

# LSE Change Makers: Guidelines for applicants

## What is LSE Change Makers?

Change Makers is an exciting collaboration between LSE and LSE Students' Union that gives students the chance to undertake paid research into how to enhance students' education and experiences across our School.

You can find out about the programme, what would be expected of you, and what you can expect from LSE in return, on the [What is Change Makers?](#) webpage.

A note on eligibility:

- in 2024/25 all projects must have two or more student researchers
- you cannot re-apply to Change Makers if you have previously participated (Full eligibility criteria are on the [What is Change Makers?](#) webpage.)

## What kind of project can I research?

**Staff-proposed project ideas:** This year you can only apply to work on a project proposed by staff, looking at the department(s) they've specified. We ask you to comment on the project idea and the method you would use as part of the application process.

This year's staff-proposed projects are listed [here](#).

## Applying to Change Makers

Applications will open on Monday 7 October 2024 and close on **23:59 on Sunday 27 October 2024**. Please visit our [application webpage](#) to find out more and to submit your application.

## What happens after you apply?

A panel meets to review and select applications, on behalf of Professor Emma McCoy, LSE's Vice President and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) and SU Education Officer Wajiha Umar.

The panel will consider applicants against **the following criteria:**

- Could the findings inform and improve education and/or the student experience at LSE?
- Has the applicant built on and developed the information in the staff proposal?
- Is the proposed method suitable for answering the research question?
- Is the data needed by the project attainable? (Does it exist, or could it be created by the student researchers?)
- Could the research be carried out within 100 hours?

The panel will also aim to fund a balance of projects across different topics, different departments within LSE, and students at different levels of study.

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the end of November 2024.

### How can I give my application the best chance of success?

In previous years, we were only able to fund around a quarter of the Change Makers project applications we received. We aim to give feedback on all applications, but even strong applications may not be successful. We therefore recommend that applicants:

- Come to the **Change Makers launch workshop** between 12-1:30pm on Wednesday 16 October 2024. Please book your place on the [Training and Development System](#). This will help develop your ideas, and potentially meet co-researchers.
- Check that your application **meets the criteria** outlined above.
- Email [lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk), or book an appointment with an [LSE LIFE Study Advisor](#) for a short discussion to help clarify your ideas.
- If any existing LSE data is essential for your project, try to make sure that **you are able to access this data**. For example, there are restrictions on the type of data you can access about LSE students, or the results of student surveys. If the data is departmental you could ask a member of staff in that department. If you aren't sure, then you can ask [lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk)
- But **don't over-research in advance of your application**, and don't worry if you have not previously conducted research. The panel will be looking for a good question with a suitable method, but we appoint each successful project a supervisor who will help with all aspects of the research process.
- We normally receive more original project ideas, so your chances may be better if you apply for a staff project.

### Provisional schedule for 2024/25

Activity	Deadline
Call for proposals opens	Monday 7 October 2024
Launch workshop – find out more about Change Makers and how to devise your project	12-1:30pm on Wednesday 16 October 2024, MAR.2.05 - <a href="#">Book a place</a>
Application deadline	<b>Sunday 27 October 2024, at 23.59</b>
Panel review applications	November 2024
Applicants notified of panel decision	By the end of November 2024
Workshop for successful projects	Wednesday 4 December 2024, 1:30-3pm on campus
Right to Work Check with HR	December 2024 (on campus or online, dependent on immigration status)
Data and ethics workshops	Afternoon of Wednesday 11 December 2024, on campus
Complete and return HR paperwork	December 2024
LSE Change Makers projects carried out	January 2025 – June 2025
LSE Change Makers present findings and recommendations at an in-person celebratory event on campus	First half of June 2025, on campus and on Zoom

Meet with relevant staff in dialogue meeting(s)	June 2025
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If you have any questions during the application process, please contact [lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lse.changemakers@lse.ac.uk)