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# PG Virtual Open Day MSc International Relations

Manolis Kalaitzake & Lucy Abbott (Programme Directors): 14/11/2024

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# Welcome live from Edinburgh!

- Audio Check
- Recording of the session
- Presentation
- Question and Answer
- Next steps



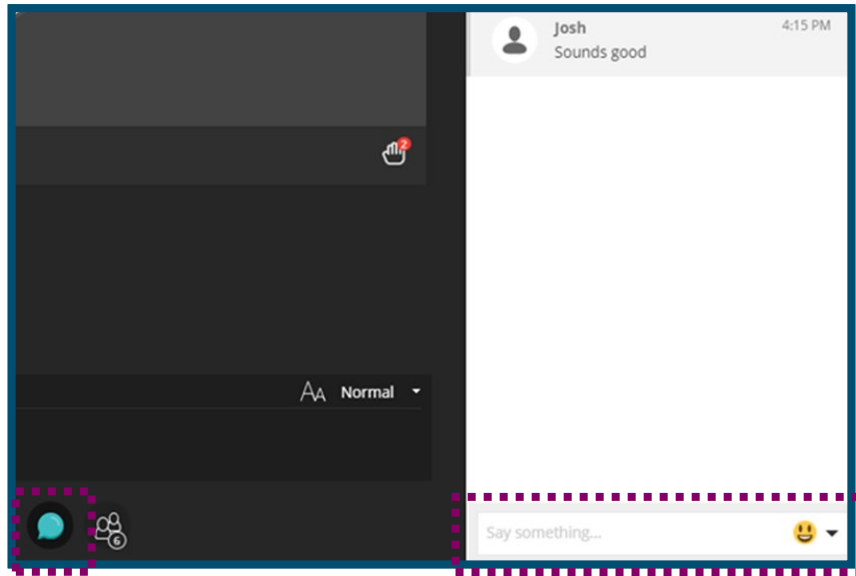
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# Audio check (Collaborate)

- In this session your microphone will be muted, but you should be able to hear the speaker
- Can you hear the presenter speaking?
- Please type yes or no in the “Text chat area”



- If you can't hear:
  - Check the Audio/visual settings in the Collaborate Panel
  - Try signing out and signing back into the session
  - Type into the chat box and a moderator will try to assist you



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# Why study International Relations?

- Due to globalisation, we live in a **hyper-complex and highly interdependent** world
  - The study of IR is central to understanding these complexities & interdependencies
- How do **states** co-operate with one another?
  - And how/why do they succeed/fail? → War & Peace
- Why do states engage with **international organisations** (EU, IMF, WTO, WB, UN, ICC, etc.) to solve collective actions problems?
  - Climate change; terrorism; trade relations; development/growth; inequality; human rights, etc.)



# Why study International Relations?

## Highly interdisciplinary

- IR → politics, economic, law, history, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, media studies, etc.

## IR graduates learn key transferable skills:

- Deploy theoretical lens and empirical evidence to make persuasive arguments
- Build specialist in-depth knowledge of specific areas and issues in IR
- Evaluate, create, analyse, and interpret data



# Career opportunities

- Regional, national and international government institutions
- Party political support
- Educational, research and think-tank organisations
- Development organisations
- Media & journalism
- Commercial organisations
- Lobbying



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# Why International Relations at the University of Edinburgh?

- Edinburgh itself
  - Capital city
  - High quality of life
  - UNESCO world heritage site
- International and internationally connected
- UoE ranked 29<sup>th</sup> in the world (THE)



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# Why International Relations at the University of Edinburgh?

## The programme

- Highly **competitive** programme
- Top students from across the world (cohort of ~50)
- Unique **cohort-building** system in place
- Specialised social & academic events to support cohort integration

## Politics & International Relations (PIR) subject area

- Large department (~65 staff) who produce world-leading research
- Research-led teaching → Huge range of specialised course options
- Students are welcome to engage all members of staff about their research & topic of expertise ('open-door policy')



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# Why International Relations at the University of Edinburgh?

Programme has a comprehensive range of support systems

## Student Support

- Dedicated Student Adviser
- ➔ Help with administrative & practical day-to-day enquires
- ➔ Direction to key support outlets for service & guidance on physical/mental health, finances, housing, immigration advice, etc.

## Study supports

- Dedicated 'Academic Cohort Lead'
- Wider range of learning supports available to postgraduates
- ➔ e.g. Institute for Academic Development; Research Training Centre



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# Course structure

## Compulsory courses

- International Relations Theory
- Dissertation (Worth 1/3 of overall final grade)
  - 15,000 words
  - A topic of your choosing
  - Dedicated supervisor support

## Choose 1 'specialist' course:

- International Security or
- International Political Economy

## Choose 4 'elective' courses

- Wide variety of elective courses within PIR subject area
- Potential to choose courses from other subject areas



# Mandatory time on campus

A standard course load for full time student is:

- 3 courses in Semester 1
- 3 courses in Semester 2
- 60 credit dissertation from April/May - August.

Mode of attendance:

- In-person only (All teaching and assessment weeks)
- Student Support System monitors attendance throughout the year
- Edinburgh University semester dates can be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/semester-dates/202526>





# Course selection: 24/25

Digital Influence (fusion on-site) EFIE11010 10 credits	Data Science for Society (fusion on-site) EFIE11020 10 credits	Global Politics of Public Health IPHP11003 20 credits	Energy Policy and Politics (20 credits) PGSP11132 20 credits
The Politics of Post-Soviet Russia PGSP11149 20 credits	Institutions and Policies of the European Union PGSP11170 20 credits	Culture and Power: The Anthropology of Political Processes PGSP11178 20 credits	Gender and Development PGSP11225 20 credits
Politics and Theories of International Development PGSP11240 20 credits	The Middle East in International Relations PGSP11275 20 credits	Global Environmental Politics PGSP11299 20 credits	Foreign Policy Analysis PGSP11300 20 credits
Global Environment: Key Issues PGSP11358 20 credits	Analysing European Governance and Public Policy PGSP11412 20 credits	Conflict and Peace in Africa PGSP11453 20 credits	Asia Pacific in the World PGSP11521 20 credits
Gender, Politics and Representation PGSP11542 20 credits	Environmental Risk: Politics, Ethics, and Communication PGSP11552 20 credits	Survey in Middle Eastern Politics PGSP11572 20 credits	Theorising Nationalism PGSP11579 20 credits
Comparing Nationalisms PGSP11580 20 credits	Conflict, Security, and Development PGSP11590 20 credits	Gender, Feminist Foreign Policy and Diplomacy PGSP11614 20 credits	The Politics and Governance of Crisis PGSP11616 20 credits
U.S. Grand Strategy and Foreign Policy PGSP11618 20 credits	Russia in Global Politics PGSP11621 20 credits	Climate Change, Justice and Responsibility PLIT11016 20 credits	Gulf Politics PLIT11020 20 credits
International Regulation and Governance PLIT11024 20 credits	Core quantitative data analysis 1 and 2 SCIL11009 20 credits		



# Dissertation examples

## Previous & common topics:

- Peacekeeping; Humanitarian Intervention
- Middle Eastern Politics; African Foreign Policy; Asian growth & development
- Modern EU institutions: diplomacy; foreign relations & enlargement
- Environmental Politics: Climate Change & Energy Transition
- International Terrorism; Political Violence; Human Rights
- Gender Politics; Immigration; Democracy
- American Foreign Policy; Superpower Rivalry
- Globalisation; International trade/finance

## Some previous specific questions:

- How is the increasing legitimacy of renewable alternatives to oil changing the U.S-Saudi relationship?
- Do the conditions of democracy in European member states affect national perceptions of European integration?





# Guidance on applying – entry requirements

**\*\*These entry requirements are for the 2025/26 academic year. Requirements for future academic years may differ\*\***

- A UK 2:1 honours degree, or international equivalent in politics, international relations, or the social sciences
- We may consider your application if you have a different background but have taken courses relevant to the programme
- You must demonstrate a level of English language competency which will enable you to succeed in your studies.
  - IELTS Academic: Total 7.0 with at least 6.0 in each component
- Note: Applicants who receive an offer will not be allowed to defer their admission to a following year.

Advice on International Qualifications:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/postgraduate-entry>

English language details:

<https://postgraduate.degrees.ed.ac.uk/index.php?r=site/view&edition=2025&id=687>

# Guidance on applying

## Writing a Personal Statement

- Explain what attracts you to this particular programme at the University of Edinburgh
  - E.g. references to the overall programme structure?
  - E.g. particular courses you would like to take?
  - E.g. people you would like to be taught by?

→ Specifics and knowledge of the programme is good!
- Indicate why you consider the programme to be suited to your future plans
- State how you consider yourself prepared for the rigours of this masters degree in International Relations
- Explain how you might overcome potential challenges during the programme (e.g. language barrier; transitioning from a different academic background, etc.

### Application Tip:

Look at the 24/25 course list to identify courses that particularly motivate you:

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/23-24/dpt/ptmscintre1f.htm>



# Academic Support

Institute for Academic Development

Dedicated hub to support:

- Study & practical skills
- Career development
- Success at master's level

<https://institute-academic-development.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught>



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# IAD Workshop Schedule Semester 1: 2024/25

Workshop Schedule		
Week	Workshop	Date
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 1: Critical Thinking	13th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 2: Writing at PGT Level	14th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 3: Getting started with the Library	15th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 1: Critical Thinking	20th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 2: Writing at PGT Level	21st August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 3: Getting started with the Library	22nd August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 1: Critical Thinking	27th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 2: Writing at PGT Level	28th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 3: Getting started with the Library	29th August 2024
0	(PGT) Pre-Arrival 4: Getting Ready for your Studies	5th September 2024



# IAD Workshop Schedule Semester 1: 2024/25

Welcome week	(PGT) Effective Approaches to Lectures, Tutorials and Practicals	12th September 2024
1	(PGT) Getting Started with your Masters	18th September 2024
1	(PGT) Effective Approaches to Lectures, Tutorials and Practicals	19th September 2024
2	(PGT - Part Time) Getting Started with Your Dissertation	25th September 2024
3	(PGT) Referencing - and how to do it	1st October 2024
4	(PGT - Part Time) Getting Started Writing your Dissertation	7th October 2024
4	(PGT) Assignment Planning	9th October 2024
4	(PGT) Assignment Writing	9th October 2024
4	(PGT) Effective Reading	10th October 2024
5	(PGT) Speed Reading	14th October 2024
5	(PGT) Working Effectively Around your Life	15th October 2024
5	(PGT & PGR) It's About Time... Managing Time, Personal Efficiency and Effectiveness	16th October 2024
5	(PGT) Presenting Your Work!	17th October 2024
5	(PGT) Being Critical	17th October 2024
6	(PGT) Proof Reading	24th October 2024



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# IAD Workshop Schedule Semester 1: 2024/25

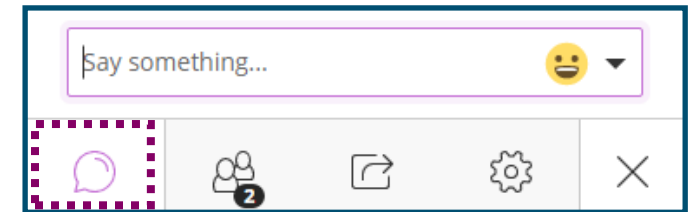
7	(UG and PGT) Starting to Think about Dissertations and Projects	29th October 2024
7	(PGT) Assignment Planning	30th October 2024
7	(PGT) Assignment Writing	30th October 2024
7	(PGT) Being Critical for Assignments	31st October 2024
8	(PGT) Getting Started with Academic Writing	5th November 2024
8	(PGT) Mini Writing Bootcamp	6th November 2024
10	(UG and PGT) Managing your Exams: Effective Revision Techniques	19th November 2024
11	(UG and PGT) Managing your Exams: Essays in Exams	27th November 2024
11	(PGT) Mini Writing Bootcamp	27th November 2024
12	(UG and PGT) Managing your Exams: Strategies and Tips	4th December 2024
13	(PGT) Getting Started with your Dissertation	11th December 2024





# Asking questions (Collaborate)

- Please hold all questions until the end of the formal presentation
- Always use the ‘hand raise icon’ to queue up your question
- When called upon to ask your question, type it into the “Text chat area”
- Once your question is answered, please lower your hand



<https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg>



# Contact details for follow-up questions

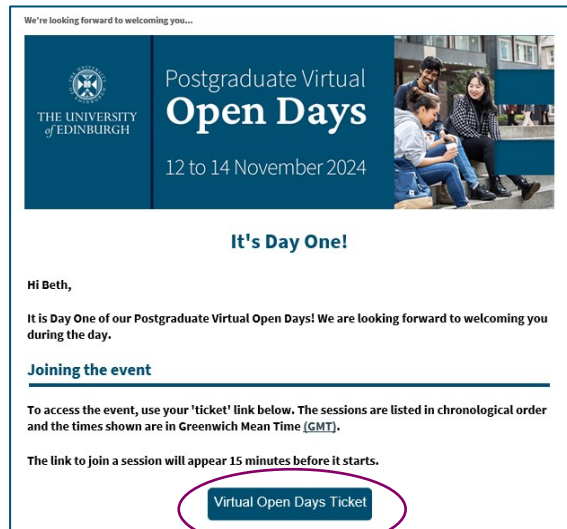
- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session.
- If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)



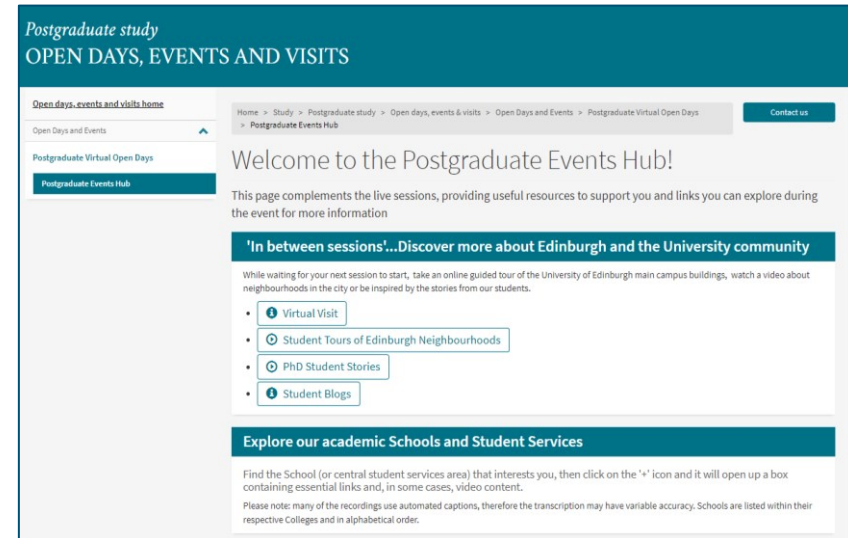


# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- Return to your ‘e-ticket’ to find and attend other sessions you’ve booked – by clicking on the button in the email we sent you...



- ...and visit the events hub:
- <https://edin.ac/4gZuP3G>



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# Thank you

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