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# Postgraduate Virtual **Open Days**

## MSc Comparative Literature

School of Literatures, Languages  
and Cultures (LLC)

Dr Sourit Bhattacharya  
Programme Director for 2025/2026

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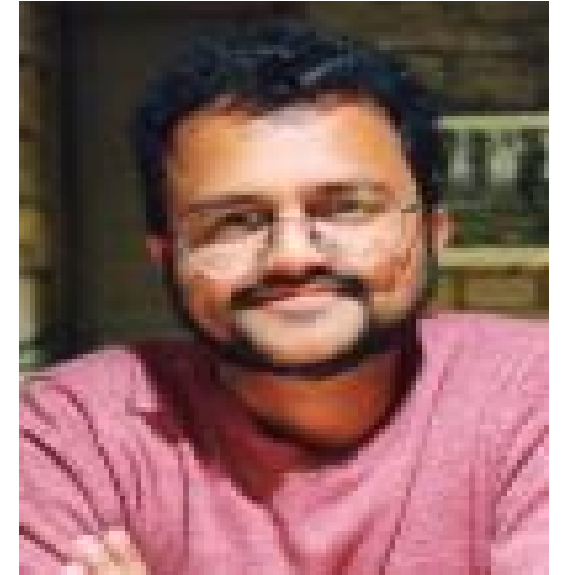


# Meet the programme team

**Name:** Dr Sourit Bhattacharya

**Title:** Lecturer in Global Anglophone Literatures

**Bio:** Colonial and postcolonial studies; South Asian literatures and cultures; Food and literature



**Name:** Dr Hannah Boast

**Title:** Chancellor's Fellow, English Literature

**Bio:** Water in world literature; Israel and Palestine studies; Environmental humanities





# Meet the programme team

**Name:** Dr Sarah Joseph-Tribout

**Title:** Senior Lecturer in French and Francophone Studies

**Bio:** City in literature; memory studies; Medical humanities;

**Name:** Dr Alexandra Smith

**Title:** Reader in Russian Studies

**Bio:** Modern Russian culture; film adaptation; intermediality



# Meet the programme team

Name: Dr Sergi Mainer

Title: Teaching Fellow in Spanish

Bio: Minority cultures; Translation studies



Name: Dr Karolina Watroba

Title: Lecturer in German Studies

Bio: European modernism and its global reception; Multilingual studies



# MSc Comparative Literature: At a glance

- Around 500 applications in 2024/25
- 56 students on course (Mostly full time and some Part time)
- A diverse class room: Students from the UK, Poland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Jordon, India, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Colombia, US, Canada, Thailand, and China
- Backgrounds (Undergraduate degree): English language and literature; Film; History; Classics; Chinese language and literature; Politics; Creative writing

# Full-time Programme Structure:

- Find a list of compulsory and optional courses in Degree programme timetables: [Comparative Literature MSc - Postgraduate taught programmes | The University of Edinburgh](#)
- Compulsory Courses (each 20 credits):
  - Theories and Methods of Literary Study 1
  - Theories and Methods of Literary Study 2
  - Research Skills and Methods
  - Research Methods and Problems in Literary Studies

# Full-time Programme Structure

- Optional courses: typically 2 optional courses (20 credits each across 2 terms); options selected from a wide range in LLC
- Dissertation in summer (60 credits)
- 180 credits in total
- Part-time:
- You may choose to do the course part-time as we are committed to helping people into education while balancing work and family commitments
- Course structure: Two compulsory courses in Year 1; two optional courses in Year 2
- Dissertation in year 2
- 180 credits

# Some optional courses offered recently:

Fantastic Fiction;  
World Literature;  
Literature and Photography in the 20th century;  
Global Shakespeare across Media;  
Film, Literature, and Race;  
Writing in/as Translation;  
Postcolonial writing;  
Music and Image;  
Commodities of Empire;  
Graphic Novel;  
Persian Literature;  
Russian Novel



# What do we teach in core and optional courses

Core courses: Theories and Methods of Literary Study I & II:

- Introduce topics such as translation, adaptation, world literature, intermediality, to ecocriticism, gender criticism, medical humanities, postcolonial studies, & digital humanities
- Approach: Read 1-2 theories and implement ideas to 1 short literary/cinematic text each week for 10 weeks; plus essay writing/workshopping week



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# What a typical week looks like...

- Study hours:

2.5 class hours per week (1hr lecturer + 1.5hr seminar) and 7.5 directed and independent study hours (Including ALG discussions).

- How and where do students engage with teaching staff and other students?

Topics taught by lecturers contacted via email;

Dedicated tutorial staff contacted via email and one-to-one drop in hour chat;

Student interactions in ALGs and in library, café, and cohort events

# What a typical week looks like...

- Where does independent study happen?

Main Library, dedicated PGT/PGR study space on LLC 4<sup>th</sup> floor, open space, bookable L&T space, café

- What assessment should I expect and when?

Formative non-submission based assessments for Comp Lit (ALG and class participation; Formative Research Methods based assessments midterm (2500 words); summative final essays (4000 words) end of term

- Any other events or activities?

Cohort events once each semester; research seminar, learning and teaching, TedX, essay writing, and society run events throughout

# What a typical week looks like...

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Research Skills and Methods seminar	Optional Seminar	ALG None	Comp Lit Seminar	Comp Lit Seminar
Afternoon			Comp Lit Lecture	Comp Lit Seminar	Research Talk

# What do we teach in core and optional courses

- Core courses: Research Skills and Methods I & II
- Topics include: how to do research and compile a bibliography; brainstorm ideas for a critical piece; write academically; Gen AI issues; plagiarism
- Optional Courses:  
One per term: typically 2hr seminars; topics can be theory based; literary texts based; or intermedial and cross-disciplinary approach
- Dissertation:  
Topic submission; Peer review and flash presentation of dissertation ideas; One-to-one supervision; Comments on the draft

# Dissertations: Independent and Supervised study

Previous topics have included:

- Decadence and Otherness in *The Bloody Chamber* and *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Chinese local operas' adaptations of *Othello*
- The representation of birds and bird-human relationships in (eco)poetry.
- photography in Vietnamese colonial literature
- Comparative children's literature
- Comparison between John Keats' and Wen Yidou's poetry
- Black women's science fiction
- Mental health in contemporary French and English literature and film
- East Asian immigrant fiction
- Magical realism in Latin America and China
- Kafka's influence on David Lynch's Films
- Biopolitics and literature



# Career:

- Academia
  - Publishing
  - Creative Writing
  - Media and communications
  - Public service
  - Policy
  - NGO
  - Cultural heritage
  - Creative industries
  - Teaching
  - Journalism
- Previous grads are... working as an editor at a science publishing house
  - ... pursuing a PhD at Harvard University.
  - ... studying for a PhD at East China Normal University
  - ... working as a PGT Student officer at the University of Edinburgh
  - ... joined Oldham College as a Programme Tutor in English.

# Did you get the info you were looking for?

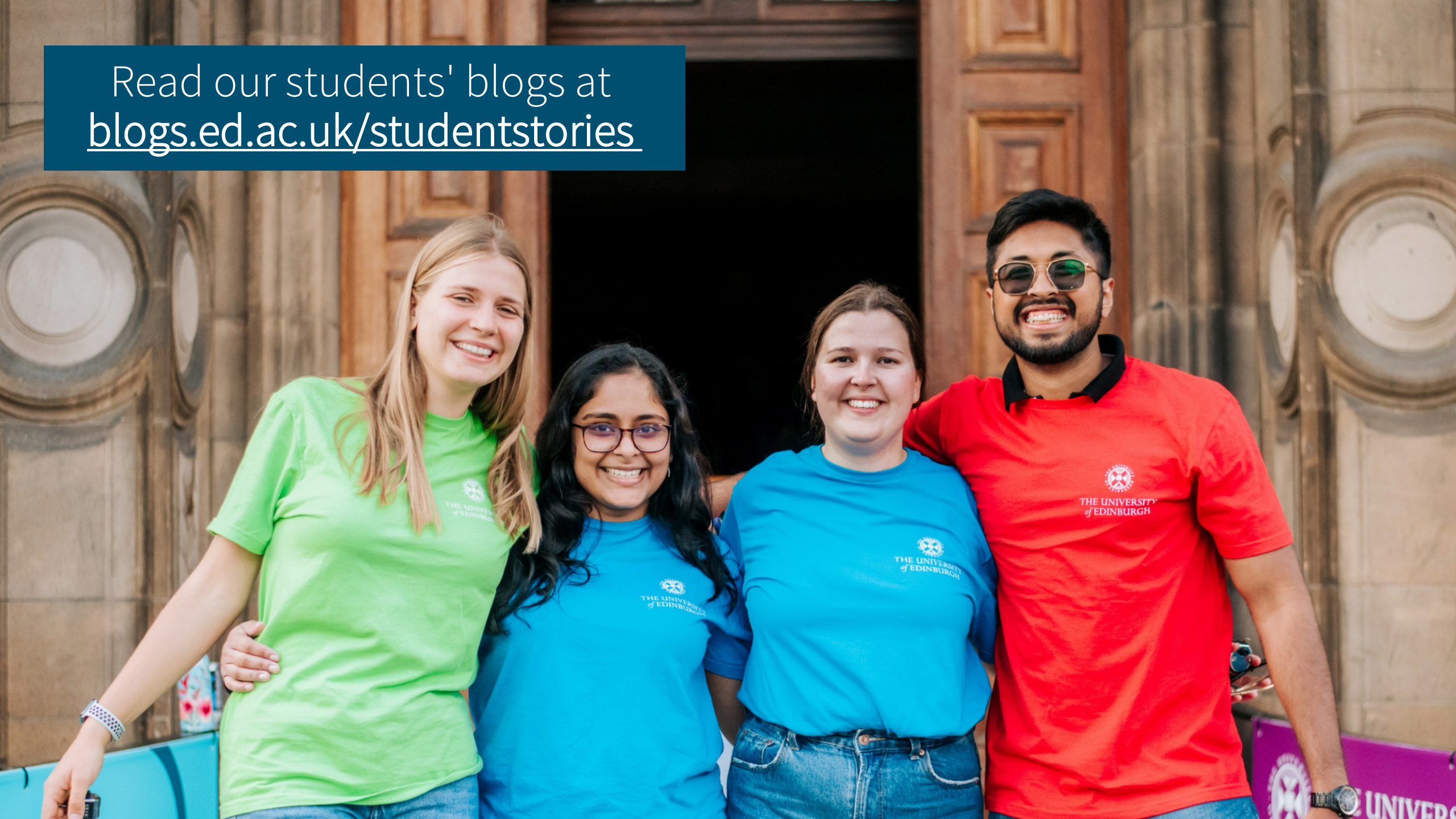
- Programme-specific info: [MSc Comparative Literature](#)
- Chat to our Students: <https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>
- Any other questions (including, Fees & Admissions) email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)



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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)
- Programme director at [sourit.bhattacharya@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sourit.bhattacharya@ed.ac.uk)



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# Thank you

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