



## GENERAL ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

(For all postgraduate students registered in the 2020/21 academic year)

These regulations are approved by the Academic Board.

Last updated: July 2020

### General

1. These Regulations apply to all persons having registered for a Postgraduate course or programme of study at the School. All Undergraduate students have their own General Academic Regulations. These regulations are made subject to the Articles of Association of the School and to the School bye-laws, where appropriate. Any disputes arising from the application of the Regulations shall be governed by the Laws of England currently in force.
2. In these regulations the following terms shall have the meanings given:

Assessment	An assessed component of a course such as an examination, essay, dissertation, field project, presentation etc. which counts towards the award of a degree, also referred to elsewhere as summative assessment;
Course	A distinct part of a programme comprising lectures, classes, seminars, workshops and / or other learning activities;
Degree regulations	The Regulations for the Certificate, , Diplomas, Master's Degrees, Research Degrees and their associated classification schemes, as appropriate;
Qualification	An academic award such as a, Graduate Certificate or Diploma, Master's Degree or Research Degree;
Programme	A whole programme of study, comprising courses, whether or not it is intended that it should lead to an award of the School;
Resit	In the context of assessment, an attempt at a failed assessment other than the first attempt, such as an examination resit or resubmission of a piece of written coursework;
School	The London School of Economics and Political Science;
Sitting/Submitting	Entering an exam room to attempt an examination or attempting any other form of assessment (e.g. submitting coursework);
Student	A person registered as a student of the School under these Regulations;
Unredeemed fail	A failed course that is not passed (or redeemed) at resit.
3. Communications the School sends to an individual student will apply to that student only.

### Admission

4. An applicant for admission shall be required to:
  - 4.1 satisfy, or to be formally exempted by the School from, the entry requirements prescribed for the programme concerned, and
  - 4.2 apply through the prescribed procedure and to comply with subsequent administrative requirements.
5. The School may offer a place to an applicant on the programme applied for or on any other programme, or reject the application. An offer of a place may be conditional on the applicant obtaining a particular set of qualifications, either at pass level or at particular levels of pass, before a date determined by the School.
6. Competence in the English language is required of all applicants. The School will determine the level of competence required of each applicant and may make its achievement a condition of admission.
7. The School may from time to time determine the age or ages below which it will not admit students or will not admit them without special consideration.

### Registration

8. A person who is not registered and has not completed on-campus enrolment shall not be entitled to take part in any activity in the School as a student. A person who is not registered as a student may not receive teaching at the School.
9. The Academic Registrar or their designated deputy may require any relevant documentation to be produced for inspection to establish the personal details and educational attainment of a person seeking registration.
10. A student is required to register annually during the programme of study, according to procedures determined by the Academic Registrar or the Deputy Director of the PhD Academy or their designated deputy. The requirements for registration beyond initial registration are as follows:



- 10.1 to have satisfied the academic requirements for progression from the previous year of study or to have been granted repeat teaching, and
  - 10.2 to have completed all forms and / or provided all information required by the School as part of the re-registration process, and
  - 10.3 to have paid all fees and charges due to the School or to have provided guarantees of such payment satisfactory to the School, and
  - 10.4 not to have been barred from further registration at the time concerned by application of these or other Regulations.
11. Students are entitled to take part in all prescribed learning activities and to use all relevant services of the School for the period of their registration.
  12. On full completion of on-campus enrolment the a representative of the School shall provide the student with a registration card. Any member of staff of the School may require production of this card at any time to establish entitlement to enter the School or to take part in its activities. A replacement may be obtained for a lost or damaged card, on payment of a fee to be determined by the Academic Registrar or their designated deputy.
  13. Registration may be withdrawn at any time under these and other Regulations. After withdrawal a student is no longer entitled without special permission to use any facilities or services of the School or to receive any teaching or to be assessed.
  14. The normal maximum period of registration for a postgraduate programme will be as follows: two years for 9-, 10- and 12-month programmes; three years for 21-month programmes; and four years for part-time study of any programme. The normal maximum period of registration for Executive MSc programmes will be six years.
  15. A student may not register or remain registered, without the special permission of the School, if simultaneously registered for another programme of higher education.

#### **Programme Interruptions**

16. The School may at its discretion permit a student to interrupt their studies on grounds of illness or other relevant cause for a period of up to one year. In very exceptional circumstances, the School may permit a further interruption of up to one year. Requests to interrupt are usually only authorised on submission of evidence of exceptional circumstances. Guidance on requesting interruptions and responsibility for approval is published on the Student Services Centre website <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-services/student-services-centre>

#### **Programme Transfers and Variations**

17. The offer of admission and acceptance of a place applies to the specific degree programme that is named in the offer letter. The School will not allow a successful applicant to transfer from one programme to another after registration, unless it considers that exceptional circumstances apply. Such permission will be given only on the recommendation of the directors for the student's current programme and for the programme into which they wish to transfer.
18. The regulations for the programme upon which the student has registered determine the courses of study available to them. This includes courses determined as compulsory and non-compulsory option courses.
19. A student may only change the courses for which they have initially registered within the published timeframe in each of the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. The School will not permit a student who has attended teaching during MT to drop MT half unit course(s) or full unit courses for which they have received teaching in the MT during a LT course change period.

#### **Boards of Examiners**

20. The School will establish a Graduate School Board of Examiners for taught graduate programmes. Each programme and course will be the responsibility of a departmental Sub-Board of Examiners which will report to the Graduate School Board.
21. Each Sub-Board of Examiners shall include examiners who are not members of staff of the School, who shall have regard to the totality of each programme.
22. Assessment procedures shall ensure that assessment is and can be demonstrated to be fair and impartial.
23. Each Board of Examiners shall ensure inter alia that the application of approved classification schemes shall have regard to the totality of the programme and to the requirements for progression within it, and to the requirement for each student to achieve a satisfactory overall standard.

#### **Assessment**

24. By registering with the School a student agrees to be entered for assessment on the courses they are taking, at the time and place set by the School and by the methods prescribed in the relevant degree and programme regulations and in the School Calendar Course Guides.

25. A student is required to engage with their studies by attending classes, seminars, workshops, supervision sessions or other prescribed learning activities and producing promptly the work required. Dereliction, such as not attending classes/seminars or repeated failure to complete formative work or required summative assessment, will result first in a warning, and if continued will result in exclusion from future assessment or from the School as appropriate.
26. A student will be assessed in each course, unless they have deferred or withdrawn under these Regulations.
27. Students are bound by the regulations in force at the time of their first entry to the examination or other assessment, including the individual programme regulations.
28. The method(s) of assessment for each taught course and the weighting of each method of assessment will be specified in the Course Guides.
29. The School may when required and with reference to appropriate School policies e.g. the Alternative Assessment Policy permit a variation of the method(s) of assessment for a course, in respect of some or all students. In cases where students need to resit non-repeatable assessment tasks, an appropriate alternative task will be set.
30. No fee is payable for the first attempt at an assessment.
31. Examinations take place in the week preceding the Lent Term and the Summer Term. Students are required to be in attendance at the School for the duration of the periods in which their examinations take place and to be available until the end of the Summer Term.
32. Having taken assessments during the academic year, if a student is required to resit an assessment or defers an attempt at an assessment, the next opportunity to take the assessment will be in or before the end of the next postgraduate In-Year Resit and Deferred Assessment Period (IRDAP) – which is during the week proceeding the Lent Term.
33. Students who defer and/or fail assessments taken during the postgraduate IRDAP, and have attempts remaining, are required to take outstanding resit/deferred assessments during the next suitable opportunity.
34. All work submitted must be certified to be the student's own, and must comply with the School's Statement on Editorial Help for Students' Written Work, with the Regulations on Assessment Offences: Plagiarism and with the Regulations on Assessment Offences: Offences Other Than Plagiarism.
35. A student will not be re-assessed in any course or course component in which they have already received a pass mark<sup>1</sup>.
36. A student will not normally be re-assessed in any course or course component they have failed if they are eligible for the award of a qualification (e.g. certificate, diploma, degree). Where a student is required to resit a failed course component, the pass mark(s) achieved in other passed components of that course shall count towards the new overall course mark, but the overall course grade will be capped at Pass.
37. Students must attempt all components of assessment in every course, such as sitting an examination or submitting a piece of coursework, in order to be eligible for the award of a degree. Failure to do so will result in a mark of 'Zero Absent' in the assessment in question and the course overall if that assessment is worth 100% of the course; or, 'Zero Incomplete' in the course overall if the assessment is worth less than 100% of the course. In either case the student must resit that component of assessment, provided they have attempts remaining and irrespective of the results of other components within the same course. In such cases where a student is required to resit the new overall course grade will be capped at pass.
38. Students may receive a Zero Fail mark for one or more components of assessment as a result of academic failure, academic misconduct, late submission or exceeding the word count etc. Such students will be expected to resubmit the work during the next suitable opportunity if the overall mark for the course is a Fail and the student is not otherwise eligible for an award. Students are not permitted to resit passed components.
39. Students who fail a component but have deferred other components of the same course at the first attempt may be permitted to resit those failed component(s) at the same time they attempt the deferred component(s). In such cases, where a student decides to resit the failed component(s) the following conditions will apply:
  - 39.1 After the deferred and resit components have been attempted, the School will first calculate the overall course mark using just the marks from the first attempts at all components of a course:
    - 39.1.1. Where this calculation results in an overall Pass mark, the resit mark will not be used, it will not appear on the transcript and the overall grade will not be capped. Or;
    - 39.1.2. Where this results in an overall fail mark for the course, the School will then apply any resit marks together with any pass marks. If this results in an overall pass mark then, because a resit mark has been applied, that grade will be capped at pass for the purposes of calculating the overall classification. Or;
    - 39.1.3. Where this results in an overall fail the student shall resit any other failed assessments in the normal way if required.

- 40 If a student decides not to resit failed assessments, any marks obtained at first attempt will be banked and used to calculate the new overall course mark. If the new overall course mark results in an overall fail mark and the student is not otherwise eligible for an award, they will be permitted to resit any failed elements of assessment provided they have attempts remaining.
- 41 Where a student has failed courses and must resit/resubmit failed assessments they must ensure they repeat enough assessments to achieve the minimum criteria for an award as set out in the relevant classification scheme. Students must formally opt out of resitting/resubmitting failed course(s) by informing the Results and Awards Team by the published deadline. Opting out of repeating any failed course(s) is at the student's own risk and they must ensure they have passed any courses that are deemed as critical to assessment in the relevant local rules for their programme.
- 42 A student who completes a programme at the School and subsequently registers on to a new programme cannot retake any course which they have already passed during their time at the School.
- 43 Any marks awarded for a previous programme of study for which an award has been made cannot count towards any further programmes of study taken at the School.

#### **Adjustments to Assessment, Deferrals and Exceptional Circumstances**

- 44 The School shall establish a procedure for determining reasonable adjustments to assessment for students with a disability, chronic medical condition or who experience an acute illness or injury during an assessment period.
- 45 Examiners / markers shall assess work without referring to medical and / or exceptional circumstances, unless they receive written instructions from the Student Services Centre to do so.
- 46 All students are normally required to sit examinations in London in accordance with the examination timetables which are published prior to each examination period. By submitting an assessment or attending an examination, the School considers the student to be declaring themselves fit to sit. If a student experiences disruption to their studies prior to this point from personal difficulties e.g. bereavement or illness, they should consider whether an extension or deferral is more appropriate and seek advice from the Student Services Centre and/or their academic department.
- 47 The School has established a set of procedures which students may access if they face exceptional circumstances which affect examinations or other forms of assessment:
  - 47.1 A student may request to defer one or more assessments in accordance with the Schools published deferral procedure.
  - 47.2 A student may be permitted to sit an examination overseas in exceptional circumstances where there is clear evidence that the event, in the School's view, would make it inadvisable for the student to return to the UK.
  - 47.3 A student who is unable to follow the Extension or Deferral Procedure must follow the Exceptional Circumstances Procedure in order to inform the Sub-board of examiners about circumstances that may have affected their assessment(s). Such circumstances would normally be sudden, unforeseen, out of the student's own control and proximate to the assessment(s) in question. The Sub-Board of Examiners may inform the relevant School Board of Examiners of these circumstances.
  - 47.4 In very exceptional circumstances, a student may request a special examination provision. Such provision will only be considered for students who are left unable to graduate or progress as a result of a very serious injury / medical condition or death of a close relative which prevented them from attempting an examination.

Full details and guidance on these procedures are published on the Student Services Centre website: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/student-services/student-services-centre> .

#### **Re-sits**

- 48 A student being re-assessed must take assessments for the same courses as they attempted previously, unless they obtain permission from their department and the Repeat Teaching Panel and satisfactorily complete assessments for different courses.
- 49 A student proposing to resit an assessment or attempt a deferred assessment whilst on interruption from their programme of study shall be permitted to undertake that assessment by the Academic Registrar or their designated deputy.
- 50 A student that is unable to progress to the next stage of their programme or is unable to be awarded the degree at the end of their programme without resit will be required to pay a resit fee.
- 51 Results obtained at resit always supersede any previous attempt. Academic transcripts will show the course results of all attempts at assessment, unless discounted on the basis of exceptional circumstances, as described in paragraph 47.4.

#### **Eligibility for Award**

- 52 To be eligible for the award of a qualification a student must have:

- 52.1 completed to the satisfaction of the School the programme prescribed by the School for the qualification concerned, and
- 52.2 shown a competent knowledge across the programme of study taken as a whole; and
- 52.3 met all requirements set out in the General Academic Regulations, Degree Regulations and Programme Regulations.
- 53 A student will be awarded a qualification under the relevant classification scheme at the first point at which they become eligible. Students eligible for award with unredeemed failed assessments will not normally be given the opportunity to resit the failed assessments. The only exception being where a student is eligible for the award of the degree as a result of having “compensated” for failed marks as described in the classification scheme; in which case a student may be offered the choice to accept an award without resit or to resit any failed assessments before being awarded.
- 54 A student upon whom a qualification has been conferred will normally cease to be eligible for consideration for any further award arising from that programme.
- 55 No student will be recommended for the award of any qualification who has not settled any outstanding academic debt with the School or who has not made acceptable arrangements to settle any such account, and neither will any information on such a person’s academic performance be communicated to that person or to any third party save as required by law.

#### Late Assessment Submission

- 56 All students must be given clear written instructions on what is required and the deadline for submission of assessments. This applies for both a first attempt and any subsequent resit or deferred attempts. Deadlines should not normally be set for a working day preceding a non-working day.
- 57 A student may apply for an extension to published deadlines for summative assessment in accordance with the School’s published Extension Procedure.
- 58 If a student fails to submit by the set deadline (or extended deadline as appropriate) only the Sub-board Chair can decide whether or not to accept the work. If late work is accepted, late penalties will be applied. The full list of penalties can be found on the [Assessment Discipline and Academic Misconduct](#) web page.

#### Information about Assessment Results

- 59 Following each diet of assessments of taught courses, students may request an intermediate transcript of their marks or grades obtained at those assessments.
- 60 A certificate of award will be dispatched to each student who is awarded a qualification. The certificate will state the title of the qualification and the date of conferment.
- 61 The School will provide a final transcript of marks or grades awarded for taught courses to every student on completion of the programme.

#### Copyright

- 62 Students should refer to the School’s Intellectual Property policy.

#### Grievances and appeals

- 63 A student dissatisfied with any aspect of teaching provided by the School may pursue their case through the Student Complaints Procedure, unless the substantive subject of the grievance is covered by a separate procedure such as that on sexual harassment.
- 64 A student may appeal against the decision of the examiners concerned, as set out in the Appeals Regulations. A research student may appeal against a decision to terminate registration, a decision not to upgrade to PhD or the result of an MPhil or PhD examination, as set out in the Appeals Regulations for Research Students. Appeals against the academic judgment of examiners are not permitted.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>The exceptions are research students who may be permitted to resit an assessment required for progression which does not contribute to an award. Such students are entitled to one further attempt only.

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