



THE UNIVERSITY  
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# Art PhD & MPhil

Dr Kristin Mojsiewicz November 2024

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# Investing in our facilities

Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) is excited to be undertaking a capital redevelopment of ECA's Lauriston Campus over the next 3 years, from April 2024 – April 2027.

The project aims to maximise the use of existing space, improve accessibility, and create a vibrant campus that fosters collaboration and innovation.

The project involves refurbishing and repurposing various spaces across the Lauriston campus, including technical facilities, student and teaching spaces, and the relocation of the Reid School of Music from Alison House to the Lauriston Campus. New social spaces, seminar rooms, and studios are being created to accommodate our growing community. You can find more about the project at the below link:

[Building work starts at ECA's Lauriston Campus | Edinburgh College of Art](#)



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# Postgraduate Research in Art

MPhil

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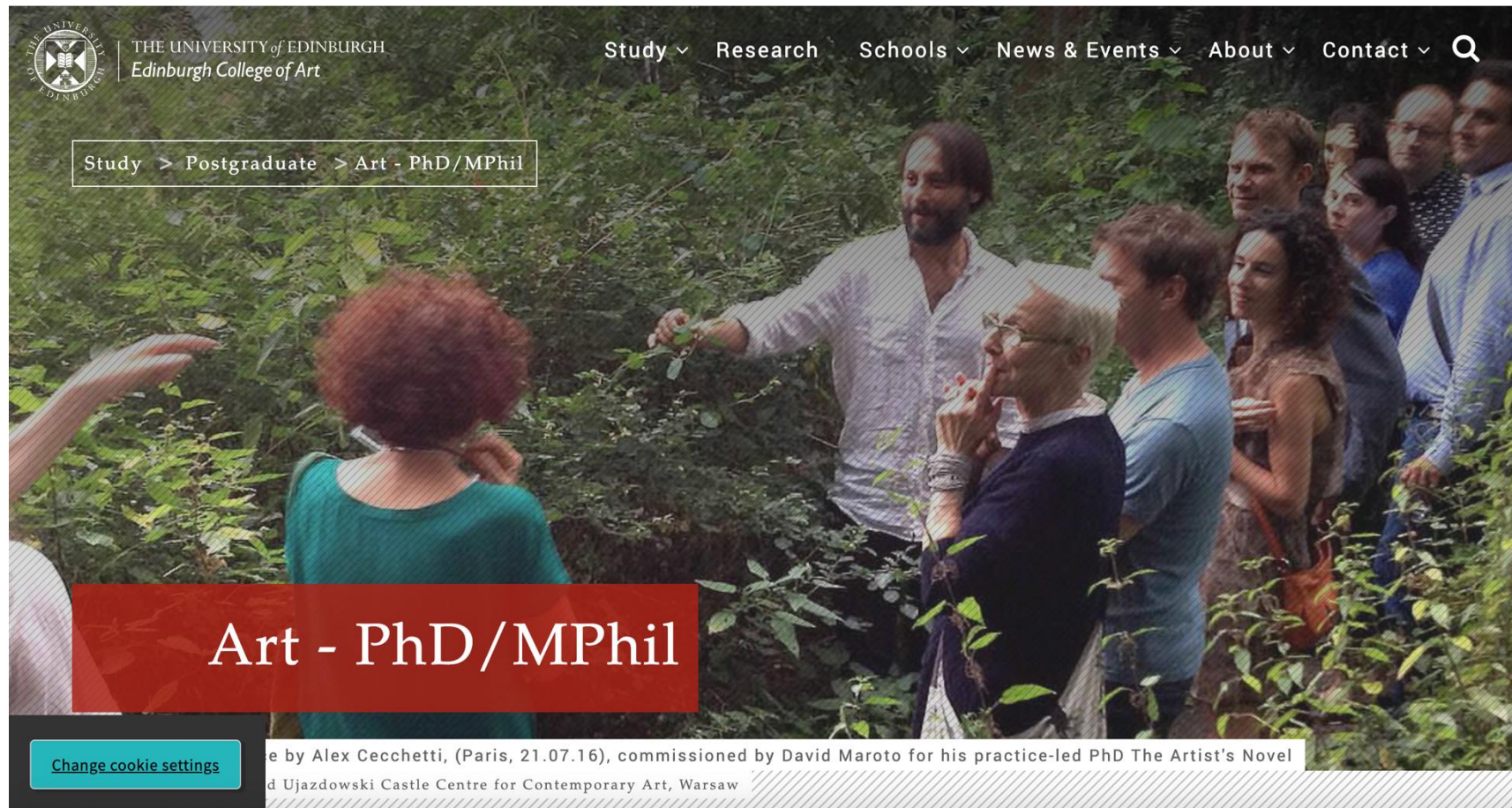
PhD



Thesis-based research

or

Practice-led and practice-based research



34 PhD & MPhil students in Art currently\*

20 staff supervising

Art staff teach PGR students in disciplinary, cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary supervision teams - in Art as well as Design, Music, History of Art and ESALA at ECA.

Within the broader University this includes supervisions with Divinity, Education, BioSciences, Social and Political studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Health etc

And with other Scottish HEIs including:

Glasgow University, Glasgow School of Art, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, and partners such as Dundee Contemporary Arts Print Studio.



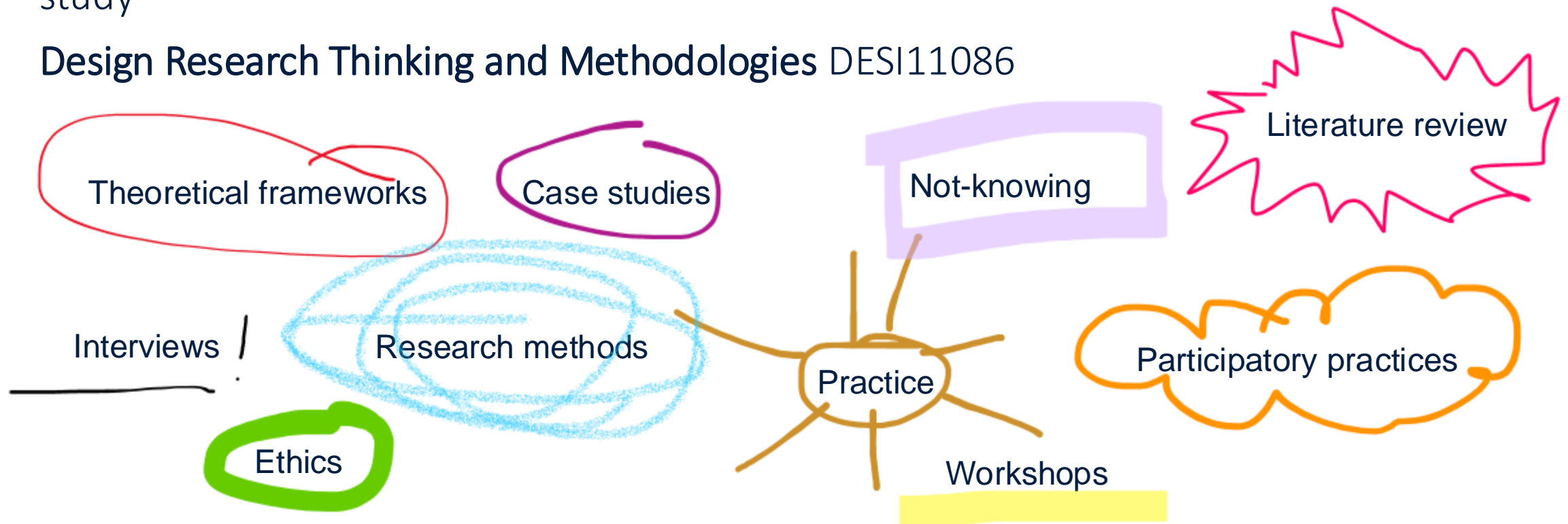
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# PGR training at ECA

Common core course for Art + Design PGR students in MSc, MPhil, PhD programme of study –

Design Research Thinking and Methodologies DESI11086



Culminates with position paper, research poster and student-led public symposium



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# PGR training at IAD / UoE

PGR students are well-supported by the Institute for Academic Development [IAD] – workshops in writing, editing, public speaking, time-management, communicating research to the public, as well as writing retreats / writing-together etc.  
Support for English language academic writing



Alberta Whittle PhD candidate: School of Art, ECA  
*How flexible can we make the mouth.* (2019)  
Installation: Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA).  
Image courtesy of the artist and Ruth Clark



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# PGR training through SGSAH

SGSAH run PGR training across Scotland with discipline + catalyst hubs, workshops, specialist sessions, peer-led symposia, and retreats for SGSAH-funded students, as well as advice on applying for SGSAH funding routes.



Leanne Bell Gonczarow  
PhD candidate: School of Art, ECA  
*Untitled (as yet)* (2022)  
Image courtesy of the artist



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# PGR Student voice

## Research environment

- Research forum
- School of Art Monday talks
- ECA seminar series
- Student-run forum – cross disciplinary
- ECA/ CAHSS / UoE networks
- EFI talks and events
- PRE funding

## Teaching experience

- Training (IAD)
- ECA / EFI
- Studio teaching
- Workshops



School of Art Research Forum





# PGR space

PGR students in Art can book

- Studio space in C27
- Study space in level 5 Evolution house
- Access to all making facilities across ECA (inductions)
- Bookable project spaces for testing work & exhibiting

# PGR reps

- Subject specific
- ECA-wide
- Training
- Feedback to PGR committee



Peripheral Acts –  
two-person exhibition  
Miriam Hancill & Sinéad Kempley  
PhD candidates:  
School of Art, ECA



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# PHD SHOWCASE



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Wushuang Tong, Kyriaki Sigala,  
Michael Trainor, Haiyu Yuan  
PhD Candidates: School of Art, ECA

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Rita Mahfouz, PhD candidate  
School of Art, ECA



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# Applying for MPhil or PhD...



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# What is required?

- **Research proposal**
- **Writing sample**
- **Portfolio** (if by practice) – max 10-page pdf / links / check size for upload / consider relevance to proposal
- Potential supervisors
- Usual references / ELT etc

*once you have submitted your application and have been sent your MyEd EASE login you will be able to upload your portfolio.*



# What are we looking for?

- **Good fit** – supervision, specialisms, research environment
  - **Strong proposal** (original & feasible)
  - Awareness of the **field** of research (developments)
  - **Mature practice** (to withstand years of scrutiny)
  - Ability to think and write **critically** (evidence)
  - Personal statement (relevant **experience**)
- 
- *\*Practice has to ask questions of the theory & vice versa\**  
Word count: 1,000-3,000 words  
Bibliography not included in word count





- (a) AIMS: Identify a clear gap in existing knowledge. Succinctly and clearly explain your aims and objectives. Provide a title, identify a particular research question or area of concern prompting this research and convey its significance. *For Art and Design programmes, please state if you are applying for a Theory Based or Practice Based PhD.*
- (b) CONTEXT: Demonstrate excellent knowledge of the field and preparedness to undertake the proposed research project. Convey the intellectual, academic, artistic context of the research question(s) or concerns. Provide a bibliography of relevant scholarly literature and other key research resources.



- (c) METHODS: Your proposal must be original and innovative, substantively and/or methodologically. Explain the research processes and methods that you will apply. Indicate why they are the most appropriate and, if relevant, most innovative methods.
- (d) IMPACT: The potential impact of the research must be explicit, with realistic and appropriate plans for maximising the impact identified (e.g. engaging possible non-academic partnerships.) Explain how your research will have academic and artistic impact and/or social and economic impact.



(e) CLARITY: Writing and presentation must be of the highest standard. Ensure that your proposal is succinct, clearly written and free of jargon (it should be readily understood by a non-expert).

## PhD student proceeds to final of 3 Minute Thesis competition



Rosa Santibañez Nuñez

Rosa Santibañez Nuñez (PhD Art) People's Choice Award at the final UoE 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition 2019.



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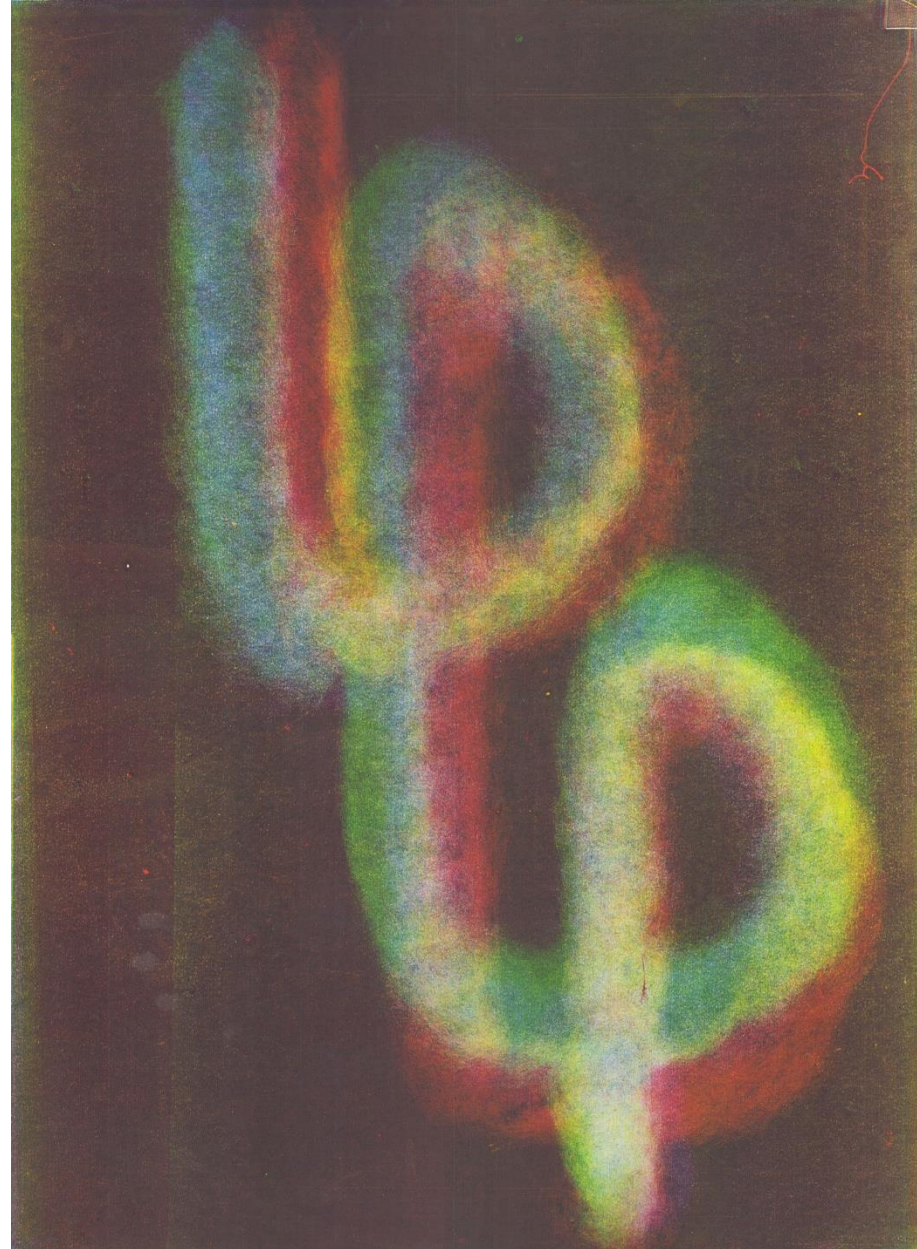
# PGR Funding

Students can be funded by:

- **SGSAH** (AHRC PhD Doctoral Studentship)  
(tuition + stipend for 3.5 years)
- **ECA PhD Scholarship**  
(tuition + stipend for 3years)
- **College Research Award**  
(tuition + stipend for 3years)
- **Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship**  
(tuition + stipend for 3.5 years)

Open to: full time / part time / UK / overseas / on campus / by distance students

*annual stipend equals approx. £19,237*



Miriam Hancill  
PhD candidate:  
School of Art, ECA  
Mixing ink motif (2021-22)



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# PGR timeline

- Students start in September or January
- Research Methods training Sept – December (12wks)
- After 9 months students begin the annual review process - producing an annual report & text for an independent reviewer. The discussion around this is used to evaluate whether the student's research is on track. It provides a map for the following year for the student and supervisory team.
- This process repeats every year & is also a chance to check the supervisory team is still appropriate for the research and if there are any issues or adjustments to be made, or training required.
- Students are encouraged to take breaks from their studies
- Students may audit courses throughout their studies





Rachel Adams PhD candidate,  
School of Art, ECA  
*Ponics*, 2018, Installation view, *Noon*,  
David Dale Gallery & Studio



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# Supervision

- Each supervision team / specialism / time commitment is bespoke to the student's research
- We expect that students will see their primary supervisor approx. once a month
- We encourage whole supervision team meetings to happen at least once a semester
- As a team they may discuss and decide to 'front load' supervision in blocks to allow for specific practice processes / field trips etc.



## For staff... supervision is

A critical, reflective process helping students to:

- frame their research enquiry
- support their ‘not-knowing’
- challenge their assumptions
- direct them to relevant sources / texts / events / works
- learn from cohort and from the supervision team, reviewers & staff

...we are all co-producers of knowledge





PhD study trip, Cample Line Gallery



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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](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)



# Next steps...

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



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

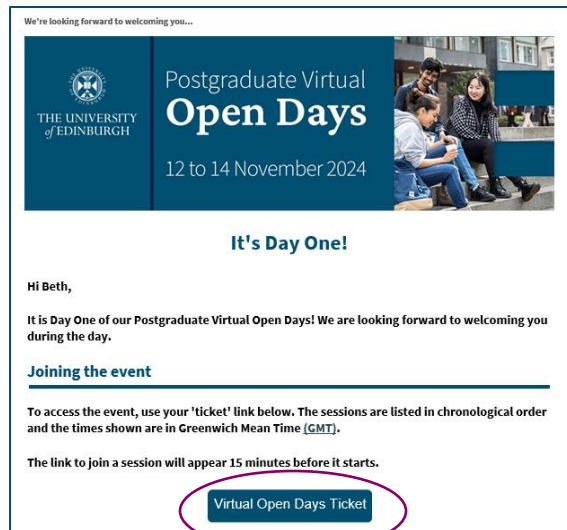


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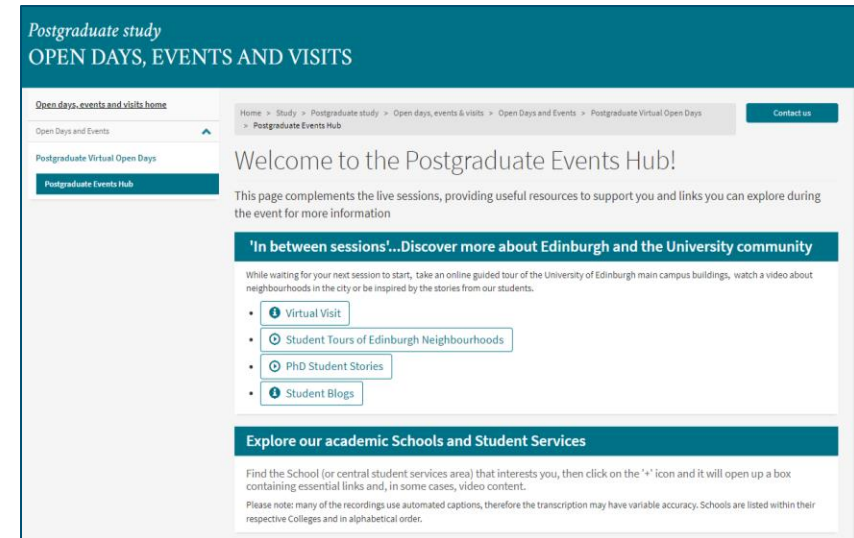
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# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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