



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

# Social Work / Master of Social Work

Virtual Information Session 2025



Dr Robin Sen | MSW Programme Director

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

# Agenda

- Subject area: an introduction
- Teaching and learning methods within Social Work at Edinburgh
- Why study Social Work at Edinburgh?
- Questions



# An introduction

- SW Programmes: BSc/MSW/MSc-GMH&S/MHO/MREs/PhD
- Staff and expertise: diversity and global reach
- Over 100 years of expertise in teaching and researching Social Work
- Social Work - #1 in the UK (Complete University Guide 2018/19/20/21, Times/Sunday Times 2021,2024)



# What kind of Social Work do we teach?

- “Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work.

(IFSW, 2014, <https://www.ifsw.org/what-is-social-work/global-definition-of-social-work/>)



# Structure: Year 1

- Semester 1:
  - Social Work in Communities
  - Social Work with Individuals and Families
  - Working with self and others: Skills, theories and methods
  - Doing Social Work Research
- Semester 2
  - Understanding Care and Control
  - Doing Social Work Research
  - Professional Social Work Practice 1 – 80 day placement



# Structure: Year 2

- Semester 1
  - Working with Risk, Trust and Complexity
  - Professional Social Work Practice 2
- Semester 2
  - Professional Social Work Practice 2 – 100 days
  - Dissertation – topic of your choice

- ❖ Transitioning to practice world
- ❖ Preparing for Interviews and Employment Fair
- ❖ Job offers from April/ May



# Dissertation

- You choose the topic
- 13,000 words – submitted May of second year
- Choice of empirical or literature based
- Subject specialist knowledge
- Research methods teaching
- Opportunities for publication and knowledge exchange



# Fieldwork/placements

- Supervision and support
- Voluntary sector
- Public sector
- Urban & Rural
- Covering all areas of social work practice
- International placements under development



# Studying & learning



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
Extraordinary futures await

# How we study & learn

- Lectures and tutorials
- Case studies
- Guest speakers, including lived experience
- Role play
- Group work
- Independent research
- Reflective writing
- Academic writing
- Observation
- Placements
- Presentations



# Cornerstone of our programme

- Engaging with lived experience
- Practitioner involvement
- Ethics, Values and Social Justice
- Student feedback and engagement
- Research led
- Global perspectives



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

# Resources and Support

- Programme Director
- Academic Supervisor
- Student Support Officers
- International Student Support
- Subject Librarians
- Careers Service
- Counselling Service
- Mental Health Mentors
- Societies and Clubs
- Disability Service
- BAME Mentoring Project



# Why study Social Work at Edinburgh?

- Prestigious | International University
- Social Work - #1 in the UK (Complete University Guide 2018/19/20/21, Times/Sunday Times 2021/ 2024, Guardian 2022/2023
- The city of Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

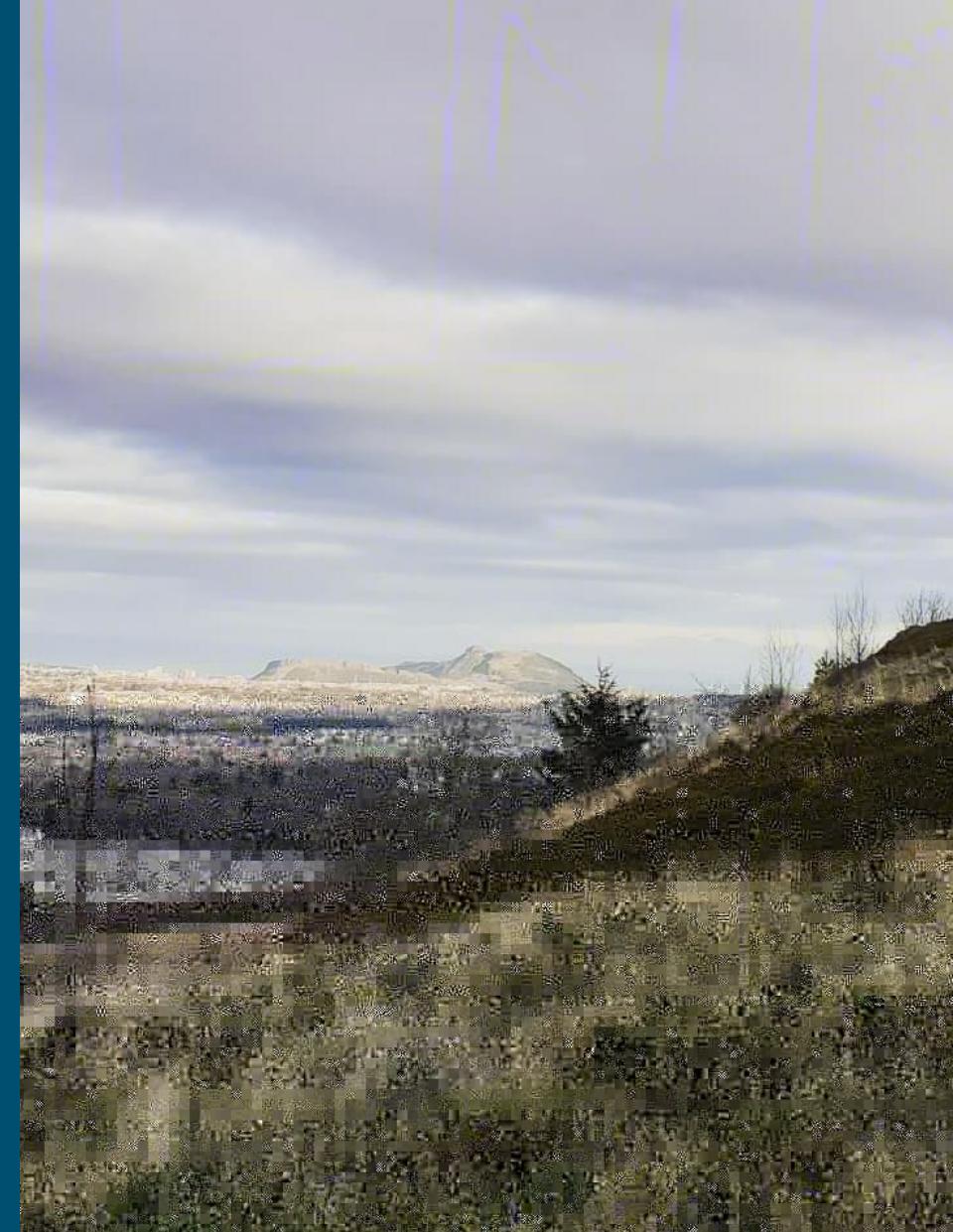
# Why study Social Work at Edinburgh?

- The programme – excellence in teaching AND research
- The staff team – international experts
- The links to community organisations
- The SPS and EU community
- Value base and ethos
- Edinburgh as a city and Scotland as a country
- International placement opportunities
- Can get licensure in America and Canada after completion



# Fees and Funding

- SSSC Bursary for Scottish students: Tuition fees £5000 (maximum), plus maintenance grant (check eligibility)
- SSSC determines the bursary allocation
- We nominate eligible students in early June (offer acceptance is a condition)
- SSSC determine eligibility, for further information email: [bursaries@sssc.uk.com](mailto:bursaries@sssc.uk.com) or call 01382 207326/7.



# Career Prospects

The majority of our graduates successfully pursue careers in:

Graduates successfully pursue careers in:

- Social Work
- Social Policy
- International Development
- Rights and Advocacy Work
- Global opportunities



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
Extraordinary futures await

# Next steps...

<https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
Extraordinary futures await

# 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)





THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

# Thank you

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await