



The London School of Economics and Political Science

Professor in Sociology

Candidate Information – July 2023

Executive Summary

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is one of the foremost social science universities in the world, ranking third globally in the QS subject rankings 2022 and as the top university in London in the Complete University Guide 2023. At the last Research Excellence Framework (REF), LSE ranked joint second in the UK overall. With 18 Nobel Prize winners and 37 past or present heads of state, the LSE is a truly influential and international university at the forefront of global policy debate.

An LSE education provides students with a research-led, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary experience, encouraging learners to engage critically with their subjects and real-world challenges, equipping them professionally and personally for the world into which they will graduate. The LSE's ambition is to be the leading social science university with the greatest global impact.

LSE is committed to building a vibrant, equitable and truly inclusive environment for staff and students from all over the world. In 2020, it became the eighth full member of CIVICA - The European University of Social Sciences. It also has partnerships with globally renowned universities spanning Europe, Africa, America, and Asia. In the UK, it is a part of the Russell Group, the Aspect Social Science Research Commercialisation Network, and is also involved in the launch of SHAPE – Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy.

The Department of Sociology is a leading centre for critical research and education on major societal challenges. Bringing together 30 faculty and teaching fellows, 15 Graduate Teaching Assistants, 10 Professional Services Staff, and over 400 students across our undergraduate, taught and research postgraduate degrees, we work collectively to foster an environment where students and staff can engage in socially relevant and rigorous scholarship and learning. Our research addresses key contemporary issues including inequalities and social justice; politics and human rights; migration, cities and urban change; economy, technology and culture. We strive to offer our students high-quality theoretical and methodological training within an active and engaged community of staff and students.

The Department is now looking to appoint an outstanding and innovative quantitative sociologist who will provide academic leadership and research excellence in the study of social inequalities and take a lead role in building our research and education priorities in this area. Developing our capacity in quantitative sociology within and beyond the Department is a key priority over the coming period, and the post-holder will lead this research and recruitment strategy with senior colleagues. The post holder will contribute to the intellectual life of the School through conducting and publishing outstanding quality research, engaging in high quality teaching as instructed by the Head of Department, and participating in the School and wider Department activities.





The University

Founded in 1895, the LSE is a specialist social science university with 29 academic departments and institutes, 19 research centres and many more research units and groups. It has seven academic partnerships with universities across the world including the University of California, Berkeley, Peking University (Beijing) and the National University of Singapore. In 2021, the LSE became the first Carbon Neutral verified university in the UK.

The School's academics are frequently in the news, commenting on the top issues of public life. The compact campus in the heart of London buzzes with intellectual exchange throughout the year. Speakers of world standing from the realms of politics, finance, business, and current affairs, as well as academic life choose the LSE to deliver lectures and seminars on subjects of wide, current interest. This rich programme of events is open to the public as well as to the School's students and staff, and thousands of visitors attend from outside the LSE each year.

The LSE has over 11,600 students of the highest quality, with applications being intensively competitive at 12.8 applicants per place. With students from over 140 different countries and 40% of staff from outside of the UK, the School is a highly diverse community. This diversity encourages social, economic and political discussions from a global perspective, informed by the different experiences, views and beliefs of its staff and student body.

Among its staff and former students, the university counts 18 Nobel Prize winners. It has 165,000 alumni across 200 countries; 37 world leaders have studied or taught at the LSE. Its exceptional graduate record is evidenced by students' high attainment and outstanding performance in highly skilled job markets, with 92.8% of leavers in the most recent academic cycle in work or study 15 months after graduation.

The LSE advantage

The Department's location within a world-class social science institution at the heart of a leading global city provides distinctive capacity to deliver research and education which advance the frontiers of understanding in Sociology.

2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) Results

In REF 2021, LSE Sociology was ranked top five for both Research Outputs and Research Environment, and third in the discipline overall for the share of our research outputs judged to be world leading. This unit of assessment brings together sociologists within our Department and in five other LSE departments, institutes and research centres, connecting a wider network of sociological research and expertise across the School.





Education

The [LSE 2030](#) Strategy commits the School to Educate for Global Impact. This means developing lifelong, research-rich learning opportunities for students from all backgrounds. By creating a strong sense of belonging, LSE is equipping its students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to be critical investigators, confident entrepreneurs, and culturally aware agents of change. The School has a rich programme of education enhancement activities underway, led by faculty members within and across departments. Alongside the mainstream education on campus, the LSE is developing its portfolio of Extended Education provision, including executive programmes and online certificate courses.

2030 Strategic Priorities

Educate for impact

- LSE will work in partnership with its students to find innovative ways of learning, creating, collaborating, and supporting them to better understand and shape a rapidly changing world.

Research for the world

- LSE is international, interdisciplinary, and issue oriented. It will build on these reputational strengths and take the lead in securing and defining the future of social sciences across the globe.

Develop LSE for everyone

- LSE thrives on diversity – of people, ideas, and interests. It will invest in its community and enhance its services and infrastructure, so that it continues to attract the best and brightest and enable every member of its community to excel. The full strategy can be viewed [here](#).

Teaching in the Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology teaches over 400 undergraduate and postgraduate students on its core BSc and MSc programmes in Sociology, and eight specialist MSc programmes. Our vibrant portfolio of taught programmes consists of the following:

- BSc Sociology
- MSc Sociology
- MSc City Design and Social Science
- MSc Culture and Society
- MSc Economy and Society
- MSc Human Rights
- MSc Human Rights and Politics
- MSc Inequalities and Social Science
- MSc Political Sociology

This body of programmes ensures the department offers a foundation of core study in the discipline, drawing on a range of perspectives and approaches in the field, alongside more specialised graduate programmes closely aligned to our primary areas of research expertise. It provides the basis for dedicated programme teams shaped around the department's research priorities, and links graduate teaching closely to our research in key areas of societal relevance.

Our faculty provide core sociological training for our undergraduate and postgraduate students in social theory and sociological methods and offer research-led courses at both levels in their areas of specialist expertise, creating a research-rich teaching environment. We are committed to ensuring we offer an inclusive and engaging curriculum for our diverse cohort of students. Our BSc programme is ranked 3rd in both the 2022 Guardian University rankings and in the Complete National University Guide. The Department ranks 3rd by subject in the QS World University Rankings.

The MPhil/PhD Sociology attracts excellent doctoral students who identify a substantive area of research in one of the Department's four areas of research priority: economic sociology, human rights and politics, social inequalities, and urban sociology.



Role Description

Based in Department of Sociology, the post holder will contribute to the intellectual life of the School through conducting and publishing outstanding quality research, engaging in high quality teaching as instructed by the Head of Department, and participating in the School and wider Department activities.

The post holder will provide high-quality, research-led teaching in the field of social inequalities, and in innovative approaches to quantitative research methodologies. They will publish research that makes outstanding contributions to the quantitative analysis of social inequalities and take a leading role in the development of research and education in social inequalities and quantitative methodology in the Department.

Research

- Publishing work of outstanding quality and significance to the discipline;
- Conducting substantive and original research into complex problems, ideas, concepts, or theories and applying appropriate methodologies;
- Developing and carrying forward a coherent research strategy in their discipline which achieves public recognition and a sustained national and international impact;
- Planning and directing research activities and programmes of outstanding quality and international significance;
- Leading major peer reviewed funding bids for research programmes in the specialist area;
- Contributing to the development of departmental and School research strategy;
- Leading and participating in national and international committees - e.g., REF panels, Research Funding bodies, European Commission committees etc.;
- Leading scholarly initiatives in the discipline;
- Membership of boards of international journals and other bodies related to the discipline providing expert opinion and commentary to external audiences and bodies;
- Providing advice to government bodies.

Teaching

- Teaching and examining undergraduate and masters level students in core subjects and in own specialism to a high standard;
- Academic mentoring and pastoral care of students;
- Supervising and examining PhD students;
- Contributing to and monitoring the enhancement of quality in teaching within the department and ensuring that teaching delivery across the department is consistent with best practice;
- Developing innovative and attractive courses, shaping, and influencing curriculum development and actively contributing to the review of courses in accordance with departmental strategy;
- Acting as a role model for teaching methods through excellent practice.





Departmental/School Management and Administration

- Fostering collegiality and fulfilling responsibilities as set out by the Head of Department and other senior colleagues;
- Leading strategic management development in the department and the School;
- Assuming senior academic office holding positions;
- Contributing to professorial decision taking on candidates for promotion, review and additional incrementation;
- Assuming the role of Head of Department or deputy for a specified period;
- Participating in professorial committees (e.g., the Promotions Committee, the Appointments Committee, and the Department Heads Forum);
- Contributing to the development and performance of colleagues through coaching, mentoring and peer support;
- Giving leadership to academic recruitment campaigns and department hiring search committees;
- Engaging with external institutions, organisations, and the wider community to support research, teaching, and other School strategic objectives.

When acting as Head of Department

- Taking responsibility for the appointment procedures, promotion proposals and development and management of all staff within the department;
- Taking responsibility for major processes in the department (e.g., forward planning, financial management, teaching and teaching quality, research quality and admissions);
- Preparing key departmental review documents for internal and external consumption (e.g., for various School financial reviews, the departmental development plan, and the annual report to the Director);
- Taking decisions on course provision in line with strategy.

Activities relating to the discipline, academic and professional body

- Participation and occasional leadership roles in national and international professional bodies and other initiatives concerned with promoting the interests of the social sciences or a particular discipline.

Flexibility

- To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility is needed, and the postholder may be required to perform work not specifically referred to.



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

- LSE believes that equality for all is a basic human right. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Ethics Code

- Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code.

Environmental Sustainability

- The postholder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.





Person Specification

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate evidence of the following essential (E) and/or desirable (D) skills, capabilities, and experience:

Research

- Expertise and research interests in quantitative approaches to social inequalities (E);
- A PhD in Sociology or closely related social science discipline (E);
- A proven record of outstanding research, as evidenced by existing high-quality publications of the highest quality (E);
- Track record of publishing on a sustained basis in top journals and/or with leading book publishers (E);
- A clear, well-developed, and viable strategy for future outstanding research that will result in further world-leading publications (E);
- An outstanding international reputation in the quantitative study of social inequalities (E);
- Ability to undertake research that has impact and ability to engage in knowledge exchange (E);
- A track record in successfully bidding for external funding (D);
- A demonstrable record of intellectual leadership (E);
- Willingness to engage in collaborative research with other members of the Department, and with related research centres and disciplines (E);
- Evidence of innovation or creativity in research and research methodology (D).

Teaching

- A significant track record of excellence in teaching (E);
- A commitment to high quality teaching and fostering a positive learning environment for students, including pastoral care (E);
- Experience and commitment to supervise PhD students (E);
- Teaching-related administrative experience (E);
- Leadership in course and/or programme development and innovation (D).

Other

- Experience and commitment to work as part of a team in ensuring the smooth running of the Department and its teaching programmes, and to serve in wider university administration (E);
- Experience of mentoring and developing colleagues to support them in their career development (E);
- Ability and willingness to act, at some point, as Head of Department (E);
- Track record in providing leadership in effective departmental administration and contributing to strategic decision-making (E);
- Track record in providing leadership in advancing research and teaching (E);
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including an ability to place one's specialist work within a broader social science context (E);
- A commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion (E);
- Track record of good citizenship in the wider academic community (E).





Appointment Details

Applications should consist of:

- a concise covering letter, addressing the criteria in the Person Specification;
- an up-to-date curriculum vitae;
- electronic copies of three publications;
- names and contact details of three referees (although referees will only be approached at the final stage of the process, and only with your express permission).

The deadline for receipt of applications is Sunday 24 September 2023 (23:59 GMT).

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview week commencing Monday 27 November 2023.

An appointment will be made subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

The appointed candidate will be offered a salary that is commensurate with their experience and the seniority of the role.

