

## Feedback for unsuccessful Master's degree applicants

Due to the high volume of applications received, the School is unable to provide individual feedback on why an application is unsuccessful. A brief outline is provided in the decision letter. However, there are generic reasons why applications are unsuccessful. This page provides a short overview of these reasons.

### Generic reasons

There are two fundamental reasons why applications tend to be unsuccessful:

1. **Competitiveness.** Applications to the School are highly competitive. This means that many applicants satisfying only the minimum entry criteria will be disappointed. Applicants may meet the minimum entry criteria but this in itself does not guarantee entry. Applicants should always try to submit an application that is excellent in all components. Where applicants have provided no additional information about, for example, work or voluntary activities or other such contributions to development, this will not be to their advantage.
2. **Failure to follow instructions.** The School considers all of the information provided on the application form. Given the competitiveness of the admissions process, applicants who fail to follow the application instructions and do not provide course specific responses are more likely to be unsuccessful. For example, some courses require evidence of post-16 mathematics experience. You must provide evidence in your application that you meet such criteria.

**It is therefore essential that applicants read all of the instructions carefully prior to submitting their applications and only submit a full application.**

The School aims to make decisions on the basis of the information provided in applications, although some courses may also interview applicants and/or may test mathematics skills prior to making a decision. There are no quotas for people from different countries, ethnicities, or genders. However some courses may need to close to applicants when they become full.

The following are some of the more common reasons why applicants are unsuccessful.

- Many applicants have a first-class honours undergraduate degree and/or a postgraduate qualification. Applicants who do not meet the minimum entry requirements do indeed



receive admission to the School, but all applicants must recognise that admission is highly competitive in terms of academic quality. Applicants who do not meet the minimum academic entry criteria will still be considered but do need to demonstrate excellence in their motivational statement, work experience and references.

- If there are reasons why an applicant has not scored particularly well in part of their academic career, it is important that this is explained in the motivational statement.
- It is important for applicants to identify referees who will provide references that are detailed enough and contain sufficient information to be usefully evaluated.
- Absence of full details about the marks/grades gained for particular degrees in the form of an official transcript, or voluntary/work experience in the form of a full CV, makes it difficult for the School to properly consider an application. Applicants must ensure that full supporting documentation is provided at the time of application.
- Applicants who write impenetrable or vague motivational statements are more likely to be unsuccessful. It is important that this section is written clearly so that the School can understand why you wish to study a specific course, how it fits with your experience to date, and what you intend to do once you have graduated. All applicants must explain in some detail why they have applied to the courses listed on their application forms. It is insufficient simply to say that you are solely applying because the course is excellent.
- Motivational statements must be written by the applicant and should not include text from a third party unless relevant and explicitly referenced. Cutting and pasting text from the web or other sources will result in an unsuccessful application or may result in an offer being withdrawn if this is identified after an offer is made.

### **Requests for reconsideration and appeals**

Applicants should ensure that a full application is submitted in the first instance. Where information has not been provided in the initial application and the application is unsuccessful, it may not be possible to reconsider the application at a later date with new information. Applicants are however welcome to reapply in a subsequent year.

Appeals for reconsideration of an application can be submitted where an applicant believes there has been a case of administrative error or where the School has not followed the advertised admissions criteria and/or admissions procedures. Meeting the minimum entry requirements are



not sufficient grounds for appeal and applicants may not appeal solely on the grounds that they do not agree with the decision not to offer admission. Appeals outlining the grounds for the request together with any relevant evidence can be submitted to [admissions@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@lshtm.ac.uk) for consideration. In the case of a successful appeal, the application will be referred to the relevant Faculty Taught Course Director for reconsideration. A successful appeal does not imply that an offer will be made, only that the application will be reconsidered by the School.

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