THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

MSc Science and Technology in Society (SaTiS)

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SaTiS Programme Director, 14 November 2024

EDINBURGH
Extraordinary futures await

MSc Science and Technology in Society (SaTiS)

- School of Social and Political Science (SSPS)
- **Science Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS) https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/science-technology-and-innovation-studies**

Science, Technology and Innovation Studies

Our department has an international reputation as a leading centre of excellence in science and technology studies, established through the legacies of the Science Studies Unit and the Research Centre for Social Sciences.

Overview

- Subject area: an introduction
- Programme structure
- Why study Science and Technology in Society (SaTiS) at Edinburgh?
- Questions

What is Science Technology and Innovation Studies?

A brief history of STIS at the University of Edinburgh

- One of the foundational centres for studies of science, technology and innovation
- Founded in 1966 and internationally renowned

Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (70s and 80s)
Social Shaping of Technology (80s and 90s)

Science Studies Unit, University of Edinburgh

Influential historians and sociologists of science (Bloor, Barnes, Shapin, Edge …)

- **STIS today:**

An interdisciplinary group of approx. 40 academics organised around five research themes (www.stis.ed.ac.uk) - all social science based

Energy, Environment & Sustainability	**Innovation in Life Sciences (Agriculture, Food & Health)**	**Social Studies of Biology & Medicine**	**Historical Approaches to Science, Technology & Medicine**	**Social Studies of Information & Communication Technologies**

STIS plays a key role in multi-disciplinary research centres

- Centre for Science, Knowledge and Policy (SKAPE): https://www.skape.ed.ac.uk/
- UK Energy Research Centre: http://www.ukerc.ac.uk
- Innogen: https://www.innogen.ac.uk
- ClimateXChange: https://www.climatexchange.org.uk
- Centre for Data Culture and Society (CDCS): https://www.cdcs.ed.ac.uk/

Who are the STISers?

- Interdisciplinary
- Common interest in mutual shaping of science, technology and society
- Some theory inclined, others practice and policy oriented through collaborations with scientists, engineers and policy makers
- Diversity of backgrounds and flexible intellects
- Not necessarily social scientists by background, often fall between the cracks of traditional disciplines (but SaTiS *is* a social science programme!)

MSc SaTiS Programme structure

Semester 1 (compulsory)	Semester 2 (pathway options)	Spring/Summer
Science, Knowledge and Expertise (20 credits)	Option (20 credits; or 2 x 10 credits)	
Understanding Technology (20 credits)	Option (20 credits; or 2 x 10 credits)	Dissertation (60 credits)
Innovation Systems and Risk Management (20 credits)	Option (20 credits; or 2 x 10 credits)	

MSc SaTiS Programme structure

Possible Pathway courses

Pathway1: Energy and Environment

PGSP11132: Energy Policy and Politics

PGSP11400: Innovation in Sustainable Food Systems

Pathway 2: Life Sciences/Bioeconomy

PGSP11331: Biobusiness

PGSP11476: Social Dimensions of Systems and Synthetic Biology

Pathway 3: Data and Society

PGSP11116: Internet, Society and Economy

PGSP11467: Controversies in the Data Society

Past Dissertation topics: examples

- Media analysis of Covid-19 scientific claims
- Use of hydrogen fuel in the Scottish economy
- Critical review of the ‘Surveillance Society’
- Social organisation and activist science: Do-It-Yourself Biology (DIYBio) movement
- Investigating the German welfare software algorithm – ALLEGRO
- Public engagement and the public perception of science - Science Ceilidh

Careers

- Analyst at innovation policy consultancy
- Technology management consultant
- Policy Officer
- Technology PR
- Policy adviser
- Science writer
- Project Development
- University research

Why STIS?

- Interdisciplinary group – welcoming to other disciplines and with links to wider networks
- Evolving discipline – suits self-motivated and directed students. Follow your interest.
- Small class sizes and community feel
- Old Surgeons Hall (Prof John Henry): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AE6EeAlt5PE

Questions?

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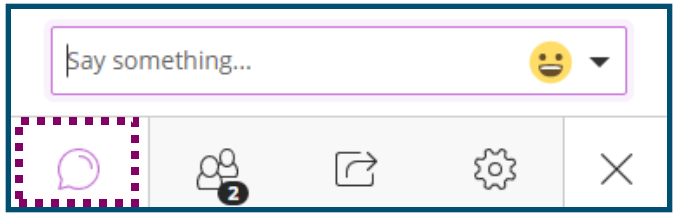
Asking questions (Collaborate)

- Please hold all questions until the end of the formal presentation
- Always use the ‘hand raise icon’ to queue up your question
- When called upon to ask your question, type it into the “Text chat area”
- Once your question is answered, please lower your hand



Next steps…

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

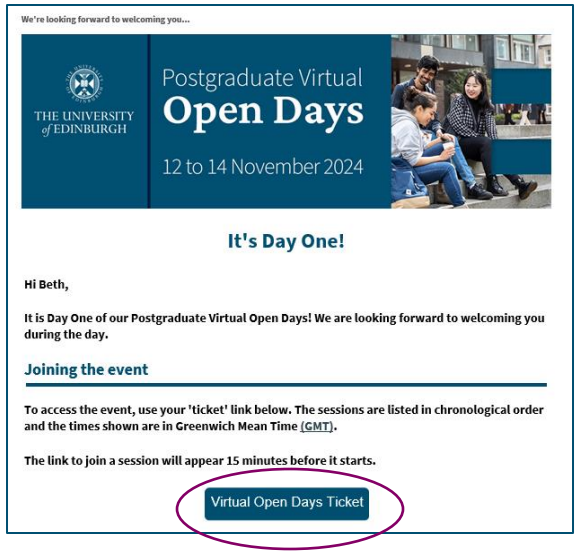
https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg

Contact details for follow-up questions

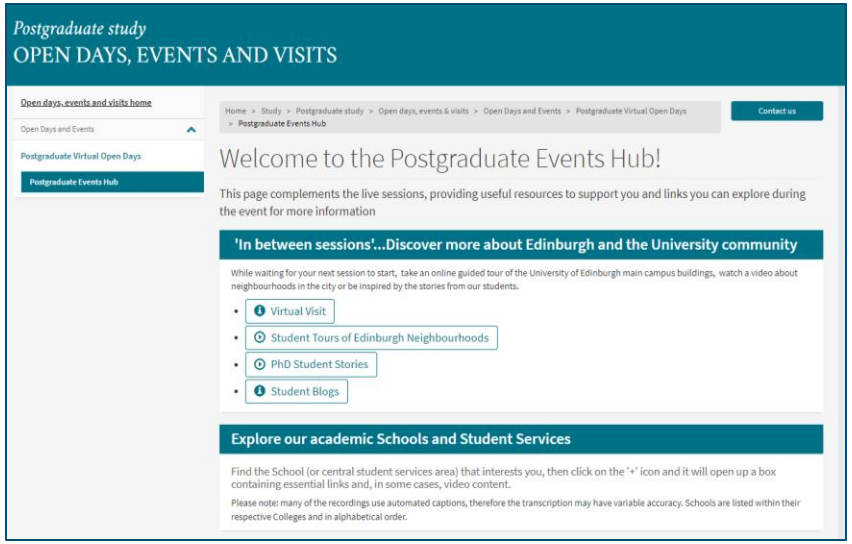
- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

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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