



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Postgraduate Virtual Open Days

PhD study at College
of Medicine &
Veterinary Medicine



Ruth Andrew

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Welcome! Today's session will start shortly.

Before the session starts, please reflect on the following questions and share your responses by typing into the text chat box...



Where in the world
are you joining us
from today?



What would you
like to study?



Why are you
considering
Edinburgh?



Before we start the session, please answer our question...



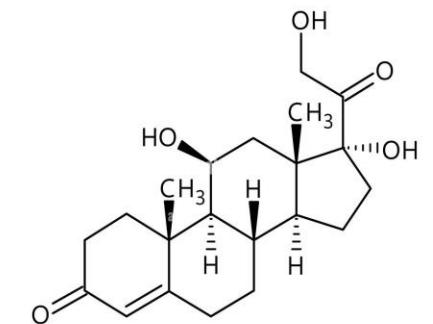
What's one hope, dream or goal you bring with you as you think about postgraduate study?

- Type your answer in the text chat
- There are no right or wrong answers
- Something personal?
- Something professional?
- An impact in the wider world?

A panoramic sunset view of the Edinburgh skyline, featuring the illuminated Edinburgh Castle on a hill and the city's historic buildings below.

Welcome live and direct from Edinburgh!

Hello and Welcome!



Professor Ruth Andrew, CMVM Dean PGR

Hello and Welcome!



Our Edinburgh Campuses



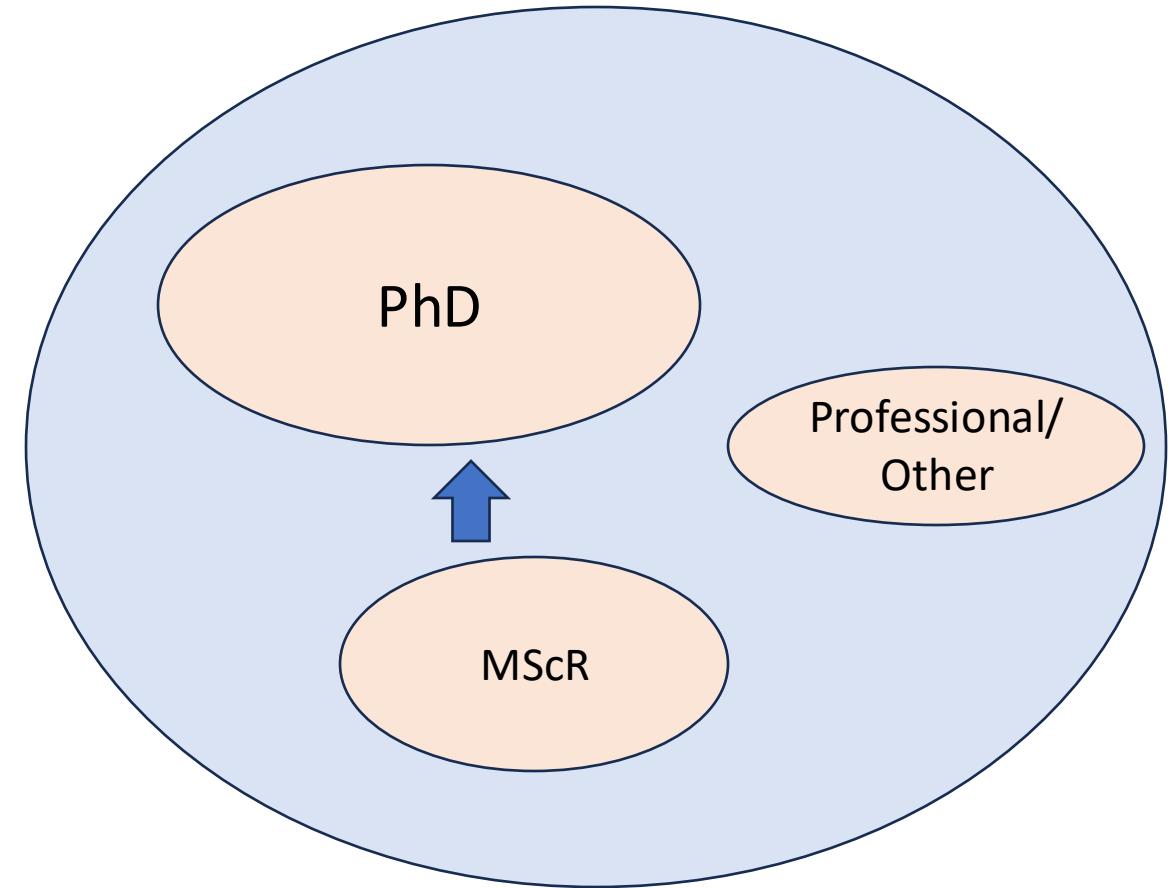
Who are our students and what degrees do they study?

- Scotland: 27% students
- UK: 29% students
- International: 44% students

Roughly 1300 PGR students 24/25

Backgrounds;
Undergraduate, MSc, established careers,
mature, return to study

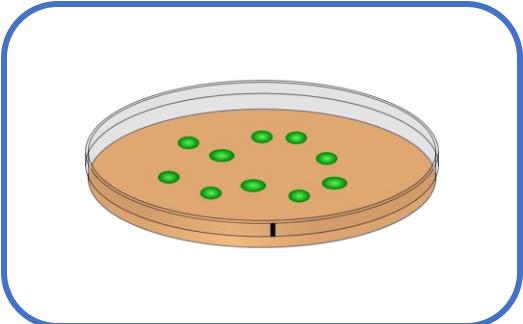
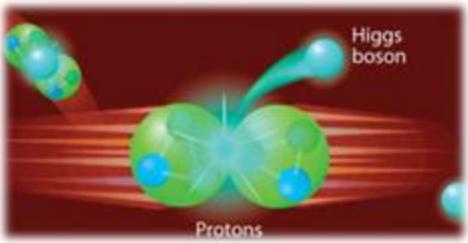
Full time and part-time



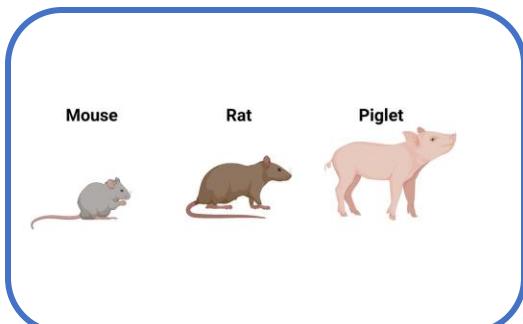
THE BIG
QUESTION



What types of Research projects?



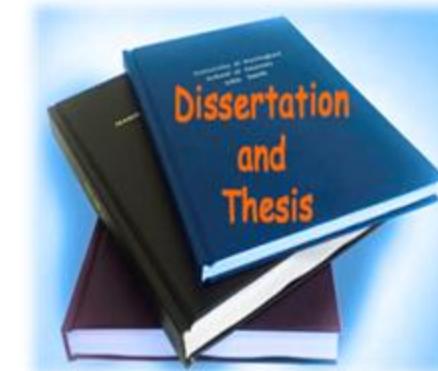
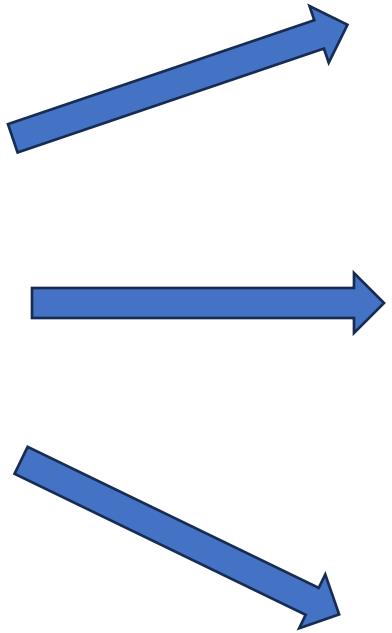
THE BIG
QUESTION



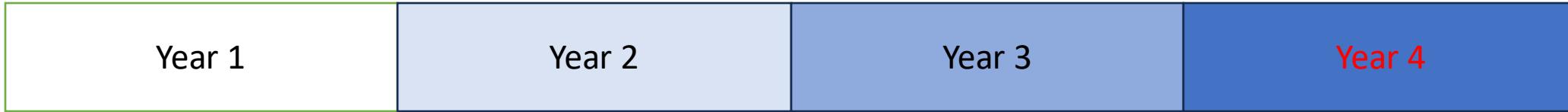
The ISARIC WHO Clinical Characterization Protocol:
Risk Stratification of Patients Admitted to Hospital with COVID-19



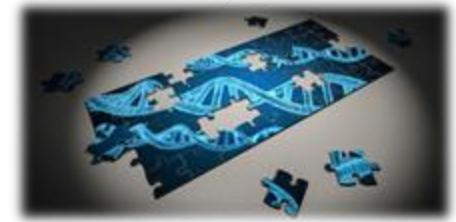
What defines a Post-graduate Research Degree?



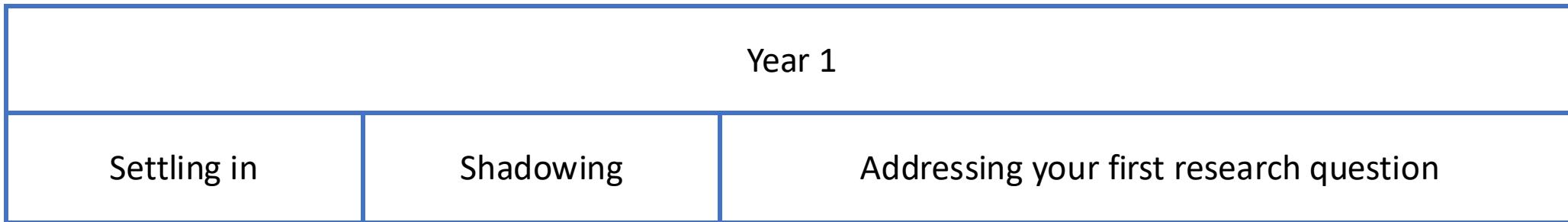
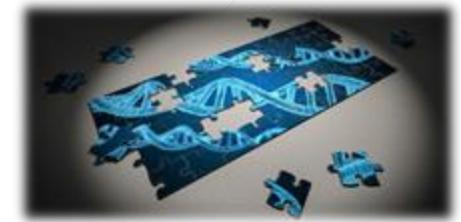
What a typical PhD looks like...



What a typical PhD looks like...

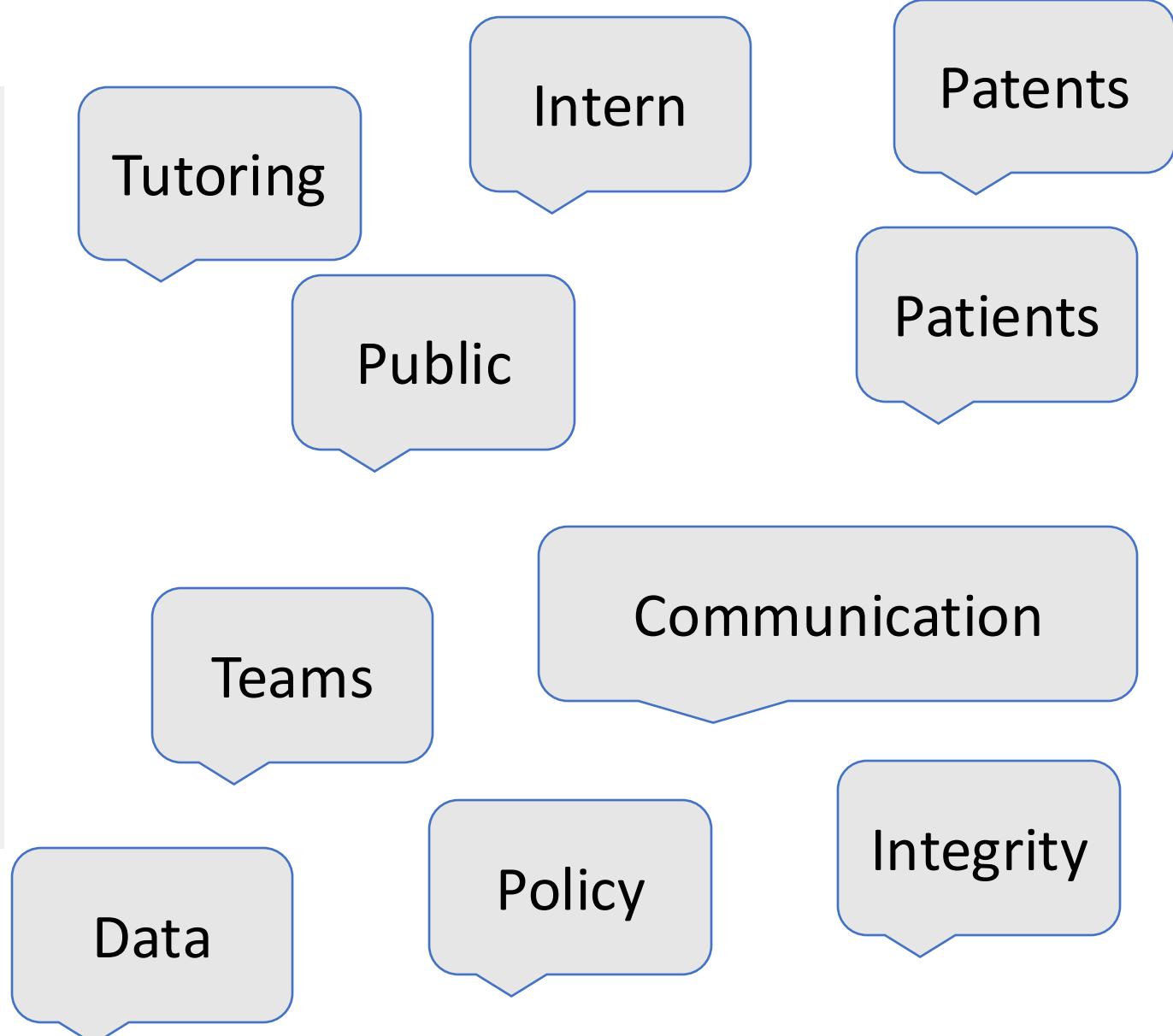
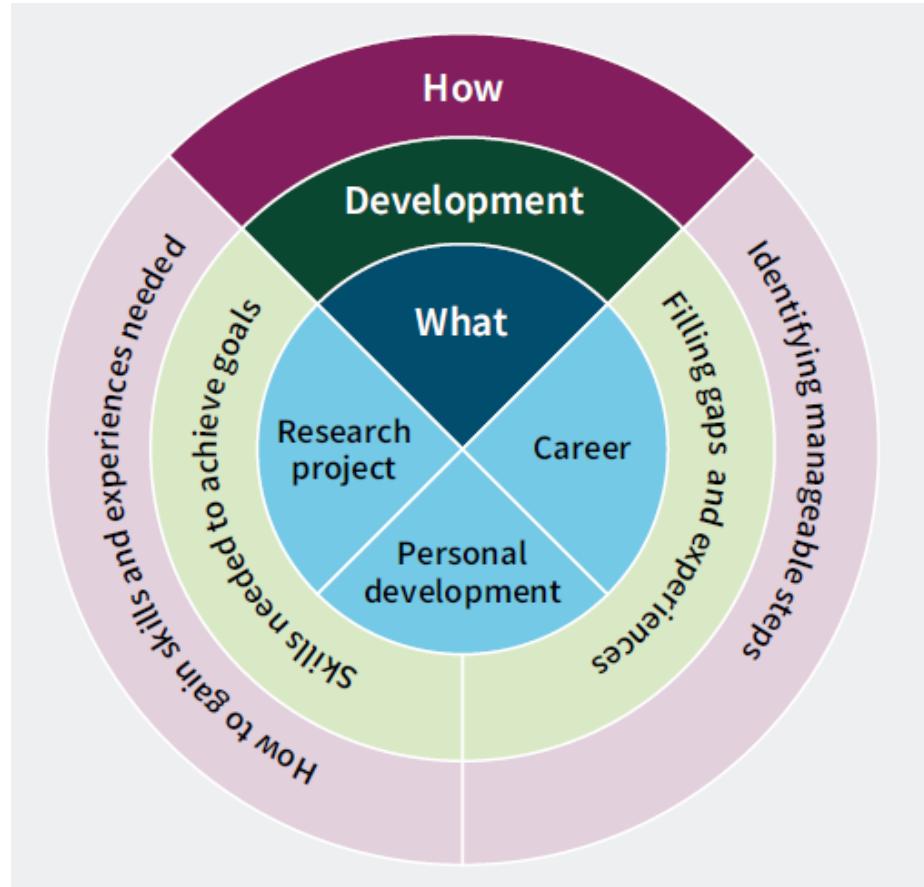


What a typical PhD looks like...



Beyond the Science.....Developing you as a Researcher

Beyond the Science.....Developing you as a Researcher



Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students



<https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/copsupervisorsresearchstudents.pdf>

Careers after Postgraduate Study

Biotech

Health Service

Industry

Science outreach

Policy

Healthcare Technology

Public Health

Publishing

Teaching

Charity

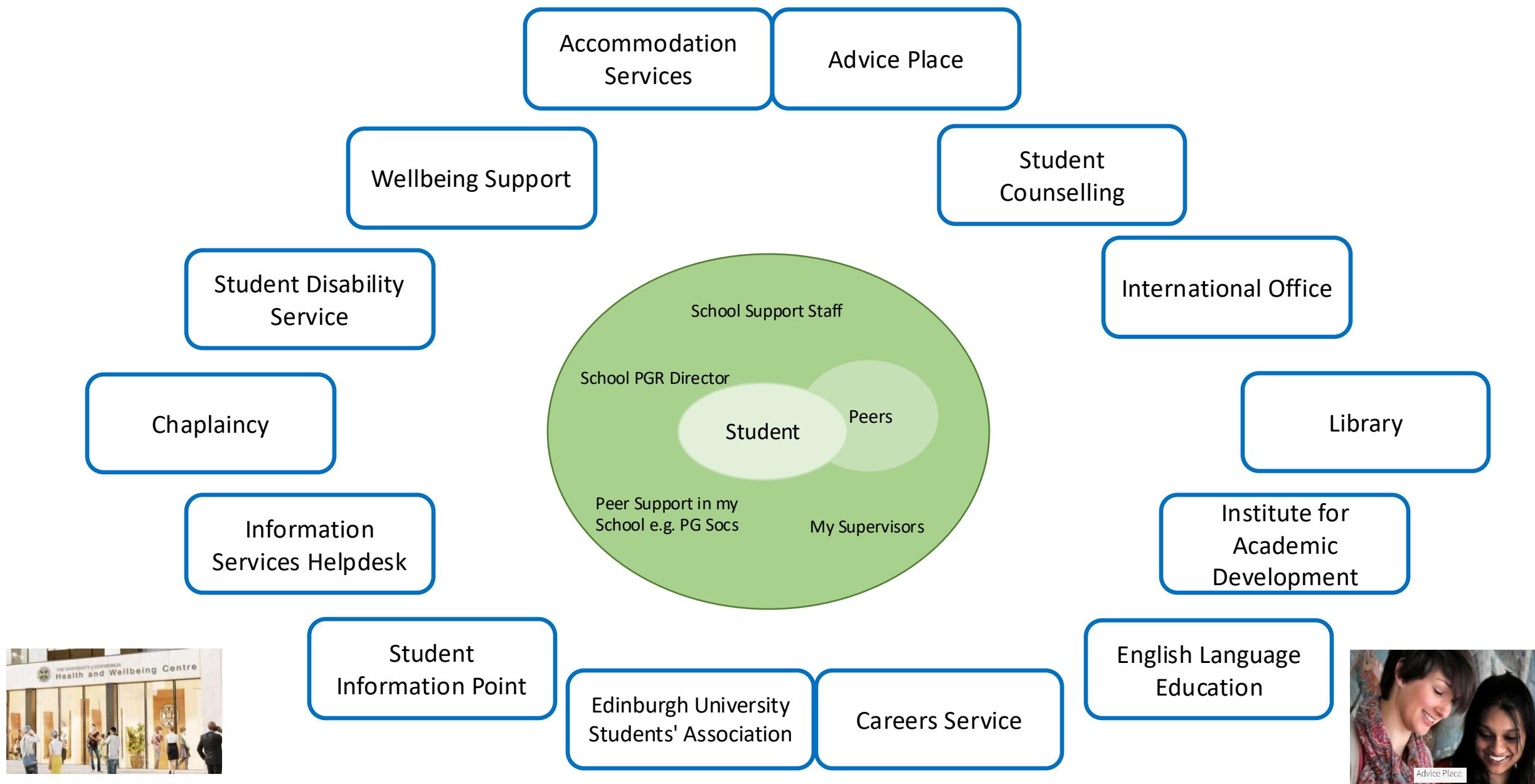
Academia



How to apply

-  Normally advertisements on FindA PhD.com
-  Best to speak to the supervisor and find out about the project
-  CV and statement of research interests
-  Personal Statement.....avoid being generic
-  Interview
-  Programmes differ in length, funding source and amount
-  Support for adjustments, sick leave etc
-  Visas and English Language Requirements
-  2 References

Support networks



Meet Louise ,from Gretna, Scotland

- **What I am studying:**-Functional Genetics and Development at the Roslin Institute. My specific research area is investigating the patterning and formation of tracheal cartilage during embryo development
- **My career objective** – to contribute to our knowledge about animal development and disease
- **The highlight of my PhD so far** – speaking to Nobel prize winner Shinya Yamanaka about his career and hearing his advice for students and early career scientists
- **My biggest challenge in doing a PhD**– deciding which questions to answer! Sometimes results open up multiple avenues to explore but it's impossible to go down all of them however interesting they may be, so deciding what to leave unanswered (for just now) can be difficult
- **The thing I wish I had known before I embarked on a PhD**– the supervisor is just as important as the project, so be sure that you can have a good working relationship with your supervisors and colleagues!



Meet Lydia, from Vigo, Spain

- **What I am studying:-**I am doing a PhD in Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine, at The Centre for Regenerative Medicine.
- **My career objective** – I aim to contribute to the development of treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. Specifically, I would like to study how we can promote the regeneration of neuronal tissues to restore the neuronal circuits and cell populations lost in conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- **The highlight of my PhD so far** – Doing research in a real environment and contributing to the advancement of knowledge in my field. Opportunity to build new connections and meeting people who share the same interests and passion for science and discovery.
- **My biggest challenge in doing a PhD**–realizing that it's not just about tackling the big research questions — the small details matter just as much.. On top of that, there's a huge amount of new knowledge to absorb and many techniques to learn, which can make progress feel slow during the first years.
- **The thing I wish I had known before I embarked on a PhD**–how important it is to take time off from the lab, build a good social network, and have a hobby outside of research.



Meet Miracle, from Nigeria and Canada

- **What I am studying:** I'm a 3rd year PhD Researcher in the Precision Medicine Medical Research Council Doctoral Programme. My research is in neuro-ophthalmology, where I study retinal changes associated with multiple sclerosis and motor neuron disease.
- **My career objective** I aim to pursue an independent research career that builds long-term collaborations across groups studying visual changes in systemic diseases. By leveraging AI, I hope to uncover how underlying disease mechanisms influence the eye—an accessible window into both brain and overall body health.
- **My PhD highlights so far:** My internship, networking, participants' interaction and hobbies
- **My biggest challenge in doing a PhD**—Having so many ideas and very little time to get them out...
- **The thing I wish I had known before I embarked on a PhD**—Have a strong support system in place before starting, and give yourself time before fully diving in. The journey is both a marathon and a sprint—a hybrid process that requires resilience, pacing, and balance.



Meet Sarah, from St. Andrews, Scotland

- **What I am studying:-** 3rd Year Student on the Precision Medicine PhD Program. I study data visualization techniques for communicating medical data to patients in an understandable way
- **My career objective** - To improve the patient experience by aiding the communication and understanding of medical data.
- **The highlight of my PhD so far** – Travelling to Japan for the largest conference in my area (Human Computer Interaction). It was hugely inspiring - the creativity, enthusiasm and knowledge surrounding me was infectious. I won the Student Research Award and took some time to travel Japan afterwards (see photo!).
- **My biggest challenge in doing a PhD**–I have a numerical background (Computer Science and Biochemistry), but my PhD took me in a social sciences direction as I entered the field of design. Working with people and realising the research doesn't always lead to "correct" or "black and white" answers has been... a journey...but a hugely rewarding one
- **The thing I wish I had known before I embarked on a PhD**–The PhD process is a marathon and not a sprint. You will have setbacks, and though your project is unlikely to change the world the PhD journey will bring you experiences, opportunities and knowledge that will change your life.



Meet Siddharth

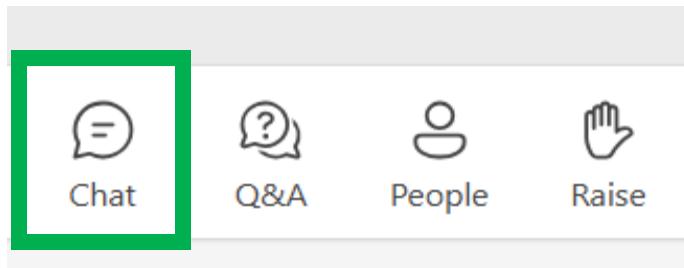
- Where I'm from – New Delhi, India
- What I am studying – I am a PhD student based in the Institute of Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research (INCR) in the Edinburgh BioQuarter. I belong to the flagship 4-year British Heart Foundation (BHF) program. I am working on assessing the cardiovascular risk in pre-eclamptic women using multi-modal retinal imaging
- My career objective – To create value in the society through my PhD. My research will help advance critical understanding to assess preventive measures for severe cardiovascular ailments in women who have had pre-eclamptic births.
- The highlight of my PhD so far – I have just started my PhD, but I am really happy that I am actively involved in research which is so human and patient-centric.
- My biggest challenge in doing a PhD – The biggest challenge in doing a PhD is mastering the art of time management and combating impostor syndrome.
- The thing I wish I had known before I embarked on a PhD – Actively engage in as many conversations as possible with as many folks. A lot can happen over a brief coffee catch-up and several new doors can open.



Asking questions (Microsoft Teams)

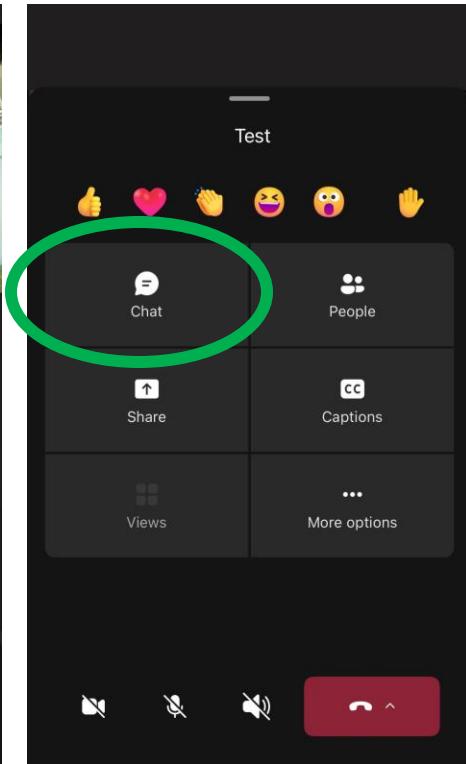
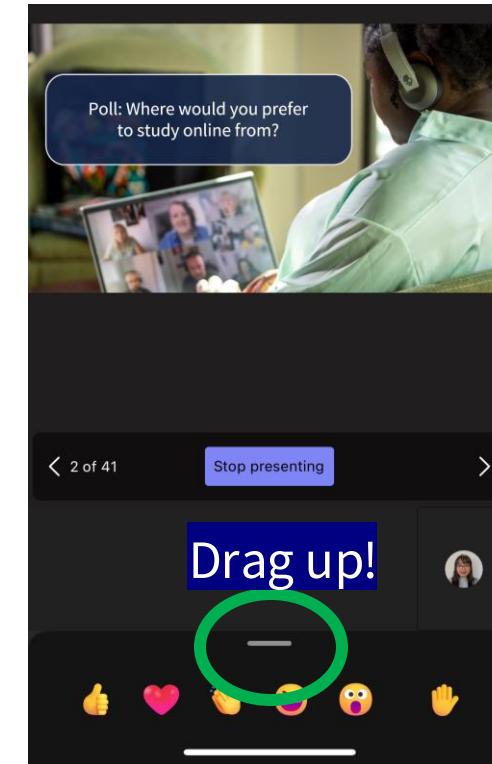
Type your question in the **Chat**, and we'll do our best to answer as many as we can.

Desktop



- If we don't manage to answer, please email futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

Mobile



Did you get the info you were looking for?

- Programme-specific info: <https://postgraduate.degrees.ed.ac.uk/>
- Chat to our Students: <https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>
- Any other questions (including, Fees & Admissions) email:
futurestudents@ed.ac.uk



Read our students' blogs at
blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories



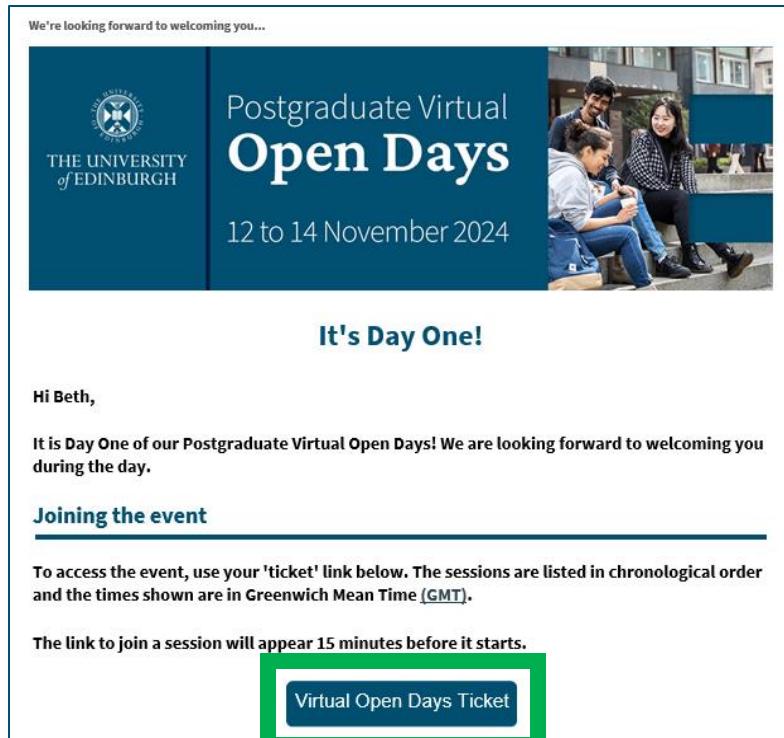
Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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
- Alternatively, provide Programme/Department/Service/School/College contact details as appropriate



Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- Return to your ‘e-ticket’ to find and attend other sessions you’ve booked – by clicking on the button in the email we sent you...
- ...and visit the events hub: <https://edin.ac/4gZuP3G>



The image shows the 'Postgraduate Events Hub' website. The header includes the university logo and the text 'Postgraduate study OPEN DAYS, EVENTS AND VISITS'. The navigation bar shows the path: Home > Study > Postgraduate study > Open days, events & visits > Open Days and Events > Postgraduate Virtual Open Days > Postgraduate Events Hub. A 'Contact us' button is also in the header. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the Postgraduate Events Hub!' and says 'This page complements the live sessions, providing useful resources to support you and links you can explore during the event for more information'. A section titled 'In between sessions'...Discover more about Edinburgh and the University community' lists 'Virtual Visit', 'Student Tours of Edinburgh Neighbourhoods', 'PhD Student Stories', and 'Student Blogs'. A final section titled 'Explore our academic Schools and Student Services' provides a list of schools with an '+' icon to expand.



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Thank you

Prof. Ruth Andrew

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extraordinary futures await