



THE UNIVERSITY
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MSc Energy, Society and Sustainability



Dr. Adolfo Mejia Montero | 20 November 2025

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Who are we?

- The Energy Society and Sustainability programme team is integrated by academic and administrative staff.
- The academic team engages with various topics related to energy and could be divided into two main groups:
- A group that you will engage with through attending specific courses or your dissertation supervision.
- Another group of key contacts that you will engage more frequently through programme-specific activities or tasks.

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About me

- Adolfo Mejía Montero (am.montero@ed.ac.uk)
 - Lecturer in Energy, Society and Sustainability
 - Programme Director MSc in Energy, Society and Sustainability
 - The University of Edinburgh - School of Social and Political Science - Department of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies
- A couple of things about me:
 - Disciplinary transition - Physics (BSc) to Engineering in Sustainable Energy Systems (MSc) to Human Geography (PhD)
 - Mexican/Scottish since 2014
 - Focus on interdisciplinary research and sustainable energy transitions in Latin America



Why study MSc Energy Society and Sustainability?

- This MSc gives you an interdisciplinary understanding of how different societies can address the challenges of balancing energy with sustainability as it brings together social, political, economic, and environmental understanding of low-carbon technologies



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Why study at Edinburgh?

- Taught by world-leading energy experts through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach
- Strong, established networks with industry embedded within the curriculum, providing real-world experience
- Associated with the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI) bringing together law, business, social science, technology, and policy experts



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Programme structure

Find a full list of compulsory and option courses on the [Degree Programme Tables](#)

Compulsory Courses	Semester	Credits
Energy & Society I; Key Themes and Issues	Semester 1	20
Energy in the Global South	Semester 1	20
Energy Policy and Politics	Semester 2	20
Energy & Society II; Methods and Applications	Semester 2	20
Dissertation	April - August	60
2 option courses	1 per semester	40



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Energy & Society 1: Key Themes and Issues	Energy in the Global South	Energy Policy and Politics	Energy & Society 2: Methods and Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Energy versus Hyper Grids Energy Governance: Multi-level Governance of Energy Transitions Energy Justice and Just Transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First Fuels: Labour, Colonialism and the Anthropocene Life off the Grid: Energy Poverty in Light, Heat and Power Lifeblood: Oil and Extractive Geopolitics in the Global South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Market Liberalisation The European Energy Crisis Energy Vulnerability Fuel Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Methods Making Data - Interviews and Focus Groups Making Data – Visual Methods Making Data – Infrastructures, Futures and Mapping

Teaching and assessment

- Courses can be delivered through a mix of lectures, tutorials, seminars, videos, reading academic papers and policy reports
- Assessments include group projects, role play or simulation exercises, essays, presentations, blogs, and photo journals



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Dissertation

- An opportunity to explore, in-depth, a topic of your choice in relation to the programme, with the support of an academic supervisor
- Can be desk-based research or fieldwork
- Typically 10,000 – 15,000 words
- You may also have the option to complete a dissertation project in partnership with an external organisation
- You can use the dissertation to demonstrate your work to potential employers



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Master of Science

Energy, Society and Sustainability



2025-2026 | Dissertation Handbook



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Previous dissertation topics

- ‘Punching a hole’ or ‘dirty air’: A Multi- Level perspective consideration of Formula 1 in relation to net zero inroad transport
- The Overlooked – Student Fuel Poverty in the Face of the 2022 Energy Crisis
- Decommissioning the North: unheard narratives from a nuclear community
- Collaboration Without Consensus: Prospering From the Energy Revolution with Smart Local Energy Systems
- Towards Zero: An analysis of the UK’s net zero policy to test the explanatory power of a meta-theoretical framework synthesising RRI, social practice theory and energy justice



What a typical week looks like...

Semester 1, Week 4	
Classes	Timetable
Energy & Society I – Lecture	Mon, 14:10-17:00
Energy in the Global South – Lecture	Thu, 11:10-12:00
Energy in the Global South – Seminar	Thu, 12:10-13:00
Option course: Fundamentals of Energy Systems and Technologies – Seminar	Wed, 09:00-12:00
Total class hours	Roughly 8hrs

- Please note that the option course listed is just an example – hours will vary depending on the option courses you choose.



Other activities

- You will also need to take into account your 20-25 hours of directed and independent learning
- Students engage with teaching staff and other students at Central Campus (ECCI, CMB, etc.)
- Independent study can happen in libraries, study rooms and student or private accommodation
- Guest lectures, cohort activities, etc.



Residential field trip

- Previously based in Orkney
- Students had the opportunity to:
 - collaborate with communities and organisations regarding energy and sustainability concerns
 - Exploring how the early adoptions of low carbon technologies could help address socio-economic fragility
- Please note that field course locations may vary year to year, but will always align with course learning outcomes





Career opportunities

- This programme will prepare you for a wide range of roles within:
 - Energy sector around the world
 - International energy consultancies
 - National and regional government institutions
 - Third sector organisations and NGOs/Institutes
 - Higher education and academia
- Examples of roles our students have gained include:
 - Environmental Policy Analyst
 - Energy & Utilities Consultant
 - Project Coordinator, Policy and Communications Officer
 - Research Assistant
 - PhD Candidate
 - Sustainability Manager
 - and more...



Career opportunities

- BBC News, 7th March 2023: [The students at the heart of the green jobs boom - BBC News](#)



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Our alumni – Lauren Chin

- Graduated 2022
- Current work: Associate Consultant, The Carbon Trust
- "After graduating, I took some time to research sustainable finance at the University of Edinburgh before looking for jobs in industry. The MSc gave me a great starting point to explore different careers and I was able to find a firm that wholeheartedly has climate as its key focus, which leveraged everything that I learned both in classes and through research."



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When to apply?

- Due to high demand for this programme, we operate on a series of early application deadlines.
- We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible.
- You should avoid applying to more than one degree. Applicants who can demonstrate their understanding and commitment to a specific programme are preferred.
- If you plan to apply to more than one programme, you should discuss your choices with us before you submit your application.
- Where possible, we may make an alternative programme offer if you have been unsuccessful in your chosen programme.



Student cohort

- This programme has something to offer to everyone, irrespective of academic background
 - Students with a natural science background might seek to understand the social factors associated with a lower carbon economy
 - Social science students might expand their skills and knowledge for a career in low-carbon energy
- 310 applicants for 2025 entry
- 19 new students on course in 2025/26



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Scholarships and funding

- Featured funding
 - [ScottishPowerMaster Scholarships](#)
 - [Chevening Scholarships](#)
- School of GeoSciences scholarships
 - [See potential funding for GeoSciences students](#)
- You are encouraged to research the range of potential scholarships and other funding outside the University for which you may be eligible.
 - [Search for funding](#)



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
- *Or, Dr. Adolfo Mejia Montero:* am.montero@ed.ac.uk





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Thank you

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