



Dear ,

Welcome to the Department of Social Policy! We are your [Programmes Support Team](#). We are delighted that you will be joining us in September and would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and provide you with some useful information in preparing for your degree programme as well as becoming part of the LSE community. Remember we are here to support you throughout your time at LSE so if you have any questions before or while you are on the programme we are here to help!

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### Your Programmes Support Team



We are your Programmes Support team. You will get to know us from Welcome throughout your degree. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask – we will either know the answer or be able to signpost you to the appropriate source of help or support.

### Dr Craig Stewart

Teaching Operations Manager

*Craig is responsible for managing the Postgraduate team, delivery of MSc and PhD Programmes in the Department, and ensuring that you have a smooth experience on your Programme.*

**Clare Gorman**

Student Community and Wellbeing Manager

*Ask Clare about student wellbeing support, student community, learning adjustments, and settling into LSE and London!*

**Nathaniel Ocquaye**

Postgraduate Programme Officer (Student Experience)

*Ask Nathaniel about events, student opportunities and representation, course choice, Moodle and reading lists.*

**Dr Joe Macdonald**

Assessments Officer

*Ask Joe about assessments & assessment feedback, coursework extensions, deferrals, exceptional circumstances and exam boards.*

**Sevilay Erdogan**

Postgraduate Programme Officer (PhD Lead and Research Support)

*Sevilay is the PhD lead and research support personnel of the team and supports a number of key MSc related processes.*

**Department News!**

**Research Exercise Framework (REF) 2021** – Department of Social Policy Submission receives highest score.



We are delighted that our exceptional contribution to the field of Social Policy has been recognized in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), with our submission obtaining the top-ranked score. The recognition of our outstanding research outputs, impact and environment reflects our strong commitment to our mission to provide world-leading research and to influence policy, practice, legislation, and public understanding on social policy challenges facing countries around the globe.

[Read more here.](#)

### Key Dates for your diary

- Make a note of the 2024/25 term dates – the LSE Academic year is divided into 'Autumn term' (from September to December); Winter term (From January to March) and Spring Term (From April – June).
- Teaching takes place in the Autumn and Winter terms. Exams for any courses which are assessed by exam, will take place during the Spring Term.
- Your Department and the School are planning a great Welcome for you before teaching starts. Most events will take place throughout **23 – 27 September** but we're also organising an **Offer-Holders event on 20 September** so save the date if you will already be in London. Check back on our [Offer Holder](#) pages later in the summer for the full schedule and timings!



### Preparing for your studies

- Take a look at [LSE LIFE's webpages](#). LSE LIFE is the school's centre for academic, personal, and professional development and they can provide guidance on things such as study skills, academic writing, and assessment preparation. You might find the [podcasts](#) particularly useful when preparing for your studies at LSE.
- If we have asked for official documents in your offer letter, or if you have not yet finished your degree, you will need to provide LSE with your results (once you have them). For more details on how to supply evidence of your qualifications, see the [Graduate Offer Pack](#) as well as updates on the [Graduate Admissions Office news page](#).
- Extensive background reading is not essential, but it is advisable for you to do some reading before beginning the programme. You can find a list of recommended readings here.
- The Department has its own [offer holder webpages](#). You will find lots of lots of useful information about joining the Department and we will continually add more as the summer progresses, **so bookmark it now!**

### Useful links

- Visit the [LSE Student Accommodation](#) pages for more information on accommodation.
- If you require a visa to study at LSE, please ensure that you read the [visa guidance for prospective students](#).

- If you have a medical, physical or mental health condition and/or a learning disability such as dyslexia or dyspraxia, [the LSE Disability and Well-being Service](#) is there to offer advice and guidance.

We look forward to meeting you in September. If you have any queries about your programme in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at [socialpolicy.msc@lse.ac.uk](mailto:socialpolicy.msc@lse.ac.uk)

### **Next steps**

- If you have not yet done so, please [Accept and confirm your offer!](#)
- Read the [Graduate Offer Pack](#) for information on visas, fees, accommodation, what to do before you arrive at LSE, and general information about student life and London.
- Take a look at our [Offer Holder pages](#), which includes answers to frequently asked questions.
- Join your class [Discord group](#) to meet your classmates before you arrive at LSE.
- Follow us on Twitter [@LSESocialPolicy](#) and [Instagram](#) and check out the [Social Policy Blog](#) to see what we have been up to!
- **Plan your travel to ensure you are here for Welcome Week which will take place from 23 to 27 September 2024.** We would strongly encourage you to take advantage of the wide range of School-wide activities and events taking place throughout the week. Your compulsory programme welcome session will also take place during this week - finalised dates, times, and other details will be sent to you nearer the time.



With best wishes,

**Craig, Clare, Joe, Nathaniel, and Sevilay.**

*Postgraduate Programmes Support Team,*

Department of Social Policy



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■