

PhD Exchange

**Between the Department of International Relations
at the London School of Economics (LSE)**

**and the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS)
at Waseda University**

Objectives

To offer PhD students in the Department of International Relations (IRD) at LSE and PhD students in GSAPS at Waseda University additional research resources (archival and advisory) and to introduce students to the academic culture, professional contacts and employment opportunities of the other country.

To offer PhD students an opportunity to visit the other institution and to work informally with one (or more) advisor on their PhD thesis research and/or on related publications and presentations, and to attend conferences and workshops both at the host institution and within the wider regional/national academic community.

Eligibility

- Students registered for PhD studies at either institution who have successfully completed at least one of year of studies, including any compulsory Master's level courses.
- Where applicable, students should have been upgraded to full doctoral student status.

Duration

For a period of one term up to one academic year. [See LSE Term dates](#)

Only application for a start in Autumn Term (Sept-Dec) and Winter Term (Jan- March) can be considered.

Number of participants

Each institution can send up to two students to the other each year.

Application process and requirements

Application including the elements below should be sent to the Co-Ordinator at the Home Institution:

1. An outline research proposal
2. A personal statement explaining progress to date, timeline to completion, reasons for visit and the name of the academic colleague they wish to work with. [See IRD People page.](#)
3. A recent CV including visa status, country of citizenship, place and date of birth, and whether they have upgraded to full PhD student status
4. A supervisory statement of support: if the student is due to be considered imminently for upgrade at the time of applying, the supervisor statement should indicate the likelihood of upgrade.
5. A copy of recent progress report
6. Evidence of meeting language requirements as outlined on the LSE [English Language Requirements webpage.](#)

Waseda to LSE IRD exchange

The Co-Ordinator at the Home Institution (Waseda) will review each application to ensure they comply with the above requirements and send it on to the Co-Ordinator of the host institution (LSE) for consideration by the following deadlines:

- **31st Oct** for applications to start exchange in Winter Term (Jan- March)
- **15th of May** for applications to start the exchange programme in Autumn Term (Sept-Dec)

Sarah Helias will contact successful applicants and will guide the candidate to submit a formal application via the [Visiting Research Student](#) route.

Once the VRS application is formally accepted, the LSE Graduate Admissions Office will issue an offer letter including a [Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies](#) (CAS) number for the applicant to start their visa application and information about how to book accommodation.

LSE IRD to Waseda exchange

The Co-Ordinator (Sarah Helias) and Programme Director for the Exchange programme (Professor Chris Alden) at LSE will consider applications and select LSE candidates and send it on to Waseda Co-Ordinator by the deadlines advertised on the [Waseda Study Abroad webpage](#).

Once decisions have been taken (within a month of receipt maximum), Sarah Helias will inform the Co-Ordinator at Waseda University of selected LSE applicants so they can apply formally via the Waseda portal.

Support services and institutional privileges

Participating students will have the same rights and responsibilities as other PhD students registered on the same basis at Waseda. This includes library access, use of PhD facilities and equipment, and IT account.

Students will be expected to make their own arrangements for housing. Information will be provided in the offer letter.

Fees and Financial Support

No academic fess will be payable by students at LSE. Students will remain responsible for any applicable fees at their home institution.

Personal expenses of students participating in this exchange programme, including those related to travel, accommodation, living and education related costs are the responsibility of the participant.

FAQs

Q1. Do you accept students of any nationalities? If not, who are not eligible?

A1. Yes as long as they are fully registered at Waseda and meet the requirements outlined above.

Q2. Will exchange students be allowed and able to take courses offered at the University?

A2. Participating students will be expected to work independently, but will be entitled to attend lectures, seminars and other academic activities on the same basis as other PhD students registered the Waseda. They will work with a designated scholar, who will act as their advisor, and they will be expected to join in the regular activities for research students, including research cluster workshops. Students will not be allowed to take accredited or examined courses but may be allowed to audit courses offered by the Department provided that course convenors in charge are happy with it.

Q3. Are there any academic requirements for Ph.D. exchange students while at the University?

A3. Yes. Refer to requirements outlined above.

Students would also be expected to meet language requirements as outlined for the [Visiting Research Scheme](#).

Q4. Are there any additional application documents to be submitted if the applicant is Ph.D. student?

A5. See Application process above

Q5. Will exchange students be able to take local language classes free of charge at the University?

A5. No. They can take language classes offered by the LSE Language School, but participating students will be expected to pay fees for these.

Q6. Tell us the required language proficiency. Do you accept a TOEIC score as a certificate of English language proficiency?

A6. Students would need to show proficiency in written and spoken English and meet the language requirements for Research programmes as outlined under [Section C of this webpage](#).

Q7. Will students with an academic degree from an institution in an English-speaking country be exempted from submitting a certificate of English language proficiency?

A7. Yes. See [Webpage](#) for details and full listing of English Speaking countries.

Q8. Are there any requirements regarding enrolment period at the University exchange program applicants should be particularly aware of? (Minimum or Maximum study period in Waseda University before participating in exchange program)

A8. The Exchange will be for a period of one term up to one year during the LSE or WASEDA academic year.

Q9. Do you have any dormitories where exchange students are allowed to stay?

A9. Information on support services can be found at: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/student-life>