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# MSc Energy, Society and Sustainability

Dr. Adolfo Mejia Montero | 14 November 2024

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# Who are we?

## The MSc ESS Team!

The Energy Society and Sustainability programme team is integrated by academic and administrative staff.

The academic team engages with various topics related to energy and could be divided into two main groups:

- A group that you will engage with through attending specific courses or your dissertation supervision.
- Another group of key contacts that you will engage more frequently through programme-specific activities or tasks.

### Dr Kirsten E H Jenkins

Senior Lecturer in Energy, Environment and Society



✉ [kirsten.jenkins@ed.ac.uk](mailto:kirsten.jenkins@ed.ac.uk)  
☎ +44 (0)131 650 6344  
🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kirsten-jenkins-1468b241/>  
🐦 <https://twitter.com/jenk2021/>

🏠 3.03  
Chisholm House  
High School Yards  
Edinburgh  
UK  
EH1 1LZ



Professor Dan van der Horst

**Course Organiser: "Energy and Society 1: Key Themes and Issues"**

Professor in Energy, Environment and Society  
Telephone: +44 (0)131 651 4467  
Office: Room G05, Drummond Library  
Email: [Dan.vanderHorst@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Dan.vanderHorst@ed.ac.uk)



Dr Ronan Bolton

**Course Organiser: "Energy Policy and Politics"**

Reader  
Telephone: +44 (0) 131 650 6366  
Office: Room 2.29, Chisholm House  
Email: [Ronan.bolton@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Ronan.bolton@ed.ac.uk)



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# About me

Adolfo Mejía Montero ([am.montero@ed.ac.uk](mailto:am.montero@ed.ac.uk))

- Lecturer in Energy, Society and Sustainability
- Programme Director MSc in Energy, Society and Sustainability

The University of Edinburgh - School of Social and Political Science  
- Department of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies

A couple of things about me:

- Disciplinary transition - Physics (BSc) to Engineering in Sustainable Energy Systems (MSc) to Human Geography (PhD)
- Mexican/Scottish since 2014
- Focus on interdisciplinary research and sustainable energy transitions in Latin America



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# Why study MSc Energy Society and Sustainability?

- This MSc gives you an interdisciplinary understanding of how different societies can address the challenges of balancing energy with sustainability as it brings together social, political, economic, and environmental understanding of low-carbon technologies.



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# Why study at Edinburgh?

- Taught by world-leading energy experts through a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach
- Strong, established networks with industry embedded within the curriculum, providing real-world experience
- Associated with the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI) bringing together law, business, social science, technology, and policy experts



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# Full-time programme structure

Find a full list of compulsory and optional courses on [Degree Programme Timetables](#)

- Compulsory courses
  1. Energy & Society I; Key Themes and Issues
  2. Energy in the Global South
  3. Energy Policy and Politics
  4. Energy & Society II; Methods and Applications
- 2 or 4 option courses
- Dissertation



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# Part-time programme structure

- You may study this programme part-time as we are committed to helping people into education while continuing to work or managing family and personal commitments.
- A two-year part-time option is available.
- We recommend living within a commutable distance from Edinburgh in order to undertake part-time study, and we encourage you to contact us to discuss part-time study in more detail.

## 2-year programme

- Year 1: 4 compulsory courses
- Year 2: Dissertation and 2 or 4 optional courses



# Compulsory courses

Energy & Society 1: Key Themes and Issues	Energy in the Global South	Energy Policy and Politics	Energy & Society 2: Methods and Applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Energy versus Hyper Grids</li> <li>Energy Governance: Multi-level Governance of Energy Transitions</li> <li>Energy Justice and Just Transitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The First Fuels: Labour, Colonialism and the Anthropocene</li> <li>Life off the Grid: Energy Poverty in Light, Head and Power</li> <li>Lifeblood: Oil and Extractive Geopolitics in the Global South</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Market Liberalisation</li> <li>The European Energy Crisis</li> <li>Energy Vulnerability</li> <li>Fuel Poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making Methods</li> <li>Making Data - Interviews and Focus Groups</li> <li>Making Data – Visual Methods</li> <li>Making Data – Infrastructures, Futures and Mapping</li> </ul>





# Teaching and assessment

- You will experience a range of teaching and assessment styles while you are studying.
- Courses can be delivered through a mix of:
  - lectures
  - tutorials
  - seminars
  - workshops
  - practical's
  - laboratory work
  - short field trips and longer field courses



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# Dissertation

- This will be your opportunity to explore a topic of your choice in relation to the programme and prepare a dissertation that you can use to demonstrate your work to potential employers.
- We also work with our wide network to find opportunities for dissertation projects with external organisations, enhancing the real-world relevance of your degree.

## Previous titles have included:

- ‘Punching a hole’ or ‘dirty air’: A Multi- Level perspective consideration of Formula 1 in relation to net zero in road transport
- The Overlooked – Student Fuel Poverty in the Face of the 2022 Energy Crisis
- Decommissioning the North: unheard narratives from a nuclear community
- Collaboration Without Consensus: Prospering From the Energy Revolution with Smart Local Energy Systems
- Towards Zero: An analysis of the UK’s net zero policy to test the explanatory power of a meta-theoretical framework synthesising RRI, social practice theory and energy justice



# Typical week for an ESS student

- Class hours per week and independent study hours? **R-** Approx. 10 hours of in-class learning and around 20-25 hours of directed and independent learning
- How and where do students engage with teaching staff and other students? **R-** Central Campus (ECCI, CMB, etc.)
- Where does independent study happen? **R-** Libraries, study rooms and student or private accommodation.
- What assessments should I expect and when? **R-** Essays, presentations and group projects, normally at mid or end of the teaching semester.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10-10.00			Fundamental of Energy Systems and Technologies (Optional Course)		Energy in the Global South
10.10-11.00					
11.10-12.00					
12.10-13.00				Energy in the Global South	
13.10-14.00					
14.10-15.00	Energy & Society I				Energy in the Global South
15.10-16.00					
16.10-17.00					
17.10-18.00					

A typical week for an ESS student in Semester 1 2024



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# Field trips

- This programme has a residential field trip for students to develop experience and skills in energy research.
- Previous locations have included the Orkney Islands.:
  - Students had the opportunity to collaborate with communities and organisations regarding energy and sustainability concerns
  - Exploring how the early adoptions of low carbon technologies could help address socio-economic fragility.



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# Career opportunities

- A key strength of the programme is the employability of graduates. This has included roles within:
  - Energy sector around the world
  - International energy consultancies
  - National and regional government institutions
  - Third sector organisations and NGOs/Institutes
  - Higher education and academia
- Specific roles include:
  - Environmental Policy Analyst
  - Energy & Utilities Consultant
  - Project Coordinator, Policy and Communications Officer
  - Research Assistant
  - PhD Candidate
  - Sustainability Manager
  - and more...



BBC News, 7th March 2023: [The students at the heart of the green jobs boom - BBC News](#)



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# Scholarships and funding

- Featured funding
  - [ScottishPowerMaster Scholarships](#)
- School of GeoSciences scholarships
  - [See potential funding for GeoSciences students](#)
- You are encouraged to research the range of potential scholarships and other funding outside the University for which you may be eligible.
  - [Search for funding](#)





# Asking questions

- When asking a question, select 'Chat', then type your question

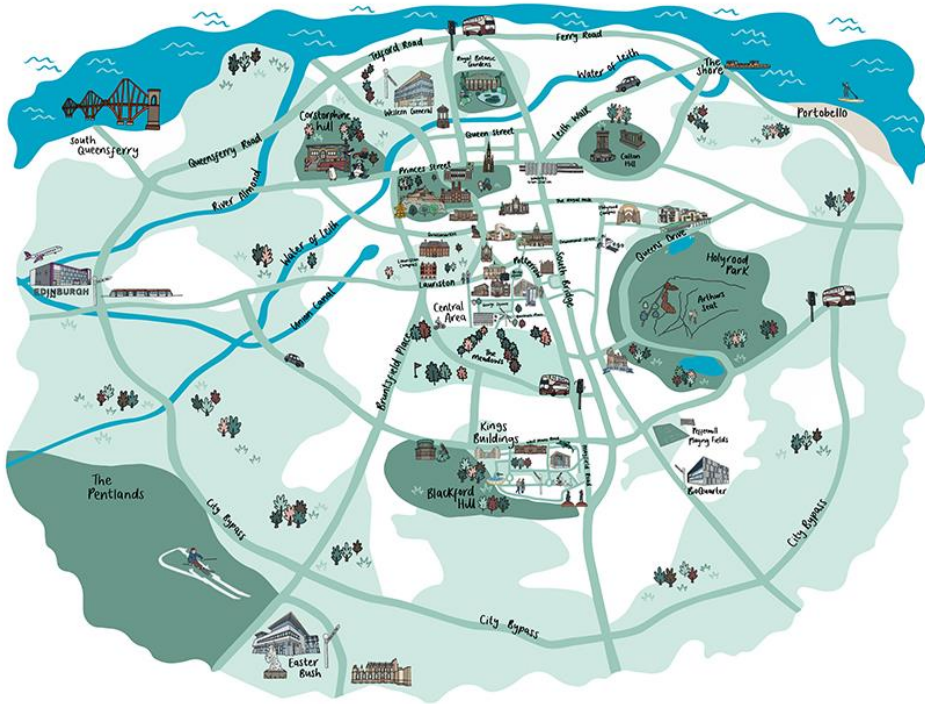


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# Next steps...

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



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



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# Contact details for follow-up questions

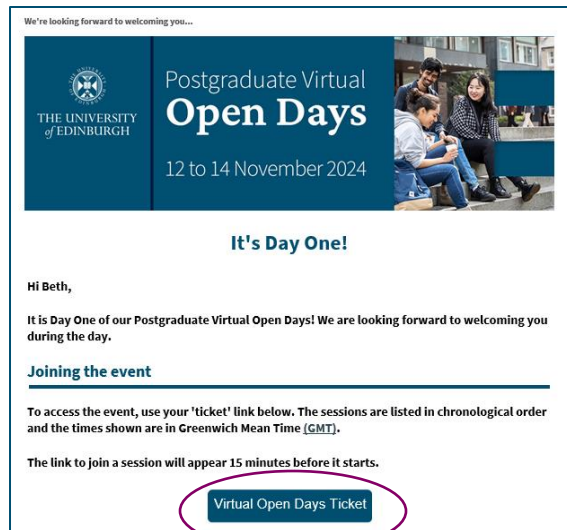
- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)
- Or, Dr. Adolfo Mejia Montero: [am.montero@ed.ac.uk](mailto:am.montero@ed.ac.uk)



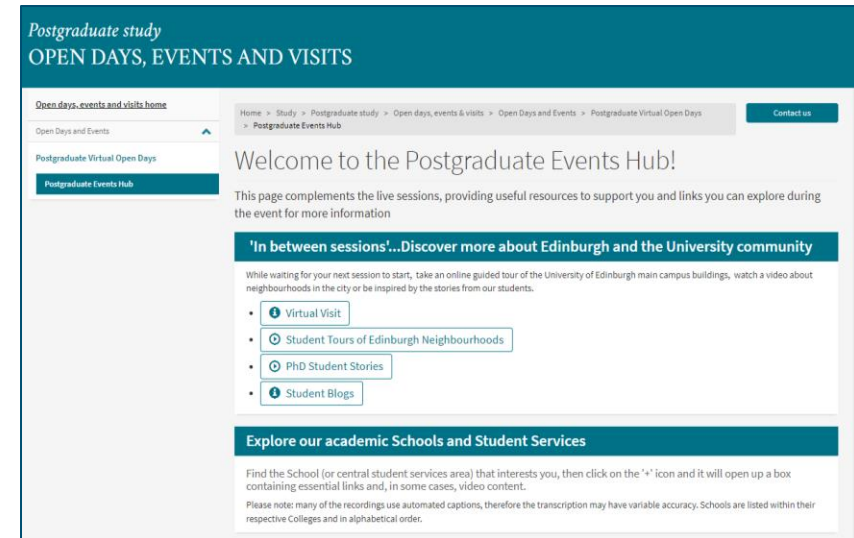


# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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

Dr. Adolfo Mejia Montero  
[am.montero@ed.ac.uk](mailto:am.montero@ed.ac.uk)