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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)



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



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 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
Much easier for international students	Can be difficult to find if you're not in UK already, don't have UK bank account etc.



Jobs & Internships



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CAREERS SERVICE

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Schools & departments MyEd

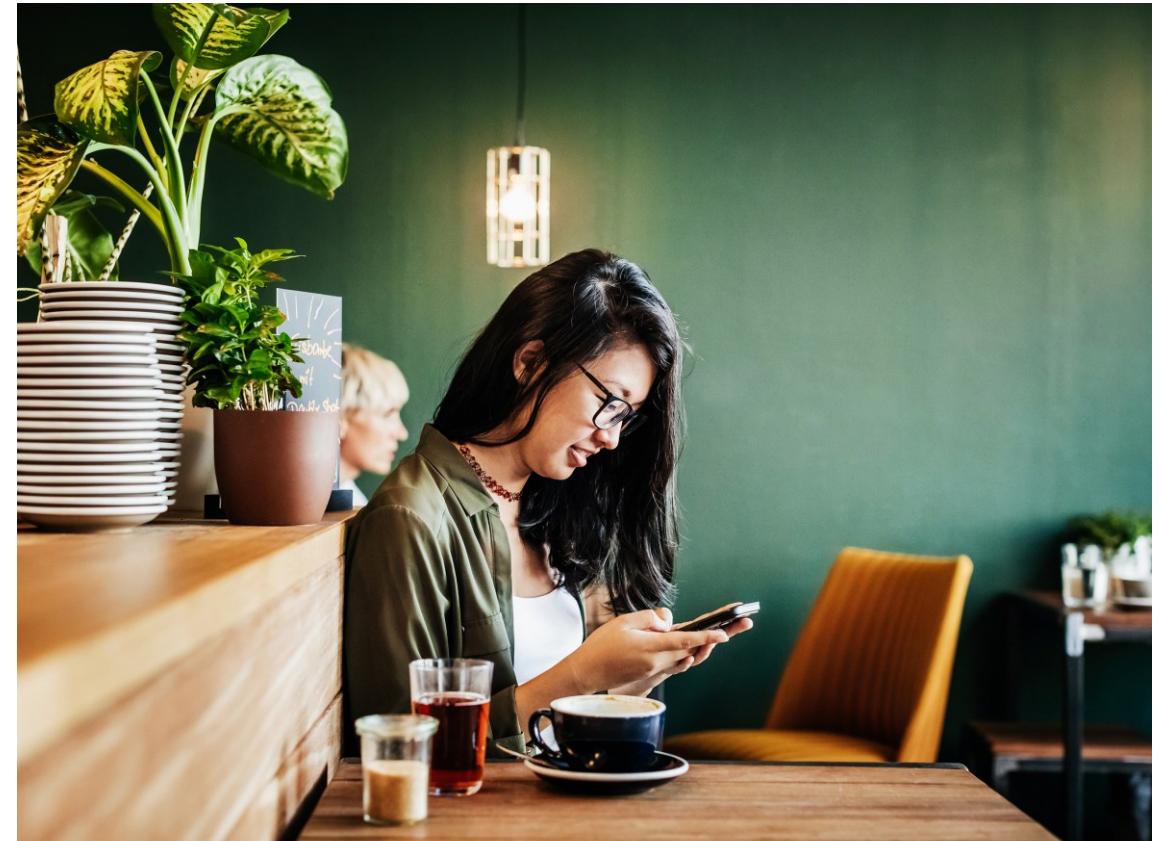
Ask a student

- 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!

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



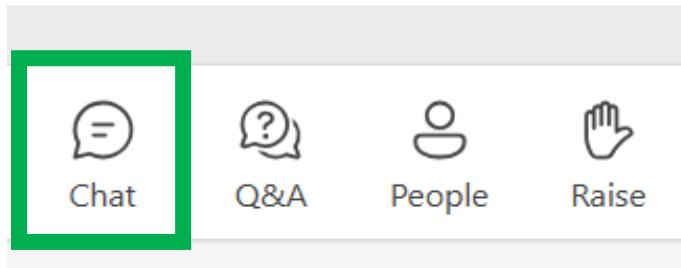
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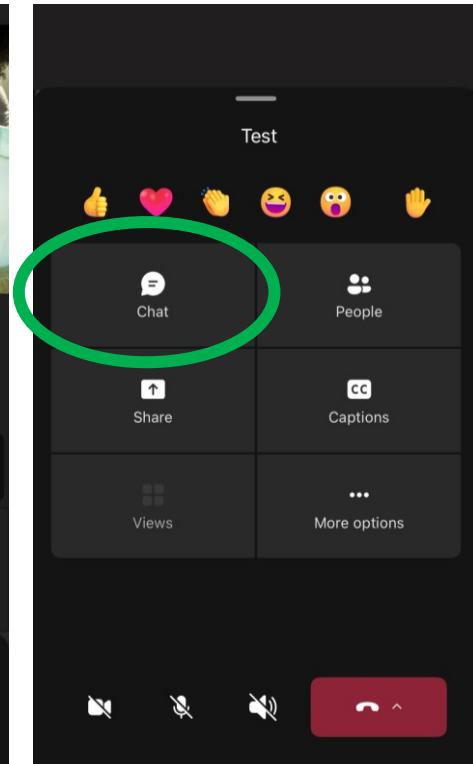
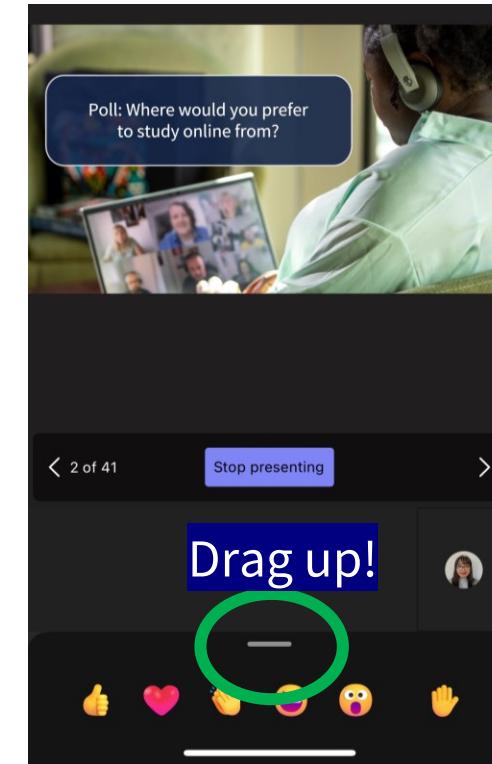
Questions (Microsoft Teams)

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

Desktop



Mobile



- If we don't manage to answer, please email futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

Read our students' blogs at
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



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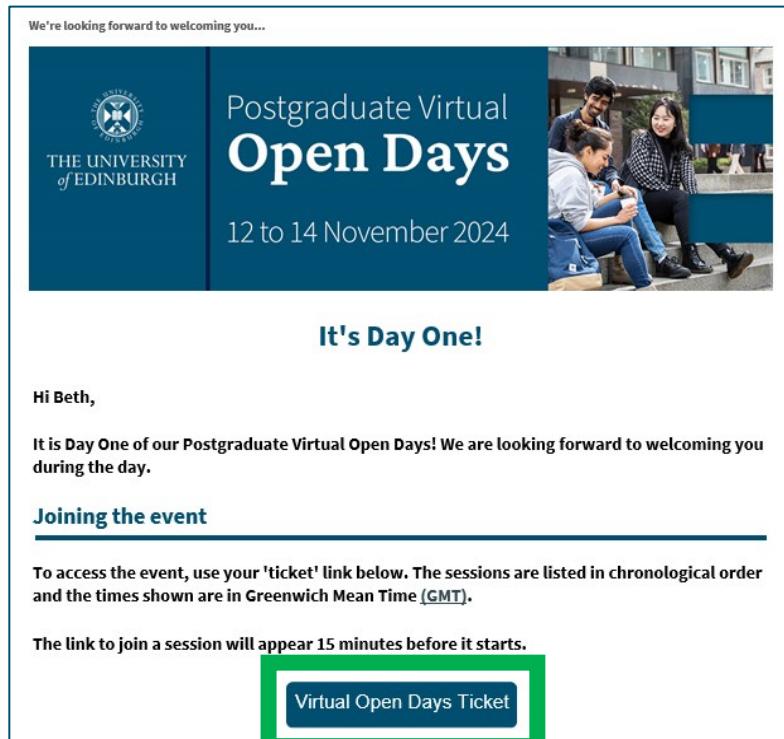
Did you get the info you were looking for?

- 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



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>



The image shows the 'Postgraduate Events Hub' website. The header includes the university logo and the text 'Postgraduate study OPEN DAYS, EVENTS AND VISITS'. The navigation bar shows the path: Home > Study > Postgraduate study > Open days, events & visits > Open Days and Events > Postgraduate Virtual Open Days > Postgraduate Events Hub. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the Postgraduate Events Hub!' and says 'This page complements the live sessions, providing useful resources to support you and links you can explore during the event for more information'. A section titled 'In between sessions'...Discover more about Edinburgh and the University community' lists 'Virtual Visit', 'Student Tours of Edinburgh Neighbourhoods', 'PhD Student Stories', and 'Student Blogs'. Another section titled 'Explore our academic Schools and Student Services' provides information on finding schools and services, with a note about automated captions and transcription.



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Thank you
Beth and Federica

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