

Statement on term dates, vacations and working during MPhil/PhD study

Term Dates

The School's term dates are published [online](#). When you register for a research programme, you are expected to reside within the UK in order to attend taught courses and/or supervision meetings at the LSE. In exceptional circumstances, the Research Degrees Subcommittee Chair might permit you to reside outside of the UK during the final stages of your research: for further information on residing outside of the UK please see the [PhD Academy](#) website.

For full-time students, you are registered for four years until you submit your thesis for examination. Part-time students are registered for eight years.

For all registered research students **vacations are the Christmas and Easter breaks** in each year of registration. You are considered a registered student, continuing your studies during each summer vacation; this is therefore **not** vacation time. You can request one short vacation (of up to 4 weeks) during each summer vacation in years 1 to 3 (or 1 to 7 if part time). This does not normally apply in the summer of your final year when you are expected to be completing your thesis for submission. Vacations during the summer must be negotiated with your academic department, usually with your supervisor and/or Doctoral Programme Director in good time before you plan to leave. Agreed vacation periods should be notified to the PhD Academy [via this enquiry form](#). If additional vacation periods of this kind are granted to you, this cannot then be used as a reason for needing to extend your maximum period of registration in order to complete your thesis.

Working while studying

Studying at the LSE and completing an MPhil or PhD is intensive and demanding. Therefore, we recommend that all students limit work during term time to a maximum of 20 hours per week, and fewer if possible.

If you are on a Tier 4 (General) student visa which permits working in the UK, you may only work up to 20 hours per week except during vacations, when you are permitted to work full-time. The number of hours that you can work is the same regardless of whether you are paid or unpaid. If you have completed your programme, and have a visa that permits you to work, you can work during the short period you are permitted to be in the UK after your programme ends. However, if you withdraw from your programme or interrupt your studies, you are not entitled to work regardless of when your permission in the UK ends. Further guidance on working during your studies as a Tier 4 visa holder can be sought from the [International Student Immigration Service](#) at the LSE.

If you have an ESRC award, you are encouraged to undertake a certain amount of paid teaching or other research work during your studentship provided that you spend a minimum of 1800 hours each academic year on your doctoral training and research. Your programme of training should be compatible with such work and your supervisor must approve. Further guidance on the conditions of ESRC funding can be sought from the [Financial Support Office](#) at the LSE.

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