



THE UNIVERSITY
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Ask A PG Student

Studying at Edinburgh as a Postgraduate Student in LLC

Wednesday 13 November 2024

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About Us

Beth	Kate
From Manchester, UK	From Siloam Springs, Arkansas, USA
Undergraduate: B.A. in History, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge	Undergraduate: B.A. in English and Sociology, Dartmouth College
Masters: Master of Chinese Studies, University of Edinburgh	Masters: MSc in Literature and Modernity, University of Edinburgh
PhD: 2 nd Year of PhD in Chinese Studies, researching gender and media in Republican China (1911 – 1949)	



Picking a Degree

- Think about **why** you want to do PG study:
 - Next steps in your career
 - Return to academia
 - Opportunity to live somewhere new
- Don't worry about programmes seeming limited!
 - Flexible courses and cross-programme collaboration
 - Flexible dissertation topics
 - Taught Masters still produces high quality research



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Academic Life

- How long does it take to finish a degree?
- What is it like going from UG to PG?
- How do you write / plan a dissertation / thesis?

Taught Masters	PhD/MScR
Guided structure with choices: regular classes, fixed schedule, reading lists, exams and papers etc.	Self-led structure: no fixed schedule, self-imposed deadlines, needs lots of collaboration & motivation
Social academic life: seminars, in-class discussions, familiar classmates, time on campus	Self-led collaborations and support: independent, flexible, can join reading groups
Summative and formative feedback: graded classes, regular feedback from seminar tutors and dissertation supervisor	Formative feedback: feedback on progress (writing and research) from supervisor, annual reviews



Writing Your Dissertation

- Take advantage of the resources
 - Library (and subject Librarians)
 - Special collections
 - Online collections & archives
- Plan and pace yourself
- Don't be afraid to ask for help
 - **Your Supervisor**
 - Peers and friends
- Take breaks and look after yourself



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Study tips

- How do you organise your life?
- Where do you go to study?
 - Library & campus study spaces
 - Cafes & libraries
 - Home/Accommodation spaces
- What's the workload like?
 - PGT vs. PGR
 - Deadlines in November/December & June/July
 - Conferences, journal publishing, presentations...



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Moving to Edinburgh

- Don't stress (too much)
 - Practical guidance on everything
 - Look up exciting things
 - Edinburgh is an international city
- Allow plenty of time for your **visa**
- The University has information and will offer plenty of help
 - Every [ed.ac.uk](https://www.ed.ac.uk) webpage has a specific “Contact Us” button which will link you to the right office to ask any related questions



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Dorm vs. Private Accommodation

Dorm	Private Accommodation
Social	More of your own space
Includes bills (internet, heating, electricity etc.)	Can choose location & roommates
Events throughout the academic year	Can stay throughout academic holidays if you want to
Much easier for international students	Can be difficult to find if you're not in UK already, don't have UK bank account etc.



Jobs & Internships

- Allow more time than you think for research!
- Can work up to 9 hours a week with the school/university as a PGR, 15 hours as a PGT
- 20 hour limit on student visas
- Careers advice
 - CV support
 - 1-1 sessions
 - Specialised careers fairs
- Volunteering



CAREERS SERVICE

Menu

[Home](#) > [Careers Service](#) > [Students](#) > [Postgraduates](#)

Postgraduates

Information and advice for Masters and PhD students

In a hurry? Use our Get Help With tool to find answers to questions on CVs, job adverts and more.

[Get Help With tool](#)

Taught postgraduates



(Re) Starting Life as a Student

- Welcome Week
 - Digital and in-person
 - Easiest way to find societies & groups
- Societies
 - Plenty of postgrad options
 - LLC PGR Society
 - Can start your own!
- Reading Groups & Publications
- LLC & University Events
 - Bernadine Evaristo, Jeanette Winterson
 - PG ceilidhs etc.



Making the Most of Your Time Here

- Go to the free lectures / workshops / seminars
 - IAD training
 - Seminar series
 - PG Newsletter
- Find your favourite study spots
- Have conversations
 - Peers, lecturers, administrative staff, other researchers
- You are an independent researcher now!



Life in Edinburgh

■ Resources

- National Library of Scotland
- Creative and Cultural Hubs (Creative Scotland, Scottish Storytelling Centre etc.)

■ Festivals & Events

- Edinburgh International Festival (The Fringe)
- Samhain & Beltane
- Christmas Markets & Hogmanay

■ Food & Drink

- Street Food, Sushi, Poutine, Tacos, Noodles...
- Endless coffee shops!

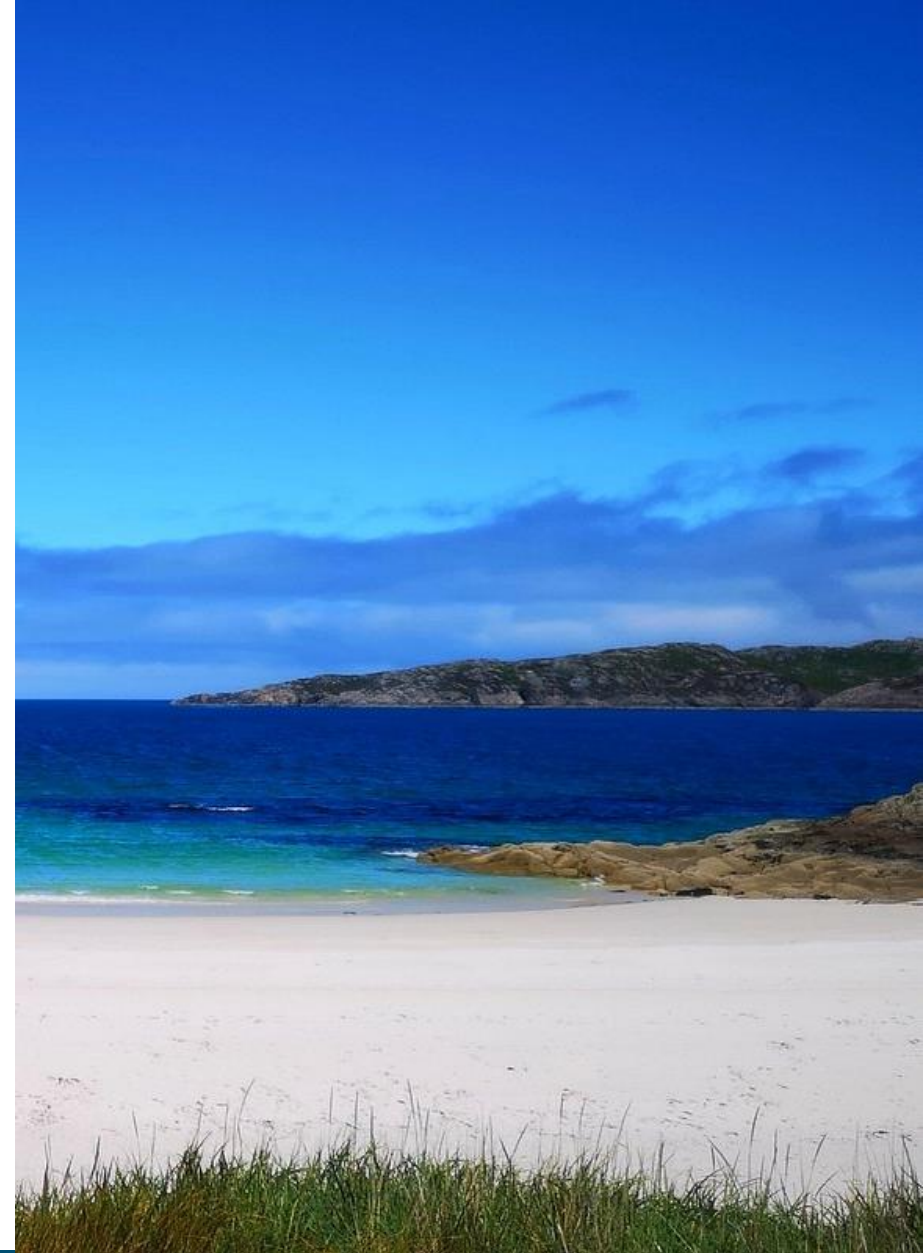


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Life in Scotland

- Get out and explore!
 - Railcard
 - Society trips
- History
 - Tours, castles, houses, museums, galleries...
- You might be surprised...
 - Surfing in Dunbar (30-minute train ride)
 - World's Best Chocolate Truffle in Pitlochry (2-hour bus)
 - White sandy beaches (harder to get to)



Life in LLC

Encouraging

Interdisciplinary

Welcoming

Challenging

Exciting

Rewarding





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Thank you

Beth & Kate

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