World-class online learning from the University of Edinburgh
‘We have 41,000 students at the University of Edinburgh and 3,800 of those are online students. We regard all those students as very important members of the University community and we don’t make a distinction in terms of who is physically present on campus and who is not.

Your teaching programme will meet the same world-class academic standards that our campus-based degrees do. You should have the same access to facilities, the same access to the history and heritage of the University and we hope the same sense of pride in your University of Edinburgh degree. So please be proud that you are part of the University. Please feel that you are part of our community. Engage with your fellow students and your teachers.

We realise that online learners are subject to all the usual pressures of students studying in any university, with often a whole series of other added life pressures whether it be financial, social, work, family or caring responsibilities. We support your wellbeing and we want you to make sure that you enjoy your time studying at the University and that you emerge from it stronger and more knowledgeable as an individual.’

**Professor Peter Mathieson**
Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh
The UK’s largest selection of online masters programmes

A
Advanced Clinical Practice
Anatomical Sciences
Applied Conservation Genetics with Wildlife Forensics
Applied Medical Image Analysis
Applied Poultry Science

B
Biodiversity, Wildlife & Ecosystem Health

C
Carbon Innovation
Carbon Management
Climate Change Management
Clinical Animal Behaviour
Clinical Education
Clinical Management of Pain
Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
Clinical Ophthalmology
Clinical Trials
Conservation Medicine
Critical Care

D
Data Science, Technology & Innovation
Dental Sedation & Anxiety Management
Digital Education
Digital Media Design

E
Epistemology, Ethics & Mind
Equine Science

F
Family Medicine
Food Safety

G
General Surgery
Global Challenges
Global Development Challenges
Global eHealth
Global Environment Challenges
Global Food Security & Nutrition
Global Health & Infectious Diseases
Global Health Challenges
Global Health Policy
Global Health Studies

H
History

I
Imaging
Information Technology Law
Innovation, Technology & the Law
Intellectual Property Law
Internal Medicine
International Animal Health
International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law
International Commercial Law & Practice
International Development

J

K

L
Law

M
Medical Law & Ethics
Mental Health in Children & Young People: Psychological Approaches
Molecular Pathology & Genomic Medicine

N
Neuroimaging for Research

O
One Health

P
Paediatric Emergency Medicine
Patient Safety & Clinical Human Factors
PET-MR Principles & Applications
Philosophy, Science & Religion
Primary Care Ophthalmology
Public Health

Q

R
RCVS Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice
Restorative Dentistry

S
Science Communication & Public Engagement
Social Justice and Community Action
Stem Cells & Translational Neurology
Surgical Sciences

T
Trauma & Orthopaedics

U
Urology

V
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
Veterinary Anaesthesia & Analgesia
Veterinary Epidemiology

You can read more about all our individual courses at: http://edin.ac/pg-az-ol
List correct at time of publication
The University of Edinburgh’s strategy is to be a world leader in digital education, and to offer an outstanding student experience to as diverse a group of students as possible.

Over the last 15 years, we have pioneered the delivery of postgraduate degrees online. We now have the largest portfolio of online postgraduate programmes in the UK and more than 8,000 students have benefited from the opportunity to study flexibly online from anywhere in the world.

We are very proud of the success of these programmes, which is due to the hard work, enthusiasm and vision of teams across the University. We are constantly scanning the horizon to ensure we can offer subjects that meet the needs of our learners, as well as the very best in academic tuition, technological advantages and personal support. Innovation drives the delivery of our student experience.

This brochure tells the story of our world-class online postgraduate portfolio: its academic excellence; its comprehensive array of support services; its technological innovations and the measurable impact that it is having on thousands of lives in every corner of the planet.

It is also an introduction to what our programmes have to offer and what you can expect from your time as a student, should you choose to join our global academic community. I hope you find it interesting, wherever you are and whoever you want your education to help you become.

Melissa Highton  |  Assistant Principal Online Learning
The University of Edinburgh has been changing the world for more than 400 years. Our innovative alumni include Joseph Black, discoverer of carbon dioxide; Sophia Jex-Blake, pioneering doctor and one of the first female students at a British university; visionary naturalist Charles Darwin; and Jennie Lee, one of the first female MPs and leading founder of the Open University.

The work we do at the University is constantly expanding the depth of human knowledge and improving the lives of ordinary people. Research conducted here led to the discovery of chloroform anaesthesia, the Higgs boson particle and in-vitro fertilisation.

Our academics are bringing broadband to remote communities, protecting forest ecosystems and advancing the public understanding of how our behaviours affect ageing.

Our students make a difference while they are studying through their interactions with the communities they are a part of. As graduates, our alumni go on to make positive impacts on the world using the skills, experience and knowledge they gain at the University.

The University’s innovative influence has always stretched far beyond our campus. Now, by embracing the technological and pedagogical opportunities of our digital age, we are expanding our scope, attracting more learners, offering more choices of online degree and widening our outreach. We have an online learning portfolio worthy of a world-class university.

The University of Edinburgh has been changing the world for more than 400 years.

The advancing capabilities of global online communication fitted perfectly with our strategic vision of widening access to our scholarship, learning and teaching to make a positive difference to people’s lives globally. As soon as we had the technology advanced enough to deliver the quality of online programmes that learners wanted, we made it happen.

The right people with the right skills

We talked to learners to find out what they wanted to study, how they wanted to study it and what they wanted their studies to do for them. Our academic teams used all their expertise to develop courses that would meet those needs and surpass student expectations. We built the largest team of learning technologists in the country to create digital services that would deliver our online programmes to all students wherever they are in the world. We developed a comprehensive support system to make online learners feel as much a part of our academic community as our students on campus.

It worked.

Our first fully online masters programme welcomed students in 2005. Since then more than 8,000 postgraduate students from 160 countries have joined our academic community.

We are delivering our strategy of being a world leader in digital education.
THE HIGHEST QUALITY TEACHING AND RESEARCH

As an online learner with the University of Edinburgh, you will be taught by lecturers and tutors who are among the leading figures in their field and who are passionate about their subjects. The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked inside the top 50 universities in global league tables and our academic staff work very hard to maintain their world-class reputation for teaching quality and research excellence. The latest report from the Quality Assurance Agency awarded us the highest rating possible for the quality of the student learning experience*.

Although the emphasis at postgraduate level is very much on independent study, our teaching staff will always be on hand to support you.

The prestige of the University and the flexibility of the programme attracted Chris Slocombe to study MSc History online

Chris Slocombe, USA
MSc History

‘I chose the University of Edinburgh for two reasons. Firstly, it’s one of the top universities in the world, particularly for the humanities. Secondly, one of my favourite 19th century Americanists, David Silkenat, is part of the faculty in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology.

I was attracted by the flexibility of the study, the rigour of the coursework and the friendliness of the faculty and staff. There is a vibrancy to this programme that simply didn’t exist at the other universities I considered.’

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

We know first-hand how much the scope of digital education has changed in the last two decades. Our research expertise in this field is led by the team in our Centre for Research in Digital Education. The Centre is based in Moray House School of Education and conducts research, knowledge exchange and consultancy in key areas including digital education pedagogy and policy, open education, children and technology, learning analytics and museum learning. We take a critical approach to learning, teaching and technology in formal and informal education, combining our research with world-leading practice in digital education.

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

We are associated with 24 Nobel Prize winners

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Lyndsay Brown, UK
MSc Primary Care Ophthalmology

This programme really made me think more critically and not just accept statements at face value. It was also very enlightening to get some insights into the experiences of colleagues from different disciplines and academic backgrounds from all over the world.

Lyndsay Brown gained new insights

‘Not only did the course tutors offer an outstanding programme, they were so supportive outside of standard times and always went above and beyond.’

Emma Makin, Belgium
MSc in Digital Education

‘The sense of location and connection to an institution is differently, not less, important to students who are studying at a distance from their home university.’

Sian Bayne
Professor of Digital Education

*www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/quality-assurance-reports/University-of-Edinburgh
JOIN OUR GLOBAL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

We offer a highly participative learning environment that is both supportive and intellectually stimulating. Students join us from all over the world, adding their rich diversity of professional and academic experience to a truly international learning community. Our students value the different perspectives their fellow students bring, and welcome the support provided by our expert teaching staff.

Study collaboratively, not alone

Online learning is a deeply collaborative mode of study. You will be able to share experiences through debates taking place on discussion boards supported and moderated by members of academic staff. As well as communicating with other students, you will also have regular contact with members of academic staff and your own personal tutor.

Sometimes I have an opinion that I think is right and then I go to the discussion board and I discover that people have different perspectives about it and when I read them all it actually opens my perspective and makes me think in different ways.’
Anthony Adee Ama, Ghana
MSc Biodiversity, Wildlife & Ecosystem Health

‘It was good that I could share scientific knowledge with learners from other countries. They are contributing to my knowledge and it is very useful.’
Mennataliah Hussain, Dubai
MSc Paediatric Emergency Medicine

‘The case studies were so enlightening. I learnt a lot about how to manage patients optimally through the discussions. The interaction with students from other countries broadened my knowledge of managing the same cases in a different way.’
Dr Lughano Kalongolera, Malawi
MSc Surgical Sciences

ONLINE DEGREES ARE JUST AS VALUABLE AS CAMPUS DEGREES

Our online masters programmes involve the same level of work as on-campus ones and the qualification gained is of equal value. Our degree certificates do not mention that the learner studied the programme online.

Summer schools

Some of our online masters programmes organise summer schools, which are a valuable opportunity for online learners to meet academic staff. For example, the Global Health Academy (GHA) summer school is hosted each year in either Uganda or Rwanda in partnership with a local university. The GHA summer school brings together students with a diverse range of expertise and experience and supports them in exploring complex, multi-dimensional global health problems that can only be tackled through collaborative interdisciplinary approaches.

The vibrant community formed at the summer school by students and staff creates lasting bonds across disciplines and programmes. These diverse communities continue to interact long after summer school through online social networks, and individuals continue to support each other in a global community. Local alumni also often join in with summer schools, networking with and advising students from varied health fields across the world. This is extremely motivating for, and valued by, our students.

Global Health Academy summer school 2018 at Budongo Conservation Field Centre, Uganda
Studying online is a very flexible way to learn. You can study when and where it suits you, and work at your own pace. There are no set lecture or seminar times, allowing you to study conveniently around your busy schedules.

Most programmes will require around 10 to 20 hours of study per week, but managing this is up to the individual learner. Some students study for a few hours most days, while others dedicate one or two days a week to their studies.

The University’s academic year is divided into two semesters. Core teaching and learning activities for courses takes place during these semesters.

I liked the online virtual environment. It was particularly useful to be able to do the work in your own time and it was very much self-directed which I enjoyed. I definitely gained insight and knowledge in being able to form an opinion based on good, sound, well researched and referenced material.

Caroline Robinson, UK
MSc International Animal Health

Caroline balanced work and study

STUDY ANYWHERE, ANYTIME
The advantages of professional accreditation

Learn professionally-valuable skills

We are proud that many of our online degrees are accredited by professional bodies and organisations. These endorsements are hard won, and recognise our high educational standards, outstanding course design and delivery, and the relevance of what we teach to the workplace.

Importantly, the professional accreditation of your degree can make you stand out in a crowded job market and, in some cases, may be a requirement to work in your chosen field.

- Eight of our masters programmes are delivered in partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and two with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.
- Our suite of surgical masters covers the UK Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum and helps support learning for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) examinations.
- Three subjects – Clinical Education, Surgical Sciences and General Surgery – have accreditation by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.
- The curriculum for the Master of Public Health has been validated by the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA).
- Our online MSc in Clinical Animal Behaviour is validated by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB).

Kristina Thompson, UK, MSc Clinical Education

‘I wanted to learn about the profession. I wanted to learn and understand what it takes to be most effective at what it is that we as “clinical teachers” do.

I have in fact already recommended this programme to other interested colleagues because of the wonderful experience that I have had so far with this programme and the amazing staff. The most valuable aspect of this programme for me is the flexibility offered within the courses. For example, during weeks that require my full attention (for examinations, student counselling etc), I am still able to keep up with coursework because of the ease of access. With my unpredictable work schedule, I am grateful for the opportunity to study when, where and how I can.’

*according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies Report R105 (2015)

Case Study

Advancing your career

Many of our students have chosen to study a postgraduate qualification online to enhance their existing career or to enable them to move to a new one. Studying online while working means you can immediately apply what you learn to your profession, combine the theoretical with the practical, and bring a global perspective to your role and profession.

The critical and analytical research skills gained during a masters can also be a platform for advanced research such as a PhD, and many students go on to have their work published in high-impact journals and at conferences.

Studying a masters programme:
- provides the opportunity to learn new skills and further develop existing ones
- may help you stand out from the crowd
- may make you highly attractive to prospective employers
- could lead to higher earnings - those with a masters degree earn on average 9% more than those without*
- can support your transition to a new career

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*according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies Report R105 (2015)
Prize-winning Law graduate published in international journal

Daniel Schönberger, a lawyer based in Switzerland, won the University’s McLagan Prize for best overall online learning graduate on the LLM in Medical Law & Ethics programme.

‘Because of its excellent reputation, Edinburgh Law School was my first choice. As I started my three-year programme in 2015, I immediately enjoyed the intellectual discourse with the tutors and other students during the weekly sessions. Even though this was an online programme I very much felt part of a community and probably had more interaction with tutors and students than during my time as an undergraduate law student on campus. One tutor even organised a talk I could give in Edinburgh about a term paper I wrote that I subsequently published. The interaction with tutors and my dissertation supervisor, not just on an academic but also on a personal level, was a definite highlight for me.

A refined version of my dissertation has been published in the International Journal of Law and Information Technology (Oxford University Press).’

You can read Daniel’s article ‘Artificial intelligence in healthcare: a critical analysis of the legal and ethical implications’ in full at: https://academic.oup.com/ijlit/article/27/2/171/5485669
SUPPORTING ALL OUR STUDENTS’ NEEDS

As an online learner, you’ll have access to a range of services to help with your studies, from academic to personal support. We know how hard it can be to fit masters-level learning into a life that may already be filled with professional, personal and family commitments.

We have been offering online programmes since 2005 and in that time we have talked in depth to our learners and listened to their needs. That feedback has been vital in helping us build up the comprehensive suite of support services that we now offer. As well as advanced technical resources, you will always be able to reach a real person just as you would if you were on campus. That’s what being part of a community means.

DISTANCE ISN’T A BARRIER WHEN YOU STUDY ONLINE

Our support services include:

- access to an IT support helpline service and technical support
- access to the third-largest academic library in Europe
- English language support, including a proofreading service
- academic and personal development resources
- Skype or email discussions with the Student Disability Service related to specific needs
- email-based sessions delivered by the Counselling Service
- academic development courses
- Lynda.com and digital skills courses

The programme includes access to an extensive library with leading edge research content, and talks on contemporary issues are merely a click away.

Ash Chakraborty, USA
MSc Epistemology, Ethics & Mind

Even though I’m not physically on campus, I’ve also been able to benefit from the services that the University of Edinburgh offers such as the digital library and the workshops offered through the Institute for Academic Development.

Samantha Wood, Qatar
MSc Social Justice & Community Action

The library is one of the most valuable resources for our online learners. You’ll have access to the third-largest academic library in Europe with four million printed volumes, 700,000 e-books, 100,000 e-journals and 700 databases available via the library, including most of the core readings and resources required for our programmes.

If we don’t have a book or journal that you need, you can request that we buy it. The library has an e-preference collection policy, which means the online version of a new resource is purchased if possible. We also have many reciprocal agreements that will give you access to other libraries.

The sheer size of our library’s holdings can seem daunting at first, but help is at hand. Firstly, your academic tutor will guide your reading with recommended lists of material. We have also created written and video guidance to show you how to use the library’s search tools. Finally, you will always be able to contact a member of our library staff. They are experts, they have deep knowledge of the library’s resources, and they are there to help you.

After graduating from the University, you will still have remote access to many library e-resources including JSTOR, a rich archive of scholarly journals.
Veterinary Science masters graduate wins National Geographic prize

Olivier Nsengimana
MVetSci Conservation Medicine graduate from Rwanda

Studying online with the University gave Rwandan wildlife conservationist Olivier Nsengimana the opportunity to write a project proposal for saving Rwanda's grey crowned crane, a proposal that went on to win the Rolex Award for Enterprise. Olivier, who works as a field veterinarian and scientist, is committed to saving the grey crowned crane, of which only 300–500 remain in the Rwandan wild. Olivier graduated from the University in 2015 after spending three years studying a Masters in Veterinary Science (MVetSci) in Conservation Medicine part-time by online learning. After winning the Rolex Award, Olivier went on to win the 2017 National Geographic Buffett Award, and was one of three finalists in the 2016 Tusk Conservation Awards.

“T he lecturers were very friendly and accessible and I felt as if I was connected to the University and the year group much more than I thought would be possible for an online programme.”

Case Study

Ra’ana transfers her new skills directly to her medical practice

Syeda Ra’ana Hussain
MSc Paediatric Emergency Medicine student from Kenya

“I work in a Paediatric Accident & Emergency department in one of the biggest tertiary hospitals in Nairobi, and since we receive our fair share of casualties, it was natural to find a course that would better equip me with the knowledge and skills required to provide the best care to every patient.

One of the best parts of the paediatric emergency medicine course is that not only do I get to implement the evidence-based knowledge and skills learnt from the online cases to my everyday practice, but I also learn about rare cases that we don’t regularly have the opportunity to experience first-hand, enabling me to provide optimal care if and when the need arises.

The course ensures that, every week, we are in communication with not only our lecturers, who are incredibly supportive, but with other students from around the globe. This interaction brings up different challenges and diverse perspectives without having to leave our respective countries creating a kind of global village. We have the added advantage of flexibility which is especially important when you work in a busy hospital setting.”

Transforming lives

A key element of the University’s strategy is to have a positive impact on the lives of people all around the world. Many of our online masters students are doing just that: putting their new skills and knowledge into meaningful, immediate action.

MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD

CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY
Enhancing the student experience and community is a core component of the teaching commitment of the University of Edinburgh. We have invested heavily in technology and in the professionals who push that technology to deliver tangible benefits for all our learners.

We have recruited the largest team of learning technology experts in the UK. They work very hard to create an online learning environment that seamlessly delivers the learning experience you expect from a university of our calibre.

A variety of digital platforms are used to deliver content and help you collaborate with other students and academic staff.

These platforms will typically include:

- virtual learning environments (VLEs) such as Moodle or Learn
- discussion boards and web forums
- real-time video conferencing and collaboration tools
- video streaming services like YouTube or Vimeo.

‘Having completed a number of courses online I can confidently say that the VLE used to deliver this course is the best I’ve encountered.’

Alan McCabe, UK
MSc Epistemology, Ethics & Mind

Using 360-degree videos and virtual reality in online learning

Edinburgh Medical School recently developed advanced 360-degree video technology to make learning experiences even more interactive. The ability to introduce practical knowledge to the online classroom without you having to physically be in the room creates a new dimension for your learning.

Our 360-degree technology gives you the capacity to look anywhere within a spherical video, immersing you in the world of a given task or activity. This gives you a real sense of “being there” and having control over what you view takes your engagement to a new level.

‘These 3D videos are a genius idea.’

‘That was an incredible experience. I actually felt like I was there.’

Delivering content in ways that work for students

The way we use technology is just as important as how advanced the technology is. Many of our students work in remote areas with an unreliable internet connection or low bandwidth, which makes large video and other files impractical for them to study from. So we make learning materials available in a variety of formats including audio files, PDF transcripts and Powerpoint files.

Engage with course content wherever you are in the world
VIRTUAL AND ON-CAMPUS GRADUATION

Being thousands of miles away doesn’t stop many of our online learners from attending their graduation ceremony.

Since 2009, some online students have been able to take part in their real-time graduation in an online capacity. Such virtual graduations have taken place in several schools including Education and the Vet School. The facilities have won an EDUBlog Award and appeared in the media and press, including on the BBC website.

Of course, should you want to visit the campus, you are most welcome to join us here in Edinburgh. Many of our online learners make the trip to explore the campus, meet academic staff or to graduate in person.

Since 2009, some online students have graduated in a virtual capacity

TRY A FREE COURSE BEFORE YOU BUY

If you’re not yet sure if an online masters degree is right for you right now, why not try a free online course before you buy? The University of Edinburgh offers an impressive range of more than 50 free short online courses (also known as Massive Open Online Courses, or MOOCs), which more than 2.7 million people have signed up for.

They are totally free to take, have absolutely no entry requirements, and are available completely online. Led by world-class academics and supported by teaching assistants, they typically require only 1-2 hours of study each week for around five weeks.

Our free online courses cover fascinating subjects in a very wide range of fields, including Astrobiology and the Search for Extra-terrestrial Life; The Truth About Cats and Dogs; How To Read A Novel; and Statistics: Unlocking the World of Data.

We are proud to offer these free courses as part of the University’s commitment to knowledge exchange and community outreach.

You can find out more at: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/online-learning/free-short-courses

You are always welcome in Edinburgh

‘Given the global outreach of our MOOC, we had the privilege of sharing our learners’ cultural perspectives on mental health. It was eye-opening.’

Dr Stella Chan
Reader in Clinical Psychology
What if you could gain masters-level learning without the time or cost commitment of a full masters programme? We know that for some people a three-year degree simply isn’t possible, but they do need the career boost that such advanced learning can offer. That’s why we are working in partnership with edX to launch a completely new online learning offering: MicroMasters credentials.

In September 2019, the University of Edinburgh will become the first UK university to launch a MicroMasters programme with edX when we welcome students onto our MicroMasters in Predictive Analytics for Business Applications.

This will be the first of many such courses, which are designed to advance your career by providing deep learning in specific career fields. MicroMasters programmes can help you develop your skills in a current or future role or can open the door for further postgraduate study.

You can self-assess your ability to undertake any course and will be able to access free content to ‘try before you buy’. On successful completion of a MicroMasters programme, you will be awarded 30 postgraduate credits and will have the opportunity to apply for a related masters programme at the University of Edinburgh.

We are proud of what we have achieved with online learning at the University of Edinburgh. In less than 15 years we have built the largest portfolio of online postgraduate programmes in the UK. We have developed 68 degrees and helped more than 8,000 learners take a big step forward with their lives. This took investment and hard work from teams of experts, and we learned plenty of lessons of our own along the way.

If there’s one thing that all this work has shown us, it is that digital education is changing. Rapidly.

What learners want to study, how they want to study, where they want to learn, who they want to work with and be taught by... it’s all fluid and fast-moving.

So we know that as we work to realise our vision of being a world-leader in digital education, we will need to change too. We want to develop, to deepen our expertise, advance our technology and extend our research. We want to always be scanning the horizon to see what is coming next, to understand it, to embrace it. To master it.

To do that, we need you.

So, if like Ra’ana, Daniel, Olivier, Chris, Lyndsay and Kristna, you want to transform your career, awaken your powers of critical thinking, join a stimulating and sharing global community, have a tangible impact on society around you and help realise the bold vision of a 400 year old world-class academic institution... we invite you to join us.

You are welcome at the University of Edinburgh.

Choose your online degree today at: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/online-learning/micromasters
Edinburgh alumni communities

As an online student, you will be able to join our online professional network, Platform One. Designed for University of Edinburgh alumni, students and staff, Platform One will ensure you keep Edinburgh and its people with you, wherever your life and career take you. You’ll easily find your place and conversations will flow. Connect with like-minded individuals in your chosen industry, quiz a fellow graduate about their career path, or share your own advice and tips with others.

Once you graduate from the University, there are alumni clubs and groups based in cities around the world allowing you to access and join an established community of fellow graduates. Networking events, talks from visiting academics and careers mentoring are among the resources that become available to you.

Find out more about the benefits of joining our global alumni community: www.ed.ac.uk/alumni