

August 2011

Dear prospective MSc Social Policy (Research) student

We look forward to welcoming you to the Department of Social Policy in late September. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some important information and advice about the MSc in Social Policy (Research) for the coming academic session.

Please note that this letter does not constitute your official offer of admission. By now, you should have received an offer letter from LSE Graduate Admissions; if you have not yet responded to this please do so as soon as possible.

Most teaching commences the week beginning Monday 3rd October but the School and the Department arrange a variety of introductory activities during the preceding week. Some sessions are for all new students in the Department/School, whilst others are specific to the MSc Social Policy (Research) programme.

Please find enclosed the following information to assist you in preparing for your studies:

- Induction week programme
- LSE new arrivals support
- Preliminary recommended reading list

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me before term commences.

Yours sincerely

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Programme Administrator

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MSc SOCIAL POLICY (RESEARCH) 2011-2012

INTRODUCTORY PROGRAMME

Friday 23 September

- 14.00 - 16:00** **Registration**
Registration of new students at the **Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House**. You will be given your student Identity Card, which will allow you to access all facilities in the School, e.g., the Library, IT facilities.

Monday 26 / Tuesday 27 September

School orientation for all new graduate students

Due to the large numbers of Postgraduate students enrolling, students have been split into four groups. Students whose surnames begin with letters from:

A - F Monday 26th 15:30

G - L Tuesday 27th 11.30

M - R Tuesday 27th 14:00

S - Z Tuesday 27th 15:30

All sessions are in the **Peacock Theatre**

Thursday 29 September

- 11.00 - 12:00** **Department Orientation**
Room NAB LG.08 (New Academic Building)

- 14:00 - 15:30** **Programme Induction**
An introductory meeting with the Programme Director, other teaching staff and the Programme Administrator. An opportunity to find out more information about your programme of study and your compulsory courses.
Room CON 1.03 (Connaught House)

Friday 30 September

- 12:30 - 14:00** **Buffet Lunch**
There will be a joint lunch with students taking MSc Social Policy and Planning.
Room OLD5.13 (Directors Dining Room, 5th Floor, Old Building)
- 15:10 - 17:00** **Social Policy Department Optional Courses Information**
Room CON 2.05 (Connaught House)

LSE New Arrivals support

You will find a considerable amount of useful information at the New Arrivals website:

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/intranet/students/supportServices/studentServicesCentre/newArrivals/Home.aspx>

New arrivals help points and campus tours 2011

New Arrivals Help Points will be open **10am to 4 pm** from **Wednesday 21st to Friday 30th September 2011** to help answer any questions you have once you arrive at LSE. They will be staffed by student volunteers and members of LSE staff.

Help Points will be located on campus in the following designated areas:

- Opposite the entrance to St Clements Building in Clare Market
- Opposite the main entrance to the Old Building in Houghton St
- Outside the Library in the Plaza

Tours of the LSE campus will be conducted by students from the New Arrivals Help Point opposite the main entrance to St Clements Building in Clare Market from **Wednesday 21 September to Friday 30 September 2011 (weekdays only)**. They will depart every 20 minutes between **11am and 4pm**. **Last tour departs at 3:30pm**. No need to sign up in advance.

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PRELIMINARY READING LIST

Extensive background reading is not essential but it is advisable for you to do some reading before commencing the programme. The following is a list of reading that will be useful for your compulsory courses.

Students who have not studied British Social Policy before entering the MSc programme are advised to read:

Glennerster, H. (2007) British Social Policy since 1945, Blackwell.

SA451 Social Policy Research

Alcock, P., Erskine, A. & May, M. (eds) The Student's Companion to Social Policy, third edition Blackwell, 2008.

Bryman, A. Social Research Methods, Oxford, 2008.

Hakim, C. Research Design: Strategies and Choices in The Design of Social Policy, Allen & Unwin, 2000.

Robson, C. Real World Research, Blackwell, 2002.

MY451: Introduction to Quantitative Analysis

MY452 : Applied Regression Analysis

Agresti, A and Finlay, B., Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences (3rd ed), 1997 Upper Saddle River, NJ, Prentice Hall Inc.