



## Double/Joint Degree MSc Students, Student Visa Info Sheet – March 2022

This guidance is for students on one of our double/joint degree programmes. The advice varies depending on whether you will be spending your first or second year at LSE. Check that the question applies to your individual circumstances.

### **I am doing the MSc Double Degree in Global Media and Communications. Who will issue my CAS and when can I apply for my visa?**

Your CAS will be issued by Graduate Admissions. If you are applying outside the UK, you will be able to apply for your Student visa a maximum of six months before your sponsorship start date as shown on your CAS. If you are applying for your Student visa from inside the UK, you can only apply three months before your programme start date.

### **I am doing the MSc Double Degree in Global Media and Communications. If I transfer to the classic track after obtaining my visa, will I be eligible for the Graduate Route?**

Sponsorship end dates may vary between USC, UCT and Fudan depending on the requirements of the partner institution and accessing funding for the second year of the degree. If your period of study is less than 12 months then you will only be granted an additional two months at the end of your visa. This would still give you time to transfer to complete the classic track, but you would not have sufficient time to receive your results and apply for the [Graduate Route](#). You would also not be able to extend your Student visa after enrolling under law. Please seek advice before transferring if your plan is to remain in the UK to work, as it may be better to make this decision at application stage.

### **If I am at LSE for my first year, will I have a Student visa for the full two years of my programme?**

No. LSE will only sponsor your Student visa for the time you are expected to be studying at the LSE. We are unable to keep you sponsored on a Student visa for the second year of your programme.

### **Will I be eligible for the Graduate Route working visa if year two of my double-degree is based overseas?**

You will not be eligible for the Graduate Route if year two of degree is overseas. LSE only sponsors you on a Student visa for year one of your degree. To be eligible for the [Graduate Route](#) you must apply from within the UK from a valid, Student visa.

### **I am attending LSE in the second year of my degree. Who will issue my CAS and when can I apply for my visa?**

If you are spending the second year of your degree at LSE, you will need to request a CAS number from LSE's Student Advice and Engagement team using the [online form](#). Your CAS will not be issued until your first-year results have been confirmed by your university to LSE. It is not possible to issue a CAS with an earlier start date to enable you to come to the UK sooner.

### **Will I be eligible for the Graduate Route working visa if I am only spending year two of my degree at LSE?**

Eligibility for the [Graduate Route](#) will depend on the length of time you are sponsored to study at LSE. The whole of your degree is over 12 months in length, because you are enrolled at LSE even when you are on your year overseas. The UKVI have stated that if the programme is longer than 12 months in length, then you must be sponsored and studying in the UK for a minimum of 12 months to be eligible for the Graduate Route.

If you are on a double-degree which totals 24 months of study combined, then you are likely to be eligible for the route.

### **I am on the LSHTM/LSE MSc joint degree. Who is my visa sponsor?**

LSHTM act as the sponsors for the MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing degree. They will issue your CAS and complete any compliance requirements, including verification for the Graduate Route.

You should always seek advice on your visa from LSHTM as you are sponsored by them and therefore, it is their sponsor licence which will be affected. We will always refer you to LSHTM for advice.

### **Where can I find advice on applying for a Student visa?**

The Student Advice and Engagement Team has detailed advice on applying for a Student visa on the following web page:

<https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/immigration-advice/applying-for-a-student-visa>

You should refer to the section for Taught Masters and Diploma students for information on your level of study.

### **When can I apply for my visa?**

You can apply up to six months in advance of your official programme start date if you are applying from overseas. However, this doesn't mean you will be able to come to the UK sooner as it will still be issued in line with the immigration rules. Further details can be found in our guidance.

You can apply up to a maximum of three months in advance if you are submitting your application in the UK.

### **Where can I apply for my Student visa?**

You can only apply for a Student visa in a country you are legally living in e.g. you have the right of residence. This could either be your home country or the country where you have studied for the first year of your degree.

You may also be able to apply using the UK: Immigration ID Check app. You can find out more in our [info sheet](#).

We are aware that some students may undertake research in a third country over the summer. You should plan to be able to apply for your Student visa for LSE in a country where you can submit a valid application.

### **I plan to do research in the UK during the summer. Can I come as a tourist and apply from the UK or will LSE expedite my CAS.**

You cannot apply for a Student visa in the UK if you have entered as a tourist. You would not be permitted to enrol on your degree programme and your visa application would be refused. You would have to return home to apply for a Student visa, which may affect your ability to join your programme.

LSE is unable to expedite CAS numbers due to personal plans, especially as a CAS cannot be issued until your first-year results are received.

### **I'm an EU/EEA national who planned to commute to LSE for my classes. Can I study at LSE on a tourist visa (Standard Visitor visa)?**

You will be unable to enrol for your degree at LSE on a Standard Visitor visa. Therefore, you will need to obtain a Student visa to join your programme, although the intention of this visa is that you remain in the UK whilst holding it. Also, you cannot work or switch into a work permit in the UK on a Standard Visitor visa.

### **What happens if I interrupt my studies?**

If you interrupt your studies, the Visa Compliance team will be required to report this to the Home Office. This will lead to the curtailment of your Student visa. More information can be found on our [web pages](#) about changes to your programme of study.

### **What happens if I do not progress from my first year of studies at LSE?**

If you fail to progress at the end of your first year at LSE, the Visa Compliance team will submit a report to the Home Office. This will curtail your visa. Information on how to return for retakes or deferred assessments can be found on our [web pages](#). Retakes will take place in January, so if you cannot progress and have to re-sit during this period, there may be a gap before you can attend your second year.