

# PhD career development programme 2016/17

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide features several overlapping, curved lines in shades of blue, red, orange, and green, creating a sense of movement and depth.

[lse.ac.uk/careers](http://lse.ac.uk/careers)

# Introduction

## Welcome from LSE Careers

I would like to extend a warm welcome from LSE Careers. We have many years' experience of working with PhD students from all departments and offer a substantial programme of career development for PhD students looking to develop their career in academic or in other employment sectors. Here you'll find a guide to the various specialist events, seminars and talks occurring over the year, as well as details of one-to-one help, where jobs are advertised and where you can find careers information useful during and after your PhD. I hope you find the range of alumni stories interesting. Make the most of your time at LSE; the skills and experience you gain alongside your PhD studies will shape your career transitions. Many students stay in touch with each other after they leave and the professional network you develop while you are here will form the basis of your future working life.

**Catherine Reynolds, Careers Consultant for PhD students and research staff**

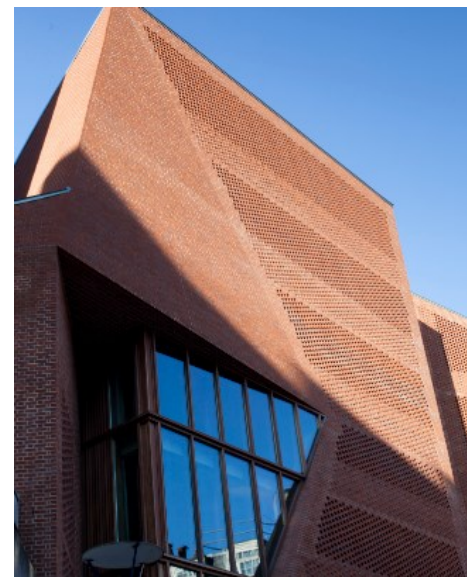


## Welcome from the PhD Academy

One of our objectives in the PhD Academy is to enable all students to develop rewarding and meaningful careers. We know over 98 per cent of our PhD graduates find a position within six months of graduating, in university departments, research institutions, NGOs, government departments, international organisations, the public sector and the commercial sector. Many PhD students find the network of contacts they make while at LSE and the help provided by LSE Careers invaluable. Whether it is attending a careers event in the [PhD Academy](#), talking with Catherine at one of our dedicated sessions, arranging a practice interview, or simply consulting the information sources online or in the Careers Resource Centre, there are plenty of ways to build your career and create opportunities. You are encouraged to start considering your career and professional development early in your PhD studies. This booklet describes some of the careers services appropriate for PhD students. We hope you find it helpful.



**Professor Linda Mulcahy**  
Director of the PhD Academy and ESRC Doctoral Training Centre



## LSE Careers

Floor 5  
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 LSE Careers

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# LSE Careers

Whether you have a clear idea of what you want to do after your studies or haven't started thinking about it yet, [LSE Careers](#) can help. We provide a range of careers services and [events](#), information and advice online and in [one-to-one appointments](#), and a [jobs board](#) with UK and international full-time, part-time, graduate, internship, experienced hire, and volunteering opportunities. It can be a bit overwhelming to know where to start, but we can help you find focus and direction.

## Where is LSE Careers?

We're based on [Floor 5 of the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre](#) - come and visit us to ask questions, collect free resources, use the space and facilities, and borrow careers-related books. We're open Monday to Friday, 9:30am-5pm with late openings until 8pm on Thursdays. PhD appointments and events take place in the PhD Academy on Floor 4 of the Lionel Robbins Building.

## LSE CareerHub

[CareerHub](#) is your gateway to our [careers events](#) (including seminars, fairs, employer presentations and more), one-to-one appointments, the organisations we work with, and our vacancy board.

First time on CareerHub? Log in with your LSE IT account and then go to the '[Preferences](#)' section to let us know what you're interested in. This will ensure you receive the most relevant information about jobs, opportunities, and events.

## Services for disabled students

LSE Careers has a dedicated Careers Consultant whose focus is on the transition from education to employment for students who have a disability or a neurodiverse condition. You can find more [information for students with disabilities](#) on the LSE Careers website, and [please get in touch](#) (we offer longer, flexible appointments) if you'd like support with anything including recruitment process, disclosure, reasonable adjustments, legal issues and other disability careers issues.

## Other services at LSE

### Language Centre

The [LSE Language Centre](#) offers modern foreign language and English language programmes, as well as providing proof-reading services (for a fee).

### LSE Alumni

Alumni have [access to LSE Careers](#) for up to five years after course completion and you can join [regional](#) and [special interest](#) alumni groups too. Find out how to make the most of the [LSE Alumni](#) network, and [follow LSE Alumni](#) on social media to get the latest information and advice.



# Getting started

## LSE Careers online

Our [website](#) is where you'll find lots of useful advice about career planning, CVs, application forms, interviews, and assessment centres, as well as information on searching for jobs, employment sectors, postgraduate studies, and international careers. To keep up to date look out for our weekly newsletter on email, [subscribe to our blog](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## LSE Volunteer Centre

Whether you have an hour or two days a week to spare, there are at least 100 one-off, long-term, and overseas opportunities advertised on CareerHub at any time. If you'd like support finding the right opportunity for you, [book a one-to-one appointment](#) on CareerHub. The [LSE Volunteer Centre website](#) also has a wealth of information and advice.

## LSE Generate

[Generate](#) is for entrepreneurial students interested in starting a business, or joining an organisation that promotes entrepreneurship as a core value. Generate offers a skills development programme and networking events where you can learn, market test ideas, and build relationships with other entrepreneurs and startups.



## Giulia Pastorella European Studies 2016

Public Affairs Manager, Hewlett Packard

I am currently an in-house public affairs manager at HP, the American tech company. However, I was never 100% sure I wanted move outside academia. So my strategy has been to shift in and out of it, or combine work and study, since my early university days. It turns out that 'just' a PhD is not enough for today's job market.



During my BA and MSc I did summer internships everywhere from a space policy think tank and a French newspaper, to a university-affiliated consultancy and a horse riding centre!

After my master's degree, I worked for a year in a public affairs consultancy, only to then come back to academia for my PhD. Faithful to my strategy, I taught, researched and published, but was also freelancing on the side and founded an academia-related startup. This zig-zag paid off, as I was then able to transition quickly and smoothly at the end of my PhD into the position I occupy today. And who knows: one day I might go back to academia!





## During your PhD

You will be looking for ways to build your skills and experience by:

- ◆ developing research skills, presenting work, and contributing to your field
- ◆ attending and speaking at conferences, preparing papers for publication
- ◆ engaging with the public outside academia, blogging, media work, events
- ◆ organising conferences, editing journals, giving research assistance
- ◆ teaching undergraduates and master's students, marking work, developing courses; undertaking a teaching qualification

You will also prepare for your next career move by:

- ◆ doing consultancy, freelance or internship work
- ◆ building your network of contacts; collaborating with others
- ◆ understanding the organisations who might recruit you
- ◆ signing up for job alerts from specialist websites and monitoring vacancies
- ◆ preparing alternative ways to present yourself and your work for different contexts

**But don't be overwhelmed!**

30 minute one-to-one career discussions, which you can [book online through CareerHub](#), are available every week and can help you set your priorities and plan your time efficiently. Our core programme of [careers events](#) is open to all students so you are welcome to attend these as well as specialist PhD ones. You can browse and book these on [CareerHub](#).

**Caroline Varin**  
International Relations, 2012

**Lecturer, Regent's University;  
Associate Fellow, Global South  
Unit LSE**

I am currently a lecturer in Security and International Organisations and work with the Global South Unit LSE where I organise the annual CAF-LSE conference. My PhD thesis was entitled 'Mercenaries and the State', supervised by Professor Christopher Coker.



After graduating with my PhD, I worked for six months with a private security company, then left to pursue a career in academia. I first worked part-time for two universities before getting a full-time position. My research focuses on war and security, especially non-state actors. I published my first book last year, based on my thesis, and am publishing a second book in 2016 on Boko Haram.

I love the flexibility to have several jobs at once: I teach, research, travel, write, explore. I am excited by students who still believe they can change things and have the energy to make their mark on the world. I hope to stay in academia for a while, then perhaps use my research skills to support government work.



## Seminars and events 2016-17

To help you plan and prepare, careers seminars and events take place throughout the year including:

- ◆ Career options after your PhD - planning ahead (10 October)
- ◆ PhD entrepreneurs - could this be you? (12 October)
- ◆ Preparing for an academic career in the UK (24 October)
- ◆ CVs for outside academia (7 November)
- ◆ [International Organisations Day](#) (IOD, 12 November, for all students) - hear from major UN organisations, development banks and other agencies
- ◆ CVs for academic posts (21 November)
- ◆ PhD students and research staff - managing your career (30 January)
- ◆ Working in research roles in international development (1 February)
- ◆ Interview skills for academic jobs (1 March)
- ◆ Finding and applying for research fellowships (6 March)
- ◆ Interview skills for jobs outside academia (8 May)
- ◆ [Meet an Alum](#) (for all students, taking place every Thursday evening during Michaelmas and Lent Terms with a range of career sectors represented)

**Fairs:** Public Sector and Policy Careers Event (18 Oct); Consultancy (4/6 Oct); Banking and Financial Services (27/29 Sept); Marketing and Communications (20 Oct)

**Employer presentations:** on and off-campus (ongoing)

Browse the full listings and book on [CareerHub](#).

**Alex Leveringhaus**  
**Government, 2011**

**Post-doctoral research fellow,  
University of Oxford Institute for  
Ethics**

I have held two research fellowships since graduating: one in Germany and the UK.



Academia is a very competitive sector but an LSE PhD is highly regarded and helped me to apply for academic positions. Since graduating, I have really developed as a researcher and am very happy to be where I am now. I work on a research project focusing on the ethical and legal impacts of emerging targeting systems. It allows me to integrate my philosophical work with more policy orientated work and I have really enjoyed working with policy makers. I like working in an emerging area of research; it's a great opportunity to make a contribution to a new field.

I plan to either continue as a researcher or become a lecturer. LSE is one of the best universities in Europe for political theory and political philosophy and I had rigorous academic training here which helped me immensely as a researcher. Working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant was very helpful. Teaching is a great joy of academic life, and LSE gave me the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills.



# Careers appointments and vacancies

## One-to-one support

We offer 30-minute appointments every week. Log on to [CareerHub](#) and book online up to one month in advance. Use appointments to review your career, develop your ideas, assess your plans, or get feedback on your approach, written applications or interview preparation.

## Jobs

There are numerous part-time job vacancies and internships listed on [CareerHub](#). If you are Research Council funded student, also look for RCUK internships in government, policy and public service. Part-time jobs include research roles, academic administration, internships, teaching and tutoring amongst others.

Early in your PhD these roles will generate income and help to build evidence of skills and experience. We can help you network with employers, organisations and alumni and support speculative applications to organisations. Later in your PhD, familiarise yourself with the requirements for roles advertised on academic and other specialist job sites. There are lists of these on our [website](#) for UK, European and international labour markets. There are also some relevant job vacancies listed on [CareerHub](#).

Joe Hoover  
International Relations, 2011

Lecturer in Political Theory,  
Queen Mary University of London

My career has progressed as I planned and better than I had hoped. Permanent jobs in academia are relatively scarce and I was fortunate to find a permanent post in London in my area of expertise.



My first job was at City University, focused on teaching, research and administration. I was the programme director for an MA programme on International Politics and Human Rights. I have developed several new courses and teach regularly.

My other primary job is conducting original academic research. Both of these tasks require extensive specialist knowledge and well-developed critical and analytical skills. Recently I moved to my new role at Queen Mary to continue my academic career progression.

My time at the LSE was very helpful; in part this reflects the quality of the education I received, but it also reflects the quality of the people with whom I formed professional relationships. The reputation of LSE has been an advantage in the job market.





## Other events and training

### Key events

- ◆ LSE Research Festival - a celebration of social science research
- ◆ professional development for PhDs - training throughout the year in the PhD Academy
- ◆ PGCert HE and other teacher training opportunities
- ◆ research methodology - courses run throughout the year and some online
- ◆ information literacy courses - run by the Library, including online presence

### Opportunities to grow your network

- ◆ visiting scholar
- ◆ collaborations with non-Higher Education partners
- ◆ internship, consultant or research assistant roles
- ◆ conference organiser, presenter, speaker
- ◆ funding for travel, studentship, or other awards
- ◆ journal reviewer or editor
- ◆ staff/student liaison

Many opportunities and events for Academic and Professional Development are advertised through the [PhD Academy events and courses page](#). Use a [one-to-one careers appointment](#) to review activities aligned with your career development.

Alison Johnston  
European Studies, 2011

Assistant Professor in Political  
Science, Oregon State University

I was fortunate to enter this tenure track position immediately after LSE. My research experience,



teaching roles and the publishing record I produced at LSE was a huge help to attaining the position. The European Institute undertook a variety of initiatives to help graduate students publish in peer-reviewed journals.

Opportunities for teaching undergraduates in departments outside my own (namely economics) gave me an interdisciplinary edge in teaching. I love what I do, I get to do research that I find interesting and important, I teach subjects that I love, and Oregon State provides a lot of research support for my endeavours.

I would advise current PhDs to take advantage of the opportunities and get started early. If you want to enter academia, you'll need all the research experience AND outputs you can get. Also, enjoy London; this is not entirely apparent but you have more time to relax during your PhD than you do once you enter a tenure track position with a ticking tenure clock!





## PhD career progression

LSE PhD graduates move into a wide range of interesting initial roles in many different sectors and organisations. Graduate destination data is searchable by department on the [LSE Careers website](#). [Vitae.ac.uk](#) also provides national data and an interesting range of [PhD careers stories](#). Some examples of recent destinations from LSE PhDs include:

### Roles in academia

LSE Fellow; Teaching Fellow; Research Fellow; Research Assistant; Research Officer; Post-doctoral Research Fellow; Assistant Professor

### Roles outside academia

Advocacy Manager; Research Manager; Project Manager; Associate; Civil Servant; Consultant; Diplomat; Economist; Editorial Manager; Grants Facilitator; Programme Manager; Special Adviser; Researcher; Policy Adviser; Quantitative Analyst; Research Analyst; Statistician; Strategist; Social Researcher; Writer

### Organisations

London School of Economics; Max Planck Institute; Cass Business School; University of Oxford; SOAS; Princeton University; Durham University

### Organisations

Government departments; European Commission; International Monetary Fund; Overseas Development Institute; OECD; Women's Foundation; Social Market Foundation; Work Foundation; World Bank; European Central Bank; Bank of England; PwC; Barclays Bank; Citigroup; Morgan Stanley

**Matthew Partridge**  
Economic History, 2011

Senior Writer, MoneyWeek

I really enjoyed my time at LSE; and won an ESRC studentship to do my master's and PhD here. I was impressed by the expertise of the department.



Originally, I was interested in becoming an academic economist. However, studying at a university very close (physically and intellectually) to the City of London opened my eyes to the world of finance and I have always been interested in journalism. I edited the Sports section of the student newspaper at LSE, winning awards for my columns.

At MoneyWeek I write for the print magazine and the website. I write cover stories, emails for the daily 'Money Morning' and a fortnightly column on entrepreneurs. I like following current financial affairs. I have a supportive team, including an excellent editor. Working for a weekly publication allows time to manage my workflow. I was hired because of my PhD and my knowledge of Economic History which is useful when I'm looking at issues such as the future of the single currency.



## Your professional identity

We can help you build and develop an interesting portfolio of experiences during your PhD and connect these with your life beyond LSE. Professional identity is not a stable entity; how you see yourself and how others see you shifts and during your PhD you are likely to experience significant changes. The beliefs or opinions you have of yourself will influence other people and you have some control over how others perceive you. Before preparing to present yourself to colleagues and potential employers it's helpful to consider your strengths and have some different ways to describe yourself and your work. It's never too early to work on your professional reputation!

**As a researcher, think of yourself as a:**

- ◆ team worker and project manager
- ◆ communicator and writer

**Develop a web presence:**

- ◆ Present yourself online - training is offered by [LSE Information Management and Technology](#)'s Copyright and Digital Literacy Advisor, Jane Secker.
- ◆ Use [LinkedIn](#) and create an interesting and up to date profile.

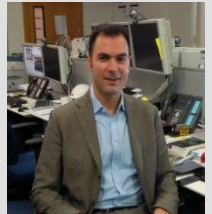
**Ask for feedback:**

- ◆ Use a [one-to-one appointment](#) with LSE Careers to review your professional identity at any stage of your PhD.

**Fabio Pinna**  
Economics, 2014

**Associate, Deutsche Bank**

During my PhD I gained a range of experience and earned an income working part-time as a research



assistant, a teaching assistant, and in a commercial setting at LP Group, Asset Management. I also published articles in business journals as well as contributing to academic articles. All this meant managing my time carefully, setting priorities and being well organised, but it put me in a very good position to apply for permanent roles in the banking sector towards the end of my PhD. My research investigated banking, credit and consumer behaviour and contributed understanding consumer decision making.

My experience of work, research and numeracy skills, and problem solving approach were recognised by Deutsche Bank and I was recruited to start immediately after my PhD. Now I work as an Associate in a team that manages €10 billion of assets globally. Our approach involves using coding and computing of big data as well as our human assessment of risks and opportunities. The combination of my PhD and my working experiences have helped me achieve this.



## Careers resources

LSE Careers offers a huge range of resources, online and offline, that can help you get the job you really want. Using a combination of these, you should be able to both find and attain the career path that you're looking for.

We have [specialist resources online](#) to support PhD career progression:

- ♦ [Academic careers](#) information and advice, including getting teaching experience, US academic careers, post-docs, sample CVs, covering letters, research statements and proposals
- ♦ [Careers outside academia](#) information including lists of job sites, example CVs and covering letters, and advice on applying for jobs and internships
- ♦ [Employment sector](#) resources to help you explore sectors beyond academia - you're also welcome at our [events](#) to understand the wider labour market.
- ♦ [International careers](#): [Going Global](#) also has a fantastic range of international resources
- ♦ [PhD careers blog](#)

In our [Resource Centre on Floor 5 of the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre](#) we have a library of careers-related topics as well as takeaway resources.

We're also open throughout the year, including the summer, for [one-to-one appointments](#) and [practice interviews](#). If you're not in the UK and would like to speak to us please book a Skype or telephone appointment by [emailing us](#). You also have [access to LSE Careers](#) services for up to five years after you graduate.



### What PhD students think of LSE Careers

Having worked with LSE Careers recently, PhD graduates said the following about their success:

'I was offered the lectureship at Manchester! It's very good news for me and I really think your input in our sessions was invaluable for preparing for the interview. Thank you!'

'I got the job! Thank you so much for all your help with my job pack and with the practice interview. It all really helped! Not only did it boost my performance, but some of your questions and suggestions really helped me to focus on the key messages in my thesis. This job is so perfect for me - I can't believe they are actually going to pay me to do it.'

'I am very happy to share that I now have a full-time, permanent job and I am starting in September! I cannot express how grateful I am for all your help and support, thank you very much! It was extremely helpful, and this time I managed to give answers exactly the way you've suggested.'

**Make the most of LSE Careers during your time here.  
Good luck with your career at LSE and beyond!**