

Welcome to LSE

Self-Guided Campus Tour



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Introduction

This self-guided tour will help you identify the best places to study and socialise on campus. It also offers a glimpse into LSE's history and some fun facts about this corner of London.

Make your way to John Watkins Plaza where this self-guided tour starts.

You will visit key locations including the LSE Library, the Marshall Building, the Bookshop, the Cheng Kin Ku Building, Lincoln's Inn Fields, the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, the Peacock Theatre, the Old Building, Clement House, Clements Inn, The Centre Building and finish at LSE Square.

The route should take approximately 50 minutes. Please be mindful of other students, staff and traffic around you when undertaking the tour.



1

John Watkins Plaza

The plaza is named after the philosopher John Watkins who was associated with LSE for over 40 years, first as a student and later as a Professor of Philosophy.

It is now home to the Equus art installation, Tembo the elephant and the LSE penguin. Take a moment to locate them! One day LSE students arrived on campus to find the penguin had been stolen, with only its feet remaining (which were later stolen too). Students were so distraught that bouquets of flowers and tins of sardines were left on the spot, and a candlelit vigil was held. It attracted media attention. The perpetrator was never found but the artist kindly provided a replica. Rumours that students from rival Kings College London were to blame remain unsubstantiated!

Enter the LSE Library through the main entrance near the front of the John Watkins Plaza. It is a restricted access building, so you'll require your LSE student card (which you'll receive at campus enrolment) to proceed beyond the security barriers.



2 LSE Library (Lionel Robbins Building)

The LSE Library houses the second largest social science collection in the world – after the British Library. It's also home to the Women's Library, which includes UNESCO-recognised collections of documents.

The Library was designed by Norman Foster, who was also responsible for restoring the Reichstag in Berlin.

The Library has amongst the longest opening hours of any university library in Britain. It's open from 8am to midnight for most of the year, and 24 hours per day in Winter and Spring Term.

There is an IT walk-in centre on the first floor, photocopying and printing services throughout, i-roam laptop hire and library lockers.

Exit the library and turn right out of the main entrance. Exit the plaza and turn left up Portsmouth Street, stopping in front of the George IV pub, being careful not to block the pavement.



3

Marshall Building

The Marshall Building is the newest addition to LSE's campus. Opened in January 2022, the School invested £145m into the building to improve the student and staff experience.

The Marshall Building was designed by Dublin based Grafton Architects, after winning the international architectural competition to design the building.

You can find teaching rooms, quiet study spaces, catering outlets and a sports centre. During certain periods, you may be required to show your LSE Card (which you'll receive at enrolment) to enter the building.

Continue walking down Portsmouth Street. Stop when you reach the corner of The Gilded Acorn bookshop, being careful not to block the pavement.



4

Campus shops and pubs

Located on Portsmouth Street

The George IV pub is the most popular pub on campus – it's always busy in the evenings. It serves a wide variety of drinks, including a rotating selection of guest ales.

The campus shop, just further along Portsmouth Street sells stationery and LSE merchandise.

The Gilded Acorn bookshop offers a range of fiction and academic titles, some pre-owned, (including LSE course textbooks!) at discounted prices.

Across the road from the campus shop is the Old Curiosity Shop, which was immortalised in fiction by Charles Dickens (a great British writer in the 19th century).

Continue along Portsmouth Street. At the end of the road, cross over the pedestrian crossing in front of you and stop in front of the railings of the Chen Kin Ku Building Plaza. Be careful not to block the pavement or the entrance to the plaza.



5

Cheng Kin Ku Building (CKK) and Lincoln's Inn Fields

The Cheng Kin Ku Building, previously known as the New Academic Building, was initially constructed in 1912 but refurbished by LSE and opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 2008.

It's now home to several catering outlets (including a vegan café), teaching rooms, study and social spaces, and a roof terrace with great views across London.

Across the road is Lincoln's Inn Fields, which is the largest public square in London and colloquially known as 'LSE's back garden'. It's also a popular filming location (scenes from Harry Potter, Downton Abbey and Suffragette have been filmed here) so you can often see film crews and trailers.

Cross back over the pedestrian crossing, return along Portsmouth street and take the first right into Sheffield Street. Stop outside the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, being careful not to block the thoroughfare.



6

Saw Swee Hock Student Centre (SAW)

The Saw Swee Hock Student Centre is home to the LSE Students' Union. Here you can find the LSE Media Centre (Pulse Radio, The Beaver newspaper, The Clare Market Review journal and Loose TV station), Three Tuns Pub, event space and the LSE Gym.

LSESU host several events during Welcome, including a Welcome Fair from Tuesday 23 September to Thursday 25 September.

It is also home to the LSE Faith Centre which runs interfaith leadership programmes and offers a quiet reflective space for all students.

Continue along Sheffield Street towards "The World Turned Upside Down" globe (a sculpture by the Turner Prize winning artist, Mark Wallinger).

Photo opportunity.

Cross over Portugal Street and stop outside the Old Building, being careful not to block the pavement or any entrances.



7

Peacock Theatre and 20 Kingsway

The Peacock Theatre is owned by LSE. It is used for large lectures, high-profile public events, and graduation ceremonies. International dance shows by the Sadler's Wells theatre company take place throughout the year.

20 Kingsway is home to the Language Centre and LSE 100, as well as computer and teaching rooms. The Language Centre offers undergraduate courses, non-degree lessons and support with English for Academic Purposes.

Cross the street to the Old Building and follow the signs to the Student Services Centre. Stop at the foot of the steel staircase, being careful not to block access.



8

Student Services Centre (SSC)

The Student Services Centre counter is open from Monday to Friday. Please check online for the counter opening hours.

Staff can help with most general questions about your student status. There are also specialist drop-ins offering advice about student-related visas. This is also available online by live chat and an enquiry form.

You'll sometimes be asked by organisations (eg banks, councils, embassies) to provide proof of your student status. You can download a digitally stamped and signed letter online, however if that isn't accepted you can request a letter from the SSC.

On the far side of the Student Services Centre, you'll see a display featuring a list of some Nobel Prize winners who have studied, taught, or conducted research at LSE.

Next to the SSC you'll find the atrium, which is usually home to an art exhibition or installation. As you walk through the atrium, you can see the original remains of the Passmore Edwards Hall on your right.

Turn back around and exit the Student Services Centre by going back through the door under the metal staircase. Turn left and go down the corridor.



9

Ground floor corridor, Old Building

As you pass along this corridor, you'll see a collage of photos from the LSE community.

You'll pass "Store Room G.15" on your left, which is a secure laptop storage room for when you don't want to carry your device around with you all day. For more information about secure storage options on campus please see the LSE Facilities Guide online.

Finally, you'll come to the LSE memorial in remembrance of the members of our community who fought and died in the two World Wars.

At the end of the corridor, turn right into the main entrance and stop in the seating area to the right of the doors.



10

Old Building Lobby

The Old Theatre is one of the School's main lecture theatres. It is primarily used for teaching and public events, where some of the most influential figures in the social sciences can be heard lse.ac.uk/events.

The Fourth Floor of the Old Building contains a large restaurant and terrace, as well as the undergraduate common room. The sixth floor is home to the Shaw Library, which is an honesty library, quiet study space (when not booked for events), and location for free lunchtime music recitals on Thursdays.

If you look up towards the mezzanine level (on the ceiling to the right of the lifts) you will see LSE's coat of arms. The motto – *rerum cognoscere causas* – means "to know the causes of things".

Exit the Old Building and cross Houghton Street to the entrance of New Inn Passage. Stop and turn to look at the main entrance of the Old Building.



11

Old Building (main entrance – Houghton Street)

LSE was founded in 1895. The School's founders include Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Graham Wallas and George Bernard Shaw.

Building work began in LSE's current location in 1900. They built Passmore Edwards Hall, which was later enveloped by the Old Building, however you can still see the interiors of Passmore Edwards Hall in the Student Services Centre.

The foundation stone of the Old Building was laid by King George V and it can be seen to the left of the entrance. The stone was placed on top of a "time capsule" containing a copy of Wealth by Professor Edwin Cannan and a set of newly minted British currency.

The sculpture over the Old Building entrance is called Final Sale by the award-winning Russian artists Andrey Blokhin and Georgy Kuznetsov. It is made of plastic and is a reflection on consumerist society.

**Head left down Houghton Street and turn left onto Aldwych.
Continue until you reach Clement House on your left and stop,
being careful not to block the pavement or building entrance.**



12

Clement House

Clement House used to be a bank and the Hong Kong Theatre used to be the bank's trading floor. Some of your lectures, seminars and exams are likely to take place in this building throughout the year.

Across the road, you can see St Clement Danes church, which was built by Sir Christopher Wren. You can often hear the bells ringing from campus and it's very picturesque when the trees blossom in spring.

Further down the road is the Royal Courts of Justice which houses the High Court and Court of Appeal of England and Wales. The courts within the building are generally open to the public with some access restrictions depending upon the nature of the cases heard.

Continue along Aldwych and turn left through the iron gates into Clement's Inn Passage. Continue until you reach the Three Fates sculpture outside Pethick-Lawrence House.



13

Clement's Inn

Clement's Inn is home to Pankhurst House, Fawcett House and Pethick-Lawrence House – all recently renamed after central figures in the British suffrage movement. You can see a plaque commemorating 100 years of UK women's suffrage to the right of the entrance to Pethick-Lawrence House. These three buildings are on the same site as the London headquarters of the Women Social and Political Union and the wider campus was home to various suffrage campaign meetings.

Pethick-Lawrence House houses the St Philips Medical Centre, Disability and Mental Health Service and Student Counselling Service. You can find out how to access all these services in the Welcome Guide.

You can access free secure bike storage in the basement of Pankhurst and Fawcett House using your LSE Card. It's advisable to avoid using the cycle racks on the streets throughout the campus as they can be targeted by thieves.

Finally, this area used to be the location of Enon Chapel. In the 1830s, a corrupt minister promised cheap burials for paupers, cramming thousands of bodies into a small vault beneath the church. Church goers regularly experienced fainting and sickness from the smell, but its cause remained undiscovered for nearly 20 years. After the bodies were relocated, the church became a saloon which hosted infamous "Dancing on the Dead" events.



14

The Centre Building and LSE Square

The Centre Building offers purpose-built academic facilities, including four lecture theatres, 14 seminar rooms and over 200 study spaces. There is a café on the ground floor and there are roof terraces on levels 2, 6 and 12.

If you look to your right, you will see the mural outside St Clement's Building on LSE Square – Spectra. Created by artist Tod Hansen, it is inspired by The Booth Poverty Map. Charles Booth inquired into the life and labour of the people of London in the late 19th and early 20th century. The map forms part of the LSE Library's archive and has even been inscribed into UNESCO's Memory of the World register! The mural shows the area of London that LSE occupies. At the top, you will see Lincoln's Inn Fields and the red square is the Centre Building (where you are now!).

This is the end of the self-guided tour. It has taken you to most of the key locations across campus and finished in the heart of the campus. Feel free to explore more in your own time and once you've collected your LSE Card at campus enrolment!