



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

The Middle East in Global Politics MSc

Dr. Nida Alahmad | 14 Nov 2024

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Learning Outcomes

- On graduating from this degree, students will be able to:
 - Understand the politics and international relations of the Middle East from a complex, interdisciplinary perspective.
 - Use, evaluate and critique critical arguments about this geographic region.
 - Identify, analyse and deploy a range of primary and secondary sources to support arguments
 - Develop and structure sophisticated pieces of writing
 - Design, plan and manage a long-term autonomous research project



Handbooks

- The degree requirements (number of credits, compulsory courses, and so on) are all available in the Programme's Handbook:

<https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/students/postgraduate/taught-msc/your-studies/student-handbooks>



Courses

Compulsory:

- Survey in Middle Eastern Politics
- Dissertation

At least one or max 4 of the following:

- Middle East in International Relations
- Contemporary Issues in Middle East Politics (shell course)
- Political Contestation in the Middle East
- Gulf Politics
- Political Theory and Critique in the Middle East

Electives (for example):

- International Relations Theory
- International Security
- The State in Social and Political Theory
- Political Islam in the ME
- Human Rights
- Global Politics and Int'l Law
- International Political Economy
- Humanity, Law, and Violence
- Global Environmental Politics
- Nation and Nationalism
- Politics and Theories of International Development
- Language courses (Arabic, Persian, Turkish).



A2

Select **up to four** of the following courses:

These courses are recommended by the Programme Director and will have priority enrolment for students on this programme.

Semester 1

Human Rights, Global
Politics and International
Law

20 Credits • Level 11

Political Contestation in
the Middle East

20 Credits • Level 11

Nations and Nationalism

20 Credits • Level 11

Semester 2

Political Islam: Key
Thinkers and their
Contexts

20 Credits • Level 11

A3

Select **up to four** of the following courses:

These courses offer a broader range of electives. Students on this programme will not have priority enrolment for these courses and spaces may be limited.

Semester 1

Global Environment: Key
Issues

20 Credits • Level 11

Globalization

20 Credits • Level 11

Asia Pacific in the World

20 Credits • Level 11

Politics and Theories of
International Develop-
ment

20 Credits • Level 11

Semester 2

The History and Culture of
Iran

20 Credits • Level 11

Law and Power in the
Muslim World

20 Credits • Level 11

Ethnopolitical Conflict

20 Credits • Level 11

Global Environmental
Politics

20 Credits • Level 11

Environmental Risk:
Politics, Ethics, and
Communication

20 Credits • Level 11

International Political
Economy

20 Credits • Level 11



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Expertise

- At PIR we have a particularly strong Middle East expertise.
 - Dr. Nida Alahmad
 - Dr. Jamie Allinson
 - Dr. Lucy Abbott
 - Dr. Nicola Perugini
 - Dr. Ewan Stein
- There is a wide range of expertise in PIR and within SPS that you will find helpful for expanding your learning experience (by attending seminars/ lectures/ events, and reaching out to experts during their office hours for advice and/ or feedback on your ideas and research).



Dissertation Workshops

- Dissertation workshops: not for credit but highly encouraged.
 - Semester 1 (background and useful links)
 - Semester 2 (Work-In-Progress).



The Middle East Research Group (MERG)

Two main activities:

- Weekly seminars
- Contemporary Middle East Series

<https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/research/research-themes/middle-east-research-group>

MERG hosts interdisciplinary research activities undertaken by academic staff and postgraduates from across the College of Humanities and Social Science with a research interest and expertise on the modern and contemporary politics of the Middle East. Our members' work has been internationally recognised, as illustrated by: the various research grants we obtained, such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie and the Leverhulme fellowships; our editorial affiliations with University of Edinburgh Press and journals like *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*; our involvement as consultants with international organisations such as UNESCO, UN Women, International Centre for Transitional Justice, and the World Bank and with professional associations such as the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Council. Our publications have also received prizes and award nominations. Members of the group were also active in the establishment of the Middle East Network in Scotland, which brings together scholars of the region who are based in Scottish universities



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MERG Weekly Seminars

- Reading Group.
- WIP for PG research students (PhDs and MSc by research).
- PGT students are welcome to join as participants, but not presenters.
- Opportunity to learn from and with peers.
- Good preparation for your dissertation and research papers.
- Not compulsory
- Highly encouraged



Contemporary Middle East Series

- Annual event.
- Series of public lectures with academics and practitioners speaking to our students.
- An opportunity to learn further.

2022-23 Seminar Series Schedule

Semester One

- 6 October, 2022: Katerina Dalacoura, The International Thought of Turkish Islamists: History, Civilisation and Nation. 17:30 – 19:00.
- 11 October, 2022: Jamie Allinson, The Age of Counter-Revolution: States and Revolution in the Middle East. 17:30-19:00.
- 8 November, 2022: Salman Abu Sitta, On the Centenary of the British Mandate Era in Palestine (1922-1948). 16:15-18:00.
- 22 November, 2022: Lisa Hajjar, Guantanamo's Legacy: From a Legal Black Hole to a Battleground in the Fight Against Torture.
- 1 December, 2022: Marlene Schäfers, Projecting Sovereignty 'not yet': On the Political Potency of Photography in Kurdistan. 13:00-14:30.

Semester Two

- 26 January, 2023: Omar Sirri, Bureaucraft: Statemakers in Amman and Baghdad. 1.00-2.30pm.
- 7 February, 2023: Jose Martinez, States of Subsistence: the Politics of Bread in Contemporary Jordan. 1.00-2.30pm.
- 23 February, 2023: Nida Alahmad, The Elusive Business of Capturing the State: Theoretical Reflections on 100 Years of State Consolidation in Iraq. 1.00-2.30pm



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Additional Resources

- Questions about admission requirements and details must be directed to colleagues in admissions:

University of Edinburgh Enquiry Management
futurestudents@ed.ac.uk



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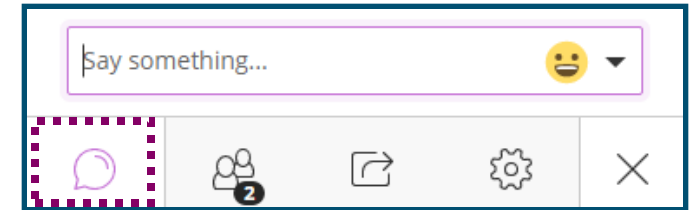
Support once you are here

- Student Advice and Support Office
 - Pastoral and administrative support.
- Student Development Office
 - Professional development.
- Program Director
 - General academic support
- Institute for Academic Development
 - Learning support: academic writing, citation styles, editing, literature review, how to approach a dissertation, and so on.



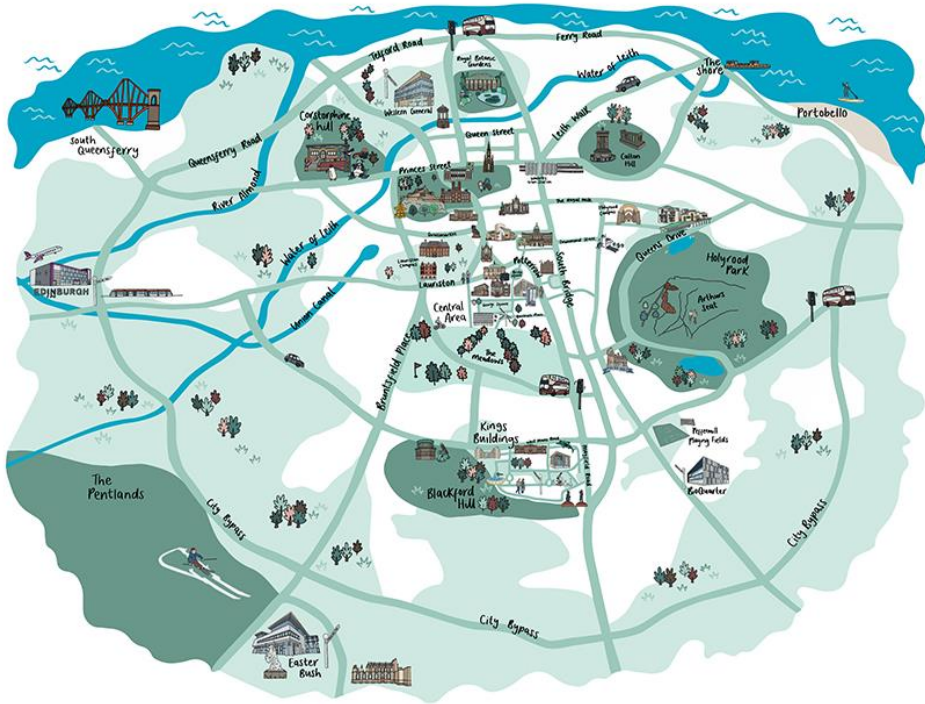
Asking questions (Collaborate)

- 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>



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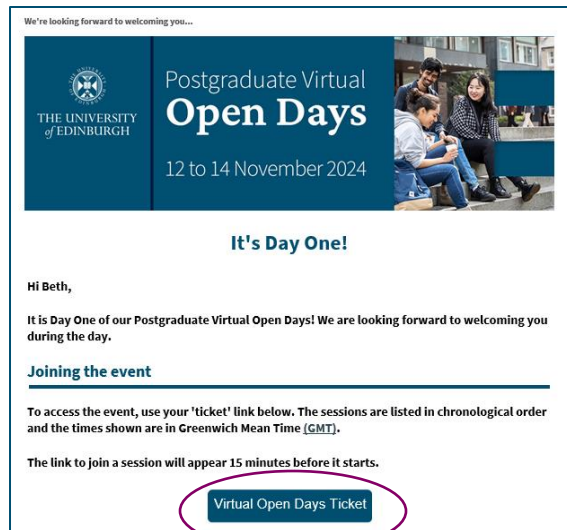
Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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
- For questions on the academic side of things, please contact the programme's director Dr. Nida Alahmad: pdmegp@ed.ac.uk
- Follow us on X and check out updates on events and activities! [@MEGPUoE](https://twitter.com/MEGPUoE)

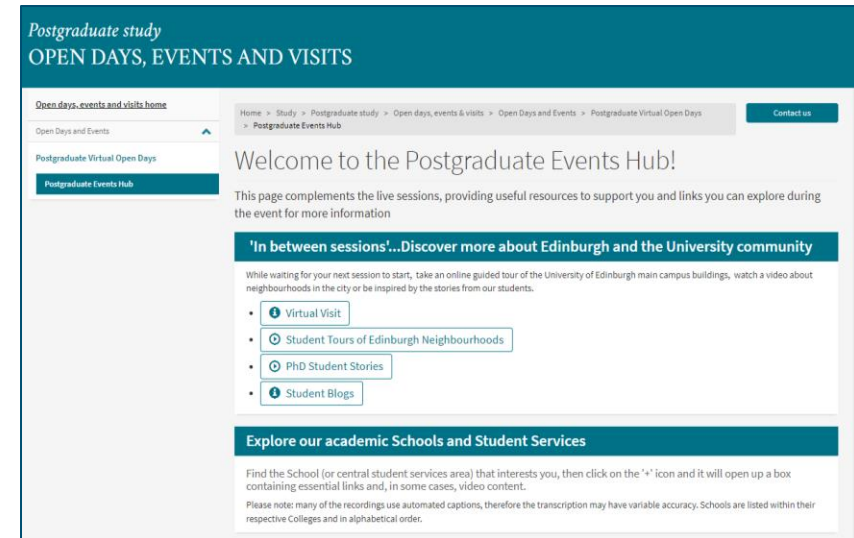


Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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