



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Postgraduate Opportunities

2021

Social & Political Science

www.sps.ed.ac.uk

Open to
the world



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

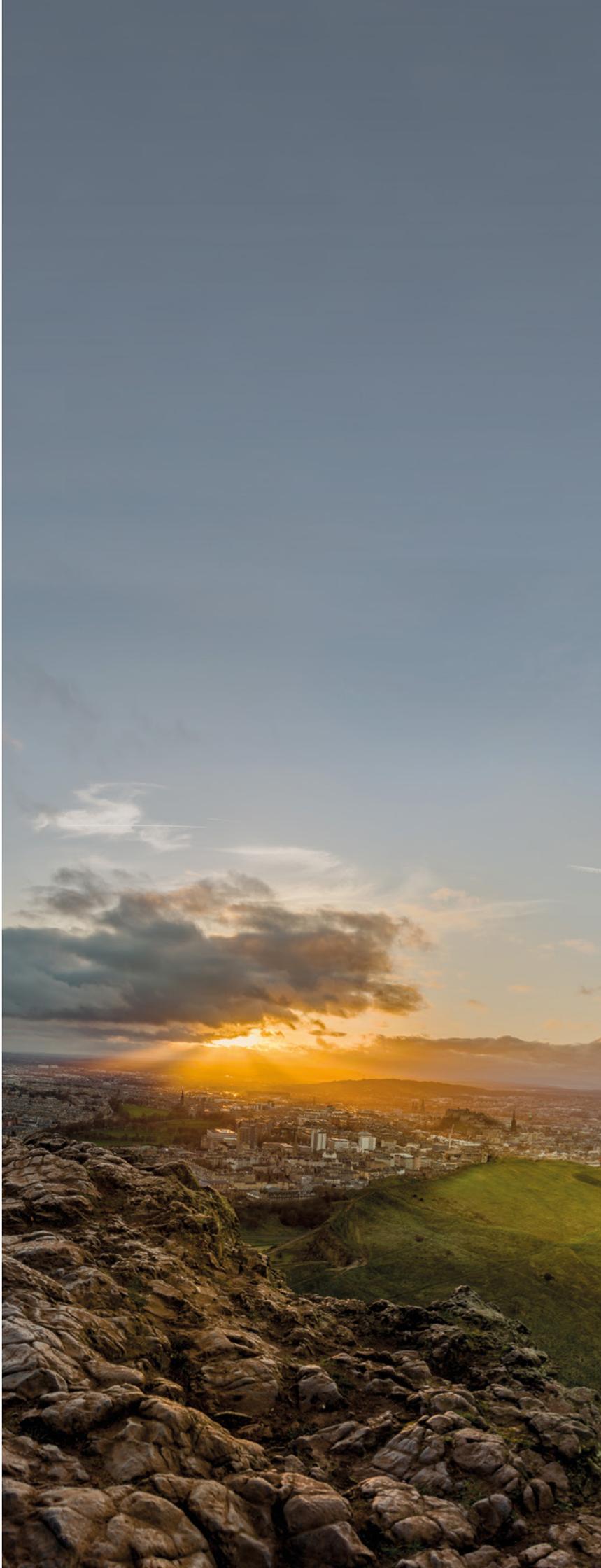
Edinburgh is one of the largest providers of online postgraduate programmes in the UK.

‡ *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 Social & Political Science

The School of Social & Political Science provides an intellectually vibrant teaching and research environment, with an international community of more than 280 world-class academic staff and 800 postgraduate students.

The School was established to promote a culture of interdisciplinary research and collaboration across various subject areas, research groups and centres. These include: the subject areas of politics and international relations, social anthropology, social policy, social work, sociology and science, technology and innovation studies; the centres of Canadian Studies, African Studies and South Asian Studies; and an array of specialist institutes and centres for the study of governance, public policy, global development, the EU, families and relationships, criminal justice, social work and innovation in genomics.

The School is one of Europe's leading lights for research in the social sciences. In the last Research Excellence Framework (REF), 77 per cent of our submitted research was rated world leading or internationally excellent and all of our assessed research units were ranked in the UK top 10 for either research power or research quality (Research Fortnight, REF 2014). Our research has recently attracted large grants from the Economic and Social Research Council, European Research Council (ERC) and the Leverhulme Trust, among others.

With faculty members coming from across the world, and many dynamic international research collaborations, the School has outstanding global connections. Edinburgh is a member of the League of European Research Universities, a 21-strong partnership of Europe's top multi-faculty universities, and the Coimbra Group, a network of 40 European universities, including some of the oldest and most prestigious on the continent.

We have established close ties with the National University of Singapore and the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Science (BIGSS). Membership of the Universitas 21 network has greatly enhanced our ability to collaborate, linking us to high-profile universities all around the world: three in Australia, three in the UK, two each in the US, Canada and China, and one each in Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and Sweden.

The Graduate School

Our international and interdisciplinary approach cuts across traditional social science boundaries, bringing together outstanding teachers and researchers from across the University to inspire and challenge you.

We attract a diverse body of students from across the world, some continuing their studies straight after undergraduate degrees, others returning to study after a period of employment. Over the past five years more than half of our postgraduate students have come from outside the UK. Providing a meeting place for cultures and perspectives is a valuable part of the experience we offer here in the School of Social & Political Science.

Employability and graduate attributes

We are dedicated to providing you with the best possible support for the successful completion of your studies and preparation for your future. We believe supporting your academic and professional development plays a large part in this.

The School runs an extensive induction, providing extensive networking opportunities and explaining how to make the most of your time here. For research students, we provide a mix of generic interdisciplinary training and specialist training, focusing on research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. Some taught masters degrees offer the chance to undertake a placement-based dissertation instead of the traditional academic dissertation. We provide training seminars within all our programmes and practical workshops in skills including preparing for fieldwork, ethics, writing an academic CV, networking, and publication plans and presentations.

Student Development Office

Our Student Development Office offers you skills and employability training through workshops, interactive seminars and placement-based dissertation opportunities. Open to all students, it is the framework through which we connect you with the world beyond academia.

Workshops and seminars

We run professional development and academic skills sessions in collaboration with professionals from the University and the public and private sectors. These provide excellent opportunities to enhance your employability and build networks within a relevant field. We also provide financial and practical support to student-led initiatives including conferences, exhibitions and bespoke workshops.

The School of Social & Political Science Edinburgh Awards

We offer two awards designed to develop your professional competencies and foster academic engagement with the wider community. The awards, Professional Development and Professional Development Leaders, run throughout the academic year and feature a range of skills workshops and practical activities.

Placement-based dissertations

On certain programmes you will be eligible to apply for a placement-based dissertation as part of your MSc. These enable you to link with external organisations to collect primary data for your dissertation. Placements last eight weeks (typically May–June) and may be in the UK or international. We will guide you throughout the placement process, from initial project scoping to on-placement support. Please check online for more information and to see what the current impact of Covid-19 is on placements: www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool/student_development

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

Our community

The Graduate School is not only a lively and thriving academic environment – we also have a wide range of social events.

These usually include the School's welcome ceilidh (Scottish dance) at the start of the academic year, a Christmas celebration and a traditional Burns Supper in January, as well as a drinks reception for students and their families at graduation.

Many of our programmes call for periods of study away from the UK, and our students have seen the benefit of recording their experiences in photography and film. Every year our students review the best of their fieldwork photographs and hold an exhibition, with pictures auctioned for scholarship funds.

Platform One

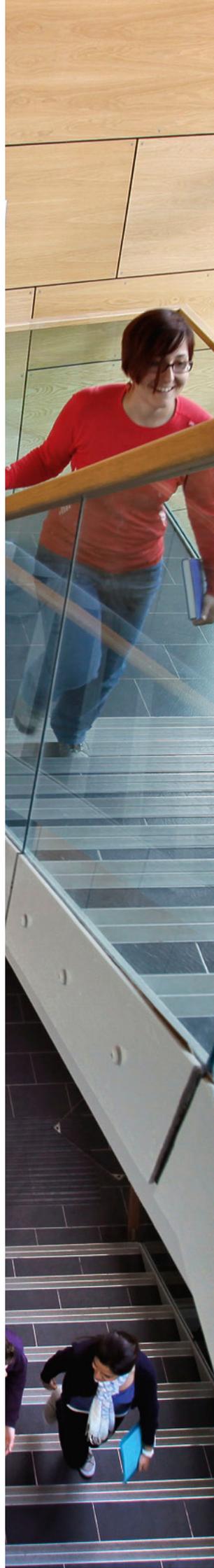
We provide opportunities for students to draw on the knowledge and experience of our worldwide alumni network through lectures, workshops and panel discussions, and online via Platform One. This supportive environment allows students, alumni, staff and volunteers to gather to share their knowledge and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



“Being part of the University of Edinburgh opens up networks of contacts with experts and other students in the field.”

Nasreen Akhter, MSc Social Anthropology

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.



Tackling healthcare for displaced people

A group of Social Anthropology and Centre for African Studies researchers received £3m from the Economic and Social Research Council's Global Challenges Research Fund.

The award will support a project that aims to improve healthcare at the intersection of gender and protracted displacement among Somali and Congolese refugees and internally displaced people in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and South Africa.

Professor Laura Jeffery, Dr Lucy Lowe and Dr Jean-Benoit Falisse hope to help displaced people access appropriate healthcare for long-term physical and mental health conditions associated with protracted displacement, conflict and gendered violence.

The project also aims to develop resilient, responsive and inclusive health systems that contribute to strong and welcoming societies, as well as supporting the development of mechanisms and organisations that empower displaced communities when they seek healthcare. The trio is collaborating on the project with colleagues at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, ARQ International in the Netherlands, the Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis, Kinshasa School of Public Health and Université Evangélique en Afrique in DRC, Amref International University in Kenya, and Wits University in South Africa.

The Global Challenges Research Fund is a £1.5 billion fund announced by the UK Government in late 2015 to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries.

Keeping track of Scotland's Covid-19 cases

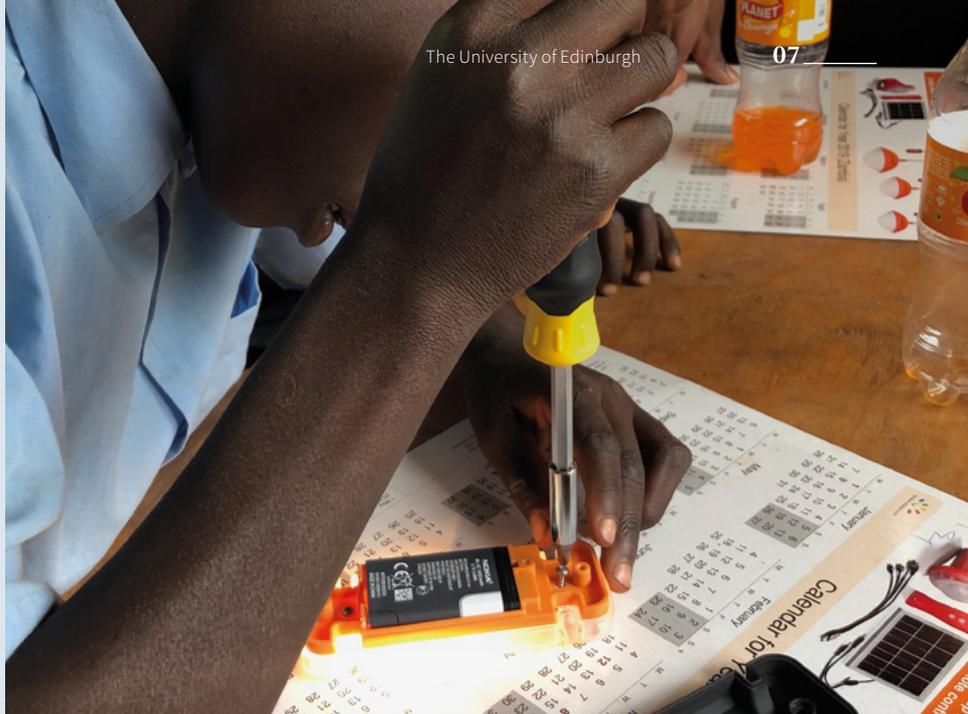
A School lecturer has created a tool designed to provide a visualisation of the spread of Covid-19 cases across Scotland.

Using daily information from the Scottish Government, Dr Tod Van Gunten, lecturer in Economic Sociology, developed a digital tool to show the spread of the disease in each NHS Scotland health board. The tool can be filtered by factors including location and total Covid-19 test results and allows users to estimate the number of total cases in an area, based on the data for positive test results.

Dr Van Gunten was inspired to create the tool in the early stages of the pandemic after finding it difficult to see local information in context.

He said: "I wanted to see the local trend in cases, not just a snapshot of the current day.

"I think there is an important role for independent data distribution, visualisation and analysis tools because the official data release is arguably a bit old-fashioned. Some media outlets like the New York Times have impressive data journalism teams compiling information and making it accessible, but I have not seen anything quite as good for the UK, much less Scotland specifically. I hope this tool continues to serve a useful purpose in that sense."



Sustainable solar lamp wins global design award

A solar-powered light that Edinburgh researchers created from recycled plastics and ethically sourced electronic components has won a prestigious design accolade.

The portable lamp and charger – known as the Solar What?! – was built to promote responsible production and cut electronic waste. It was selected for a Professional Concept prize at the iF Product Design Awards, chosen from more than 7,000 entries by a panel of 78 international design experts.

Aimed at families without access to mains electricity in low-income countries, it was designed by a team at the School of Social & Political Science alongside Edinburgh-based design agency Cramasie. It is powered using mobile phone batteries and can be repaired with non-specialist tools and charged from a range of second-hand solar modules.

Jamie Cross, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology and Associate Dean for Knowledge Exchange and Impact, co-designed the Solar What?!. He said it had been built to challenge unsustainable design practices in the off-grid solar industry and to promote the right to repair.

Small solar-powered lamps and chargers provide basic access to energy for millions of people worldwide who live without mains electricity. Every year more than one million small solar powered lighting devices are sold in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The rapid expansion of markets for off-grid solar products has been accompanied by new flows of electronic waste. Each year more than 1.5 million devices reach the end of their working life because the people who use them are unable to replace batteries or repair simple electronic components.

"Products that can be repaired in the place that they are used can increase access to energy, support local livelihoods and reduce electronic waste. Solar-powered devices that are not built to be repaired by the people who use them are disposable technologies, not sustainable technologies."

Jamie Cross



Safe space for child victims and witnesses

Experts from the School are playing a vital role in the development of a new centre designed to support child victims and witnesses of crime.

Based on the Scandinavian Barnhaus, or children's house, model – an internationally recognised evidence-based model of excellence for children and families – the new centre will be a child friendly and safe space for victims and witnesses of violence. Locations in Scotland are being scouted for the base following a £1.5m boost from the People's Postcode Lottery.

Barnhaus is a setting where children and young people who have been maltreated or witnessed violence can receive all the support they need, from appropriate professionals, under one roof. It is intended to be a welcoming and safe environment from a child's perspective, designed around the needs of children and young people, not the needs of the organisations providing services and support. The Barnhaus offers each child a coordinated and effective response and prevents (re)traumatisation during investigation and court proceedings.

Professor John Devaney, Head of Social Work, and lecturer Dr Mary Mitchell were part of the team who developed the bid for funding, along with Children 1st, Victim Support Scotland and Children England. Dr Mitchell will lead the evaluation of the new service.

"With one in four children in the UK reporting an experience of neglect or abuse, it is timely that the UK seeks to build on the learning from various countries about the need and benefits of the Barnhaus/child advocacy centre model."

Professor John Devaney



Innovative course claims leading award

The School's Global Politics of Sex and Gender course was recognised with a top UK award for innovation in political teaching.

Picking up the Innovations in Teaching Politics (Group) Award from the Political Studies Association (PSA), the course was recognised for the way it uses creative methods to bring politics and gender issues to life for students and gets them thinking about theories and topics expansively.

The course uses an applied and policy-based approach, with students focusing on solving problems, making decisions, and finding practical uses for ideas and theories. The skills they learn are transferable and are designed to boost their employability.

"Teaching students about the many ways gender operates as a structure of power has been our passion for a long time and it's great to be awarded recognition for our efforts. Students have consistently told us that the course has changed the way they look at the world, improved their critical thinking skills and informed their career paths. We are proud to have played a part in empowering the next generation of critical-but-engaged feminist researchers and activists."

Dr Claire Duncanson
Course convenor





Global network to improve refugees' health

A new international project to tackle the threat of serious healthcare problems among refugee populations has been spearheaded by a team from the School.

The Global Refugee Health Research Network (GRHRN) – launched in collaboration with the University of the West of Scotland – brings together academics from across the world to address the health needs of refugees, through research and policy development. Members will share their expertise and knowledge to work on health challenges affecting millions of displaced people because of their refugee status.

Based at the School, the network is led by Dr George Palattiyil, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, and Dr Dina Sidhva of the University of the West of Scotland, who is also Associate of the Global Health Academy at the University of Edinburgh. Partners include Makerere University in Uganda, Yarmouk University in Jordan, the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, Higher Population Council in Jordan, Global Health Development/Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network in Jordan and InterAid Uganda.

The GRHRN is a response to the need to address serious health consequences for people displaced due to war, poverty, political instability, human-rights violations and environmental factors, who find themselves living as refugees. Pressing issues around refugee health needs include adolescent sexual and reproductive health, women's health, trauma and psychosocial health and wellbeing, and the policy context for refugee health.

"Health services have tended to view refugees from an emergency and humanitarian point of view, and the health of refugees has received relatively little attention in the migration and development debate. This is despite the view of the World Health Assembly Resolution that the health of migrants is central to sustainable development."

Dr George Palattiyil

"Our understanding of how refugee and migrant health needs are being met across the world is limited. This new interdisciplinary network is bringing people together across locations, academic disciplines, and civil society organisations to debate refugee health, carry out collaborative research, and inform international health policies."

Dr Dina Sidhva



Our teaching

The School of Social & Political Science offers a range of taught postgraduate study options including professional training, online learning and masters degrees designed to take your career to the next level, or prepare you for academic research.

Most of our degrees are offered either as a full master of science (MSc) or as a postgraduate certificate (PgCert). We also offer a master of social work (MSW).

With a vibrant postgraduate community, we attract a diverse body of students from around the world. Providing a meeting place for cultures and perspectives is integral to the taught postgraduate experience that we offer.

Many of our taught postgraduate degrees are interdisciplinary, with subject areas from across the School and the University coming together to provide a postgraduate learning experience that is unique and unrivalled.

Our taught postgraduate degrees are grouped into themes that reflect our expertise across key areas, as well as the demand for highly qualified graduates in these areas. At the time of publication, we plan to run the following taught degrees in 2021, but this may be subject to change:

Global Health Policy

- Global Health Policy (MSc)
- Global Health Policy (MSc) 

International Development

- Africa & International Development (MSc)
- African Studies (MSc)
- Global Challenges (MSc) 
- International Development (MSc) 
- International Development (MSc/PgDip) 

 Online learning

Politics & International Relations

- Global Environment, Politics & Society (MSc)
- International & European Politics (including European Practitioner Pathway) (MSc)
- International Political Theory (MSc)
- International Relations (MSc)
- International Relations of the Middle East (MSc)

Science, Technology & Innovation Studies

- Management of Bioeconomy, Innovation & Governance (MSc)
- Science & Technology in Society (MSc)

Social Anthropology

- Medical Anthropology (MSc)
- Social Anthropology (MSc)

Social & Political Science

- Social Research (MSc/PgCert)
- Social Research with Quantitative Methods (MSc/PgCert)

Social & Public Policy

- Comparative Public Policy (MSc)
- Public Policy (MSc)

Social Work

- Advanced Social Work Studies (Mental Health Officer Award) (PgCert)
- Global Mental Health & Society (MSc)
- Social Work (MSW)

Sociology

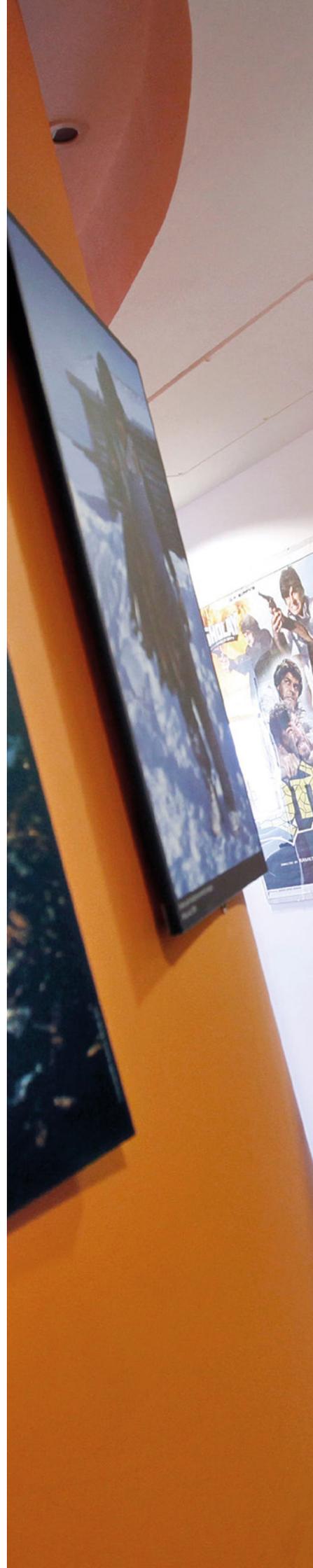
- Digital Sociology (MSc)
- Sociology & Global Change (MSc)

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

See also...

Some of our taught masters degrees are closely related to those in other schools and colleges. You may be interested in degrees offered by other schools, particularly Biological Sciences; Education and Sport; Literatures, Languages & Cultures; Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences; Health in Social Science; or GeoSciences.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/prospectus-request



Facilities and resources

Your postgraduate experience will take place within our historic campus, centred around the attractive buildings of George Square in the heart of the city.

Our location gives you easy access to outstanding University-wide facilities, including the Main Library, one of the biggest university libraries in the UK, and the oldest purpose-built students' union in the world.

All postgraduate students have access to shared study spaces, networked printers, and lockers. Wi-fi is available across the School and the University.

PhD students can also benefit from a laptop loan for the duration of their studies.

The ground floor of the Chrystal MacMillan Building includes a cafe and social space which is popular with students and staff alike.

Social and political capital

Many of our postgraduate students find inspiration from studying in our vibrant capital city, where social and political issues, current and historical, are woven into the fabric of the cityscape and are never far from the surface of daily life. Our proximity to the institutions of government in Scotland offers a range of opportunities for public engagement and knowledge exchange.

Meanwhile, our flexible online learning will allow you to gain all the benefits of a masters degree from our School without leaving your home, wherever that may be, or interrupting your career.



Our School is housed in the Chrystal Macmillan Building, named after the University's first female science graduate, who became a prominent voice in the women's rights movement.

Research at the School of Social & Political Science

The School of Social & Political Science boasts an outstanding range of subjects and research centres, with more than 200 academic staff supporting nearly 400 postgraduate research students.

We offer a mix of MSc by Research degrees and PhD. At the time of printing, our planned postgraduate research opportunities for 2021 are:

- African Studies (PhD)
- Global Health Policy (PhD)
- International Development (PhD)
- Politics (PhD)
- Science & Technology Studies (PhD/MScR)
- Social & Political Science (PhD/MScR)
- Social Anthropology (PhD)
- Social Policy (PhD)
- Social Work (PhD)
- Socio-cultural Studies (PhD)
- Sociology (PhD)
- South Asian Studies (PhD)

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

Degree types

PhD

A PhD is the highest academic research qualification, entailing research training and supervised research over a three-year period.

MSc by Research

A one-year degree, assessed by research coursework, examination and a dissertation, that is designed to prepare you for further advanced research.

Career opportunities

Many of our graduates use a research degree as a platform for a career in academia, or postdoctoral research, internationally. Others have found work in international development, the charities sector, the civil service or in business, with organisations such as the International Red Cross, the United Nations and the World Bank.

Subjects and disciplines

We support research study in the following areas:

Politics and international relations

Research in politics and international relations explores the theory, practice and ethics of politics and governance. We cover a broad area of expertise, from local policy to global governance, political theory to empirical studies; and constructivism to rational choice approaches. Much of our work focuses on the exciting challenges posed by new institutional settings: devolution, European integration, and multilateral cooperation. Empirical research is complemented by strong political theory, analysing issues of justice, rights and legitimacy in European and international relations. We also address challenges of governance in environmental, security, migration, health and finance policy. We specialise in the comparative politics of countries in Europe, Russia, Africa and North America.

Science, technology and innovation studies

The University has an international reputation in all aspects of the study of science, technology and innovation in society. With the founding of the Science Studies Unit in 1964 came pioneering work in the sociology of scientific knowledge. Likewise, the establishment of the Research Centre for Social Sciences in 1984 produced innovative and interdisciplinary research, public policy advice and consultancy on the socioeconomic aspects of technology and innovation.

These two bodies have come together to form the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies subject group (STIS). STIS also hosts two interdisciplinary research institutes – Innogen and the Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Social anthropology

Social anthropology at Edinburgh has a thriving research culture, bringing together academic staff, a lively and cosmopolitan body of postgraduate researchers, and a growing number of postdoctoral fellows. In recent years we have won significant funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, and the Leverhulme Trust, as well as non-academic partners such as the Department for International Development. We have an excellent record of success in recent ESRC and British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship schemes. Our strengths include: the anthropology of politics; kinship, personhood and ritual; film, media and the aesthetic; anthropology in practice; and medical anthropology.

The University is piloting PhDs by online learning. If you're interested in studying with us this way, we're keen to investigate possibilities in some of our areas of research.

Social policy

We conduct cutting-edge research on a variety of core areas of social and public policy, including the labour market, health, crime, education, social security, family policy and gender equality. Our research also encompasses questions of governance, including work on themes such as constitutional change, political participation, privatisation and the role of organised civil society and expertise in policy making.

Social policy is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary field of study, operating especially at the intersections of economics, political science and sociology. While we have substantial expertise on social policy in Scotland and the UK, much of the work conducted in our Social Policy group is international and comparative in nature. Social policy is a field of study of obvious societal significance and we are committed to disseminating our work beyond the academic community, seeking to have impact on policy and practice in Scotland and beyond. We nonetheless retain a strong commitment to drawing upon and advancing intellectual and theoretical developments in the social sciences, and to contributing to methodological innovation in both quantitative and qualitative research in social and public policy.

Social work

As social work academics, we see our role as not only producing research and pursuing scholarship, but also encouraging the use of research in practice and in policy making.

Although we conduct a large amount of our research in the UK, we also have a commitment to research in the wider international context. This is reflected in the research carried out by our PhD students and academic staff in places such as Australia, India, Nepal, South Africa and Uganda.

We are involved in a range of research projects on topics as diverse as supporting children bereaved through domestic homicide in Australia and the UK, the prevalence, risk and protective factors of child maltreatment in vulnerable populations in sub-Saharan Africa, care leaver relationships, mental health and social media use in the UK, how lockdown restrictions in relation to Covid-19 affected the families of care home residents in Scotland, and assessing the strategies used to work with individuals who have committed sexual offences to desist from offending.

Sociology

Our work focuses on the interweaving of individual lives, social processes and historical change. Edinburgh is one of the world's leading centres of the empirical study and theorisation of identity, nations and nationalism. It takes a leading role in research on intimate relations, emotions, social demography and processes of marginalisation. Renowned for its work on political sociology, narrative and auto/biography as well as the social studies of finance, it also offers an exciting new focus on digital sociology and cultural sociology. Critical sociology – the re-examination of the foundations of the discipline – remains a theme of much of the above work. The area is an increasing focus of events and symposia, including our annual Goffman Lecture.

Research centres

Within the School, you will have the opportunity to work with a diverse range of outstanding research centres, including:

- **Centre for Research on Families and Relationships** – encompassing diverse themes to inform policy, practice and debate in Scotland, the UK and internationally
 - **Centre for Security Research** – an interdisciplinary centre that aims to promote and link diverse forms of security research
 - **Centre for South Asian Studies** – one of the major UK research centres focused on the affairs of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
 - **Edinburgh Centre for Medical Anthropology** – occupying a unique niche in the rapidly growing group of social sciences that investigates health and illness
 - **Europa Institute** – a pre-eminent centre for the study of the European Union, bringing together world-class scholars on EU law, politics and policy
 - **Global Development Academy** – harnessing the University's international strengths to ensure it plays a role contributing solutions to world problems
 - **Global Health Policy Unit** – focusing on key areas of contemporary global health – universal health coverage, commercial determinants of health, global governance of health, and knowledge, evidence and policy
 - **Innogen Institute** – translating new scientific discoveries to practical use with a distinctive focus on globalisation
 - **The Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation** – an interdisciplinary research network focused on information and communications technologies, energy technologies and environmental innovation, life science innovation, and the historical sociology of science, technology and medicine
 - **Just World Institute** – interdisciplinary research addressing interconnected themes of global justice and human rights, security, conflict and peace, and environment, natural resources and climate change.
- **Centre of African Studies** – the only academic unit in Scotland dedicated to the study of Africa
 - **Centre of Canadian Studies** – developing research projects that focus directly on Canada or study Canada in relation to broader research on the Arctic, Europe, North America and developing regions

Find out more...

For a full list of research interests and expertise across the School's subject areas, research centres and groups, see: www.sps.ed.ac.uk/sac

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 Social & Political Science, the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish, UK and international governments and many funding bodies.

Here we list a selection of potential sources of financial support for postgraduate students applying to the School of Social & Political Science. 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

• 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

• 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

• SPS Graduate School Scholarships ●

A number of scholarships and awards are available to postgraduate students in the School of Social & Political Science: www.sps.ed.ac.uk/pg-funding

• 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/mastercardfdn

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

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.studentfinancenir.co.uk

- **Postgraduate Loans (SAAS)** ●●

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

- **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

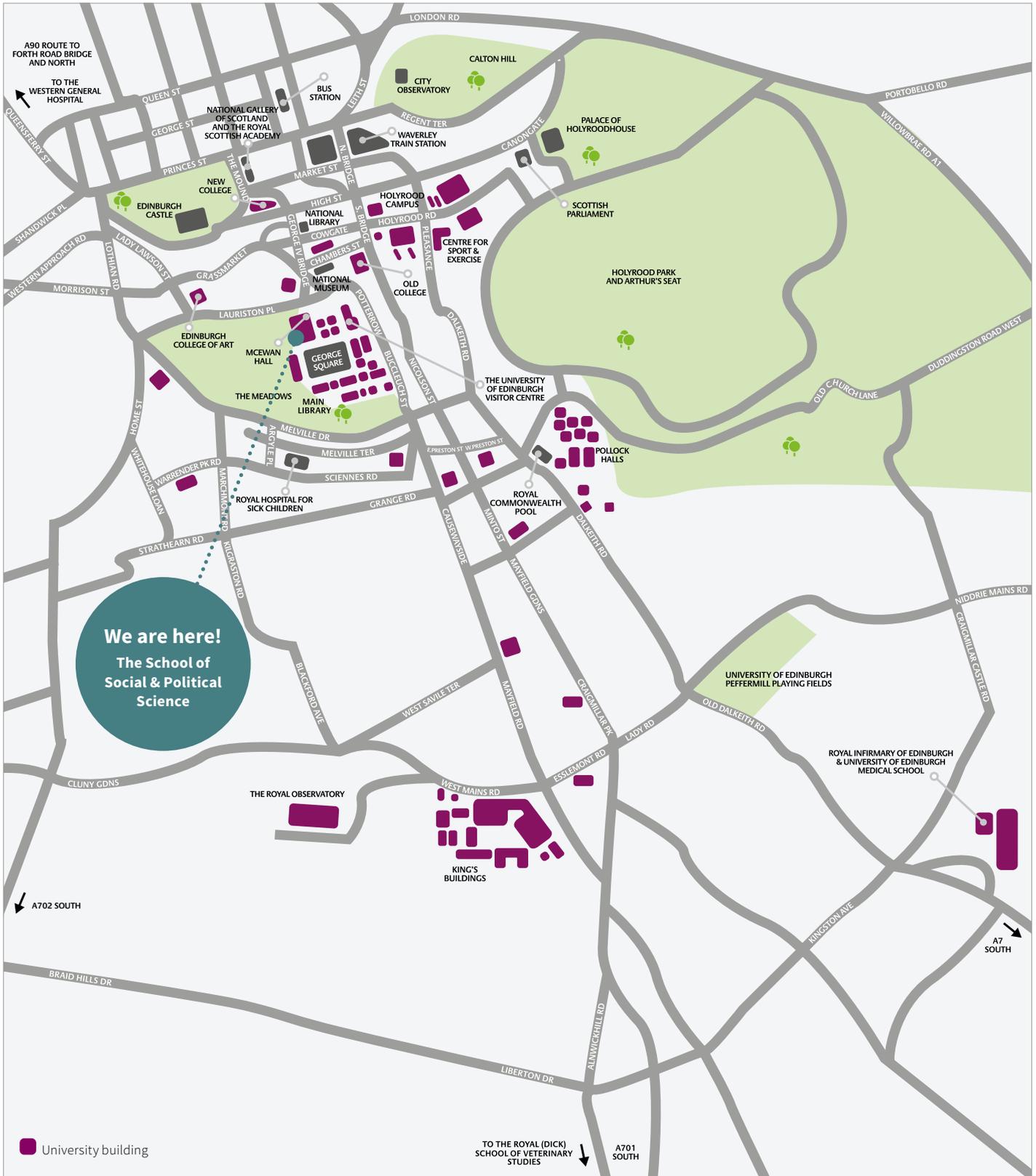


Where we are

You'll find us at the heart of the University's Central Area, a stone's throw from Edinburgh attractions and University amenities, such as the Main Library and the Centre for Sport and Exercise.



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



What's next?

Contact us

For more information about any of our postgraduate programmes or to contact potential supervisors, email pgadmissions.sps@ed.ac.uk or visit: www.sps.ed.ac.uk/gradschool

We also welcome enquiries at:

The School of Social & Political Science

Chrystal Macmillan Building
15A George Square
Edinburgh
EH8 9LD

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

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



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

Published by:

Communications and Marketing, The University of Edinburgh

Designed by:

Parkhouse

Photography by:

Paul Dodds

Nick Callaghan

Shutterstock

Getty Images

This publication is available online at www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate and can be made available in alternative formats on request. Please contact communications.office@ed.ac.uk or call +44 (0)131 650 2252.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this prospectus before going to print. However please check online for the most up-to-date information: www.ed.ac.uk

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

© The University of Edinburgh 2020.

No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the University. The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.



Education 
SCOTLAND
Innovative. Individual. Inspirational.

Social & Political Science

“Being part of the University of Edinburgh opens up networks of contacts with experts and other students in the field.”

Nasreen Akhter
MSc Social Anthropology

Open to
the world