



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Research degrees in History, Classics and Archaeology

Dr Felix Boecking | November 2025

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What we'll cover

- Introduction to the School of History, Classics & Archaeology
- Why Edinburgh?
- Programme information
- Application process
- Time for questions & answers



Who am I?

Dr Felix Boecking

Senior Lecturer; Modern Chinese Economic and Political History

From January 2026 - Postgraduate Research Director,
School of History, Classics and Archaeology in



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Introduction to the School

- Part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science
- Based in the Old Medical School in the Historic Old Town of Central Edinburgh
- The University is consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world
- Postgraduate research community of approximately 150 students, who work with 150 academic staff



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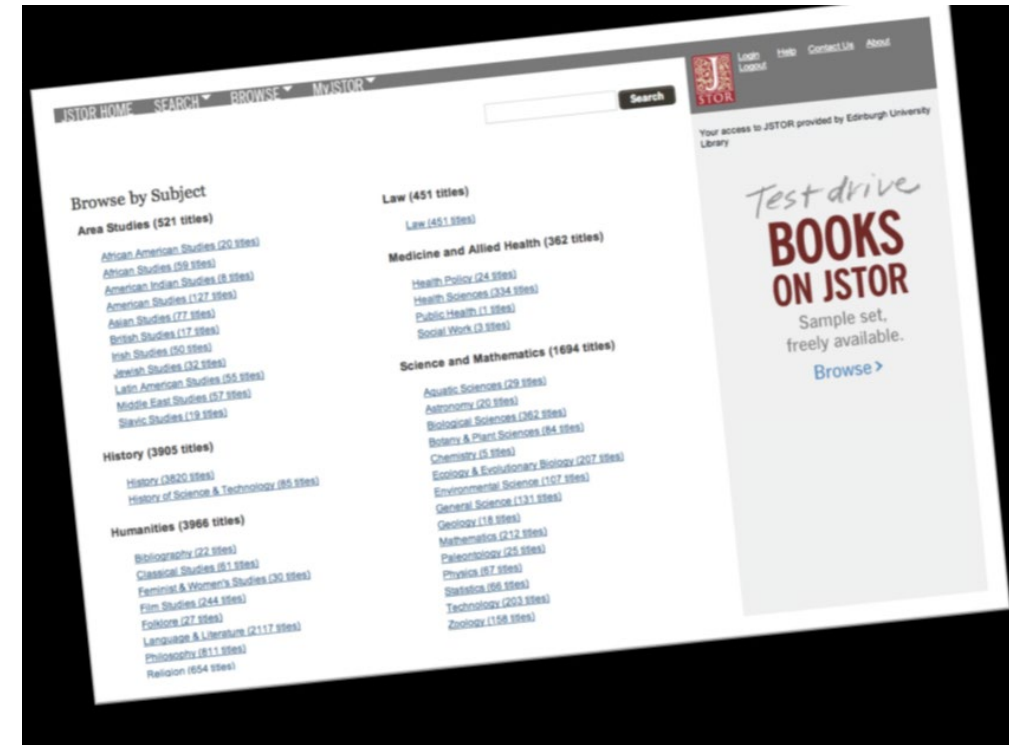
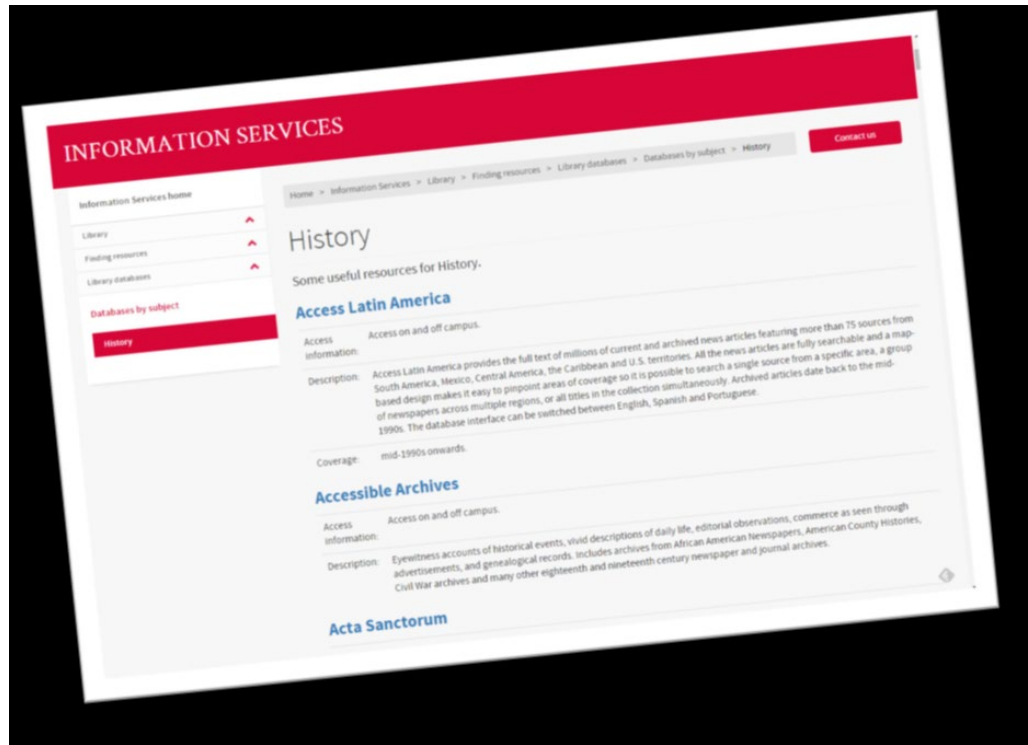
Why Edinburgh? – Resources at your doorstep



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Why Edinburgh? – Primary source databases



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Why Edinburgh? – Research community

- Diverse and international community
- Graduate and staff common room
- Dedicated postgraduate study areas
- School library
- Seminars and research groups



Our research groups



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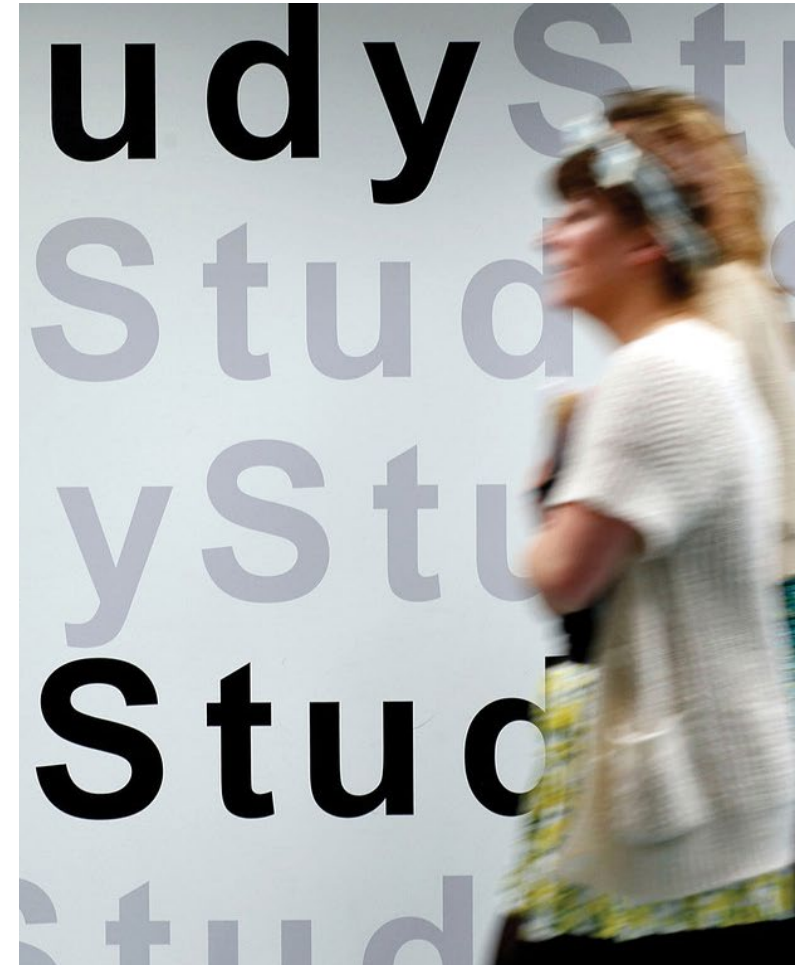
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Our research programmes

MSc (by Research) and PhD programmes in:

- History
- Economic and Social History
- Scottish History
- Classics
- Archaeology

PhD by Distance now an option



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Assessment

MSc (by Research)

- 1 year FT programme (2 year PT for UK)
- Work with supervisory team
- Audit core course/s
- can attend other courses with the agreement of the convener
- 30,000 word dissertation

PhD

- A programme to train you as a researcher
- 3 years full-time / 6 years part-time
- End result: a book length thesis (80,000-100,000 words) which makes an original contribution to knowledge
- Opportunities to engage in conference presentations, conference organisation, creating academic networks, internships, teaching



PhD by Distance

Following differences from the on-campus programme:

- FT or PT options for international students
- No requirement to be in Edinburgh
- Intended for students who have experience of OL studies; have good academic reasons to be based somewhere other than Edinburgh (e.g. access to source materials); have suitable library and IT resources to hand; and who do not require training or wish to take up opportunities (e.g. tutoring) that are only available in Edinburgh
- Same fees as on-campus programmes



PhD review process

- All PhD students have an annual review
- Normally a presentation of thesis topic/progress to a panel including the supervisory team and independent members.
- Student are expected to have circulated documents to the panel in advance. (Typically - thesis outline, a timeline, a piece of writing).
- Panel decides if enough progress has been made to proceed to the next year.



PhD training opportunities

- Various training courses:
 - Research ethics, language training, PhD skills sessions
- Writing workshops
- You may also ‘audit’ some MA or MSc courses relevant to your research



PhD tutoring/demonstrating

- PhD students may get an opportunity to tutor first- or second-year undergraduates or demonstrate in practical sessions to undergraduates and taught MSc students
- Tutoring/demonstrating normally occurs in 2nd and 3rd years
- You will be paid for this work
- This option is only available to students on the on-campus programmes



Find a supervisor

<https://hca.ed.ac.uk/about-us/about-our-staff>



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Applying for study

- Applicants must contact potential supervisors in the first instance and name them when they apply (mode of study should be discussed with them too)
- Online application form – and an additional form for PhD by Distance applicants
- Transcripts/degree certificates
- Evidence of proficiency in English language, where appropriate
- Two references
- Research proposal
- Interview process following initial application
- 5 step application process: hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/how-to-apply



Eligibility

- UK 2:1 honours degree, a minimum US 3.25 GPA or international equivalent, in a subject related to your programme
- PhD requires a relevant masters degree with an overall mark of at least 65%, or the international equivalent
- Cases can also be made for non-standard entry, email hca-pgr@ed.ac.uk



English language

- Find out more about English language requirements:
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements



Fees and funding

- Find out about the cost of studying with us and what funding opportunities are available:

<https://hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/fees-funding>



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Contact details for follow-up questions

- History – Meha.Priyadarshini@ed.ac.uk
- Classics – Simon.Trepanier@ed.ac.uk
- Archaeology – Linda.Fibiger@ed.ac.uk
- More general questions – K.Czajkowski@ed.ac.uk





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Thank you

Dr Felix Boecking

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