



THE UNIVERSITY
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Introduction to Postgraduate Research (MSc by Research and PhD)

School of Literatures, Languages and
Cultures (LLC)

Dr Frauke Matthes | 12 November 2024

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Session Overview

- School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
- MSc by Research
 - Overview
 - Courses and timetable
 - Supervision
- PhD
 - Overview
 - Structure and milestones
 - Supervision
 - Tutoring
 - Funding
- Student life and community
- Practicalities: places to study, support services, etc.



Welcome to LLC

Literatures, Languages and Cultures

- Postgraduate Research Office
 - LLC.pgresearch@ed.ac.uk
- Director of Postgraduate Research
 - Dr Frauke Matthes



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Departments and Subject Areas, and Departmental PGR Directors

- Asian Studies: Professor Natascha Gentz
- Celtic and Scottish Studies (CSS): Dr Anja Gunderloch
- English Literature & Creative Writing: Dr Aaron Kelly
- European Languages and Cultures (DELC): Dr Jessica Gordon-Burroughs (sem 1) / tbc (sem 2)
- Film Studies: Dr David Sorfa
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (IMES): Dr Ebtihal Mahadeen
- Translation Studies: Prof. Charlotte Bosseaux (sem 1) / Prof. Şebnem Susam-Saraeva (sem 2)



Before you apply

MSc by Research

- Do you have a particular project in mind or might a taught MSc be a better option for you?
- What are your aspirations? Are you thinking of continuing with a PhD?

PhD

- Why do you wish to undertake PhD study? Which career are you hoping to go into?
- Which programme, and why this one? Check out the [Degree Finder](#).
- Is there a particular member of staff you are hoping to be supervised by?
- What is original about your project?
- What excites you about your project? Will it 'keep you going'?
- Are there any scholarships you can apply for?



Why postgraduate research at Edinburgh?

- LLC: one of largest and most diverse Schools with active and vibrant student community
- QS World Rankings by Subject 2024: **The University of Edinburgh is ranked 3rd in the UK for Modern Languages and for English Language and Literature.** Globally, we're in the World Top 10 for English Language and Literature (9) and Modern Languages (10).
- Leading research: Research Excellence Framework 2021: **The University of Edinburgh is ranked Top 5 in the UK for research in Modern Languages and in English Literature.**
- Resources: Edinburgh University Library, National Library of Scotland, Scottish Poetry Library, ...
- Edinburgh's culture: first UNESCO World City of Literature, festivals, theatres, museums, galleries and collections, ...

What is the MSc by Research?

- It is a Masters Degree.
 - 1 year full-time
 - 2 years part-time
- Independent research with the guidance of a supervisor
- Limited funding for specific research areas: [Funding Masters students LLC](#)
- It is examined by:
 - **2 x 6,000 word essays + 15,000 word dissertation**
 - Only Scandinavian Studies offers dissertation-only (30,000 words)



MScR Programmes

(2 long essays + 15,000 word dissertation)

- Celtic Studies / Scottish Ethnology
- Chinese Studies
- English Literature
- French
- German
- Italian
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Japanese
- Korean Studies
- Medieval Studies
- Russian
- Scandinavian Studies I
- Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies (Hispanic Studies)



Dissertation Only

Pathway II (30,000 word dissertation)

■ Scandinavian Studies II

- Semester 1 and 2: Work with supervisor
- Summer: August
 - Submit 30,000 word dissertation



Required Courses

- Semester 1: **Research Skills and Methods**

- 5 units (online) with online Q&A session with course organiser (recorded)
- Critical response + annotated bibliography

- Semester 2: **Research Methods and Problems**

- Dissertation preparation
 - In-person lectures on defining research topic in literary studies and case studies in research development
 - In-person peer-review dissertation workshops
- Dissertation proposal and annotated bibliography - update



MScR Timetable (full time)

- Semester 1 (**September – December**): Submit 6,000 words
 - Auditing course, if possible – requirement for MScR English Literature
 - Research Skills and Methods
- Semester 2 (**January - April**): Submit 6,000 words
 - Auditing course, if possible – requirement for MScR English Literature
 - Research Methods and Problems
- Summer: **early August**
 - Submit 15,000 word dissertation



MScR Timetable (part time)

Year 1

- Semester 1 (**September – December**): Submit 6,000 words
 - Auditing course, if possible – requirement for MScR English Literature
- Semester 2 (**January - April**): Submit 6,000 words
 - Auditing course, if possible – requirement for MScR English Literature

Year 2

- Semester 1 (**September – December**): Research Skills and Methods
- Semester 2 (**January - April**): Research Methods and Problems
- Summer: **early August**
 - Submit 15,000 word dissertation



Meeting with your Supervisor

- You will have **one** assigned supervisor.
- Regular one-to-one meetings
- You will be in contact with your supervisor **at least once a month** throughout your Masters.
- Advise on supervised research essays (if applicable) and dissertation



What is a PhD?

A PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) is:

- Between 80,000 and 100,000 words long
- An original contribution to knowledge
- An exciting and extended research project
- Preparation for a career (either in or outside academia)



PhD Programmes in LLC

PhD Programmes in LLC

- Celtic and Scottish Studies
- Chinese
- Comparative Literature
- Creative Writing
- East Asian Studies
- English Literature
- European Theatre
- Film Studies
- French
- German
- Intermediality
- Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Medieval Studies
- Russian
- Scandinavian Studies
- Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies
- Translation Studies



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PhD Structure and Milestones (full time)

YEAR 1

- Within 4 months: 5,000 – 10,000 word literature review or similar
- Within 9 months: up to 30,000 words
- Annual Review: June

YEAR 2

- Aim for another 30,000 words (60,000 total)
- If applicable: Fieldwork
- Annual Review: June

YEAR 3

- **Completion**
- June: Annual Review
- June: Notice of Intention to Submit
- SUBMIT thesis in August – 80,000 words (max 100,000)

YEAR 4

- Optional “Writing Up” year



PhD Structure and Milestones (part time)

YEARS 1-2

- 5,000 – 10,000 word literature review or similar
- Within 21 months: up to 30,000 words
- Annual Reviews: June

YEAR 3-4

- Aim for another 30,000 words in those 2 years (60,000 total)
- If applicable: Fieldwork
- Annual Reviews: June

YEAR 5-6

- **Completion**
- June: Annual Reviews
- June year 6: Notice of Intention to Submit
- SUBMIT thesis in August – 80,000 words (max 100,000)

YEAR 7

- Optional “Writing Up” year



Meeting with Your Supervisor

- All PhD students have **two** assigned supervisors.
- Regular one-to-one meetings
- You will be in contact with your principal supervisor **at least once a month** throughout your PhD.
- You will generally meet with your 2nd supervisor once a semester and at your annual reviews.



Tutoring as a PhD Student

- **Limited** and competitive tutoring positions may be available in your subject area.
- PhD students usually only tutor in 2nd or 3rd year of study.
- The School cannot guarantee teaching for every PhD student.
- Positions are usually advertised in August/September.
- Training organised at departmental level.



PhD Funding

PhD funding - School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures

- SGSAH (Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities) Open Scholarships (Arts and Humanities Research Council): [SGSAH](#)
- SGSSS (Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences) Student-led Open Competition (Economic and Social Research Council): [SGSSS](#)
- [College Research Award](#) (3 February 2025)
- [Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarships](#) (3 February 2025)
- Korean Studies Prizes (apply to PhD Korean Studies by 5 May 2025)



Student Life

- Information and communication
 - Internal sharepoint site for all students with information
 - Email lists (e.g. events, training opportunities, etc.)
 - Weekly LLC Postgrad Life newsletter (by LLC comms intern)
- Welcome week events (inductions and introductions)
 - School welcome events, incl. introduction to student life
 - Library induction
 - Student Wellbeing Service introduction
- Student representatives
- Student Experience Fund (dedicated fund to support academic activities by students for students)



PhD Professional Development Programme

Workshops may include:

- Research ethics and integrity
- Introduction to LLC PGR funding (conference and travel funding), incl. presenting at conferences
- ‘What I wish I had known in my first year’ (get-together)
- Inclusive PhD communities
- First article workshop
- Impact and knowledge exchange
- Final year and viva session
- Careers service
- Writing workshop / retreat



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PGR Community and Events

- LLC PGR Society
- [Reading Groups](#)
 - Organised by PhD students
 - Only open to UoE students
- [FORUM: University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Journal of Culture & the Arts](#)
 - Opportunities for editorial involvement
 - Regular calls for papers
- Work-in-Progress Seminars
- PGR get togethers, organised by PGR Office and Student Rep/s
- **MScR cohort events:** 3 cohort events for all LLC MScR students throughout the year (sem 1, sem 2, dissertation stage)



Ask a Postgraduate Student

Wednesday, 13 November, at 5pm

register by accessing your e-ticket from your confirmation email, scrolling to the bottom and going to 'register for more sessions'; from there, search for the name of the session and book your place

You'll hear from:

- Beth, a British PhD student in Chinese Studies and former MSc student
- Kate, an American MSc student studying Literature and Modernity



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Places to Study

- There are dedicated Masters and PhD study room in **50 George Square** (with open access desks and lockers – no assigned desks).
- Main Library and many other university libraries
- Scottish National Library
- [Study Space at Edinburgh](#)



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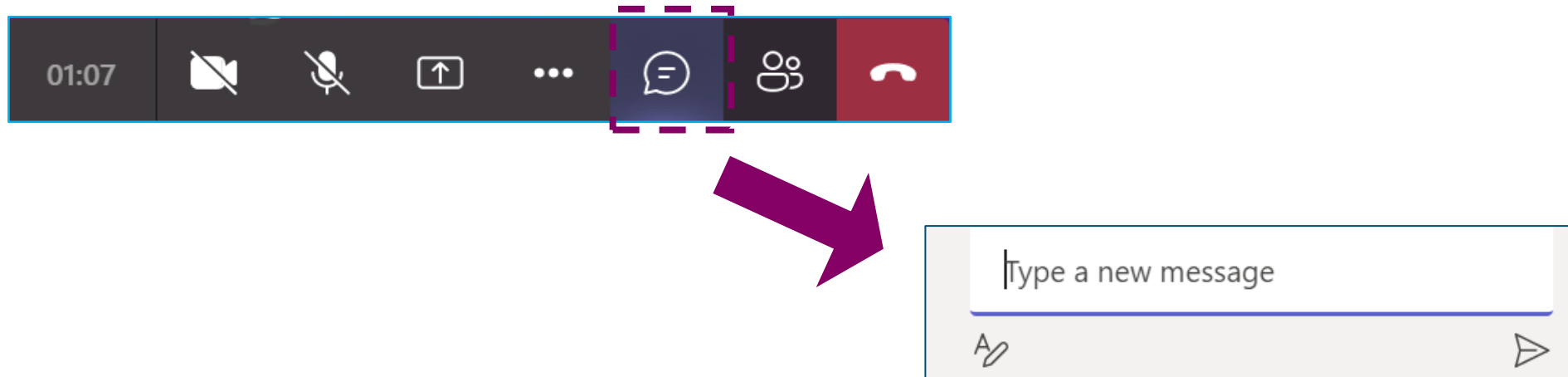
Support Services

- Institute for Academic Development (IAD)
 - [IAD](#)
- English Language Education
 - [English Language Education](#)
- Careers Service
 - [Careers Service](#)
- Counselling and Mental Health Support
 - [Student Counselling](#)
- Health and Wellbeing
 - [Health and Wellbeing](#)
- Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA)
 - [EUSA](#)



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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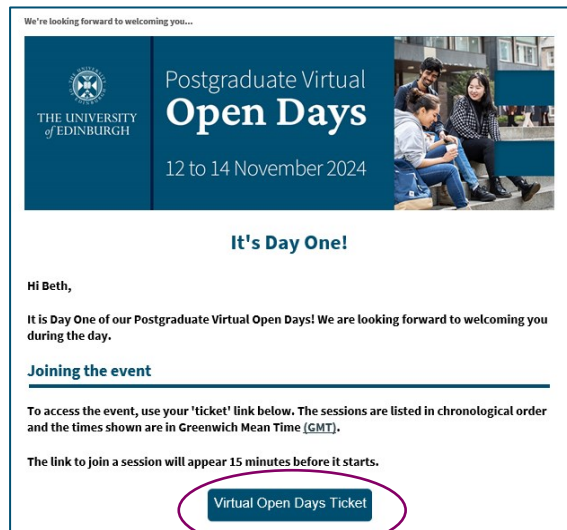
Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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
- You can also contact the Postgraduate Research Office at LLC: llc.PGresearch@ed.ac.uk

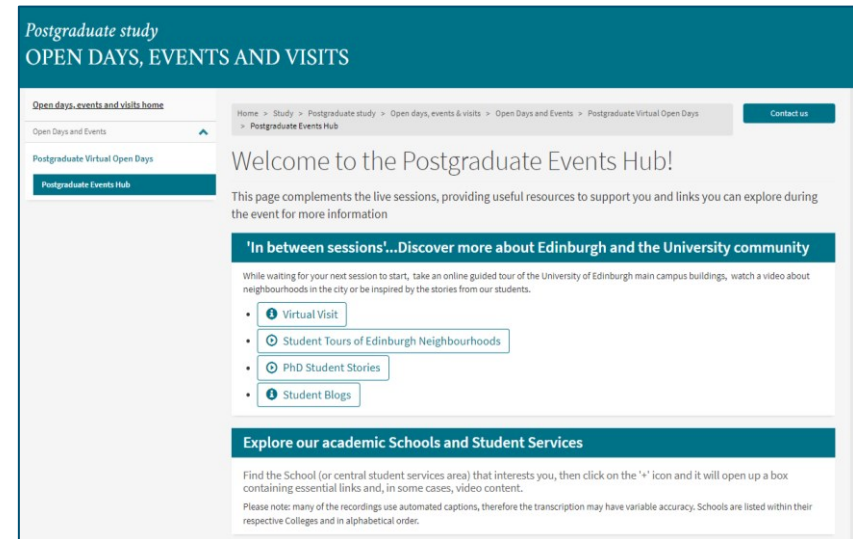


Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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