Ethics

# The Ethics Code

**RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**INTEGRITY**

**INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**

**EQUALITY OF RESPECT AND OPPORTUNITY**

**COLLEGIALITY**

**SUSTAINABILITY**

lse.ac.uk/ethics

# The Ethics Code

The whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and members of court, are expected to act to the highest standards of ethical integrity in accordance with the ethical principles set out in this Code:

- **Responsibility and Accountability**
- **Integrity**
- **Intellectual Freedom**
- **Equality of Respect and Opportunity**
- **Collegiality**
- **Sustainability**

Council, Academic Board, their subsidiary committees, and the management of the School are responsible for the promotion, implementation, and application of the Code.

The principles set out in this Code should be taken into account when making decisions at all levels of the School.

This Ethics Code Guidance should be read in conjunction with the **Ethics Code**. The purpose of the guidance is to unpack some of the language, to give examples of its application by members of the School community and to provide further information on how each principle should apply in practice.

# Ethical Guidelines

It is impossible to devise a single set of rules to resolve every ethical dilemma which members of the LSE community may face. Instead, the principles in the Ethics Code should guide the exercise of judgement in individual cases. The following guidelines provide further information on how each principle should apply in practice, and lists some of the policies and procedures which can be referred to when addressing ethical issues.

## Decision making step-by-step

Three simple steps should be followed to identify and resolve the ethical implications of individual decisions and actions:

1 Consider whether what you plan to do is compatible with the principles in the Ethics Code. Further guidance is often available from existing policies, listed here.

2 Ask yourself how you would explain your actions if you had to justify them to close friends and family, or if they were on the front page of a newspaper. What would be the impact on your reputation, or that of the School? How would you feel about asking someone else to do what you are proposing to do?

3 Seek advice from an appropriate person, such as a colleague or line manager, or one of the School committees tasked with handling ethical matters. Specific committees handle research ethics (Research Ethics Committee) and the ethics of receiving external grants and donations (Ethics (Grants and Donations) Panel), while the Ethics Committee will consider dilemmas of particular difficulty where principles may conflict.

4 Where possible, keep a record of your decision making and the rationale behind it.

For further information please contact: **ethics@lse.ac.uk** or call **020 7955 7975**

**Links to all the documents listed are available online: lse.ac.uk/ethicscode**

# Ethical Guidelines

## 1. Responsibility and Accountability

In order to uphold our commitment to responsibility and accountability, we will:

**1.1.** Embed the principle of individual responsibility at every level of the School's management and governance structures.

**1.2**. Raise concerns relating to ethical matters as they arise.

**Further Information:**

Whistleblowing Policy (Public Interest Disclosure)

Health and Safety Policy

Academic Code

Effective Behaviours Framework

Committee Effective Behaviour Statement

Research Ethics Policy and Procedures (including Informed consent guidance)

LSE Research Ethics webpages

LSE Ethics webpages, including Seeking ethical advice and reporting concerns

Report it. Stop it. Bullying and Harassment reporting form

Student Complaints Procedure

# Ethical Guidelines

## 2. Integrity

In order to uphold our commitment to integrity, we will:

**2.1**. Be honest and truthful.

**2.2**. Act in accordance with all relevant legislation and statutory requirements.

**2.3**. Declare interests and manage appropriately possible conflicts.

**2.4**. Be transparent and consistent in our decision making.

**2.5.** Maintain our independence in engaging with outside parties.

**2.6.** Conduct fundraising activities in line with the principles set out in the Ethics Code.

**Further Information:**

Policy against Bribery and Fraud

Data Protection

Freedom of Information Guide

Procedure for Ethical Review of Grants and Donations

Donations Acceptance Policy

LSE policy and procedure on personal relationships

Financial Regulations (Procurement)

Socially Responsible Investment Policy

Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy

Programme Regulations, Course Guides, School and academic Regulations

School policies and procedures

Gifts and Hospitality Procedure

Anti-Slavery Statement

# Ethical Guidelines

### 3. Intellectual Freedom

In order to uphold our commitment to intellectual freedom, we will:

**3.1.** Protect individuals' freedom of expression.

**3.2.** Uphold the freedom to research and convey research findings.

**Further Information:**

Code of Practice on Free Speech

Code of Conduct for Research

Research Ethics Policies and Procedures

Guidance on Research Ethics

### 4. Equality of Respect and Opportunity

In order to uphold our commitment to advancing equality of respect and opportunity, we will treat all people with (equal) dignity and respect and ensure that no person will be treated less favourably because of their role at the School, age, disability, gender (including gender reassignment identity), ethnicity and race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and social and economic background.

**Further Information:**

HR Policies

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy statement

Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy

Report it. Stop it. Bullying and Harassment reporting form

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy

# Ethical Guidelines

## 5. Collegiality

In order to uphold our commitment to collegiality, we will promote within the School an inclusive and participatory working and social environment in which we encourage, support and behave appropriately to one another.

**Further Information:**

Codes of Good Practice for Undergraduate and Taught Masters

Disciplinary Regulations for Students

General Academic Regulations

Student Charter

Staff Networks

Employee Wellbeing Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy

## 6. Sustainability

In order to uphold our commitment to sustainability, we will minimise any negative impact we may have on the natural and built environment by effectively managing our resources.

**Further Information:**

Sustainability Policy

Socially Responsible Investment Policy

Annual sustainability reports

LSE Sustainable Procurement Policy

Sustainability at LSE webpage