PhD Career development programme 2018/19

lse.ac.uk/careers
Introduction

Welcome from LSE Careers

I would like to extend a warm welcome from LSE Careers. We have many years’ experience of working with PhD students from all departments and we offer a substantial programme of career development for PhD students looking to further their career in academia or in other employment sectors. Here you’ll find a guide to the various specialist events, seminars, and additional activities available over the year, as well as details of one-to-one help, where jobs are advertised, and where you can find careers information useful during and after your PhD. Make the most of your time at LSE; the skills and experience you gain alongside your PhD studies will shape your career progression. Many students stay in touch with each other after they leave and the professional network you develop whilst you are here will form the basis of your future working life. Finally, I hope you find the alumni stories interesting.

Catherine Reynolds, Careers Consultant, LSE (c.reynolds@lse.ac.uk)

Welcome from the PhD Academy

One of our objectives in the PhD Academy is to enable all students to develop rewarding and meaningful careers. We know over 98% of our PhD graduates find positions within six months of graduating in university departments, research institutions, NGOs, government departments, international organisations, the public sector, and the commercial sector. Many PhD students find the network of contacts they make while at LSE and the help provided by LSE Careers invaluable. Whether it’s attending a careers event in the PhD Academy, talking with Catherine at one of our dedicated sessions, arranging a practice interview, or simply consulting the information sources online or in the Careers Resource Centre, there are plenty of ways to build your career and create opportunities. You are encouraged to start considering your career and professional development early in your PhD studies.

This booklet describes some of the careers services appropriate for PhD students. We hope you find it helpful.

Professor Julia Black, Pro-Director for Research, LSE
LSE Careers

LSE Careers is here to help guide and support you throughout your time at LSE. Whether you have a clear idea of what you want to do after your PhD or haven’t started thinking about it yet, LSE Careers can help.

We provide a range of careers services and events, information and advice online and in one-to-one appointments, and a jobs board with UK and international full-time, part-time, graduate, internship, experienced hire, and volunteering opportunities. It can be overwhelming to balance your career search with PhD work, but we can help you manage your time and find focus and direction.

Where is LSE Careers?

We’re based on Floor 5 of the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre – come and visit us to ask questions, collect free resources, use the space and facilities, and borrow careers-related books. We’re open Monday to Friday, 9:30am-5pm with late openings until 8pm on Thursdays. PhD appointments and events take place in the PhD Academy on Floor 4 of the Lionel Robbins Building.

Services for students with disabilities

LSE Careers has a dedicated Careers Consultant whose focus is on the transition from education to employment for students who have a disability or a neurodiverse condition.

You can find more information for students with disabilities on the LSE Careers website, and please contact us (we offer longer, flexible appointments) if you’d like support with anything including recruitment processes, disclosure, reasonable adjustments, legal issues and other disability careers issues.

How to book careers events

Log in to CareerHub to book a place. Booking opens one week before most careers events at 9:30am.

“I was offered the lectureship at Manchester! It’s very good news for me and I really think your input in our sessions was invaluable for preparing for the interview. Thank you!”
Getting started

LSE CareerHub

CareerHub is your gateway to our careers events (including seminars, fairs, employer presentations and more), one-to-one appointments, the organisations we work with, and our vacancy board.

First time on CareerHub? Log in with your LSE IT account and then go to the ‘Preferences’ section to let us know what you’re interested in. This will ensure you receive the most relevant information about jobs, opportunities, and events.

LSE Careers online

On our website you’ll find useful advice about career planning, CVs, application forms, interviews, and assessment centres, as well as information on searching for jobs, employment sectors, postgraduate studies, and international careers.

To keep up-to-date with careers news, events, opportunities and advice, find us on Student Hub, look out for our newsletter, subscribe to our blog, and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

LSE Volunteer Centre

Whether you have an hour or two days a week to spare, there are at least 100 one-off, long-term, and overseas opportunities advertised on CareerHub at any time. If you’d like support finding the right opportunity for you, book a one-to-one appointment on CareerHub. The LSE Volunteer Centre website also has a wealth of information and advice.

LSE Generate

LSE Generate (lse.ac.uk/generate) is the School’s entrepreneurial hub, helping students and alumni create impact through innovation. Keep up-to-date with all things enterprise @LSEGenerate.

Other services at LSE

LSE LIFE

Based on the ground floor of the Library, LSE LIFE is the centre for academic, professional and personal development. We run careers drop-ins in LSE LIFE three times a week during term-time.

International Student Visa Team

The International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) is the only team at LSE able to advise on student immigration and the Doctoral Extension Scheme.

Language Centre

The LSE Language Centre offers modern foreign language and English language programmes, as well as providing proof-reading services (for a fee).

LSE Alumni

Alumni have access to LSE Careers for up to five years after course completion. You can also join 80+ regional and 10+ special interest alumni groups. Find out how to make the most of the LSE Alumni network, benefits and services after graduation, and follow LSE Alumni on social media to get the latest information and advice.
During your PhD

You will be looking for ways to build your skills and experience by:
• developing research skills, presenting work, and contributing to your field
• attending and speaking at conferences, and preparing papers for publication
• engaging with the public outside academia, blogging, media work, events
• organising conferences, editing journals, and giving research assistance
• teaching undergraduates and master’s students, marking work, developing courses; undertaking a teaching qualification.

You will also prepare by:
• doing consultancy, freelance or internship work
• building your network of contacts; collaborating with others
• understanding the organisations who might recruit you
• signing up for job alerts from specialist websites and monitoring vacancies
• preparing alternative ways to present yourself and your work for different contexts.

But don’t be overwhelmed!
One-to-one career discussions, which you can book online through CareerHub (careers.lse.ac.uk), are available every week and can help you set your priorities and plan your time efficiently. Our core programme of careers events is open to all students so you are welcome to attend these as well as specialist PhD ones (browse and book on CareerHub).

David Brenner
PhD International Relations, 2016
Lecturer in International Relations, Goldsmiths, University of London

I was very fortunate to start as a lecturer at the end of my PhD, which allowed me to continue with academic research on political violence in Southeast Asia. I first worked as a fixed-term lecturer at the University of Surrey for two years and then moved to a permanent role at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Studying at LSE was great for developing my interests. The best part was the large PhD community and I learned a lot from likeminded peers in a variety of disciplines. While publishing and teaching during my PhD was key for finding academic employment, LSE also provided a good platform for pursuing some of my other interests, including extensive fieldwork, journalism, photography, and policy engagement. I feel that this is equally important at a time where PhD students have to prepare themselves for a career that will most likely not be at the university.
Seminars and events 2018/19

To help you learn about careers, seminars and events take place throughout the year:
• Women in academia, Careers panel (10 October)
• Preparing for an academic career in the UK (15 October)
• Career options after your PhD – something unexpected (31 October)
• CVs for academic posts (2 November)
• CVs for outside academia (12 November)
• International Organisations Day (IOD, 10 November, for all students) including major UN organisations, development banks and other agencies
• Career Planning (28 January)
• Finding and applying for research fellowships (13 February)
• Interview skills for academic jobs (4 February)
• PhD careers coffee meetings - meet the employers (March 2019)
• Meet an Alum (for all students, taking place every Thursday evening during Michaelmas and Lent Terms with a range of career sectors represented).

Fairs:
• Public Sector and Policy Careers (23 October)
• Consultancy (9 and 11 October)
• Banking and Financial Services (2 and 4 September)
• Business and Management (18 October)

Discover International Development (15 and 29 November)

Employer presentations: on and off-campus (ongoing)
Browse the full listings and book on CareerHub (careers.lse.ac.uk).

Sasha Jesperson
PhD Government, 2014
Director of the Transnational Challenges practice at Atkins Strategy

Since completing my PhD, I’ve moved in and out of academia. Currently, I am a Director at Aktis Strategy, a development consultancy that focuses on fragile and conflict affected states. For me, this role offers the perfect combination of research, expertise and implementation.

After several years working in the human rights field, I decided to pursue a PhD to add more depth and rigour to my work, so my aim was always about using academic research to improve policy responses. But putting this into practice isn’t easy! My first two post-PhD jobs were research based, first at a think tank, and then running a research centre at a university. In both roles, the research was aimed at policy makers, but I became frustrated passing recommendations on to others.

In my current role, I move between research and providing technical expertise to project delivery on the themes that I focused on in my PhD research.
Appointments and vacancies

One-to-one appointments

We offer 30-minute appointments every week which you can book up to one month in advance on CareerHub (careers.lse.ac.uk). Use appointments to review your career, develop your ideas, assess your plans, or get feedback on your approach, written applications, and interview preparation.

Opportunities

There are numerous part-time jobs, internships, and other vacancies listed on CareerHub. If you are Research Council funded student, also look for RCUK internships in government, policy, and public service. Part-time jobs include research roles, academic administration, internships, teaching and tutoring amongst others.

Early in your PhD these roles will generate income and help to build evidence of skills and experience. We can help you network with employers, organisations, and alumni and support speculative applications. Later in your PhD, familiarise yourself with the requirements for roles advertised on academic and other specialist job sites. There are lists of these on our website (lse.ac.uk/careers) for UK, European, and international labour markets.

Claudia Mollidor,
PhD Social Psychology, 2013
Associate Director, Public Affairs, Ipsos MORI

During my MSc I realised I wasn’t quite ready to leave academia yet, though I never saw myself ‘becoming an academic’ after my PhD.

Ever since leaving school I worked part-time in office-based environments (in France, the UK and Australia) and very much valued the experience as well as the perspective on life and the job market this afforded me. I strongly believe that work experience got me a place on the MSc programme in the first place, helped me focus on my thesis on ‘PhD days’ and meant that I had a smooth transition into meaningful and enjoyable employment afterwards.

Finally taking a year out after non-stop study and work gave me the space scope out and plan my next career move. Landing in the Social Research Institute at Ipsos MORI couldn’t suit me better, providing both academic rigour and the opportunity to influence policy and practice in a fast-paced, exciting environment.
Other events and training

Key events

• LSE Research Festival - a celebration of social science research
• Professional development for PhDs - training throughout the year in the PhD Academy
• PGCert HE and other teacher training opportunities
• Research methodology - courses run throughout the year with some online
• Information literacy courses - run by the Library, including online presence

Opportunities to grow your network

• visiting scholar
• collaborations with non-Higher Education partners
• internship, consultant or research assistant roles
• conference organiser, presenter, speaker
• journal reviewer or editor
• staff/student liaison

Many opportunities and events for Academic and Professional Development are advertised at lse.ac.uk/phdadademy (see the events, courses and training page). Use a one-to-one careers appointment to review activities aligned with your career development.

Jas Ellis,
PhD International Development, 2008
Principal Supervisor,
European Central Bank

It’s pretty safe to say that I wouldn’t be in this job without my PhD. It’s harder to say why. Did my prestigious doctoral qualification open doors? To be blunt: it didn’t. Beyond a few research-focussed jobs, the anticipated benefit of that qualification is close to zero – and for some recruiters, it’s less than zero.

Instead, the value of my PhD was in the skills I acquired. Analytical skills. Communication skills. Presentation skills. It’s those skills that got me my first job as an economic consultant, and they’ve also underpinned my success the Bank of England and ECB. Sometimes the research training helps, but not nearly as much as the intellectual confidence.

My doctorate didn’t get me out of reformating spreadsheets (although people asked more politely). But applying what I learnt at LSE has consistently helped me find bigger and higher-profile projects. And that’s opened a lot of doors.

“I got the job! Thank you so much for all your help with my job pack and with the practice interview. It all really helped! Not only did it boost my performance, but some of your questions and suggestions really helped me to focus on the key messages in my thesis. This job is so perfect for me - I can’t believe they are actually going to pay me to do it.”

“I am very happy to share that I now have a full-time, permanent job and I am starting in September! I cannot express how grateful I am for all your help and support, thank you very much! It was extremely helpful, and this time I managed to give answers exactly the way we practised.”
PhD career progression

LSE PhD graduates move into a wide range of interesting initial roles in many different sectors and organisations. Graduate destination data is searchable by department at lse.ac.uk/whatgraduatesdo. Vitae.ac.uk also provides national data and an interesting range of PhD careers stories. Some examples of recent destinations from LSE PhDs include:

Roles in academia
LSE Fellow; Teaching Fellow; Research Fellow; Research Assistant; Research Officer; Post-doctoral Research Fellow; Assistant Professor; Lecturer.

Organisations
London School of Economics; Max Planck Institute; Cass Business School; Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; SOAS; Princeton University; Durham University; Hertfordshire University.

Roles outside academia
Advocacy Manager; Research Manager; Project Manager; Associate; Civil Servant; Consultant; Diplomat; Economist; Editorial Manager; Grants Facilitator; Programme Manager; Special Adviser; Researcher; Policy Adviser; Quantitative Analyst; Research Analyst; Statistician; Strategist; Social Researcher; Writer.

Organisations
Government departments; European Commission; International Monetary Fund; Overseas Development Institute; OECD; Women’s Foundation; Social Market Foundation; Work Foundation; World Bank; European Central Bank; Bank of England; PwC; Barclays Bank; Citigroup; Morgan Stanley.

Simon Beard,
PhD Philosophy, 2016
Researcher, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge

I am a postdoc at an academic institute researching global catastrophic risk and how to prevent it.

Given the nature of our work my work life is half way between that of an academic researcher and a policy campaigner. So, as well as writing academic papers and blog posts I have also been a BBC New Generation Thinker and helped set up and run an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Future Generations. For me this is the perfect combination and I am no longer trying to pursue a ‘standard’ academic career.

One of my most marketable skills has been that as well as doing my PhD research I also developed my political career whilst at the LSE and even stood for parliament in 2015. This helped me to keep focused on the practical implications of my philosophical research and how to communicate my thoughts and ideas outside academia.
Your professional identity

We can help you build and develop an interesting portfolio of experiences and connect these with your life beyond LSE. Professional identity is not a stable entity; how you see yourself and how others see you shifts and people sometimes experience significant changes during a PhD. The beliefs or opinions you have will influence other people and you have some control over how others perceive you.

Before presenting yourself to colleagues and potential employers it’s helpful to consider your strengths and prepare different ways to describe yourself and your work. It’s never too early to work on your professional reputation!

As a researcher, think of yourself as a:
• team worker and project manager
• communicator and writer

Develop a web presence:
• Present yourself online - training is offered by LSE’s Information Management Team (IMT) team.
• Use LinkedIn and create an interesting and up-to-date profile.

Ask for feedback:
• Use a one-to-one careers appointment to review your professional identity at any stage of your PhD.

Fabio Pinna,
PhD Economics, 2014
Associate, Deutsche Bank

During my PhD I gained a range of experience and earned income working part-time as a research assistant, a teaching assistant, and in a commercial setting in asset management. I published in business journals and contributed to academic articles.

All this meant managing my time carefully, setting priorities and being well organised, but it put me in a very good position to apply for permanent roles in the banking sector. My research investigated banking, credit, and consumer behaviour and contributed to understanding consumer decision making.

My work experience, research, numeracy skills, and problem solving approach were recognised by Deutsche Bank and I was recruited to work immediately after my PhD. Now I am an Associate in a team that manages billions of assets globally. Our approach involves using coding and computing of big data as well as human assessment of risks and opportunities. The combination of my PhD and my working experiences have helped me achieve this.
Careers resources

LSE Careers offers a huge range of resources, online and offline, that can help you get the job you really want. Using a combination of these, you should be able to find and attain the career path you’re looking for.

We have specialist resources at lse.ac.uk/careers to support PhD careers including:
- Academic careers information and advice including getting teaching experience, US academic careers, post-docs, sample CVs, covering letters, research statements and proposals
- Careers outside academia information including lists of job sites, example CVs and cover letters, and advice on applying for jobs and internships
- Employment sector resources to help you explore sectors beyond academia - you’re welcome at all our events to understand the wider labour market
- International careers: GoinGlobal has a fantastic range of resources
- PhD careers blog written by LSE Careers staff, PhD alumni, and some current PhD students. Contact Catherine Reynolds with ideas for topics to cover.

In our Resource Centre on Floor 5 of the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre we have a library of careers-related topics as well as takeaway resources.

We’re open throughout the year, including the summer, for one-to-one appointments and practice interviews. If you’re not in the UK please book a Skype or telephone appointment by emailing us (careers@lse.ac.uk). You also have access to LSE Careers services for up to five years after you graduate.

So make the most of us during your time here and good luck with your career at LSE and beyond!

Giulia Pastorella,
PhD European Studies, 2016
Public Affairs Manager, Hewlett Packard

I am in the Government Global Strategy Program at HP, the American tech company. I was never 100% sure I wanted move outside academia. So my strategy has been to shift in and out of it, or combine work and study, since my early university days. It turns out that ‘just’ a PhD is not enough for today’s job market.

During my BA and MSc I did summer internships everywhere from a space policy think tank and a French newspaper, to a university-affiliated consultancy and a horse riding centre!

After my master’s degree I worked for a year in a public affairs consultancy, only to then come back to academia for my PhD. Faithful to my strategy, I taught, researched, and published but was also freelancing on the side and founded an academia related start-up.

This zig-zag paid off, I then to transitioned quickly at the end of my PhD into the organisation where I am today. And who knows: one day I might go back to academia!
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Opening hours
Monday – Wednesday: 9:30am-5:00pm
Thursday: 9:30am-8:00pm
Friday: 9:30am-5:00pm