

In this open letter I introduce myself then go on to describe the history of the London School of Economics, the study methods and relationships with the LSE professors concluding with what I have learned from the experience and how it will help my future career. My time spent at the London School of Economics has given me a whole new outlook and will help me fulfil the aim of my career.

I am a student enrolled in the MSc in Labour Science at the State University of Milan, in Italy. After graduating in Human Resources Management at the same university, I chose to continue within the Employment Relations field, to deepen my knowledge of the subject which has always been my great interest. From the Labour Studies Department of my University, I took the unique opportunity to attend the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), studying the most modern techniques of personnel management. Our program in Labour Science, as well as the Ph.D. program, is part of a prestigious group of universities that share knowledge through joint programs and carry out academic research projects in Labour Economics, Personnel Management, Industrial Relations and Globalization Studies.

The London School of Economics is a British University, considered amongst the best in the world. Its headquarters are located a few steps from the City of London, near Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden and Holborn Underground Station. Founded in 1895 through private donations and the efforts of Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Graham Wallas, Virginia Woolf and George Bernard Shaw, the London School of Economics has nurtured talent for 120 years. In fact, amongst its alumni and current and former staff, there are 18 Nobel Laureates and 40 Heads of State and Government, as well as a long list of entrepreneurs, business leaders, politicians, writers and celebrities. Just to name a few: Piero Sraffa, Josef Ackermann, Lord William Beveridge, Paul Krugman, Christopher Pissarides, Jomo Kenyatta, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, George Papandreou, Karl Popper, and even Mick Jagger. But the list is much longer and includes, only in the present political class, 31 British Ministers of Parliament and 42 members of the House of Lords. This institution has maintained its leadership in the field of global education, and was first identified by journalists in the '70s as a radical left wing entity. In the '90s, it became the breeding ground for Tony Blair's government team which promoted a 'third way', political reformism and social mobility. In fact, the environment that you will find at the LSE is "lively", based on "incessant" intellectual debate but without a clash between internal factions. The richness of this institution is its openness to different ideas, business models and forms of government, that are able to fit into a globalized context, like the present society.

Today, following the University Funding Reform, implemented by the Government, the London School of Economics has become very expensive. In fact, the tuition fees are 9,000 pounds for British students, about 21 thousand for students from Europe and over 40 thousand for students from non-European countries. Despite the stringent selection criteria (15 applicants rejected for every applicant accepted) and high enrolment costs (including approximately one thousand pounds a month for living costs in London) LSE is a highly coveted university, always at the top of the world university rankings. The London School of Economics is a member, with Oxford and Cambridge, of the golden triangle of the English universities. LSE joins the Russell Group which competes for the best research programs, an outstanding teaching and learning experience. Meanwhile the only real rivalry seems to be with King's College, which is located a few hundred meters away. The main buildings are Clare Market and the Old Building, but the campus, recently purchased by the university, is very extensive, despite being in the heart of London. There are pubs within the university, in addition to classrooms and departments. Splendid facilities are available to students: there is a gym and theatre plus a sports field in Surrey. The London School of Economics is home to the largest library in the world dedicated to socio-economic sciences. Furthermore, a few minutes by bus from the LSE, you can find the British Library, which possesses unique pieces such as an original Gutenberg Bible.

There are numerous courses, associations, student clubs and professional networks for a student life that is always interesting and engaging. I would suggest joining the Model United Nations, a diplomatic simulation, which this year was held at Imperial College (another prestigious private university in the British capital). Do not miss the student elections for the Students' Union, which in Anglo-Saxon countries have much importance, with the Union providing students with facilities, support and services and administering a generous budget.

At the London School of Economics, I had the privilege of hearing Public Lectures by Ministers, Heads of State, Ambassadors, Economists, Nobel Laureates and top managers. To quote

some of the speakers from the last few years, I remember Kofi Annan, Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Nelson Mandela and Mario Monti. Meanwhile the study method at the LSE continues to rely on an exceptional level of teaching, which is enhanced by a pragmatic approach, making constant references to the facts that students will face once their degree is achieved. The LSE has strong ties with national and international institutions, and it is easy to see first-hand examples of protagonists, who come to talk to the students, ensuring a central role for LSE and London in global economic development.

I was very impressed by the style of the lessons and the evaluation criteria. The basis of LSE is knowing how to write well in English, with a style that the fortunate ones have learned from the best private high schools. In the United Kingdom no concessions are made to foreign students, if you are not native speakers: each student in all the written exams and essays is recognizable only by a code number. You learn how to write essays and research at a high level, normally expected for a Ph.D. through numerous readings and insights. Finally, professors invite you to be ready to comment and participate during lectures and seminars. In fact the presentations of individual or group projects, all based on real cases, are an integral part of each course. I remember many evenings and weekends, spent in the library preparing group projects and business plans, for the following week's class. The prestige of the school attracts the best talent and the most ambitious students, who will be the leaders of the future. The most popular courses, in recent years, have been finance, management and the law school, offering comprehensive approaches to current issues. The international environment you will face is the main distinction of the London School of Economics amongst other universities. In fact, the majority of students are not British, with currently more than 120 countries represented and 45% of the staff not British. In a heterogeneous environment, the LSE's trump card is internationality and selectivity, making you learn to think in global terms. This overall description, however, does not fully define the London School of Economics and Political Science.

In the UK I had an awesome experience, improving my skills, learning innovative methods, with the aim of bringing all this experience to Italy. Personally I am very satisfied with the State University of Milan, which I can rate as Italian excellence in the education panorama. I currently work in a British multinational company based in Milan and I want to continue my managerial studies.

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On the left side of the page, you can see Giorgio Saibene and Tim Högnelid, Graduate student at LSE in Accounting & Finance, starting his career at AB Kinnevik Investment, Sweden. In the picture above, you can see the Italian investigative journalist and writer, Marco Travaglio, during a public lecture organized by the LSESU Italian Society.