



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

Postgraduate Opportunities

2021

# Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences



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<sup>‡</sup>. 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.<sup>†</sup>

# 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.<sup>§</sup>

## 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

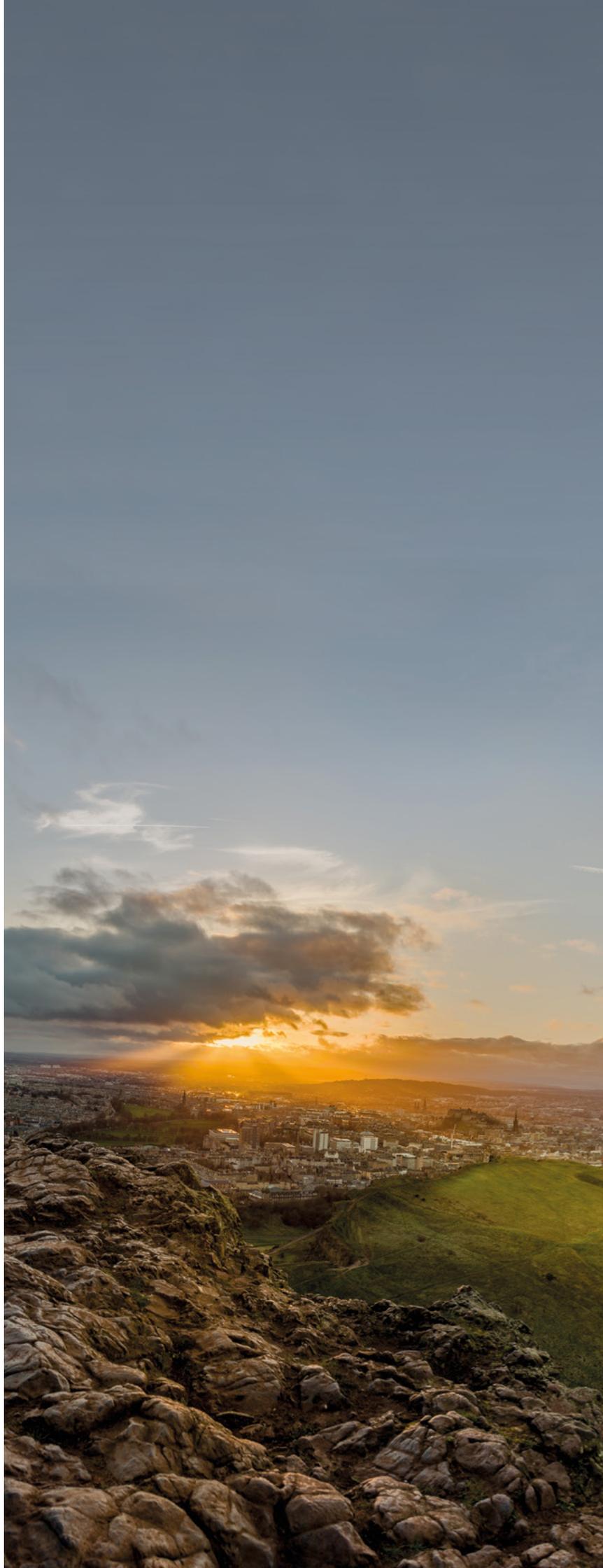
Edinburgh is one of the largest providers of online postgraduate programmes in the UK.

<sup>‡</sup> Times Higher Education, The World's Most International Universities 2020

<sup>†</sup> Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions

<sup>§</sup> 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 Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences

From unravelling the secrets of the ageing process to shaping tomorrow's speech technologies, the University of Edinburgh's School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences is at the forefront of innovation.

The School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences (PPLS) offers a rich environment for postgraduate study and research. Our students benefit from the close links between the three core teaching areas, as well as from our connections with other world-class research groups at the University and beyond.

## Philosophy

The University of Edinburgh's thriving Philosophy unit is one of the largest in the UK with more than 30 full-time members of staff. We host a vibrant community of about 100 postgraduate students who have access to a wealth of research expertise. Our research programme covers most aspects of philosophy, with particular strengths in epistemology, ethics, history of philosophy (especially ancient and early modern philosophy), philosophy of mind and cognition, philosophy of science, logic and philosophy of language.

## Psychology

Psychology has been taught at Edinburgh for more than 100 years, and our research programme has expanded rapidly over the past decade. By joining us you will become part of a large and active postgraduate community, working alongside world-leading academic staff, including the editors of major journals in the field. Our research is organised into four broad themes: developmental psychology, differential psychology, human cognitive neuroscience, and language, cognition and communication.

Psychology researchers collaborate closely with colleagues elsewhere in PPLS and the University. We have a strong presence in the Human Communication Research Centre and in the Scottish Imaging Network (SINAPSE), and we host the internationally important Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology (CCACE).

## Linguistics and English Language

Edinburgh was one of the first universities in the UK to teach linguistics and this helped position us as second in the UK overall for modern languages and linguistics (*Times Higher Education*, overall ranking REF 2014). We're also ranked third in the world for linguistics in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020. We offer a wide range of postgraduate programmes supervised and taught by world-leading experts. Courses and topic areas cover traditional areas like phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics, as well as related areas such as sociolinguistics, pragmatics, speech technology, language acquisition, language evolution, and more. In addition to our groundbreaking work in core areas of linguistics, we are one of Europe's largest interdisciplinary centres, producing highly rated work engaging with disciplines including biology, education, psychology, cognitive science, and speech and language technologies.

## Research excellence

In the last Research Excellence Framework all three of our core areas were highly ranked. We were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK by overall GPA for modern languages and linguistics, 7<sup>th</sup> in the UK by overall GPA for philosophy, and 11<sup>th</sup> in the UK by overall GPA for psychology, psychiatry and neuroscience (*Times Higher Education*, Overall Ranking REF 2014).



# Our community

Our postgraduate teaching is rooted in our research. Our research thrives on the close relationships between the School's subject areas, and on our links within the University, throughout the UK and worldwide. We are committed to local and global communities, seeking to share our knowledge and to learn from others.

## Shared thinking

You will join an environment where linguists, psychologists and philosophers share their ideas with each other and with like-minded people across the University. This will allow you to go beyond your own discipline and make a valuable contribution to new, interdisciplinary knowledge.

Our researchers are among the world's foremost experts in areas ranging from epistemology to cognitive ageing, taking in ancient philosophy, sociolinguistics, formal syntax, philosophy of mind, and many more. With more than 100 active researchers and a 300-strong postgraduate community, the range of topics we cover is vast. We are proud to be at the centre of one of the largest groupings of language researchers in Europe, and home of the world's biggest group of researchers into the evolution of language. We are at the forefront of research into the ways in which memory functions are affected by Alzheimer's disease, and into the interplay between genetics, personality and behaviour. Our work on the philosophy of cognitive neuroscience, and on the relationship between the brain and the mind, is world leading and our Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics is setting a new agenda for the study of language change.

## Discuss, debate, develop

We host major conferences every year, which postgraduate students are encouraged to attend. Recent conferences have included the annual Edinburgh Graduate Epistemology Conference and the LEL Postgraduate Conference 2018. Edinburgh is a major destination for visiting speakers and each of the School's core disciplines runs seminar series hosting key researchers from around the world. We also have a number of more informal meetings, such as the interdisciplinary Philosophy, Psychology and Informatics Reading Group. In addition, we run a range of reading groups tailored to specific research interests. As a postgraduate student you will be encouraged to make the most of your studies by getting involved in these groups. You will also have the opportunity to run student-led events,

such as the Language at Edinburgh Lunch, held regularly as a University-wide forum for students and staff involved in language research to exchange ideas.

Information on many of our research group meetings and seminars can be found from our events pages online:

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

## Sharing our knowledge

Edinburgh's philosophy department partners with several local schools to promote the importance of philosophical skills and discussion throughout the curriculum.

Our postgraduate community is an essential part of this work. The department organises regular training sessions to enable postgraduate students to facilitate philosophical discussions with school pupils of all ages, and supports programmes of school visits throughout the year. Edinburgh is also a world-leading venue for research into embodied cognition, a topic that has many practical applications, including the development of better human-machine interfaces, the extension of the senses (using sensory substitution technologies), and the exploration of cognitive prosthetics and human-machine hybrids. Edinburgh researchers are also involved in work on the emerging philosophy of the web, and have benefitted from PhD funding from Microsoft.

Our work in psychology includes collaborations with many non-academic groups, such as healthcare professionals, carers, speech therapists and voluntary organisations, and is intended to have an impact on people well beyond the University. For example, through our work with Alzheimer Scotland, we are involved not only in organising public events but also in the shaping of public policy on support for people with dementia. We disseminate and discuss our research in a variety of ways: we arrange seminars that are open to the public, present talks at the International Science Festival, have our research reported in the press, contribute to radio and television programmes, and take part in public exhibitions and live theatre performances.

Our Bilingualism Matters project helps teachers, parents and children all over the world. The project investigates the benefits of bilingualism and shares its findings through talks presented to community groups, nurseries and schools in a variety of countries. Our work on speech synthesis technology is also having a major impact. In addition to creating a number of spin-out companies and leading to the current speech synthesis group in Google, our work is benefitting people who need to use computer-generated speech to communicate, by giving them personalised, individual voices.

## Extracurricular opportunities

At the University of Edinburgh, you'll have access to around 280 societies supported by the Edinburgh University Students' Association, covering areas such as sport, music, drama and the arts. We also offer opportunities to learn new skills and languages through the Centre for Open Learning.

# Employability and graduate attributes

Your time as a postgraduate student within PPLS will prepare you for a wide range of careers or research opportunities, and you'll find a wealth of resources and support to help you work towards your goals.

Our graduates have entered a wide range of employment, including careers as psychologists, analysts, translators, language tutors, business consultants, social workers, charity managers, and language development coordinators in local government. Many PhD graduates obtain academic posts and many masters graduates go on to PhD study in Edinburgh and elsewhere.

## Training for life

You will acquire and develop skills in the critical evaluation of research, collaborative working, and written and oral presentation. Depending on your specialism you will also gain skills in areas such as research planning and execution, formal logic, data collection and analysis, computer programming, and working with historical texts and artefacts.

## 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, 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. We offer on-campus and online workshops and one-to-one study skills consultations, plus online advice and learning materials. Workshops and learning resources cover key topics tailored to different academic stages, including: pre-arrival 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 workshop programme is 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. There is also a link Careers Consultant who works closely with the School to offer tailored workshops and sessions for PPLS students, both face to face and online.

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)

## Beyond study

We build career development into the annual review process for our PhD students. In addition to completing a rigorous programme of academic study and a thesis, you will also develop a range of skills and experience that prospective employers seek. This could include a good publication record, teaching experience, conference talks, writing samples and presentation skills.

# 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 creates illuminating record

**A School professor has collaborated with artists and musicians from across Scotland to create a vinyl record of experimental music inspired by his own research.**

*Sing the Gloaming* is the culmination of Linguistics and English Language professor Simon Kirby's project exploring light, linguistics and landscape.

A collaboration with artists Tommy Perman and Rob St. John, *Sing the Gloaming* draws upon Professor Kirby's groundbreaking research into the cultural evolution of language, including phonaesthemes – sounds or sound sequences within words that directly invoke a certain meaning.

The project focuses on English words relating to light that feature the phonaestheme 'gl' at the start like glimmer, glitter, glow, gleam, glass and gloom. Professor Kirby's research reveals the processes by which language evolves over many generations, including the way these words originate from a single ancestor first spoken near the Black Sea nearly 5,000 years ago.

A host of Scotland's leading artists and musicians were asked to find a place where light moves, then record short new vocal pieces around particular 'light words' from that place. Once each singer had finished their recordings, their contribution was passed onto the next singer, who then improvised their own piece. This method of composition is directly inspired by the experimental methods Professor Kirby's lab uses to study the cultural evolution of language.

*Sing the Gloaming* is available on 10" vinyl and is accompanied by a printed booklet illustrated by Tommy Perman.





# Using data to understand cognitive ageing

Experts from the School continue to set the agenda on cognitive ageing, with their research informing policy debate and significantly impacting on public perceptions.

Identifying what happens in the brain as we age is one of the greatest challenges to improving the health of older people. Not everyone experiences cognitive decline in the same way, but it is rare to be able to study this properly.

Researchers – led by Professor Ian Deary, Director of the School's Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology – have been able to examine many different factors which contribute to age-related changes thanks to the Lothian Birth Cohorts (LBCs).

The LBCs are two groups of people, born in 1921 and 1936, who have been followed over many years to investigate how cognitive abilities and the brain change as we age, and which lifestyle, health and genetic factors influence these changes.

The team, for example, has found better cognitive ageing is related to not smoking, having a healthier body, having healthier brain white matter connections, being more physically active and fit, speaking more than one language, having more education, and having a more professional occupation.

Some factors previously thought to influence cognitive ability or brain health in late life, meanwhile, have been shown not to be related. For example, factors which were previously thought to directly influence cognitive ageing, like coffee drinking, body mass index, alcohol consumption and inflammation in older age, were instead found to be associated with people's cognitive skills from youth.

The team's work was cited in the UK Government's Foresight Report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing, which influenced the New Economics Foundation's Five Ways to Wellbeing, used by health organisations, schools and community projects around the world.

Findings have also been presented to policy groups, cross-party groups and government departments, while research was also represented at the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Ageing.

# Rebuilding people's lost voices

People who have lost, or are at risk of losing, their voice due to a medical condition can be helped by a new spin-out company that will create a personalised synthetic version of their voice.

The company – SpeakUnique – will digitally rebuild the voices of people with conditions that affect speech like motor neurone disease (MND), stroke, cancer of the throat or tongue, or cerebral palsy. The company is a result of a collaborative research project between world-leading researchers in computer sciences and healthcare at the University.

SpeakUnique allows people to create their own synthetic voice using less than an hour of their speech recorded via the internet. The new voice can then be downloaded for use or banked for the future. For individuals who have already experienced a deterioration in their speech like slowness or slurring, SpeakUnique can repair the damage so their synthetic voice sounds like their previously healthy voice.

More than 1,600 people from across the UK donated their voices to assist in the development of the service, while almost 200 people with a range of medical conditions and healthcare professionals – including doctors, nurses, and speech and language therapists – helped shape it.



# Data sheds light on cancer virus

Data from the Lothian Birth Cohort has lent insight into the biological pathways behind a virus that causes 200,000 cases of cancer each year around the world.

By using a computer modelling approach to study how genes interact, researchers were able to pinpoint networks involved in key cell changes caused by the Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV), which is linked to cancer.

Researchers used data from the Lothian Birth Cohorts – two ongoing studies that research how childhood intelligence relates to intelligence and health in old age – and from almost 350 individuals who took part in the 1000 Genomes Consortium, an international research catalogue of human genetic variation.

Experts have known for some time how genetic differences between people's genomes can alter the expression – or activity levels – of nearby genes. Many of these changes are linked to increased risk of diseases. In this latest study, researchers examined how the expression levels of other, distant, genes can modify the impact of these genetic changes.

The extent of modification of a gene depends on the expression level of a second gene elsewhere in the genome. These sets of genes were linked to key biological pathways that the virus co-opts to drive tumour growth, providing new insights into how the virus drives cancers. The findings highlight the potential of uncovering novel findings from existing data.

# Distinguished philosopher receives honorary degree

Professor Sarah Brodie has been recognised by the School with an honorary degree for her outstanding contributions to the field of philosophy.

The Professor of Moral Philosophy and Bishop Wardlaw Professor at the University of St Andrews specialises in ancient philosophy, metaphysics and moral philosophy.

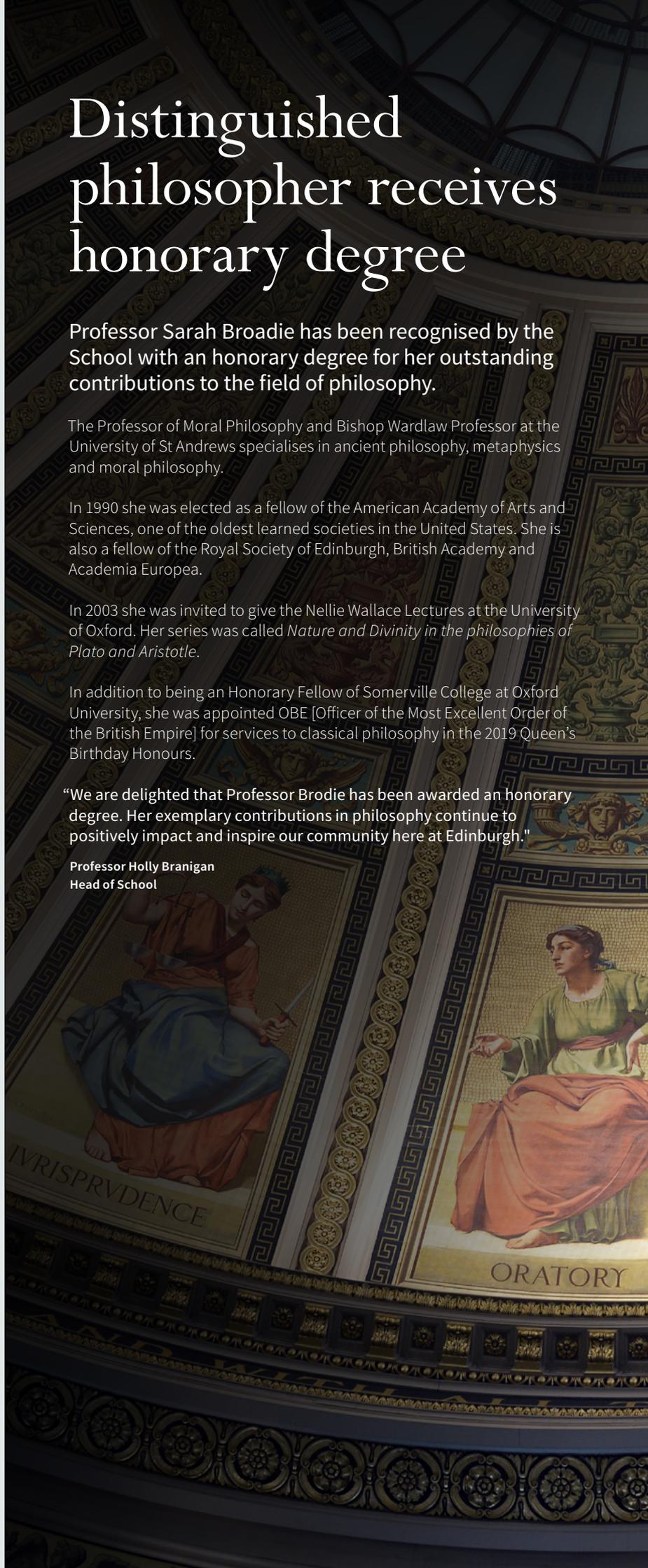
In 1990 she was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the oldest learned societies in the United States. She is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, British Academy and Academia Europea.

In 2003 she was invited to give the Nellie Wallace Lectures at the University of Oxford. Her series was called *Nature and Divinity in the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle*.

In addition to being an Honorary Fellow of Somerville College at Oxford University, she was appointed OBE [Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire] for services to classical philosophy in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.

**"We are delighted that Professor Brodie has been awarded an honorary degree. Her exemplary contributions in philosophy continue to positively impact and inspire our community here at Edinburgh."**

**Professor Holly Branigan**  
Head of School





# A celebration of diversity

We have long been committed to equality and diversity across the University. Here, we shine a spotlight on some of the women and gender diverse people across the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, who were celebrated as part of International Womxn's Day 2020. The event recognises the economic, political and social achievements of womxn – an alternative spelling that foregrounds transgender, nonbinary, and non-white women.

## Jess Brough

Psycholinguistics PhD student Jess researches social effects on language production and language biases and is the founder of the award-winning Fringe of Colour initiative, which spotlights performers of colour at arts festivals.

## Jenny Culbertson

Dr Culbertson, Reader in Linguistics and English Language, received the 2019 Rising Star Chancellor's Award for her ground-breaking research that has led to fundamental advances in our understanding of how language is shaped by the way the human mind works.

## Olivia Gambelin

After graduating with an MSc in Philosophy in 2019, Olivia co-founded and launched Ethical Intelligence, a consultancy that helps businesses navigate the growing ethical challenges of using artificial intelligence. Olivia and her team have already worked with the Scottish Government, global investment firm Franklin Templeton and the University.

## Katie Keltie

Katie, Head of Postgraduate Administration, and her team have provided one-to-one support to more than 2,500 postgraduate students, helping them to get the most out of the School from enquiry through to graduation.

## Aja Murray

Psychology lecturer Dr Murray is a recipient of the British Academy-Wolfson Fellowship, awarded to outstanding early-career researchers. She is using this to research domestic violence during pregnancy, with the aim of informing prevention and harm reduction strategies.

## Shannon Vallor

Professor Vallor is a leading expert on the impact of emerging technologies – particularly those involving automation and artificial intelligence – on human character. Her work includes advising policymakers and industry on the ethical design and use of AI.

# Our teaching

Our taught master of science (MSc) degrees offer you the opportunity to study a subject in depth through a combination of taught courses, coursework and your dissertation.

We also offer a number of our degrees through online learning.

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

- Applied Linguistics (MSc)
- Developmental Linguistics (MSc)
- English Language (MSc)
- Epistemology, Ethics & Mind (MSc/PgDip/PgCert) 
- Evolution of Language & Cognition (MSc)
- Linguistics (MSc)
- Mind, Language & Embodied Cognition (MSc)
- Philosophy (MSc)
- Philosophy, Science & Religion (MSc/PgDip/PgCert) 
- Phonetics (MSc)
- Psychological Research (MSc)
- Speech & Language Processing (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)

 Online learning

## See also...

Some of our taught masters degrees are related to those offered elsewhere in the University. You may also be interested in degrees offered by the following Schools: Informatics; History, Classics & Archaeology; Health in Social Science; or Literatures, Languages & Cultures. [www.ed.ac.uk/studying/prospectus-request](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/prospectus-request)



# Facilities and resources

Our students are based in and around George Square at the heart of Edinburgh. We have an excellent support team, and provide a fully-equipped, modern environment for research and learning.

The School is based in the Dugald Stewart Building and at 7 George Square (see campus map, page 16). The Dugald Stewart Building is part of the University's state-of-the-art Potterrow development, a winner of numerous architecture and design awards, which provides a contemporary environment in which to learn and collaborate. Our George Square building is a converted set of three Georgian townhouses, offering a beautiful setting for the modern facilities it now houses.

## Specialist tools

We have extensive facilities for data collection and experimentation, ranging from movement tracking to electroencephalography (EEG). At the core of our experimental facilities are three suites of experiment booths, each equipped with one or more computers, together with fast displays and relevant hardware such as response boxes. We also house a number of eyetrackers to allow us to record participants' eye movements when reading or viewing visual scenes, and a 64-channel EEG recording facility allowing us to record event-related potential (ERP) and related measures. To record articulation in dialogue situations, we have two electromagnetic articulographs (EMAs); we are also home to a high quality acoustic recording studio. Our George Square base houses an MRI scanner simulator, used to prepare participants for studies in collaboration with the Scottish Brain Imaging Research Centre at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh.

## Exceptional libraries

Both buildings are near to the iconic Main Library, which includes important historical collections accessible by students. The Main Library is one of 10 libraries across the University. You'll also have access to the School's library, which has its own specialist librarian and provides a dedicated space for postgraduate study. All University of Edinburgh postgraduates additionally have access to the extensive holdings of the National Library of Scotland and the National Archives of Scotland, within walking distance of our central campus.

## Help is at hand

The PPLS Postgraduate Office is here to support you from enquiry to graduation. The team also acts as a central point of contact and is able to direct you to the appropriate University student service, whether you need help with your studies or advice about living in Edinburgh.

The School has its own technical support team, which can help with anything from general computing issues to graphic design. Together with the excellent central support at the University, we are able to provide a superb IT infrastructure for learning and research.

## Everything you need

As a student at Edinburgh you will have access to extensive computing facilities, both in PPLS and across the campus. PhD students are allocated dedicated study space and computers; masters students have access to open study space. All students have access to additional computing labs around the University in convenient places such as at halls of residence and in the Main Library, and to the School's own labs in the Dugald Stewart Building and in nearby Appleton Tower. Laptop users will find wireless networking coverage throughout the University.

Computers within PPLS are configured with software to support the School community's needs, including packages for acoustic analysis, statistics, and experimental design and execution.



# Research at the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences

The aim of our research opportunities is to provide a thorough training in a particular academic area and to support original investigation. They are tailored to your individual research interests, and supervision is provided by experts in the relevant fields.

## Research excellence

In the last Research Excellence Framework all three of our core areas were highly ranked. We were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UK by overall Grade Point Average for modern languages and linguistics, 7<sup>th</sup> in the UK by overall Grade Point Average for philosophy, and 11<sup>th</sup> in the UK by overall Grade Point Average for psychology, psychiatry and neuroscience (*Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking REF 2014*).

## Choosing a degree

We offer two types of research degree (see below). If you are not sure which suits your needs, please email the PPLS Postgraduate Office with a draft research proposal and an academic CV so that we can advise you further.

## MScR (Master of Science by Research)

The aim of this one-year research degree is to prepare you for advanced research. Your programme of study will be designed around your specific requirements and you will be assessed either wholly on a dissertation submitted at the end of the year or on a combination of coursework and dissertation.

## PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)

The three-year research degree is our highest academic research qualification. PhD research is a challenging yet exciting undertaking that allows you to make a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge in your field, and to work with eminent academics at the University.

Students entering PhD study are usually expected to hold a masters-level degree.

## Research opportunities

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

- English Language (MScR)
- Linguistics (MScR)
- Linguistics & English Language (PhD)
- Philosophy (PhD/MScR)
- Psychology (PhD/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](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)

## Further information

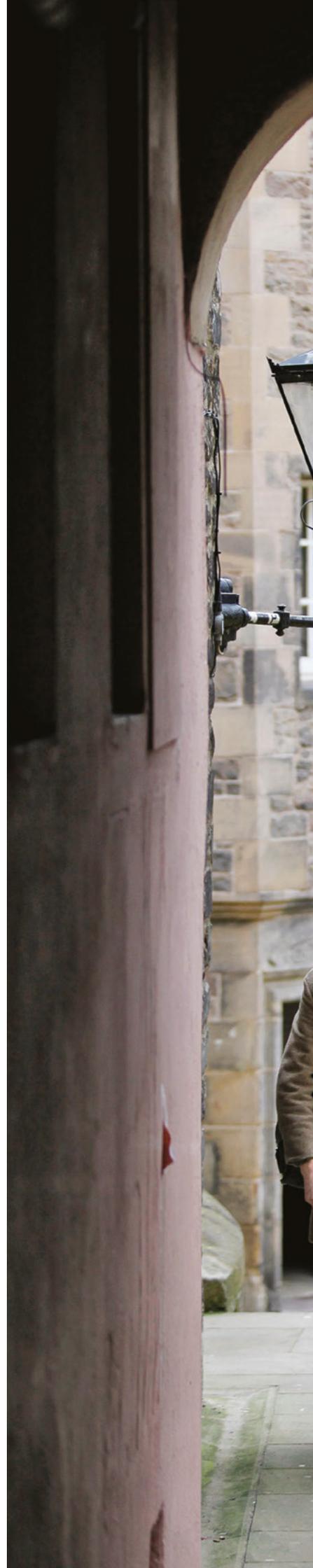
Find out more about research in PPLS on our research blog:

[forwardthinking.ppls.ed.ac.uk](http://forwardthinking.ppls.ed.ac.uk)

“The philosophy department was a vibrant research environment where I found much stimulation to explore a variety of research directions, within ancient philosophy but also in other areas.”

Anna Marmodoro

PhD Philosophy (Now Official Fellow in Philosophy, Corpus Christi College, the University of Oxford)





## Case study

### Edinburgh's research with impact

## Changing policy and public perceptions of ageing

In the Lothian area of Scotland, a group of people in their 80s and 90s have been influencing public perceptions and policies about ageing. They're taking part in a long-running research project, led by the University's Professor Ian Deary.

### Project background

The Lothian Birth Cohorts are two groups of people born in 1921 and 1936 who took a test of mental ability at school when they were 11 years old. By contacting these people many years later and having them undertake a series of tests and studies, Professor Deary and his team were able to delve into the causes of cognitive change during ageing – changes in intelligence, memory, speed and other thinking skills. The results uncovered a number of ways in which lifestyle, health and genetics have contributed to ageing, some of which have been unexpected.

### Project results

With the overall age of our population increasing, research such as this has obvious importance and relevance. Beyond its many high-impact scientific reports, the project has captured the attention of the media and the art world. It has featured regularly in science festivals and public talks and been widely profiled in the media, appearing in countless press articles worldwide and in three BBC1 documentaries. The cohorts have inspired artists and been the subject of a play, a book, a photo/video exhibition and a film. Some members have been painted or drawn by portrait artist Fionna Carlisle, immortalising and honouring their contribution to ageing research. In observing how lifestyle, health and genetic factors have influenced the ageing process of the study's participants, Professor Deary and his team have provided valuable information with wide-ranging applications and bodies across government and private/charitable sectors are formulating policy influenced by the research findings uncovered.

**With the overall age of our population increasing, research such as this has obvious importance and relevance.**

See more online: [www.ed.ac.uk/research/impact](http://www.ed.ac.uk/research/impact)

# 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 Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish, UK and international governments and many funding bodies. 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

- **Ailie Donald Scholarship ●●**  
Supports the study of historical and English linguistics at MSc level. It is awarded to one student and covers the rate applicable to home tuition fees: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/donald](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/donald)
- **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 Drever Trust MSc Postgraduate Scholarship ●●**  
Awarded to a postgraduate student accepted onto an MSc course in any subject in psychology provided by the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/drever](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/drever)
- **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](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/e-learning/online-distance)
- **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)

## 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.studentfinancenirni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenirni.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)



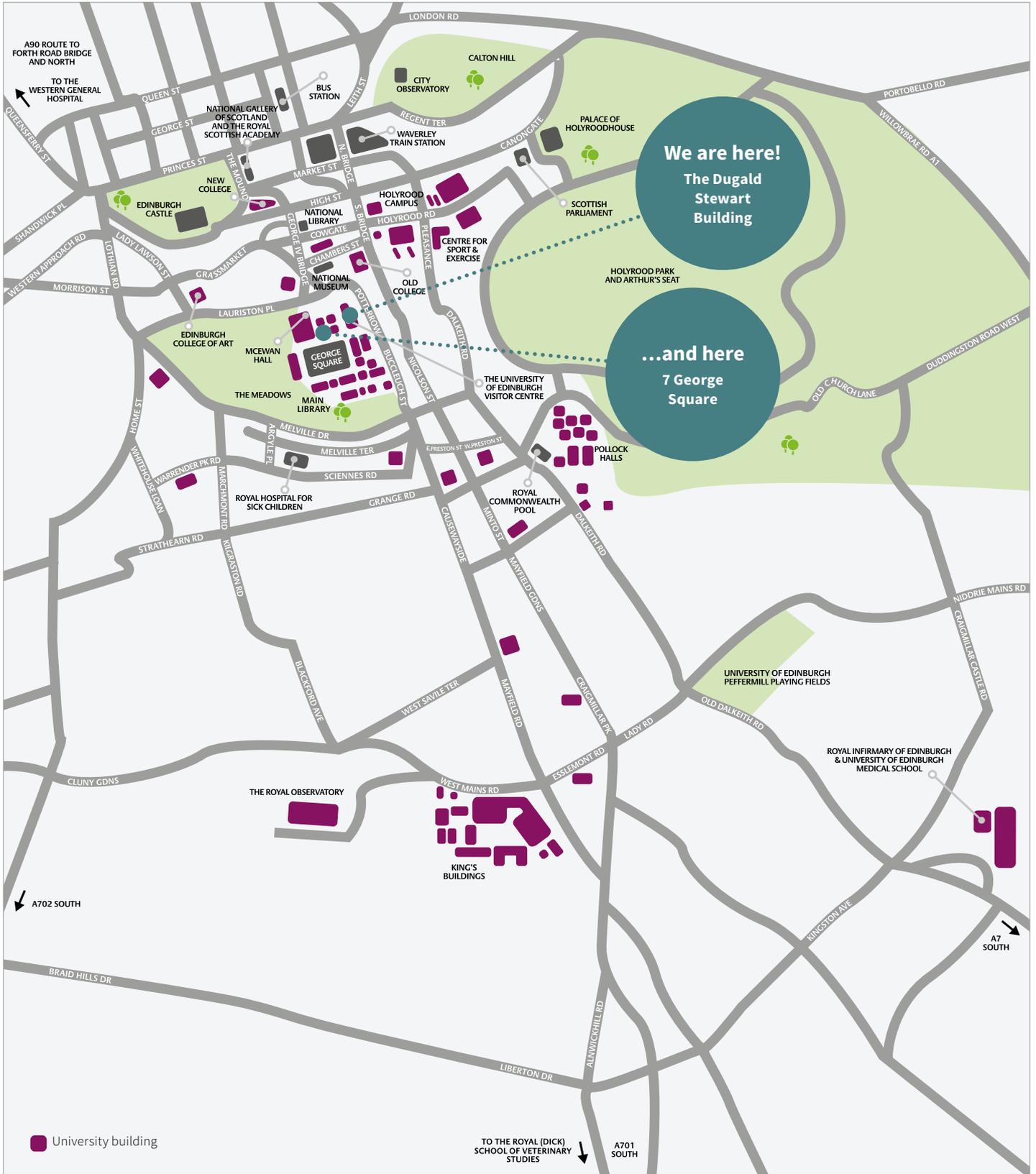
“I learnt about the scholarships through the scholarships and student funding section of the University’s website. The scholarships have provided me with a wonderful opportunity to study at a premier institution. I wish to work in academia in the future and so my PhD will provide me with the necessary training and qualification to allow me to meet my goals.”

Shruti Chaudhry

PhD Sociology, Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship and College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Research Studentship

# Where we are

Our teaching, learning and research takes place in two buildings in the University's Central Area, a stone's throw from city attractions and University amenities such as the Main Library and the Centre for Sport and Exercise.



**We are here!**  
The Dugald Stewart Building

**...and here**  
7 George Square

University building

TO THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES  
A701 SOUTH

# What's next?

## Contact us

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Dugald Stewart Building  
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Email [pplsppgoffice@ed.ac.uk](mailto:pplsppgoffice@ed.ac.uk)  
[www.ppls.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk)

## Visit us

We offer many opportunities for you to join us in Edinburgh and 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 in person or online. Find out what event we're hosting next: [www.ed.ac.uk/visit/open-days](http://www.ed.ac.uk/visit/open-days)

## 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

# Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences

“Edinburgh is one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever visited, and I travel a lot. It was a wonderful living experience. It’s a friendly place and very welcoming for foreign students. It has a vibrant cultural and social life, but also offers space for peaceful study or work. It’s a place I would consider living permanently.”

Angelica Kaufmann  
MSc by Research Philosophy