



THE UNIVERSITY
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School of Biological Sciences

Taught Masters Programmes

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Today's Session

- 15-20 minutes of information about the structure and format of the Taught Masters Programmes
- 10-15 minutes questions and answers



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Our Programmes

- Biochemistry
- Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants
- Bioinformatics
- Biotechnology
- Data Science for Biology
- Drug Discovery and Translational Biology
- Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity
- Quantitative Genetics
 - Animal Breeding and Genetics
 - Evolutionary Genetics
 - Human Complex Trait Genetics
 - Quantitative Genetics and Genome Analysis
- Synthetic Biology & Biotechnology

Why study our MSc programmes?

- Wide range of career prospects
- Focus on key employment assets
- Learn emerging disciplines
- Strong reputation
- Emphasis on learning skills, independent thought and innovation
- Experience a beautiful, safe, historic city



The Academic Year (2026 – 2027)

■ Welcome Week	14-18 September
■ Programme Meeting	Monday 14 September
■ SEMESTER 1	21 September – 21 December
■ Revision	TBC, usually 1 week in late Nov/early Dec
■ Exams	TBC, usually in December
■ SEMESTER 2	11 January – 22 May
■ Flexible Learning Week	15 – 19 February
■ Spring break	5 – 16 April
■ Revision	TBC, usually 1 week following Spring break
■ Exams	TBC, usually late April – end of Sem 2 in May
■ Dissertation Research	May through August
■ Writing of Dissertation	Early August
■ Submission of Dissertation	Mid August (tbc)



The King's Buildings Campus

- Home to the College of Science and Engineering
- 7 Schools in the College including the School of Biological Sciences



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The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

- Home to the Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants Programme



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Lectures and Seminars

- Held in a variety of locations across Campus



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Tutorials and discussion sessions



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Practical classes

- MSc Teaching lab in Peter Wilson Building



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Computer practical classes

- Learn skills such as programming, stats, data analysis, and computer modelling



In-course Assessment and Examination

In course assessment:

- Often essay writing, problem solving, practical reports, digital exhibits, poster presentations, and group presentations

Examination:

- Essays, short answer questions, problem solving questions



180 credits per MSc programme

- Programmes are split over 3 semesters
- Complete a total of 180 credits
- Semester 1
 - Teaching – 2 blocks
 - 60 credits
- Semester 2
 - Teaching – 2 blocks
 - 60 credits
- Dissertation
 - 60 credits



Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants

- All courses are compulsory and part of the Programme
- All courses are based at the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh
- Dissertation projects are arranged within the Programme

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/25-26/dpt/ptmscbitxp1f.htm>



Please note all information is correct for the current academic year –
there are changes planned for this programme in future years

Quantitative Genetics

- Four programmes within Quantitative Genetics:
 - Animal Breeding and Genetics
 - Evolutionary Genetics
 - Human Complex Trait Genetics
 - Quantitative Genetics and Genome Analysis
- There are compulsory courses for each programme and a large choice of optional courses
- These programmes are data-based
- Students are based at King's Buildings
- Field course during Welcome Week
- Students may change their programme at any time within QG
- Dissertation Projects are arranged within the Programme

Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity

- Field course during Welcome Week
- Mix of compulsory and optional choices
- Students are based at King's Buildings
- Dissertation projects are arranged within the Programme

Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Data Science for Biology, Drug Discovery and Translational Biology, Synthetic Biology & Biotechnology

- Each have varying amounts of credits of compulsory and optional courses
- Many optional courses cross over these programmes
- Optional course choices made in August/September
- Students based at King's Buildings and Central Campuses
- Dissertations – four ways to generate projects
- Databank of projects to choose from. Students put in their top 5 choices.

Dissertations

- The process begins in December for most programmes with a database of possible options
- Students choose their top choices and submit these in January
- Projects assigned by February
- Beginning of research begins early May – date decided by you and your supervisor
- Finish research by end of July and finish writing dissertation
- Submission is usually mid-August



Degree Finder

- The Degree Finder has more information on each programme
- Includes links to the Degree Programme Tables where you can view more detailed course information: <https://edin.ac/3JVzqbt>



School of Biological Sciences Taught Postgraduate Bursaries

- 1 – 2 full fee bursaries are offered
- Applications are welcome from WP Home applicants and International applicants from countries defined by the DAC list of ODA recipients*
- More information: <https://edin.ac/4330Tiq>
- Application Deadline: 31 March 2026

*Please note this bursary is not available to those studying our Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants programme

More general information on funding:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/fees-finance>



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Other featured funding

There are a variety of different Scholarships available depending on your background. Some examples include:

- **British Council Great Scholarships** – 3 scholarships available, offering financial support of a minimum of £10,000 for students from Mexico, Thailand and Ghana <https://edin.ac/49pMlr1>
- **India Merit Scholarship** - £5000 towards tuition fees for the most academically gifted Postgraduate Taught Masters students applying from India <https://edin.ac/406wFcP>

The Scholarship Search tool - Search for Bursaries, Scholarships and other Financial Aid available to all prospective students. The list is updated as new funding opportunities become available <https://edin.ac/3ES0427>



Graduation

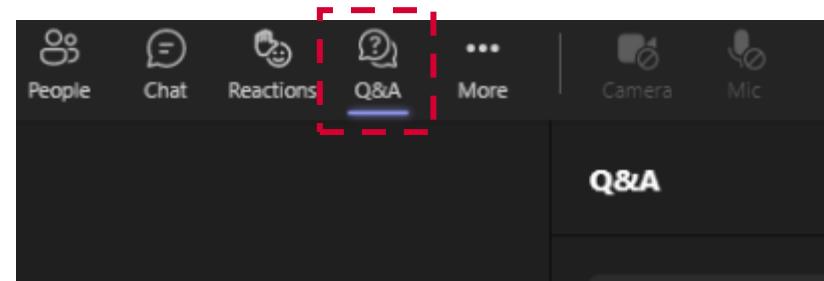


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Thank you, any questions?

- Type your question into the Q+A



- If you have questions after the session or would like more details on any of the answers, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk





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Thank you

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