



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Postgraduate Opportunities

2021

GeoSciences



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Top 50⁺

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

19TH

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

4TH

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.[§]

7TH

Edinburgh is ranked the seventh best student city in Europe and 15th 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

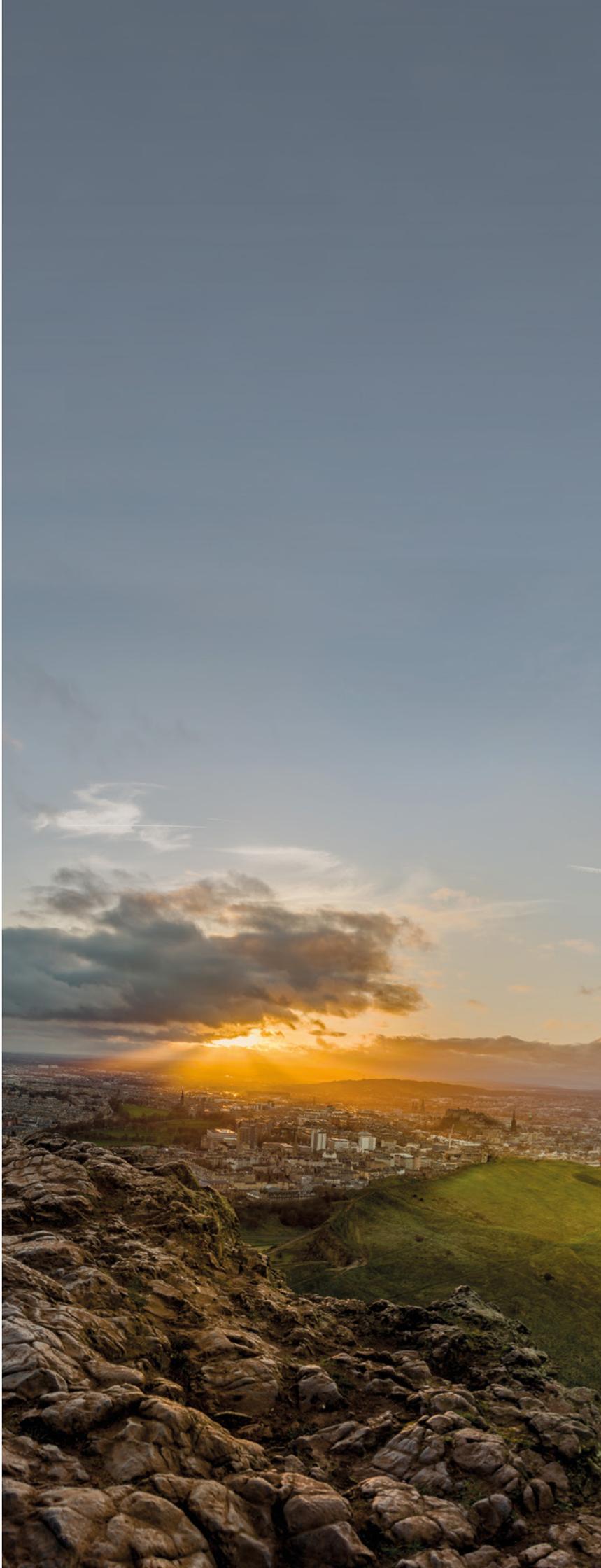
Edinburgh is one of the largest providers of online postgraduate programmes in the UK.

[‡] *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 GeoSciences

As a world-leading university, we are here to address tomorrow's greatest challenges.

Our world is facing many significant and complex challenges. Rising inequality and the mass displacement of people, urbanisation, unprecedented rates of climate and environmental change and associated extreme events, and finite natural resources all pose formidable challenges for our future.

At the School of Geosciences, you will be in an exceptional position to help make that future better. Spanning a wide range of physical and social sciences, and the humanities, we are internationally renowned for our approach to interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Through our world-leading research, teaching, innovation and impact, we strive to solve real-world problems of local, national and international relevance. You will be uniquely placed to address local and global issues relating to: inequality and vulnerability; urban precarity; nature; cultural meanings; development and sustainability; climate and environmental change; energy, food and water security; anthropogenic environmental change; natural resources; and natural hazards, risk and resilience.

Making the world a better place starts here.

Learn from the leaders

You will be very well placed to benefit from the latest research and industry practice, which our staff will bring to your learning experience. We are one of the largest groupings of geoscientists and geographers in the UK, and the quality of our research is among the best. The School of GeoSciences was ranked first in the UK for research power in Earth system and environmental sciences in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and its successor the 2014 Research

Excellence Framework (*Times Higher Education Supplement*), marking 12 years of research excellence by this metric. We had 78 per cent of our research rated 4* world leading or 3* internationally excellent on the overall quality profile. Among our large and experienced academic team are many global leaders in their fields. Two of our academics were lead authors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, while one was a review editor for the report. We also have a double winner of the World Meteorological Organization's Norbert Gerbier Prize and the world's first Professor of Carbon Capture and Storage. One of our academics is also an elected Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) for their work on climate science.

Collaborations

Our programmes are strengthened through collaboration with a wide range of internal and external partners including the University's other Schools and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). We are involved in numerous research centres and host major national and international innovation hubs including the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI). We launched the Centre for Sustainable Forests and Landscapes and also lead the Space and Satellite Innovation Programme, within the Bayes Centre, which is part of Edinburgh's Data Driven Innovation initiative.

Through Edinburgh Innovations, the University's commercialisation office, we work closely with industry to find practical answers to tomorrow's problems. We are privileged to host lectures by representatives from government, business and the third sector, who contribute to our programmes, courses and dissertation supervision, providing you with the skills and contacts needed to fulfil your ambitions.



Our community

Our supportive academic community provides a dynamic environment in which you can truly thrive. We offer you numerous opportunities to access study support, develop new skills, share knowledge, exchange ideas and socialise with like-minded colleagues.

We strongly believe that our students learn a great deal from each other. You will join an active and motivated community that interacts, learns and engages together. You will have opportunities to bond with your programme cohort and other students in the School through regular networking and social opportunities. In addition, staff and visiting experts and academics deliver exciting lectures and seminars which are open to all of our students – there really is something for everyone!

Further opportunities are available through Edinburgh University Students' Association which has a host of societies, sporting activities and social events waiting for you. It is one of the oldest students' associations in the UK and is an excellent way of getting to know other students.

Access to research institutes

Our academic research staff and postgraduate students are affiliated to one of our three research institutes:

- Earth & Planetary Sciences
- Geography and the Lived Environment
- Global Change

The institutes provide a forum for the development of ideas, collaboration and dissemination of results. They also provide an environment for training, development and mentoring of research students and early-career researchers. Each institute has an active seminar series, drawing distinguished external guests and internal speakers, which you will be encouraged to attend and participate in.

Research GradSchool

You will become a member of our student-run GradSchool, an excellent peer-support network that spans the School and organises social events, lectures and conferences. GradSchool welcomes new research students with a range of events.

Social responsibility and sustainability

The University recognises climate change is the most significant global challenge of the 21st century and continuously works to adopt a whole institution approach and become more socially responsible and sustainable. The University has been awarded the Sustainability Institution of the Year Award in the internationally acclaimed Green Gown Awards. Within the University, Social Responsibility and Sustainability support the creation of a sustainable and socially responsible environment. If you wish to learn more about social responsibility and sustainability, the new Co-Curricular Pathways initiative is an innovative model that promotes active student-led learning with opportunities for experiential learning in the community: www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability

Environment & Society Research Mixer

Early in Semester 2, a Research Mixer brings our postgraduate community together with sustainability practitioners from the public and private sectors. This is a chance for practitioners, academics and postgraduate students to share their interests and knowledge and to explore dissertation project ideas. Many dissertation partnerships develop at our Research Mixer.

“I just want to thank the School. It was an excellent year and a really amazing experience. To be honest, I couldn't have enjoyed this masters without all my friends and colleagues... this wouldn't have been the same experience without them.”

Laura Toledano
MSc Environment & Development



Employability and graduate attributes

As a GeoSciences graduate you will have excellent academic and career prospects – working with industry, staying in academia or entering government and non-government organisations.

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

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). 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

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

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

Learn to teach

We encourage all of our research students to carry out demonstrating and tutoring work for the School's undergraduate degrees. This work is strongly supported by training and coaching, to ensure you get the most out of the experience and can gain a new skillset from it.

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.

Edinburgh joins Climate Alliance

Climate researchers from the School of GeoSciences are joining a new alliance to address the threat posed by climate change.

Edinburgh is one of 40 leading climate research universities founding the International Universities Climate Alliance. The Alliance will bring together thousands of experts to share regionally focused and globally informed evidence-based information on climate research and its impacts.

Members of the Alliance will work together to make their collective knowledge available at all levels, to better inform decisions made by world leaders, businesses and local communities.

A multidisciplinary approach will allow researchers from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and help tackle the threats of climate change to food and water security, biodiversity, public health, and social inequality.

“Sharing scientific insights and key research findings on climate change will enable key decision and policy-makers to do so on the basis of sound evidence. The global reaction to climate change has been far too slow. We believe the Alliance can help accelerate that response.”

Professor Sandy Tudhope
Lead on Climate Responsibility and Sustainability



Kicking the plastic habit

An inspirational alumna from the School of GeoSciences is leading the zero-waste lifestyle charge and campaigning for society to kick its plastic habit.

Laura Young, an MSc Environmental Protection & Management graduate, is also known as ethical influencer Less Waste Laura, an advocate for the benefits of individual action for the environment.

Laura's work took her to the TEDx Glasgow stage in 2019, when she spoke to a 3,000-strong audience about Kicking the Plastic Habit.

Since graduation, she has addressed the 2020 Inspiring Women in Business Conference, established the Less Waste Warriors group, and launched the Environmentally Conscious Classroom kit for schools.

"During my time doing the MSc, I was able to take up so many amazing opportunities through links to the University of Edinburgh. Undoubtedly studying at this institution allowed me to develop my personal and professional skills in ways I could not have previously imagined.

"One of the biggest opportunities which arose was the TEDx talk. Through connections at Edinburgh I was put forward to be a speaker and was selected as one of 16 people to talk in the Glasgow Armadillo.

"Through this I received a speaking coach and mentoring sessions which helped develop me further in public speaking and advocacy. This has continued as I pursue justice through my online platform Less Waste Laura.

"Without support and guidance from friends and colleagues I would not have been able to have the opportunities I was presented with. It was humbling to be able to study this masters and a year on, I am still closely connected with many of my classmates and staff from my time as a University of Edinburgh student."

Laura Young
MSc Environmental Protection & Management graduate



Award wins for four staff

The work of several academics from the School of GeoSciences has been recognised this year.

Among them, Professor Ian Main received the Ed Lorenz Lectureship award from the American Geophysical Union for his original contributions to the field of nonlinear geophysics.

Professor Main, the School's Director of Research, was one of only 27 recipients to be awarded a named lectureship, recognising distinguished scientists with proven leadership in their field.

Professor Rachel Wood and Professor Alastair Robertson both received medals in the 2020 Geological Society of London awards, recognising individuals who have made significant advances to scientific understanding in Earth sciences.

Professor Wood, who is Professor of Carbonate Science at the School, received the Lyell Medal for her contributions to soft rock studies. Professor Robertson, who is a Professor of Geology, received the Dewey Medal for his significant contribution to the profession through fieldwork.

Finally, Professor Simon Mudd, who is Professor of Earth Surface Processes, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE). As a Fellow, Professor Mudd will support RSE, which was established in 1783, to deliver its mission 'knowledge made useful'.



New centre for Earth observation

A new research centre that will use satellite data and artificial intelligence to tackle global environmental change has been launched.

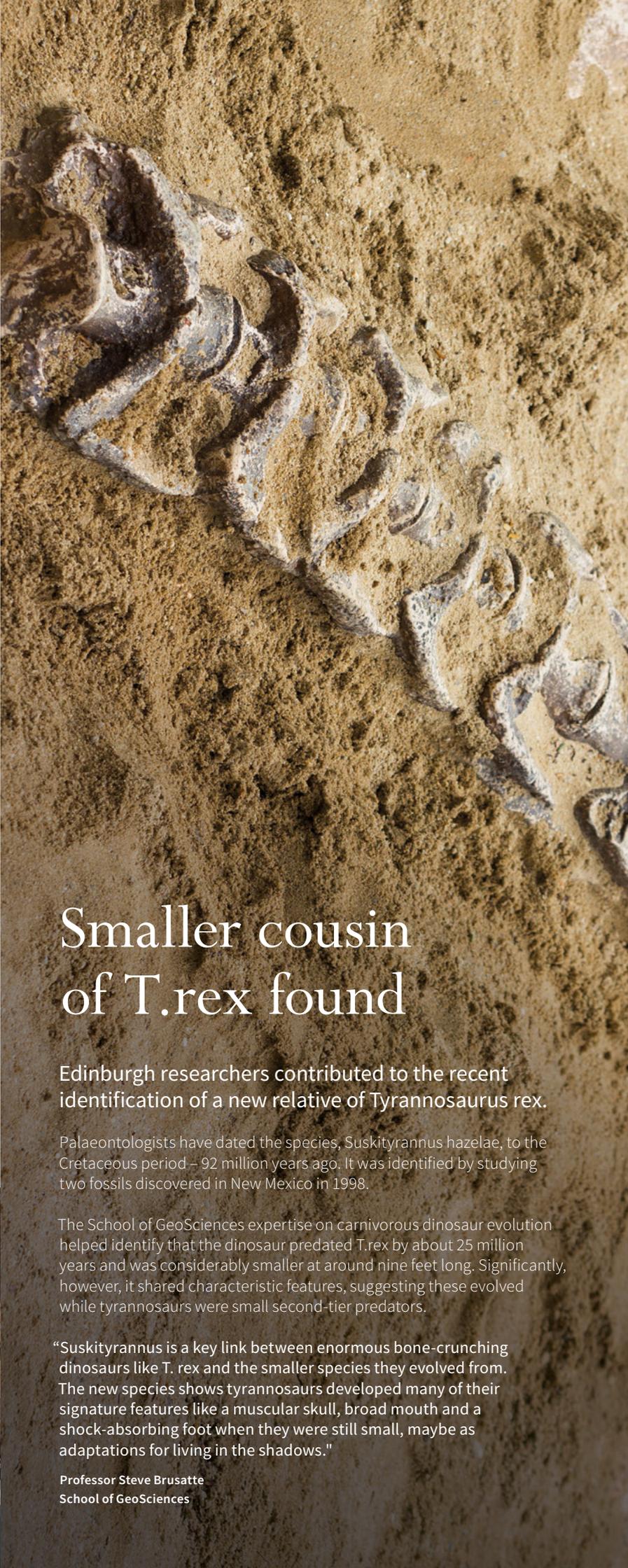
The University of Edinburgh will be a key partner in the Centre for Satellite Data in Environmental Science (SENSE), a nationwide project to address current issues such as climate change and the growing strain on our natural resources. It will bring together satellite remote sensing and advanced data science expertise to collect and analyse data from inaccessible areas under threat around the world.

SENSE will combine industry engagement with world-leading research facilities to train 50 new PhD researchers over the next three years. It is funded by a £2.2m investment from the Natural Environment Research Council, support from the UK Space Agency and £3.4m of matched funding from university and industry partners including the Data Driven Innovation Programme.

The comprehensive programme will provide PhD students with advanced training in Earth observation systems and techniques and advanced data science methods, such as artificial intelligence.

“Students will belong to a happy, inclusive and stimulating research environment with supervision from world-leading earth observation scientists.”

Professor Edward Mitchard
SENSE Co-director and Senior Lecturer at the School of GeoSciences



Smaller cousin of T.rex found

Edinburgh researchers contributed to the recent identification of a new relative of *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Palaeontologists have dated the species, *Suskityrannus hazelae*, to the Cretaceous period – 92 million years ago. It was identified by studying two fossils discovered in New Mexico in 1998.

The School of GeoSciences expertise on carnivorous dinosaur evolution helped identify that the dinosaur predated *T.rex* by about 25 million years and was considerably smaller at around nine feet long. Significantly, however, it shared characteristic features, suggesting these evolved while tyrannosaurs were small second-tier predators.

“*Suskityrannus* is a key link between enormous bone-crunching dinosaurs like *T. rex* and the smaller species they evolved from. The new species shows tyrannosaurs developed many of their signature features like a muscular skull, broad mouth and a shock-absorbing foot when they were still small, maybe as adaptations for living in the shadows.”

Professor Steve Brusatte
School of GeoSciences

€10 million Atlantic survey to assess ocean's health

Uncharted regions of the Atlantic Ocean will be mapped for the first time as marine scientists assess its health.

The iAtlantic project, led by the University of Edinburgh, will involve researchers from countries bordering the ocean in a €10 million, four-year project to analyse its ecosystems. They will use the latest technologies to determine which areas of the ocean are most at risk and help governments create policies to better protect it.

Huge quantities of data will be gathered during 32 research expeditions on a multinational fleet of vessels travelling the length and breadth of the Atlantic. They will use marine robotics and imaging technology to develop mapping tools to advance understanding of deep-sea habitats.

Combining the project findings with data on ocean species' DNA and their habitats will provide unprecedented insight into the key drivers of ecosystem change and its impact on plant and animal life in the Atlantic.

The work will look at the impact of commercial activities including deep-sea mining, fishing, and oil and gas extraction and help determine the resilience of animals in the Atlantic, and their habitats, against pollution and human activities.

The project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme and involves researchers from 33 institutions across Europe, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Canada and the US.

"We often forget that we live on an ocean planet and that the vast depths of the sea provide 99 per cent of the space for life on Earth. But the oceans are under massive pressures from climate change, destructive fishing, plastic pollution and other human activities. The iAtlantic project has pulled together an amazing team from right around the ocean, and we can't wait to begin the most ambitious ocean health check ever carried out."

Professor Murray Roberts
School of GeoSciences



Our teaching

Join one of the largest and most successful groupings of geoscientists and geographers in the UK, as we address the most compelling issues of our time.

Our interdisciplinary MSc degrees span a wide range of natural and social sciences, and the humanities, providing you with unique opportunities to explore and tackle global challenges.

You will be supported in an intellectual and cultural environment that focuses on real-world problems, stimulates your ambition and encourages internal and external collaboration.

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

On campus

- Applied Environmental Hydrogeology (MSc)
- Carbon Management (MSc)
- Earth Observation & Geoinformation Management (MSc)
- Ecological Economics (MSc)
- Energy, Society & Sustainability (MSc)
- Environment & Development (MSc)
- Environment, Culture & Society (MSc)
- Environmental Protection & Management (MSc)
- Environmental Sustainability (MSc)
- Food Security (MSc)
- GeoEnergy (MSc)
- Geographical Information Science (MSc)
- Marine Systems & Policies (MSc)
- Soils & Sustainability (MSc)

Online learning

- Carbon Innovation (PgCert)
- Carbon Management (MSc)
- Climate Change Management (PgCert)
- Global Environment Challenges (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

How you will learn

You will experience a range of teaching styles while you are studying, depending on the subject matter and the courses you are taking. Most courses are delivered through a mix of lectures, tutorials, seminars, workshops, practicals, laboratory work, short field trips and longer field courses. Teaching styles vary from the traditional lecture to far more interactive engagement. Many courses feature invited external speakers from business, government, non-government organisations and think-tanks. Assessments include traditional written assignments, but may also involve group work and presentations, writing policy briefs, blog writing, creating short films and podcasts, and structured role playing.

Dissertation

After completing the taught component of your programme, you will complete a dissertation. With direction from your Programme Director and dissertation supervisor, you will be encouraged to develop your own research focus or select from a range of bespoke projects. Project ideas are provided by academics from across the School and through links with industry partners, the public sector and other external organisations. We offer prizes for the top dissertations each year and encourage publication of high quality dissertation work in academic journals.

Flexibility

There is much diversity in what you can study. While each degree has compulsory courses, we also offer a wide range of option courses from which you can choose to complete the credits required for your MSc. Your Programme Director and Personal Tutor will proactively assist you in making the most of your course selection. We are committed to supporting students with professional or personal commitments. Eligible students can study most of our degrees part-time across two or three years.

Fieldwork

Our degrees place a strong emphasis on practical experience and experiential learning. Field trips are an excellent way in which to explore the factors and forces that shape our world and the environments in which we live. A number of our degrees incorporate residential field trips that will enhance your learning experience and enable you to put valuable skills into practice.

At the School of GeoSciences, we believe in providing opportunities for everyone. We are pleased to advise that we do not charge extra fees for compulsory field trips. The full travel and accommodation costs will be covered by your degree.

Covid-19: Decisions regarding fieldwork opportunities will be made to safeguard the health and safety of our students, staff and community. We also want to ensure we maintain the high standard of educational experience that makes our University one of the best in the world. Should circumstances change due to Covid-19, we have developed meaningful and enriching alternatives that will ensure you achieve the quality learning outcomes of your degree.

Online learning

Our online learning environment offers you a flexible way to study a postgraduate degree whilst maintaining your professional and personal commitments.

Our dedication to a supportive online community enables you to have the 'Edinburgh experience' wherever you are in the world. Just like our on-campus degrees, our online learning is delivered by dedicated academics, many of whom are leaders in their field. They will be active and present in online tutorials and other discussions as well as being contactable directly or via our online support team. You will participate in a collaborative and dynamic learning environment with people from all over the world who want to interact, learn and engage together.

Facilities and resources

Facilities are an essential asset for our research and teaching. We have a full range of laboratory, field and workshop facilities available to you, extending from facilities for sample preparation and mineralogical, physical and inorganic and organic chemical analysis of rock, soil, plant, water and gaseous samples, to state-of-the-art research facilities.

We host and manage a number of national facilities on behalf of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) including:

- The Ion Microprobe Facility
- The Geophysical Equipment Facility
- The Field Spectroscopy Facility.

Our technical and research staff will provide training, and help you identify the most relevant methods for your research projects or develop new techniques.

The scanning electron microscope, electron probe micro-analyser and secondary ion mass spectrometry instruments enable imaging, chemical and isotopic analysis of solid materials to one micron resolution.

Our X-ray μ CT instrument enables 3D and 4D imaging of natural materials and experiments. The cosmogenic nuclide facility enables isotopic analysis of rocks and sediments to understand landscape evolution. Our inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry and laser ablation facility enables high precision elemental and simultaneous isotope ion analyses for a wide range of liquid and solid materials. Results from this may be coupled with those from the Isotope ratio mass spectrometry facility to understand oceanic and biogeochemical responses to past and current climate change. We also host the UK Biochar Research Centre (UKBRC) laboratory and pyrolysis facilities which produce the UKBRC Standard Biochars, a set of research-grade biochars used by more than 100 research groups worldwide.

In addition to ground-based field instrumentation, and a boat for river, lake and coastal work, our Airborne GeoSciences Facility boasts an Eco Diamond HK36 small aircraft and UAVs supporting research in ecology, atmospheric chemistry, micrometeorology, forest studies, geomorphology, agricultural science, archaeology and palaeontology.

Computing-intensive research in geographic information systems (GIS), meteorological and climate modelling, geophysics, and analysis of space and satellite data, is supported by access to our in-house GIS suite and software licences, and the Edinburgh Computer and Data Facility parallel computing and DataStore facilities. Specialist training in the use of these facilities will be provided. You will also have access to national and international supercomputing, laboratory, experimental and field facilities. We are regular visitors to X-ray synchrotron facilities in Europe and the USA for our research.

Finally, we use field stations and facilities worldwide for research projects in the Antarctic, Arctic and tropics, on research ships in the world's oceans, through aircraft sampling the atmosphere and via remote sensing data from satellites.

Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI)

ECCI is an award-winning hub which brings together people from business, research, communities and governments to turn good low carbon ideas into reality. Our students are able to enjoy this contemporary learning and teaching space, and become part of a thriving community of low carbon enterprises that provide policy insight and evidence to inform government decisions. Students on our postgraduate taught degrees also have a dedicated Masters Hub study area. For more information: <https://edinburghcentre.org/>



Research opportunities

We have more than 400 years of excellence behind us. Working together, we can make the next 400 years even better.

At the School of GeoSciences, we aim to understand the natural world and we seek to find solutions to societal challenges and inequalities.

Our innovation and research success is highly interdisciplinary, spanning the physical and social sciences, and humanities. Our work embraces local and global issues with social and political relevance and impact.

We offer:

- **MSc by Research (MScR)** which offers you the opportunity to acquire research skills during a single year (if full time) of independent study.
- **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)** which requires a minimum of two years' study (full time), including an extended piece of supervised research. This does not carry the same requirement for original contribution to knowledge as a PhD. You'll pursue your individual research project under supervision and submit a thesis.
- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** for which you will undertake an original research project under individual supervision. Your studies will take at least three years, and to qualify for your doctorate your thesis must be judged to represent an original contribution to knowledge.

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

- **Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Geology & Geophysics** (PhD/MPhil)
- **GeoSciences Individual Project** (MScR)
- **Human Geography** (MScR)
- **Human Geography & Environmental Sciences** (PhD/MPhil)
- **Palaeontology & Geobiology** (MScR)

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

PhD research projects: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/phd-research-projects

Advice on finding a research supervisor: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/research

Home of leading research

Our interactive and interdisciplinary research environment allows us to tackle difficult research questions as we seek to understand the interconnected processes that shape our planet and society. The ambition and quality of our research was reflected in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, when 78 per cent of our research in Earth systems and environmental sciences was rated 4* world leading or 3* internationally excellent on the overall quality profile.

The diversity and quality of our research is also highlighted through our reputation and research successes in cultural, historical and political geography.

The United Nations Sustainability Goals are embedded in our research, knowledge exchange and innovation.

Working with industry

We work to make a real difference through our engagements with local and global industry. We work in conjunction with Edinburgh Innovations, which interfaces with industry, driving the creation of strategic research partnerships and collaborations. We receive support, and engage in a variety of knowledge and technology transfer arrangements in areas such as data driven innovation, space and satellite technology, climate change, sustainable technology and energy solutions, and digital health.

International collaborations

A commitment to international partnerships is integral to our research ethos and we have established research links on every continent. We work with a wide range of research institutes, centres and universities both locally and around the world.

Some of our projects are global in scope, such as the calculation of surface temperatures across oceans, determining the rate at which cosmic rays bombard the Earth's surface at different latitudes, or human transnational processes such as migration and globalisation. Other projects focus on specific regions and communities, for example addressing issues of gender and social equality for community forest projects in South Asia, anti-racist struggle in Nicaragua and the San Andrés archipelago, or examining archaeological evidence to evaluate the historic role of climate in environmental and cultural change.





Support

As a research student, you will be affiliated to one of our research institutes, benefiting from an excellent peer-supported network. As groupings of researchers with related interests, the institutes provide a forum for the development of ideas and collaboration, as well as an environment for training, development and mentoring of research students and early career researchers.

Research community

Postgraduate research at the School of GeoSciences is represented by the following three research institutes:

Geography and the Lived Environment

This institute is primarily made up of researchers working in the arts, humanities and social sciences along with researchers interested in the interactions between people and the environment. Its key research strengths are located in cultural geography and the geohumanities, the struggle for urban, gender and racial justice, health and wellbeing, energy futures, media and new technologies, and critical development studies. Members work with a wide range of critical theoretical approaches, including Marxism and political economy, feminist approaches, postcolonialism and decoloniality, and political ecology. Research is focused on a range of global challenges including gentrification and urban marginality, the struggle for food sovereignty and security, disaster risk reduction, human-animal relationships, and persistent health inequalities. Much of it is underpinned by a desire for social justice and seeks not only to understand the world in which we live but to change it for the better. The institute collaborates closely with communities, government agencies, NGOs and civil society organisations, artists and activists.

Global Change

This institute seeks to improve the scientific understanding of past, present and future changes in the Earth system through measurements, theory and computational modelling. Better understanding of the Earth system allows us to inform policymakers and to develop effective mitigation strategies, which, if implemented, would minimise the economic and humanitarian implications of changes in climate and the Earth system. Our aim incorporates some of the most compelling scientific challenges of the 21st century. To address these questions we nurture an interdisciplinary research and teaching environment, integrating expertise across the institute, the School of GeoSciences and, more broadly, throughout the University and beyond.

Earth and Planetary Sciences

This institute is devoted to studying the physical properties of our planet. It seeks to understand the composition and structure of the Earth, together with the processes which continue to shape the world in which we live. A great attraction of Earth Science is the diversity of techniques we employ, including field work, satellite imaging, laboratory studies and numerical computation. When not in Edinburgh, our staff are to be found all over the world, measuring seismic tremors to predict volcanic eruptions, drilling into the seafloor to recover the sediments which will unlock the secrets of ancient climates, or finding dinosaur footprints at home in Scotland. This is more than an intellectual challenge; many of the greatest challenges facing humanity require Earth Science for their solution. Our scientists lead the way in developing solutions in fields such as clean energy, natural hazards and climate change.

For more information about our research and facilities, please visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/geosciences/research

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

Awards are offered by the School of GeoSciences, the College of Science & Engineering, the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish, UK and international governments and many funding bodies.

While securing funding is competitive, the School of GeoSciences makes every effort to find funding support for students with proven academic merit, enthusiasm to study with us and a good case for financial backing. Additionally, many students find their own funding from a variety of external sources.

Here we list a selection of potential sources of financial support for postgraduate students applying to the School of GeoSciences. 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

Key

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

Scholarships at the University of Edinburgh

• The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program ●

Up to 50 postgraduate scholarships for on-campus and online masters study with transformative leadership training are available. Applicants should usually reside in and be citizens of a sub-Saharan African country. On-campus scholarships cover full tuition fees, accommodation and maintenance. Applicants should apply to the scholarship directly: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/mastercardfdn

• 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

• Edinburgh Global Online Learning Masters Scholarship ●

The University offers a number of awards for postgraduate online programmes, which eligible students can apply for: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/e-learning/online-distance

• School of GeoSciences Studentships ●

A number of part-funded UK/EU and international PhD studentships are offered annually: www.ed.ac.uk/geosciences/postgraduate/funding

Research council awards

Research councils offer awards to eligible masters and PhD students in most of the Schools within the University of Edinburgh. All studentship applications from the research councils must be made through the University, through your School or College office. Please check the eligibility criteria for each opportunity online: 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

• 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

• 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

• 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

• 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.studentfinanceneni.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

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

Student Finance Wales offers eligible students postgraduate finance for taught and research masters programmes: 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

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

- **Commonwealth Scholarships** ●●●

Scholarships available to students who are resident in any Commonwealth country, other than the UK: 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



“Alongside the enormous support from the Mastercard Foundation Team at the University of Edinburgh, my work-based placement is among my key university career highlights. Through an environmental consulting firm, I want to work with communities, always on the ground, trying to make lives better for people. Innovation, creativity and sustainability are clearly the core of all they do and this is what I envision in my future career.”

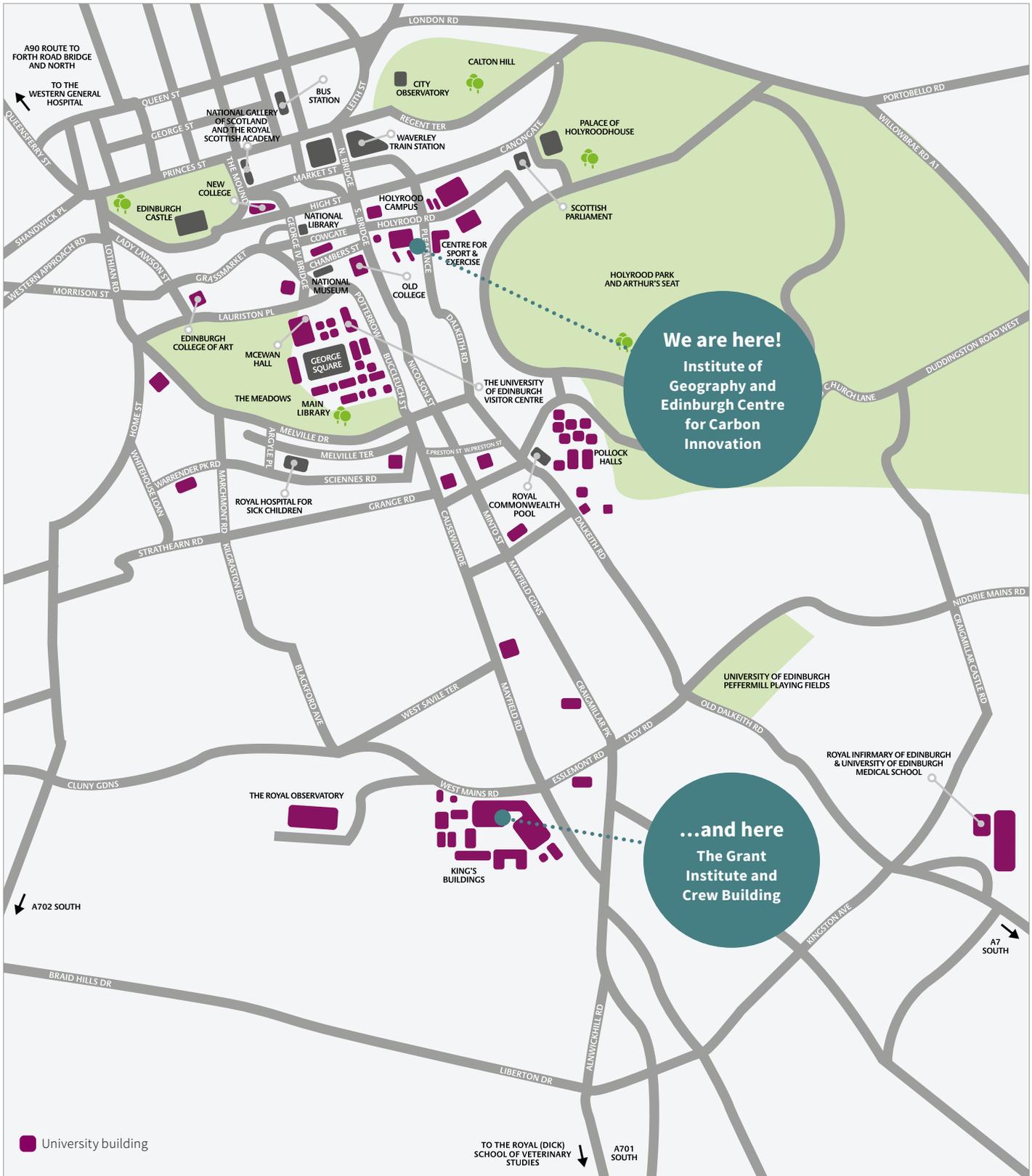
Anita Owiti

MSc Environment & Development, Mastercard Foundation Scholar

Where we are

The School of GeoSciences is based in several buildings across two University campuses. The Head of School and the main offices are at King’s Buildings, about two miles south of the city centre. The Institute of Geography and the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation are in the historic Old Town of Edinburgh.

Detailed maps can be found at: www.ed.ac.uk/maps



University building

TO THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES

A701 SOUTH

What's next?

Contact us

For more information about the application and admissions process for taught MSc degrees, contact:

College of Science & Engineering Recruitment and Admissions Team
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 5737
www.ed.ac.uk/science-engineering/contact/ug-pgt-enquiries

For more information about taught MSc degrees, contact:

Postgraduate Programme Administration
Email postgrad.geos@ed.ac.uk

For more information about research degrees (PhD, MSc by Research and MPhil), contact:

PGR Recruitment Secretary
Email pgrsupport.geos@ed.ac.uk

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

If you are unable to visit Edinburgh, contact marketing.geos@ed.ac.uk and we can arrange a video call with your prospective Programme Director or register your interest in a virtual Open Day.

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

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

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

Follow us

Follow the School of GeoSciences online:

Student Experiences Blog:
blogs.ed.ac.uk/geosciences/

 [@geosciencesed](https://twitter.com/geosciencesed)

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 [@uoegeosciences](https://www.instagram.com/uoegeosciences)



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

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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

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

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Education 
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GeoSciences

“The programme has helped me get a deeper understanding of economics, anthropology, gender issues and policies. Moving forward, I plan to be more involved in initiatives that promote social mobility and justice among poor communities, especially in being able to access vital resources like renewable energy.”

Anita Owiti,
MSc Environment & Development

**Open to
the world**