THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

LSE STUDENTS' UNION

Welcome to LSE Change Makers

Today's workshop

- Welcome & introductions
- What are 2024/25 themes and projects?
- How can you apply?
- What's the project timeline?

[More application information]

This year's programme

[More application information]

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Staff-proposed projects in 2024/25

Projects in 2024/25 have all been proposed by members of staff, and relate to key School priorities

Which ones interest you?
[Full list and more information]

A: What does fair marking look like?
(Media and Communications)

B: Programme coherence
(Media and Communications)

C: Academic Mentoring
(International Development)

D: What promotes experiential learning?
(Statistics)

E: Student experience of different assessment formats (International Development)

F: Programme coherence
(European Institute)

G: Women and postgraduate study
(EDI)

H: How do students use Generative AI for learning?
(Data Science Institute)

I: Student engagement with assessment feedback
(Social Policy)

Application overview

- Apply as a team through our online form
- You can apply for up to two projects
  - We want to include as many people, and fund as many projects, as possible - if your first-choice project is very popular, then this will give you a chance at a second project
- For each project we'll ask:
  - How you would approach the project – what methods you might use
  - Why you think you're the right team to conduct this research
  - What data you might need
  - Any training and development you would need

The rest of these slides go through each question
[More application information]

Methods
[More information on methods]

Choosing (and/or justifying) a method

The staff-proposed projects may suggest a method, or ask you to provide your own.
Methods are specific organised approaches to getting and analysing data.
We ask you to suggest a method and/or **discuss why it's a good fit** for the research question.

You might know methods from your own discipline which would be useful – ones you've used, or are aware of.

lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk

[More information on methods]

Choosing (and/or justifying) a method

Methods could include:

- Interviews or focus groups

  - These can be on campus or onlin

- Surveys

- Analysing pre-existing datasets

  - LSE has some data that could be useful – see later in these slides

- Analysing visual or textual materials

  - This could be material that's already been published (course documents) or collected (feedback comments)

- Mapping spaces or connections

- Creative methods

And many more! We're open to suggestions

Look at previous projects to get ideas

8 lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk

[More information on methods]

Choosing (and/or justifying) a method

All methods have particular strengths. You should aim to pick one(s) which seem like a good fit for the project.

Will they enable you to answer the question? For instance:
- If you're trying to find large-scale facts about students, then a small number of interviews won't help you
- If you want to know why students behave in a certain way, then some kind of data analysis won't give you any clues.

lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk

[More information on methods]

Choosing (and/or justifying) a method

Look at the project proposal and think:

What will be most useful for the project?

- Finding out *facts*?
  (*What's* happening?)

- Exploring *causality?*
  (*Why* is it happening?)

- Or *meaning*?
  (What do people think of it?)

Also think:

What do you enjoy?

What are you good at?

lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk

[More information on methods]

Choosing (and/or justifying) a method

All methods have weaknesses, even when they're a good fit. For example, we often use self-report methods (surveys, interviews, focus groups) but it's not totally reliable – could you find ways to make it less fallible?
- Could people record their thoughts closer to the time of the experience
- Could they perform a task while you watch
- Could they take photos and bring them to an interview

lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk

[**More information on methods**]

Choosing (and/or justifying) a method

We don't expect you to be an expert!
We'll work with you to develop your method ideas.

You can also suggest a method you've never used yourself.
We can provide guidance on using it.
We won't discount an application because you need support with a method.

lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk

[**More information on methods**]

Data and motivations

What data would you need?

The application asks about data.

- Would your method require you to collect **new** data?

- Or work with **existing** data from LSE?

- Or both!

Let us know what you think would help your prjoect.

You don't need to know what data LSE has, at this stage!

We do an initial check, and if your project is selected, investigate further.

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Why are you the right people?

The application also gives you a chance to explain:

What would you bring to the project?

Do you have skills, experiences, interests?

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What does a Change Makers project involve?

How would you approach this project?

The projects offer a great deal of autonomy – we give you a supervisor, and you are in touch with your staff project proposer, but you steer the project quite a bit yourself.

Research requires self-management and good communication in your pair or team, and are quite a time commitment (set against assessments)

Email us if you have any questions about timing, and also visa concerns!

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What next?

After today's workshop

1) **Find your group**
   Network today, use our online <u>matchmaker tool</u>, ask around!

2) **Choose up to two projects**

3) **Prepare and submit an application by Sunday 27 October**
   Rewatch this workshop, use our online resources, meet with LSE LIFE

4) **Receive your application outcome by the end of November**

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Any questions?

You can also email us:
lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk