



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

**Inclusive Education  
Eden Centre**

# Question ideas

## **For Academic Mentors**

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## Supporting students' study

### Establish students' interests

- Why did you select this particular programme? Why LSE?
- What do you hope to learn/get out of your programme?
- What have you found intellectually stimulating so far in your studies?
- What do you feel you have learned so far in your programme?
- Is there any particular area you'd like to study further?

### Autonomous learning

- How do you spend your time outside of class?
- How do you manage studying, homework and reading?
- How do you plan your time?
- Are you happy with the balance between study and other interests at the moment?

### Setting learning goals

- What do you hope to achieve over the a) term, b) year, or c) programme?
- How do you plan to achieve those goals?
- What are the first steps you plan to take?

## Questions to ask about assessments

### Prepare for upcoming assessments

- What assessments do you have coming up?
- Have you ever done these kinds of assessments before?
- How are you preparing for the assessments?
- How are you managing your time? Have you created a timeline for all your different assessments?

### Interpret feedback

- Have you had any informal feedback on your work, including contributions to discussions and seminars? What did you learn?
- How did you do on your assessment? Is this what you expected? (Why / why not?)
- Have you had any formal feedback yet on your work? If so, what have you learned and what actions will you take forward as you continue to study?
- What strengths did the feedback identify in your work?
- What areas of improvement were highlighted?
- What kind of feedback do you find most useful?
- Are you making use of other opportunities to seek feedback eg. via Moodle or during office hours?

- How confident do you feel about using the correct referencing style for your subject(s)?
- Are you confident that you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it?

### **Apply feedback to future assessments**

- In light of the feedback, what do you plan to do now?
- How are you going to develop some of the areas of improvement?
- Knowing what you know now, how will you plan for your next assessments?
- Do you understand what you need to do to improve your work next time?

### **How can you make the most of your sessions?**

#### **During the meeting**

- What have you learned that has surprised you?
- Do you see any of these ideas / themes / concepts in life outside of your studies?
- How does this make you understand yourself and your own context?

### **Questions to ask about their lives' outside of studies**

#### **Settling in**

- Where are you living? Are you happy there?
- Are there any new activities you would like to try?
- Are you interested in joining any SU societies? Which ones?
- Have you registered with the NHS?
- Do you know about all the services that the Student Services Centre offers?
- Is being at LSE what you expected?

#### **Study-life balance**

- What is your timetable like? How are you planning your independent study?
- How are you managing your study load with other activities or responsibilities you have?
- How are you feeling about the work you need to do?
- What are you doing to help relieve any stress or take your mind off your studies?
- Are you enjoying yourself?
- What are you doing for fun?

#### **Assessment and exam stress**

- What assessments do you have coming up?
- What does your study schedule look like?
- What's the best time of day for you to take a break? What do you do then?
- Are you sleeping well?
- What are your eating habits like?

- What are you doing to relax?

### **Belonging**

- Are you enjoying your time at LSE?
- Have you made friends with others on your programme / in your department?
- What do you do on campus when you're not studying?
- How are things at LSE outside of your studies?
- How are you adjusting to life at LSE / in London / in the UK?
- Do you think there's anything that the department could do to help build a community?

### **Specific students' needs**

#### **International students**

- How are you adjusting to LSE?
- How are you adjusting to life in the UK?
- Have you been able to find everything you need?

#### **Part-time students**

- How are you managing your time between your studies and other obligations?
- Do you feel like you are a part of your cohort?
- Do you have people outside of LSE who are supportive of what you're trying to do?

#### **Mature students**

- How are you feeling about your studies?
- How are you managing the workload?
- Do you have any concerns about upcoming assessments and what might be expected of you?

## Supporting Students' Future

### Talking about the future

- Have you got plans for after you graduate? What would you like to do?
- Are you considering further study? In what and where?
- What would be your ideal career?
- Have you approached relevant staff or alumni of the School for further advice?
- Have you met with a Careers Adviser?

## Supporting Students' Well-being

### Some key messages you might want to share are:

- Sleeping is important. Pulling regular all-nighters is not sustainable.
- Eating well and trying to take some exercise will also help them to feel well. There's information online, or students could speak to a GP for more information on healthy eating.
- Getting an LSE degree is hard, but it will feel a whole lot harder if you're regularly pulling all-nighters, drinking lots of caffeine and not getting any good food rather than planning a more sustainable study schedule.
- Good time management can really help with stress and feeling overwhelmed. LSE LIFE advisers can help with time-management skills.
- Talking about problems will help students to understand them and in many cases, prevent them from growing. Services such as counselling may have a waiting list, but they are for everyone, no matter how 'trivial' a problem might seem. You don't have to have a mental health diagnosis to go and no one will tell your family, friends or future employers if you do go.
- It's ok to not be living the 'perfect' life- sometimes we all skip meals, miss sleep or feel very anxious about upcoming events and that is normal. When these things are happening most days or preventing you from achieving every day tasks, then you may want to see a professional to learn new coping mechanisms.
- It's not 'weak' to feel stressed or upset and it's not 'failing' to ask for help. None of us gets everything right first time.
- You wouldn't have been selected for LSE if we didn't think you could succeed. You do have the skills to do so and are capable of doing well just like your peers.

## Supporting 1st year undergraduate students

### Autumn Term

#### First mentor meeting

- Where are you living? Are you happy there?
- Which sports or activities have you done previously? Are there any you hope to continue?
- Are there any new activities you would like to try out? Which ones?
- Are you interested in joining any SU societies? Which ones?
- Have you registered with the NHS and/or a GP surgery?
- Do you know about all the services that the Student Services Centre offers?
- What interested you about studying on this particular programme at LSE?
- What do you hope to learn / get out of your programme?
- What do you hope to achieve over the a) term, b) year, or c) programme?
- What are the first steps you plan to take?

#### Study skills

To get a sense of how they are doing, you may want to ask them:

- How much studying are you doing outside of class time?
- How are you managing your reading load?
- How do you tackle an academic text?
- How are you enjoying seminar discussions?
- What time management tools are you using to help you stay on top of your studies?
- In what ways are you balancing your studies with other areas of your life?

### Winter Term

- How did you do on your assessment? Is this what you expected? (Why / why not?)
- What kind of feedback have you got on your assessment?
- What were the strengths of your work?
- What areas of improvement were mentioned?
- In light of the feedback, what do you plan to do now?
- How are you going to develop some of the areas of improvement?
- Do you understand what you need to do to improve next time?

## Supporting 2nd year UG students

### Studying

- How did you do in your assessments? Were your results what you expected? (Why / why not?)
- What kind of feedback have you received on your assessment?
- What were the strengths of your work?
- Were you told about any areas for improvement? How could you work on these?
- Do you understand what you need to do to improve next time?

## Supporting final year students

### Dissertations

- How is your work on your dissertation going?
- How are you managing the different stages?
- What is your research question? How are you trying to answer it?
- How are you planning and managing your time?

### Life after LSE

- Have you got plans for after you graduate? What would you like to do?
- Are you considering further study? In what and where?
- What would be your ideal career?
- Have you approached relevant staff or alumni of the School for further advice?

### Future study

- What are possible areas of study they could focus on in light of their current programme?
- What universities offer these programmes (and what reputation do those programmes have)?
- What is the application process like? (How might it be different across institutions and country contexts?)
- What should they include in their personal statements?



## Supporting postgraduate students

### First session

- Where are you living? Are you happy there?
- Have you looked at the Public Lecture series for this term?
- Are there any new activities you would like to try out?
- Are you interested in joining any SU societies? Which ones?
- Have you registered with the NHS and/or a GP surgery?
- Do you know about all the services that the Student Services Centre offers?
- What interested you about studying on this particular programme at LSE?
- What do you hope to learn / get out of your programme?
- What are you hoping to research as part of your dissertation?
- What do you hope to achieve over this academic year?
- What are the first steps you plan to take?

### International students

- How are you adjusting to LSE?
- How are you adjusting to life in the UK?
- Have you been able to find everything you need?

### Autumn term

- How much studying are you doing outside of class time?
- How are you managing your reading load?
- How do you tackle an academic text?
- Are you enjoying seminar discussions?
- How are you managing your time to help you stay on top of your studies?
- In what ways are you balancing your studies with the rest of your life?

### Winter term

- How did you do on your assessment? Is this what you expected? (Why / why not?)
- What kind of feedback have you received on your assessment?
- What were the strengths of your work?
- What areas of improvement were mentioned?
- Do you know what you need to do to better next time?

### Dissertation

- How is your work on your dissertation going?
- How are you managing the different stages?
- What is your research question? How are you trying to answer it?
- What are your time management techniques?

## Life after LSE

- Have you got plans for after you graduate? What would you like to do?
- Are you considering further study? In what and where?
- What would be your ideal career?
- Have you approached relevant staff or alumni of the School for further advice?