



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

Postgraduate Opportunities

2021

# Divinity & Religious Studies

[www.ed.ac.uk/divinity](http://www.ed.ac.uk/divinity)

Open to  
the world



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

# Top 50<sup>†</sup>

We're consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world. We're 20<sup>th</sup> in the 2021 QS World University Rankings.

# 19<sup>TH</sup>

We're ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the world's most international universities‡. Since 2010, we have taught students from 160 countries.

# 4<sup>TH</sup>

We're ranked fourth in the UK for research power, based on the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.†

# Top 100

We're ranked in the top 10 in the UK and in the top 100 in the world for the employability of our graduates.§

# 7<sup>TH</sup>

Edinburgh is ranked the seventh best student city in Europe and 15<sup>th</sup> in the world.\*

# 19

There are 19 Nobel Prize winners who are alumni of the University or who have been members of academic staff here.

# Online leader

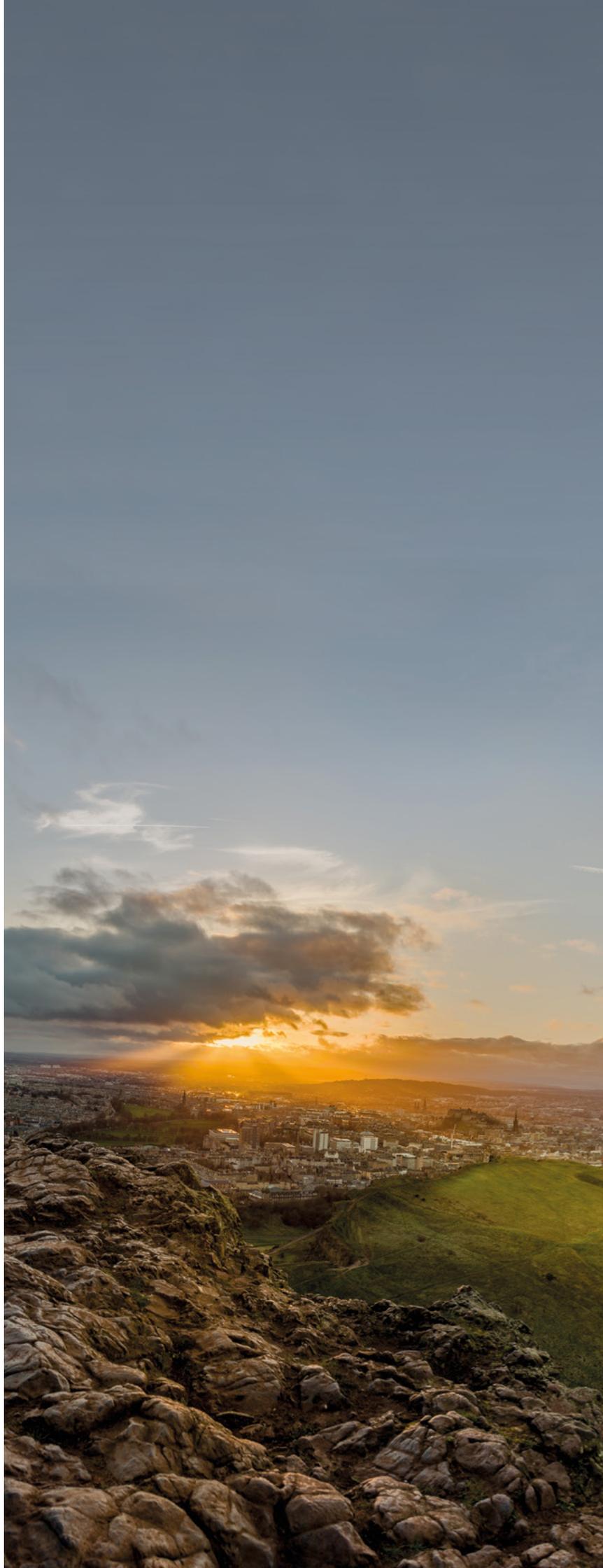
Edinburgh is one of the largest providers of online postgraduate programmes in the UK.

‡ Times Higher Education, The World's Most International Universities 2020

† Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions

§ Times Higher Education, Global Employability University Ranking 2019

\* QS Best Student Cities 2019



## Open to the world

We're open to the world today so we can influence the world tomorrow. The University brings people with new ideas and perspectives together in a spirit of interdisciplinary innovation and collaboration. This has already shaped the world in so many ways, from the great thinkers of the Scottish Enlightenment, to the discovery of the Higgs boson particle and the development of a genetically engineered vaccine for Hepatitis B. Our 21 Schools, across three academic Colleges, embody our approach.







# About the School of Divinity

Theology has been taught at Edinburgh since the foundation of the University in 1583. Now housed in the historic New College building near Edinburgh Castle, the School of Divinity occupies a commanding city-centre site on the Mound, overlooking Princes Street Gardens, the Scottish National Gallery and the Royal Scottish Academy.

You will be part of a community of 450 students (undergraduate and postgraduate) and more than 30 full-time academic staff. This is one of the largest centres for the study of religion in the United Kingdom.

Our international standing for research has been a traditional strength, but is also vital to our identity here and now. Historically, the School's origins lie in providing education for ministers, but today this is a small part of our work. From the 1970s – alongside long-established strengths such as in biblical studies, systematic theology, and the history of Christianity – the School pioneered work on the comparative study of religions. In recent times we have built up areas of expertise in Christian-Muslim relations and in science and religion, and we foster a variety of cutting-edge interdisciplinary approaches.

The ethos of our Graduate School is to promote excellence in postgraduate study within a stimulating and supportive environment. We value equality and diversity in the School community, and an academic culture that is both critical and constructive.

# Our community

Our portfolio of postgraduate opportunities is underpinned by a vibrant intellectual community, which brings together staff and graduate students at every stage of the academic career.

Our research environment is enhanced by research seminars: regular occasions enjoyed by academic staff and research and taught postgraduates. The School also has a lively programme of visiting lectures by internationally known scholars.

The ethos of our Graduate School is to promote excellence in postgraduate study, within a stimulating and supportive environment. We value equality and diversity in the School community, and an academic culture that is both critical and constructive. The postgraduate student committee works closely with the School to make the research student experience the best it can be.

We have a long tradition of welcoming students and staff from around the world and from a range of backgrounds, regardless of gender, sexuality, religion or belief. The University of Edinburgh welcomes and encourages the internationalisation of study and research and within the School we benefit greatly from people of different cultures coming together to research and debate subjects in which they share a deep and abiding interest.

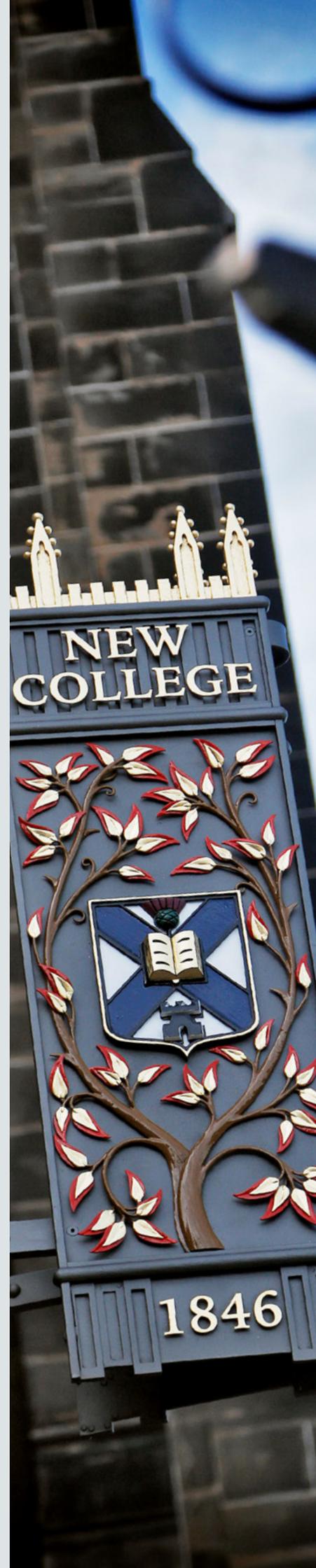
We are proud to be the first theology and religious studies department in the UK to hold an Athena SWAN Silver award for gender equality. We take a personal interest in all our students and offer you a welcoming and friendly setting in which to pursue the exciting and demanding study of theology and religious studies.

You will benefit from monthly gatherings with faculty and fellow students. These gatherings offer a supportive forum in which to discuss issues as diverse as work-life balance, publishing strategies, or dealing with writer's block. After these conversations, we often enjoy coffee and cake.

## Leading lights

The School is led by some of the UK's most respected and high-profile scholars of theology and religion, including:

- **Helen Bond**, Professor in Christian Origins and Head of School, who is a distinguished historian of the New Testament period. She has shared her scholarship more widely by contributing to BBC Radio 3 and 4 and on television to the BBC and Channel 4.
- **David Fergusson**, Professor of Divinity, who has delivered the Gifford Lectures (Glasgow), the Warfield Lectures (Princeton) and the Birks Lectures (Montreal). He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2013.
- **Hannah Holtschneider**, Senior Lecturer in Jewish Studies, who leads a major AHRC-funded project on the immigration of Jews to Scotland from 1880 to 1950, *Jewish Lives, Scottish Spaces*.
- **S. Jay Brown**, Professor of Ecclesiastical History, is one of the most distinguished historians of Christianity working in the UK. A past president of the Ecclesiastical History Society, he has published extensively on social Christianity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Oxford Movement, and the place of Christianity in the British Empire.
- **Mona Siddiqui**, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies and the University's Assistant Principal for Religion and Society, who is a well-known contributor to broadcast and print media. From 2016 to 2018 Professor Siddiqui chaired an independent review for the Home Office of Shari'a councils in the UK.
- **Jolyon Mitchell**, Professor of Communications, Arts and Religion, worked as a producer and journalist for BBC World Service and BBC Radio 4 before he was appointed to the University. His interests focus on religion, violence and peacebuilding with particular reference to the arts. He is Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, and President of TRS-UK, the national association for theology and religious studies.



# Employability and graduate attributes

Here at Edinburgh we believe in offering you the best possible support for your studies and in preparation for your future. Our local learning support along with the central Careers Service play a large part in this.

A postgraduate qualification from the School of Divinity prepares you for a vast array of employment, depending on your subject area.

You will develop transferable skills, which could be applied in a wide range of careers such as advocacy, community development, counselling, crisis services, public relations, journalism, social work and teaching.

## **Institute for Academic Development**

All postgraduate students can benefit from our Institute for Academic Development (IAD), which provides information, events and courses to develop the skills you will need throughout your studies and in the future. IAD events also offer the perfect opportunity to meet and network with other postgraduates from across the University.

Further information is available online:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/iad/postgraduates](http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/postgraduates)

For taught postgraduates, the IAD provides a popular study-related and transferable skills support programme. It is designed to help you settle into postgraduate life, succeed during your studies and move confidently to the next stage of your career. It offers on-campus and online, workshops and one-to-one study skills consultations, as well as online advice and learning resources in the Study Hub ([www.ed.ac.uk/iad/studyhub](http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/studyhub)). The programme and learning resources cover key study skills tailored to different academic stages, including prearrival sessions; getting started with your studies; critical reading, writing and thinking; managing your exams; and planning for and writing up your dissertation.

IAD also provides a comprehensive programme of transferable-skills training, resources and support for researchers completing a doctorate. The programme consists of workshops that are designed to help you successfully prepare for the

various milestones of your PhD, from getting started with your research to writing up and preparing for the viva, as well as developing personal and professional skills that can be transferred to your future employment. Workshops cover topics such as writing skills, reference management tools, statistics, preparing for conferences, delivering presentations, time and project management, and personal development. IAD also offers online resources and planning tools to help get your research started, as well as support for tutoring and demonstrating, and public engagement and communication.

## **Careers Service**

Our Careers Service plays an essential part in your wider student experience at the University, offering a range of tailored careers and personal development guidance and support. We support you to recognise the wealth of possibilities ahead, while at university and after graduation, helping you explore new avenues, tap into your talents and build your employability with confidence and enthusiasm.

From exploring career options to making decisions, from CV writing to interview practice, from Employ.ed internships to graduate posts and from careers fairs to postgraduate alumni events, we will help you prepare for the future.

We sustain and continually develop links with employers from all industries and employment sectors, from the world's top recruiters to small enterprises based here in Edinburgh. Our employer team provides a programme of opportunities for you to meet employers on campus and virtually, and advertises a wide range of part-time and graduate jobs.

More information:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/careers/postgrad](http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers/postgrad)

## **Platform One**

We provide opportunities for students to draw on the knowledge and experience of our worldwide alumni network through lectures, workshops and panel discussions, and online via Platform One. This supportive environment allows students, alumni, staff and volunteers to gather to share their knowledge and experiences and discuss ideas, plans and possibilities.

More information:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/platform-one](http://www.ed.ac.uk/platform-one)

## **Open to new ideas**

If you consider yourself something of an entrepreneur, you'll be interested to know that Edinburgh is an entrepreneurial city, home to two of the UK's \$1 billion-valued unicorn companies. We boast one of the most entrepreneurial student bodies in the UK and have helped students launch nearly 100 startups in the last two years. One in five of those startups was a social enterprise. Edinburgh Innovations, the University's commercialisation service, offers free support to student entrepreneurs including one-to-one business advice and a range of workshops, bootcamps, competitions and networking events. Successful recent clients include Orfeas Boteas, creator of the Dehumaniser sound effects software used by Hollywood movies and blockbuster video games; Douglas Martin, whose company MiAlgae aims to revolutionise the global aquaculture and pet food industries; and Aayush Goyal and Karis Gill, whose gift box enterprise Social Stories Club brings ethical products to a wider market: [www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-innovations/for-students](http://www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-innovations/for-students)

# Open to the world

The University of Edinburgh has been influencing the world since 1583. Our Schools have a long history of making a difference but it isn't one we take for granted. To this day, we strive to deliver excellence and help address tomorrow's greatest challenges.

Here's a snapshot of what your School's community has been up to recently.

## Professor elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

**Mona Siddiqui OBE, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the School of Divinity, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.**

Professor Siddiqui's election, made in recognition of the high regard in which she is held by leaders in her field, puts her in the company of previous members including George Washington, Martin Luther King, Albert Einstein and Nelson Mandela.

The prestigious academy was founded in 1780 to recognise excellence and convene leaders from every field to cultivate art and science and 'advance the interest, honour, dignity and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people'. Current members include Nobel laureates and Pulitzer prize winners.

**"It is a great privilege to be elected to such a prestigious organisation. I would like to humbly thank those members who nominated and elected me. It is lovely news."**

**Mona Siddiqui OBE**  
**Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies**

Professor Siddiqui joined the University in 2011 and is now Assistant Principal for Religion and Society and Dean International for the Middle-East.

An internationally renowned public figure, she recently received the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation from the Archbishop of Canterbury as 'one of the UK's most eloquent and articulate advocates for interfaith dialogue and a most cogent commentator on current affairs, religion and public life'.





## Students called to SERVE

Student volunteers from the School of Divinity are reaching out to the local community and supporting people in Edinburgh through social action and mission.

The volunteer group, called SERVE, has been active since 2017 and works with local organisations on health and wellbeing projects.

Recent activities have included *Singing by Heart*, sharing song and chatting to care home residents; *Soul Food*, providing meals for the needy in a homely atmosphere; and *Holyrood Harvest*, a community gardening project to improve green spaces and get local residents active.

SERVE also runs a weekly, term-time kids club and is actively seeking new volunteers to assist.

“I wanted to do something practical alongside my studies and have been involved in SERVE since it was launched. I have participated most in *Singing by Heart*, a dementia-friendly music programme developed by the Salvation Army. I love it – we go into care homes and sing and pray with the residents. The moments I enjoy most are when I don’t know a song very well but the residents do and they lead the singing. It is so much fun and a privilege to take part.”

Gemma King  
PhD History of Christianity student

# UK first gender equality award

In 2019, the School of Divinity became the first theology and religious studies department in the UK to achieve an Athena SWAN silver award for gender equality.

Athena SWAN awards recognise a commitment to advancing the careers of women in higher education and research. The silver award requires commitment to ten principles promoting and supporting gender equality, particularly removing obstacles to women’s advancement, ensuring equal pay and mainstreaming support, through action at all levels across the School.

The School’s successful application was led by Dr Naomi Appleton and the Equality and Diversity (E&D) committee.

“The Athena Swan award is not only a recognition of the progress made to date in matters of equality and diversity in the School. This honour is also awarded on the basis of the active goals of the School to effect real change and improvement, particularly in issues of gender equality. This is therefore a very positive moment for all current and future students.”

Áine Warren  
Postgraduate student

The School of Divinity was first bronze award rated in 2014. The University of Edinburgh itself is silver award rated as an institution. Its Schools and other components collectively hold 11 bronze, 10 silver and one gold award.

“I’m delighted that Divinity has been awarded the Silver Athena Swan award. We are the first School of Divinity in the UK to gain this recognition. This marks the culmination of a huge amount of effort over the last few years and reflects the School’s concern for gender awareness and diversity.”

Professor Helen Bond  
Head of School



# PhD candidate wins prestigious studentship

Research exploring the inequality and faith experiences of women in southeast Asia has been recognised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Nuam Hatzaw, who achieved a distinction studying MTh World Christianity at the School of Divinity before progressing to her PhD, won an AHRC doctoral training award through the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities. The award will cover her tuition and fieldwork expenses and provide a monthly stipend.

Nuam is researching the experiences, beliefs, and practices of Zomi women living in extreme poverty and inequality in Chin State, Myanmar. Chin State is Myanmar's poorest region, falling far below the rest of the country in terms of its social and economic development. Zomi women also struggle with a second-class status in society, adding a gendered dimension to life there.

“With this funding, I'll be able to live with and among Zomi women, researching the ways in which their faith helps and empowers them in difficult circumstances. I'm Zomi myself but I grew up in Britain, so on a personal level, I'm looking forward to spending time in the place of my birth and reconnecting with my roots.”

**Nuam Hatzaw**  
PhD student



# Unlocking the power of Gaidinliu

Funding from the University's Challenge Investment Fund, secured by Dr Arkotong Longkumer, could pave the way for a virtual exhibition of the 'magical' notebooks of Indian activist and prophetess, Gaidinliu.

Gaidinliu (1915-1993) was born into the Rongmei tribe in the Naga region of North East India. Aged around 13, Gaidinliu led an uprising to drive the British out of the Naga areas but was imprisoned and only released after Indian independence in 1947.

The British confiscated artefacts including Gaidinliu's notebooks, body cloths, bracelets, amulets and ritual objects – all now in the Pitt Rivers Museum at the University of Oxford.

“The British thought the ‘meaningless scribbles’ in the notebooks were a kind of a ‘magical script’ that Gaidinliu used to inspire her supporters. Her followers also view her artefacts as embodied with magical powers, based on her close association with the python king, a mythical snake that resides in Zailad Lake, in Manipur.

“The UK partners will discuss the pragmatic possibilities of organising a virtual exhibition of Gaidinliu's artefacts. I will then travel to Assam and Nagaland to consult the community about how the artefacts can be viewed and engaged with. An online exhibition could not only unlock the mystery of Gaidinliu's notebooks but also address contemporary issues around the repatriation of colonial objects.”

**Dr Arkotong Longkumer**  
Senior Lecturer in Modern Asia



# Major grant to explore theologies of nature

Researchers from the School of Divinity have received a £2.4 million grant for a collaborative international research project.

Dr Mark Harris and Dr Sarah Lane Ritchie have won funding for *God and the Book of Nature* from the John Templeton Foundation. The initiative will see them build a network of theologians and religious philosophers to form a wide-ranging collaborative engagement with the natural sciences.

The John Templeton Foundation is inspired by the intellectual legacy of the late Wall Street financier and philanthropist Sir John Templeton. It serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the deepest and most perplexing questions facing humankind.

Ten research fellows will be appointed, forming research groups across universities in the UK, USA and mainland Europe which have already demonstrated a strong track record in science-engaged theology.

“Our *God and the Book of Nature* project will start from existing work in science-engaged theology and aim towards building theologies of nature around three themes. Each of our themes – God and Nature, Mind and Nature, and Naturalism(s) and Nature – will be addressed by at least two research groups within the network.”

**Dr Mark Harris**  
Professor of Natural Science and Theology



# Our teaching

We offer seven taught masters degrees, most of which can be taken either as a Master of Theology (MTh) or a Master of Science (MSc), the difference being one of name only.

Our taught masters programmes are designed to deepen knowledge in a subject you will typically have studied at undergraduate level, although they can in some cases offer a new direction in your academic career.

Taught masters degrees take 12 months, consisting of two semesters of taught courses followed by an individually supervised dissertation. They can also be studied part-time over two years by UK students.

At the time of printing, our planned taught degrees for 2021 are:

- **Biblical Studies** (MTh/MSc)
- **Islam & Christian-Muslim Relations** (MSc)
- **Religion & Literature** (MTh/MSc)
- **Religious Studies** (MSc)
- **Science & Religion** (MSc)
- **Theology in History** (MTh/MSc)
- **World Christianity** (MTh/MSc)

Please check our online degree finder for the most up-to-date information available on our taught postgraduate opportunities and to make an application:  
[www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees)

“New College helped me learn how to adapt my communication style, challenge ideas and construct arguments. It provided a safe environment to experience working with different cultures and beliefs where people didn’t always think like I did. I draw on all these skills nearly every day.”

**Ellie Williams**, School of Divinity alumna

“Pursuing my masters degree and PhD at New College has been a life-changing experience. The world-leading experts, first-class research facilities and vibrant postgraduate community enabled me to thrive as a young researcher and prepared me for a lifetime of scholarship. I highly recommend New College to anyone who wants to work on the cutting-edge of traditional and emerging disciplines in theology and religion.”

**Matthew Baines**  
PhD Systematic Theology



# Facilities and resources

The School of Divinity has its own unique library, dining and socialising areas, and a strong sense of community between students and staff, as well as being part of a large, world-class university.

New College Library has one of the largest theology collections in the UK, with more than a quarter of a million items and a large and rich manuscript collection, including the papers of Thomas Chalmers, John Baillie, JH Oldham and James S Stewart.

The strengths of the Library collections contribute greatly to the teaching and research of members of the School as well as students elsewhere in the University. These collections are complemented by the many resources available in the University and beyond. The total holdings in all the University libraries exceed 2.25 million volumes. In addition, the National Library of Scotland holds more than five million volumes. The New College Library boasts a magnificent reading hall, originally built as the sanctuary of the Free High Kirk.

The School provides extensive and well-equipped computing facilities for coursework and research at all levels, including dissertations. All students have access to computers, scanners and printers, across four labs.

Postgraduate students are provided with dedicated study spaces in the Ramsay Lane Wing and Semples Close Wing of New College. Both are accessible 24 hours a day via a secure swipe-card entry system.

New College's gothic Rainy Hall provides a marvellous setting for dining and a welcoming social space for lively conversation and informal debate. The New College complex is also home to the General Assembly Hall of the Church of Scotland.



A panoramic tour of New College:  
[edin.ac/divinitytour](https://edin.ac/divinitytour)

# Research at the School of Divinity

The School of Divinity is home to a thriving research community. All of our academic staff are engaged in individual research and writing projects and many are also involved in collaborative projects with colleagues across the globe.

## The Graduate School

The Graduate School is a diverse and stimulating research environment. You will join a community of around 150 research students, mostly PhDs but also MPhil and Masters by Research students. This community is drawn from around the world, and from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds.

Research supervision is provided by a team of more than 30 full-time academic staff – internationally respected scholars who cover a wide range of specialisms.

The last Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) gave a high rating to the quality of research by our academic staff. The REF rated 78 per cent of our research in theology and religious studies either 4\* world leading or 3\* internationally excellent on the overall quality profile.

Crucially for you as a research student, the School's research environment was reviewed in the REF and was rated at 100 per cent either 4\* world leading or 3\* internationally excellent.

We were also ranked fourth in the UK and first in Scotland for research power (Research Fortnight REF 2014).

These outstanding results reflect our lively and diverse programme of weekly research seminars, our special guest lectures from internationally distinguished scholars, and the vibrancy of our research centres and overall research culture.

The resources for research are excellent. As a graduate researcher you can draw on the holdings of the specialist library at New College, the University of Edinburgh's main library, and the nearby National Library of Scotland. You will be provided with research training and can take advantage of opportunities to learn ancient and modern languages.

A formal University review previously commended the Graduate School for the excellent support it provides to students; for its responsiveness to student feedback; for its proactive approach to helping students to integrate into life at New College and the University, and into Scotland and the UK; and for its enthusiasm and practical support for career development. The postgraduate student committee works closely with the School to make the research student experience the best it can be.

You can enrol for a research programme in a wide range of areas: ethics and practical theology; Hebrew and Old Testament studies; history of Christianity; Islamic studies and Christian-Muslim relations; New Testament and Christian origins; religious studies; science and religion; systematic theology; or world Christianity. You are encouraged to contact a potential supervisor to discuss your research project before making a formal application. Details of academic staff research interests and email addresses can be found on our website.

## Research centres

All academic staff are engaged in research, and the School runs weekly research seminars in all its disciplines, but in three areas our research centres provide a special focus for activity.

### Centre for the Study of Christian Origins

This Centre (CSCO) bridges the study of New Testament and earliest Christianity. It provides a means of linking interested scholars and graduate students from the University of Edinburgh and beyond. Its activities reach across several traditional disciplines, such as New Testament/Christian origins, patristics, Roman history, archaeology, Second-Temple Judaism, and palaeography. The Centre stages a variety of lectures, seminars and conferences.

### Centre for Theology and Public Issues

This Centre (CTPI) was founded in 1984 as the world's first centre for research on public theology. It promotes theological reflection on public life and it brings together theologians, social scientists, church leaders, policy makers and the broader public. Recent focus areas include peace building through the media and the arts; religion and ethics in the making of war and peace; and the Millennium Development Goals. The Centre is an active member of the Global Network for Public Theology, an academic research partnership that promotes theological contributions on public issues.

### Centre for the Study of World Christianity

This Centre (CSWC) advances high-quality scholarship in Christianity as a polycentric faith, whose adherents are now far more numerous in the southern hemisphere – the majority world – than in Europe or North America. The Centre supports scholars and graduate students by its seminars and conferences, and by research supervision, to make a distinctive and distinguished contribution to all areas of the study of world Christianity. Since 1992 the Centre has collaborated with Yale University Divinity School to run the annual Yale-Edinburgh conference on the History of the Missionary Movement and World Christianity.

Our Point of Contact peer-support system links incoming and current PhD students.

# Research opportunities

We offer two types of research-based masters, as well as PhDs.

## Masters by Research

If you have academic training in theology or religious studies (or another relevant subject), and would like to develop your interest with a focus on a particular area, the Masters by Research may interest you. This programme can be taken as a Master of Theology by Research or a Master of Science by Research – the difference is only in the name. You can study full-time (one year) or part-time (two years). You can either submit two 4,000-word essays and one 7,500-word essay, or two 7,500-word essays plus your dissertation. All students receive research training.

## Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

Studying for an MPhil commits you to at least two years' full-time study and to writing a thesis of up to 50,000 words. You will have regular 1:1 supervision and work with advice from two supervisors. During the first year you explore your chosen area of research and refine your research proposal. At around the nine-month mark, you will submit a draft chapter for discussion at a Review Board, together with a developed proposal for the whole thesis. On the basis of your progress to date, and the prospects for your research, the Review Board will make recommendations on the continuation of your studies into the second year.

## Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Research for a PhD requires you to undertake at least three years' full-time study and write a thesis of up to 100,000 words. You will have regular 1:1 supervision and work with advice from two supervisors. For admission to the PhD programme, you will need to show a proven ability to sustain independent research under supervision, normally in the form of a masters programme that includes a dissertation. From the beginning, the British

pattern of PhD studies focuses on working towards the thesis – there is little or no coursework. Thus you will need to be well-prepared in any special skills you need for your research project, including languages, and competent in academic writing in English. During the first year you explore your chosen area of research and refine your research proposal. At around the nine-month mark, you will submit a draft chapter for discussion at a review board, together with a developed proposal for the whole thesis. On the basis of your progress-to-date, and the prospects for your research, the review board will make recommendations on the continuation of your studies into the second year. You will then have an annual review to discuss your progress.

## PhD by Distance

Those who find it impossible to relocate within regular travelling distance of Edinburgh for full-time study may now apply to take our PhD programmes on a part-time, distance basis. This involves making two visits of two weeks each to Edinburgh in the first year and one visit of at least two weeks for the remaining five years of part-time study. Applicants for this route of study will be required to complete a separate Application Form for Distance Applicants in addition to your standard supporting documentation. For further information please email: [divinity.pg@ed.ac.uk](mailto:divinity.pg@ed.ac.uk)

## Research opportunities

At the time of printing, our planned postgraduate research opportunities for 2021 are:

- **Ethics & Practical Theology** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Hebrew & Old Testament Studies** (PhD/MPhil)
- **History of Christianity** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Islamic Studies & Christian-Muslim Relations** (PhD/MPhil)
- **New Testament & Christian Origins** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Religious Studies** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Science & Religion** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Systematic Theology** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Theology & Religious Studies** (MTh or MSc by Research)
- **World Christianity** (PhD/MPhil)

Please check our online degree finder for the most up-to-date information available on our postgraduate research opportunities and to make an application.

**Research degree index:** [www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees/research](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees/research)

**PhD research projects:**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/phd-research-projects](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/phd-research-projects)

**Advice on finding a research supervisor:**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/research](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/research)

Some PhD students travel abroad – for library/archive research, fieldwork, or to learn a language.

## See also...

You may also be interested in research areas offered by other Schools, such as the Schools of History, Classics & Archaeology; Literatures, Languages & Cultures; Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences; or Social & Political Science.  
[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/prospectus-request](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/prospectus-request)

# Funding

A large number of scholarships, loans and other funding schemes are available for your postgraduate studies. It is only possible to show a small selection in print. To see the full range, please visit: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate)

Awards are offered by the School of Divinity, the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish, UK and international governments and many funding bodies.

Here we list a selection of potential sources of financial support for postgraduate students applying to the School of Divinity. This list was correct at the time of printing but please check the full and up to date range online (see above).

## University of Edinburgh Alumni Scholarships

We offer a 10 per cent scholarship towards postgraduate fees to all alumni who graduated from the University as an undergraduate, and to all students who spent at least one semester studying at the University on a visiting programme: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/alumni-scholarships](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/alumni-scholarships)

### Key

- Taught masters degrees
- Masters by Research degrees
- Research degrees

## Scholarships at the University of Edinburgh

- **College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Research Awards** ●  
College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Research Awards are open to those admitted to the first year of PhD research: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/research-ahss](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/research-ahss)
- **The Desmond Tutu/Church of Scotland Masters Scholarship (Africa)** ●  
One scholarship will be awarded to a student from Africa on a full-time masters degree in the School of Divinity: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/tutu](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/tutu)
- **The Kirby Laing International Scholarships** ●●  
Up to three scholarships are available to applicants domiciled in the 'Majority World' for postgraduate masters study: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/kirby-laing](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/kirby-laing)
- **Principal's Career Development PhD Scholarships** ●  
These prestigious scholarships give access to any applicant from around the world to undertake discipline training and additional skills development. Students are encouraged to engage with entrepreneurial training, teaching, outreach and industrial engagement. Each award covers the tuition fee and full stipend: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/development](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/development)
- **School of Divinity Postgraduate Research Scholarships** ●●  
A number of scholarships are available for postgraduate research applicants: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/school-scholarships](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/school-scholarships)
- **School of Divinity Postgraduate Masters Scholarships** ●●  
A number of scholarships are available for postgraduate masters applicants: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/divinity-masters](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/divinity-masters)

## Research Council (UKRI) funding

The UKRI offers awards to PhD students in most of the Schools within the University of Edinburgh. All studentship applications for UKRI awards must be made through the University, through your School or College office. Normally only those UK students who have been resident in the UK for the preceding three years are eligible for a full award. Please check individual UKRI pages on the University website for full eligibility criteria: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/research-councils](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/research-councils)

## Loans available for study at the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is a participating institution in the following loans programmes, meaning we certify your student status and can help with the application process.

- **The Canada Student Loans Program** ●●●  
The University is eligible to certify Canadian student loan applications: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/canadian-loans](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/canadian-loans)
- **Postgraduate Doctoral Loans England** ●  
Student Finance England offers postgraduate loans for doctoral study, payable to eligible students and divided equally across each year of the doctoral programme: [www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan](http://www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan)
- **Postgraduate Doctoral Loans Wales** ●  
Student Finance Wales offers loans for postgraduate doctoral study, payable to eligible students, divided equally across each year of the doctoral programme: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/postgraduate-students/postgraduate-doctoral-loan](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/postgraduate-students/postgraduate-doctoral-loan)
- **Postgraduate Loans (PGL) England** ●●  
Student Finance England offers postgraduate loans for taught and research masters programmes, payable to eligible students: [www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan](http://www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan)

- **Postgraduate Loans (PGL) Northern Ireland** ●●

Student Finance Northern Ireland offers eligible students a tuition fee loan for taught and research programmes, at certificate, diploma, and masters level, which will be paid directly to the University: [www.studentfinancenir.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk)

- **Postgraduate Loans (SAAS)** ●●

The Student Awards Agency Scotland offers eligible students tuition fee loans for taught and research programmes at diploma and masters level, which will be paid directly to the University. Eligible students can also apply for a non-income assessed living cost loan: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

- **Postgraduate Master's Finance Wales** ●●

Student Finance Wales offers eligible students postgraduate finance for taught and research masters programmes: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

- **US Student Loans** ●●●

The University is eligible to certify loan applications for US loan students. Full details on eligibility and how to apply can be found online: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/us-loans](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/us-loans)

### Other sources of funding

The following are examples of the many scholarships and support schemes available to students from particular countries who meet certain eligibility criteria.

- **Chevening Scholarships** ●●

A number of partial and full funding scholarships are available to one-year masters students: [www.chevening.org](http://www.chevening.org)

- **Commonwealth Scholarships** ●●●

Scholarships available to students who are resident in any Commonwealth country, other than the UK: [www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk)

- **Marshall Scholarships (USA)** ●●●

Scholarships available to outstanding US students wishing to study at any UK university for at least two years: [www.marshallscholarship.org](http://www.marshallscholarship.org)



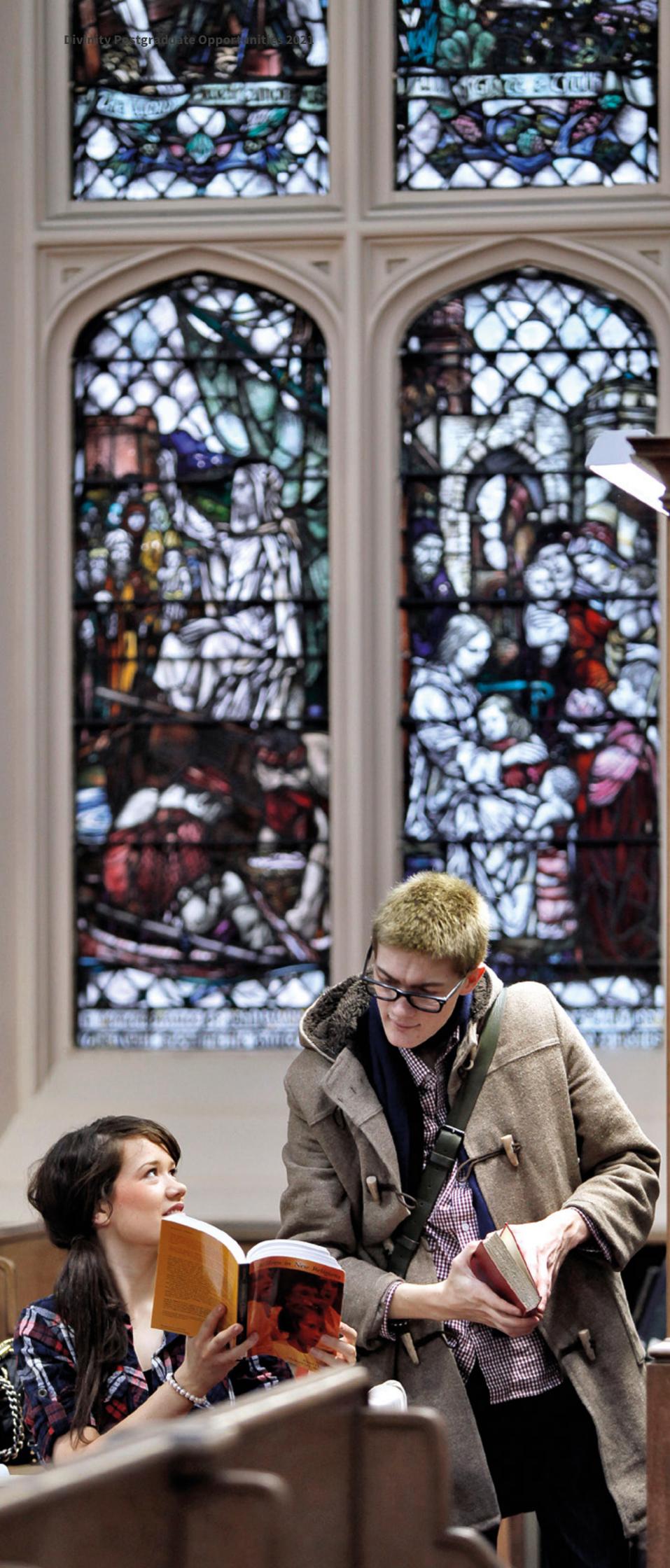
“I’ve enjoyed the keen sense of community, close attention from my supervisors, the view from the windows in the Martin Hall, and the brightness of lunchtime chats. I’ve valued being able to learn, tutor and do fieldwork relatively unconstrained by anxieties about the exchange rate.”

Krittika Bhattacharjee  
PhD Religious Studies, Principal’s Career Development Scholar  
and Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship

# Where we are

The School of Divinity's home, New College, has an unrivalled location at the top of the Mound, overlooking one of the most scenic cities in the world. We are a few minutes' walk from the University's Central Area, and close to all city-centre amenities.





# What's next?

## Contact us

For more information about postgraduate studies at the School of Divinity please get in touch.

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 EH1 2LX  
 Tel +44 (0)131 650 8952  
 Email [divinity.pg@ed.ac.uk](mailto:divinity.pg@ed.ac.uk)  
[www.ed.ac.uk/divinity](http://www.ed.ac.uk/divinity)

To make contact with a potential PhD supervisor please see our staff profiles and contact information at: [www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/our-people](http://www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/our-people)

## Find out more

We offer many opportunities for you find out more about the University, including Online Information Sessions to access from the comfort of your own home and Open Days you can attend online or, when possible, in person. Find out what event we're hosting next: [www.ed.ac.uk/visit/open-days](http://www.ed.ac.uk/visit/open-days)

Any potential applicant who would like to visit the School of Divinity is warmly welcomed, whenever possible. To arrange a visit, contact the School's Postgraduate Office: [divinity.pg@ed.ac.uk](mailto:divinity.pg@ed.ac.uk)

Many of our applicants are from overseas, which can make visiting difficult, but our academic staff welcome contact and often hold video conversations with potential students.

## Virtual Visit

Can't visit Edinburgh in person? Our Virtual Visit allows you to virtually explore the University and the city. View a range of videos, 360° photos and image galleries to find out what it is like to live and study here: [www.virtual-visit.ed.ac.uk](http://www.virtual-visit.ed.ac.uk)

## Chat online

Wherever you are in the world, we offer you opportunities to get in touch and speak directly to us about studying here.

We offer all postgraduate students online information sessions. To find out more and see when the next session will be: [www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/online-events](http://www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/online-events)

## Our visits to you

If you are unable to visit the University, we attend events worldwide whenever possible during the year. Find out about your next opportunity to speak to us in person: [www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/meet-us](http://www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/meet-us)

We know these are uncertain times but at the University of Edinburgh your safety is our priority. We hope to welcome you on campus and are committed to ensuring you're taught as safely as possible during the pandemic. To find out about the steps we're taking, in line with Scottish Government guidance, visit: [www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19)

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The UK formally left the European Union (EU) on 31st January 2020. UK and Scottish Governments have confirmed that most non-UK EU students commencing study in 2021/22 will no longer be treated as 'home' students in relation to fee status or access to funding. Final fee regulations are not yet available but are expected to clarify fee status for those with settled status and for Irish citizens (under the Common Travel Agreement). For the latest information for students and applicants from the EU, please visit our website: [www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu](http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu)

The University's standard terms and conditions will form an essential part of any contract between the University of Edinburgh and any student offered a place here. Our full terms and conditions are available online: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/terms-conditions](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/terms-conditions)

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Education   
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Open to  
the world

# Divinity & Religious Studies

“My experience at New College was part of what trained me to think. My dissertation was on ‘Augustine Scripture and Power’, and I’ve been thinking about how people use and think about power ever since.”

David Nussbaum, Divinity alumnus,  
Chief Executive of the Elders Foundation