submission of evidence of exceptional circumstances. Guidance on requesting interruptions and responsibility for approval is published on the Student Services Centre website <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-services/student-services-centre>

Programme Transfers and Variations

18. The offer of admission and acceptance of a place applies to the specific degree programme that is named in the offer letter. The School will not allow a successful applicant to transfer from one programme to another after registration, unless it considers that exceptional circumstances apply. Such permission will be given only on the recommendation of the directors for the student's current programme and for the programme into which they wish to transfer.
19. The regulations for the programme upon which the student has registered determine the courses of study available to them. This includes courses determined as compulsory and non-compulsory option courses.
20. A student may only change the courses for which they have initially registered within the published timeframe the Autumn Term (AT) and Winter Term (WT). The School will not permit a student who has attended teaching during AT to drop AT half unit course(s) or full unit courses for which they have received teaching in the AT during a WT course change period.
21. If a student is taking a full-time programme of 12-months' duration or longer, they may be allowed to spend a maximum period of six months on project work under appropriate supervision at an organisation or institution approved by the School. The criterion for approval shall be that the external organisation or institution shall have a function relevant and suitable to the field of study. Such external project work will be at the discretion of the School, provided that it is allowed under the individual programme regulations. Part-time students may be allowed to undertake such external project work for an equivalent period. If a student is taking a full-time programme of less than 12-months' duration, they will not be allowed to undertake project work outside the School unless permitted by the individual programme regulations.

Boards of Examiners

22. The School will establish a Graduate School Board of Examiners for taught graduate programmes. Each programme and course will be the responsibility of a departmental Sub-Board of Examiners which will report to the Graduate School Board.
23. Each Sub-Board of Examiners shall include examiners who are not members of staff of the School known as External Examiners, who shall have regard to the totality of each programme.
24. Assessment procedures shall ensure that assessment is and can be demonstrated to be fair and impartial.
25. Each Board of Examiners shall ensure *inter alia* that the application of approved classification schemes shall have regard to the totality of the programme and to the requirements for progression within it, and to the requirement for each student to achieve a satisfactory overall standard.

Assessment

26. By registering with the School a student agrees to be entered for assessment on the courses they are taking, at the time and place set by the School and by the methods prescribed in the relevant [degree and programme regulations](#) and in the [School Calendar Course Guides](#).
27. A student is required to engage with their studies by attending classes, seminars, workshops, supervision sessions or other prescribed learning activities and producing promptly the work required. Dereliction, such as not attending classes/seminars or repeated failure to complete formative work or required summative assessment, will result first in a warning, and if continued will result in exclusion from future assessment or from the School as appropriate.
28. Where a formative assessment is delegated as a “threshold assessment” as indicated by the Department responsible for the assessment, it is compulsory. Where a threshold formative assessment is submitted late or not submitted at all, the Department responsible for the assessment will have discretion to apply up to a 10% mark deduction from the marks awarded to the corresponding summative assessment.
29. A student will be assessed in each course, unless they have deferred or withdrawn under these Regulations.
30. Students are bound by the regulations in force at the time of their first entry to the examination or other assessment, including the individual programme regulations.
31. The method(s) of assessment for each taught course and the weighting of each method of assessment will be specified in the Course Guides.
32. Where required students must obtain appropriate ethics approval for research undertaken in dissertations or equivalent assessments. Failure to undertake a review of the ethical implications of such research or failure to apply reasonable care in assessing the likely ethical implications of a research project, may constitute research misconduct under the School’s research misconduct policy and procedures. To ascertain whether ethics approval is required, students should refer to the bullet points listed [here](#).
33. The School may when required, in accordance with approved My Adjustments permit a variation of the method(s) of assessment for a course, for an individual student. In cases where students need to resit non-replicable assessment tasks, an appropriate alternative task will be set.
34. No fee is payable for the first attempt at an assessment.
35. In-person examinations take place in the week preceding the Winter Term and during the Spring Term. Students are required to be in attendance at the School for the duration of the periods in which their examinations take place and to be available until the end of the Spring Term.
36. All work submitted must be certified to be the student’s own, and must comply with the School’s [Statement on Editorial Help for Students’ Written Work](#), and with the School’s [Regulations on Assessment Offences](#). The School reserves the right to conduct both selective and randomised interviews with students to discuss their summative submissions in order to authenticate authorship.
37. Students who complete and fail a course overall, and are not eligible for an award, and have attempt opportunities remaining will be required to resit all failed assessments that form part of that course. Such students may resit/resubmit failed assessments within that course on one occasion only.
38. A student will not be re-assessed in any course or assessment in which they have already received a pass mark¹.
39. A student will not be re-assessed in any course or assessment they have failed if they are eligible for the award of a qualification (e.g. certificate, diploma, degree). Where a student is required to resit a failed assessment, the pass mark(s) achieved in other passed assessments of that course shall count towards the new overall course mark, but the overall course grade will be capped at the Pass mark of 50. A maximum mark of 50 in the resit course will be used for calculating the overall award including the overall aggregate mark if required.
40. Students must attempt all assessment components in every course, such as sitting an examination or submitting a piece of coursework, in order to be eligible for the award of a degree. Failure to do so will still count as an attempt opportunity and result in a mark of ‘Zero Absent’ in the assessment in question and the course overall if that assessment is worth 100% of the course; or, ‘Zero Incomplete’ in the course overall if the assessment is worth less than 100% of the course. In either case the student must resit that assessment, provided they have attempt opportunities remaining and irrespective of the results of other assessments within the same course. In such cases where a student is required to resit, the new overall course grade will be capped at pass.

41. Students may receive a Zero Fail mark for one or more components of assessment as a result of academic failure, academic misconduct, late submission or exceeding the word count etc. Such students will be expected to resubmit the work if the overall mark for the course is a Fail, the student is not otherwise eligible for an award and has an attempt opportunity remaining. The resit shall take place according to the section on Resits below. Students are not permitted to resit passed assessments.
42. Students who at the first attempt, fail an assessment but have deferred other assessments within the same course will be entered to attempt those assessments during the same assessment period but may choose to opt out of resitting the failed assessment(s) at the same time they attempt the deferred assessment(s). Where a student is eligible to opt out of a resit, they will be provided details about the opt out process in an email from the Student Services Centre. In such cases, where a student decides to resit the failed assessment(s) the overall course mark will be capped at Pass as described above.
43. If a student decides not to resit failed assessments at the same time as taking their deferred assessments within the same course, all marks obtained at first attempt will be banked and used to calculate the new overall course mark once the deferred assessment has been taken. If the new overall course mark results in an overall fail mark and the student is not otherwise eligible for an award, they will be permitted to resit any failed assessment provided they have attempts remaining at the next opportunity according to the section on Resits below.
44. Where a student has failed courses and must resit/resubmit failed assessments they must ensure they complete enough courses to achieve the minimum criteria for an award as set out in the relevant classification scheme. Students must formally opt out of resitting/resubmitting failed course(s) by informing the Records Team by the published deadline. Opting out of repeating any failed course(s) is at the student's own risk and they must ensure they have passed any courses that are deemed as critical to assessment in the relevant local rules for their programme. Once a student has opted out of a resit they will not be permitted another opportunity to attempt it.
45. A student who completes a programme at the School and subsequently registers on to a new programme cannot retake any course which they have already passed during their time at the School.
46. Any marks awarded for a previous programme of study for which an award has been made cannot count towards any further programmes of study taken at the School.

Adjustments to Assessment, Deferrals and Exceptional Circumstances

47. The School shall establish a procedure for determining reasonable adjustments to assessment for students with a disability, chronic medical condition or who experience an acute illness or injury during an assessment period.
48. Examiners/markers shall assess work without referring to medical and/or exceptional circumstances, unless they receive written instructions from Student Services to do so.
49. All students are required to sit in-person examinations in London in accordance with the examination timetables which are published prior to each examination period. By submitting an assessment or attending an examination, the School considers the student to be declaring themselves fit to sit. If a student experiences disruption to their studies prior to this point from personal difficulties e.g. bereavement or illness, they should consider whether an extension or deferral is more appropriate and seek advice from the Student Services Centre and/or their academic department.
50. The School has established a set of procedures which students may access if they face exceptional circumstances which affect examinations or other forms of assessment:
 - 50.1 A student may request to defer one or more assessments in accordance with the School's published Deferral Procedure.
 - 50.2 A student may be permitted to sit an in-person examination overseas in exceptional circumstances where there is clear evidence that the event, in the School's view, would make it inadvisable for the student to return to the UK. The School will not agree to a request which is based solely on the student's personal convenience or the cost of travelling to London.
 - 50.3 A student who is unable to follow the Extension or Deferral Procedure must follow the Exceptional Circumstances Procedure in order to inform the Sub-board of examiners about circumstances that may have affected their assessment(s). Such circumstances must be sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question. The Sub-Board of Examiners may inform the relevant School Board of Examiners of these circumstances.
51. In only the most exceptional cases where the exceptional circumstances are sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question, Sub-Boards may recommend to the School Board of Examiners that:
 - 51.1 the student's result(s) in the affected assessment(s) be discounted, and that they be allowed to resit. Where this is a first attempt at the assessment the resulting course mark will not be capped. Where this is a second attempt, the course mark will be capped at the Pass mark of 50;
 - 51.2 the student's result(s) in the affected assessment(s) not be discounted, but that they be allowed an exceptional additional attempt opportunity. Where this additional attempt is a third attempt the overall course mark will be capped at the Pass mark of 50;
 - 51.3 the student be awarded a degree where a degree would not normally be awarded. Sub-Boards may not make this recommendation for a student who has made no attempt a summative assessment, as set out in the General Academic Regulations unless it is made under the Aegrotat degree Award Policy.

52 The Graduate School Board of Examiners shall be the sole authority in deciding whether to uphold such recommendations.

Full details and guidance on these procedures are published on the Student Services Centre website: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-services/student-services-centre> .

Resits

53 Having taken assessments during the academic year, if a student (except for Diploma students and those taking [postgraduate In-Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period \(IRDAP\) enabled courses](#)) is required to resit an assessment or defers an attempt opportunity at an assessment, the next opportunity to take the assessment will be in or before the end of the next postgraduate Resit and Deferred Assessment Period (RDAP) – which is during the week preceding the Winter Term.

54 Students (except for Diploma students) deferring an assessment or carrying a resit from the RDAP will be able to take outstanding assessments during the next Spring Term assessment period, without being required to wait until the next RDAP. This means that a student who has assessments outstanding after the January 2027 RDAP will take them in the Spring Term 2027 assessment period rather than having to wait until the next RDAP in January 2028. Students carrying an IRDAP enabled resit or deferred assessment from the IRDAP will be due to take those assessments at the next appropriate opportunity.

55 Students registered on a Diploma programme will attempt resit or deferred assessments depending on the level of study of the assessment; for undergraduate level 100-300 courses, this will be during the undergraduate IRDAP, which take place in August and for postgraduate level 400 courses, this will be the postgraduate RDAP during the week before Winter Term. All resit or deferred attempts at postgraduate IRDAP enabled courses will take place during IRDAP.

56 Diploma students who defer and/or fail assessments taken during the RDAP or IRDAP, and have attempt opportunities remaining, are required to take outstanding resit/deferred assessments during the next suitable opportunity.

57 Students taking programmes of more than 12 months e.g. 21 or 24 months will be eligible to resit any failed or Bad Failed course/s from their first year of study if they are ineligible to progress into the next year of study without resitting those course/s and have not run out of attempts to resit. Or, if they are required to take a pre-emptive resit in an IRDAP enabled course.

58 Bad Failed courses will always need to be re-taken at the earliest opportunity i.e. the next RDAP where the student has attempts remaining. Assessments for which students were Absent or in cases where a student has received a Zero Incomplete mark for the course will also be taken at the earliest opportunity i.e. the next RDAP. For IRDAP enabled courses this will be during IRDAP.

59 Students taking programmes of more than 12 months who have failed a course but are still able to progress into the next year of study and/or are eligible for an award once all course assessments have been completed, will not be able to resit the failed course/s. Eligibility to resit will be subject to the rules set out in the relevant programme regulations and/or classification scheme and/or local rules.

60 MRes students whose programme regulations specify they are unable to progress to the next year of study or to the PhD without having passed all failed courses or who need to meet specific PhD progression criteria for example specific course marks or average marks will resit at the earliest opportunity i.e. the next RDAP.

61 Part-time students who fail courses in year one of their studies will be eligible to resit any Bad Failed course/s or failed courses which prevent them from being eligible to progress or achieve an award, if they have attempt opportunities remaining in the subsequent RDAP e.g. if a first year Bad Fail mark is confirmed in July the assessment for that course will be re-taken in the January RDAP (subject to the rules for Diploma students and those taking IRDAP enabled courses as outlined above). Resits for any other good failed/failed courses will be re-taken following confirmation of all course results once all assessments have been completed if the student is ineligible for an award and has not run out of attempt opportunities to resit. Assessments for which students were Absent or in cases where a student has received a Zero Incomplete mark for the course will be taken at the earliest opportunity i.e. the next RDAP (subject to the rules for Diploma students and those taking IRDAP enabled courses as outlined above).

62 A student being re-assessed must take assessments for the same courses as they attempted previously, unless they obtain permission from their department and the Repeat Teaching Panel and satisfactorily complete assessments for different courses.

63 A student proposing to resit an assessment or attempt a deferred assessment whilst on interruption from their programme of study shall be permitted to undertake that assessment by the Academic Registrar or their designated deputy.

64 A student that is unable to progress to the next stage of their programme or is unable to be awarded the degree at the end of their programme without resit will be required to pay a resit fee.

65 Results obtained at resit always supersede any previous attempt unless taken as a pre-emptive IRDAP. Academic transcripts will show the course results of the attempts at assessment used to calculate student award classifications and previous attempts at assessment where possible, unless discounted on the basis of exceptional circumstances, as described above, or the pre-emptive IRDAP enabled course mark is not needed.

Eligibility for Award

66 To be eligible for the award of a qualification a student must have:

- 66.1 completed to the satisfaction of the School all components of assessment in all courses that form the programme prescribed by the School for the qualification concerned, and
- 66.2 shown a competent knowledge across the programme of study taken as a whole; and
- 66.3 met all requirements set out in the General Academic Regulations, Classification Scheme and Programme Regulations.

67 A student will be awarded a qualification under the relevant classification scheme at the first point at which they become eligible. Students eligible for award with unredeemed failed assessments will not be given the opportunity to resit the failed assessments.

68 A student upon whom a qualification has been conferred ceases to be eligible for consideration for any further award arising from that programme.

69 No student will be recommended for the award of any qualification who has not settled any outstanding academic debt with the School or who has not made acceptable arrangements to settle any such account, and neither will any information on such a person's academic performance be communicated to that person or to any third party save as required by law.

Late Assessment Submission

70 All students must be given clear written instructions on what is required and the deadline for submission of assessments. This applies for both a first attempt and any subsequent resit or deferred attempts. Deadlines should not normally be set during a non-working day or for a working day before a non-working day.

71 A student may apply for an extension to published deadlines for summative assessment in accordance with the School's published Extension Procedure.

72 If a student fails to submit by the set deadline (or extended deadline as appropriate) only the Sub-board Chair can decide whether or not to accept the work. If late work is accepted, late penalties will be applied. The full list of penalties can be found on the [Assessment Discipline and Academic Misconduct](#) web page.

Information about Assessment Results

73 Following each diet of assessments of taught courses, students may request an intermediate transcript of their marks or grades obtained at those assessments.

74 A certificate of award will be dispatched to each student who is awarded a qualification. The certificate will state the title of the qualification and the date of conferment.

75 The School will generate a final transcript of marks or grades awarded for taught courses to every student on completion of the programme.

Copyright

76 Students should refer to the School's [Intellectual Property policy](#).

Grievances and appeals

77 A student dissatisfied with any aspect of teaching provided by the School may pursue their case through the [Student Complaints Procedure](#), unless the substantive subject of the grievance is covered by a separate procedure such as that on sexual harassment.

78 A student may appeal against the decision of the examiners concerned, as set out in the Appeals Regulations. A research student may appeal against a decision to terminate registration, a decision not to upgrade to PhD or the result of an MPhil or PhD examination, as set out in the Appeals Regulations for Research Students. Appeals against the academic judgment of examiners are not permitted.

Notes

¹The exceptions are research students who may be permitted to resit an assessment required for progression which does not contribute to an award. Such students are entitled to one further attempt only.

See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.