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## Postgraduate Virtual **Open Days**

### Ask a PG Student

Studying at Edinburgh as a  
postgraduate student in the  
School of Literatures, Languages  
and Cultures (LLC)



Beth Price (PhD Chinese Studies) and  
Federica Murgolo (MSc Literature and Society)

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# About Us

## Beth

**From:** Manchester, UK

**Undergraduate:** B.A. in History, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge

**Masters:** MSc in East Asian Studies (Chinese), University of Edinburgh

**PhD:** 3rd year PhD in Chinese Studies, researching gender and media in Republican China (1911 – 1949)

## Federica

**From:** Apulia, Italy

**Undergraduate:** B.A. in English Literature, minors in Creative Writing & Philosophy, John Cabot University (Rome)

**Masters:** MSc in Literature and Society, University of Edinburgh



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# Picking a Degree

- Think about **why** you want to do PG study:
  - Next steps in your career
  - Return to academia
  - Opportunity to live somewhere new
- Don't worry about programmes seeming limited!
  - Flexible courses and cross-programme collaboration
  - Flexible dissertation topics
  - Taught Masters still produces high quality research



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# Academic Life: PGT vs. PGR

Taught Masters (PGT)	PhD/MScR (PGR)
<b>Guided structure with choices:</b> regular classes, fixed schedule, reading lists, exams and papers etc.	<b>Self-led structure:</b> no fixed schedule, self-imposed deadlines, needs lots of collaboration & motivation
<b>Social academic life:</b> seminars, in-class discussions, familiar classmates, time on campus	<b>Self-led collaborations and support:</b> independent, flexible, can join reading groups
<b>Summative and formative feedback:</b> graded classes, regular feedback from seminar tutors and dissertation supervisor	<b>Formative feedback:</b> feedback on progress (writing and research) from supervisor, annual reviews



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# Academic Life

- How long does it take to finish a degree?
- What is it like going from UG to PG?
- How do you write / a dissertation / thesis?



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# Writing Your Dissertation



- Take advantage of the resources
  - Library (and subject Librarians)
  - Special collections
  - Online collections & archives
- Plan and pace yourself
- Don't be afraid to ask for help
  - **Your Supervisor**
  - Peers and friends
- Take breaks and look after yourself



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# Study tips

- How do you organise your life?
- Where do you go to study?
  - Library & campus study spaces
  - Cafes & libraries
  - Home/Accommodation spaces
- What's the workload like?
  - PGT vs. PGR
  - Deadlines in November/December & June/July
  - Conferences, journal publishing, presentations...



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# Moving to Edinburgh

- Don't stress (too much)
  - Practical guidance on everything
  - Look up exciting things
  - Edinburgh is an international city
- Allow plenty of time for your **visa**
- The University has information and will offer plenty of help
  - Every [ed.ac.uk](https://www.ed.ac.uk) webpage has a specific "Contact Us" button which will link you to the right office to ask any related questions



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# Dorm vs. Private Accommodation

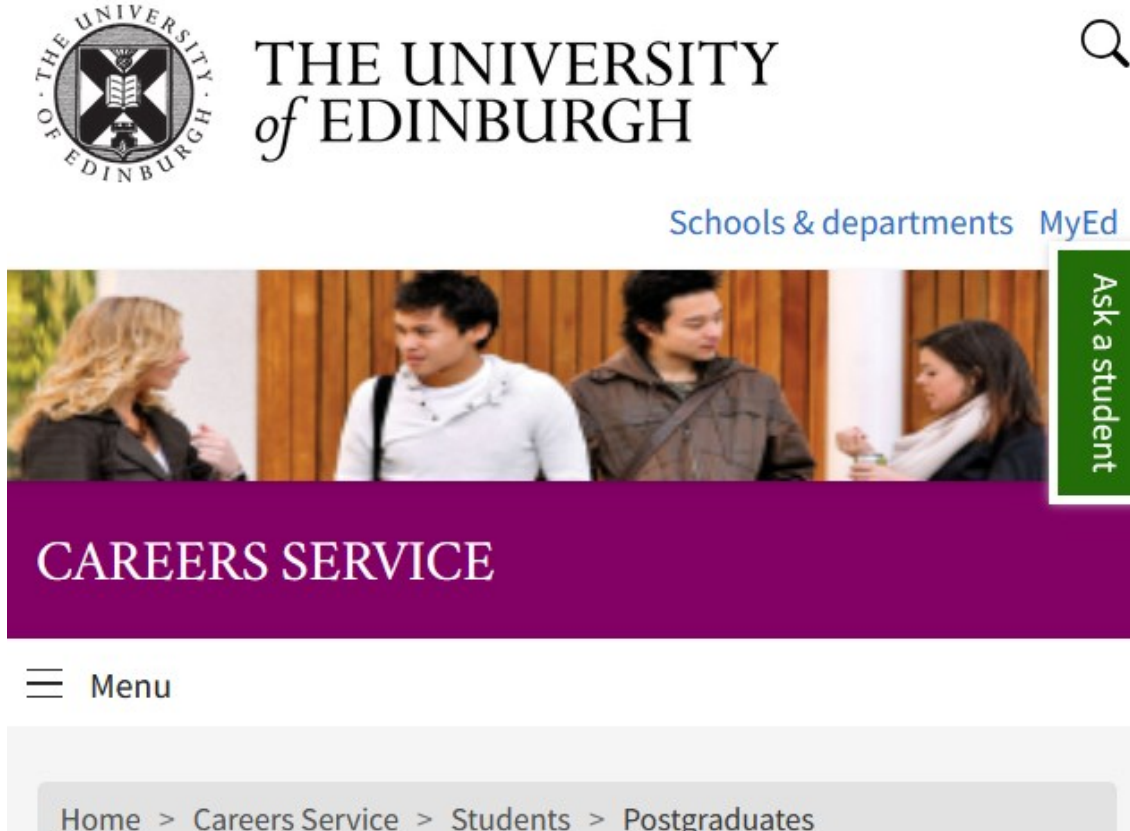
Dorm (Purpose Built)	Private Accommodation
Social	More of your own space
Includes bills (internet, heating, electricity etc.)	Can choose location & roommates
Events throughout the academic year	Can stay throughout academic holidays if you want to
<b>Much easier</b> for international students	Can be difficult to find if you're not in UK already, don't have UK bank account etc.



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# Jobs & Internships



- Allow more time than you think for research!
- Can work up to 9 hours a week with the school/university as a PGR, 15 hours as a PGT
- 20 hour limit on student visas
- Careers advice
  - CV support
  - 1-1 sessions
  - Specialised careers fairs
- Volunteering



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# (Re) Starting Life as a Student

- Welcome Week
  - Digital and in-person
  - Easiest way to find societies & groups
- Societies
  - Plenty of postgrad options
  - Can start your own!
- Reading Groups & Publications
- LLC & University Events
  - Bernadine Evaristo, Jeanette Winterson
  - PG ceilidhs etc.



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# Making the Most of Your Time Here



- Go to the free lectures / workshops / seminars
  - Seminar series
  - PG Newsletter
- Find your favourite study spots
- Have conversations
  - Peers, lecturers, administrative staff, other researchers
- You are an independent researcher now!



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# Life in Edinburgh

- Resources
  - National Library of Scotland
  - Creative and Cultural Hubs (Creative Scotland, Scottish Storytelling Centre etc.)
- Festivals & Events
  - Edinburgh International Festival (The Fringe)
  - Samhain & Beltane
  - Christmas Markets & Hogmanay
- Food & Drink
  - Street Food, Sushi, Poutine, Tacos, Noodles...
  - Endless coffee shops!



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# Life in Scotland

- Get out and explore!
  - Railcard
  - Society trips
- History
  - Tours, castles, houses, museums, galleries...
- You might be surprised...
  - Surfing in Dunbar (30-minute train ride)
  - World's Best Chocolate Truffle in Pitlochry (2-hour bus)
  - White sandy beaches (harder to get to)



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# Life in LLC

Encouraging

Interdisciplinary

Welcoming

Challenging

Exciting

Rewarding



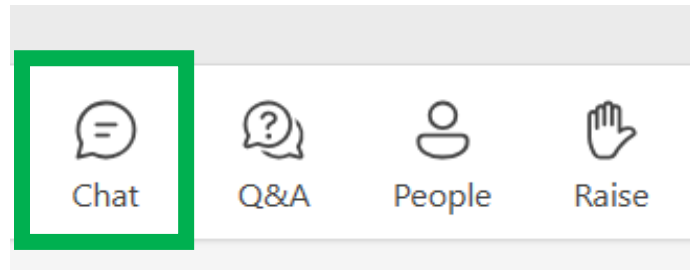
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# Questions (Microsoft Teams)

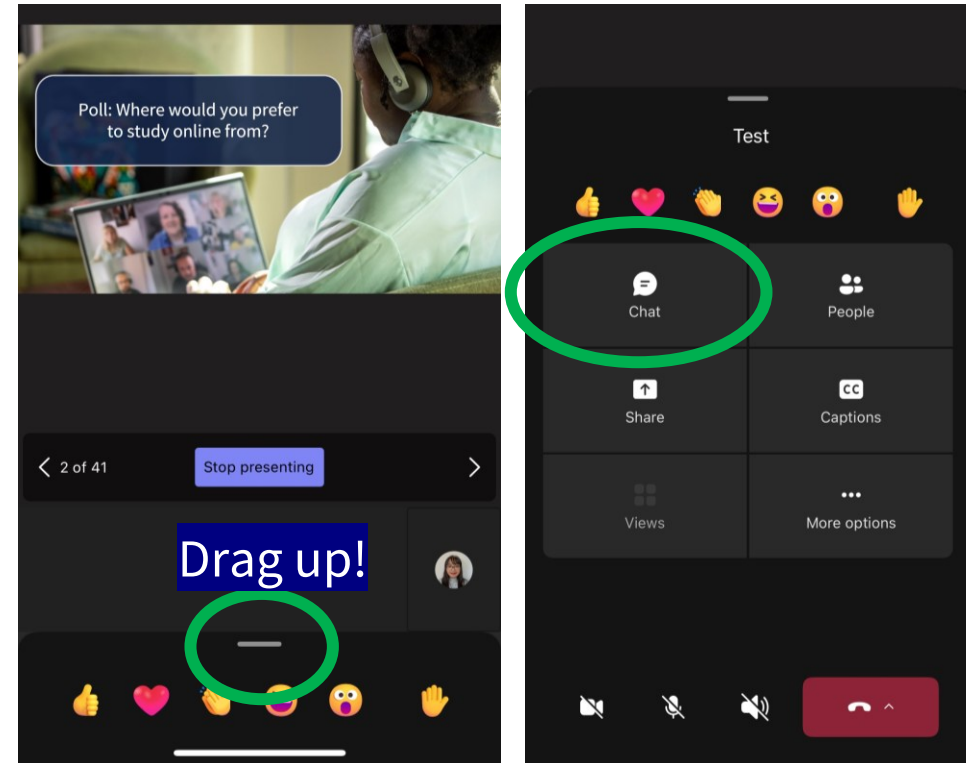
Type your question in the **Chat**, and we'll do our best to answer as many as we can.

## Desktop



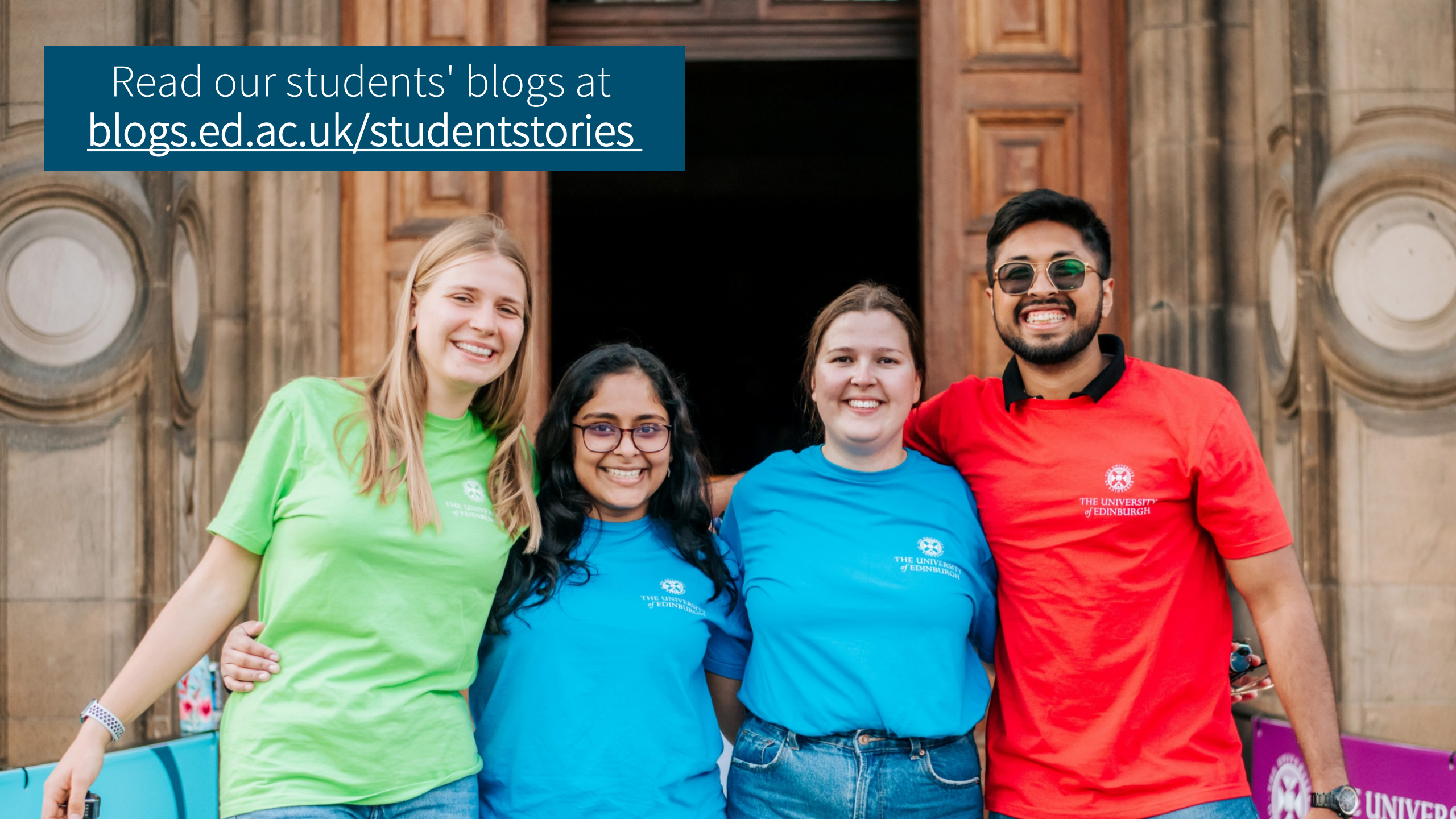
- If we don't manage to answer, please email [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)

## Mobile





Read our students' blogs at  
[blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories](https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories)



# Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)



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# Did you get the info you were looking for?

- Programme-specific info: [University of Edinburgh Degree Finder](#)  
→ [sign up to our programme sessions](#)
- Chat to our Students: <https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>
- Any other questions (including, Fees & Admissions) email:  
[futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)

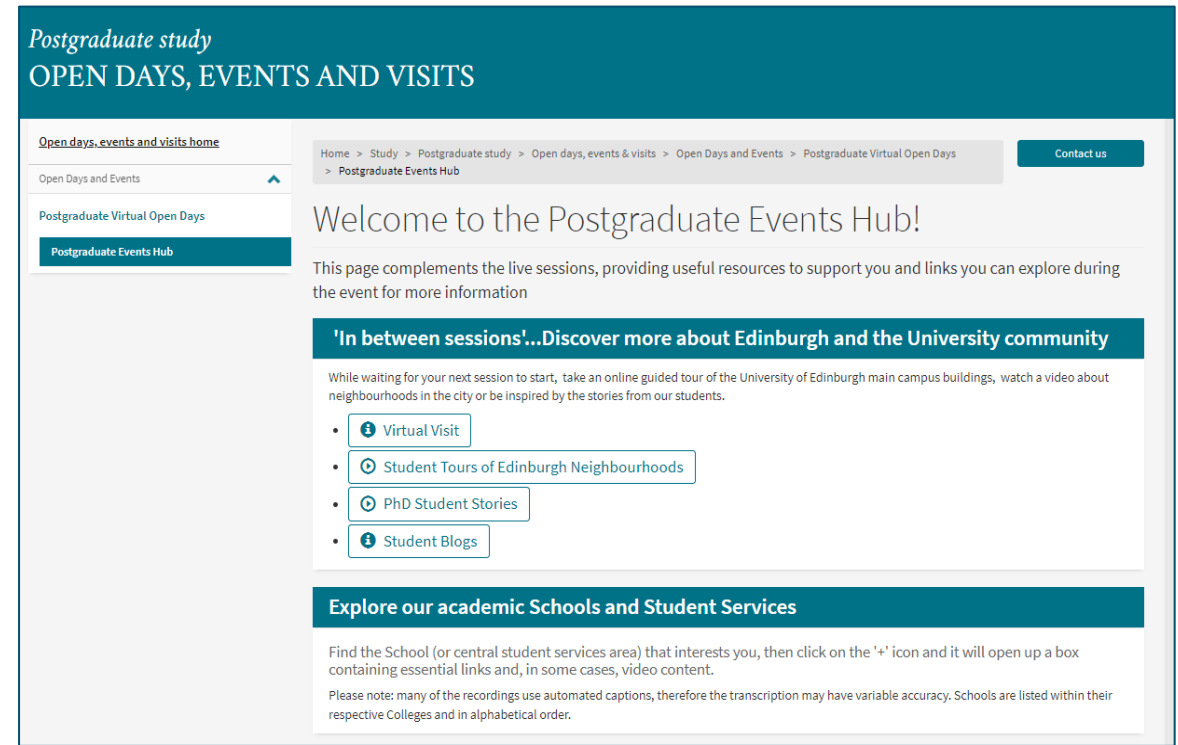
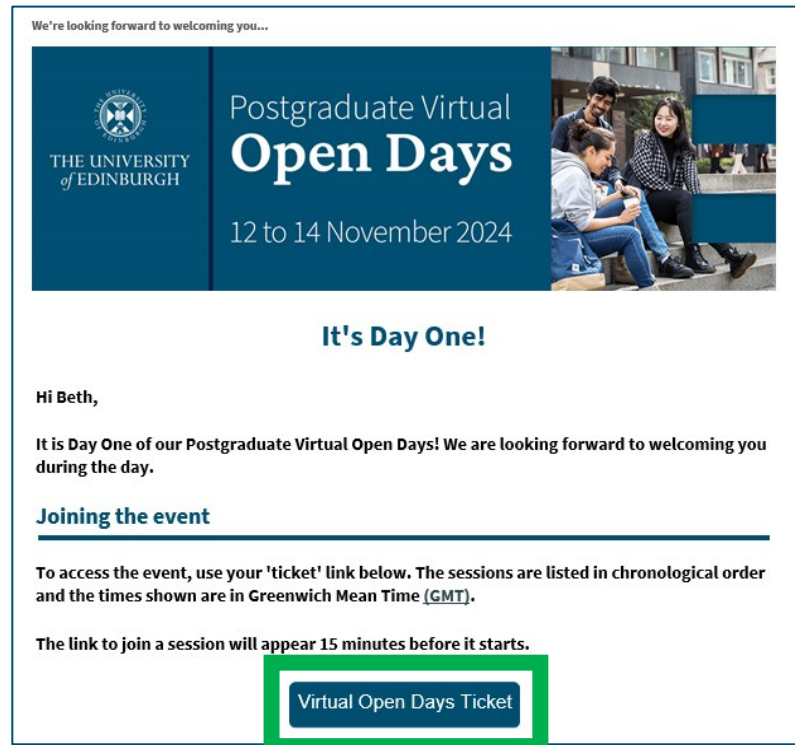


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# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- Return to your ‘e-ticket’ to find and attend other sessions you’ve booked – by clicking on the button in the email we sent you...
- ...and visit the events hub:  
<https://edin.ac/4gZuP3G>





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# Thank you

Beth and Federica

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