

Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the post holder.

Job title: Deputy Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Sub-Committee (USSC)

Accountable to: Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Sub-Committee

The remit of the Undergraduate Studies Sub-Committee is:

1. To consider proposals from departments for the establishment of new undergraduate degrees and diplomas.
2. To consider proposals from departments for the establishment of new courses to be offered to undergraduate students in the School within degree and diploma programmes.
3. In exceptional circumstances, to consider proposals from institutes for the establishment of programmes and courses for undergraduate degrees and diplomas. Institutes may be permitted to administer cross-disciplinary degree programmes, but all courses must be approved through the appropriate departmental procedures, be allocated a department course code and be subject to department review and oversight.
4. To consider proposals for non-credit bearing courses to be offered to undergraduate students.
5. To provide oversight of devolved quality assurance arrangements for the consideration of modifications to courses and programmes by Departmental Teaching Committees that do not fall into established structures and would therefore potentially be considered as precedent setting. Consideration of modifications by the sub-committee may be required in some circumstances on the advice of the Education Committee (formerly Academic and Student Affairs Committee) or of officers¹ responsible for the categorisation of proposals.
6. To approve proposals as in (1) and (2) above, subject to:
 - a. the approval of the Academic Planning and Resources Committee (APRC) as regards to requirements for additional resources;
 - b. the approval of Timetables, Library and DTS as regards to logistical and resource requirements;
 - c. the approval of the School Board of Examiners as regards to consideration progression and classification of awards;
 - d. the approval of other School officers as regards to logistical and resource requirements including but not limited to Undergraduate Admissions, Student Recruitment and the Student Services Centre, where deemed necessary by the Sub-Committee;

¹ Education Committee and its sub-committees are serviced by the Teaching Quality Assurance and Review Office.

- e. the advice of the Teaching Quality Assurance and Review Office, the Academic and Professional Development Division where deemed necessary by the Sub-Committee;
 - f. the advice of the Education Committee on programme proposals where deemed necessary by the Sub-Committee.
7. To consider proposals as in (1 – 5) above, when proposed within the agreed School timelines for the establishment of taught provision. To consider proposals submitted outside of the agreed School timelines only in truly exceptional circumstances. To recommend deferral of the proposed changes to a later academic session when deemed necessary.
 8. To consider proposals as in (1 – 5) above, subject to due consideration of national legislative, regulatory and statutory frameworks (for example the Office for Students' quality assurance operating model, QAA's Quality Code, or Competition and Markets Authority guidance) and the impact on material information detailed in offers made to students during an active admissions cycle and/or to material information already provided to registered students. 'Material' course and programme information includes programme title, entry requirements, provision of core courses and likely optional courses, programme length, programme award, accreditation, contact hours, and overall assessment methods.
 9. To consider proposals as in (1 – 5) above, subject to due consideration of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, including the legal right to teaching that does not discriminate against students on the grounds of the nine 'protected characteristics' enshrined in the Equality Act (2010). To consider proposals in the context of developments in School policy and best practice in relation to diverse, accessible and inclusive curriculum, modes of teaching and forms of assessment.
 10. To consider requests from departments for oversize undergraduate classes, seminars and workshops (i.e. where the total number of students in any group exceeds 15).*
 11. To keep Education Committee informed of any potential changes to regulations relating to undergraduate degrees, diplomas and the General course, as might be necessary.
 12. To contribute to discussions on policy and regulation changes as required by Education Committee and any other committee.
 13. To approve the appointment of new and re-appointment of existing external examiners for undergraduate courses/programmes in line with School criteria, drawing on the advice of the Education Committee where deemed necessary by the Sub-Committee.
 14. To prepare a report for Education Committee which summarises the reports of external examiners at the undergraduate level each session.
 15. To consider for approval individual student requests for the suspension of undergraduate programme regulations.*
 16. To consider requests from departments and institutes to waive the School policy of double marking on undergraduate courses.*
 17. To act as panel members on Assessment Misconduct Panels as detailed in the [Regulations on Assessment Offences: plagiarism](#) and [offences other than plagiarism](#).

* Denotes action usually approved by the Chair on behalf of the Sub-Committee.

Mode of operation

- To meet when required and normally at least twice a term. To report annually to the Education Committee.
- To ensure that the business of the Sub-Committee is publicised effectively so that representatives of departments and/or programmes are given an opportunity to comment on issues affecting them.
- To invite any other person to attend its meetings to assist in the conduct of its business, always including the proposer of any business before the Sub-Committee.

Duties / Responsibilities of the Deputy Chair:

1. To support the Chair of the USSC and the Vice President and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education), in the strategic oversight of LSE's validation processes for the approval of new taught provision, in support of LSE's strategic objectives.
2. To chair meetings of the USSC on behalf of the USSC Chair, and to provide a brief report to the USSC Chair when the Chair is not in attendance.
3. In respect of undergraduate students, to consider USSC Chair's action requests on behalf of the USSC Chair, including requests for suspension of programme regulations, in-cycle changes to advertised programmes, or GTA appointments.
4. To consider reports from external assessors for new undergraduate programmes.
5. To approve nomination for (re-)appointment of external examiners for undergraduate programmes and the appointment of external examiners for language study or Summer School courses.
6. To take Chair's Action on behalf of the Chair in respect of the items listed with an asterisk in the Sub-Committee's terms of reference or as part of the management of committee meeting follow-up as required.

Honorarium

An honorarium is paid as compensation for completion of duties / responsibilities detailed above.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility is needed, and the post holder may be required to perform work not specifically referred to above.