



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

PhD Composition  
PhD Creative Music Practice  
MScR Sound Design  
MScR Music





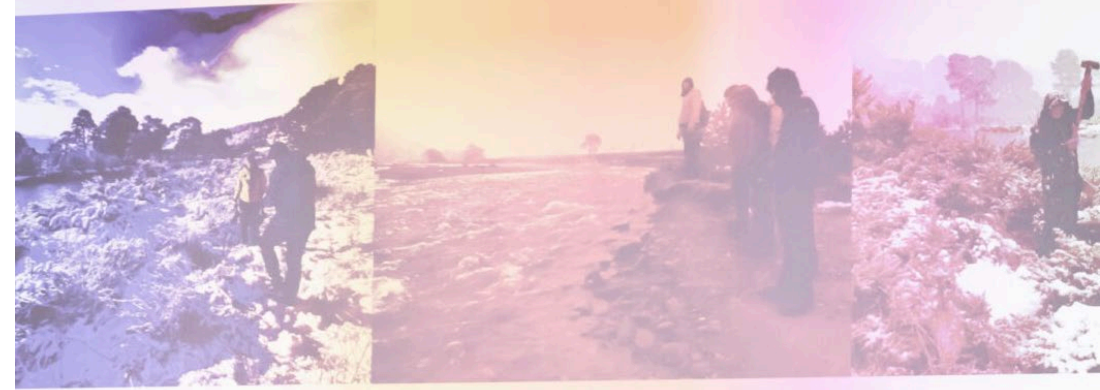
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# Welcome live from Edinburgh!

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

*Sounding out the river*  
Mark Naylor, Bronwyn Matthews et al. (University of Edinburgh)



Low cost geophysical monitoring of river bedload movement during hydrological events



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# Embarking on a research project

- A period of research time committed to working through a single idea over several months/years is extremely special
- In the arts, this is usually researcher-led, rather than around a set of specific research questions set by the laboratory hosting the PhD.
- You are the originator of the idea and the main energy behind making the work lead to results.
- The University, your supervisors, peer group and wider network offer the context, support, and framework for the project





# The kinds of projects we can support in Music

- Composition for instruments, voices, songs and albums.
- Experimental work for ensembles and live electronics
- Opera or Musical Theatre
- Film and audio-visual composition
- Game audio and related fields such as VR/AR, Ambisonics,
- AI and music composition/sonic art/sound design
- Community and participatory arts
- Music psychology and the musical brain
- .....



# Three pathways for PhD

- PhD Musical Composition  
(<https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/programme/musical-composition-phd>)
- PhD Creative Music Practice  
(<https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/programme/creative-music-practice-phd>)
- PhD Music  
(<https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/programme/music-phdmsc-research>)





One-year research  
masters



**MScR Sound  
Design**

**MScR Music**

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# Preparing a proposal

- A proposal should be simple, clear and to the point
- It should aim to show you have the skills needed to *do* the research, this means including a link to your online portfolio which demonstrates your background as a composer/sonic artist/inventor/performer
- The proposal will in essence contain five main elements;





# Preparing a proposal

- **Why** -- an exciting reason for why this work is important, meaningful, needed now (some introductory context). What are the key ideas behind this project?
- **Methods** – how do you think you will work? What's the plan? What kinds of tools, concepts, ideas etc. will you need to develop? How will these evolve over the period of research?
- **Outputs** – what will these ideas and methods lead to? New music, sonic art, sound technologies, written papers and reasoning, case studies etc?
- **References** – As you write you'll necessarily produce references to other writers and artists. You might refer to books and papers, pieces and project. You may not necessarily have read, heard and seen them all through, but linking to these will demonstrate your awareness of the wider literature and research in your area, showing that you know of the context for the work you want to produce.
- **Links to your portfolio and artist bio** – The most representative examples of the kind of artist you are and that may show the kind of work you might be capable of.



# Writing your proposal... a suggestion

- START WITH YOUR OUTPUTS and work backwards
- You're an artist so what do you want to make during the period?
- How will you make this work? What do you need, when do you need it?
- Why is this work important to you and why will it be of value to the creative world you identify with?
- This should get you to the exciting reason and purpose of the project that should hook the reader in immediately.



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# Finding a supervisor

- There are numerous disciplines across ECA – please view these online and look at staff profiles. Not all are available all the time to supervise but please contact them to find out if they are.
- It can be a good idea to discuss your idea with a potential supervisor before submitting your application.
- [How to find a research supervisor | The University of Edinburgh](#)
- [People Directory | Edinburgh College of Art](#)



# Funding and financial support

- <https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/international/humanities/edinburgh-college-of-art>
- <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/search-scholarships>
- Directory of Grant Making Trusts
- What is available from the Universities you have already been to?
- What about the local town council where you were born?
- Funded research projects that require your set of skills and allow for your own creative practice outputs to be included in the research project...?





# 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](#)

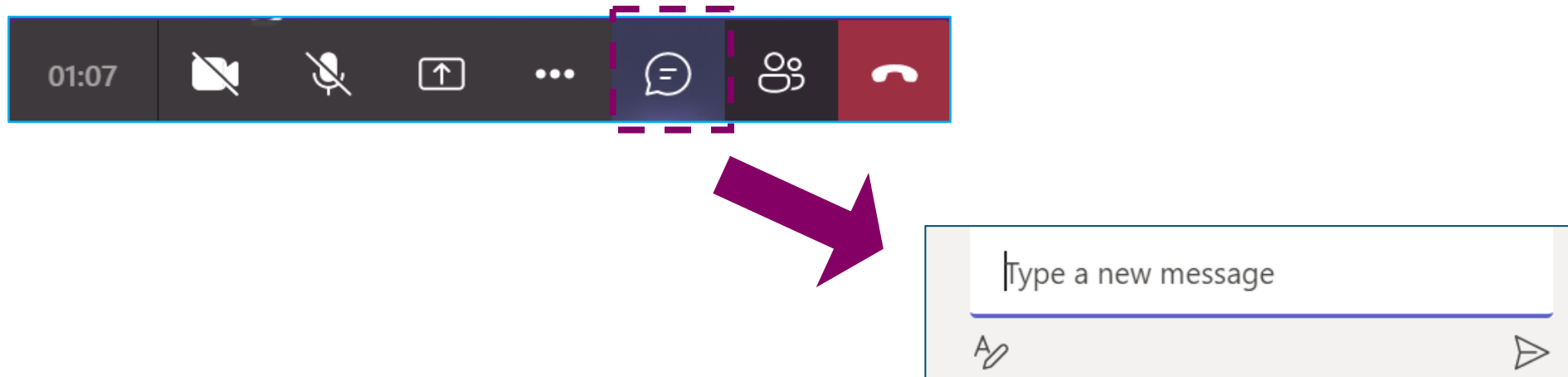


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# Asking questions (Microsoft Teams)

- Type your question into the Chat Area





# Any [more] questions



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# Next steps...

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



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



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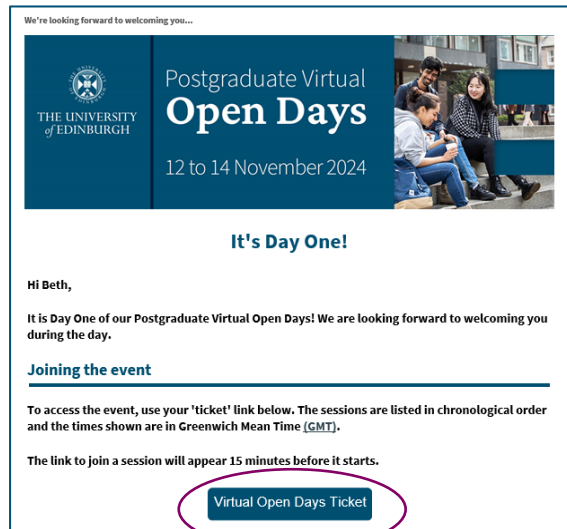
# Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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)
- *This is the beginning of our conversation together, please get in touch if you have questions not already answered:*
- *Stefan Bilbao, director of PGR in Music - [s.bilbao@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s.bilbao@ed.ac.uk) (until end of December 2024)*
- *Benedict Taylor, director of PGR in Music from Jan 2025 [b.taylor@ed.ac.uk](mailto:b.taylor@ed.ac.uk)*
- *Martin Parker, Head of Music – [martin.parker@ed.ac.uk](mailto:martin.parker@ed.ac.uk)*

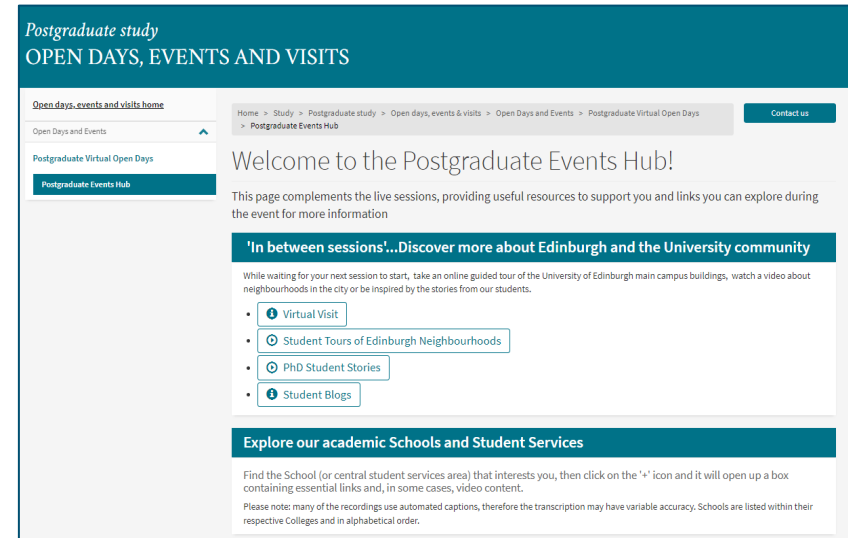


# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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

Dr Martin Parker

[martin.parker@ed.ac.uk](mailto:martin.parker@ed.ac.uk)