



Congratulations on your decision to apply to London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), University of London. You have applied to one of the most prestigious universities in the U.K. LSE is a highly competitive program, and we want our students to do everything they can to strengthen their applications. As part of your application to LSE, you are required to write an academic statement.

A well-written personal statement can make the difference between an average application and an incredible one. LSE admits applicants who are driven, motivated and prepared for an academically rigorous semester. Writing a strong academic statement will strengthen your application and help differentiate you from other applicants.

Think of your statement of purpose as a college admissions essay. Your academic statement should be about 500 words and outline the reasons why you want to study at LSE and the department you've chosen. A statement can be especially useful for providing additional information which is not immediately apparent from your transcript and which is relevant to your department and course selection. You should discuss your reasons for applying, preparation you've done to be academically suited to LSE, and specific study and research interests that you intend to pursue while at LSE. Mention a course you'd like to take in the department you are applying to and discuss why it's important to you: Is it not available at your home university? Is it in an unusual or interesting subject area that would be inaccessible outside of the U.K.? Why will studying at LSE broaden your academic horizons?

Your statement should also describe how and why a study abroad year at LSE will assist you in achieving your academic and professional goals. For example, if you are applying to the International Relations program because you want to work for the CIA or be a political analyst in your future, mention this. If taking a specific course offered at LSE will round out your academic background for your application to graduate school, mention this.

**You are required complete and submit your academic statement along with the other forms included in this document.**