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# MSc Modern and Contemporary Art: History, Curating and Criticism

Prof Angela Dimitrakaki | 12 November 2024

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# Welcome live from Edinburgh!

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



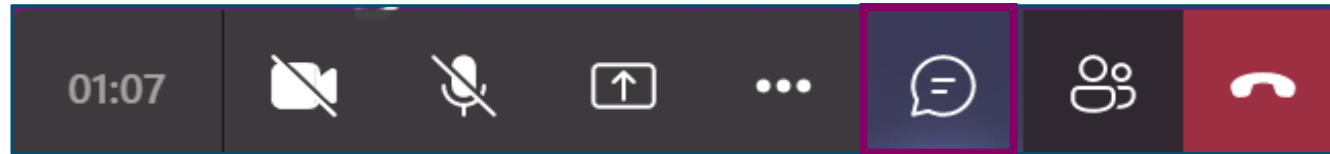
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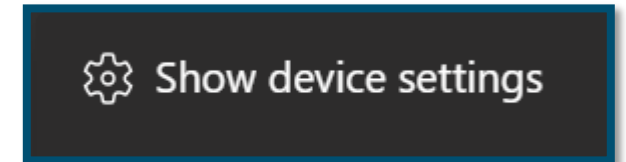


# Audio check (Microsoft Teams)

- Can you hear the presenter speaking?
- Please type “**no**” in the Chat area if you cannot hear the presenter



- If you can't hear:
  - Check your settings by clicking on the three little dots on the options bar and then 'show device settings'. Here you can check and change your speakers.
  - Try signing out and signing back into the session
  - Don't worry, the session is being recorded



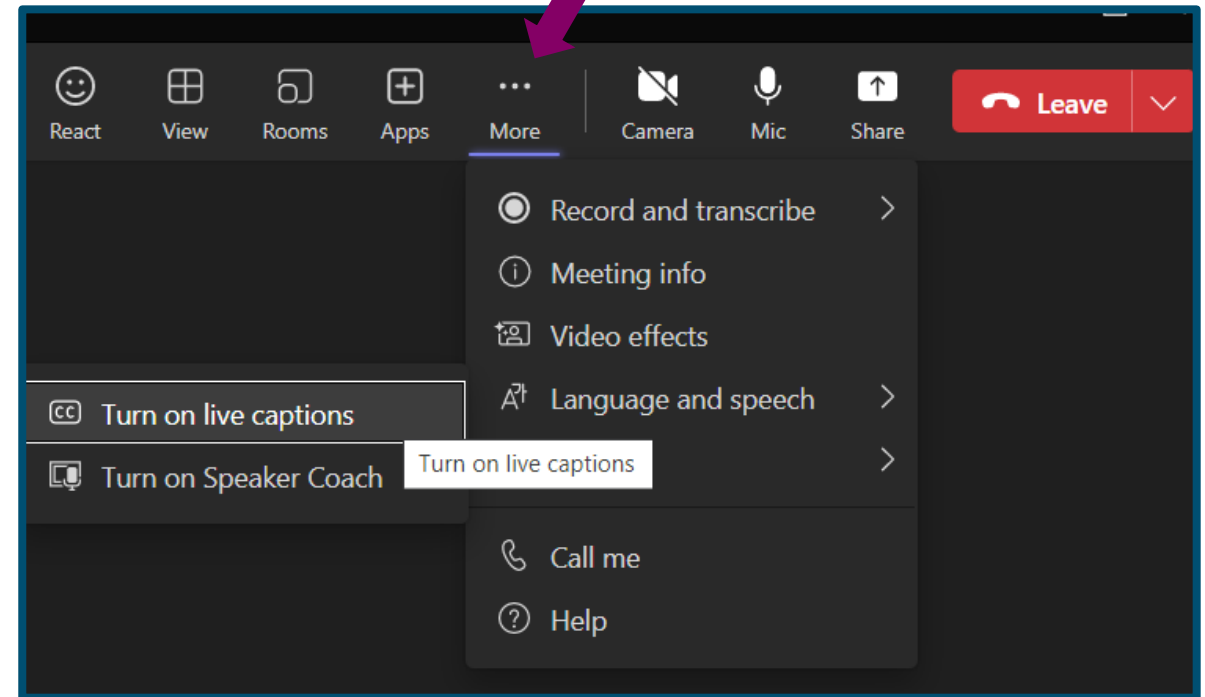


# Live captions (Microsoft Teams)

You can turn on automated live captions as follows:

- More > Language and speech > Turn on live captions

These are automated therefore won't be 100% accurate





# Recording



# (MS Teams)

- Today's session is being recorded
- Any information that you provide during a session is optional and in doing so you give us consent to process this information
- If you don't want your question or name read out in public, you can email your question to [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)
- Please note - a few attendees' names may be visible in the recording, if it is important that your name not be visible in the recording, please exit the session and re-enter using an incognito browser and typing in a pseudonym for yourself
- The session will be stored by the University of Edinburgh and published on our website after the event on a non-indexed web page
- ***You will be emailed with a link to watch the session recording by the end of next week***





The MSc Modern and Contemporary Art (MoCA) is offered by the **School of History of Art** at the centrally located ECA Campus in Edinburgh's historic Old Town. We are one of the largest and most established art history departments in the UK.



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## University of Edinburgh Special Collections

The Special Collections include also a Contemporary Art Research Collection, taking 'Globalisation' as its theme – a theme addressed in the MSc Modern and Contemporary Art.



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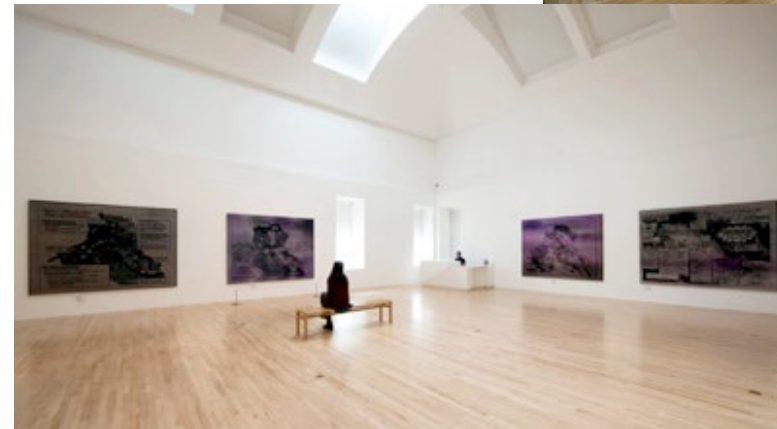
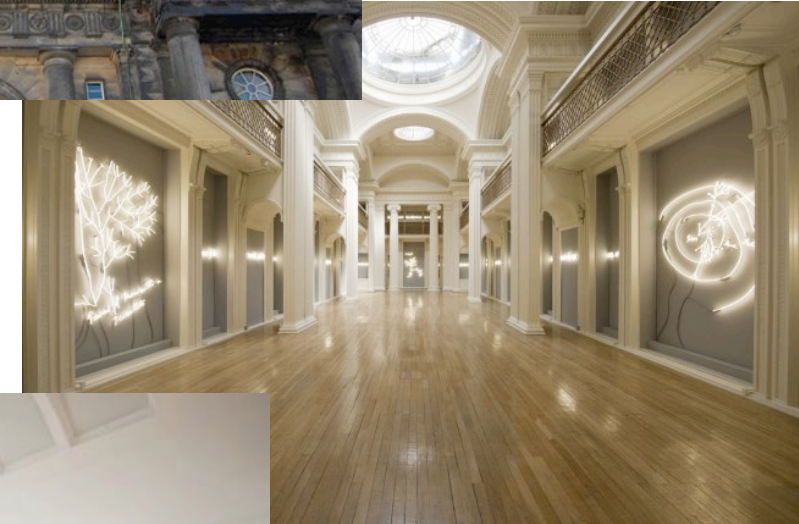


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## Talbot Rice Gallery

The University's public gallery: unique historical context; collaborations and notable contemporary art themed, group exhibitions, and showcasing also leading individual artists. The Gallery contributes to our emphasis on research-led curating and the social history of art.

Visit: <https://www.trg.ed.ac.uk/exhibitions>



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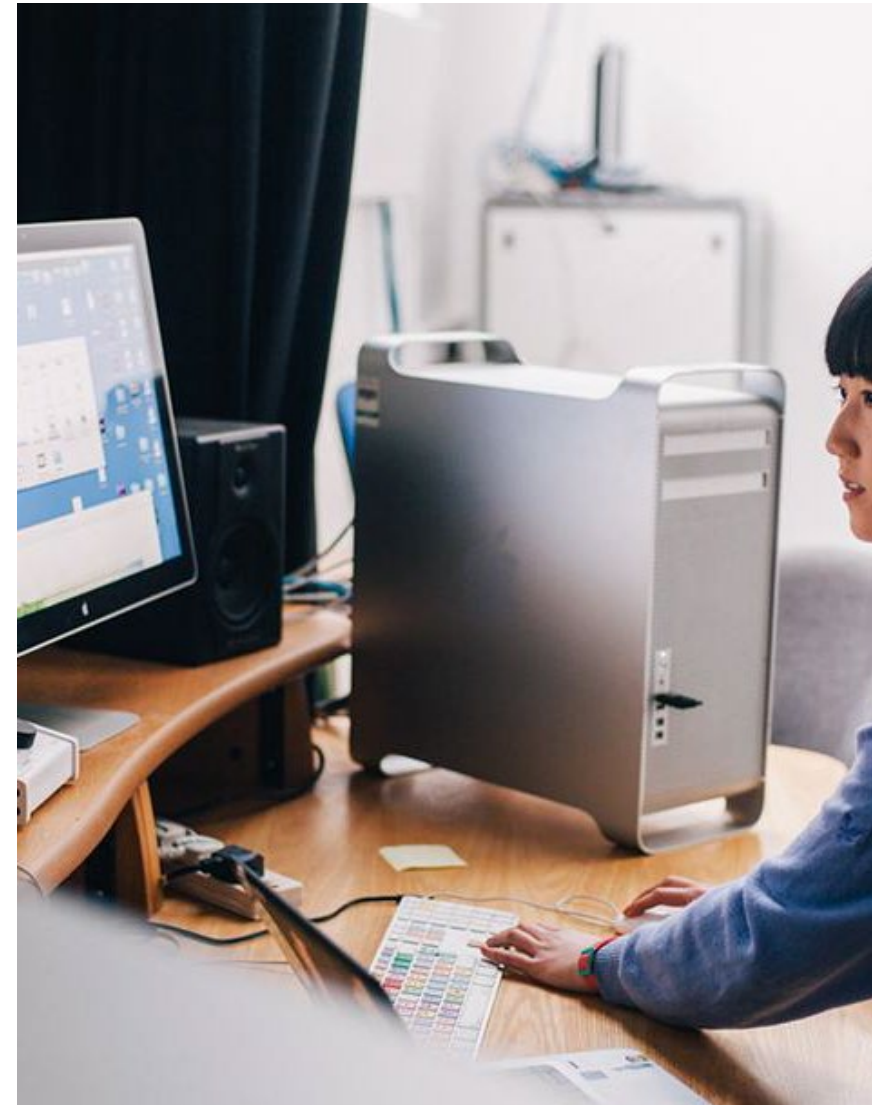
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# In-Person Classes with (Amazing) Online Learning Resources

Our online provision hosts sites for each course you are enrolled on. These sites contain learning materials such as reading lists, presentations, lecture recordings (in some cases) and other class-related information. You submit your assessment and essays online.

The online provision also contains useful information on student support initiatives and University regulations. Our online resources enable further contact with lecturers and student support staff. The **specialist art libraries** and the **Institute for Academic Development** offer special postgraduate courses also online to assist students with essay writing and doing their best.



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# MSc MoCA overview

- Two compulsory courses that focus on research in the field, one in each semester: Research Theories & Methods (Semester 1) & The Cultures and Politics of Display (Semester 2)
- Many theme-focused electives/option courses
- 15,000-word Dissertation
- Optional Work Placements in a range of cultural contexts
- Contact time with the annually appointed Fellow in Contemporary Art Theory and Curating (as part of the Semester 2 compulsory course)
- Excellent resources and research context, including extracurricular Research Seminars and Research Cluster events
- Academic staff: leading researchers shaping the field internationally, many with experience in curating
- Taught courses conclude at the end of March/early April. In the remaining months, students research and write the Dissertation.
- No exams! Course assessment is based on essay writing.
- A popular Masters, currently having between forty and fifty students (receiving hundreds of applications annually).



# Option courses (you choose two in each semester)

## Semester 1

Theorising Contemporary Art  
Art and Digital Culture  
Utopia Zones: Modernism and Abstraction  
The Aesthetics of Difference: Post-Colonial Perspectives from the 19th to the 21st Century  
Impressionism and the Third Republic  
Women Artists and Surrealism  
Art and Occultism in the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century

## Semester 2

The Modern Art Museum  
Critical Episodes in Twentieth-Century German Art  
Art and Society in Contemporary World: China  
Inequality in the Arts: Understanding the Production and Consumption of Culture  
Archives of Dissent, Repertoires of Resistance: Photography and Civil Rights  
Images, the Public Sphere and Politics in Contemporary Africa

\*Work Placement as *option course*



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# Fellows in Contemporary Art Theory and Curating

- 2010-11 Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt, subject: Economy and the Art World
- 2011-12 Sarah Cook, subject: Curating and the Digital World
- 2012-13 Katrina Brown, subject: Curating and Art Biennials
- 2013-14 Kirsten Lloyd, subject: Social Reproduction and Contemporary Art
- 2014-15 Arika (duo Barry Esson and Bryony McIntyre), subject: Curating beyond Exhibition Formats
- 2015-16 Kirstie Skinner, subject: Collecting Contemporary Art
- 2017-18 Nizan Shaked, subject: Art Museums, Philanthropy, and Finance Capital
- 2018-19 Charles Esche, Director of Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, professor of contemporary art and curating at Central Saint Martins, UAL, London, co-director of *Afterall Journal and Books*, subject: Museum and the De-modern
- 2019-20 Laura Guy, writer and curator. Subject: Class and Sexuality in the Art Archive
- 2020-21: Iliana Fokianaki, Director of State of Concept & international curator, subject: Setting up an independent art space; and the impact of Covid-19 on the art world
- 2021-22: Jenny Richards, artist, curator and writer, subject: labour and art institutions
- 2022-23: Kim McAleese, curator & Director of Edinburgh Festival, subject: friendship & curating
- 2023-24: Sophia Yadong Hao, curator & Director of Cooper Gallery, subject: the curatorial as constellation of events & rhizomatic curating
- 2024-25: Frances Stacey, curator and producer: producing in freelance and community environments



# Work Placements

Our optional work placements are a popular feature of our programme. These are limited and offered on a competitive basis, as availability in the sector vary annually. The primary aim is to introduce students to a working environment related to art and/or art history, or culture more broadly. Placements are arranged in appropriate host institutions in, or near, Edinburgh.

Students are offered appropriate, academically related tasks, such as cataloguing, indexing, helping to prepare and install an exhibition, drawing up a publicity or education leaflet, or researching conservation case histories. Upon completion of the placement, students write and present a Report or other assignment as appropriate. Preparations and guidance begin in Semester 1 while the Placement is carried out in Semester 2.



# Dissertations

15,000 words, based on a proposal submitted by you, the student. The proposal/topic *must* relate to the Masters content. The dissertation will be the most exciting part of your programme of study, where you will take control of your research and we will help you achieve your goal. You progress to the supervised dissertation *after* you have completed the taught part of the course (the compulsory and option courses).

That our staff have expertise in a range of subjects means you can research an extremely broad range of topics. The dissertation helps many students understand whether they wish to carry on to doctoral research, but it also offers a specialism to those who want to opt for a career straight after the Masters.





# Scholarships

## Andrew Grant Postgraduate Scholarships

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/international/humanities/edinburgh-college-of-art/andrew-grant>

## Edinburgh College of Art EU Scholarships Scheme

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/international/humanities/edinburgh-college-of-art/eca-eu-scholarships-scheme>



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# What do our students go on to do?

**Ruth Bretherick** did the MSc in 2011 and went on to do a PhD. She is presently Research and Public Engagement Curator at Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh.

**Mekhala Dave**, from India, was a lawyer. She did the MSc in 2028 and was able to offer support and pro-bono legal advice to artists and art organisations based in Edinburgh and Glasgow throughout her studies and since graduating has been able to continue both her work as a lawyer and her studies through a PhD.

**Diego Chocano** did the MSc in 2018 and has since been working as a curator in the UK. In 2024, he was Assistant Curator of *Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art* at the Barbican, London.

**Tobey Pan**, from China, was a linguist. She did the MSc in 2019, worked in the art sector, published an article based on her dissertation, and then returned to Edinburgh as a PhD researcher, securing the prestigious SGSAH scholarship.

**Olympia Contopidis**, from Germany, did the MSc in 2020. She has since held various curatorial posts, published articles (the first based on her MSc dissertation), presently being Gallery Manager at Galerie Barbara, Vienna.

**Aisling Clark**, from Ireland, did the MSc in 2022, was awarded a prize for her dissertation, and was then offered the Provost's Fellow in Curating 2023 at The Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College Dublin.

<https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/about/alumni/graduate-profiles> (click on History of Art)



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# Investing in our facilities

Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) is excited to be undertaking a capital redevelopment of ECA's Lauriston Campus over the next 3 years, from April 2024 – April 2027.

The project aims to maximise the use of existing space, improve accessibility, and create a vibrant campus that fosters collaboration and innovation.

The project involves refurbishing and repurposing various spaces across the Lauriston campus, including technical facilities, student and teaching spaces, and the relocation of the Reid School of Music from Alison House to the Lauriston Campus. New social spaces, seminar rooms, and studios are being created to accommodate our growing community. You can find more about the project at the below link:

[Building work starts at ECA's Lauriston Campus | Edinburgh College of Art](#)



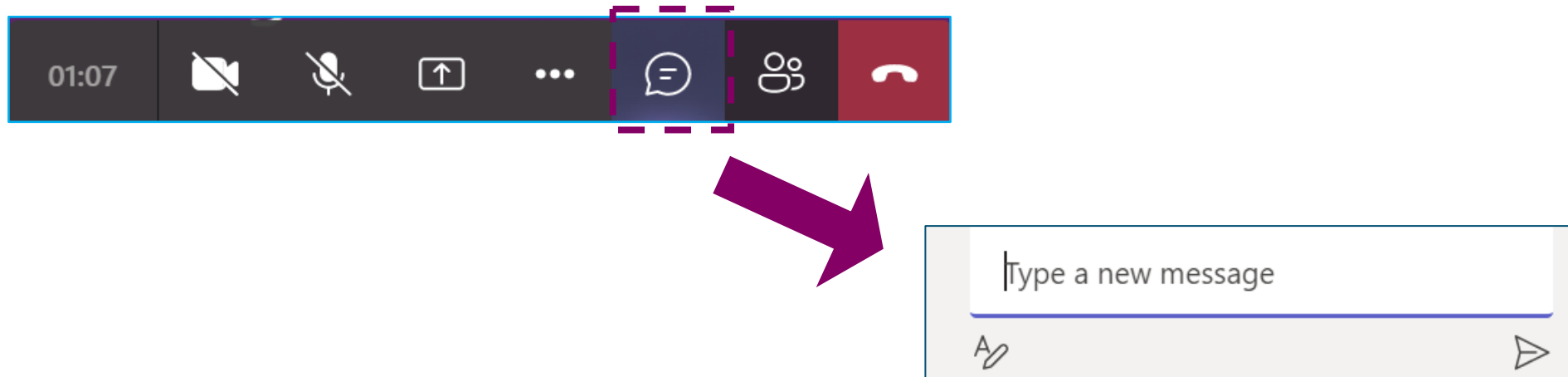
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# Asking questions (Microsoft Teams)

- Type your question into the Chat Area



# Next steps...

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



<https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>



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# Contact details for follow-up questions

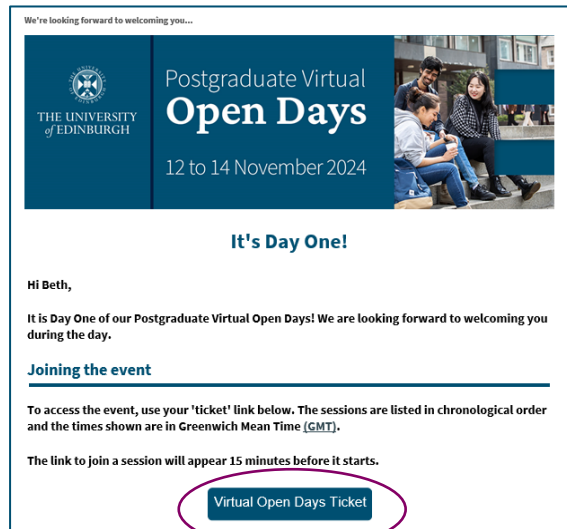
- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)



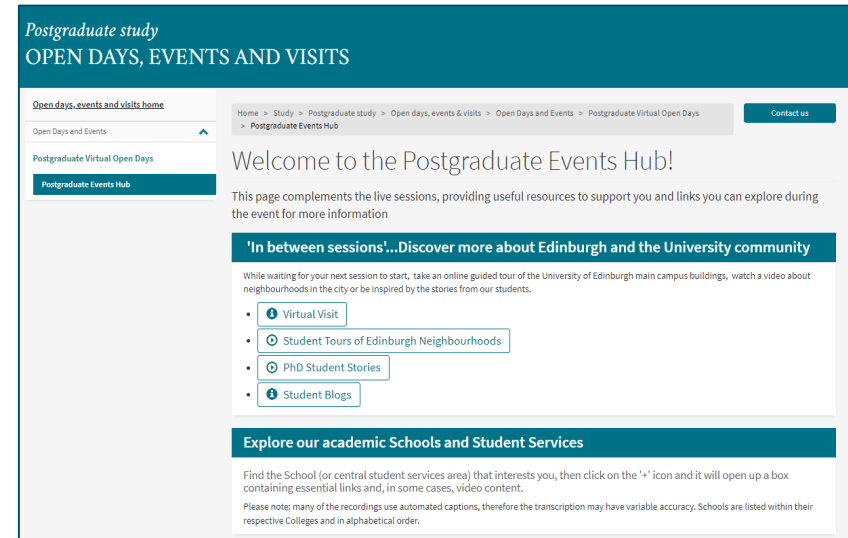


# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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