



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Regulations 2025–2026

**Economics, Management,
Finance and the Social
Sciences (EMFSS)**

**Certificate of Higher Education in
Social Sciences**

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study



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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

Last revised 23 January 2025

About this document

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at the LSE. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme Handbook](#), will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study.

In addition to Programme Regulations you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the University of London and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary.

Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

The relevant General Regulations and the Programme Regulations relating to your registration with us are for the current year and not the year in which you initially registered.

On all matters where the regulations are to be interpreted, or are silent, our decision will be final.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the EMFSS Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences (CHESS):

Course	Individual units of the programme are called courses. Each course is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
New course or new credit	A course which you have never previously registered for.
Studied course	A 30 credit course is deemed studied if you have been registered on the course for at least five months.
Attempt	You will be considered to have attempted a course if you register for a course, make an assessment entry, and submit assessment elements worth at least 70% of the overall course.
Pre-requisite course	A course that you must register for and study before you are permitted to register for another course. This is not applicable to the CHESS but should be taken into account when progressing onto a BSc.
Co-requisite course	A course that you must register for either before or at the same time as another course. This is not applicable to the CHESS but should be taken into account when progressing onto a BSc.

Exclusion or Excluded course	A course which does not award credit if taken with other courses specified in the regulations. See Appendix B for details.
Discarded course	A course that you have been registered for or attempted but is not available on your programme structure, which remains on your student record.
MCQ	Abbreviation of multiple-choice question. A format of assessment.

To note:

Throughout the Regulations, ‘we’ ‘us’ and ‘our’ mean the University of London; ‘you’ and ‘your’ mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the *Ask a question* button in the [Student Portal](#).

Changes to the EMFSS CHESS Regulations 2025-26:

1. All courses available to study are now listed in Appendix B.
2. A second intake and registration window will be available from February 2026 and thereafter between February and May each year. Students registering for an EMFSS programme for the first time in this window will have an effective date of registration of 1 May.
3. Some pre-requisites and co-requisites have changed. Please check the Programme Structures in Appendix A for full information.
4. If two courses have an exclusion you will only be able to receive credit for one of these on your programme.
5. An exclusion is a course which awards credit only if not taken with other courses specified in Appendix C regardless of when these are taken. All previous exclusion rules have been removed.
6. It has been clarified that the number of attempts allowed is based on a course and not a point on the degree structure.
7. Appendix B now lists all courses, number of credits, pre/co-requisites, exclusions, delivery mode and assessment method. Whether a course is a pre-requisite or co-requisite is determined by the programme.

Terminology

8. Definition of complete course has been added amended and terminology changed to ‘studied’.

Assessment

9. The delivery of assessment is detailed in the Programme Specifications.

Revised courses

10. The following courses have been revised. Please see the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for further information.
 - IR1034 World History Since 1945
 - MT105A Mathematics 1
 - MT105B Mathematics 2
 - MT1186 Mathematical Methods
 - SC1179 Contemporary Sociology in a Global Age

The final assessment for the pre-revised courses will take place in October 2025.

11. The following courses are due for launch or revision in 2026-27. These are however subject to change and will be confirmed in the 2026-27 Programme Regulations.

- MN1178 Business and Management in a Global Context
- MT1173 Algebra
- MT1174 Calculus
- PS1130 Introduction to International Political Thought

The final assessment for the pre-revised courses will take place in October 2026 .

1 Programme overview

Qualifications

1.1

The following named qualifications are awarded under the EMFSS CertHE programme:

- [Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences](#)

Qualification structure

1.2

Each course of an Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences (EMFSS) programme is called a 100 course, 200 course or 300 course.

The Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences (CHESS) is made up of 100 courses only.

In the context of UK higher education, the [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-awarding Bodies \(FHEQ\) levels](#) are as follows:

100 courses are equivalent to Level 4

200 courses are equivalent to Level 5

300 courses are equivalent to Level 6

1.3

Each point of your structure is 30 credits. This can either be two half courses (15 credits each) or one full course (30 credits).

See regulation [4.3](#) in Appendix C: Scheme of award for information on pairing courses for classification.

1.4

The CHESS is comprised of 120 credits.

1.5

If you satisfy the criteria in Section 7 you may progress to one of the EMFSS degrees through the Standard Route and receive appropriate credits. If you want to transfer to an EMFSS degree through the Graduate Entry Route you will need to meet the additional entrance requirements.

See [Section 7: Progression from CertHE Social Sciences](#) to the degrees for details about transferring from the CHESS to a degree.

Attendance requirements

Teaching centres recognised to teach the CHESS are listed in the [Directory of Recognised Teaching Centres](#) on our website.

1.6

You must attend a full- or part-time course of instruction at a teaching centre that is recognised to teach the programme and meet their attendance and coursework requirements, except in the following circumstances:

- when you are resitting an assessment; or
- where we have waived the requirement in special cases, such as on grounds of illness or any other cause acceptable to us.

1.7

If you have not complied with your RTC's Attendance and/or Engagement Policy, you may not be permitted to sit assessment or your assessment entry may be withdrawn.

2 Registration

2.1

	Minimum	Maximum
Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences	One year	Three years

Once you have reached your maximum period of registration your registration will cease.

We will only grant an extension to the maximum period of registration in exceptional circumstances. Any extension to the maximum period of registration will be at our discretion.

Effective date of registration

2.2

Your effective date of registration will be 1 November or 1 May, depending on when you first register for the programme. If you register on 1 November your first opportunity to sit assessment will be in the May exam session of the following year. If you register on 1 May your first opportunity to sit assessment will be in the October exam session of the same year.

Interruption of study

You are permitted to request to interrupt your studies, this will be considered through the Requests for Additional Consideration policy published on the [Student Portal](#).

Registration of lapsed or former students

2.3

If you complete an EMFSS qualification and then register for the CHESS programme, you will not normally be allowed to reregister for a course you have already passed.

If you have failed a course on the previous programme, you will be allowed to take it again with the full number of attempts.

This regulation does not apply when progressing from the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences to a degree, as your credits will be transferred across where possible.

3 Course selection

Course details are available via the Programme structure tab on each programme page.

Course registration

3.1

There are two registration windows in each academic year which usually end in November and May and you can register for courses in both registration windows.

3.2

Your registration on a course will last for a full academic year, or until you pass the course if that is sooner.

3.3

In your first academic year you may register for a maximum of 120 credits.

3.4

Whenever you register for a new course, you will also need to register for courses for which you have been registered on before but that you have yet to pass. If these are compulsory courses, you will be automatically registered. If instead there are alternatives to that course in your programme structure, you will need to re-select the course or change course. If you do so, any replacement course will be treated as a new course. You will not be permitted to de-select a course and not re-select a new course at that structure point.

3.5

If you have registered for a substitute course to replace the course you have failed, you will not be permitted to re-register for or re-attempt the original course at any point during your registration.

3.6

You may change your choice of course provided that you can meet all of the following requirements:

- a. you are not yet eligible for the qualification;
- b. an alternative course is available and you are eligible to register for it;
- c. you can meet the co-requisites and pre-requisites for the new course (degree students only).

If you do not pass the new course then you are able to re-register for the previous course. This would not be considered a new course.

Changes to course choices may only be made during continuing registration.

Course availability

3.7

Notification of courses that are in their final year of assessment starting in September (due to being withdrawn, replaced or revised) will be made in the preceding January in these Programme Regulations and on the Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs). These courses will only be available for examination in the October session of that calendar year, and in the May and October sessions in following calendar year. For courses assessed by coursework, submissions will only be accepted in October of that calendar year, and in the published submission deadline between March and May and October in the following calendar year.

Students who register in May at the end of the final year of assessment will only be able to assess the course in the following October. Where a course has been replaced by a new course or has been revised, it is strongly recommended that you register on the replacement/revised course wherever possible if you have failed or have yet to attempt the old version of the course.

For example, for courses that are in their final year of assessment in 2025-26 (due to being withdrawn, replaced or revised), notification will be made in January 2025 via the 2025-26 Programme Regulations and VLE. They will be available for examination in October 2025 and May and October 2026. Coursework submissions will only be accepted in October 2025 and on the published deadline between March and May and October 2026. If a student registers in May 2026, then they would only be able to assess the course in October 2026.

3.8

Not all courses will necessarily be available for study at all teaching centres recognised to teach the programme.

4 Recognition of prior learning and Credit transfer

4.1

No recognition of prior learning (RPL) is permitted on the CHESS.

5 Assessment for the programme

Information on how your course is assessed can be found in the in the Course Information Sheets, Subject Guides and on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). For courses which are assessed by multiple assessment elements, each element will carry a percentage weight that in total will add up to 100%.

If you are taking laws courses you should refer to the [Undergraduate Laws Regulations](#).

5.1

There are two exam sessions. These are referred to as the May exam session and the October exam session. The name corresponds to the month in which each exam session usually starts.

5.2

To receive a mark for a course, you need to enter for assessment of the course at an exam session, irrespective of the assessment elements of the course. You cannot sit the exam of a course unless you have entered for assessment of the course in that exam session. You may submit other assessment elements if you have never been registered for the course, but you will only receive a mark when you enter for assessment of the course in an exam session.

5.3

Across any two consecutive exam sessions you can assess at most 240 credits with no more than 150 credits assessed in each of the sessions.

While the assessment cap indicates the maximum credit limit available in an assessment session, we encourage you to take into account your own circumstances and, if appropriate, your Teaching Centre's requirements when deciding how many courses to assess. It may be more suitable to assess fewer credits than the maximum permitted to avoid compromising learning outcomes.

5.4

Subject to the assessment limits outlined in 5.3, you may decide how many, if any, courses to enter for assessment in each examination session.

You are advised to take first attempts at courses in the first session after receiving their teaching, subject to the assessment limits outlined in 5.3. You should also note the course revisions at the beginning of the Programme Regulations to ensure you are being assessed in the correct version of the course as per 3.7.

5.5

You will be considered to have made an attempt at a course if you have ever been registered for the course, have entered for assessment of the course, and have submitted assessment elements collectively worth at least 70% of the overall course.

5.6

For courses assessed by more than one assessment element, the mark is a weighted average of the marks received for each element. If you enter for assessment of a course, unsubmitted assessment elements will receive a mark of 0. You do not need to pass each assessment element to pass the course overall.

5.7

If you do not pass or do not submit all assessment elements for a course, but pass the course overall, you will not be permitted to re-attempt any assessment element for the course.

5.8

If a course is assessed by multiple assessment elements, you will need to enter for assessment of the course and complete your attempt at the course, as outlined in regulation 5.5, before re-attempting failed assessment elements.

5.9

If you do not pass a course, then the mark for any passed assessment element will be carried forward and cannot be re-attempted.

5.10

You have a maximum of three assessment attempts at each course of a degree. You have a maximum of two assessment attempts at each course of a Graduate Diploma.

5.11

Absence from an examination will not count towards the number of attempts for that course.

5.12

If you enter for assessment of a new course in an exam session, you must also assess in that exam session all failed or unattempted courses which are either compulsory or are a pre-requisite for the new course.

5.13

If you fail a course you can choose to either:

- a. re-attempt assessments for the course in any future assessment exam session within your remaining period of registration; or
- b. register for and study an alternative course.

5.14

If you progress from the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences to an EMFSS degree, your marks for completed courses and any outstanding attempts at failed courses will be transferred to your new degree as long as the courses are compatible with the degree you are transferring to.

Assessment elements

5.15

Courses are assessed by one or more of the following methods:

- a. Examination
- b. Multiple Choice Questions
- c. Coursework

The assessment method for each course is listed in Appendix B.

Examination

5.16

Irrespective of the number of assessment elements on the course, examinations for full courses will last three hours and fifteen minutes, while examinations for half courses will last two hours and fifteen minutes.

Multiple Choice Questions

5.17

Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) assessment elements, where applicable, will cover only the first half of the Subject Guide.

5.18

If you are registered on a course with an MCQ element and wish to sit your first attempt at the exam in the May exam session, you must have completed your MCQ assessment element of a:

- 30-credit course before 15 February of the current year;
- 15-credit course before 15 March of the current year.

If you wish to sit your first attempt at the exam in the October exam session, you must have completed your MCQ assessment element of a:

- 30-credit course before 15 August of the current year;
- 15-credit course before 15 September of the current year.

If you miss this deadline, then your first attempt at the MCQ assessment element will be considered a mark of 0.

5.19

If you are resitting a course with an MCQ element and wish to resit the examination in the May exam session, you must have completed your MCQ assessment element of either a 30- or 15-credit course before 15 March of the current year.

If you are resitting a course with an MCQ element and wish to resit the examination in the October exam session, you must have completed your MCQ assessment element of either a 30- or 15-credit course before 15 September of the current year.

Coursework

5.20

Assessment deadlines for coursework assessment elements are advertised on the course information sheet and the VLE. If you submit your coursework late, you may be issued with a penalty.

Materials permitted

The following regulations may change during the academic year. Please refer to your Admission Notice for the final confirmed regulations.

5.21

You are allowed to use any standard non-graphing scientific calculator in any assessment element, but you may not use any computer software or program to obtain or graph solutions. No other aids or materials are permitted unless otherwise stated in the Course Information Sheet.

See Section 8 of the [General Regulations](#) for information on assessment offences.

6 Mitigating circumstances during the assessment session

See the [mitigating circumstances](#) page on our website for details of what mitigating circumstances are and how to submit a request to us.

6.1

If you experience difficulties immediately before or during the assessment period through illness or other adequate cause, you should immediately inform the Assessments Office about the course(s) affected, and provide a supporting medical certificate or other official documentation. The documentation must be received within three weeks of the last written examination, or before the final submission date for any other assessment element.

See 'Mitigating circumstances' in the [General Regulations](#) for further information.

6.2

If you submit mitigating circumstances for an assessment element on a course, but pass the course in spite of these, the marks received will stand.

6.3

If you submit mitigating circumstance for an assessment element on a course, do not pass the course, and the evidence you provided is accepted, the Board of Examiners will waive the attempt on impacted assessment element, or potentially offer further mitigation on a discretionary basis. This will display as 'Attempt not to count'.

6.4

For students who intend to transfer to an EMFSS degree without completing the requirements for the award:

If you have an attempt waived because of mitigating circumstances, you will satisfy the pre-requisite requirements for course registration.

7 Progression from CertHE Social Sciences to the degrees

For entrance requirements, see the Requirements tab on each of the [programme pages](#) on our website.

7.1

You can only progress to a BSc programme if in line with regulations, you can graduate from that programme.

7.2

You will be permitted to progress onto a BSc programme if you have attempted 120 credits and passed 60 credits of courses that fit on the degree structure you plan to progress onto. However, if you progress onto a BSc without having achieved 120 credits then you would not be awarded the CertHE Social Sciences.

7.3

You must register for any failed course that is compulsory on the degree structure you plan to progress to. You will keep the remaining number of attempts for that course. Regulation 3.3 in the degree regulations will determine how many new courses you can register for.

7.4

You may change any failed course that is optional or which has an alternative named course on the degree you are transferring to as outlined in regulation 5.15 of the degree regulations.

7.5

You will receive credit for any courses passed that are on the degree structure you are progressing to. Where multiple passes fit at a single point of your new programme structure, you will receive credit for the course with the highest mark.

7.6

You will not receive credit for passed courses that do not fit in the degree structure you are progressing to. These courses will be discarded and not count towards the total number of credits that you are required to attempt and will not contribute towards your classification, but you will be able to continue to use these courses to meet the pre-requisite requirements of other courses.

7.7

If in the year in which you progress onto the BSc, you will be allowed to enter for assessment in the next examination session for which all relevant deadlines can be met, as outlined in regulation 2.2. The assessment limits outlined in regulation 5.4 of the degree regulations will apply.

Students progressing from CHESS having passed only 60 credits, are strongly advised not to register for more than 60 credits worth of new courses. Those progressing from CHESS having passed only 90 credits, are strongly advised not to register for more than 90 credits worth of new courses.

Transfer to the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences from a Graduate Diploma

7.8

If you are registered for a Graduate Diploma you will not be allowed to transfer your registration to the CHESS.

7.9

If you want to register for the CHESS, you must cancel your registration for the Graduate Diploma, apply to register again, and meet the relevant entrance requirements. If you are allowed to register afresh, you will not be allowed to carry credit for any courses previously passed or carry any failed attempts at courses from your previous registration.

Transfer to the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences from other programmes offered by the University of London

7.10

If you are registered for a programme of study other than in the fields of Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences you may apply to transfer to the CHESS, as long as you meet the necessary entrance and attendance requirements.

8 Scheme of award (2022-23 and after)

The following scheme of award will be applied to all students who began their studies in 2022-23 or after. If you began your studies in 2021-22 or before please see [Appendix D](#). The Board of Examiners retains the right to deviate from, or suspend, any part of these guidelines for good reason and in the interest of academic standards and/or fairness to students.

Date of award

8.1

If your last assessment takes place in May, the date of award will be 1 August in the year of the last assessment that contributes to the award.

If your last assessment takes place in October, the date of award will be 1 December in the year of the last assessments that contributes to the award.

8.2

Once you have attempted and passed courses worth 120 credits, you will be eligible for the award of the CHESS.

8.3

The marking standards for all courses are the same as for campus-based students of the University of London sitting equivalent degree assessments.

8.4

The Examiners will determine a percentage mark for each course attempted based on the following scales:

CHES	Percentage
Distinction	70 – 100
Merit	60 – 69
Credit	50 – 59
Pass	40 – 49
Fail	0 – 39

8.5

Once the award and classification of the degree have been confirmed by the Board of Examiners, you cannot refuse or decline the award or its classification. The decision of the Board of Examiners is final.

Failed courses and resits

8.6

Where you have failed and resat a course, marks are based on those obtained at the most recent attempt.

Award classification

8.7

A final average classification mark will be calculated from the marks obtained. This will be calculated as follows:

1. 15-credit half courses each produce a **single mark**. This mark is the percentage mark for the course.
2. 30-credit full courses each produce **two identical marks**. This is the percentage mark for the course, used twice for classification.

8.8

Students eligible for an award will have eight classification marks. Students will be awarded the highest **degree classification** meeting the relevant requirements:

Degree classification	Requirements
Distinction	Awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of classification marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six distinction marks • four distinction marks, and an average classification mark of 65
Merit	Awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of classification marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six merit marks • four merit marks, and an average classification mark of 56
Credit	Awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of classification marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six credit marks • four credit marks, and an average classification mark of 47
Pass	Awarded to any other students eligible for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences as described in 1.2 above

Appendix A – Structures of the programmes

Course codes are given next to the course title in this appendix of the Programme Regulations. Course codes show the subject area, course level and the unique course number. It is broken down in the following example:

ST104A Statistics 1

ST - shows the subject area

1 - shows that this is a 100 level course

04A - shows the number of the course

The subject areas are:

AC - Accounting

DV - Development

EC - Economics

FN - Finance

IR - International Relations

IS - Information Systems

LA - Law

MN - Management

MT - Mathematics

PS - Politics

SC - Sociology

ST - Statistics

All courses listed on the structures are full courses unless indicated otherwise. Rules and exclusions concerning course choice are given in the syllabuses in the Course Information Sheets.

Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences

Four full courses (or half course equivalents) to be chosen from the following

AC1025	Principles of Accounting
DV1171	Introduction to International Development
▲ EC1002	Introduction to Economics ²
FN1202	Introduction to Finance
IR1034	World History since 1945
IR1198	International Relations: Theories, Concepts and Debates
IS1060	Introduction to Information Systems
IS1181	Digital Infrastructures for Business
MN1178	Business and Management in a Global Context
MT105A	Mathematics 1 (half course)
▲ MT105B	Mathematics 2 (half course)
MT1173	Algebra
MT1174	Calculus
MT1186	Mathematical Methods
PS1130	Introduction to International Political Thought
PS1172	Introduction to Political Science
SC1179	Contemporary Sociology in a Global Age
ST104A	Statistics 1 (half course)
▲ ST104B	Statistics 2 (half course)
ST1215	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics

Co-requisites

▲ You can only take *EC1002 Introduction to Economics* at the same time as or after *ST104A Statistics 1* or *ST1215 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics* and either *MT105A Mathematics 1*, *MT1174 Calculus*, or *MT1186 Mathematical Methods* not before.

▲ You can only take *ST104B Statistics 2* at the same time as or after *ST104A Statistics 1*, not before.

▲ You can only take *MT105B Mathematics 2* at the same time as or after *MT105A Mathematics 1*, not before.

Appendix B – Courses

Code	Course Name	Credits	Pre/Co-Requisite	Exclusions	Assessment Method
AC1025	Principles of Accounting	30			MCQ 20% Examination 80%
DV1171	Introduction to International Development	30			Examination 100%
EC1002	Introduction to Economics	30	ST104A+MT105A		MCQ 20% Examination 80%
FN1202	Introduction to Finance	30			MCQ 20% Examination 80%
IR1034	World History since 1945	30			Examination 100%
IS1060	Introduction to Information Systems	30			Coursework 25% Examination 75%
IS1181	Digital Infrastructures for Business	30			Examination 100%
MN1178	Business and Management in a Global Context	30			Examination 100%
MT105A	Mathematics 1	15		MT1174, MT1186	MCQ 20% Examination 80%
MT105B	Mathematics 2	15		MT1174, MT1186	MCQ 20% Examination 80%
MT1173	Algebra	30			Examination 100%
MT1174	Calculus	30		MT105AB, MT1186	Examination 100%
MT1186	Mathematical Methods	30		MT105AB, MT1174	MCQ 20% Examination 80%
PS1130	Introduction to International Political Thought	30			Examination 100%
PS1172	Introduction to Political Science	30			Examination 100%
SC1179	Contemporary Sociology in a Global Age	30			Examination 100%
ST104A	Statistics 1	15		ST1215	MCQ 20% Examination 80%
ST104B	Statistics 2	15		ST1215	MCQ 20% Examination 80%

Code	Course Name	Credits	Pre/Co-Requisite	Exclusions	Assessment Method
ST1215	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics	30		ST104A, ST104B	MCQ 20% Examination 80%

Appendix C – Exclusions for withdrawn courses

The following courses have been withdrawn and are therefore considered exclusions for existing courses.

Withdrawn course	Excluded course
FN1024 Principles of Banking and Finance	FN1202 Introduction to Finance
IR1011 Introduction to International Relations	IR1198 International Relations: Theories, Concepts and Debates
IS1168 Introduction to Computer Systems Architecture and Programming	IS1181 Digital Infrastructures for Business
IS2136 Information Systems and Organisations	IS1060 Introduction to Information Systems
MN1107 Introduction to Business and Management	MN1178 Business and Management in a Global Context
PS1114 Democratic Politics and the State	PS1172 Introduction to Political Science
SC1021 Principles of Sociology	SC1179 Contemporary Sociology in a Global Age

Appendix D – Scheme of award (2021-22 and before)

The following scheme of award will be applied to all students who began their studies in 2021-22 or before. If you began your studies in 2022-23 or after please see [Section 7: Scheme of Award](#)

Introduction

The guidelines presented below show the main characteristics of the schemes used for the assessment of students within the Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences programmes, and the criteria used when grading students at the end of their studies. This information is necessarily abbreviated and it does not cover all special cases that the Board of Examiners may have to consider.

The Board of Examiners retains the right to deviate from, or suspend, any part of these guidelines for good reason and in the interest of academic standards and/or fairness to students.

If your last assessment takes place in May, the date of award will be 1 August in the year of the last assessment that contributes to the award.

If your last assessments take place in October, the date of award will be 1 December in the year of the last assessments that contributes to the award.

1 Eligibility for the award of the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences

1.1

Once you have attempted the assessment and have passed all four full courses or the equivalent, you will be eligible for the award of the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences.

2 Grading scheme

2.1

The marking standards for all courses are the same as for campus-based students of the University of London sitting equivalent degree assessments.

2.2

The Examiners will determine a percentage mark for each course attempted by a student based on the following scales:

Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences	Percentage
Distinction	70 – 100
Merit	60 – 69
Credit	50 – 59
Pass	40 – 49
Fail	0 – 39

2.3

The Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences is only awarded with Distinction or Merit if they are completed with no more than one resit. If they are completed with more than one resit for one course, or resits in two or more courses, an overall Pass grade is awarded.

2.4

The minimum requirements for the grading scheme are as follows.

Distinction	Awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three marks of 70 or above and one mark of 40 or above • two marks of 70 or above, two marks of 60 or above and an aggregate of 280.
Merit	Awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three marks of 60 or above and one mark of 40 or above • one mark of 70 or above, one mark of 60 or above, one mark of 50 or above and one mark of 40 or above • two marks of 60 or above, two marks of 50 or above and an aggregate of 240.
Credit	Awarded to students who have achieved one of the following sets of marks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three marks of 50 or above and one mark of 40 or above • one mark of 60 or above, one mark of 50 or above and two marks of 40 or above.
Pass	Awarded to all students who are eligible for award of a Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences as described in 1.1 above but not eligible for the award with Distinction, Merit or Credit.

3 Failed courses and resits

3.1

If you are not eligible for the award of the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences you are required to make a further attempt at all failed courses (provided the maximum number of attempts has not been exhausted) on the next occasion you take assessments, or to substitute a failed course with an alternative course where permitted in the relevant programme structure.

The exception to this is if you are progressing from the CHESSE to the BSc and are permitted to select new courses as a result of having entered for reassessment, if you do this you must then select all remaining failed compulsory course(s) at the following May/June assessment session.

3.2

Once you are eligible for award of the Certificate of Higher Education in Social Sciences you will not be permitted to make any further attempts at any failed courses or to substitute any failed courses with alternative courses, even if you have not reached the maximum number of attempts allowed.

3.3

In all cases, marks are based on those obtained at the latest attempt at the relevant course.

4 Pairing of half courses

4.1

Half courses are paired and averaged (rounded up to a whole number) to produce marks for grading purposes.

4.2

A fail in one half course of a pair counts as a half course fail in assessing the number of courses passed.

4.3

Courses are paired according to the following criteria in the order given.

1. Any two 100 half courses named together at one point in the programme structure are paired.
2. If both have been taken, *ST104A Statistics 1* + *ST104B Statistics 2* are paired.
3. If both have been taken, *MT105A Mathematics 1* + *MT105B Mathematics 2* are paired.
4. After the above criteria have been applied, any remaining 100 half courses are paired according to the marks awarded, as follows: the two half courses with the highest marks are paired, then the two with the next highest marks.

Appendix E – Assessment Criteria

Mark (%)	Grade	Characteristics
90–100	First class	<p>A comprehensive and deep understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Mastery of relevant methods and techniques and an ability to deploy them with flair.</p> <p>Very extensive range and consistent accuracy of information and knowledge.</p> <p>(For qualitative subjects) Exceptional powers of analysis, argument, synthesis and insight. Considerable evidence of extensive wider reading of an appropriate nature and its application in context. Lucid and convincing argument which demonstrates an exceptional degree of independent thinking and critical insight.</p> <p>(For quantitative subjects) An outstanding ability to solve unusual and demanding questions involving application of deep and comprehensive understanding of the subject and its methods.</p> <p>Outstanding presentation and structure.</p>
80–89	First class	<p>A deep understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Mastery of relevant methods and techniques.</p> <p>Highly extensive range and consistent accuracy of information and knowledge.</p> <p>Lucid argument which demonstrates a high degree of independent thinking or critical insight (for qualitative subjects) or (for quantitative subjects) an impressive ability to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of deep understanding of the subject and its methods.</p> <p>Evidence of a critical approach to essential reading and an ability to apply this in context with, additionally, some evidence of wider reading.</p> <p>Excellent presentation and structure.</p>
70–79	First class	<p>A thorough understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Deft application of relevant methods and techniques.</p> <p>Extensive range and consistent accuracy of information and knowledge.</p> <p>Clear argument which demonstrates a degree of independent thinking or critical insight (for qualitative subjects) or (for quantitative subjects), a significant capacity to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of deep understanding of the subject and its methods.</p> <p>Evidence of a critical approach to essential reading and an ability to apply this in context with, additionally, some evidence of wider reading.</p> <p>Excellent presentation and structure.</p>

Mark (%)	Grade	Characteristics
60–69	Upper second class	<p>A good understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Competent application of relevant methods and techniques.</p> <p>Wide and accurate range of information and knowledge deployed.</p> <p>Evidence of a critical approach to essential reading (mainly for quantitative subjects)</p> <p>Clear argument which may demonstrate a degree of independent thinking or critical insight (for qualitative subjects) or (for quantitative subjects) some capacity to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of significant understanding of the subject.</p> <p>High quality of presentation and good structure (mainly for qualitative subjects).</p>
50–59	Lower second class	<p>A reasonably good understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Knowledge of, and some application of, relevant methods and techniques.</p> <p>A standard, and largely accurate, range of information and knowledge deployed.</p> <p>May rely more on knowledge than on argument or analysis (for qualitative subjects) or may (for quantitative subjects) demonstrate ability to grapple with standard problems but limited capacity to solve more unusual or demanding questions involving application of significant understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Satisfactory quality of presentation, with good structure (mainly for qualitative subjects).</p>
40–49	Third class	<p>An acceptable demonstration of a basic understanding of and competence in the subject.</p> <p>Some knowledge of, and application of, relevant methods and techniques.</p> <p>A basic range of information and knowledge deployed, with some areas of inaccuracy.</p> <p>Arguments and analysis not fully developed.</p> <p>Evidence of essential reading.</p> <p>Acceptable quality of presentation and structure.</p>
30–39	Fail	<p>(For qualitative subjects) Largely superficial coverage of topics that is overly descriptive with important omissions and/or significant errors.</p> <p>Some understanding evident, but no ability to grapple with anything other than routine questions.</p> <p>(For qualitative answers) Some disorganisation in structure and weak clarity of expression.</p> <p>Limited evidence of wider reading of an appropriate nature (for qualitative subjects).</p> <p>Limited competence in core basic techniques of the subject or competence only in part of the material (for quantitative subjects).</p>

Mark (%)	Grade	Characteristics
20–29	Fail	<p>(For qualitative subjects) Little information or information that is almost entirely incorrect or irrelevant. Unacceptably poor structure and clarity. Little understanding evident.</p> <p>Little evidence of reading of an appropriate nature (for qualitative subjects).</p> <p>Very limited competence in core basic techniques of the subject (for quantitative subjects).</p>
10–19	Fail	<p>(For qualitative subjects) Very little information or information that is almost entirely incorrect or irrelevant. Extremely poor structure and clarity.</p> <p>Misunderstanding of significant areas of the syllabus.</p> <p>Very little evidence of reading of an appropriate nature (for qualitative subjects).</p> <p>No competence in most of the core basic techniques of the subject (for quantitative subjects).</p>
0–9	Fail	<p>Nothing presented or completely incorrect information or answers contain nothing at all of relevance.</p> <p>No evidence of understanding.</p> <p>No evidence of reading of an appropriate nature (for qualitative subjects).</p> <p>No competence in core basic techniques of the subject (for quantitative subjects).</p>