



THE UNIVERSITY
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MSc Architecture, Landscape and Environment



Dr Penny Travlou | 12 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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Welcome to MSc ALE!

- The **MSc Architecture, Landscape, and Environment** offers you the opportunity to advance studies in the **dynamic teaching and learning environment** of Edinburgh College of Art.
- As an Architecture, Landscape and Environment - MSc student, you will explore and work with an expanded understanding of **critical theories and practices** at the forefront of **contemporary environmental and societal challenges**, delivered by an **experienced group of research-led senior staff** at the University of Edinburgh.
- **Interdisciplinary** in nature, the **MSc Architecture, Landscape, and Environment** will offer you a unique opportunity to explore **the interconnected nature of architectural history and theory through critical heritage studies, landscape research and environmental humanities**.



MSc ALE – Programme Structure

- The programme has a **generalist structure**, which delivers individual student experiences through a **flexible framework** that focusses on **student-led choice** in the shaping of a learning experience, allowing you to appreciate and develop a wide range of **specialised and experimental approaches** relevant to the field of **situated, spatial and site-related theory and practice**. **NOTE: This is not a designed-based programme!**
- Your learning experience will be defined by **your choice of option courses** and the focus of your **final research projects**.
- You will draw on a wide range of **option courses** addressing architectural, landscape, and environmental themes, while **compulsory courses** address the sites and methods of creative research.
- You will work closely with academic staff in **seminars**; engage with **sites** in Edinburgh and Scotland through **fieldwork**; and undertake a **supervised research project** following two semesters of coursework.



MSc ALE – Programme Structure

Over 3 semesters, students take:

100 credits of 3 compulsory core courses

40 credits of (minimum) 2 compulsory course options

40 credits of 2 recommended elective course options



Compulsory Core Courses

- The MSc **Architecture, Landscape, and Environment** is a **one-year post-graduate taught programme** delivered over **three semesters**.
- The programme structure includes **compulsory courses** in semesters 1 and 2 which provide:
 - a) theoretical understanding of site-based/situated knowledge;
 - b) experimental approaches to research;
 - c) expanded conceptions of fieldwork;
 - d) humanities-based methodologies.

The **aim of compulsory courses** is twofold in:

- 1) allowing you to develop a methodological approach to your final research project (60 credit compulsory course in semester 3);
- 2) providing a theoretical foundation to which compulsory course options and recommended elective course options add specialist areas of practice and knowledge.

MSc ALE – Programme Structure

THREE COMPULSORY COURSES

Course Name	Period	No. of Credits
Exploring Situated Methods 1: Site Specific Field Lab	Semester 1	20
Exploring Situated Methods 2: Independent Field Lab	Semester 2	20
Architecture, Landscape, Environment: Situated Research Project	Semester 3	60



MSc Programme Structure

Compulsory course options specifically aligned with the programme as specialist pathways covering key thematic areas of environmental theory, landscape theory and practice, and architectural theory and history. These courses belong to the programme with enrolment priority for ALE students but which also allow students on other programmes to take them.

You can create ‘pathways’ between semesters 1 and 2 compulsory options, allowing you to develop knowledge across both semesters through options that align in specialist subject areas, i.e. consistent to thematic areas of environment, landscape or architecture. Alternatively, you can move across these thematic areas in semesters 1 and 2.

Recommended course options will include existing PGT course options in ESALA but will also include new options that we will design within the approval process in line with opening the programme to students in AY 2025/26.



Compulsory Option Courses

Semester 1

- Topics in Environmental Humanities
- Architectural Theory: Texts and Discourses
- Cultural Landscapes Colloquium

Semester 2

- Histories and Theories of Architecture
- Time and Environment



MSc Programme Structure

Recommended Elective courses will include a suite of existing courses within ESALA and reciprocal agreements with other programmes across the institution, offering you freedom to either diversify your interests or underpin your area of specialism.

NOTE: Recommended elective courses are not always offered every year. You could discuss with the Programme Director and/or Student Advisor how to best choose elective courses from the list of available courses in 2025/26



Recommended Option Courses (Electives) Semester 1

A1

Select either **one** or **two** of the following courses:

Please note that ARCH11246 Topics in Environmental Humanities is not being offered in 2024/25.

Semester 1

Cultural Landscapes Colloquium
20 Credits • Level 11 • NV

Architectural Theory: Texts and Discourses
20 Credits • Level 11

Topics in Environmental Humanities
20 Credits • Level 11

Semester 2
No courses

AND

A2

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

Please note: Elective courses listed are not always offered every year.

Semester 1

World Heritage
20 Credits • Level 11 • NV

Architectural Theory: Texts and Discourses
20 Credits • Level 11

Environmental Design: Materials, Ecologies, Futures
20 Credits • Level 11

Global Environment: Key Issues
20 Credits • Level 11

Introduction to Community Arts Practice: Modes, Methods and Meanings
20 Credits • Level 11

Multi-Sensory Cultures (Level 11)
20 Credits • Level 11

Thinking With Fire (Level 11)
20 Credits • Level 11

Verdant Landscapes: Early Modern Land Imaginaries
20 Credits • Level 11

Memorials and Cultural Memory
20 Credits • Level 11

Green Thoughts: Landscape, Environment and Literature (PG Version)
20 Credits • Level 11

Semester 2
No courses

Other courses

Interpreting the Landscape
20 Credits • Level 11 • NV



Recommended Option Courses – Semester 2

B1

Select either **one** or **two** of the following courses:

Please note that ARCH11289 Lifescape: Landing, Testing, Articulating is not being offered in 2024/25.

Semester 1

No courses

Semester 2

Histories and Theories of Architecture

20 Credits • Level 11

Time and Environment

20 Credits • Level 11

AND

B2

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

Please note: Elective courses listed are not always offered every year.

Semester 1

No courses

Semester 2

Emergent Cities

20 Credits • Level 11 • NV

Writing Landscape

20 Credits • Level 10 • NV

Designing for Change: Projects and Practices

20 Credits • Level 11 • NV

Creativity and the Environment

20 Credits • Level 11

Anthropology and Environment

20 Credits • Level 11

The social life of food

20 Credits • Level 10

Contemporary Art + Anthropology (Level 11)

20 Credits • Level 11

Heritage, Sustainability and Environmental Justice

20 Credits • Level 11

Social Movements and the Environment

20 Credits • Level 11

The logo of The University of Edinburgh, featuring a circular crest with a shield and a cross, surrounded by the text 'THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH'.

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Exploring Situated Methods 1: Site-specific field lab (20 credits)

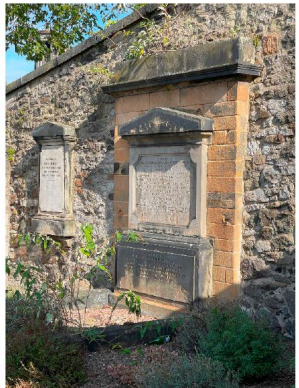
- Contextualises the theories, practices and methodological tools that characterize contemporary studies of the built and natural environments.
- Supports students in undertaking instructor-led fieldwork exercises at specially chosen sites in and around Edinburgh, as well as undertaking readings of relevant foundational and cutting-edge texts.
- Introduces students to various methodological tools that underpin situated research approaches across architecture, architectural history, landscape architecture and environmental humanities today, **with a particular focus on their transdisciplinary conversations across the arts and humanities.**
- Provides theoretical understanding of site-based/situated knowledge; experimental approaches to research; expanded conceptions of fieldwork; and humanities-based methodologies.
- Students undertake mini theoretical and practical projects, **and** experiments in situ at various sites in the Edinburgh region.



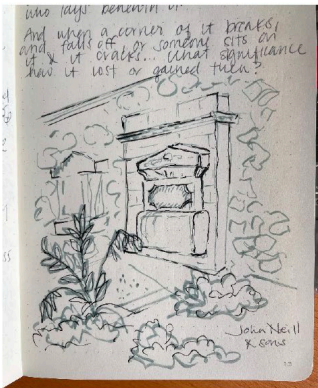
Exploring Situated Methods 1 – Doing Situated Fieldwork



The Burial Ground of Daniel Munro, 1827; Old Calton Burial Ground; October 10, 2023



John Neill, Esq, Architect & Sons; Old Calton Burial Ground; October 10, 2023



Exploring Situated Methods 2: Independent Field Lab (20 credits)

- Students employ the theoretical tools, skills, analytical frameworks and methods/methodologies they have studied in the core course 'Exploring Situated Methods 2' in Semester 1 to develop a specific project proposal that will then form the basis of their situated research project in Semester 3.
- The focus of the course will be the construction of a project proposal relating to the student's particular pathway (for example, a public/site specific art or architecture project, an ethnographic field study, a geographical project, a historical analysis), and will be concerned with a site that the student will work upon in agreement with the Course Organiser.



Exploring Situated Methods 2 – Doing Fieldwork with More-than-Humans



MICROCLIMATES IN
URBAN
MACROENVIRONMENTS:
A STUDY OF THE
MULTISPECIES CITY
WITHIN NATURAL
ENVIROCLIMATES OF
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MSc ALE Situated Research Project (60 credits)

- After receiving approval to proceed, students will research and produce the extended research project, the equivalent of the Master's Dissertation in other postgraduate programmes.
- The Research Project provides students with an opportunity to undertake research on a topic of significance to built and/or natural environments, drawing on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed through the taught courses studied during the rest of the programme.
- The Research Project commences after the end of teaching in Semester 2 and continues to the submission date towards the end of August.



Situated Research Project (Portfolio & Report)

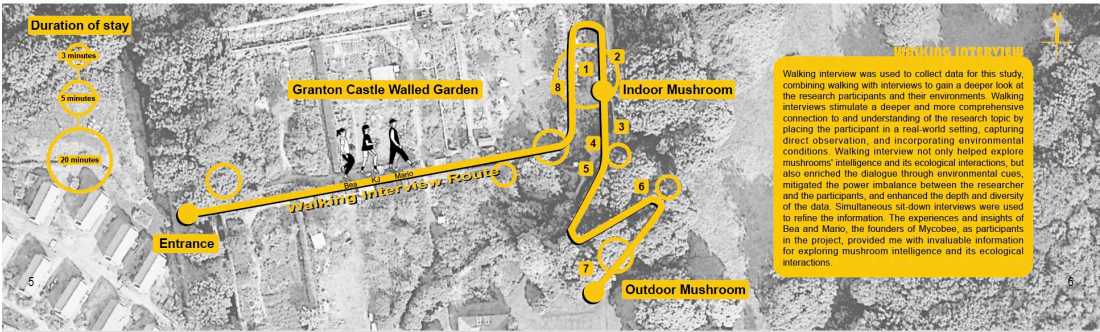
FAIRY HABITAT ATLAS Fold-Out Sheet Map Layout

This atlas is intended to be used in the field, and as such it is designed as a portable, double-sided sheet map which could be taken on a trail.



6

FIELD TRIP: DATA COLLECTION WALKING INTERVIEW



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Exit Award Titles

Full-time PGT Programme

12 months – MSc in Architecture, Landscape and Environment

9 months – PgDip in Architecture, Landscape and Environment

4 months – PgCert in Architecture, Landscape and Environment



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MSc ALE – Pedagogical Aims

Through the above structure the programme will provide you with a **strong generalist and developmental foundation** via the compulsory courses, aimed at underpinning your awareness of **situated methods**, while also providing a sequential learning & teaching trajectory throughout the programme.

This trajectory culminates in semester 3, where the programme asks you to draw together **methodological, theoretical and practical knowledge** through their final Situated Research Project (60 credits).

Optional courses will provide you with significant scope **to build your own pathway of specialist learning** through their individual choice of compulsory course options and recommended elective course options.

Compulsory course options are closely aligned with the programme's main focus on **critical fieldwork**, while supporting your interests in the three areas of Architecture, Environment and Landscape, and are led by staff with strong research-led knowledge in these areas.



MSc ALE – Pedagogical Aims

- Based on **critical and participatory pedagogy**, the programme encourages you to develop your **critical thinking skills**, **collaborate** and learn from each other, **co-produce knowledge** in the classroom and inform the curriculum.
- The programme aims at providing you with a critical understanding of how the landscape and environment are situated in and produced through particular social realities, histories and practices. To do so, the programme uses an expanded notion of the ‘field’ where you can learn through the exploration of sites as diverse as, for example, an archive, a city, a building or a digital platform.
- For the programme, the site is a pedagogical tool to engage students with **socio-cultural debates**, a **theoretical context**, **social and political issues**, an **institutional framework**, a **community or social event** and/or a **historical condition**.



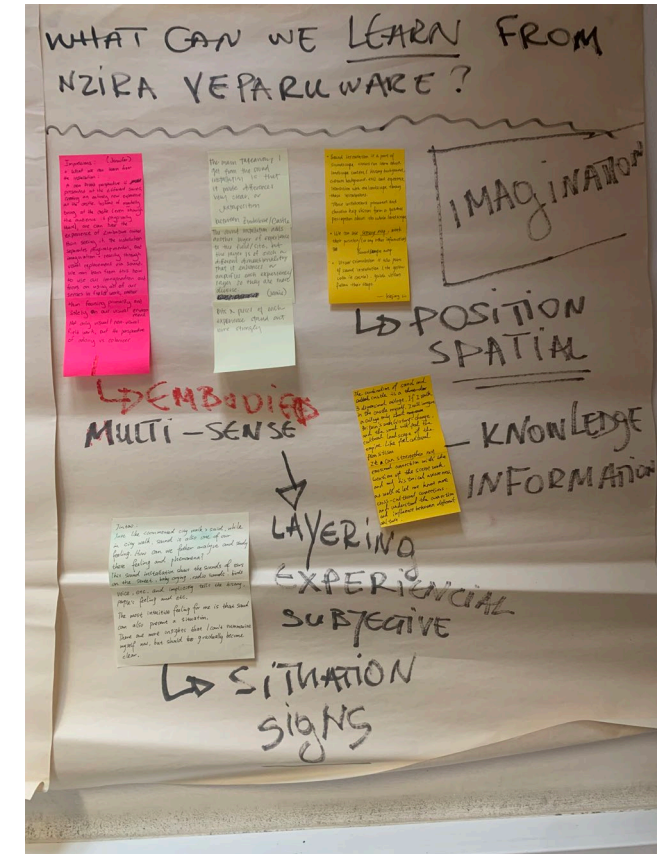
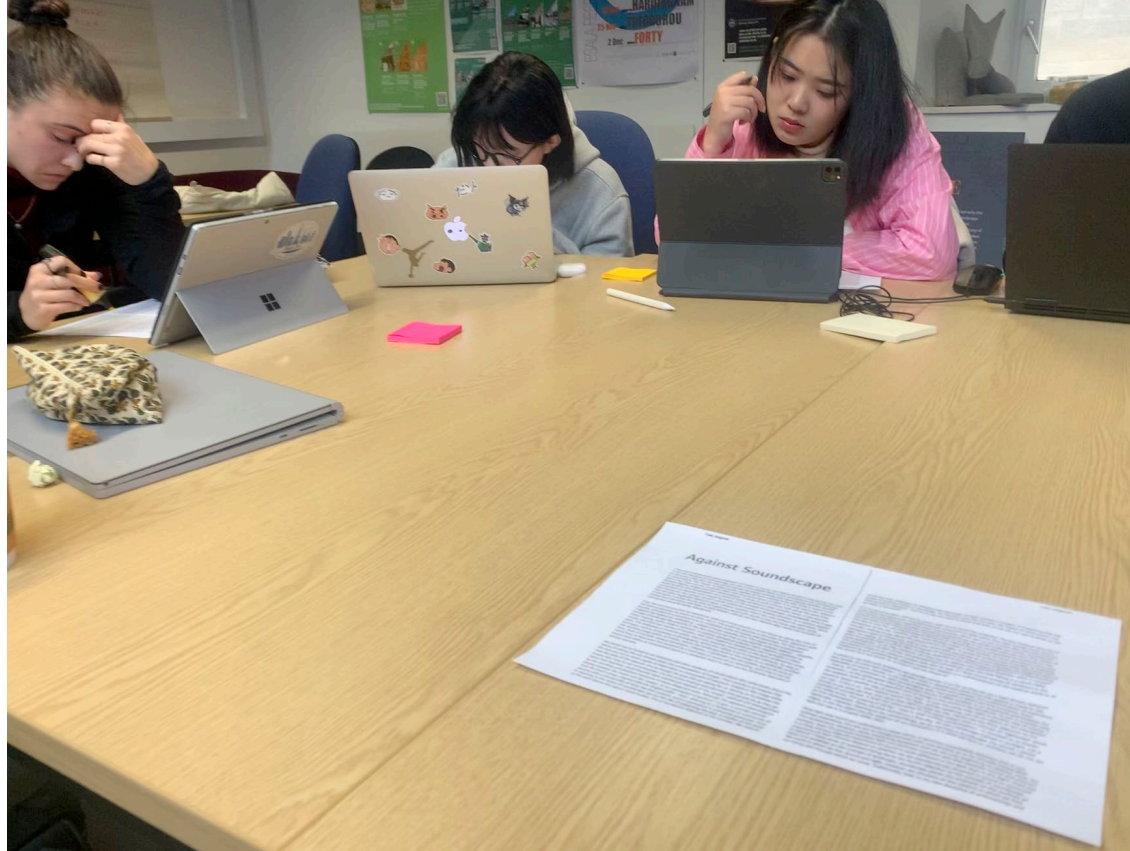
Situated Methods: Field/work



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Participatory Pedagogy for Critical Thinking



Career Paths & Opportunities

- As an advanced post-graduate programme, the MSc Architecture, Landscape, and Environment will provide you with a strong foundation to further your career path in your **chosen disciplinary areas**, with an expanded understanding of critical theories and practices relevant to contemporary environmental and societal challenges.
- The programme offers you the necessary **critical skills** to pursue a **diverse career** in spatial and design practices, the creative arts, policy (e.g. heritage management), advocacy in third sector organisations (e.g. international NGOs and charities related to climate emergency, landscape conservation, cultural landscapes), cultural organisations and museums and global media. The programme may also support you wishing to advance to **doctoral-level research**.



Admissions Criteria

- We invite applications from candidates - with normally a **UK 2:1 honours degree**, or its **international equivalent**, from diverse disciplines but not limited to: architecture, landscape architecture, architectural history, architectural conservation, heritage and museum studies, history of art, the arts, design, environmental studies, geography, anthropology, history, literature, and the social sciences in general. We look for candidates who are keen on **building critical skills, experimenting with situated knowledges and practices and learning through participatory pedagogies**.
- We may also consider an application if you have **equivalent experience as a practitioner/professional**; please contact us to check before you apply.



Selection Criteria

As part of the application process, you must submit a personal statement. Your personal statement must include a short text addressing the following points:

- What is your specialist field of interest?
- How would you hope your time on this programme will further your academic interest?
- What are your ambitions following your successful graduation from this programme?



English Language Requirements

You must demonstrate a level of English language competency that will enable you to succeed in your studies, regardless of your nationality or country of residence.

English language tests

We accept the following English language qualifications at the grades specified*:

- IELTS Academic: total 7.0 with at least 6.0 in each component.
- TOEFL-iBT (including Home Edition): total 100 with at least 20 in each component. We do not accept TOEFL MyBest Score to meet our English language requirements.
- CAE and CPE: total 185 with at least 169 in each component.
- Trinity ISE: ISE III with a pass in all four components.
- PTE Academic: 70 overall with at least 59 in each component.



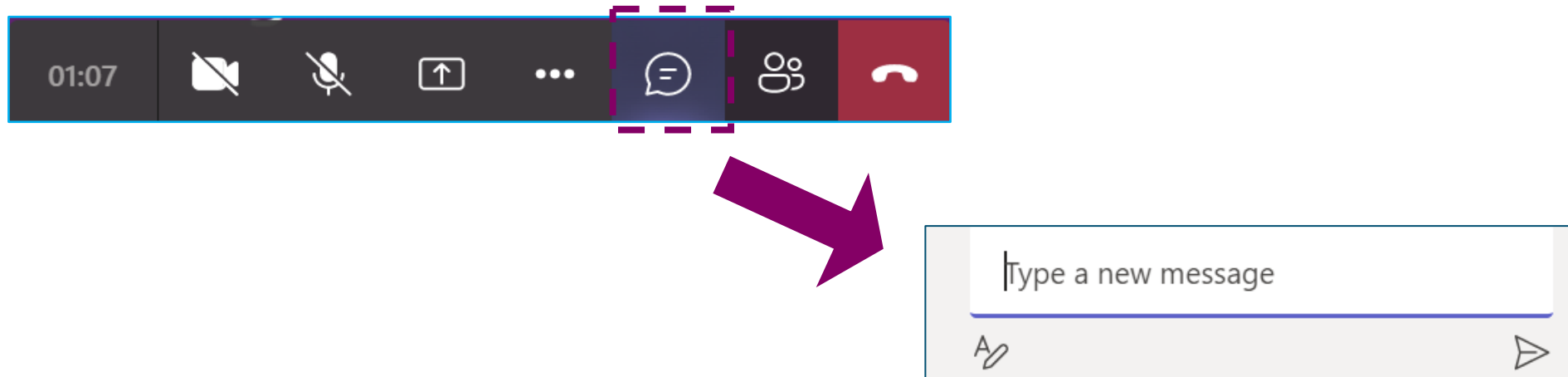
Five Reasons to Choose the Programme

- Adopt an ethos of **situated knowledge and experimental engagement** with the historical and contemporary landscape and built environment.
- Engage with **transdisciplinary research**, architectural and landscape theories and practices with environmental concerns
- Select optional courses that will provide you with significant scope to build **your own pathway of specialist learning**.
- Develop your **critical thinking skills**, collaborate and learn from each other and **co-produce knowledge** in the classroom.
- Learn through the **exploration of sites** as diverse as, for example, an archive, a city, a building or a digital platform.



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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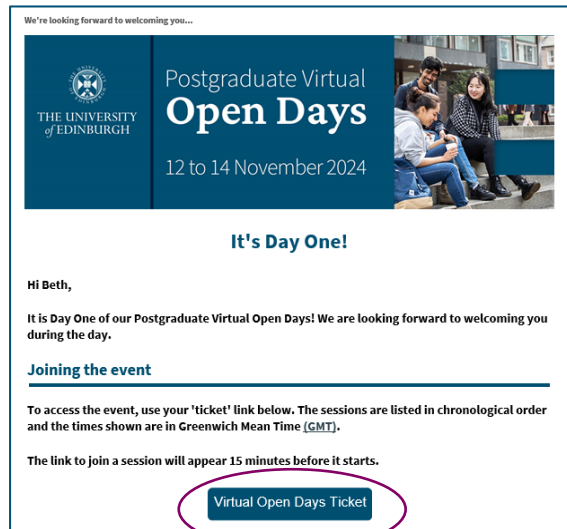
Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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
- *Alternatively, provide Programme/Department/Service/School/College contact details as appropriate*

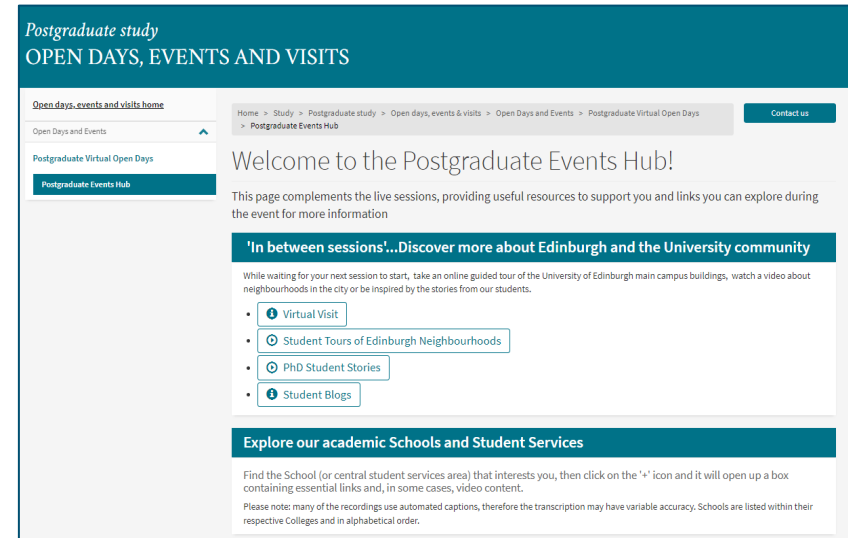


Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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