



Frequently asked questions (2020/21)

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General

What is LSE CHOICE?

LSE CHOICE stands for:

LSE **C**hallenge

LSE **H**igher

LSE **O**pportunity

LSE **I**nvestment

LSE **C**ommitment

LSE **E**xcellence

CHOICE is an enrichment scheme aimed at the most academically able Year 12 students from London state schools and colleges. We aim to give them the tools they need to successfully apply to LSE and other competitive universities.

CHOICE is very competitive, receiving hundreds of applications each year. There are around 180 spaces available.

There are two main elements to the scheme: a week-long summer school and 16 Saturday morning masterclasses.

This year, due to COVID-19, the summer school will be delivered entirely online. At the time of writing, it is likely the first term of Saturday masterclasses (September-December) will also be delivered online. We will keep reviewing the situation as LSE CHOICE progresses. We are committed to ensuring the safety of CHOICE participants and staff, whilst delivering a high-quality programme.

Participants study one of the following five subjects:

- Economics
- Government & politics
- History
- Maths
- Sociology

When does the scheme run?

LSE CHOICE runs from August after the end of Year 12 to March half-way through Year 13.

Launch

Successful applicants are invited to attend a short, online **launch event** with their parents/carers on the **evening of Thursday 6 August 2020**.

Summer school

The virtual summer school runs from **Monday 24 – Friday 28 August 2020**.

Students will be required to commit an average of three hours per day to the summer school. It will be possible to access most sessions at flexible times.

Saturday masterclasses

The 16 Saturday morning masterclasses are currently scheduled for the dates below. Exact times are TBC, depending on whether sessions are online or on the LSE campus. In previous years, campus-based sessions ran from 10am-12pm.

Saturday Masterclass 1	19/09/2020
Saturday Masterclass 2	26/09/2020
Saturday Masterclass 3	03/10/2020
Saturday Masterclass 4	10/10/2020
Saturday Masterclass 5	31/10/2020
Saturday Masterclass 6	07/11/2020
Saturday Masterclass 7	14/11/2020
Saturday Masterclass 8	21/11/2020
Saturday Masterclass 9	28/11/2020
Saturday Masterclass 10	05/12/2020
Saturday Masterclass 11	16/01/2021
Saturday Masterclass 12	23/01/2021
Saturday Masterclass 13	30/01/2021
Saturday Masterclass 14	27/02/2021
Saturday Masterclass 15	06/03/2021
Saturday Masterclass 16	13/03/2021

Traditionally, a graduation ceremony is held immediately after the last Saturday session to which parents/carers are also invited.

What is the level of commitment involved?

Once participants have accepted their place on the scheme, they are expected to take part in all five days of the summer school and to achieve 90% attendance at the Saturday masterclasses. We understand that there may be occasions where you will need to miss a session due to illness or other commitments. In these cases, we ask that you notify us as early as possible.

What do the summer school and Saturday masterclasses involve?

Summer school

We have partnered with The Sutton Trust and the LSE CHOICE summer school will be delivered through their digital platform, Sutton Trust Online.

During the summer school, students will be given daily access to a virtual learning area, plus a range of resources and support. These will mainly be produced by LSE, plus there will be an online library created by the Sutton Trust.

The virtual summer school will include the following:

- daily academic sessions delivered in a range of formats, including pre-recorded and live lectures, discussions, reading materials and more

- exclusive lectures and interviews, involving leading academics and authors
- practical learning tasks to undertake at flexible times
- daily live welcome sessions with the LSE choice team
- Q&A sessions with current LSE students
- information and advice on choosing university courses, applying to university and making other decisions about the future
- support with writing your UCAS personal statement, including one-to-one mentoring
- a chance to explore university life through talks, videos and a virtual campus tour
- continued access to additional materials and academic sessions after the summer school has finished.

Saturday masterclasses

The Saturday morning masterclasses take place either online or on the LSE campus.

The masterclasses are delivered by experienced teachers. The sessions are designed to broaden and enrich participants' knowledge of their subject and to develop critical thinking and group discussion skills. (The aim is not to duplicate the A-level syllabus.)

Participants will be given access to LSE library facilities. This includes access to a large and growing range of online materials. Depending on how the pandemic progresses, students may also be eligible to use the library on campus and borrow printed materials.

Do I have to attend both the summer school and the Saturday masterclasses?

Offers to join LSE CHOICE are made on the basis that participants will attend the full programme, including both the summer school and Saturday masterclasses. Whilst we understand that other commitments and illness may sometimes prevent participants from attending all sessions, we do expect a high level of attendance and punctuality. We reserve the right to remove participants with a particularly poor record from the scheme.

Subject streams

If I don't like the subject stream I am placed in, can I change to a different stream?

As places on LSE CHOICE are limited, we are unfortunately unable to allow participants to switch between different streams.

However, the programme does include taster classes of other subjects.

Financial

Do I have to pay to be on LSE CHOICE?

No. LSE CHOICE is completely free to attend.

Is there any help available to cover travel and attendance costs?

For Saturday masterclasses, we provide a bursary payment of £20 for each session attended. These are paid in instalments – roughly once or twice per term.

If you have issues with accessing online classes due to lack of equipment or internet access, do let us know. We may be able to help.

Future options after CHOICE

Does LSE CHOICE include support with the UCAS application process?

Yes. The summer school will include a range of information and guidance on admissions and UCAS personal statements. This will be produced by LSE Undergraduate Admissions specialists and other external providers. During the summer school, participants will also have access to specially trained personal statement mentors. After the summer school, LSE undergraduate admissions specialists will be available to provide one-to-one feedback on a personal statement draft.

Participants often find that studying their subject in greater depth really helps with deciding what they want to study at university, as well as enabling them to write a stronger personal statement.

Am I guaranteed a place at LSE if I take part in LSE CHOICE?

Students who participate in our Widening Participation projects (like LSE CHOICE) are automatically flagged in our admissions database. This means that if you decided to make an application to LSE, admissions staff would be able to see that you had participated in CHOICE. This enables them to take that into consideration when assessing your application, but **does not guarantee you an offer**.

Do I *have* to apply to LSE if I take part in LSE CHOICE?

No! Whilst we very much welcome any applications to LSE undergraduate courses, CHOICE is not a recruitment drive. The most important thing is that we are enabling you to make informed decisions about what is right for you.

What if I decide that I don't want to go to university at all?

Deciding whether or not to go to university is a big decision to make. CHOICE aims to help participants make successful applications to highly selective universities like LSE. However, we would encourage you to continue with the scheme, even if you decide university isn't for you. The skills and knowledge you gain will be valuable, regardless of your future pathway.