

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH EXCHANGE STUDENTS

These Regulations are approved by the Academic Board.

Last updated: June 2025

Where these regulations require a member of the School's staff or a body of the School to act, this authority may be delegated where appropriate.

Where these regulations require communication to be 'in writing' this will normally be by email. In accordance with the Conditions of Registration and Enrolment, the School will assume that students can open, read, and act upon emails sent to their LSE email account.

General

1. These regulations are made subject to the General Academic Regulations of the School and the Conditions of Registration and Enrolment. They apply to all students enrolled as Research Exchange Students with the School.
2. Research Exchange Student status is available only to research students officially nominated to study at LSE by staff at institutions with which the School has a valid reciprocal PhD student exchange agreement.
3. By-programme regulations are not required for Research Exchange Student programmes.
4. Research Exchange Student admitting rights are automatically granted to departments with existing postgraduate research degree programmes, and run in parallel with these, with the same programme director. Other entities within the School may not admit Research Exchange Students.
5. These regulations exist to facilitate visits to LSE for the purposes of study by research students registered at institutions with which the School has a valid reciprocal PhD student exchange agreement, to allow them to:
 - 5.1 participate in and contribute to the research environment of their host department, and in the School research environment in general;
 - 5.2 interact with other LSE research students; and,
 - 5.3 benefit from the expertise of LSE faculty, the training offered by the PhD Academy, and other resources available to LSE research degree students.
6. Research Exchange Students are not permitted to work during their period of enrolment at the School. The sole purpose of the proposed visit must be study.
7. The *Appeals Regulations for Research Students* do not apply to Research Exchange Students.

Research Ethics

8. All students must ensure their research complies with the School's Research Ethics Policy.

Admission

9. Only students who are currently enrolled in research degree programmes at institutions with which LSE has a valid reciprocal PhD student exchange agreement, are officially nominated by their home institutions, and are at an advanced stage in their studies may be admitted as Research Exchange Students. In collaboration with the relevant academic departments, the Study Abroad team will ensure that nominated Research Exchange Students are suitable and eligible candidates before any offer of admission is made.

Enrolment

10. The minimum period of enrolment for Research Exchange Students is one LSE academic term.
11. The normal maximum permitted period of enrolment for a Research Exchange Student is one LSE academic term.
12. Periods of enrolment will normally be expected to match the start and/or end dates of the relevant LSE academic term. However, bespoke dates may be requested.

13. Part-time enrolment is not permitted for Research Exchange Students.
14. Research Exchange Students are not permitted to extend or interrupt their period of enrolment.

Entitlement to an advisor

15. Research Exchange Students are not entitled to supervision of the sort described in the *Regulations for Research Degrees*. Instead, Research Exchange Students are entitled to an advisor. Advisors will:
 - 15.1 have knowledge of a student's subject area and theoretical approach;
 - 15.2 be a member of the academic staff of the School whose employment will outlast the student's period of enrolment;
 - 15.3 be assigned for the duration of the student's period of enrolment, subject to regulation;
 - 15.4 be responsible in a lead capacity for no more than eight of the following total: supervisees in a lead capacity, VRS advisees, and Research Exchange Student advisees; and,
 - 15.5 will be a permanent member of the academic staff of the School.¹
16. The identity of the advisor will be confirmed as part of the admission process and will not normally change during a Research Exchange Student's period of enrolment. Changes of advisor can be approved by the programme director in cases where the advisor becomes unavailable or is no longer employed by the School.
17. As Research Exchange Students should be at an advanced stage in their studies when admitted to the School, they are expected to be self-directed during their period of enrolment and are not entitled to full supervisory meetings.

Absence

18. Periods of enrolment must be followed continuously. Periods of absence are permitted, subject to the limitations set out below, and subject to the limitations of the UK visa system.
 - 18.1 Periods of absence will count towards a student's period of enrolment.
 - 18.2 For students enrolled for less than 12 weeks, absence for vacation outside of School closure periods will not normally be permitted.
 - 18.3 Up to 2 weeks of absence due to illness or other urgent cause may be approved by the programme director in any 12-week period of enrolment.

Taught courses and assessment

19. Research Exchange Students are:
 - 19.1 entitled to attend and participate in doctoral workshops and department research seminars in their home department;
 - 19.2 not entitled to take taught courses for credit, but may audit courses by agreement with the course leader; and,
 - 19.3 not entitled to submit for or be examined for a degree from the LSE by virtue of their Research Exchange Student enrolment.

Attendance, engagement and fieldwork

20. All Research Exchange Students are expected to be in regular attendance at the School, in regular contact with their advisor, and in continuous engagement with their studies. Departments are required to maintain accurate and up to date records of interactions between Research Exchange Students and their advisors, and to make these available on request for the purposes of visa compliance monitoring.
 - 20.1 Research Exchange Students will be entitled to one advisory meetings per term.

¹ This excludes centennial or visiting professors and retired members of staff.



21. Though Research Exchange Students are not required to undertake the progress review or upgrade procedures, where engagement concerns exist, it will be open to the Research Degrees Sub-Committee Chair to instruct the PhD Academy to de-register the student.
22. Research Exchange Students are not permitted to undertake fieldwork or to study elsewhere during their period of enrolment.

Notes For the purposes of this Code, the term 'department' comprises both departments and institutes.

See the [Calendar](#) for further information about Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations.