



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

MSc Environment, Culture and Society

Dr Rachel Hunt | 20 November 2025

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About me/who are we

- You are supported in the MSc by a programme director, cohort lead and dissertation coordinator

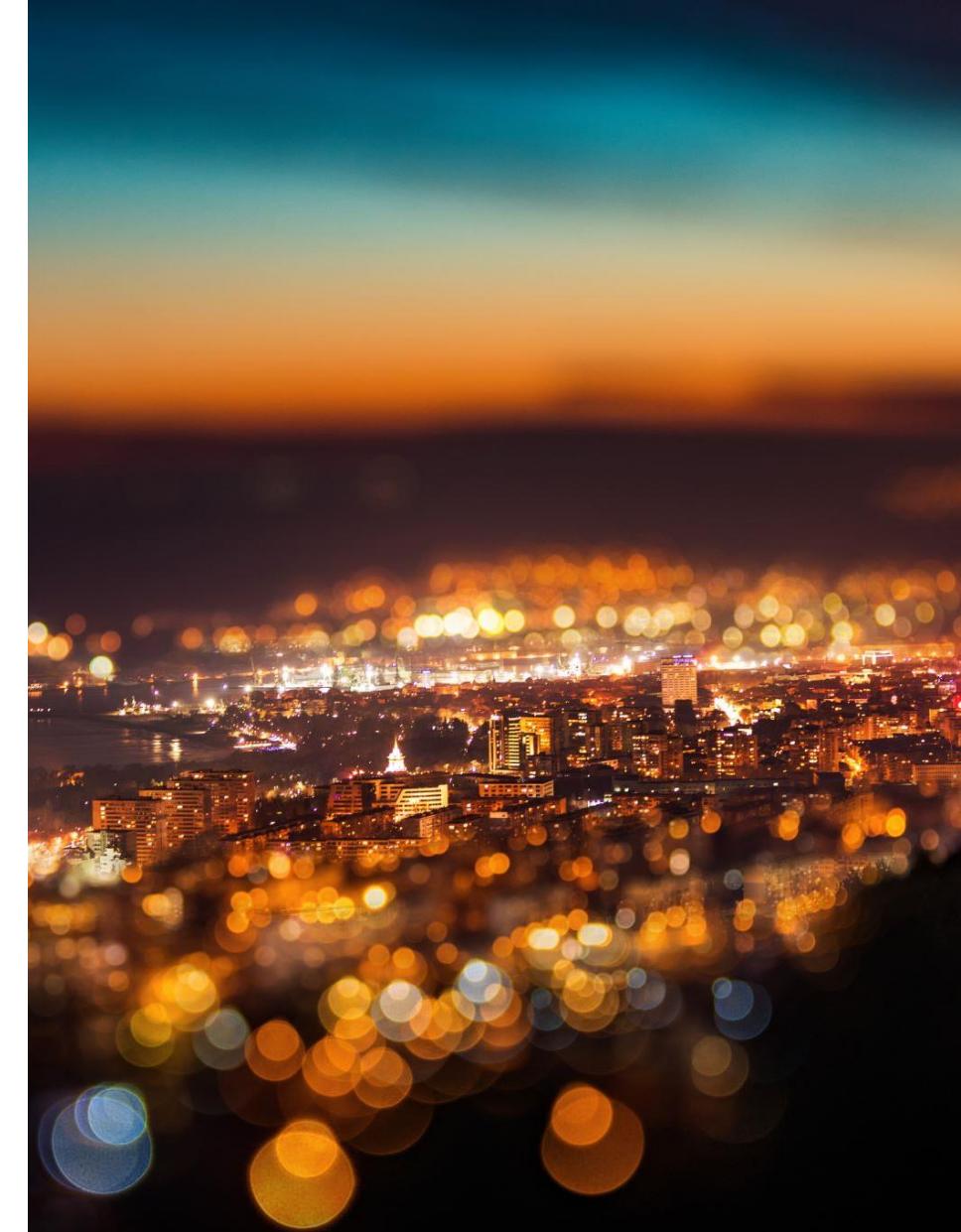


- Dr. Rachel Hunt
 - Programme Director
- Professor Tim Creswell
 - Cohort lead
- Dr. Nina Morris
 - Dissertation Coordinator



Why study this MSc?

- How have the ways we think about the environment led us to our current situation? How might other ways of thinking lead us to a different and better place?
- These are driving questions for this course and you should consider taking this programme if these questions are important to you

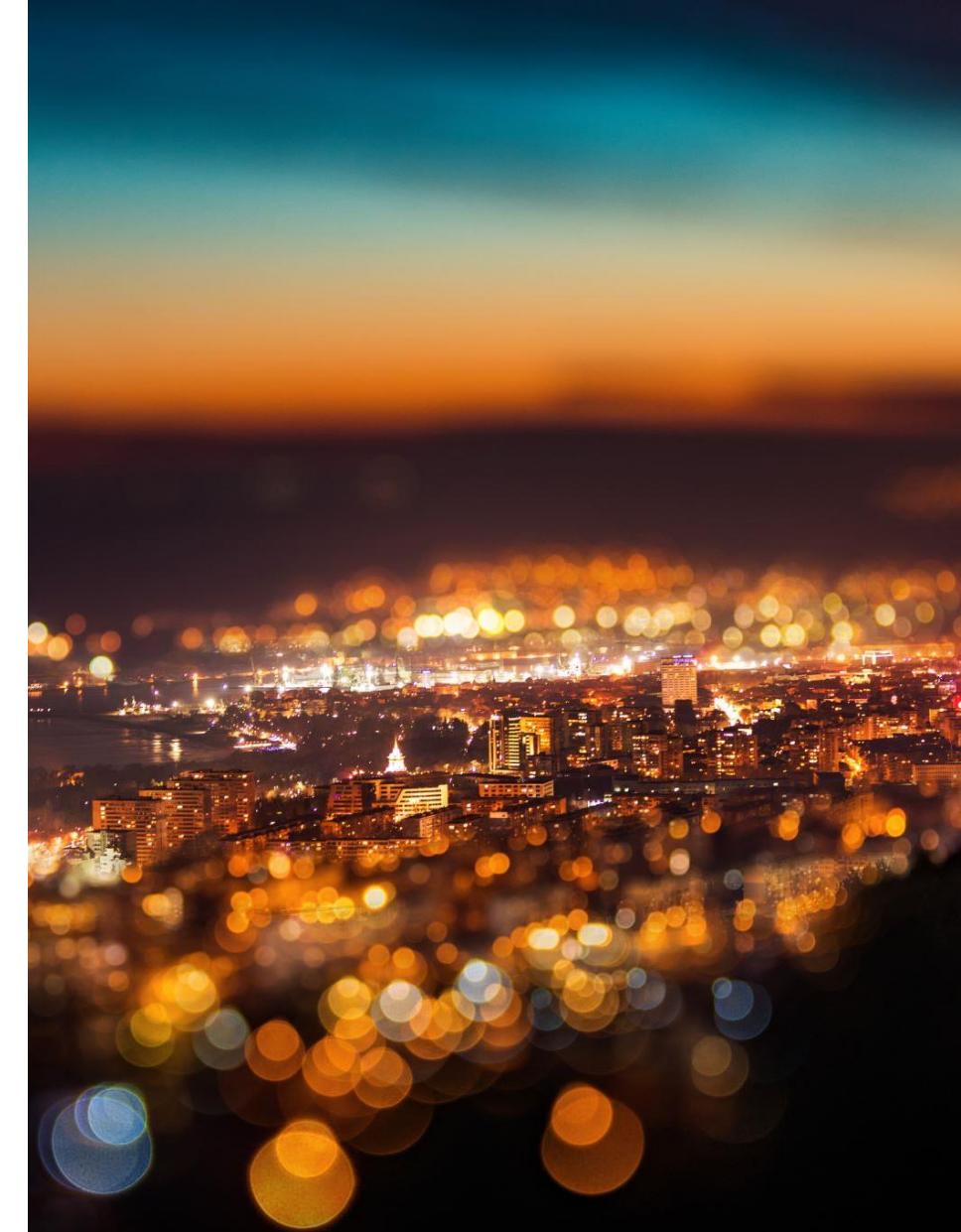


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Why study this MSc?

- This MSc provides you with up-to-date knowledge of the contemporary issues and debates on the relationships between the environment, nature, culture and society
- This programme provides a unique critical perspective. You will develop the skills and abilities to assess the importance and implications of geographical and other conceptual debates with shape environmental policy and practice



Programme aims & outcomes

- Programme outcomes:
 - Advanced knowledge of contemporary theoretical and conceptual debates concerning relationships between environment, nature, culture and society
- This programme will help you to:
 - Understand key concepts and theories
 - Develop a critical, humanities perspective
 - Gain multidisciplinary research skills



What does the course offer

- Learning from world-leading researchers working in the environmental humanities
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Critical humanities perspectives
- Please note – environmental or geography background is NOT required



Programme structure

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

Compulsory Courses	Semester	Credits
Values and the Environment	Semester 1	20
Political Ecology	Semester 1	20
Creativity and the Environment	Semester 2	20
Dissertation	April - August	60
3 option courses	1 in S1, 2 in S2	40



Teaching and assessment

- Courses can be delivered through a mix of lectures, discussion and reading groups, flipped-classroom teaching workshops, and learning outside the classroom.
- Assessments include book reviews, creative essays, poetry, zines, course papers, and presentations.



Dissertation

- The MSc dissertation is a maximum of 12,000 words and will be on a topic agreed by you and your supervisor.
- The dissertation is designed to provide an opportunity for students to undertake independent research on a topic of their own choice, employing appropriate research methodologies and involving theoretical and, potentially, empirical work developed through the coursework programme, and directed reading supported by expert supervision.
- Can involve fieldwork, be desk-based or a combination of both.
- The subject of the dissertation varies according to students' interests.
- Has ranged from creative work (such as film, or animation making with accompanying text) to scientific lab-based work.
- You can use the dissertation to demonstrate your work to potential employers



Previous dissertation topics

- Geographies of Belonging in the Cairngorms National Park
- Nurturing Nature: Exploring British Parents' Hopes and Fears over their Children's Connection with the Natural World
- Bringing forward cultural values in Environmental Impact Assessment in Chile: a feminist and decolonial approach.
- Ecological grief in the Extinction Rebellion movement.



What a typical week looks like...

Semester 1, Week 4	
Classes	Timetable
Values and the Environment – Lecture	Wed, 10:00-13:00
Political Ecology – Lecture	Mon, 10:00-13:00
Option course: Thinking With Fire – Lecture	Tue, 12:10-13:00
Option course: Thinking With Fire – Seminar	Thur, 11:10-13:00
Total class hours	Roughly 9hrs

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



In a typical week, imagine...

§3 classes (around 3 hours per class). You have Values and the Environment, Political Ecology and Thinking with Fire. You will also need to take into account your independent study hours – around 9 per week.

§One of the compulsory classes, Values and the Environment, has a fieldtrip visit that week

§Cohort event – each programme organises events for their cohort of students (NB not every week).

§Seminar with the Environmental Humanities research Network (external speaker, optional extra)

§Potentially an activity with a sports or interest club – e.g. mountaineering



Field Visits in ECS

- This programme provides various day trips and workshop opportunities in locations across Scotland
- Previous locations have included:
 - The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh
 - Jupiter Artland
 - A day with the folk singer Karine Polwart
- Please note that field course locations may vary year to year, but will always align with course learning outcomes



Career opportunities

- Our graduates have gone on to roles in:
 - environmental policy
 - conservation
 - animal welfare
 - corporate social responsibility
 - education
 - business communications
 - theatre technician and production
 - research
- Examples of where our graduates have gained employment:
 - Conservation International
 - National Forestry Commission
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - The Climate Group
 - The Conservation Volunteers
 - UNESCO World Heritage Centre
 - Clean Up Australia
 - KPMG Sustainability (Japan)



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 have more chance of success.
- 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

- Welcoming students from a variety of backgrounds, this exciting MSc will explore the core perspectives, concepts, and practices from the arts, humanities and social sciences needed to imagine and enact sustainable, just and creative environmental futures
- 148 applicants for 2025 entry
- 25 new students on course in 2025/26



Scholarships and funding

- Featured funding
 - [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 Rachel Hunt:* rachel.hunt@ed.ac.uk





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Thank you

Rachel Hunt

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