



THE UNIVERSITY  
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# 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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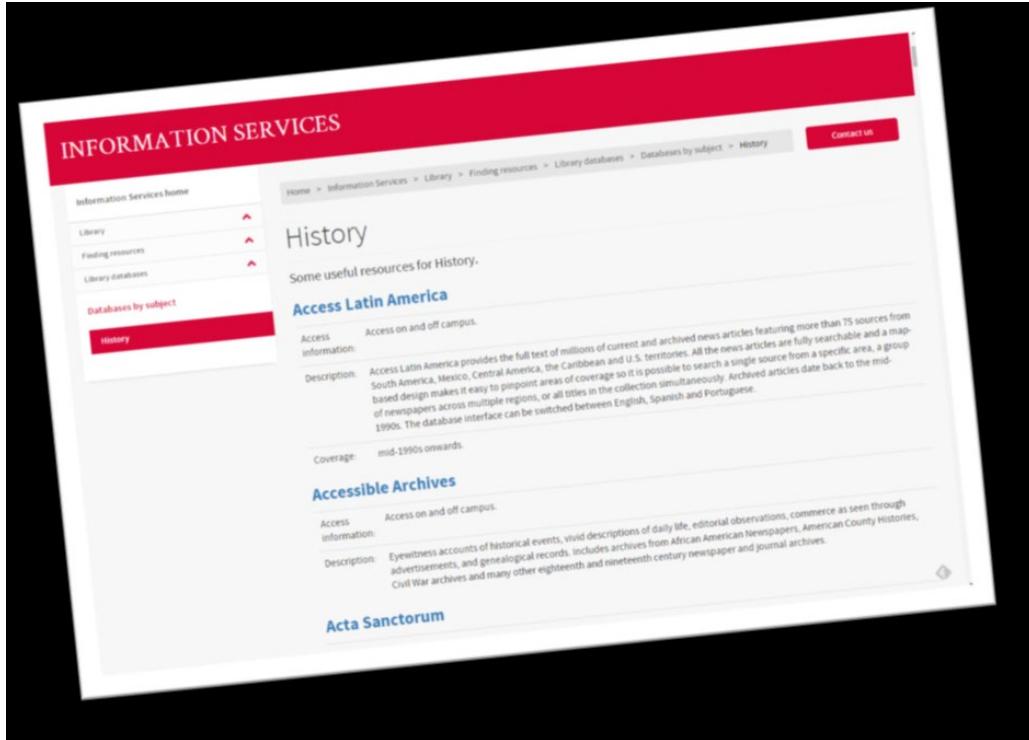
# Why Edinburgh? – Resources at your doorstep



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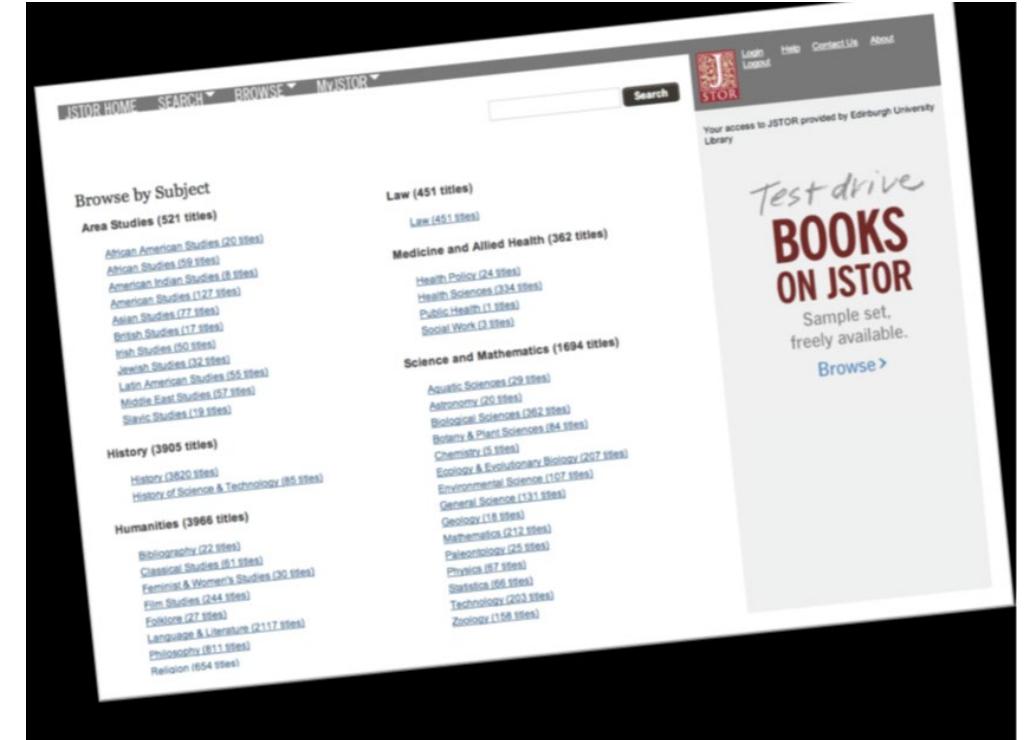
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# Why Edinburgh? – Primary source databases



The screenshot shows the 'INFORMATION SERVICES' section of the Edinburgh University website. The 'History' category is selected in a red sidebar. The main content area displays three resources: 'Access Latin America', 'Accessible Archives', and 'Acta Sanctorum'. Each resource has a brief description, access information, and coverage details.

- Access Latin America**
  - Access: on and off campus.
  - Description: Access Latin America provides the full text of millions of current and archived news articles featuring more than 75 sources from South America, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and U.S. territories. All the news articles are fully searchable and a map-based design makes it easy to pinpoint areas of coverage so it is possible to search a single source from a specific area, a group of newspapers across multiple regions, or all titles in the collection simultaneously. Archived articles date back to the mid-1990s. The database interface can be switched between English, Spanish and Portuguese.
  - Coverage: mid-1990s onwards.
- Accessible Archives**
  - Access: on and off campus.
  - Description: Eyewitness accounts of historical events, vivid descriptions of daily life, editorial observations, commerce as seen through advertisements, and genealogical records. Includes archives from African American Newspapers, American County Histories, Civil War archives and many other eighteenth and nineteenth century newspaper and journal archives.
- Acta Sanctorum**



The screenshot shows the JSTOR homepage. The 'SEARCH' and 'BROWSE' buttons are visible at the top. The main content area is titled 'Browse by Subject' and lists several categories with their respective titles and counts. A large promotional banner on the right says 'Test drive BOOKS ON JSTOR'.

- Browse by Subject**
  - Area Studies (521 titles)**
    - African American Studies (20 titles)
    - African Studies (59 titles)
    - American Indian Studies (8 titles)
    - American Studies (127 titles)
    - Asian Studies (77 titles)
    - British Studies (17 titles)
    - Irish Studies (50 titles)
    - Jewish Studies (32 titles)
    - Latin American Studies (55 titles)
    - Middle East Studies (57 titles)
    - Slavic Studies (19 titles)
  - Law (451 titles)**
    - Law (451 titles)
  - Medicine and Allied Health (362 titles)**
    - Health Policy (24 titles)
    - Health Sciences (334 titles)
    - Public Health (1,388 titles)
    - Social Work (3 titles)
  - Science and Mathematics (1694 titles)**
    - Aquatic Sciences (29 titles)
    - Astronomy (20 titles)
    - Biological Sciences (262 titles)
    - Botany & Plant Sciences (84 titles)
    - Chemistry (5 titles)
    - Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (207 titles)
    - Environmental Science (107 titles)
    - General Science (131 titles)
    - Geology (18 titles)
    - Mathematics (212 titles)
    - Paleontology (25 titles)
    - Physics (57 titles)
    - Statistics (66 titles)
    - Technology (203 titles)
    - Zoology (158 titles)
  - History (3805 titles)**
    - History (3820 titles)
    - History of Science & Technology (85 titles)
  - Humanities (3966 titles)**
    - Bibliography (22 titles)
    - Classical Studies (61 titles)
    - Feminist & Women's Studies (39 titles)
    - Film Studies (244 titles)
    - Folklife (27 titles)
    - Language & Literature (2,117 titles)
    - Philosophy (411 titles)
    - Religion (654 titles)



# 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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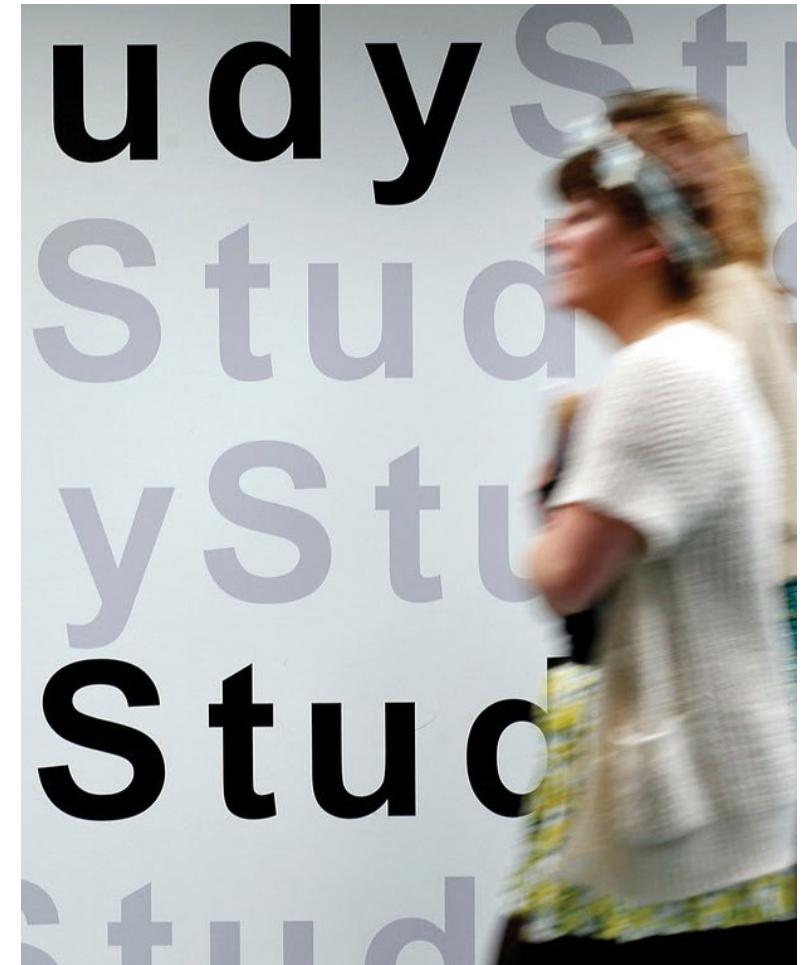
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# Our research programmes

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.
- Students 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements)



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# 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](mailto:Meha.Priyadarshini@ed.ac.uk)
- Classics – [Simon.Trepanier@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Simon.Trepanier@ed.ac.uk)
- Archaeology – [Linda.Fibiger@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Linda.Fibiger@ed.ac.uk)
- More general questions – [K.Czajkowski@ed.ac.uk](mailto:K.Czajkowski@ed.ac.uk)





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# Thank you

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