

LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



**Welcome
to LSE
2026**



welcome.lse.ac.uk

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Use this guide to find your way around LSE and discover a few opportunities to explore. Read it alongside **welcome.lse.ac.uk** for live event information, booking links, and further information on many of the topics covered in this guide.

Write in this guide as you go. Bring your notes along to a personalised LSE LIFE Conversation if you would like to discuss anything further or help deciding what to do next.



Welcome from the President

I remember my first day at university vividly: the newness, the excitement, but also the uncertainty. Did I really belong here? Everyone else seemed so assured and at ease. If that's how you're feeling now, don't worry. Our admissions team knows what it's doing, and you most definitely belong here. The nervousness is not a sign that something has gone wrong. It's the beginning of something going very right.

Because LSE will challenge you. That's not an incidental byproduct of being here: it's a big part of the point. LSE brings together students from across the globe to ask the questions that really matter: What will it take to make popular government work? To create prosperity and ensure it is widely shared? To develop sustainable economies? To manage frontier technologies? Questions like these run through every discipline and every programme.

Trying to answer these questions won't always be easy, or comfortable. Nor should it be. We want you to encounter ideas that challenge what you thought you knew and who you think you are. We want you to engage with people who disagree. We want you to sometimes feel lost—so you can find your way to something new and better. The challenging days are the days that let you know something real is going on.

London should be part of this, too. Step off campus and you'll be greeted by a city that is complex, generous, overflowing with culture and cultural diversity, and endlessly surprising. London is not a backdrop to your education. It is part of it.

This guide will help you find your feet and learn about the resources available here to support you. The process of making sense of LSE, and of yourself within it, starts today. But it won't end, and it shouldn't: your time here should be one of ongoing discovery.

There's a lot to say about what LSE has to offer. I look forward to talking about it with you in person, along with Professor Emma McCoy, our Vice President for Education. We'll see you at the Presidential Welcome address in the Peacock Theatre this week.



Larry Kramer
LSE President and Vice Chancellor

Welcome at a glance

A guide, a website, an app, and people across LSE ready to point you in the right direction.

This Welcome Guide

The guide you're holding gives you an overview of Welcome. It highlights the tasks that matter first, and the people, places, and opportunities worth knowing more about early on.

The Welcome website - welcome.lse.ac.uk

The full picture of Welcome. Detailed task checklists for before you arrive and for your first days, a full list of events and activities running during Welcome with booking links, and information on where to go, whatever you want to do. It also points you to your own department's Welcome pages, where you can find information on your programme orientation, academic mentor, and course selection.

Welcome Tent

The place to go during Welcome - staffed by people whose job is to answer the question in front of you: where to go, what to do next, who to ask. Free refreshments, somewhere to sit, and no question too small. It's also where the local history tours and campus tours running during Welcome start and finish. Further details opposite.

Student Hub

Your day-to-day tool during Welcome - and all year long - to see your timetable, consult the campus map, make appointments with teachers and services. Download the Student Hub app, sign in with your LSE account, and check it every day during Welcome and the first week of teaching.



Arriving after Welcome? Start here

The Tent might be gone by the time you arrive, but the support isn't. Scan for the late-arrival checklist and the latest Welcome information. Your department can help with programme-specific questions, and Student Services can help with enrolment, your LSE Card, and other administrative enquiries.

The Welcome Tent - your basecamp for the first few days.

The Welcome Tent is the central hub for Welcome, where friendly staff are there to help. Whether you have a quick question, need directions, or aren't quite sure where to begin, the Tent is the best place to start when you arrive. You'll find it on the LSE plaza outside the Centre Building, right in the middle of campus!

But the Tent is much more than an information point. It's also a space to relax, meet fellow students, and get involved in Welcome activities. Throughout the week, you'll find free refreshments, card and board games, arcade-style games, departmental games nights, the LSESU's Sonderfest, and a variety of other interactive activities taking place to help welcome you into our community.

What not to worry about yet

You don't need to understand every regulation, join every society, choose your whole future, or feel settled by the end of Welcome. Start with the tasks that help unlock access and support, and then the rest can build gradually.



Your essential first tasks



Complete online pre-enrolment and set up your LSE IT account.

You will receive an email inviting you to enrol. Complete this as early as you can, as it helps unlock your LSE IT account and email.



Attend your assigned campus enrolment session and collect your LSE Card.

Campus enrolment is organised in scheduled slots. Bring the required original documents and check what you need before attending. Your LSE Card gives you access to buildings, the Library, and printing.



Attend your department orientation and compulsory programme sessions.

Your department is your academic home. Its Welcome sessions will introduce you to your programme, the people you'll study with, and the information you need for your first term.



Attend your Presidential Welcome address.

Delivered by the LSE President, the Vice President for Education, and the LSESU General Secretary, this is a chance to reflect on the start of your time here, hear about the opportunities ahead, and celebrate becoming part of the LSE community. Your department will let you know your allocated slot.



Make sure you've completed compulsory online courses.

Complete any pre-arrival courses, including *Global Conversations at LSE* and *Consent.Ed*. Check the Welcome website for full details and deadlines.

Essential for certain students

If you're an international student and require a visa: complete the steps in your enrolment communications.

If you have a disability, long-term health condition, neurodivergence or specific learning difficulty, book an appointment with the Disability and Mental Health Service (DMHS) to discuss support for your studies.

Other useful things to do



Browse the Welcome website and events calendar.

There's a lot going on - familiarise yourself with what's happening during Welcome and start identifying activities you want to attend.



Download the LSE Student Hub app.

Student Hub will help you access your timetable, campus map, appointments, news, and events throughout Welcome and beyond.



Complete the Prepare to Learn at LSE online course.

This short Moodle course introduces what studying at LSE is like and helps you prepare for the start of teaching.



Check what you need to do for course selection.

Many programmes allow you to select some optional courses alongside the compulsory ones that form part of your degree. Read course guides, explore your options, and make a note of key deadlines.



Pick up your free LSE hoodie.

Look out for emails about how and where to collect it during Welcome.



Take a guided campus tour or follow a self-guided tour.

Use a tour to learn the building codes and find the places you'll need to know. Pick up the printed Welcome events and self-guided tour leaflet, and use the campus map in Student Hub to help find your place on campus.



Visit the LSESU Welcome Fairs.

LSESU is your Students' Union, running societies, sports clubs, campaigns, volunteering, and student support. Their Welcome Fairs are the quickest way to discover all the activities and groups they have on offer.



Take the Me+LSE quiz.

Discover your campus creature and get personalised recommendations for making more of your time at LSE.



Essential tasks

Checklists, deadlines and useful links

Living in London

London might already be home, or it might be completely new. Each outing will make the city more familiar. Start with a few practical essentials, try one or two routes, and let the rest unfold over time.

Sort out the essentials

- **Register with a GP.** Register soon after arriving so you can use NHS healthcare during your time in London. You can register with St Philips Medical Centre on campus, or choose a practice nearer home. Pharmacies and NHS 111 can also help with general health questions.
- **Set up the basics.** If you're new to the UK, a UK bank account and SIM card will make everyday life easier.
- **Check Council Tax.** Council Tax is paid by most private houses in the country, but most full-time students can apply for an exemption or discount. Update your term-time address and use Student LfY to download your Certificate of Enrolment if you need proof of your student status.



Explore your city

London is an extension of your LSE experience.

Many of the city's best-known attractions - including the British Museum, Somerset House, Covent Garden, and the South Bank - are all within walking distance of campus, while London's rail links make it easy to explore further afield. Stay curious, and see where the city takes you.

Explore together.

If you'd like to join other LSE students, use the **Explore your city** filter on the LSE LIFE events and opportunities listings. You'll find LSESU events, LIFE in London activities, and Halls Life events for students in LSE accommodation. As you discover London's cafés, green spaces, neighbourhoods, communities, and activities, you'll find the places and routines you want to return to.

Getting around

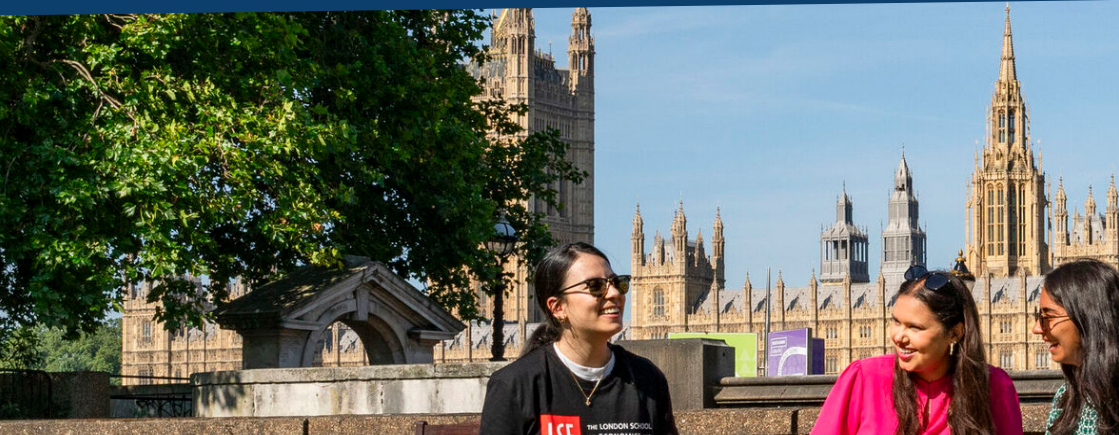
London's transport network gives you plenty of options, and you'll soon find the routes and ways of travelling that work for you.

- **Find the route that suits your day.** TfL Go, Google Maps, and Citymapper can all give you useful routes and show live travel information. In central London, nearby stations are often only a short walk apart, so it's worth checking before you think about the Tube.
- **See the city as you travel.** Walking is often an easy way to make shorter journeys and get to know central London. Buses offer a different view of the city, and, if you'd like to cycle, LSE has bike storage facilities and TfL offers free online cycle skills guidance.
- **Make your fare work for you.** The Hopper fare gives you unlimited bus and tram journeys within one hour. Travel caps are applied automatically - just remember to use the same card or device throughout your journey! A 16-25 or 26-30 Railcard saves a third on many rail fares and can also be added to an Oyster card for off-peak discounts on Tube, DLR, and Overground travel.



Living in London
Travel, activities, and
practical advice

Living in London



Make your money go further

Student discounts are everywhere.

UNiDAYS, Student Beans, and TOTUM can help you save money on everything from food and transport to shopping, technology and entertainment. Our very own LSE Catering also runs discounted early-bird breakfasts and restaurants near campus often have student discounts.

London's best experiences can cost less than you think.

Museums, galleries, parks, public lectures and cultural events are often free to attend, making it possible to explore the city without spending very much. Many theatres and venues run schemes for students - from Young Barbican and the National Theatre's 16-25 Entry Pass, to day seats and rush tickets at West End shows. A Student Art Pass also gets you discounts on most big exhibitions, and many museums run free evening Lates. Whatever's on your list, check for a student, under-26, or rush option before paying full price.

Budgeting matters, but so does knowing the support available.

Think about your spending beyond rent and fees, including transport, food, study materials, and social activities. Blackbullion is an online platform and app, free to access with your LSE email, that offers practical tools and resources to help you manage your money. If you need specific support, the Financial Support Office and LSESU Advice Service can help.



Living in halls

Halls Life is your starting point for information, activities, and wellbeing support in LSE accommodation. Try one Welcome activity that interests you; small, informal events can be an easy way to meet people nearby. Your neighbours arrived just as new as you did!

Living outside halls

The LSE campus is your shared base for teaching, study, support, and events. Find a comfortable place to return to, try one regular activity, and build a routine that works with your journey. The Facilities Guide can help you find study spaces, places to pause, microwaves, hot water, lockers, and accessible facilities. Find out more about what's on campus on the next page.

Look after yourself

As you get to know London, familiar routes and a few everyday habits can help you feel more at home in the city. Keep valuables secure and stay aware of what's around you. The School's Staying Safe guide has plenty of practical advice.



Living outside halls

Get more top tips on travelling around London, making the most of campus, and building your own community.



Staying Safe Guide

Practical advice on staying safe on campus and in the city - including bike safety and security, what to do with lost property, and travelling safely.

Get to know campus

Decode the code

Each building has a short code, usually three letters. Most teaching rooms add the floor and room number. For example, MAR 2.04 will be on the second floor of the Marshall Building.

Key buildings

- **Lionel Robbins Building (LRB)** - the Library, course collections, printers, both silent and group study spaces, Tech Support, and LSE LIFE.
- **Old Building (OLD)** - Student Services Centre, the Fourth Floor Restaurant, Shaw Library, and teaching rooms.
- **Saw Swee Hock Student Centre (SAW)** - LSESU, societies and sport, the Faith Centre, LSE Careers, and the Three Tuns.
- The **Marshall Building (MAR)** and the **Cheng Kin Ku Building (CKK)** - teaching rooms, sport, arts, and large public events.

First-week navigation habits

- Scout out the buildings! Allow extra time the first time you visit somewhere.
- Look at the entrance as well as the building name. Some buildings have more than one entrance, and the best route may be on a different street.
- Ask at the reception desk. You're not expected to know everything!

Accessible routes

AccessAble provides detailed guides to entrances, lifts, step-free routes, toilets and facilities in every campus building. Check the route before your first visit if that would make the journey easier; the Disability and Mental Health Service can help with longer-term access requirements.



Campus map

LSE fits into a few streets between Kingsway, the Aldwych, and Lincoln's Inn Fields. Everything is close together, so you'll get the hang of it quickly!



AccessAble

The online guide to accessibility for every campus building.

Where do I go for...?

Enrolment, LSE Card, or visa information

During Welcome, follow your enrolment instructions or ask at the Welcome Tent. Afterwards, Student Services Centre in the Old Building is the starting point for enrolment status, cards, visas, and official documents.

My timetable and rooms

Use Student Hub and check it daily during your first week. Note the building code as well as the room number.

Course selection help

Follow your programme guidance and confirm your choices through the system named there. Joining a course on Moodle is not the same as formally selecting it.

Tech problems

Start with Tech Support on the first floor of the Library or the online DTS Service Portal. Note what you were trying to do and bring a screenshot or exact error message; it's usually the fastest route to a useful answer!

Money, funding, or fees

Use Fees Live Chat for invoices, instalments and payment records. Contact the Financial Support Office for questions about hardship or available funds. LSESU Advice Service offers independent guidance.

Somewhere quiet

Try the Faith Centre on the second floor of SAW, silent areas of the Library, or Lincoln's Inn Fields. The online facilities guide lists further quiet, accessible and outdoor spaces.

A coffee, a break, a wander

Use the online facilities guide to find an LSE café, try the self-guided campus tour, or walk from Lincoln's Inn Fields towards the Strand and South Bank.



Facilities guide

The online facilities guide gives further information about all the buildings on campus as well as further useful details on study spaces, computer rooms, cafés, and more.

Welcome is just the start!

Welcome is an exciting time to meet people, explore LSE and try something new. Whatever interests you - or even if you're not quite sure yet - there's something here for you.

But discovering everything on offer at LSE doesn't end when term starts! Events, programmes, and communities continue throughout the year. Use the themes that follow to choose a couple of starting points now, note anything you would like to return to, and keep exploring as your interests and needs change. Your Me+LSE result can also help you decide where to begin!

Look out for these themes throughout the year on the LSE LIFE website, event listing, and newsletters.

Own your learning

Shape your intellectual journey - whether for success in the classroom or world-changing research

Studying at LSE is probably unlike anything you've done before - you'll be pushed to think for yourself, not just absorb what you're told. You'll read independently, test ideas, and decide how to use your time. In this sense, a lot of your most important learning happens outside your lectures and seminars.

That might feel like a lot to ask, but it can be extremely rewarding. Spending hours poring over a text line by line might feel like studious work, but if it doesn't make your thinking clearer, or inspire new questions, how useful actually is it? Progress tends to come from smaller, deliberate habits: reading selectively, transforming notes into arguments, and testing your understanding with your peers.

Your teachers, academic mentor, and others in your department are ideal early points of contact as you learn to do this, but there's extensive support beyond that too.

Give it some thought

What learning and study habits do you already have that you think will serve you well at LSE?

Useful people and places

Learning Lab is here for every stage of your learning journey – from finding your footing in your first term to thinking more critically, writing more convincingly and getting more from your reading. Workshops run throughout the year on academic writing, critical reading, research planning, exam preparation, dissertation writing and using AI tools critically, and you can book one-to-one sessions with Study Advisers to discuss your own work.

LSE Library is a central part of your learning environment, with course readings, extensive research collections and a wide range of study spaces. Each department has a dedicated librarian who can help you find, evaluate and reference sources.

The **Centre for Language Studies** offers free English for Academic Purposes courses in Autumn and Winter Terms, building the skills you need to thrive in an English-speaking academic environment.

The **Department of Methodology** runs research design and methods courses for postgraduate students - required on some master's programmes, optional on others - plus one-to-one support and short courses to carry you through your dissertation and other research projects.

The **Digital Skills Lab** can help you develop the digital and data skills that underpin many courses and assessments, whatever your starting point.

Get started

- Take the self-access Prepare to learn at LSE course to help you hit the ground running.
- Meet your academic mentor.
- Find a study space that works for you - the Library, a café, or your hall's common room.



Find out more Own your learning

Centre your self

Prioritise your wellbeing and build strength from the inside out

Starting at LSE means a new city, a new campus, new routines, and new faces. It's a good moment to consider the student life you want: routines that keep you grounded, a walk in nature, a gym session, a dance class - whatever clears your head. Looking after yourself isn't a chore to fit around your studies, it's the foundation that lets you enjoy everything else (and at LSE, it can be genuinely fun!). Try a yoga or Tai Chi session at the Faith Centre, a class with LSESU Sports, or one of the arts, crafts and wellbeing events in the "Unwind and recharge" section of the LSE LIFE event listings.

Knowing where to find support is part of the design, too. Not because anything is wrong, but because it means you already know where to go, if the time comes. If something comes up that makes it harder to work, think clearly, or stay balanced, that's reason enough to mention it to someone: there's no "serious enough" test to pass, and early conversations open up the most options.

Give it some thought

What helps you relax and feel centred when things get busy?



Useful people and places

The **Student Wellbeing Service** offers wellbeing appointments, counselling, workshops and guidance when you're struggling or are simply unsure what kind of support would help — with stress, anxiety, low mood, loneliness, homesickness, or a situation you're finding hard to manage. For students with disabilities, long-term health or mental health conditions, or specific learning difficulties, there's also a dedicated Disability and Mental Health Service.

Peer Supporters are trained student volunteers who help by offering a non-judgemental, confidential listening space to any LSE student. They will listen, and if you wish, can help you explore options for how to move forward. Any student can speak to any peer supporter and reaching out is a chance to build connections and speak to students you might not otherwise meet.

The **Faith Centre** offers worship, quiet reflection, chaplaincy and interfaith activity, whether faith is central to your life or not — plus weekly Ashtanga Yoga and Tai Chi sessions. The Chaplain and the Muslim, Catholic, Jewish and Orthodox Associate Chaplains all offer confidential conversations to students of any background or belief.

The **Halls Wellbeing Team** can provide wellbeing support and guidance if you live in LSE halls of residence. Check the Halls Life platform for more wellbeing information for halls and resources.

LSESU Sports has plenty of options to get involved, from the gym and drop-in sessions to sports clubs, the inclusive sport programme, and departmental sport. Staying active is a great way to support your wellbeing, lift your mood, and ease your stress - whether you're trying something new or getting back into a routine.

Get started

- Make time to attend one Unwind and recharge event that strikes your interest.
- Pick up a wall calendar from the LSE LIFE reception desk to help you stay organised.
- Take a walk through Lincoln's Inn Fields between lectures or seminars.



Find out more Centre your self

Build your community

Get involved, connect with others, and make the most of what LSE and London have to offer.

LSE is a genuinely global institution. Your classmates come from every corner of the world, bringing different perspectives and different ways of understanding the challenges that define our time. You'll meet people whose beliefs and backgrounds differ profoundly from your own, and that's one of the most valuable things LSE offers. And LSE asks something of you in return: the willingness to listen and engage thoughtfully.

Some of your education won't appear on any transcript at all: it's built from conversations, collaborations, and debates outside the classroom. Sometimes those will challenge you. Sometimes they'll change you.

Building community takes a little intention: showing up, trying things, being open to connections you didn't expect. Societies, student groups, volunteering, and School-wide events can be great ways to start, but different things work for different people. There are also simple, everyday opportunities to say hello to someone new. Of course, London is the perfect stage for new encounters. You're moments from the Thames, Covent Garden, the Royal Courts of Justice... make time to explore!

Give it some thought

What's one London place you'd like to see for yourself this term?

Get started

- Check out the Discover LSE Fair and the LSESU Welcome Fairs – the offer is vast!
- Attend an event in your halls, or introduce yourself to someone on your course.
- Explore a London neighbourhood you've never been to - why not ask a new classmate to join you?



Useful people and places

LSESU Societies are one of the main ways to meet fellow students through shared interests, identities and activities. With over 200 individual societies covering academic interests, cultural identities, sports, politics, media, the arts and more, they are great for getting together with others on a regular basis.

The **Faith Centre** is home to the LSE's diverse religious activities, transformational interfaith leadership programme and a quiet, reflective space for both students and staff.

LIFE in London is a series of free events and trips designed to connect you to London, fellow students, as well as some of the great experiences the city has to offer. From concerts and workshops to heritage-themed trips, there is something for everyone.

Halls Life is the platform for student life in LSE accommodation, offering events, student-written guides and experiences, and key information to help you make the most of your time in halls.

The *Find your people* filter on the **LSE LIFE listings** gathers activities built around a shared background, identity or interest - cultural and national societies, faith communities, music groups, and Professionals at LSE events for students with five or more years' work experience, among many others.



Find out more Build your community

Broaden your horizons

Develop a global perspective and engage with ideas, cultures, and questions that challenge and inspire you.

You've just joined one of the world's great meeting places for ideas. Heads of state, Nobel laureates, leading researchers, and policymakers pass through LSE all year round — and from your very first week, you have a front-row seat. The intellectual life of the School stretches far beyond your programme: public lectures, research talks, and discussions give you the chance to encounter ideas and perspectives that sit alongside, or productively against, what you study in class.

And the joy of it: you don't need to attend everything — one great lecture beats ten obligations. It's usually more valuable to engage selectively — follow a question that genuinely interests you, wander into a topic just outside your subject, or listen to someone whose views differ from your own. Sometimes a single event or conversation is enough to change how you think about an issue, or to open up a field you'll want to pursue further. And broadening your horizons is about more than what's on stage: it means learning from the people around you, and becoming more curious about lives and perspectives beyond your own — one of the quiet privileges of joining a community like this one. The aim isn't to leave LSE with expertise alone, but with a wider frame of reference: more aware of complexity, more comfortable with uncertainty, more connected to the world. Starting is easy, and it starts during Welcome.

Give it some thought

Take a look at the Public Events programme for the Autumn Term and note one event that catches your eye.

Get started

- Attend a public lecture on a topic completely outside your degree and note one idea or name to follow up afterwards.
- Join an LSE Language Community session or find a tandem learning partner.
- Visit the Faith Centre spaces – if you have a moment, why not take a break in The Cave, their silent room for meditation, prayer and reflection?



Useful people and places

LSE Events hosts one of the most active public lecture programmes of any university in the world – including heads of state, Nobel laureates, leading researchers, journalists, and policymakers. Events are free, on campus and online, and run all year long. Join the debate by putting your questions to the panel, and you might even meet speakers at a book signing afterwards.

LSE Research Showcase is a series of regular coffee-break research talks on campus, so you can learn more about fascinating work from across the academic community, with free hot drinks and pastries thrown in.

World Cafés pair short presentations from leading LSE researchers with informal round-table conversations among students, teachers, researchers, and alumni.

The **LSE Language Community** offers bitesize speaking sessions with native speakers, weekly conversation circles, and tandem learning partnerships: the world's languages, without leaving campus.

The **Faith Centre** runs interfaith events open to any background, and its Beecken Faith and Leadership programme builds reasoning and leadership skills through engaging with religious difference, covering topics from the climate crisis to geopolitical conflict.

CIVICA is the European University Alliances of the Social Sciences, of which LSE is a member alongside nine other European universities. Through CIVICA, you can take part in a range of activities and programmes, including immersive learning experiences abroad and online collaborative courses.



Find out more Broaden your horizons

Make your impact

Discover what matters to you and contribute to creating change, big or small, at LSE and beyond.

LSE exists to understand the causes of things for the betterment of society. More than 130 years on, that tradition is alive in the research produced here, in the debates hosted here and, just as much, in what students do while they're here. You're part of that story from the day you arrive, and joining somewhere new is a natural moment to ask yourself: what do I want to stand for?

You don't need an answer during Welcome — the question itself is a fine companion for your first term. Meaningful impact isn't about doing more, or doing it immediately, but instead usually about committing to something you genuinely care about and staying with it long enough to understand it properly. The value lies not only in what you achieve, but in what it teaches you: about responsibility, about other people, and about yourself. Impact can mean working with communities beyond LSE, helping shape how the School itself works, or simply showing up for another student who needs support. All three count, all three are open to you this year, and none of them requires experience — just a bit of curiosity and the willingness to start. One conversation at a fair, one drop-in visit, one event is a perfectly good first step.

Give it some thought

What's an issue, a cause, or a community that matters to you?

Get started

- Drop by the Volunteer Centre on campus to learn more about your options.
- Join a Student Town Hall to learn about and debate policies that shape the way the LSESU runs.
- Attend a Meet LSE leadership event to get to know leaders from across LSE in an informal setting – keep an eye out for upcoming events in Student News.



Useful people and places

The **Volunteer Centre** is there to inspire and empower you to volunteer for causes that you are passionate about during your time at LSE. They provide a range of long term, short term, and one-off opportunities to suit your interests and schedule. You can also drop in to their space in Lincoln Chambers or book an appointment to talk through what might suit you.

Sustainable LSE is the School's sustainability team, where you can learn about contributing to sustainability on campus and in residences while building new skills - whether you want to come to a one-off event or volunteer with the team more regularly. Their activities range from beekeeping and wildlife workshops to carbon literacy training and sustainability auditing.

LSESU Student Voice gives you countless ways to make yourself heard in one of the country's most politically active students' unions — join an ongoing campaign or start your own, submit a policy proposal, or stand in the leadership elections.

Student Education Panels are a chance to share your perspective and discuss your LSE experience with peers from across the School, helping to inform improvements to how LSE works.

Peer Supporters offer a confidential, non-judgemental listening space to fellow students. Apply to be one once you've completed at least a year studying at LSE.

Widening Participation offers paid Student Ambassador, Tutor and Mentor roles, letting you share your experience of studying at LSE with prospective students and young people considering university.



Find out more Make your impact

Expand your skills

Unlock the talents, tools, and mindsets that set you apart.

You've arrived at LSE with a distinctive set of abilities, built on everything you've studied and experienced before you got here. University is a good moment to take stock: what comes naturally to you, which skills you're still working on, and what you'd like to try, but haven't yet had the opportunity. Some strengths will become clearer simply through being here; other gaps might only show themselves when you're stretched a little.

Some skills develop without you even noticing, just by doing the work and being around other people doing the same. Others are worth a little more thought, and there's time this term to simply notice which ones matter to you, and which you'd like to build on. There's no need to have a plan for all of this during Welcome, but perhaps you might find some ideas and inspiration in what's going on around you?

Give it some thought

What skills do you think will be the most important for you at LSE?

Get started

- Identify one technical skill that you might need during or after your degree. When would be a good time to learn it?
- Try one thing outside your comfort zone – leading a meeting, presenting a new idea to your classmates, organising a group trip, or speaking first in a seminar.
- Use the LSE Careers Skills Framework to recognise your skills, reflect on your experiences, and identify areas for further development as you prepare to enter the world of work.



Useful people and places

The **Digital Skills Lab** offers practical, face-to-face workshops, bootcamps, and self-paced resources covering data analysis and visualisation, coding, AI literacy and assistive technology - including tools like Excel, Power BI, Python, R, Stata, SPSS, and generative AI (Claude and Copilot). It's open to all students and designed to be accessible whether you're a complete beginner or building on existing knowledge.

The **Centre for Language Studies** runs non-degree modern foreign language courses at all levels, from beginner to advanced, designed to fit around your programme commitments.

Student Media is your chance to practise writing, editing, production, presenting, and media management with a genuine audience – across video, radio, The Beaver student newspaper, and the student-run journals within Houghton Street Press.

LSE Careers offers one-to-one appointments with Careers Consultants to help you identify the skills you're building and articulate them for the path you want to take – and their Skills Framework gives you a ready-made structure for reflecting on your experience.

LSE LIFE offers one-to-one conversations to help you make sense of everything on offer beyond your programme, and work out which opportunities fit you best.



Find out more Expand your skills

Shape your future

Prepare for life after LSE by exploring your options and following your ambitions.

Thinking about life after university is a fundamental part of being at university. The futures LSE graduates go on to build are as diverse as the people who study here – in every corner of the world and every kind of organisation, and across every sector. What graduates share is a capacity to explore carefully, act purposefully, think critically, and keep learning. Some students arrive at LSE with a clear sense of the path they want to pursue. Others discover it gradually, through conversations, experiences, and opportunities they couldn't have foreseen.

As you begin to think about your own future and explore the possibilities available to you, teams across LSE can help you navigate and pursue your options. Early conversations can be valuable for testing ideas, understanding different sectors, and learning what employers really mean when they describe particular roles. If you already have a specific career path in mind, it's equally important to understand the expectations and timelines associated with it, especially in fast-moving sectors, where work experience opportunities like short placements, vacation schemes, and internships often begin recruiting early.

The important thing to remember is that thoughtful and curious people rarely settle their futures once and for all. Instead, they keep shaping them. Explore what intrigues you, build familiarity with different kinds of work and sectors, and begin to understand how your interests and strengths might translate into possible next steps.

Give it some thought

Think of someone you know with experience in the working world - a family member, a professional who's returning to studying, a member of LSE staff, for example. Next time you see them, ask how they actually got to where they are.

Get started

- Register with LSE Careers and browse MyCareer.
- Attend one Shape your future event in your first term – even just to see what's out there.



Useful people and places

LSE Careers can help you explore your career options, reflect and build upon your skills and offer insight into the world of work. They offer appointments, varied events and workshops, application, interview and assessment centre support, sector insights and access to opportunities and vacancies through MyCareer.

LSE Generate, our entrepreneurship hub, is here to help you innovate for the betterment of society. Drop by their co-working space on campus, or join their events, programmes, and mentoring schemes to develop entrepreneurial skills, test business ideas, and meet others interested in innovation.

LSESU Careers Societies are run by students for students. From finance and consulting to technology and the creative industries, they offer opportunities to explore different sectors through networking events, conferences, workshops, and talks.

Ask an Alum connects you with LSE's worldwide network of over 240,000 alumni for advice, support and networking. Whether you're exploring different career options, developing your professional skills or building your first business – just submit your questions and you will be connected with someone who can help.



Find out more Shape your future

Support when you need it

Some general starting points

Your department or Academic Mentor

Your first stop for programme queries, course choices, academic guidance, mentoring, and teaching.

Student Services Centre

Enrolment, student records, official documents, assessments, and School-wide administration.

LSE LIFE

Workshops, one-to-one conversations, study space on the ground floor of the Library, and practical advice on making the most of LSE.

LSESU Advice Service

Free, impartial guidance independent of the School, including help with appeals, complaints, housing, and formal processes.

Student Wellbeing

Wellbeing appointments, counselling, and workshops — all free and confidential. They can support you with stress, anxiety, low mood, loneliness or homesickness, or anything making it harder to work or think clearly.

Disability and Mental Health Service (DMHS)

Adjustments and ongoing support for disabilities, long-term conditions, mental health, and neurodivergence. Get in touch as early as you can since adjustments work best when they're in place before teaching starts.

In an emergency

- Call **999** for emergency services (Police, Fire, or Ambulance)
- Call **020 7955 6555** for LSE Security, about anything urgent on campus, day or night.
- Call **0808 189 0103** for Spectrum.Life, the 24/7 mental health support line.

What not to worry about yet

It's normal to hit a bump in the first weeks - and none of them means you've fallen behind. Everything on this page exists because someone before you needed it too.

A postcard to my future self

Complete this postcard during Welcome, write your name and LSE email address on the back, cut it out, and put it in the postbox in the Welcome tent or the LSE LIFE reception desk. We'll return it to you during Welcome Back in January, so you can reflect on how things have gone during your first term!

My impression of LSE this week was:

Something I'm excited to discover this term is:

One thing I assume about learning at LSE is:

The last song I listened to was:

A skill I think I can develop while I'm at LSE is:

One thing about LSE that I haven't yet figured out is:

Something I'd like to tell my future self:



Name:

LSE Email Address:



After Welcome: what's next

Welcome might be over, but your time at LSE has just started.

By the end of Welcome you will not have done everything - and that's fine! The opportunities you saw at the fairs, the services you walked past, the societies you didn't get to: none of them expire. Most run all year, and some make more sense once teaching has started and you know what you actually need.

The most useful question after Welcome isn't "Did I make the most of it?", but "What's one thing I want to follow up?". Your first term tends to go better when it's built around a few things you actually do, rather than a long list of things you meant to. You haven't missed anything permanent if you leave Welcome with unanswered questions - it's a starting point.

- **Browse the LSE LIFE events and opportunities listing** - every extracurricular happening across LSE, filterable by theme, from academic and careers events to social and wellbeing activities. It's updated regularly throughout the year, so it's worth checking back as your interests and schedule take shape.
- **Attend the Discover LSE Fair** on 15 October - check lse.ac.uk/lselife for the booking link and full details. It's a good opportunity to explore the full range of support services, opportunities, and activities available across the School.
- **Book a LIFE Conversation** - a one-to-one with an adviser to talk through your goals, your options, and which teams or programmes might suit you.
- **Follow up your Me+LSE recommendations** - your campus creature came with suggestions tailored to you.
- **Think about a role or project** - whether it's a course rep position, a society committee, or a volunteering project, many opportunities open for applications during Autumn Term. It's worth knowing what's out there!
- **Keep Welcome Back in mind** - a second round of fairs and events at the start of Winter Term, once you've had a term to find your feet.



Starting at a new university can be a whirlwind - with so many people to meet, places to find, and information to take in.

It's exciting! It's also completely normal to feel a bit overwhelmed as you try to understand it all.

That's where LSE LIFE comes in. Think of us as your personal guide to LSE. We're here to help you step back, make sense of everything the School offers, and find ways to explore the skills, opportunities, and experiences that feel right for you - whether that's mastering your assignments, discovering new passions, preparing for your dream career, making new friends, or simply feeling like a real Londoner.

We keep track of opportunities, events, and resources from across the School so you can find and understand them in one place.

Check it out, and find out more, at **lse.ac.uk/lselife**.



welcome.lse.ac.uk
Everything in this guide, online.

Designed and written by LSE LIFE.

Any questions? Visit **lse.ac.uk/lselife**, come to the LSE LIFE space on the ground floor of the Library, or email us at **lselife@lse.ac.uk**

