

## STUDYING IN A VIBRANT CULTURAL CENTRE



*It has been five months since I began immersing myself into life on LSE's campus, a micro-cosmos in the heart of London. It is located in London's centre between Covent Garden, the City, and Westminster. So, great opportunities to clear my head, like the Royal Opera House with its student offers or Soho with its lively bars, are just a ten-minute walk away. However, the LSE is not only a place that I want to escape from now and then, but also a retreat that I can escape to. London is extremely busy, and the campus is like a self-contained system where I can flee the hectic pace of the city and completely focus on my master's studies in economics. Its location has a major influence on the student body's identity: The London School of Economics was founded for the betterment of society and its location reflects this embeddedness. Being here definitely does not feel like living in an ivory tower, but like having one's finger on the pulse of a vast metropolis, which is why this place is so stimulating.*

*I feel greatly privileged to be educated here. We have professors who are not afraid to be creatively disruptive, which admittedly sometimes leaves us students despairingly confused. Recently, for example, one of our professors presented his latest work to us. It challenges the current state-of-the-art practices in empirical research in economics. Witnessing the discipline's methods being called into question like this was a memorable, incredible experience.*

*Our teachers' aim to give us new perspectives stimulates us to think independently, critically and in completely different ways. 'Think outside the box' is not just one of the school's mottos but one of its imperatives. While this makes my studies intellectually challenging, it also forces me to develop new ways of thinking, which is in turn fostered by the campus's culturally diverse environment.*

*This is just another feature that makes LSE – and London in general – a great place in which to study. Every day, I interact with people from different cultural backgrounds, which makes me realise that, in many contexts, there is no 'right thing' or 'truth'. Discussions in my elective course, Development and Growth, are also animated by the students' diverse perspectives and values. So, I am not only benefitting from the multicultural environment personally but academically, as well.*

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