



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Classics postgraduate taught degrees

Dr Benjamin Harriman – November 2024

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What we'll cover

- Why Edinburgh?
- Programme information
- Application process
- Time for questions & answers



Why Edinburgh?

- The School of History, Classics & Archaeology is part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science
- The University is ranked in the world top 30 (QS World University Rankings 2024)
- School community of approximately 475 graduate students and 150 academic staff

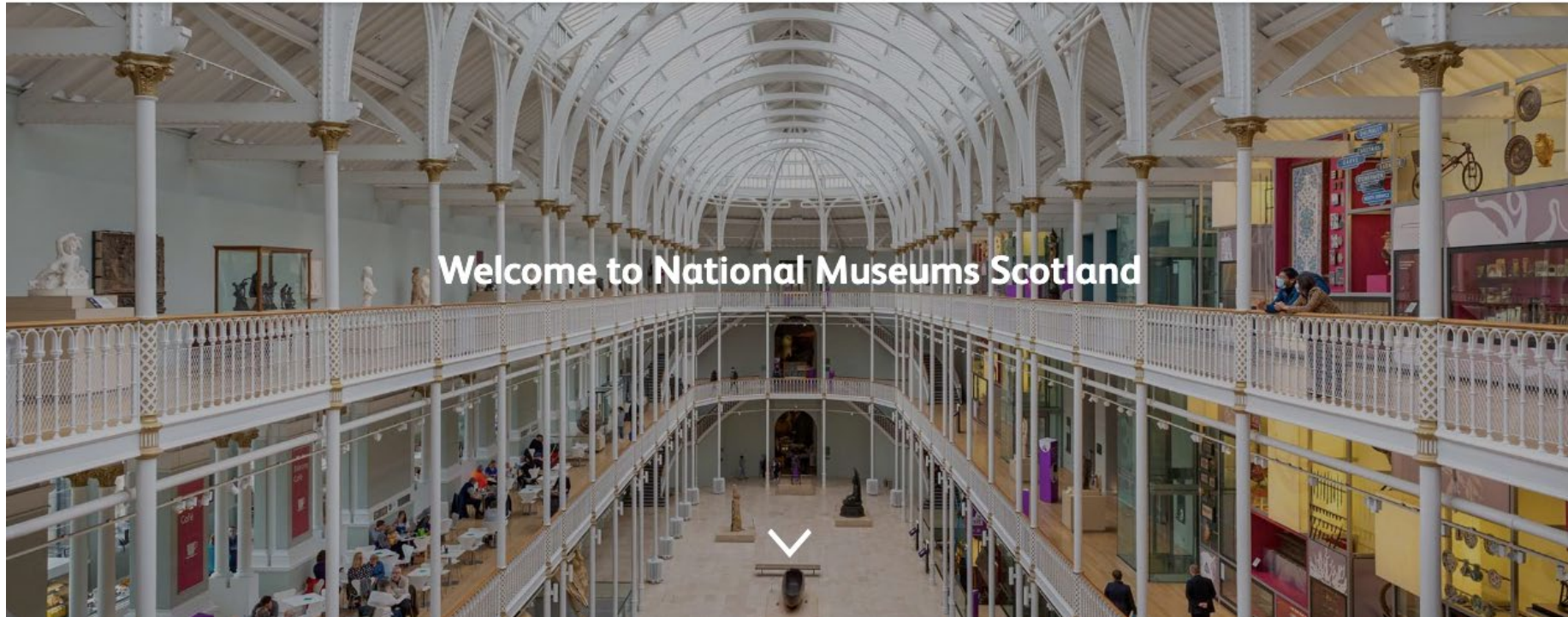


Why Edinburgh?

- Athens of the North
- One of the largest groups of Classics-focused academics in the UK, covering a variety of research interests
- Classical languages have been taught and studied at the University since its foundation in 1583



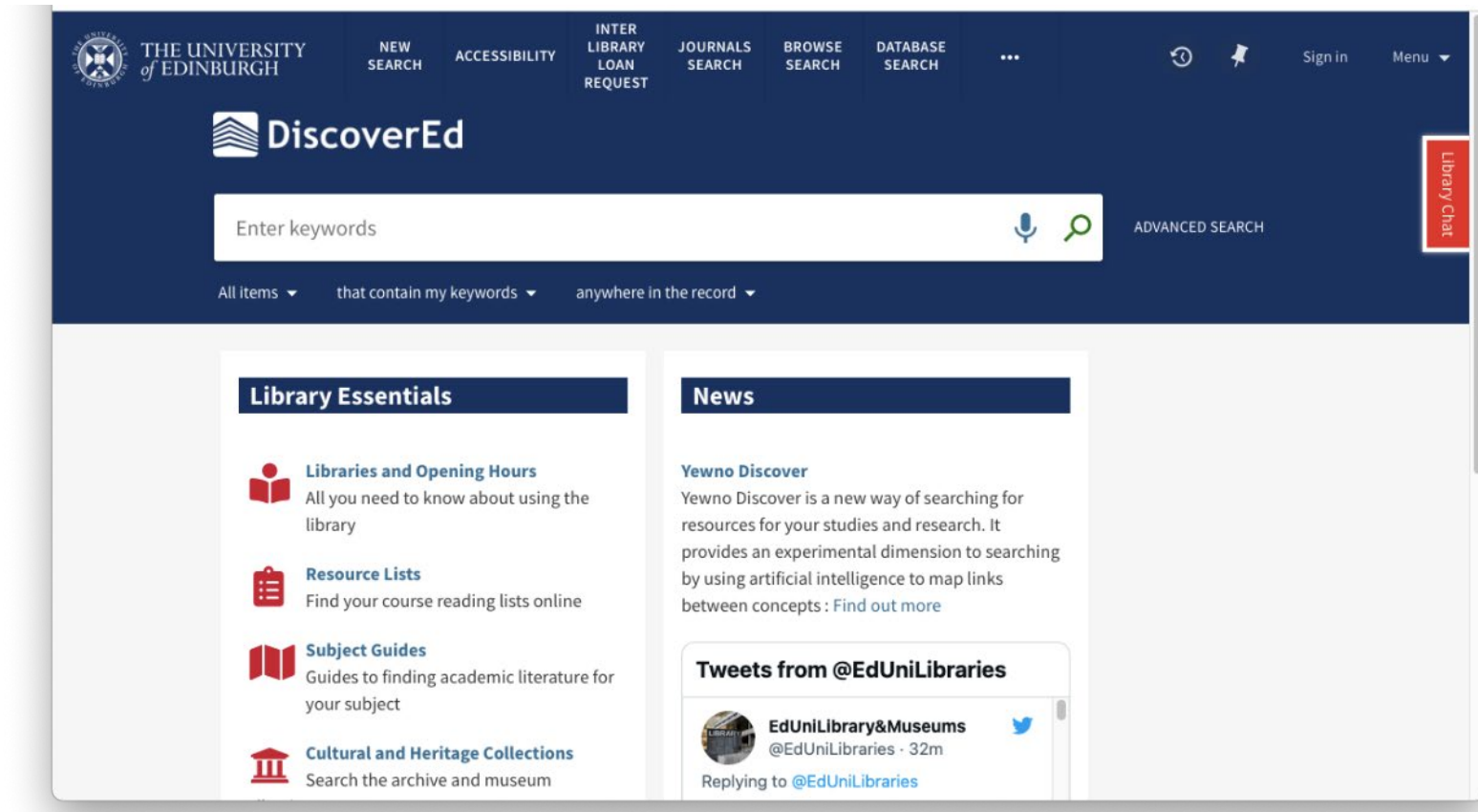
Why Edinburgh? – Resources at your doorstep



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Why Edinburgh? – Access to source databases and journals



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Why Edinburgh? – Research culture and research seminars

- Diverse and international community
- Graduate and staff common room
- Dedicated postgraduate study areas
- School library
- Seminars and research groups



Our research groups



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Student Support and Experience Team

- We are your first point of contact for advice and support once you begin your studies here
- We can provide support and guidance for students whose studies are affected by illness or other circumstances
- We can signpost students to the large range of more specialist university services such as:
 - [Student Counselling](#)
 - [Student Disability and Learning Support Service](#)
 - [The Institute of Academic Development](#)
 - [The Advice Place](#)
- Available by email, phone, in-person or online appointments



Staff in Classics

Language and Literature

- Dr Chiara Blanco
- Prof. Douglas Cairns
- Dr Lilah Grace Canevaro
- Prof. Niels Gaul
- Dr Ben Harriman
- Dr Jesse Hill
- Prof. Gavin Kelly
- Dr Calum Maciver
- Dr Consuelo Martino
- Dr Donncha O'Rourke
- Dr Aaron Peltari
- Dr Richard Rawles
- Dr Janja Soldo
- Dr Justin Stover
- Dr Simon Trépanier

Ancient History

- Dr Sandra Bingham
- Dr Mirko Canevaro
- Dr Kimberley Czajkowski
- Dr Benedikt Eckhardt
- Prof. Andrew Erskine
- Dr Lina Girdvainyte
- Dr Lucy Grig
- Dr David Lewis
- Dr Kleanthis Mantzouranis
- Dr David Porter
- Dr Ulrike Roth
- Dr Yannis Stouraitis
- Dr Matteo Zaccarini

Classical Archaeology

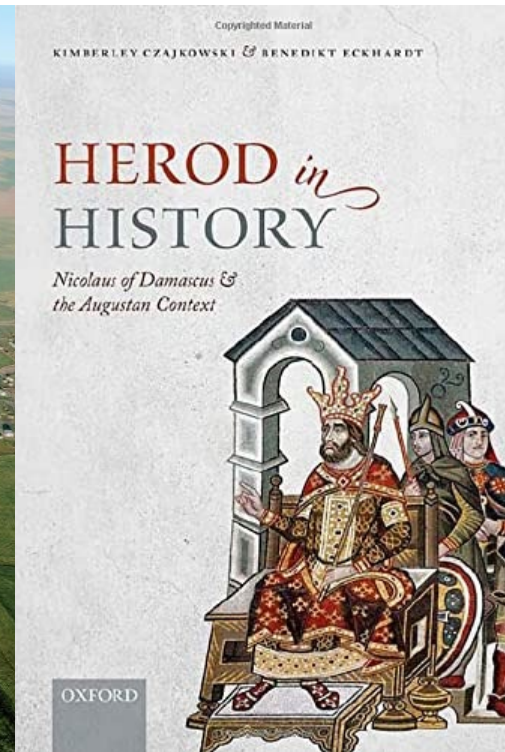
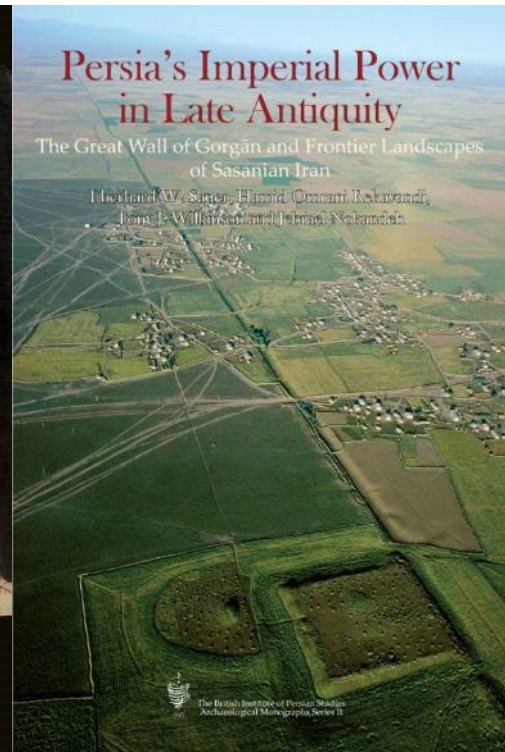
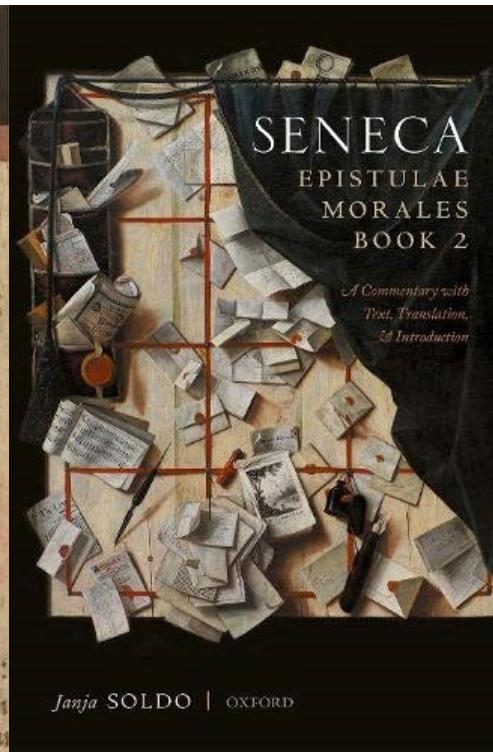
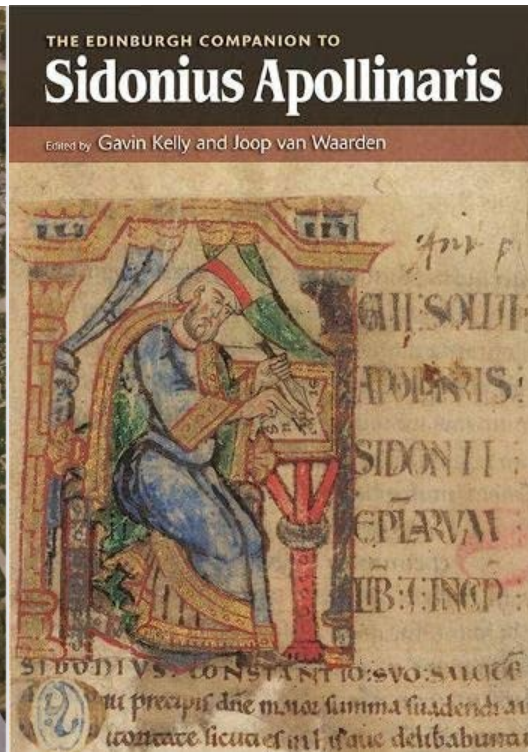
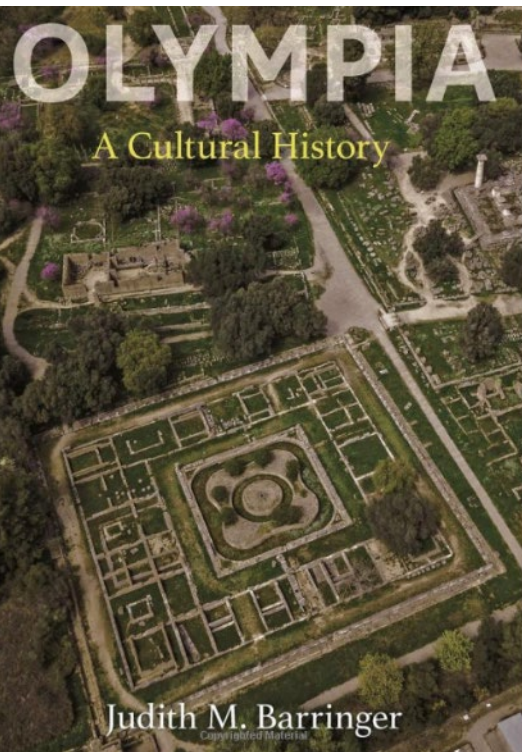
- Prof. Judy Barringer
- Dr Louise Blanke
- Dr Nicolette Pavlides
- Prof. Eberhard Sauer
- Dr Anja Slawisch
- Prof. Ben Russell



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A small sampling of recent books



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MSc programmes

- Classics
- Ancient History
- Classical Art and Archaeology
- Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies
- Ancient Worlds (online learning) – covering archaeology and classics



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MSc in Ancient Worlds (online learning)

- Online part-time or flexible programme
- Information session taking place **21 November at 15:00**
- Register here:
 - <https://edin.ac/4eZHwtH>



Taught MSc(s) in Classics (full-time)

Core course

- Skills and Methods in Classics (20 credits)

Option courses

- Select five option courses from a wide range
- 20 credits each

Dissertation

- 15,000 word research project
- Based on primary source materials
- 60 credits



Taught MSc(s) in Classics (part-time)

Year one

- Usually 60 credits, some students do more (e.g. 40 + 40)

Year two

- 60 credits, some students do less

Summer of
year two

- 60 credits
- 12-15,000 word dissertation, based on primary source materials (60 credits)



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Option courses

Courses change from year to year.

This is a sample list which have run previously

Courses for
Sep 2025
entry will be
available from
May 2024

- Elementary and Intermediate Latin (language)
- Elementary and intermediate Greek (language)
- Greek Text Seminar (language)
- Latin text seminar (language)
- Byzantine text seminar (language)
- Archaeology of late antique religion (art & archaeology)
- Byzantine archaeology (art & archaeology)
- Death and Burial in the Greek World (art & archaeology)
- Early and Archaic Greek archaeology (art & archaeology)
- Conflict Archaeology: Materialities of Violence (archaeology)
- The Origins of Agriculture: Reconsidering the Neolithic (Archaeology)
- Constantinople (archaeology / ancient history)
- Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs (Archaeology)
- GIS and Spatial analysis (Archaeology)
- Etruscan Italy (Archaeology)
- Archaeological Illustration (Archaeology)
- The Hittites (Archaeology)
- The Jewish Diaspora under the Roman Empire (ancient history)
- Sparta and Crete (ancient history)
- The Hellenistic City (ancient history)
- Epicurus and Epicureanism (ancient philosophy)



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Late Antique, Islamic and Byzantine Studies (LAIBS)

- Core course:
 - Approaches to the Long Late Antiquity (20 credits)
- Language courses:
 - Latin, Greek and Arabic (choose two, 20 credits each)
- Option courses (choose three, 20 credits each). Sample list:
 - Creeds, Councils and Controversies: Patristic and Medieval
 - Mosques, Palaces and Gardens in the Golden Age of Islam
 - Art and Cultural Exchange in Mughal India 1500-1900
 - Around 900: The Early Islamic West in a Global Context
 - Mystical Islam
 - Greek Palaeography
 - Byzantine Archaeology: The archaeology of the Byzantine empire and its neighbours AD 500-850.
- Dissertation (60 credits). Past titles include:
 - Isauria from 350–410
 - Polemic in the Work of St Romanos the Melodist
 - Episcopal Authority in Northern Gaul during the Fifth to Eighth Centuries
 - The Sources of Shi'ism



Teaching

- On-campus courses normally have weekly seminars
- Most teaching is in small groups of less than twenty students
- Teaching staff regularly hold office hours and are available to meet with students about their work
- Reading lists and PowerPoints are uploaded to Learn (our course management system), and we support all of our learners



Assessment

- 4,000-5,000 words per 20 credit course
- Usually a longer essay with some courses requiring an additional shorter piece(s) of work
- Non-assessed exercises will be used to ‘feed-forward’ into formally assessed course work
- The Dissertation is a 15,000 word piece of work, based on primary source material, supervised by one or more members of staff over the summer period



Dissertation

- Recent Classical dissertation topics include
 - Dynastic Strife and Intrigue: The Roles of Mothers, Wives and Sisters at the Court of Herod the Great.
 - Speeches and Military Leadership in Xenophon's Anabasis and Cyropaedia
 - Tadmor: A Case of Heritage Destruction and Reconstruction
 - Uncovering obscuritas in Persius' Satires



Applying for study

- Online application form
- Evidence of proficiency in English language, where appropriate
- 5 step application process:
 - www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/how-to-apply



Eligibility

- UK 2:1 honours degree, a minimum US 3.25 GPA or international equivalent, in a subject related to your programme
- Cases can also be made for non-standard entry, email
 - HCA-PGT@ed.ac.uk



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English language

- IELTS: total 7.0 (at least 6.0 in each module)
 - TOEFL-iBT: total 100 (at least 20 in each module)
 - PTE(A): total 70 (at least 59 in each of component)
 - CAE and CPE: total 185 (at least 169 in each module)
 - Trinity ISE: ISE III with a pass in all four components
-
- Find out about English Language requirements:
 - www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/your-application/entry-requirements



Application deadline

- The application deadline for our on campus programmes is
 - 31 July 2025
 - If you are applying for funding or require a visa we advise that you apply as early as possible.



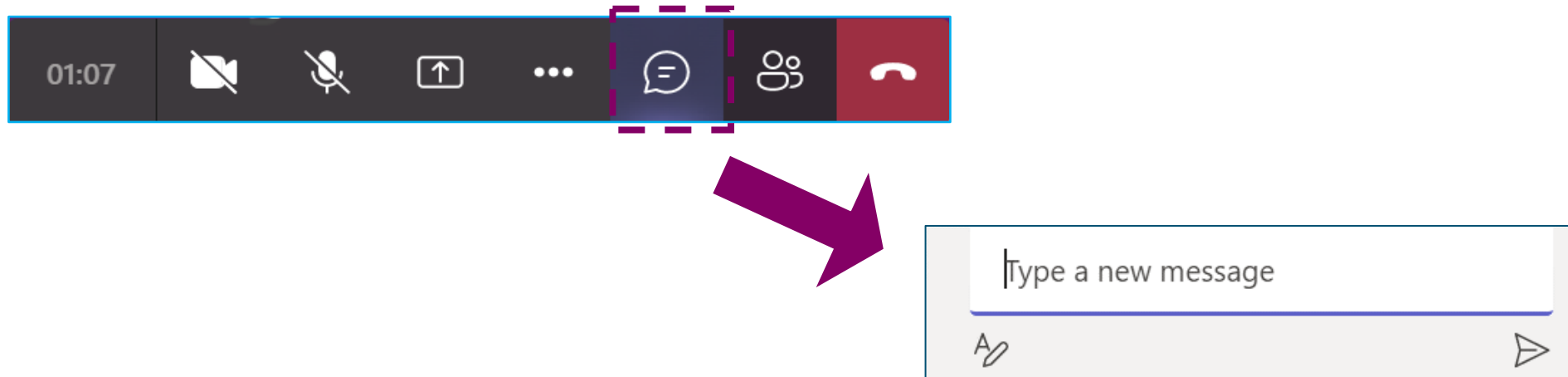
Fees and funding

- Find out about the cost of studying with us and what funding opportunities are available:
 - www.hca.ed.ac.uk/prospective-postgraduates/fees-funding



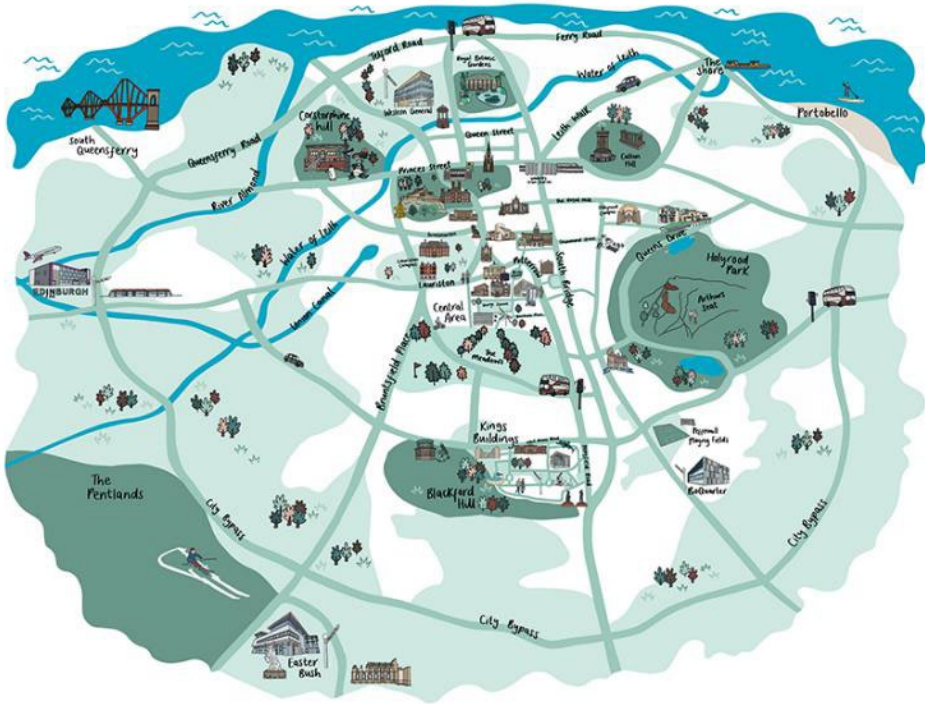
Asking questions (Microsoft Teams)

- 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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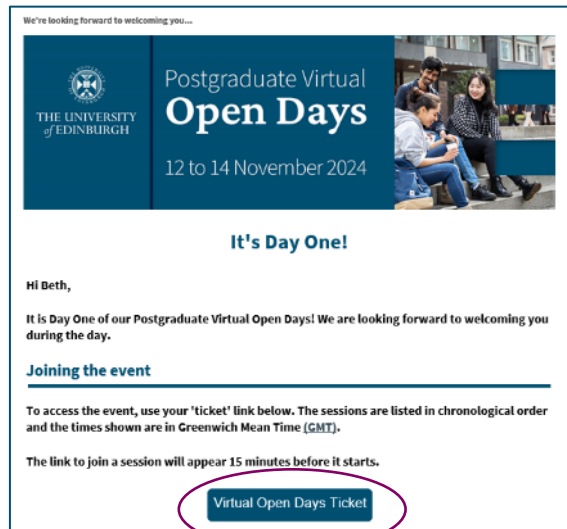
Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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
- Classics, Ancient History, Classical Art and Archaeology postgraduate degree programme director
 - Dr Benjamin Harriman – Benjamin.Harriman@ed.ac.uk
- LAIBS postgraduate degree programme director
 - Dr Yannis Stouraitis – Yannis.Stouraitis@ed.ac.uk

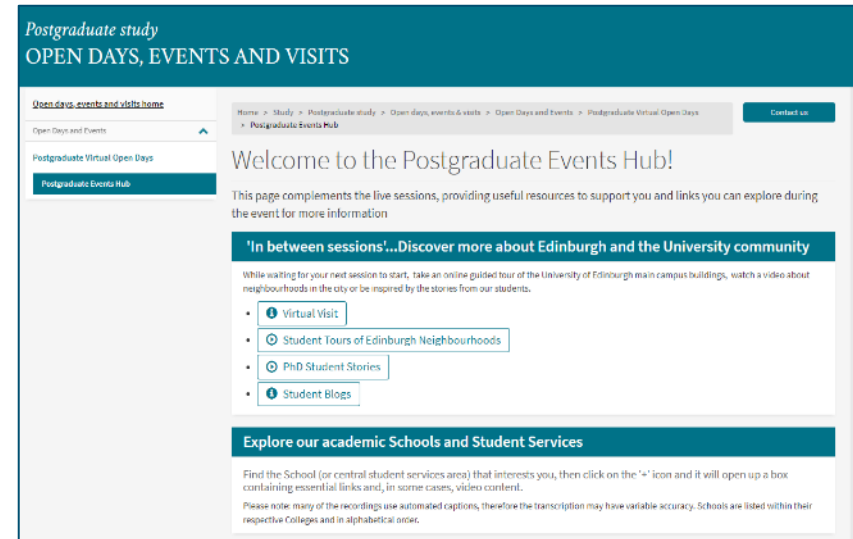


Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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 Benjamin Harriman

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