

**LSE**

THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



Department of Media  
and Communications

MPhil/PhD  
Handbook



















2024/25

[lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications](https://lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications)



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## Key dates and deadlines

The information in this Handbook and a bit more can also be found on the [Departmental PhD hub](#):

(Information on the hub will be updated regularly so use it for reference. You will be informed if any important information or dates change due to unforeseen circumstances)

Key to abbreviations: AT= Autumn Term, WT = Winter Term, ST= Spring Term.

### Key dates for all

<b>MPhil Campus enrolment</b>	Tuesday 24 September 10am -12pm (AT Week 0)
<b>MPhil PhD Academy Welcome event</b>	Wednesday 25 September (AT Week 0)
<b>MPhil/PhD Welcome reception</b>	Wednesday 2 October (AT Week 1)
<b>Phub (PhD and researcher social)</b>	Wednesday 23 October (AT Week 4)
<b>Celebrate! Media and Communications PhDs</b>	Wednesday 4 December (AT Week 10)
<b>Phub (PhD and researcher social)</b>	Wednesday 12 February (WT Week 4)
<b>Mini-Conference and Poster session</b>	Wednesday 2 April (WT Week 11)
<b>Phicnic (PhD and researcher social)</b>	Wednesday 28 May (ST Week 4)
<b>London PhD symposium</b>	End of Summer Term (ST Week 8) - TBC

### Committees

<b>AT SSLC</b>	Thursday 31 October (AT Week 5)
<b>WT SSLC</b>	Thursday 20 February (WT Week 5)
<b>ST SSLC</b>	Thursday 5 June (ST Week 5)

### MPhil/PhD candidate deadlines

<b>MPhil Draft theories chapter deadline (year 1)</b>	Monday 10 March (WT Week 8)
<b>MPhil draft methods chapter deadline (year 1)</b>	Tuesday 6 May (ST Week 1)
<b>PhD End of year reflection deadline (year 2/3)</b>	Monday 26 May (ST Week 4)
<b>MPhil thesis proposal upgrade deadline (year 1)</b>	Monday 26 May (ST Week 4)
<b>MPhil upgrade vivas (year 1)</b>	Monday 2 June to Thursday 12 June (Week 5-6)

### Seminars and Workshops (AT & WT)

<b>MC501 (3+ years)</b>	Weekly term time meetings on Wednesday from 13:00–14:30.
<b>PhD 'Mixer' (all years)</b>	Coffee, tea, and a chance to socialise with other PhDs 14:30 - 15:00
<b>MC500 (1st and 2nd year)</b>	Weekly term time seminars on Wednesdays from 15:00–17:00.

# Welcome from your Doctoral Programme Director

Welcome to the Department of Media and Communications and our MPhil/PhD programmes in Media and Communications and in Data, Networks and Society.

Doing a PhD in our department gives you the opportunity to encounter and exchange new ideas and develop your contributions to understanding the role of media and communications in society. We look forward to learning from the wealth of experience you bring which will no doubt enhance our department's research environment.

Undertaking a PhD is a major commitment that requires a strong sense of purpose and discipline on your part, but can also be one of the most intellectually enriching and creative periods of your life. Throughout this exciting time with us, my colleagues and I will provide every support possible to help you achieve your potential and make this a very rewarding experience for each of you.

As a community of scholars, we are fully committed to nurturing a Departmental culture that is transparent, inclusive, and supportive. We promise to collaborate with you in making this department a great place to learn, study and work.

In my role as director of the doctoral programme, I hope you will feel able to approach me to make suggestions or to seek advice by email or by appointment – or simply stop me in the corridors for a quick chat. The same goes for Danielle Blasse, our PhD programme manager – you'll find her a great "first port of call" for all kinds of questions and resources.

I wish you all the very best for this academic year and look forward to getting to know you better and continuing to working with you. Enjoy your time at LSE!



**Professor Ellen J. Helsper**

Doctoral Programme Director  
Department of Media and Communications  
London School of Economics and Political Science

# About the Department

## History and research profile

Established in 2003 under the direction of Professor Roger Silverstone, and now led by Professor Myria Georgiou, the LSE Department of Media and Communications undertakes outstanding and innovative research and provides excellent research-based graduate programmes for the study of media and communications.

The Department has 28 full-time academic staff plus a number of guest lecturers, associate and visiting staff who are involved in our teaching and research. Eight professional services staff support the Department's work.

With 96% of research outputs ranked world-leading or internationally excellent (Research Excellence Framework 2021) the Department of Media and Communications provides excellent research-based education to its PhD candidates. Its mission is to guarantee the highest quality graduate research training in media and communications and to undertake original social science research in the field, emphasising in particular the relationship between media, technology, and social change. Our new cohort of first year MPhil candidates arrives as several have recently or will very soon submit their PhD theses, so this year we shall have around 40 MPhil and PhD candidates. We will offer all the opportunity to develop your research skills and ideas in a global centre of excellence in media and communications research, contributing to the great legacy build by our PhD alumni to academic community and beyond.

We draw upon and contribute to multiple disciplinary agendas. In so doing, we engage with theoretical and methodological approaches that tackle the ethical implications of media and communications. Starting from the perspective that we live in (unevenly) media-saturated societies, we examine structures, processes, practices and discourses and their role in power relations on the global, national and local levels. We are committed to undertaking comparative and transnational research that de-centres Eurocentric perspectives and allows us to study the different ways in which media and communications matter around the globe.

# Important contacts

## Department contacts

PhD programme first point of contact: [media.phd@lse.ac.uk](mailto:media.phd@lse.ac.uk)

**Doctoral Programme Director**      **Professor Ellen Helsper**  
Room FAW.7.01E    [e.j.helsper@lse.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.helsper@lse.ac.uk)

**PhD Programmes Coordinator**      **Danielle Blasse**  
Room FAW.6.01H    [D.Blasse@lse.ac.uk](mailto:D.Blasse@lse.ac.uk)

**Research Manager**      **Leo Beattie**  
Room FAW.6.01B    [I.t.beattie@lse.ac.uk](mailto:I.t.beattie@lse.ac.uk)

**Department Manager**      **Nicole Garnier**  
Room FAW.6.01J    [n.garnier@lse.ac.uk](mailto:n.garnier@lse.ac.uk)

## School contacts

**PhD Academy Advice Team**      The PhD Academy has a dedicated advice team that can provide advice won academic matters (particularly around progression, interruption, withdrawal, regulations and exams).  
If you are not sure who to contact about a query please contact the advice team via [lseportal.force.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form](https://lseportal.force.com/student-services/s/enquiry-form).  
Further information on accessing the PhD academy services can be found on their website at [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy)

**PhD Academy Director**      The PhD Academy Director, Professor Bingchun Meng, is available for informal discussions about your student experience and your research and training needs.

**Careers**      **Catherine Reynolds**  
Careers Advisor for PhD students  
[c.reynolds1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.reynolds1@lse.ac.uk)

**Financial Support**      **Financial Support Office**  
[financial-support@lse.ac.uk](mailto:financial-support@lse.ac.uk)

**Library**      **Heather Dawson**  
Academic Support Librarian (for Media and Communications)  
[h.dawson@lse.ac.uk](mailto:h.dawson@lse.ac.uk)

# About the Doctoral Programmes

It is very important that you, as our MPhil and PhD researchers, familiarise yourselves with the Regulations and other vital information for research students. For LSE's formal regulations, see [lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/research.htm](https://lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/research.htm)

Media and communications research is developing rapidly, both theoretically and methodologically, in keeping with the vast expansion in the reach, diversity and significance of media and communications globally. Our research is fundamentally interdisciplinary, drawing on the theories and methods of a range of social science disciplines as they apply to media and communications, both old and new.

The Department of Media and Communications will ensure that you develop a theoretical understanding, methodological expertise and critical capacity appropriate to the field and your own research, taking into account each student's previous research training and specialisation area. Our programme regulations require that all our MPhil candidates attend compulsory courses. We also encourage your attendance at a variety of courses and events, internal and external to the Department, as relevant to your research interests.

## Aims of the Doctoral Programme

The Department of Media and Communications recognises that research flourishes in a supportive environment. As a mid-size department within LSE, we benefit from an informal and friendly atmosphere, which encourages a lively intellectual culture in which creative ideas from many perspectives can be exchanged.

The arrangements for the MPhil/PhD programme are designed to:

- provide a rigorous and constructive environment that is conducive to high quality research;
- encourage you to take full advantage of the range of advice and specialist knowledge available in the Department and in the School as a whole;
- support and monitor your progress on a sustained basis so as to help you to complete your thesis within the required timeframe.

In return, we expect students to do their part. Conducting research is a collaborative venture, with rights and responsibilities on both sides.

Your central support will be provided by your supervisor(s) whose task it is to guide, support and oversee your academic and personal welfare, together with your thesis committee. In addition, the doctoral programme director, Professor Ellen Helsper, has a general tutorial role for all MPhil and PhD candidates and can offer an independent view of your progress or advise on any difficulties that you might experience, including uncertainties about supervision.

Also key to you completing your research successfully is the network of support and advice available to you. On the informal side, probably the most important support resource is other MPhil and PhD candidates. Those who have experienced the same challenges that you face, who work in a similar field or with similar methodologies, can provide invaluable advice on how to avoid or respond to obstacles. Additionally, the Department's professional services team can provide informal support and advice.

An informal, student-led mentoring scheme is in operation, providing MPhil candidates with the opportunity to benefit from the experience and guidance of senior PhD candidates, through individual meetings during the course of the year.

If there are issues of policy or provision that you wish to discuss, you may raise these at the Staff/Student Liaison Committee. Additionally, support, advice and guidance is available from the PhD Academy team.





# Being an MPhil/PhD student

## Supervision

Supervision is at the heart of your academic experience and intellectual development as an MPhil/PhD candidate. Your supervision in the department will take one of two forms:

- (a)** Primary and secondary supervisors.
- (b)** Co-supervision, i.e. joint supervisors with broadly similar responsibilities.

The supervisory team will normally be made up of department faculty, but if you are working on a topic with a particularly interdisciplinary focus, it may be appropriate for a secondary supervisor or co-supervisor to be enlisted from another LSE department. In such cases, either the primary supervisor or one co-supervisor will be Department of Media and Communications faculty.

Your supervisor(s) will help to define your area of research, offer advice on sources and the choice of materials and methods and on attendance at courses and seminars. Later on, your supervisor(s) will discuss the preparation and writing of your thesis.

Your primary supervisor's role is both academic and pastoral, providing support that ranges from the intellectual through the practical to the personal. It is important that the relationship you develop with your supervisor(s) is the right kind of relationship for the way that you and the supervisor(s) work, and for the subject matter of your research. In managing this relationship, there are certain issues that you might usefully bear in mind:

- You should be proactive in the relationship – supervision is a joint responsibility. So, be active in arranging meetings and frame ideas and issues for discussion to ensure that you derive maximum benefit from the meetings.
- Always go into a meeting with your supervisor with a clear idea of what you want to gain from that meeting (a formal or informal agenda) and leave with an equally clear idea of what you have achieved. Taking notes during the meeting helps record keeping and organisation of your work.
- Our supervision culture values positive feedback and encouragement, but please remember that constructive criticism is a vital part of developing research and that the value of a discussion may not be evident until sometime later.

- It is important that you let your supervisor(s) know in good time of any problems that might impact on your research (e.g. financial, health or other difficulties) or difficulties in carrying out an aspect of research. Also inform supervisor(s) of any work you are taking on, they will aim to support you in managing a healthy work-life balance.
- If your research field touches on areas outside the supervisor(s)' sphere of competence, your supervisor(s) can help to put you in touch with specialists who might advise you. Reciprocally, if you do receive advice and feedback from someone other than your supervisor(s), you should let your supervisor(s) know about this, so they are aware of the advice you receive. The same is true if you have separate meetings with individual supervisors, inform both supervisors that you have had meetings and what will be or was discussed.
- Supervisors are entitled to decide which subjects they can usefully supervise: the School cannot guarantee that you will be able to work with any particular supervisor you wish. The Department of Media and Communications accepts the responsibility for a student's supervision once admitted, and it will do everything possible to ensure the best possible outcome in cases of difficulty.



## Issues with supervisors

We make every effort to match our MPhil and PhD candidates with supervisors who are best placed to guide and support a thesis through until its completion. However, we do understand that issues between candidates and their supervisors can arise and we do not want you to suffer in silence if this is happening to you. **Please flag up issues as early as possible.**

- If you feel that the feedback or guidance which you are receiving from your supervisor(s) does not meet your expectations, then it is vital to raise this first with your supervisor(s). They may decide to alter their approach or they may put you in touch with someone else whose approach more closely meets your needs.
- If it is difficult to raise these matters directly with your supervisor, or if you wish to transfer from one supervisor to another, you should consult the doctoral programme director. Please remember that such discussions are fully confidential and are treated with absolute discretion by the director. If your supervisor happens to be the doctoral programme director, you can raise your concerns with the Head of Department ([Prof. Myria Georgiou](#)) or the PhD Academy ([PhDacademy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:PhDacademy@lse.ac.uk)).

## Supervision hours

Full-time students should meet with their primary supervisor at least three times a term in the first year (e.g. biweekly) and twice a term thereafter. Supervision is normally not to be expected outside of term time.

Part-time students should meet with their supervisor at least twice a term in the first year and once a term thereafter.

These are general guidelines; in practice, the intensity of the supervisory relationship tends to vary over time. For example, less supervision may be needed during data collection compared to the writing-up stage.

During the 2024/25 academic year, the default supervision format is face-to-face. However, it will be for the supervisor and student to decide between them on the best format for these meetings, whether face-to-face, online, or a combination of the two.

## Seeking advice from other academics

As a student at LSE, you are welcome to meet with any member of faculty to discuss your research, including faculty within the Department of Media and Communications but also in other Departments. Please use the studenthub to book an office hour, <https://admin.studenthub.lse.ac.uk/>. Do not use the studenthub to make appointments with your supervisors, supervisions should be agreed in person/via email.

## The PhD Log

We are required to keep PhD logs by the LSE. It is important that you get into the habit of making detailed entries into the log soon after each meeting with your supervisors. The log provides a method of recording what has been discussed and agreed between you and your supervisor/s and allows you and your supervisor/s to provide further comments if required. It allows you to keep an accurate record of the topics discussed and actions required when meeting your supervisor(s) next.

The PhD Log can be accessed via LSE for You. Please note that it is compulsory for supervisors and PhD candidates to use the [PhD Log](#).

## The thesis committee

You will be assigned a thesis committee consisting of your supervisors and another senior member of the Department as Chair. This committee will act as the review panel for your upgrade examination, at the end of the first year of registration, which assesses your readiness to upgrade from MPhil to PhD. The thesis committee remains responsible for monitoring your progress in subsequent years.

It is in the discretion of MPhil candidates to contact your Thesis Committee Chair and ask for a meeting to discuss your research topic or ask for advice on any aspect of doctoral life in the Department. Whilst the thesis committee chair is not formally a member of your supervisory team, you should feel comfortable approaching them throughout your time here if you feel you can benefit from their academic advice and guidance.

## The PhD Board

The Department of Media and Communications PhD Board, consisting of all supervisors and chaired by the Doctoral Programme Director, is the body responsible for academic standards relating to MPhil/PhD candidates within the programmes and particularly for reviewing their progress towards completion of their degrees.

The progress of all MPhil/PhD candidates is reviewed annually at the PhD Board, which meets once a year near the end of the Spring Term. The Department will subsequently report to the PhD Academy with its approval for each PhD student's re-registration for the following academic year or any condition which must be fulfilled before re-registration. Each student will receive an end of year letter from the Director of the PhD programme and the PhD board informing them of the recommendations made by the PhD board. The upgrade viva (1st year MPhil candidates) and end of year reflection documents (post upgrade PhD candidates) will be used by supervisors to gauge progress and issues encountered and will be reported on by the PhD Board to make these recommendations.

# Programme regulations: MPhil/PhD Media and Communications and MPhil/PhD Data, Networks and Society

## Year 1

### Supervision

During the first year, regular supervisions should be scheduled with your supervisor during term time. The arrangements for this will be slightly different depending on the model of (co)supervision and agreements with your supervisors. Do not use supervisors' bookable office hours to make appointments, arrangements should be made directly with your supervisors.

During these meetings your supervisors will support you in your exploration of the theoretical and methodological literature relevant to your research and in finding the training you need to prepare for the upgrade viva examination. Besides supervision, both theoretical and methodological training are provided that prepare you to become a scholar in the field of Media and Communications and your area of expertise in particular.

### MC500 Doctoral Seminars (required for 1st and 2nd year candidates).

This readings, presentations, and workshop based, student-centred seminar series explores key theoretical, analytical and practical challenges of doing media and communications research and being a scholar in this field. One presentation per student is expected as well as a contribution to the mini-conference (WT11). The Doctoral seminars offer a space committed to providing a positive, inclusive, diverse, and safe community for its members. All participants need to keep in mind that class interactions, despite disagreements or criticisms, should always be constructive and respectful to others.

You are automatically registered for MC500.

*Teacher responsible:* Professor Ellen Helsper. MC500 seminar sessions take place weekly, in person, on Wednesdays 15.00-17:00 (UK time) in Autumn and Winter Term, preceded by the Student Mixer with 3+ years. We will aim to finish around 16:30 but in some weeks, when needed, the seminar will run until 17:00. There are no sessions in Week 6 (reading week). A reading list with required and suggested advance reading for each seminar will be published on Moodle at least a week before the seminar. The reading list are constructed in collaboration with PhD candidates.

## Theory courses

One full unit or two half units of theory courses, must be selected from the School's [graduate course provision](#). Courses are to be chosen in liaison with the primary supervisor/co-supervisors and will be approved by the Doctoral Programme Director. It is strongly advised that students select at least one half unit in the Department of Media and Communications. At the end of this section a list of courses available in the department is provided, have a browse!

You should register for all your courses on [LSE for You](#) by the AT2 deadline.

## Research methodology training

MPhil researchers must register for one unit of methodological training. The course combination you chose will take depends on the direction you want to take and whether you want to specialize in qualitative (MC5M1) or quantitative (MC5M2) methodologies. All MPhil researchers have to pass a quantitative analysis exam, this is either MY464 Critical Data Literacy for MC5M1 (qualitative specialization) or MY465 Intermediate Quantitative Analysis for MC5M2 (quantitative specialization).

In addition to quantitative courses in the Autumn Term, all MPhil students participate in the advanced research methods seminars in the Winter Term. These Harvard Style seminars are held in Winter Term on Tuesdays from 15:00 to 17:00 and student assisted.

MPhil students on the Data, Networks and Society programme and those with scholarships that require quantitative methodological training (e.g. ESRC scholarships) have to register for the full unit MC5M2 course. Those taking the half unit MC5M1 course must add another course in analytical methods in the Methodology Department.

More information about research methodology training is provided in the MC5M1 / MC5M2 Methodology training handbook that can be found on the MC4M2/MC5M1/ MC5M2 Moodle page and will be discussed during the welcome week and first MC500 session.

## Peer mentoring

The peer mentoring scheme was an idea developed by the Department's PhD cohort in order to foster a supportive environment for incoming MPhils by pairing first year MPhil candidates with a second year PhD candidate who has completed their first year of study.

MPhils will be able to talk to their peer mentor for a personal perspective on being an MPhil in the Department, as well as offering insight into making the transition between

a taught master's degree and a research degree. Peer mentors will not be able to offer academic mentorship, this should be offered by your supervisory team. Additionally, any administrative or procedural questions should be directed to the professional services team. The role of the peer mentor is to offer a friendly face and advice and guidance on what it's like as an MPhil studying at LSE

Mentors will also be expected to be involved in the *mock upgrade vivas* that are held in week 4 of Spring Term to prepare you for the upgrade vivas in ST 5.

**Note:** any individual exemptions from or variation to the requirements above must be agreed with the student's primary supervisor and the Doctoral Programme Director in writing.

## Year 2

### Supervision

During the second year, supervisions should be scheduled with your supervisor during term time. The arrangements for this will be slightly different depending on the model of (co)supervision and agreements with your supervisors. Do not use supervisors' bookable office hours to make appointments, arrangements should be made directly with your supervisors.

During these meetings your supervisors will support you in the continued development of your theoretical framework and methodological design and provide guidance on your fieldwork, including obtaining ethics approval, tips on fieldwork conduct and analysis of data and material collected.

### MC500 Doctoral Seminars (required for 1st and 2nd year students).

This readings, presentations, and workshop based, student-centred seminar series explores key theoretical, analytical and practical challenges of doing media and communications research and being a scholar in this field. One presentation per student is expected as well as a contribution to the mini-conference (WT11). The Doctoral seminars offer a space committed to providing a positive, inclusive, diverse, and safe community for its members. All participants need to keep in mind that class interactions, despite disagreements or criticisms, should always be constructive and respectful to others.

You are automatically registered for MC500.

*Teacher responsible:* Professor Ellen Helsper. MC500 seminar sessions take place weekly, in person, on Wednesdays 15.00-17:00 (UK time) in Autumn and Winter Term,

preceded by the Student Mixer with 3+ years. We will aim to finish around 16:30 but in some weeks, when needed, the seminar will run until 17:00. There are no sessions in Week 6 (reading week). A reading list with required and suggested advance reading for each seminar will be published on Moodle at least a week before the seminar. The reading list are constructed in collaboration with PhD candidates.

## Peer mentoring

The peer mentoring scheme was an idea developed by the Department's PhD cohort in order to foster a supportive environment for incoming MPhils by pairing first year MPhil candidates with a second year PhD candidate who has completed their first year of study.

MPhils will be able to talk to their peer mentor for a personal perspective on being an MPhil in the Department, as well as offering insight into making the transition between a taught master's degree and a research degree. Peer mentors will not be able to offer academic mentorship, this should be offered by the supervisory team. The role of the peer mentor is to offer a friendly face and advice and guidance on what it's like as an MPhil studying at LSE

Mentors will also be expected to be involved in the mock upgrade vivas that are held in week 4 of Spring Term to prepare first for the upgrade vivas in week 5.

**Note:** any individual exemptions from or variation to the requirements above must be agreed with the student's primary supervisor and the Doctoral Programme Director in writing.

## Year 3 onwards

### Supervision

In the lead up to thesis submission, regular supervisions should be scheduled with your supervisor during term time. The arrangements for this will be slightly different depending on the model of (co)supervision and agreements with your supervisors. Do not use supervisors' bookable office hours to make appointments, arrangements should be made directly with your supervisors.

During these meetings your supervisors will support you by giving feedback and recommendations on analyses and on the writing up of your thesis. They can discuss examiner selection with you, help prepare you for the final viva, discuss future career opportunities and publication plans.



## MC501 Advanced Doctoral Workshops

Doctoral seminar discussing work-in-progress (chapter drafts; analysis-in-progress; articles to-be-submitted), providing a space for collaborative writing and analysis, as well as practical workshops relevant to academic and other research careers and preparation for the final viva. The Doctoral seminar series is a space committed to providing a positive, inclusive, diverse and safe community for its members. All participants need to keep in mind that class interactions, despite disagreements or criticisms, should always be constructive and respectful to others.

Teachers responsible: Professor Ellen Helsper and Professor Lillie Chouliaraki. Weekly seminars taking place from 13:00 – 14:30 every Wednesday, followed by the Student Mixer with 1st and 2nd years. Please stay for the mixer if you are in London, it is important for you and your colleagues to build community and exchange ideas and opportunities!

**Note:** any individual exemptions from or variation to the requirements above must be agreed with the student's primary supervisor and the Doctoral Programme Director in writing.



# Relevant courses

We encourage our MPhil and PhD candidates to continue their capacitation to become scholars in the field by taking additional courses in the Department and elsewhere. The following courses, subject to availability, may be of interest to MPhil and PhD candidates to take as per agreement with their **supervisors**, the Doctoral Programme Director and the course convenor. Availability of courses is not guaranteed, and you should always consult the course webpage and your supervisor before attending a course.

## Course Selection

- You can choose courses using [LSE for You \(LFY\)](#), LSE's web-based self-service student administration system.
- Full information on course selection, including the deadline and how to make your selections can be found here ([info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/course-choice](http://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/course-choice)).
- If you are auditing a course and not taking the assessment for it please indicate this on LFY and contact the course convenor to make sure that it is okay for you to attend without examination and what would be expected from you. You might have to register for the course to attend seminars, if agreed this and do not want to be examined [submit an enquiry](#) before the examinations take place.

## Department of Media and Communications

Please go to the [department of media and communications course guides](#) for more information on the courses taught in the department and browse the courses' [moodle](#) pages for more information.

[MC402 The Audience in Media and Communications](#)

[MC403 Contemporary Issues in Media and Communications Policy](#)

[MC404 Political Communication in Democracies](#)

[MC407 International Media and The Global South](#)

[MC408 Theories and Concepts in Media and Communications](#)

[MC409 Media, Technology and Everyday Life](#)

[MC411 Media and Globalization](#)

[MC416 Representation in the Age of Globalisation](#)

[MC418 Communication: Cultures and Approaches](#)

[MC419 Modern Campaigning Politics](#)

[MC421 Critical Approaches to Media, Communication and Development](#)

[MC422 Critical Studies in Media and Journalism](#)

[MC423 Global Media Industries](#)

[MC424 Media and Communication Governance](#)

[MC425 Interpersonal Mediated Communication](#)

[MC426 Film Theory and World Cinema](#)

[MC427 Digital Media Futures](#)

[MC428 Media Culture and Neoliberalism in the Global South](#)

[MC429 Humanitarian Communication: vulnerability, discourse and power](#)

[MC430 Data in Communication and Society](#)

[MC431 Critical Approaches to Strategic Communications](#)

[MC432 Strategic Communication in Practice: Professional Perspectives](#)

[MC434 Digital Platforms and Media Infrastructures](#)

[MC436 Mediating the Past](#)

[MC437 Media, Data and Social Order](#)

[MC438 Mediated Feminisms](#)

[MC440 Children, Youth and Media](#)



## Department of Methodology

All MPhil candidates in 2024/25 will have a choice of Department of Methodology courses as part of their methods training. The MC5M1/MC5M2 handbook available on Moodle for all MPhil students details courses that students might find of interest, methods training will be discussed in the welcome week and in MC500 at the beginning of the year.

## Other Departments

Other courses students may wish to take, according to their research interests, can be found in other departments. Please explore the course guides on the LSE website of the different departments.

You can find a list of graduate courses here: [lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm](https://lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/graduate.htm)

There are also a number of research student specific courses (often these are co-taught with MSc students): [lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/research.htm](https://lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/research.htm)

## PhD academy

The PhD academy at the LSE provides research and career training for students. Have a look at their website for more information [info.lse.ac.uk/Current-Students/PhD-Academy](https://info.lse.ac.uk/Current-Students/PhD-Academy)

## Outside the LSE

There are a number of courses available provided by organisations such as the UKRI that you might be able to take advantage of. More information on UKRI training can be found here: [ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/bbsrc/doctoral-training/](https://ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/bbsrc/doctoral-training/)

# MPhil assessment and progression

## Year 1

### Theories assessment

As an MPhil student, your theoretical progress will be assessed during the year through the submission of a draft theoretical chapter (literature review, theoretical framework and bibliography) of your thesis proposal.

The draft chapter will be marked by your supervisors and will receive one of the following grades: Distinction (70-100%), Merit (60-69%) Pass (50-59%) or Fail (0-49%).

**Word limit:** The chapter should be no more than 3,500 words.

**Deadline:** The deadline for the chapter is **Monday 4 March 2024** (Winter Term, Week 8). The chapter should be uploaded to the MC500 Moodle page by 12.00 (midday UK time) and sent directly to your supervisors.

**Feedback:** Feedback will normally be received by the end of Winter Term, this can be in person or in written form.

### Methods assessment

As an MPhil student, you will be assessed in the following two ways on your methodological learning:

#### Methods exam(s)

MC5M1 students will have to sit the exam for MY464 Critical Data Literacy for Media and Communications in Winter Term week 0.

MC5M2 students will have to sit the exam for MY465 Intermediate Quantitative Analysis in Winter Term week 0.

Students who have taken (and passed) MY464 or MY465 or who have evidence that they have completed and passed equivalent course will be exempt from the examination for MC5M1 /MC5M2 but are encouraged to take more advanced quantitative analysis training if they want to up the game in their quantitative analysis training.

Exams for methodology department courses are administered and marked the Department of Methodology, and will take place during the examination periods in either Winter or Spring Term, depending on which courses you select. Please do not arrange to leave the country during examination periods until your exam dates have been confirmed.

## Draft methodological chapter

This draft chapter should contain – a research question, the design of the study, including a description of the sample/justification of material selection, and a justification of the design of the data collection tools used (e.g. interview guides, questionnaires, annotation method) and the analytical method (e.g. statistical procedures, thematic, critical discourse, semantic analysis), alongside the results of any pilot study conducted. See the summative assignment guidelines for MC4M2 available on Moodle for inspiration.

The draft chapter will be marked by your supervisors and will receive one of the following grades: Distinction (70-100%), Merit (60-69%) Pass (50-59%) or Fail (0-49%).

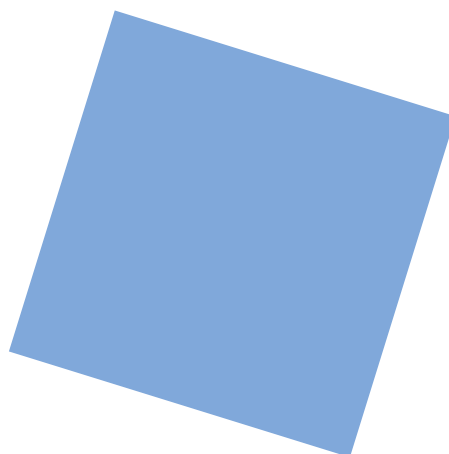
**Word limit:** The chapter should be no more than 3,500 words (excluding appendices).

**Deadline:** The deadline for the draft chapter is **Tuesday 29 April 2024** (ST1). The chapter should be uploaded to the MC500 Moodle page by 12.00 (midday UK time) and sent directly to the supervisors.

**Feedback:** Feedback will normally be received by the beginning of Week 3 of Spring Term so that can be incorporated into the upgrade document.

## What does a fail in any of these assessments mean?

The assessments are formative and do not formally impact your progress. If you fail for the MY464 or MY465 quantitative methods exam but pass the upgrade, you will receive a 'conditional upgrade'. This means you will be upgraded on the condition that you receive a mark of at least 50% in the resit of the failed piece of work.



## Upgrade examination

All year 1 students are MPhil candidates until they pass their upgrade, at which point they will become PhD candidates. Students cannot proceed unless they have passed their upgrade. To upgrade from MPhil to PhD, you submit a thesis proposal and take part in an upgrade viva with your supervisors and a department faculty member.

The PhD Board determines the Department's criteria for upgrading to MPhil candidates to PhD. Together with any examination/s for methodological courses, the thesis proposal will form part of the evaluation process, and, together with an upgrade viva, will determine whether students are permitted to upgrade from MPhil to PhD and continue into their second year.

You are expected to ensure that these criteria are fully discussed with your supervisors during your first year of study. The PhD programme director can also be consulted for further guidance and there will be a dedicated MC500 session to discuss the upgrade process.

The upgrade is conducted by ST6.

**Deadline:** Full-time students must submit a thesis proposal to the Department by **Monday 20 May 2024** (Spring Term, Week 4). This should be uploaded to the MC500 Moodle page by 12.00 (midday UK time).

**Word limit:** Your thesis proposal should be no more than 10,000 words (incl. the bibliography, excl. appendices) and should include:

- a substantive statement of the aims (i.e. contribution to academic debates);
- theories and methods proposed for the thesis;
- a tentative chapter outline,
- a timetable for completion; and
- a bibliography.

**Feedback:** You will receive oral feedback during your upgrade viva and written feedback from your committee before the PhD board in Spring Term (Thursday ST7).

## Guidelines on preparing the thesis proposal for upgrade

Examples of previous thesis proposals are available on the [MC500 Moodle page](#).

The precise format of the thesis proposal will vary from one student to another, and they should be discussed with your supervisor(s). An MC500 seminar will address the specific requirements of the thesis proposal for upgrade. In general, a satisfactory thesis proposal should address the following questions:

- **What** is the problem or question(s) under investigation? Why is the problem or question theoretically important or interesting? To which academic debates does the project aim to contribute? What gap in the literature does it address?
- **Why** will your project be 'a distinct contribution to knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality, shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical power'? [The formal requirement for a PhD].
- **How** are you going to answer the questions you have posed based on these theoretical and conceptual frameworks? How are you guaranteeing rigour and is there innovation in your empirical work?

In order to convince your thesis committee that your project is clearly framed and promises to be original, the following is required:

- An up to date and thorough **literature review** which positions the project in relation to the existing literature.
- An account of which **theoretical issues** are raised and which concepts, frameworks or approaches will be employed and why other competing approaches are rejected.
- You will also need to state a **research question**, explain in detail how the problem is to be tackled and the question(s) answered.
- What **methods** are to be employed and why are they chosen in relation to the research question(s) and its theoretical dimensions? What kind(s) of data do you anticipate collecting?

It is useful to begin each section with an overview of the **argument** to be developed in that section, and to end each with a brief conclusion, linking to the topic of the next section. Essentially, one should be able to understand the narrative flow of the thesis proposal by reading the **introduction** and **summary** sections of each section alone.

Also required is a realistic **timetable** or project management plan, showing the major tasks to be completed and their timescales, along with a draft structure for the final thesis.



In the overall research proposal, you will be evaluated for whether you have demonstrated that:

- You have demonstrated a critical understanding of the surrounding literature and can position your research in relation to such material;
- You have developed a succinct and original research question (and sub-questions), capable of making an original contribution to the relevant literature and the empirical field of study;
- You have developed a research methodology, which is capable of addressing your research question(s) and is epistemologically compatible with your theoretical framework;
- Your accounts of the research framework and proposed methodology justify the decisions you have made, can be feasibly conducted, and address issues of research ethics that may arise.
- You have developed a thesis outline, which demonstrates an ordered and coherent approach to undertaking your research project;
- You have developed a realistic timeline for your thesis, which falls within the confines of the PhD regulations.

## What to expect in the MPhil upgrade viva

The upgrade viva review generally lasts up to 90 minutes. It is audio-recorded and you will receive a copy of the recording, together with a formal written response from the chair and each committee member. It can be quite a demanding experience, but one which will provide rich, constructive feedback that allow you to improve your work and is necessary to make sure that you will be able to proceed successfully towards completion of a PhD.

The viva is conducted by your thesis committee, which is chaired by a senior member of the Department and includes your supervisory team. Before the viva, committee members will have read the thesis proposal and exchanged written comments. Normally, the chair will invite you to explain your research in no more than 5 minutes. This should be seen as the opening of an informal discussion rather than a presentation or a speech. The committee will then ask questions about theory, conceptual framework, research literature and methods, as necessary.

When the viva is finished, you will be asked to leave to allow the committee time to discuss, then invited back and told the result, together with brief comments.

## Possible outcomes of the MPhil upgrade

There are 4 possible outcomes from the upgrade examination:

- a)** Pass and progress to PhD.
- b)** Pass with minor corrections, and progress to PhD; you will be asked to resubmit or revise some component of the thesis proposal within 3 months. A second viva will not be necessary in this case.
- c)** Referral for resubmission of all or part of the thesis proposal within 3 months (at the start of the new academic year); progression to PhD will be conditional on examination of the revised work by the thesis committee. A second viva may be necessary in this case, and this will be decision of your thesis committee on receiving the resubmitted thesis proposal.
- d)** Fail (leading to a resit) with resubmission of a proposal by Friday 8 December and a re-examination at the start of WT.

You will receive constructive feedback from your thesis committee on your thesis proposal and viva, whether you pass or not.

If you pass the upgrade process but fail any other assessment (methods exam/s) then you will receive a 'conditional upgrade'. This means you will be upgraded on the condition that any failed assessments receive a resit mark of at least 50%.

Re-registration for the second year of the programme will normally be conditional on passing the upgrade.

You should not plan to take leave of absence for fieldwork before passing the upgrade.

## Plagiarism

The draft theoretical and methodological chapters, as well as the thesis proposal, will be checked for plagiarism via the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin. Considering that PhD work might be sensitive, submission will be done through a separate submission stream in Turnitin.

Due to the formative nature of the draft chapters, MPhils will be permitted to reproduce some text from these pieces of work in their final thesis proposal. However, careful attention to feedback received is essential and students will be expected to redraft chapters in response to feedback and discussion with their supervisor(s). Rephrasing, summarizing and paraphrasing are suggested to avoid self-plagiarism.

The School views plagiarism as “academic misconduct” and any such cases will be dealt with in accordance with the School’s Regulations on Assessment Offences, which are available here: [info.lse.ac.uk/Staff/Divisions/Academic-Registrars-Division/Teaching-Quality-Assurance-and-Review-Office/Assets/Documents/Calendar/RegulationsAssessmentOffences-Plagiarism.pdf](https://info.lse.ac.uk/Staff/Divisions/Academic-Registrars-Division/Teaching-Quality-Assurance-and-Review-Office/Assets/Documents/Calendar/RegulationsAssessmentOffences-Plagiarism.pdf)

The School treats plagiarism very seriously and it is your responsibility to make yourself aware of the [regulations](#) pertaining to it. If you need editorial help with your writing, you should be aware of the [Statement on editorial help for students’ written work](#).

## AI policy

Artificial Intelligence in relation to education, learning and assessment is rapidly evolving and the school has set up a general policy for its use which you can browse here: [School position on generative AI \(lse.ac.uk\)](#).

However, we also have [a departmental policy](#) which should be followed when submitting assessed work (formative or summative). This policy can be found on the doctoral hub and course moodle pages (i.e. MC500/MC501, MC5M1/M2).

## Year 2 onwards: Post-upgrade examination and progress

### End of year reflection (compulsory)

Upgraded PhD candidates (years 2+) not submitting their thesis that academic year will be required to submit an end of year document which reflects on:

- Progress and milestones achieved over the current academic year;
- Aims for the next academic year;
- An updated timeline with milestones to submission;
- Any concerns, doubts or queries.

This document will be reviewed and discussed by the thesis committee. You will receive feedback on this discussion from your supervisors and the document and notes from the thesis committee will form the basis of the discussion about your progress at the annual PhD Board.

**Deadline:** The deadline for the end of year reflection is Monday 20 May (ST Week 4). This should be sent directly to your thesis committee, with the [Media.PhD@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.PhD@lse.ac.uk) inbox in copy, by 12.00 (midday UK time). A template can be found on the [MC500 Moodle page](#).

**Feedback:** You will normally receive feedback before the PhD board on Thursday in ST7

## Work in progress (non-compulsory)

At the end of years 2 and 3, you may also submit a piece of work which consists of any combination of theory, methodology and data analysis that you may wish to receive feedback on. This submission is to ensure that you have an opportunity to have your work assessed at a later stage in your research. There will be no viva, but there will be a written report from each member of your thesis committee. Even though the purpose of this submission is not to assess you formally, you are strongly encouraged to take up this opportunity for additional feedback from your thesis committee.

**Deadline:** The deadline for the work in progress is Monday 20 May (ST Week 4). This should be emailed to the student's thesis committee.

**Word limit:** The end of year work in progress document should be no more than 10,000 words (excl references and appendices).

**Feedback:** You will normally receive feedback by the end of Spring Term.

## Thesis formats

The most common format for PhD theses within the department is a monograph of a maximum 100,000 words, but we also offer the option of a paper based PhD.

If you are thinking of going down the PhD by publication route you need to discuss this early on with your supervisors. The requirements for a PhD by publication are as follows:

The thesis should comprise three to six publishable articles framed by an introduction, a theoretical chapter, a general methodological chapter, and critical integrating discussion and conclusion chapters. Articles and book chapters both count as "papers" – the most important part is that they are publishable quality. However, even if they have been submitted and accepted this does not automatically entail that the Committee will find them suitable within the larger context of the project.

The research (especially the analysis of data) described in the articles should primarily have been undertaken during the PhD and, as any PhD, these should form integral part of a thesis that makes a broader, original, and cohesive argument that makes a significant theoretical and or methodological contribution and pushes the field forward. Work that was completed or published before the start of the PhD programme should not be included.

**The information below comes from the school, please read carefully!**

# Research ethics, fieldwork and data management

## Think Research ethics

The School attaches utmost importance to the maintenance of high ethical standards in the research undertaken by its academic and research staff and students. The LSE Research Ethics Policy is written for the immediate benefit of the School's academic and contract research, administrative and fundraising staff, all postgraduate research students, and undergraduate and master's students where their supervisors agree that they are undertaking research.

### The research ethics guidance comprises:

- 1) **LSE research ethics policy** which sets out the School's research ethics policy and the procedure for obtaining independent ethical scrutiny of research proposals by the Research Committee's Ethics Group. [info.lse.ac.uk/staff/Services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/resEthPolPro.pdf](https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/Services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/resEthPolPro.pdf)
- 2) The **Online Ethics Review system** is required for any study, but especially that involving:
  - Human participants e.g. interviews, online surveys, observations, user generated data
  - Use of datasets containing identifiable information (names, emails, social media profile names, etc., but could also be things like a job title) – even if you plan to anonymise the data
  - Research that might have negative repercussions for any individuals or groups.

Research not involving the above is likely to pass the review as no or low risk and not require further confirmation of approval. Always tell your supervisor when you submit an ethics review so that they know you are following correct procedures, they will only get notification for approval if there is a risk involved.

You may find it helpful to look at this one-page overview [‘Ethics review in a nutshell’](#)

You can access the application portal to submit your ethics review here: [info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/research-ethics/research-ethics](https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/research-ethics/research-ethics). You should speak with your supervisor for further advice when you are planning your fieldwork. The PhD academy team can also advice on this.

## Fieldwork

You should begin to discuss plans for fieldwork with your supervisor/s as soon as soon as you start thinking about conducting a pilot study for the methodology chapter and planning fieldwork, that is before the upgrade to PhD from MPhil.

Please note that you are **NOT allowed to embark on fieldwork** (including any pilot) without research ethics approval from your supervisor(s) and the School.

## Accessing sensitive textual resources

If you are planning research that will involve accessing sensitive websites/materials, such as those from terrorist or extremist groups, the research ethics manager will organise a meeting with a member of the School's Information Security Team. They will advise on how to access such sites/materials safely (whether from a secure LSE machine/server or remotely via e.g. VPN connection from a laptop), how to hide browsing history, erase data, etc.

## Travelling for fieldwork

Travel and fieldwork are critical to the success of the majority of doctoral research, from fieldwork to attending conferences.

All students who wish to undertake a period of fieldwork or a period of study elsewhere away from London must complete a fieldwork/study elsewhere application form and submit this, fully completed, to the PhD Academy at least one month prior to the start of the fieldwork or study elsewhere period.

Those intending to undertake fieldwork overseas need to fill out the notification of travel form, if possible do this three months before travel. Find the information here:

[\*\*Overseas Travel and Fieldwork Safety\*\*](#).

Most travel will take place without incident, but conditions can change rapidly, with little or no warning. The LSE therefore requires all students to complete the travel notification form and risk assessment forms before being sent a travel insurance cover note.

Any fieldwork where a student remains outside the United Kingdom continuously for over 12 months is regarded by the insurers as a Secondment. This means that exclusions will apply to the medical cover provided. Contact the Health and Safety Team for details of these exclusions. [lse.ac.uk/healthandsafety](https://lse.ac.uk/healthandsafety) (shortlink – please copy and paste).

## Data management

Data Management Plans cover collection, organisation, use, storage, contextualisation, preservation and sharing of data. However, different forms of Research Data Management plans exist. It is worth thinking early about managing data. Read here about: *What is a Data Management Plan and how do I write one?* [lse.ac.uk/Library/Research-support/Research-Data-Management/What-is-a-Data-Management-Plan-and-how-do-I-write-one](https://lse.ac.uk/Library/Research-support/Research-Data-Management/What-is-a-Data-Management-Plan-and-how-do-I-write-one)



# Submission of the PhD thesis and examination

Please note LSE's regulations for PhD candidates. [lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/research.htm](https://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/research.htm)

As you enter the final year of your programme you will need to prepare to submit your thesis ready for the viva examination. The minimum length of PhD study at LSE is normally two calendar years full-time or the equivalent in part-time study. The maximum length of registration is normally four years for full-time and eight years for part-time students.

Before you submit your thesis, you are strongly advised to consult your supervisory team and, preferably produce one or more draft versions, for discussion, so that the structure of argument can be clarified, the claims and evidence strengthened and well justified, the flow of your narrative made smooth, and the phrasing made as felicitous as possible. The precise way in which this is achieved should be discussed with your supervisor.

## Archive of PhD Theses of the Department

See here for a list of theses published by our alumni following completion of their PhD, use these for inspiration: <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/view/sets/LSE-MC.html>

## Examination entry

At least three months before you plan to submit your thesis you should start completing the examination entry form with your supervisor. Whilst you should work on this form together, it is ultimately completed by your primary supervisor and approved by the doctoral programme director.

The examination entry form is available on the PhD Academy website.

The thesis is examined by two examiners. Both should be specialists in your field of research, and you may know them both, though ordinarily you should not have collaborated with either of them on research.

Your primary supervisor is responsible for nominating your examiners although it is likely that they will discuss possible nominations with you to ensure the examiners are the most appropriate choice. Your supervisor will not be one of your examiners.



Completed entry forms should be sent to the PhD Academy at least two months in advance of submitting your thesis: this is to allow sufficient time for your examiners to be formally appointed (see below). If you are unable to meet this deadline, please seek advice from a member of the PhD Academy team.

Once the PhD Academy have received your completed examination entry form, the examiner nominations are sent to the relevant subject panel for approval. Examiners will then be formally invited.

Until the examiners have confirmed that they can act, they are not appointed as examiners. Therefore, theses will not be sent to them until that time and no arrangements for the viva examination will be agreed. These arrangements are all carried out by the primary supervisor and you should have no contact with your examiners in the run-up to your viva.

## Thesis submission

The maximum word limit for your thesis is 100,000 words, whether it is a monograph PhD or a PhD by publication. See instructions on formatting and submission below.

An electronic version of your thesis will need to be submitted. The easiest way to submit the electronic version of your thesis to the PhD Academy by emailing [phdacademy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:phdacademy@lse.ac.uk). You must submit your thesis by the deadline. If you are unsure what your deadline is, please [submit an enquiry](#).

You should refer to the [Formatting and binding your thesis document](#) to ensure your thesis is formatted in line with the School's requirements. The front pages of your thesis should contain certain information and you should refer to the [Template for the front pages of your document](#) for further guidance.

Theses that are submitted late cannot be accepted without an approved extension from the Research Degrees Subcommittee Chair. You should ensure you allow time for the final editing of your thesis within your deadline.

Once we have received your thesis, and assuming your examiners have been formally appointed, the PhD academy will then send your thesis to them for examination and confirm with you once they have done so. Examiners are not permitted to accept a thesis, in any format, from any source other than from the PhD Academy.

## Editorial help with your thesis

You might wish to seek help from a third party in editing your thesis before you submit it for examination. You will need to read the [School's statement on editorial help](#), provide a copy of it to any third party you use and declare what help you have received from a third party in the front pages of your thesis (see [template for front pages of your thesis](#) [PDF]).

## iThenticate Text Matching Software

The School makes text-matching software (iThenticate) available to its research students who might wish to use it to check their written work. If you are a research student and wish to use the software, please [submit an enquiry](#) and we will set up an account for you. The Media and Communications Department does not require you to use iThenticate as a part of your programme (some other departments in the school do).

A copy of the Quick Start User Guide for iThenticate is provided here for your information: [Quick Start User Guide](#) [PDF]. You will also find further instructions on how to use the software on the iThenticate website. Fuller guidance is provided in the [iThenticate User Manual](#) [PDF].

Should you have any questions about using the software or reading a report produced by it, please contact a member of the PhD Academy team.

## Artificial Intelligence

Make sure you check the guidelines on the use of AI from the school and the department, links to these can be found on the [Doctoral Hub](#) and the [MC500/MC501 Moodle](#) pages.

## Final viva examination

Your two examiners will read your thesis and then you will be examined by a viva examination. The viva can take place on School premises or be online or mixed mode, depending on the individual needs of the candidate, supervisors and the department. At the viva, if you wish (it is entirely your choice), your supervisor may be present as an observer but cannot participate. The viva is designed to test your ability to express your ideas on the specifics of your research, to defend the viewpoints that you advance in your thesis, and to debate the implications and scope for future development of those ideas. It may also consider where and in what form the ideas might be published. It can be an arduous experience, but it is often also enjoyable! This is likely to be the one time to discuss your thesis and ideas with two experts who have read it in detail and thought about it in depth.

You should discuss your preparations for the viva with your supervisor well in advance of it taking place, and your supervisor will set up a mock viva if you think this will be helpful. An MC501 session will be dedicated to viva examinations.

## The outcome of the examination

The outcome of the viva will be a judgement by the examiners, who compile a final examiners' report. They will make one of several recommendations, which are detailed on the website of the PhD Academy and also on the form you completed in registering for the degree. We hope that you will pass, possibly with some minor amendments, and be ready to celebrate!

## When can I refer to myself as Dr?

You cannot call yourself Dr until you receive confirmation by email from the PhD Academy that you have successfully completed. You will receive this email once your examiners are satisfied with any necessary revisions to your thesis, and you have submitted your final completed thesis to the LSE Library.

## Appeals process

Should you wish to appeal the Department's decision in not allowing you to re-register for the programme or to not allow you to upgrade to PhD status, or to appeal against the result of an MPhil or PhD examination, you are advised to familiarise yourself with the appeals procedures documentation, located on the following webpage: [info.lse.ac.uk/Staff/Divisions/Academic-Registrars-Division/Teaching-Quality-Assurance-and-Review-Office/Assets/Documents/Calendar/AppealsRegulationsForResearchStudents.pdf](https://info.lse.ac.uk/Staff/Divisions/Academic-Registrars-Division/Teaching-Quality-Assurance-and-Review-Office/Assets/Documents/Calendar/AppealsRegulationsForResearchStudents.pdf)



## Graduation

You will be able to attend graduation once your examiners are satisfied with any necessary revisions to your thesis, you have submitted your final completed thesis to the LSE Library, and the PhD Academy have confirmed your completion via email.

If this happens before 30 September, you will be invited to attend the December graduation ceremony. If this happens before 30 April, you will be invited to attend the July graduation.

## Graduate Route Visa

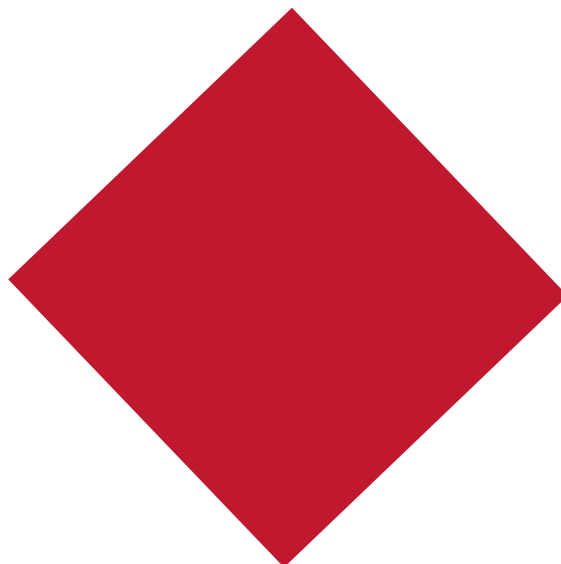
The Graduate Route will allow students who have successfully completed a programme at degree level or above to apply for a three year visa for PhD students. Applicants will not require a job or sponsor to be able to apply for the visa.

More information is available here: [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/immigration-advice](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/immigration-advice)

## Visiting fellowship status following completion

As a recently graduated PhD, you will be given the opportunity to become a Visiting Fellow in the Department for one year, following completion.

This will mean you will retain full library access, borrowing rights, and your LSE email address, giving you the ability to submit to journals and jobs with an LSE email address at this crucial transitional stage following the PhD.



# Student representation

## Student-staff liaison committee

The student-staff liaison committee (SSLC) normally consists of seven members: three MPhil/PhD candidates chosen by the cohort to represent the different year groups, an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) representative and three members of staff (usually the Doctoral Programme Director, Head of Department, and the PhD Programme Manager, who takes minutes). Although any and all MPhil/PhD candidates are welcome to attend should they wish to.

The SSLC meets at least once a term to discuss and make recommendations to the Head of Department or the PhD Board, as appropriate, and the minutes are presented at Department Meetings. The committee meeting is chaired by one of the MPhil/PhD representatives.

## Research students' consultative forum

The student-staff liaison committee elects one representative to sit on the LSE research students' consultative forum, which meets once a term and considers matters that concern doctoral study at LSE, including matters arising from the minutes of the meetings of each Department's student-staff liaison committee, as well as other matters of interest to research students. It reports to the LSE Academic Board and its sub-committees.

More information on the research students' consultative forum, including membership details and terms of reference, is available here: [Consultative Forum](#).

The dates of these committees will be communicated once the academic year begins.

## Departmental research committee

The Department recognises the importance of doctoral research to the overall research aims of the Department. To this end, an MPhil/PhD student is invited to each termly Departmental research committee meeting, attended by faculty and chaired by the research director. Normally reps will decide amongst themselves who will attend the meetings.

## Guidelines for PhD researcher representatives

The following guidelines were drawn up by previous MPhil/PhD student reps. These recommendations are intended to let MPhil/PhD reps know what kinds of responsibilities they are accepting by becoming student reps, and also to ensure an equal division of labour among reps. Please remember that your participation in departmental and School committees does not involve remuneration. It is part of your practice of good citizenship, which we expect to see from you, as it is an important part of your broader socialisation into academic life.

Representatives act as spokespeople for other MPhil/PhD candidates in the same year, bringing ideas, suggestions and comments to staff once a term. There are four reps every academic year: one for MPhils in year 1, one for PhDs in year 2, one for anyone in year 3 and above, and one EDI rep. Reps are generally nominated or come forward as volunteers and write a short note on what they would like to contribute, each year group then decides how they wish to choose their representative.

- 1) Each rep should act for their own academic year, unless in special circumstances.
- 2) Each rep should be responsible for organising a meeting of their year group before the term's student/staff meeting. This will allow MPhil/PhD candidates to pass their thoughts, comments and suggestions to the rep who can then relay input to staff.
- 3) Each rep needs to attend at least 6 meetings.
  - three student-staff meetings (1 per term)
  - three PhD student meetings (1 per term)
  - In addition, at least one rep must attend the School's termly research students' consultative forum meetings and the Department's research committee meetings.
- 4) Each rep should take notes from the PhD student meeting they organise, the departmental research committee and the consultative forum (when they attend it). These notes should be circulated to other PhD candidates after the meetings. The SSLC minutes will be circulated by the PhD Programme Manager first to representatives and then, after approval, to the other PhD researchers.
- 5) Reps are responsible for contacting the [Media.PhD@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.PhD@lse.ac.uk) email for any costs associated with social events organised and the management of the end of year PhD symposium.

# Being a part of the scholarly community

## Research Dialogues

As MPhil/PhD candidates, you are expected to attend and participate in the Department's Research Dialogues, as this is the main intellectual meeting point for faculty, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers as well as visiting fellows.

Research Dialogues take place on Thursdays 12.30-13.45 during term time and consist of short presentations by faculty, visiting academics, other LSE researchers and MPhil/PhD candidates on work-in-progress or reflections around keywords in media and communications research. The presentations are purposefully brief so that most of the 75-minute dialogues can be dedicated to discussion amongst those attending.

We hope to invite MPhil and PhD candidates at various points to act as presenters and chairs where their research fits within the framework of the session proposed.

Dr Dylan Mulvin coordinates our Research Dialogues programme and he welcomes any suggestions for upcoming speakers, topics or keywords that you would be interested in co-organising. Contact the [Media.Research@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.Research@lse.ac.uk) email if you want to get in touch with him about this.

## Additional events and public lectures

Additional events will be arranged throughout the academic year, ranging from public lectures to ad-hoc research seminars, symposia and conferences. MPhil and PhD student participation is encouraged at all public events, so keep an eye out for email invitations. You can keep up to date with upcoming public events through the LSE Events email notification service. See [events](#).

## Celebrating Media and Communications PhDs

In AT10 we will have an event for recent PhD graduates and alumni. During this celebration of all the fantastic work done by our PhD alumni, those who wish to do so are invited to present their thesis work and current research, this is followed by a reception. All supervisors, researchers, current PhD candidates and alumni of the PhD programme are invited to celebrate these achievements with us.

In WT11 we have a 4 hour mini-conference in the form of a poster session during the MC500 and MC501 seminars in which current PhD candidates are asked to present their work (required for first and second year students). The Department will provide support in creating the posters and an MC501 session will be dedicated to conference poster creation. All supervisors, researchers, and current PhD candidates are invited to celebrate this work in progress with us.

## Social life in the Department

The Department hosts a range of social activities, we are currently running:

- PhD Welcome reception –after the MC501 and MC500 session on Wednesday AT1.
- PhD Mixers – 14:30 to 15:00 Coffee, tea and biscuits during the MC501 and MC500 sessions on Wednesday.
- Phubs – Autumn and Winter Term pub get togethers after week 4s MC500 session.
- Phicnic – Spring term week 4 get together in Lincoln’s Inn Fields
- An annual winter party (December).
- An annual summer party (June).

We strongly encourage you to help organise and come up with new ideas. For inspiration, below is a list of activities organised by PhD candidates, their supervisors and the department in the past

- Dinners with the supervisor and their other MPhil/PhD supervisees.
- (MPhil/PhD)Informal coffee and cake (BYO) catch-ups.
- Ice-skating in Sommerset house (winter).
- Hyde Park Winter Wonderland visit (December)





# Departmental resources for MPhil/PhD candidates

## Doctoral research studio

Many networked computers and study spaces are provided for LSE students around the School and in the LSE Library. Additionally, you will have access to workspace with computers and printers in the Department's doctoral research studio in FAW.6.01H, in the heart of the Department's facilities on-campus.

The following guidelines for the use of the doctoral research studio were drawn up in collaboration with PhD candidates in previous cohorts.

### 1) **Be considerate and respectful**

- People have different needs at different times and the best way to make sure everybody is happy is to be aware of the people around you. Be explicit about what you would like. For example, if you are working intensely and someone else's conversation is disruptive, say so.

### 2) **Phones and mobiles**

- Please make your mobile phone conversations outside the room.
- Take your mobile with you when you leave the room (or switch it off).
- When using the room phone, be respectful of the people around you (loud conversations are likely to be considered disrespectful).

### 3) **Think green**

- Switch off lights if you are the last person to leave.
- Switch off the computer you are using if you leave the room for more than 15 minutes.
- Think about whether or not you need a hard copy before pressing Print

### 4) **Clean up after yourself, including papers, food, office supplies etc.**

- Especially food and milk (because they can be smelly).
- Bring your own cup, plate, bowl and take care of them.
- Hang up your coat if there is space.

### 5) **Avoid moving books or other materials out of the room without asking.**

## 6) For security

- Never give your fob to other people.
- Always close and lock the door if you leave the room empty

## 7) Visitors

- Visitors should not be brought into the room.

## 8) Lockers

- If they would like access to one (and will be around campus), MPhil/PhD candidates are allocated a locker in the main space. They will be given the key after having indicated an interest in AT3.
- Please do not leave food or anything that could smell in these lockers.
- The Department reserves the right to open these lockers if there is a threat to the health and safety of other researchers.

## 9) Any study groups should take place outside the PhD room.

## Software

LSE PCs are equipped with a range of software for use in social science research, including NVIVO, R and SPSS. For standard software included on all LSE PCs please see here: [info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/dts/help/guides-faqs/software](https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/dts/help/guides-faqs/software).

If there is a specific software you require, please email [Media.PhD@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.PhD@lse.ac.uk) to request this.

## Departmental blogs

Check out our Departmental blogs **and feel free to submit a blog post**.

- The [Media@LSE blog](#) aims to encourage informed and insightful discussion around the vital role of media and communications in contemporary society, bringing the research and expertise of LSE's Department of Media and Communications to a wider audience that includes fellow academics, civil society, policy makers, journalists and the broader media industry, and other stakeholders.
- [Polis](#), directed by Charlie Beckett is LSE's media think-tank focusing on journalism and society, aimed at working journalists, people in public life and students in the UK and around the world. Contact via [@PolisLSE](#) or on instagram at [PolisLSE](#).
- [Parenting for a Digital Future](#), directed by Sonia Livingstone explores the task of parenting for a digital future, both in the UK and internationally. Contact her on email or X via [#PD4F](#).

# Encountering difficulties during your studies

We hope that MPhil and PhD student work runs smoothly and that everyone finds doctoral study a challenging but ultimately rewarding process and experience. However, we recognise that difficulties can arise and we have done our best – as a programme, a Department and an institution to provide recognition and support as needed.

## Stress

It can feel like a PhD is just a series of milestones and deadlines, or a long dragged out process with no end in sight, add to that a great deal of personal investment and the PhD can be a very stressful process. Finding a way to deal with stress and ensuring that you take regular time to 'switch off' is essential when you are working on a project that stretches on for years, especially when it doesn't offer regular 9-5 working patterns. There are a range of clubs and societies run from the LSE Students' Union, ranging from yoga and athletics, to baking, gaming and skateboarding! And you live in London! The city offers a wide range of cultural, sports and arts related escapes. Make sure you take advantage of those.

## Isolation

An issue which can sometimes arise amongst PhD candidates is a sense of isolation. PhD candidates bear the responsibility for their own projects over an extended period of time, and they often spend a lot of time working alone. They can encounter other difficulties that the people around them are unaware of or cannot relate to. All this can lead to loneliness and feeling demotivated, and you may feel that those around you don't understand the problems you are facing. It's vital to find a way to talk to others to get support and not to feel isolated. Your fellow PhD candidates in the department or at the PhD Academy are a good place to start. The Thesis Whisperer is a great resource where you can find support and information from other people going through the same process as you: [thesiswhisperer.com/](https://www.thesiswhisperer.com/).

## Other difficulties

In addition, we are aware that during their study, students may encounter difficulties in terms of physical or mental health, finances, housing, immigration status, family, relationships, homesickness, self-esteem and more. We hope this doesn't occur to you, but we also hope that if you do have difficulties, you find the courage to tell someone who can help. If possible, tell your supervisor and/or the Doctoral Programme Director, and they will make every effort to help.

## Finding support

Most importantly, don't suffer in silence - speak to your friends, fellow PhD cohort and your supervisors. More informally, you are also welcome to contact any other member of the department who you feel you can trust and ask for help.

Generally, it is important especially that your supervisor knows how you are, and supervisors are well placed to identify additional sources of support, depending on the problem you may be facing. They can also advise if time off, or a formal interruption to your studies, the Doctoral Programme Director, is available for confidential consultation if needed.

Professional help is available for free via the fully confidential LSE Student Counselling [\*\*Student Wellbeing and Counselling Services \(lse.ac.uk\)\*\*](#).

## LSE student wellbeing services

LSE Disability and Wellbeing Service is the first point of contact for disabled students, both before arrival at LSE and throughout your time here. They have experts in long term medical/ health conditions, physical disabilities and sensory impairments, mental health and specific learning difficulties (such as Dyslexia). They are available for advice and guidance, and can put in place Inclusion Plans (IPs) and help with Individual Examination Adjustments. [\*\*Disability and Mental Health Service \(lse.ac.uk\)\*\*](#).

LSE Student Counselling Service is a free and confidential service for all students, offering one to one appointments, drop in sessions, and group based support on issues such as stress management and self-esteem. [\*\*Appointments \(lse.ac.uk\)\*\*](#).

LSE Peer Support enables students to talk confidentially to a fellow student about anything that is troubling them. Located in halls of residence and on campus, the Peer Supporters are a group of specially selected and trained students who help their peers to find their own solutions. [\*\*Peer Support \(lse.ac.uk\)\*\*](https://www.lse.ac.uk/peer-support).

LSE Bullying and Harassment resources support students who have survived or witnessed behaviours that are intimidating, hostile, degrading or offensive, whether repeatedly or as one-off instances. The School and the Department do not tolerate such behaviours and offer ways to report them and help survivors: [\*\*info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/what-if/experienced-harassment\*\*](https://www.lse.ac.uk/current-students/what-if/experienced-harassment).



# Changing your study arrangements

More information on everything discussed below can be found here: [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/Change-of-circumstances-students](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/Change-of-circumstances-students).

## Interrupting study

- A formal interruption to study is appropriate when personal or health circumstances are preventing a student from engaging with their studies.
- Interruption effectively 'stops the clock' on your studies, meaning that your submission deadline will be extended by whatever period of time you interrupt
- Interruptions should be requested at the time when it is needed, to allow a student to take a break from their studies. Retrospective interruptions will not normally be approved.
- Interruptions do not need to be fit to the School's term dates – an interruption can begin at any time, depending on when a student has become unable to engage with their studies.
- Applying for a period of interruption should first be discussed with your supervisor, then with the doctoral programme director. There is a formal process of application, and it is the School not the Department that makes the decision (though normally the Department will support the request).
- Please note that, if granted, an interruption would normally preclude a Tier 4 student visa holder from remaining in the UK during the period of approved interruption. The PhD Academy and International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) will need to be consulted in advance of making an interruption request. Contact ISVAT here [Visa Advice \(lse.ac.uk\)](https://info.lse.ac.uk/visa-advice).
- Interruption means that you are not formally registered during that period. No tuition fees will be charged during a period of interruption. Your IT account and library access will remain the same throughout your period of interruption (although we do not expect you to use the library or send emails relating to your thesis).
- You will not have access to supervision during periods of interruption. Supervisors will not set deadlines that incorporate the period of interruption.
- After a period of interruption, the 'clock' starts again and studies can be resumed.

## Extending study

- An extension to the thesis deadline can be arranged when PhD candidates encounter exceptional circumstances towards the end of their studies which prevent submission of the final thesis by the original deadline.
- An extension may be requested on the basis of medical circumstances in relation to yourself or a dependent, or in the case of bereavement. Students who have been impacted by such events are asked to apply for an extension six-months prior to submission, explaining the ways in which their work has been delayed by the circumstances (illness, lockdown, caring for others etc).
- An extension beyond the maximum period is only granted in very exceptional circumstances. Requests should be made using the appropriate form, available from the [PhD Academy website](#). Requests for extension have to be agreed upon and justified by supervisors and the doctoral programme director. The ultimate decision for granting an extension, however, lies with the Chair of the Research Degrees Subcommittee, not with the Department.
- Asking for more time to improve the thesis, or get it copy-edited, or do extra fieldwork, will not be classed as exceptional.
- If an extension is granted, no further extensions will be given.
- You will be liable for tuition fees in full during the period of any extension that is granted.

## Changing to part-time study

- Changing to part-time study can be permitted when students need to spread their studies over a longer period.
- This can be granted on the basis of a protected characteristic recognised in the Equality Act 2010 (e.g. disability, caring responsibilities).
- It may also be granted on the basis of exceptional circumstances that impede a student's full-time study.
- Please note that students with a Tier 4 student visa are not able to switch to part-time study as they are expected to be studying full time in the UK as a condition of the visa being granted. Further advice on specific cases can be sought from the PhD Academy and/or International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT).
- Part-time PhD candidates are expected to meet with their supervisors once per term.
- Applying for a change in status should first be discussed with your supervisor, then with the doctoral programme director. There is a formal process of application, and it is the school not the department that makes the decision (though normally the department will support the request).

The above advice is general and each case will have unique circumstances. Therefore, we strongly advise you to get in touch when encountering difficulties, so that you can receive proper guidance and advice which will be addressed to your specific circumstances: [phdacademy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:phdacademy@lse.ac.uk).





# Financial support during your studies

The website of The LSE Financial Support Office gives an overview of financial support for PhD study: [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/financial-support](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/financial-support)

Support for MPhil/PhD candidates includes:

- [In-course financial support for final stage PhD candidates](#)
- [Student support \(lse.ac.uk\)](#)
- [Postgraduate travel fund](#)
- [LSE Students' Union hardship funds](#)

The Financial Support Office holds regular drop-in sessions for PhD researchers where a designated member of staff is available to answer student queries. See the website for up-to-date information on drop-in [sessions](#)

## ESRC Research Training Support Grant

If you are an ESRC PhD researcher, you are eligible for a combined Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) and UK Fieldwork Allowance. This also applies to part-time and fees only award holders. If you want to apply for the RTSG, you should contact [Media.phd@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.phd@lse.ac.uk).

More information on the Research Training Support Grant is available here: [info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/financial-support/esrc](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/financial-support/esrc).

## Department PhD support fund

The Department has modest funds to provide support for your research activities. These funds are limited and insufficient to support everyone enrolled in the programme, therefore you are required to consider the following before applying:

- If you are presenting a paper at a conference, symposium or academic event, you should first apply for LSE's Postgraduate Travel Fund (see section above).
- If you are funded by ESRC, you have to draw on your ESRC Research Training Support Grant (see section above).

If you are ineligible for the above, or if your application is unsuccessful, you are invited to apply to the **Department's PhD support fund** after you have passed your upgrade, as long as your request meets one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) A request for a contribution towards the costs of travel, accommodation and/or conference/workshop fees in relation to presenting a research paper.
- 2) A request for a contribution towards the costs of travel, accommodation or conference/workshop fees where your research will benefit substantially from participation and this is confirmed by your supervisor.
- 3) A request for a contribution towards the costs of undertaking fieldwork which forms a necessary part of your project and is confirmed by your supervisor.
- 4) A request for a contribution to other essential research-related expenses (please note this does not include books obtainable from the LSE Library).
- 5) A request to cover the costs of proofreading of your thesis or a paper based on your thesis work.

Please note that:

- You may apply for any specific amount up to a maximum of £800 over the course of your PhD. However, please note that it should not be assumed that each student will get the full amount, the Department reserves the right to part-fund your application.
- If an application has been approved, funding will be reimbursed when you submit receipts for expenses incurred.
- Decisions will be made by the doctoral programme director and will be final.

The application form for the PhD Support Fund is available here: **[lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/study/secure/PhD-Internal-pages](https://lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/study/secure/PhD-Internal-pages)**.

# Working during your studies

## Part-time teaching opportunities

Teaching experience is important for those who wish to pursue an academic career. Job applications frequently ask about teaching skills. It is also an interesting and valuable activity and, of course, an additional source of income.

The Department offers some teaching opportunities for PhD candidates. Seminar teaching and dissertation supervision within the Department are normally only offered to PhD candidates who have passed their upgrade. There is no guarantee that we will require additional seminar teachers and/or dissertations supervisors as this depends on the number of MSc students who register in the Department in each academic year, but we will write to relevant members of the PhD community to invite applications when needed.

Positions that are normally available in the Department for PhD candidates include:

- Classroom assistant positions, where upgraded PhD candidates work as classroom assistants on our MSc courses.
- Graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs) who teach methodology workshops for MC4M1, and dissertation skills workshops for MC499 offered to MSc students in the department.
- Dissertation officer positions, which aim to support MSc students as they complete their dissertations during the summer break
- LSE Summer School teaching fellowships. The Department offers Summer School courses which upgraded PhD candidates are given the opportunity to teach on.

The vacancies for teaching in any one academic year are usually publicized in week 5 of the Spring Term of the previous academic year. Students who are interested in applying should consult their supervisors first. For further information about the opportunities available, please contact Deputy Department Manager Ben McDonald at [Media.MSc@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Media.MSc@lse.ac.uk).

Summative marking of essays, exams and dissertations submitted by our MSc cohort can be undertaken by the Department's final year PhD researchers, and the Department will invite expressions of interest should markers be required.

## PGCertHE and Fellowships

The Eden Centre provides support and training for PhD candidates who teach, including a compulsory programme for new graduate teaching assistants. Those students who wish to take their teaching training further should consider taking the 'LSE Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education' (PGCertHE), a formal qualification in teaching in Higher Education, which is externally accredited by a national body, the Higher Education Academy. For further information about the LSE PGCertHE and other TLC teaching training, please visit their webpages: [Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education \(PGCertHE\) \(lse.ac.uk\)](https://www.lse.ac.uk/Postgraduate-Certificate-in-Higher-Education/).

Additionally, all non-native English speakers are required to take the English for Teaching Purposes (Language Proficiency) Test which is to be used to establish the language proficiency of teaching assistants (GTAs) by the LSE Teaching and Learning Centre. More information on this course is available to view here: [lse.ac.uk/language-centre/english-programmes](https://www.lse.ac.uk/language-centre/english-programmes/).

## Part-time research opportunities

From time to time, faculty in the Department will have financial resources to hire upgraded PhD Researchers as part-time research assistants. This work can include, but is not limited to:

- Writing of compelling research proposals;
- Desk research to provide background for research outputs or research bids;
- Literature reviews;
- Ready access to, and simple manipulations/ visualisations of existing industry and other data working closely with existing sources such as the LSE Library, Ofcom Research, the EC, ITU, EBU and other major data sets;
- Data preparation, analysis and presentation of results, often working with other student researchers, including statistical analysis, quantitative or qualitative analysis of texts, database cleaning, transcribing, preparing codebooks;
- Working to produce project budgets for approval by Principal Investigators.

We adhere to fairness and equity principles which show the problematics around unpaid internships. Therefore, the department does not offer unremunerated research or teaching opportunities unless they are directly related to the PhD candidate's thesis work.

## Research participation and co-authorship

Faculty in the Department actively encourage MPhil/PhD student involvement in their research, and publications have often been co-authored by faculty and MPhil/PhD candidates in the past.

It is, however, important to clarify that the Department adheres to The Vancouver Protocol, which is internationally recognised as the standard for determining authorship on publications. The following document sets out The Vancouver Protocol and clearly states who will and will not be considered an author: [https://boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H03000/H93000/H93400/CDR\\_Authorship\\_Guidelines\\_20100614.pdf](https://boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H03000/H93000/H93400/CDR_Authorship_Guidelines_20100614.pdf).

# Who's who and what do they do?

## Faculty research interests and duties

Research in the Department of Media and Communications examines how changes in media and communications shape, and are shaped by, social, cultural, political, economic, and historical developments. We draw upon and contribute to multiple disciplinary agendas. Our concern is with inequalities, discrimination, representation, voice and violence in an unevenly media-saturated society. We examine structures, processes, practices and discourses and their role in power relations on the global, national and local levels. We are committed to de-Westernising scholarship and to undertaking comparative and transnational research.

Our research is organised around four intersecting themes:

### Media Culture and Identities

What are the roles of media and communications in shaping narratives, identities and lived experience? How do media and communications support or hinder identities, cultures and solidarities associated with race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, class and the city, age and generation?

### Media Participation and Politics

What role do media and communications play in political socialisation, participation, mobilisation and protest around the world? What resources are available to citizens and other stakeholders and how are these mediating their participation?

### Communication Histories and Futures

What is the origin and history of media representations, contemporary discourses and narratives? How are these connected to ideologies, imaginaries and narratives about the future? How do they contribute to broader processes of social change?

### Communication, Technology, Rights and Justice

What are the issues of rights and justice that are significant for the development of media and communications including algorithms? What national and global policy and regulatory responses are needed to achieve citizen sovereignty over the use of data and digital services?

We investigate media and communications in multiple contexts. Our engaged theoretical and methodological approaches tackle the ethical implications of media and communications in relation to norms of democracy, equality and inclusiveness, quality of life and recognition of 'the other' (or of others) as they concern the global North and South and transnational relations.

See [lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/people](https://lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/people) for extensive descriptions of staff research interests and publications.

## Current PhD researchers

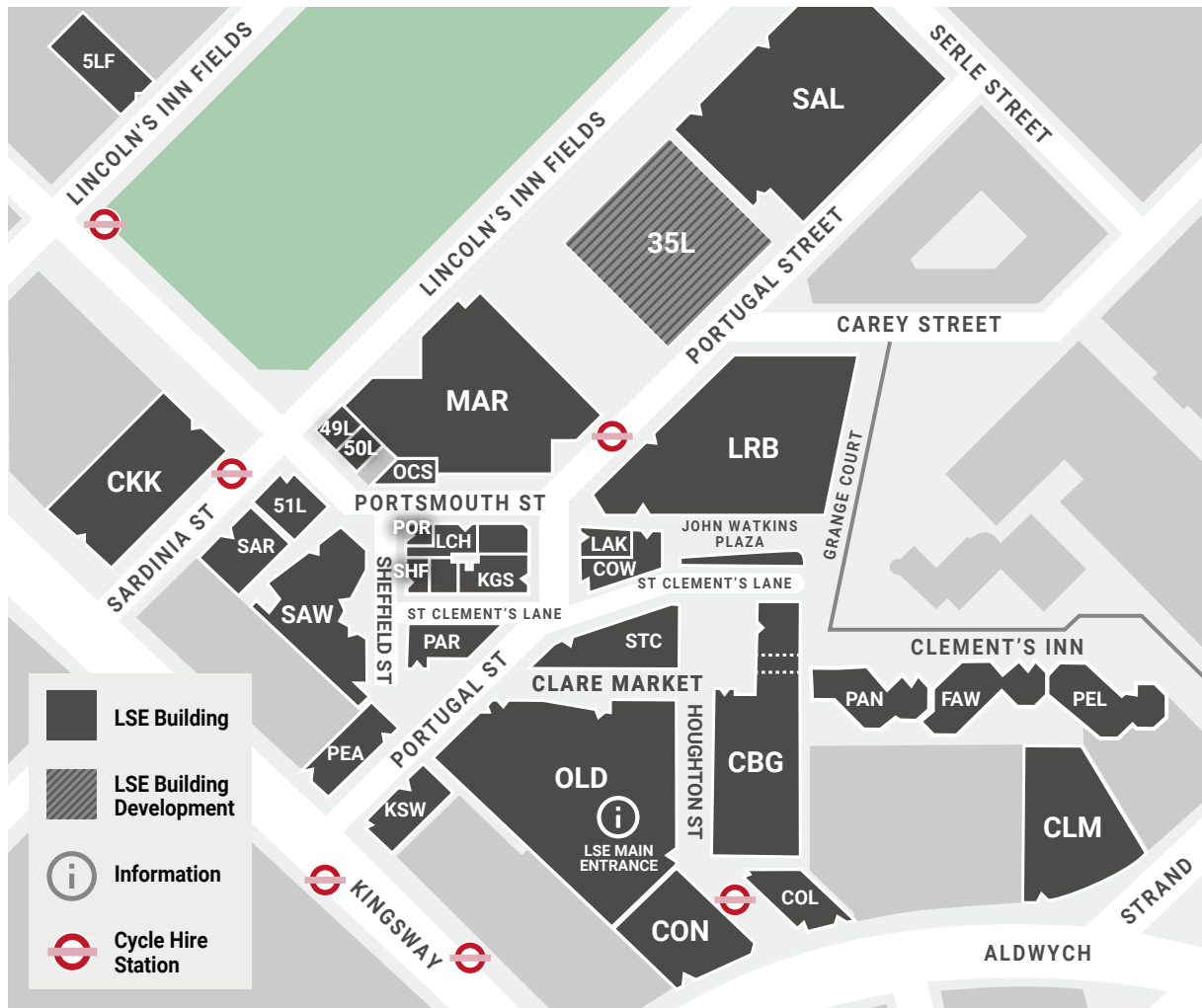
For a full list of current PhD Researchers in the Department of Media and Communications please see here: [lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/people/phd-researchers](https://lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/people/phd-researchers).

## PhD Alumni

The Department has an established and active community of PhD alumni, many of whom have gone onto academic careers and professorial status.

See here for our a list of our PhD alumni, their research areas and contact details: [lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/alumni/secure/phd-alumni](https://lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/alumni/secure/phd-alumni).

# LSE Campus



## Key

<b>CBG</b> Centre Building	<b>KGS</b> King's Chambers	<b>50L</b> 50 Lincoln's Inn Fields	<b>PAN</b> Pankhurst House	<b>SHF</b> Sheffield Street
<b>CKK</b> Cheng Kin Ku Building	<b>KSW</b> 20 Kingsway	<b>51L</b> 51 Lincoln's Inn Fields	<b>PAR</b> Parish Hall	<b>SAL</b> Sir Arthur Lewis Building
<b>CLM</b> Clement House	<b>LAK</b> Lakatos Building	<b>LRB</b> Lionel Robbins Building, Library	<b>PEA</b> Peacock Theatre	<b>STC</b> St Clement's Clare Market
<b>COL</b> Columbia House	<b>LCH</b> Lincoln Chambers	<b>MAR</b> Marshall Building	<b>PEL</b> Pethick-Lawrence House	
<b>CON</b> Connaught House	<b>5LF</b> 5 Lincoln's Inn Fields	<b>OLD</b> Old Building	<b>POR</b> 1 Portsmouth Street	
<b>COW</b> Cowdray House	<b>35L</b> 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields	<b>OCS</b> Old Curiosity Shop	<b>SAR</b> Sardinia House	
<b>FAW</b> Fawcett House	<b>49L</b> 49 Lincoln's Inn Fields (Coopers)		<b>SAW</b> Saw Swee Hock Student Centre	



All buildings have wheelchair access and lifts, except, KGS, KSW\*, POR\* and SHF.  
\*KSW 20 Kingsway (Language Centre only), \*POR 1 Portsmouth Street (Shop only).

## Disabled Access

After 6.30pm, please call Security Control on **020 7955 6200** to ensure that any disabled access doors are open. Also see: [Accessibility map \[PDF\]](#) For access to 20 Kingsway, please call security staff on **020 7955 6200** to set up the portable ramp in the entrance foyer.

## Access Guides to LSE buildings

AccessAble have produced detailed access guides to the LSE campus and residences, and route maps between key locations. These access guides, and route maps, are now [available online](#).



**[lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications](https://lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications)**



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The London School of Economics and Political Science is a School of the University of London. It is a charity and is incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts (Reg no 70527).

The School seeks to ensure that people are treated equitably, regardless of age, disability, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstances.

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