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# MSc Africa & International Development

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# Presentation overview

- Why study Africa & International Development ('MSc AID') at Edinburgh?
- Programme Aims and Objectives
- Programme Structure
- How will you study?
- Beyond the Classroom
- What next after the MSc?

# Why study Africa and International Development at Edinburgh?



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# Why study Africa & International Development at Edinburgh?

- Flexible and cutting-edge programme in Europe's leading centre for the study of Africa, in one of the oldest and most international universities
- Unique opportunity to acquire a combination of interdisciplinary, regional expertise with a critical knowledge of international development theory and practice
- A competitive edge whether you choose to continue in research, or pursue work in government, think tanks, development agencies, international organisations, international consultancy firms, academia, NGOs...
- Learning from highly research-active scholars with strong Africa connections: <https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/subject-area/centre-african-studies/people-intro>



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# MSc AID: Aims & Objectives



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# MSc AID: Aims & Objectives

- Unpacking the dynamics of change and development in Africa
  - Social change, governance, and inclusive growth in the context of Africa.
  - Why? How? With whom?
  - What intended & unintended consequences?
- What will you acquire?
  - Interdisciplinary regional expertise (Africa)
  - Key skills & critical perspectives in international development theory & practice.



# MSc AID: Structure



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# Courses 2024-25

## Compulsory ('core') courses

- [Politics and Theories of International Development](#) (20 credits, Semester 1)
- [Governance, Development and Poverty in Africa](#) (20 credits, Semester 2)
- [International Development: Research Design and Practice](#) (0 credits, Semester 1-2)
  
- Dissertation (60 credits, Apr-Aug)





# Courses 2024-25 (continued)

## ‘Elective’ courses (20 credits each; select four, two per semester)

### Semester 1:

- Conflict, Security, and Development
- Policing and Punishment: Insights from across the globe
- Resource Politics and Development

### Semester 2:

- Anthropology of Global Health
- Business and International Development
- Conflict and Peace in Africa
- Displacement and Development
- Gender and Development
- Interpreting Development: Institutions and Practices
- Key Skills in Development Practice
- Pursuing Justice after Violence
- Research in Africa



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Each year elective courses may change

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# Dissertation

- A single piece of independent and in-depth research.
- 15,000 words.
- Allows you to focus on a preferred topic from within the field, normally based on a subject you have studied in one of your courses during the programme.
- You will be assigned an academic dissertation supervisor who will provide you with support and guidance while you research and write your dissertation.
- Introduction to the dissertation starts in October. Written in the summer months (April to August) after the taught courses are successfully completed.



# Types of dissertation

Apply academic knowledge to a real-world issue:

- Desk-based / library-based
- Field-based
- Faculty-based: as part of the projects led by CAS colleagues
- Placement-based: UK or abroad, to work with organization involved in development practice – may be ‘remote’



# Desk-based & field-based - examples

Diaspora Activism and Contemporary Sub-Saharan African: The Role of the Nigerian Diaspora in the 2020 End SARS Movement

Kenya's Leadership in the Multinational Support Force in Haiti: Motivations and Perceptions Among Kenyan and Haitian Nationals

Amplifying Voices, Silencing Violence: The Role of Social Media in Fighting Gender-Based Violence in Burundi

The Impact of Government Surveillance on Citizen Participation and Behaviour in Angola: A Qualitative Interview Study



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# Placement-Based Dissertations - examples

How to use digital technology to provide meaningful mental health and psychosocial support to forcibly displaced populations in the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region (UNHCR, remote)

Closing the Gap: A FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) assessment of Mahembe, Tanzania (Tanganyika Blue, Tanzania)

Early Warning for All (EW4All): What are the most effective ways for Mobile Network Operators to engage in Early Warning Systems implementation? (GSMA, remote)

Stakeholder perceptions regarding land allocation policy in the Kenya wetlands (African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya)



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# MSc AID: Studying & Learning

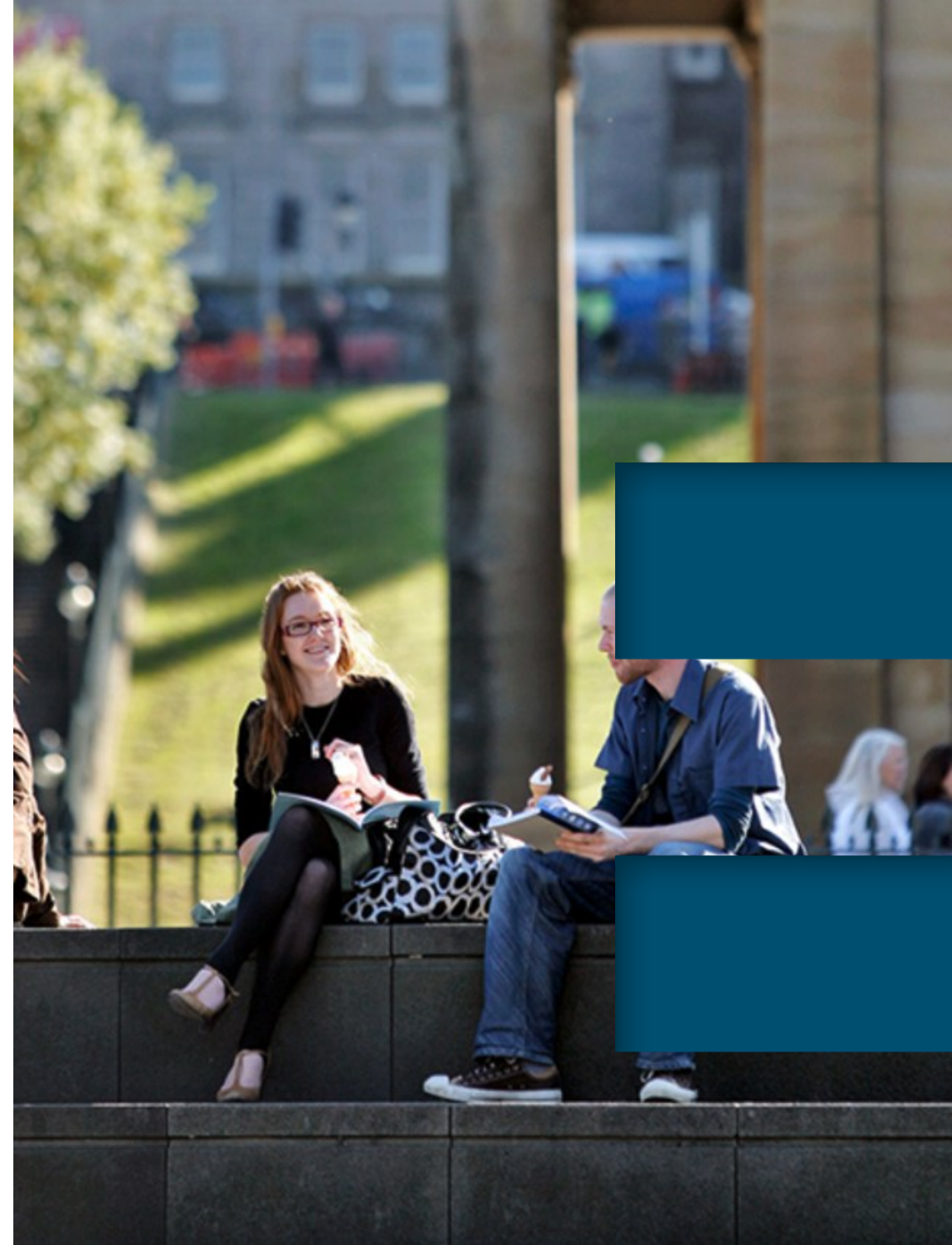


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# How we study & learn

- Lectures [detailed in next slide]
- Seminars
- Research-based case studies and exercises
- Self-led/Group Study
- Independent Research
- Dissertation



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# Lectures/seminars

- Course Delivery
  - 2-Hour contact time for each.
  - Weekly Lecture (60 mins)
  - Weekly tutorial (50 mins)
- Student Support: Programme Director (Cohort Lead) and Student Adviser.
- Assessment - essays (long and short), group presentations, book reviews, etc
  - NB: Assessment may vary if chosen elective courses falls outside Centre of African Studies.





# Support for learning and teaching

- Programme Director
- Student Adviser
- Dissertation supervisor
- Student Development office:  
<https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/students/postgraduate/new-students/development-office>
- Institute for Academic Development: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-acadsc-development/postgraduate>
- Peer study groups

# MSc AID: Beyond the Classroom



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# Beyond the Classroom

## CAS Seminars:

- fortnightly, 1530-1700
- <https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/centre-african-studies/seminar-series>

## Annual conference:

- April 2025: 'Climate Dynamics and the Politics of a Post-Carbon Africa'
- <https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/centre-african-studies/conference>





# Beyond the classroom (contd.)



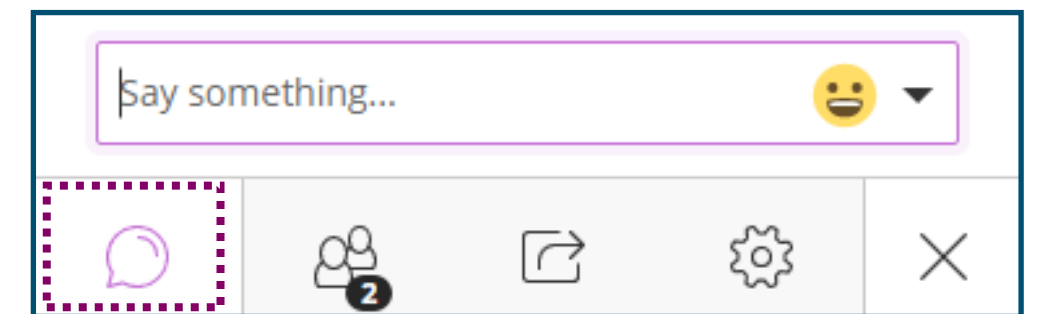
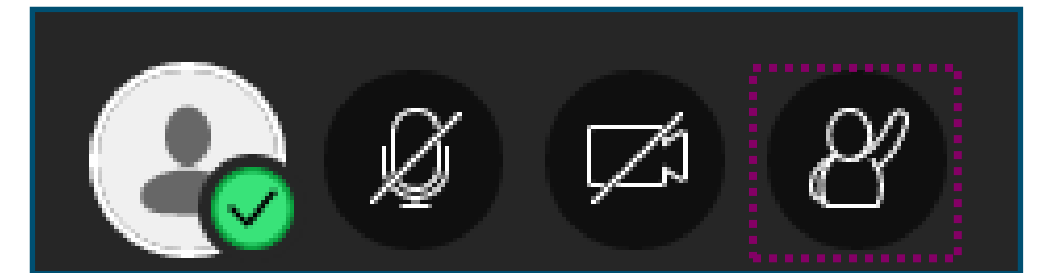
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# Asking questions (Collaborate)

- Please hold all questions until the end of the formal presentation
- Always use the ‘hand raise icon’ to queue up your question
- When called upon to ask your question, type it into the “Text chat area”
- Once your question is answered, please lower your hand



# Next steps...

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



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# 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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# Thank you

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