

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR VISITING RESEARCH 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 Visiting Research Students with the School.
2. These regulations do not apply to research exchange programmes.
3. By-programme regulations are not required for VRS programmes.
4. VRS 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 Visiting Research Students.
5. These regulations exist to facilitate visits to LSE for the purposes of study by research students registered at other institutions, 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. These regulations do not apply to circumstances in which research students registered at other institutions are employed by the LSE. Visiting Research Students must not be admitted if the primary purpose of the proposed visit is work, rather than study.¹
7. The *Appeals Regulations for Research Students* do not apply to Visiting Research Students.

Research Ethics

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

Admission

9. Only students currently enrolled in research degree programmes at other institutions and at an advanced stage in their studies may be admitted as Visiting Research Students. Departments are required to interview students before recommending admissions offers, or otherwise demonstrate that they are satisfied that the applicant is a suitable candidate for admission.

Enrolment

10. The minimum period of enrolment for Visiting Research Student is 7 weeks.
11. The normal maximum permitted period of enrolment for a Visiting Research Student is 52 weeks. Enrolment beyond 52 weeks, either in a single period or via multiple separate periods of enrolment, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances via application to the Chair of the Research Degrees Sub Committee.

¹ Any work undertaken while enrolled must comply with visa conditions, and the School recommends that work is limited to a maximum of 20 hours per week.

12. Periods of enrolment will normally be expected to match the start and end dates of the relevant LSE term/s. However, bespoke dates may be requested.
13. Where a student's period of enrolment runs beyond the end of the academic year in which they initially enrolled, the student will be subject to the School's re-enrolment processes.
14. Part-time enrolment is not permitted for Visiting Research Students.
15. Currently enrolled students may apply to extend or interrupt their period of enrolment by writing to the PhD Academy, providing proof of support from their home institution, LSE advisor and Visiting Research Student programme director. Students whose period of enrolment has already ended must submit a new application for admission.

Entitlement to an advisor

16. VRS are not entitled to supervision of the sort described in the Regulations for Research Degrees. Instead, VRS students are entitled to an advisor. Advisors will:
 - 16.1 have knowledge of a student's subject area and theoretical approach;
 - 16.2 be a member of the academic staff of the School whose employment will outlast the student's period of enrolment;
 - 16.3 be assigned for the duration of the student's period of enrolment, subject to regulation 17;
 - 16.4 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,
 - 16.5 will be a permanent member of the academic staff of the School².
17. The identity of the advisor will be confirmed as part of the admission process, and will not normally change during a 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.
18. As VRS students are expected to be at an advanced stage in their studies, they are expected to be self-directed during their period of enrolment, and are not entitled to full supervisory meetings.

Absence

19. 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.
 - 19.1 Periods of absence will count towards a student's period of enrolment.
 - 19.2 For students enrolled for less than 12 weeks, absence for vacation outside of School closure periods will not normally be permitted.
 - 19.3 For any student registered for more than 12 weeks, programme directors may approve up to 1 week of absence for vacation, outside of School closure periods, per 12-week period of enrolment. Periods of approved absence will not extend the student's period of enrolment.
 - 19.4 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

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

² This excludes centennial or visiting professors and retired members of staff.

Attendance, engagement and fieldwork

21. All Visiting Research 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 Visiting Research Students and their advisors, and to make these available on request for the purposes of visa compliance monitoring.
 - 21.1 Visiting Research Students enrolled for less than 24 weeks will be entitled to one advisory meeting every six weeks.
 - 21.2 Visiting Research Students enrolled for more than 24 weeks will be entitled to three advisory meetings per term.
22. Though Visiting Research 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.
23. Visiting Research 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.