Postgraduate Taught Welcome Talk

#Edwelcome #Inspiringstudents
Professor Richard Kenway
Vice-Principal for High Performance Computing
Some of Edinburgh’s High Achievers

“there is nothing to be learnt from a Professor, which is not to be met with in Books”

David Hume 1735

... he did not graduate
Some of Edinburgh’s High Achievers

David Hume
William Robertson
James Hutton
Hugh Blair
James Clerk Maxwell

Katherine Grainger
Piers Sellers

Dolly
Stella Rimington
Thomas Bayes (1702-1761)

\[ p(A|B) = \frac{p(B|A) p(A)}{p(B)} \]
Superintelligence

“Once machines reach a critical stage of being able to evolve themselves we cannot predict whether their goals will be the same as ours.”

Stephen Hawking 2016
Clarke’s 3rd Law:
“any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”
Arthur C Clarke 1973
Paul Thompson
Literature and Modernity: 1900 to the Present (MSc)
Ludovic Capelli
Pervasive Parallelism (MSc)(R)
Wellbeing

Healthy mind in a healthy body.
Healthy mind in a healthy body

Health
Healthy mind in a healthy body

Health

Sport
Healthy mind in a healthy body
University watches your back

- Advice and support
- Money matters
- International
- Health
- Wellbeing
- Resources
Big time ahead

You now compete at a top university, prepare for it.
Quick reminder about classes

1st class: 70%
2:1 class: 60%
2:2 class: 50%
3rd class: 40%
Failed
Beyond the first class

1st class

Semester 1: 60%
Semester 2: 70%
Semester 3: 80%
Beyond the first class

1st class

Distinction

Semester 1: 60%
Semester 2: 70%
Semester 3: 80%

Semester 1: 70%
Semester 2: 70%
Semester 3: 70%
“When they are given a coursework, students who complete everything we ask might expect to get between 65 and 75%. Above, they have to distinguish themselves and do more, that is why it is called Distinction level.”
Your time to shine

Not only the university keeps an eye on you.
Make it happen

Events
Make the most of it

Events

Networking
You do have an audience

Events

Networking

Companies & startups
Thank you
And welcome again!
Andrew Forsyth
International Development (MSc)
(currently on Graduate Development Programme for the Scottish Government)
Donna Murray
Head of Taught Student Development (IAD)
Getting a good start

Dr Donna Murray
Head of Taught Student Development

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Postgraduate study

Why do it?
• Changing career
• Moving further in your current career
• Personal interest
• First step to a PhD

This is your motivation, remember it – especially when learning at this level seems challenging

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University guidelines

How can these help you?

Any questions ask your course
http://edin.ac/15lZ4M5

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Lecture notes

• What are the best lecture notes?
The ones that work for YOU
Lecture notes

- Keywords / bullet points
- Visual forms
- Two column method
Post lecture

• What else will you do with this Knowledge?
• Think about it
• Talk about it
• Check up on it
• Add to it
Time management

• How long do you have?

• Seriously, how long do you actually have?
Prioritise

- Important
- Urgent

- Do this now
- Start it before it becomes urgent
- Do it if you can
- Eisenhower Matrix

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Active learning strategies

• Summarise a passage in one sentence/20 words
• Sum up a lecture in 3 points
  – Which one is the most important?
• Imagine you think everything you read is false
  – How would go about proving it?
• Write key points on cards or sticky notes.
  – How many different ways can you organise them?
Critical writing

• “writing is too descriptive”; “not enough critical analysis”

• Descriptive writing – sets out the background, it is required in order to describe the research or summarise information

• Critical writing – evaluation of arguments and evidence, outline of your evidence, recognition of limits in your own analysis
Critical reading

• When reading literature
  – Consider what evidence is being presented
  – How does it compare to other literature in the discipline?
  – Does it suggest new questions? Does it raise new issues?

• As you are reading identify the points you want to make, and the evidence you will use
Critical thinking

- Be clear
- Be concise
- Have confidence in your academic voice
- Critical thinking is not the same as criticism or cynicism
Are you achieving your best results?

EXAM BOOTCAMP

Self-enrol on Learn

www.learn.ed.ac.uk

http://edin.ac/2wgSZmA

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http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/postgraduates

iad.masters@ed.ac.uk
“Do, or do not. There is no try.”
Yoda, The Empire Strikes Back
Bobi Archer
Students’ Association
Vice President Education
Postgraduate student life at the University of Edinburgh
Your Students’ Association

Here to help you make the most of your time at the University!

All 37,000+ students – both UG and PG – are automatically members.

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk
Edinburgh
Scotland’s capital is an amazing place to be a student!

Our distinctive Old and New Towns are a UNESCO World Heritage site for a reason – this is one of the most beautiful cities you could study in.
Our student spaces on campus

Teviot Row House, The Pleasance
Potterrow and King’s Buildings House

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/ourvenues
Food, drink and entertainment!

In our venues you’ll find shops, cafes, bars, music venues, meeting spaces and club venues – all for you!

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/whatson
Student led activities

Over 300 student-led societies and volunteering groups for you to get involved with – all supported by the Students’ Association!

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities
Representation

Sabbatical Officers 2017/18

Bobi Archer, Patrick Kilduff, Oliver Glick, Esther Dominy and Kai O'Doherty

Elected to represent you!

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation
Here for you

- Help you get the best out of your studies
- Help you make friends and have fun
- Support you if you need advice
- Help you develop skills for your career
Class Reps

Become a Postgrad Class Rep and help build links in your School!

• Speak on behalf of your class mates
• Make your course the best it can be
• Work with teaching staff to shape your learning

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/classreps
Advice Place

Free, professional and confidential

• Drop in (Potterrow & King’s Buildings House), phone, download our advice guides or make an appointment

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace
Peer Learning & Support

- Peer Support Groups
- Dissertation workshops
- Mentoring schemes
- Buddies groups

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/peersupport
Global Students

Be part of our Global community!
• Tandem Language Exchange
• Gather Festival
• International Experience

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/global
Welcome Week

Your introduction to university life at Edinburgh, and a chance to sample everything that’s on offer - including lots of postgrad-specific events!

- Postgraduate Speed Networking
- Postgraduate Afternoon Tea
- Postgraduate Coffee Crawl events

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk
Student Elections

Get involved by standing in the elections to represent students in your School or University-wide to improve student life for postgrads!

- Postgraduate School Rep
- University-wide Postgraduate Students’ Rep

Find out more at eusa.ed.ac.uk/elections
Our website: eusa.ed.ac.uk

Facebook: /EdUniStudentsAssociation

Twitter: @eus

Issuu (for all of our guides): www.issuu.com/eusa
Thanks for listening!
Student Support Services Fair

- Careers Service
- Chaplaincy
- Centre for Open Learning (English Language Education and Short Courses)
- Counselling
- Development & Alumni
- Disability
- Erasmus and Traineeship
- Students’ Association
- Institute for Academic Development
- International Students Advisory Service
- Launch.ed
- Library and Information Services
- Security
- Social Responsibility and Sustainability
- Sports and Exercise
- Sports Union
Health and Wellbeing

• University Health Centre
• Adapting Well website
  • www.ed.ac.uk/students/academic-life/adapting-well
• Student Disability Service
• Student Counselling Service
• Chaplaincy
• Sport and Exercise
Resources

- Library and Information Services
- Institute for Academic Development
- Centre for Open Learning
Advice and Guidance

• International Students Advisory Service
• Careers Service
• Launch.ed
• Development and Alumni
• Erasmus and Traineeship
• Social Responsibility and Sustainability
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- Sports and Exercise
- Sports Union
Student Administration

- Bank Introductory Letter
- Council Tax Exemption Letter
- Certificates of Matriculation
- Immigration Compliance
- Scholarships and Funding
- Fees and Student Support
Welcome to Edinburgh University!

New Student Pledge

Your pledge

‘Pledge’ - a solemn promise
(promise, vow, undertaking, commitment, mission, oath, potential, duty…)

As a new University of Edinburgh student, your pledge is a unique opportunity for you to make a promise to yourself about pursuing your aspirations, and to record your personal development from when you started. Perhaps you would like to commit to taking on a volunteering role or undertake a new skill/challenge. Whatever you pledge, it marks the beginning of your university experience, when it seems that anything is possible!

1. Fill out your Pledge below (as long or as short as you would like)
2. Fold this card inwards and use the tabs to securely close it
3. Fill in your details so that it can be returned to you
4. Put it in one of the collection points today or by the end of your first week
5. When it returns to you, reflect on your pledge and how much you have grown and learned since you made it

Date: __________________________
UUN: __________________________
Thank you for coming

We wish you the best of luck with your studies!

Please join us in the basement for the Services Fair and refreshments