

LSE/LSESU STUDENT CHARTER

LSE has a long and rich educational tradition of which all its students and staff can be proud. Since opening its doors to students for the first time in 1895 the School has sought to advance its founding vision of a fairer society through the study and analysis of the social sciences. Now, 34 world leaders, 18 Nobel Prize winners and many thousands of contributions to society later, it welcomes you – one of a new generation of scholars whose intellectual curiosity and socially engaged thinking will help to shape the twenty-first-century world.

This Charter has been written by LSE students and staff with the aim of introducing you to the School community. It sets out how LSE's mission and ethos are reflected in the education you can expect to receive here, and in the diverse, equitable and inclusive community that all students and staff can take pride in, contribute to, and value. It is not a contract and should therefore be read in conjunction with the School's formal policies and procedures, which include details of the institution's and students' obligations and disciplinary sanctions that can apply when they are breached.¹

OUR MISSION

LSE was founded in 1895 to create and share knowledge addressing major social challenges and to shape a better world. The School works through research, education, creative intellectual debate and public engagement. Our mission is to advance knowledge in social science and a range of related fields so as to inform public policy, economic decision-making, and social welfare both nationally and globally. This means nurturing creative thought and intellectual exploration and educating students from all backgrounds and around the world to be critical thinkers and skilled professionals who work for the betterment of society.

YOUR EDUCATION²

An LSE education is designed for students who are keen to engage critically with their discipline and real world challenges, and who want to equip themselves, professionally and personally, for the world into which they will graduate. The following principles will enable all students – undergraduate, taught master's and research – to make the most of their LSE education.

Students receive teaching and supervision underpinned by world-leading research and have opportunities to do applied research either within their degrees or through interdisciplinary projects hosted at and beyond LSE.

¹ See LSE policies: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/policies/home.aspx> and School Calendar: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/>

² This section incorporates the Education Covenant referred to in the LSE Education Strategy 2015-2020. The Education Covenant text was drafted collaboratively by LSE staff and the LSE Students' Union in 2016.

Students have access to curricula that seek to reflect the diversity of the discipline they are studying. More broadly, the School is working towards fully reflecting the diversity of the social science disciplines overall among its student body, faculty and professional services staff.

Students are offered high quality advice from academic departments, individually and collectively, and are taught in inclusive learning environments, which facilitate opportunities for everyone to develop knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students have opportunities, through participation in surveys, committees and focus groups, to contribute feedback about their experiences, which will be welcomed and addressed as education at LSE evolves.

Students are encouraged to help build an active, inclusive and respectful learning community by contributing to life at the School, participating fully in lectures, seminars and workshops, and valuing the input of peers and staff.

Students are expected to work to high academic standards and are encouraged to expand their wider intellectual interests, through both in-School and independent routes.

Students are encouraged to contribute to their own learning by taking advantage of opportunities in their department and the wide-ranging support and events on offer across the School – in LSE LIFE, the PhD Academy, the LSE Library and LSE Careers among others - from which they can secure the skills, networks and experiences needed for further studies or employment.³

Students are encouraged to identify and communicate any concerns they have in a timely fashion, and to make use of the academic and pastoral support services available at the School.

OUR COMMUNITY

The LSE community is shaped by its diverse and talented students and staff, its location in a vibrant international city, and its loyalty to an institution whose mission has inspired path-breaking research and a prestigious reputation. We nurture that community through a set of shared understandings.

Our community values its diverse and international membership. We are committed to providing an inclusive, accessible and safe environment, which supports learning, wellbeing and the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and ideas.⁴

We expect all members of our community to work and conduct their business peacefully, in a welcoming and truly inclusive environment that promotes freedom of thought and expression in a framework of collegiality and respect for the rights and dignity of others.

Our community is committed to promoting equality of respect and opportunity for students and staff from all backgrounds, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances; and to upholding the principles expressed in LSE's Ethics Code⁵ and UK law.

³ See student channel, LSE website: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/home.aspx>

⁴ See EDI policy statement: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/policies/pdfs/school/polStaEquDiv.pdf>

⁵ See LSE Ethics Code: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/LSEServices/policies/pdfs/school/ethCod.pdf>

Our community aims to promote and respect the health and wellbeing of all its members, through a range of dedicated professional services and a supportive working environment.

Our community aims to maximise LSE’s opportunities for positive global impacts (through teaching, research and community engagement) while minimising our negative environmental impacts by managing our resources and operations effectively and by respecting the physical environment of the institution and that of our neighbours.

Our community seeks to nurture debate and dialogue, conducted with mutual respect, open-mindedness and consideration for all those involved. We value citizens who contribute and who take up opportunities, both in the School and the wider community, to volunteer, attend events and participate in educational and social activities.

Our community includes the LSE Students’ Union⁶, an independent, student-led democratic organisation which focuses on improving the lives of LSE students by providing them with academic, social and welfare support and offering them opportunities to enhance skills through sports clubs, societies and services. Your membership to this organisation is automatic when you become a student at LSE.

YOUR FUTURE – OUR FUTURE

When you graduate from LSE you become part of a celebrated alumni community whose membership is made up of those making important contributions to governments, communities and businesses. The alumni network spans the globe and provides you with access to almost 100 international and special interest groups, mentoring, careers advice and the thought leadership that LSE is renowned for, no matter where you choose to work or live.

LSE alumni are committed to protecting and sharing the value of an LSE education and to building the strength of our scholarly community for future generations. Whether donating their time, their expertise or by making a financial contribution, alumni continue to support and enhance the LSE experience for the students who come after them.

Thank you for being part of LSE and for contributing actively and positively to the unique educational experience that inspired our founders: to undertake learning and enquiry for the betterment of society.

This Charter will be reviewed formally once every three years. There will be more regular opportunities for informal review, and staff and students are encouraged to use it in focus groups, SSLCs and other fora to create an ongoing dialogue about LSE education and the dynamic learning community it aims to foster.

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Signed

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Professor Julia Black, LSE Interim Director

Busayo Twins, LSESU General Secretary

⁶ See LSE Students’ Union website: <https://www.lsesu.com/>