

Essential Information About Your Postgraduate Academic Mentor

At LSE, **academic mentoring** is about building scholarly partnerships based on shared purpose and understanding. Every student has an Academic Mentor who acts as their **first point of contact** with the academic community. Your Academic Mentor will keep an overview of your academic progress and overall well-being during your time at the School. **You are expected to book at least two mentoring meetings per term.**

How Can Academic Mentoring Help You Navigate Your Postgraduate Journey?

- Enhance your student experience through personalised academic guidance
- Improve your academic success with discipline-specific support
- Prepare for employment and careers beyond university through networking and advice
- Develop a sense of belonging within your disciplinary community

What Can You Expect From Your Academic Mentor?

- A reliable point of contact in your department throughout your time at LSE
- Regular meetings (minimum twice per term) to discuss your progress and challenges
- Academic support tailored to your specific programme and discipline
- Guidance on accessing well-being support
- Help with extensions, deferrals and exceptional circumstances

What Does Your Academic Mentor Expect of You?

- Proactive scheduling and consistent attendance
- Prepared engagement to discuss topics relevant to your academic journey
- Open communication about successes and challenges
- Follow through on agreed actions
- Raise important issues early that could impact your studies so you can receive timely support and guidance

Planning Your Mentoring Meetings:

Your first meeting is crucial to set the tone of your mentoring relationship. Your first meeting establishes the foundation of your scholarly partnership and determines how effectively your mentor can support your academic journey. By sharing your research interests and career aspirations early, your mentor can tailor their guidance, connect you with relevant opportunities, and help you navigate the complexities of postgraduate study from the outset.

Use the [Resources section from the Academic Mentoring Hub](#) to get more ideas about topics to discuss.

Suggested Timeline and Topics

Autumn Term

- **Week 1:** Introductions, goal setting, programme orientation, communication preferences
- **Week 6:** Assessment progress, workload management, career planning
- **Week 11:** Feedback review, exam preparation, and well-being check

Winter Term

- **Week 1:** Goal revision, dissertation planning, career applications
- **Week 6:** Progress check, challenge resolution, support access
- **Week 11:** Assessment preparation, dissertation progress, future planning

Note: You may also participate in group mentoring sessions throughout your programme.

Areas Where Your Academic Mentor Can Offer Guidance

- **Studies:** Course selection, assessment strategies, academic skills development
- **Life:** Balancing academic and personal commitments, campus integration
- **Future:** Career planning, networking opportunities, postgraduate pathways
- **Well-being and Mental Health:** Stress management, accessing support services
- **How to report an issue**

Tips from Previous Students

Before Meetings:

- Book mentoring meetings early, even without urgent needs
- Request additional slots when standard office hours are fully booked
- Prepare meeting agendas and share them with your mentor in advance
- Research your mentor's academic interests and current projects

During Meetings:

- Come prepared with specific questions and topics
- Discuss your formative assessments to maximise feedback benefits
- Be open about both successes and challenges

After Meetings:

- Reflect on key takeaways and identify concrete next steps
- Follow up on agreed actions and commitments
- Maintain regular communication between formal meetings

General Strategies:

- Use [StudentHub](#) to book office hours with other staff members when needed
- Connect with classmates who have prior academic mentoring experience
- Always cancel appointments you cannot attend to allow others to use the slot

Also, check out this [video where students shared their experiences on Academic Mentoring](#)

Reach Out to Your Academic Mentor When You Need:

- Specific academic advice about your performance or study strategies
- Support navigating difficult situations and finding appropriate help
- Assistance with extensions, deferrals, or reporting exceptional circumstances
- Help reporting issues, including harassment, discrimination, or emergencies
- Someone to share progress with, including both achievements and challenges

Resources and Useful Contacts

If you cannot reach your Academic Mentor, alternative support is available through:

- Departmental Tutor
- Departmental Senior Student Advisor
- Programme Manager

Additional Resources:

- School-wide support services: Visit the [Student Support Map](#)
- Academic Mentoring guidance: Access comprehensive resources at the [Academic Mentoring Hub](#)

Remember: Your Academic Mentor is your ally within the department. They are there to guide you through academic challenges and connect you with appropriate support for any issues affecting your well-being, mental health, and academic success.