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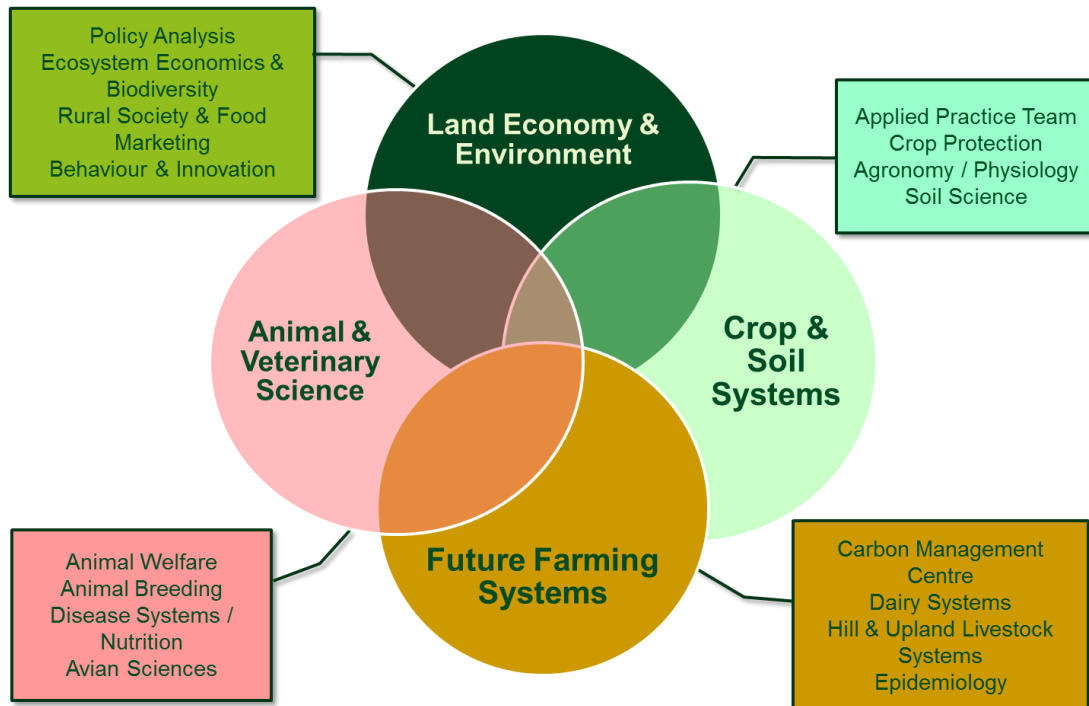
# MSc Food Security



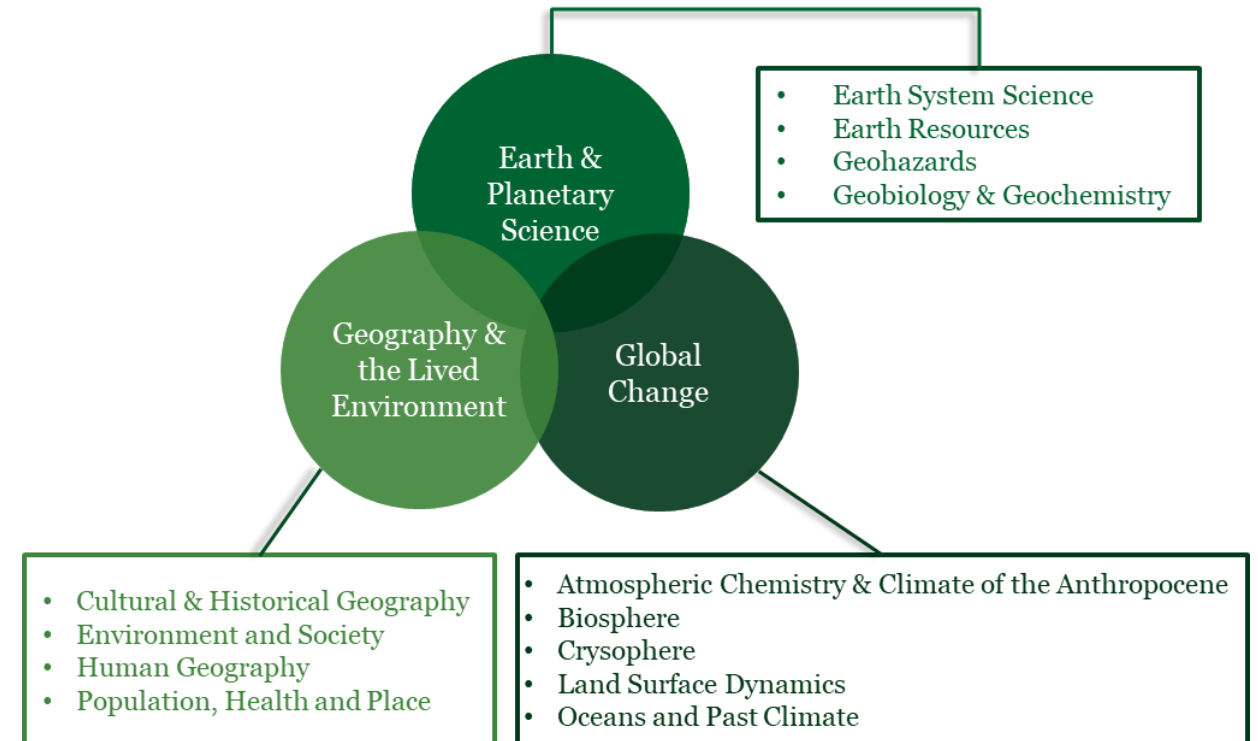
Dr. Montserrat Costa Font, Programme Director & Dr. Faical Akaichi, Deputy Programme Director,  
14 November 2024

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# Institutional Context



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
School of GeoSciences



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# Why study MSc Food Security?

- Access to good and healthy food is a basic human right
- *“To achieve zero hunger by 2030, urgent coordinated action and policy solutions are imperative to address entrenched inequalities, transform food systems, invest in sustainable agricultural practices, and reduce and mitigate the impact of conflict and the pandemic on global nutrition and food security”*
  - [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023](#)

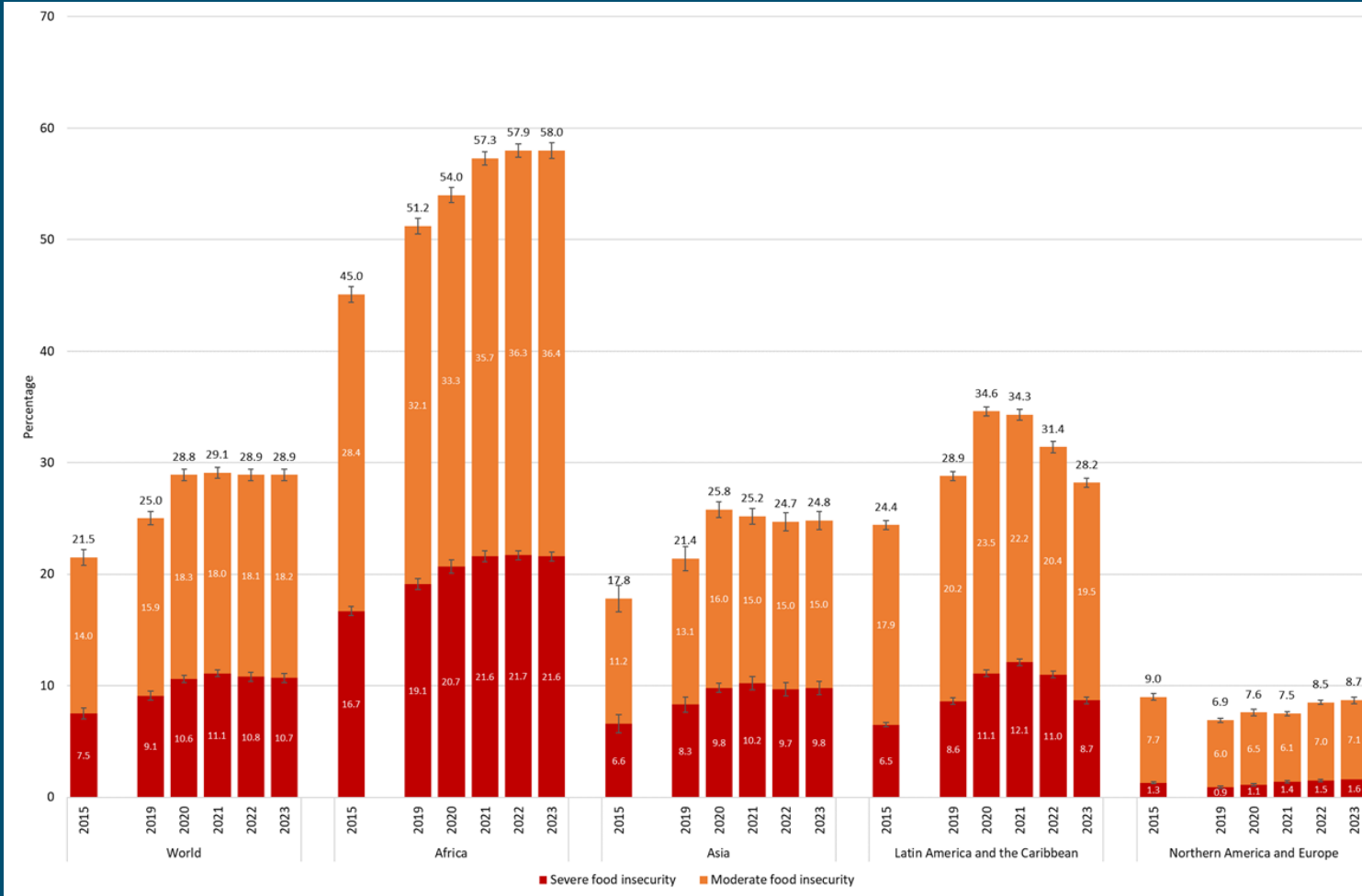


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# Why study MSc Food Security?



- Moderate or severe food insecurity at the global level has increased from 2015 to 2023
  - [\*FAO \(The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024\).\*](#)

# Why study MSc Food Security?

- Evaluate the various dimensions of food security by utilizing accessible tools and databases.
- Investigate the factors that threatens food security, addressing challenges at both global and local scales.
- Learn quantitative and qualitative analytical skills focused on the study of food security problems.



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# Why study MSc Food Security?

- The programme covers issues such as:
  - Supply chains
  - Food distribution
  - Trade
  - Sustainability
  - The role of technology in food production
  - Poverty
  - Agricultural practices and land use
  - among other topics
- Socioeconomic approach to food security
- Skills focus

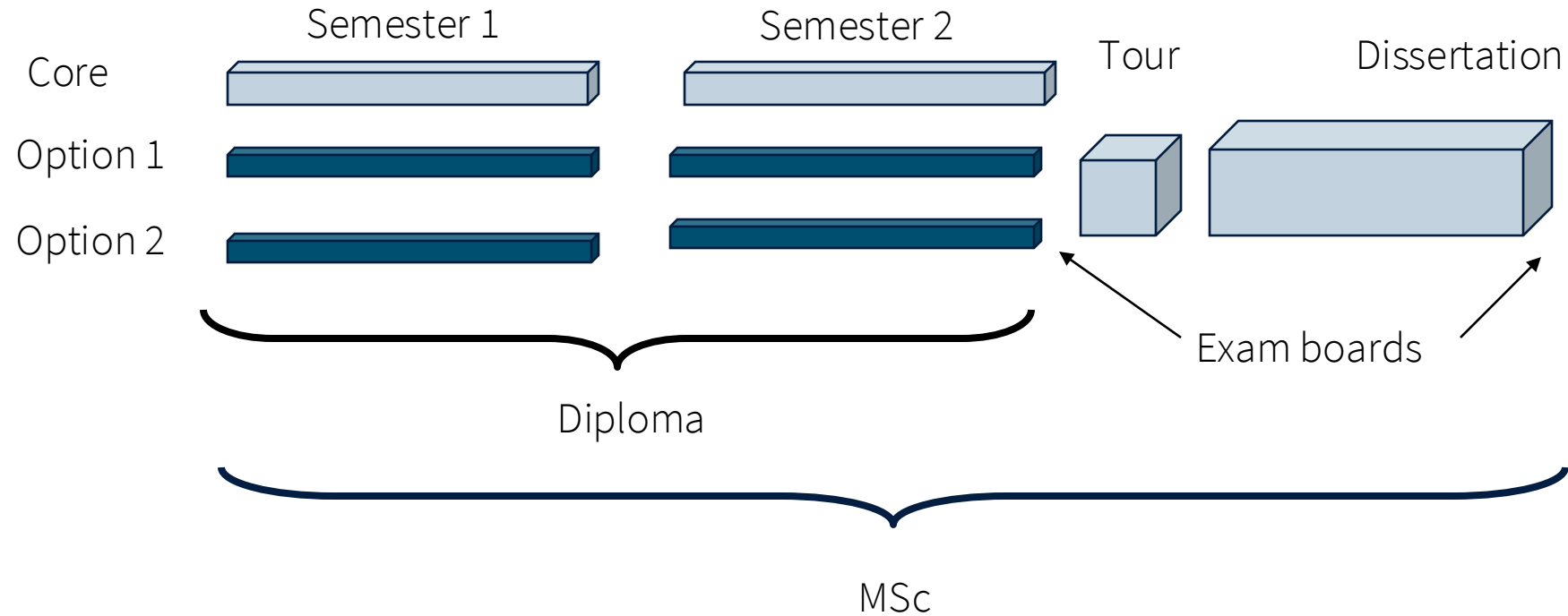


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# Structure of the programme



120 credits of taught work (20 credits per course) and 60 credits for dissertation

# Structure of the programme

Degree Programme Table			
Course Code	Compulsory Courses	Semester	Credits
PGGE11164	Frameworks to Assess Food Security	Semester 2	20
PGGE11238	Sustainability of Food Production	Semester 1	20
PGG11166	Interrelationships in Food Systems	Semester 2	20
PGGE11165	Data Collection and Analysis for Food Security	Semester 2	20
PGGE11178	Dissertation	May - August	60



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# Structure of the programme

- 2 option courses (one each semester)

## Courses from School(s) N - Food Security (SAC) (MSc) Recommended Sem 1 Options - Level(s) 11

Select exactly 20 credits of the following courses

SELECTED COURSES MUST BE TAKEN DURING **SEMESTER 1**

Biodiversity Under Pressure

ECLG11004 20 credits

Text Mining for Social Research  
(fusion on-site)

EFIE11006 10 credits

Postdigital Society (fusion on-site)

EFIE11012 10 credits

Energy & Society I; Key Themes  
and Issues

GESC11010 20 credits

Foundations in Ecological  
Economics

PGGE11004 20 credits

Atmospheric Quality and Global  
Change

PGGE11007 20 credits

Land Use/Environmental  
Interactions

PGGE11010 20 credits

Soil Science Concepts and  
Application

PGGE11180 20 credits

Soil Protection and Management

PGGE11183 20 credits

Ecosystems and Global Change

PGGE11247 20 credits

Sustainable Entrepreneurship

PGGE11289 20 credits

Environmental Justice and  
Development

PGGE11294 20 credits

Development and Justice

PGGE11295 20 credits

Resource Recovery and Circular  
Economy

PGGE11300 20 credits

Nutrition for Food Security

VESC11187 20 credits



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# Structure of the programme

- 2 option courses (one each semester)

Courses from School(s) N - Food Security (SAC) (MSc) Recommended Sem 2 Options - Level(s) 11

Select exactly 20 credits of the following courses

SELECTED COURSES MUST BE TAKEN DURING **SEMESTER 2**

Eco-evolutionary Responses to  
Anthropogenic Change

ECLG11005 20 credits

Data Science for Society (fusion on-  
site)

EFIE11020 10 credits

Applications in Ecological  
Economics

PGGE11003 20 credits

Environmental Impact Assessment

PGGE11009 20 credits

Participation in Policy and Planning

PGGE11016 20 credits

Water Resource Management

PGGE11018 20 credits

Environmental Governance and  
Policy

PGGE11257 20 credits

Environmental Survey and  
Monitoring

PGGE11263 20 credits

Nature-based Solutions

PGGE11265 20 credits

Professional Skills in Environment  
& Development

PGGE11267 20 credits

GIS and Spatial Analytics for Health

PGGE11272 20 credits

Creativity and the Environment

PGGE11285 20 credits

Centring Racial Justice in  
Sustainability Transformations

PGGE11292 20 credits

Ecological Processes in Soils

PGGE11304 20 credits

Innovation in Sustainable Food  
Systems

PGSP11400 20 credits

Making science relevant to policy  
and decision-making

VESC11260 20 credits



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# Dissertation

Dissertation: can have fieldwork (UK-based or international) or desk-based

## Examples:

- Impact of the gender gap in household decision-making power on the food security and climate resilience of farming households in developing countries.
- Impact of food price inflation on the demand for animal protein in Scotland.
- Fruit and Vegetable Box Schemes, Food Security and Food Waste in Scotland
- Identifying and Prioritizing Local Indicators for Food Systems Transformation in Hawaii: A Delphi Method Approach.
- Perceptions of agroforestry among farmers in Scotland: awareness, motivations and barriers and the potential impact on its long-term
- The impact of international price changes on consumers in Ghana
- Analyzing the Feasibility of Fair-trade in the Cashew nut Value Chain System – Case study: Guinea Bissau



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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 and three-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: 3 compulsory courses - 60 credits
- Year 2: 1 compulsory course – 20 credits, Dissertation
  - + 60 credits in optional courses over 2 years

## 3-year programme

- Year 1: 3 compulsory courses - 60 credits
- Year 2: 1 compulsory course – 20 credits + optional courses – 60 credits
- Year 3: Dissertation



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# Assessment & Teaching

- 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, practicals, laboratory work, and short field trips
- No exams
- Assignments are submitted online



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# What are you expected to do before, during and after the lectures?



- Listen to the recordings that will be uploaded to Learn One Week Before the Lecture.
- Read the papers/book chapters, etc, uploaded to learn before the lecture.
- You will be asked to think about some topics or questions/ do some exercises before the lecture.
- Be on time for the strating of the lecture/seminar

# Field trips

During the first and second term we organise day visits to different food production sites such as food factories, dairy farms, urban farms, food banks, etc.



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# Field trips

Later in the year, the whole cohort attends a study tour.

In the past, this study tour has gone to places such as:

- Italy, Malaysia, Kenya and Peru.

The purpose of the study tour is to see, in person, how the food system works in different countries and to identify how stakeholders and international institutions engage with the food security challenges explained in the classroom.

Typically, it is an intense experience, full of excitement, enthusiastic discussions, and personal growth.



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# Career opportunities

- There is an urgent need to understand how food production and consumption are changing and their effects on the planet, as well as to explore the possibilities for a more sustainable food system for all in the future.
- Our graduates work in various sectors, including:
  - food security specialists in international and governmental agencies, NGOs, marketing teams or environmental divisions of private companies, PhD, and many more.
- Examples of organisations our graduates have gained employment at include:
  - Food waste NGOs, Global Affairs Canada, Soil Association, USAID, and many more.



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# Funding opportunities

- 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](#)
- Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) alumni discount
  - [Visit the SRUC website](#)



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# 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)
- *Alternatively, email [Montse.CostaFont@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:Montse.CostaFont@sruc.ac.uk).*



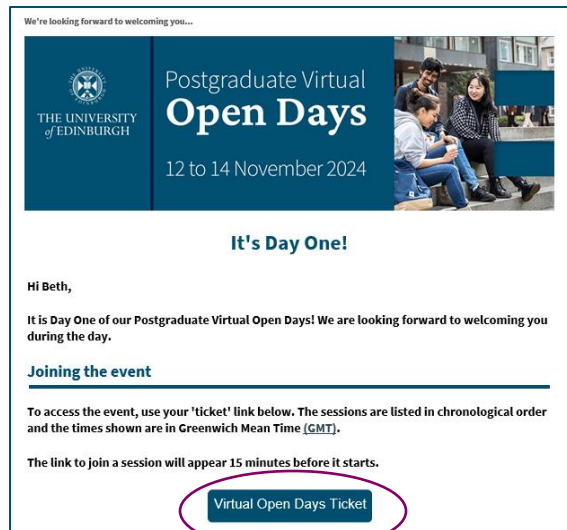
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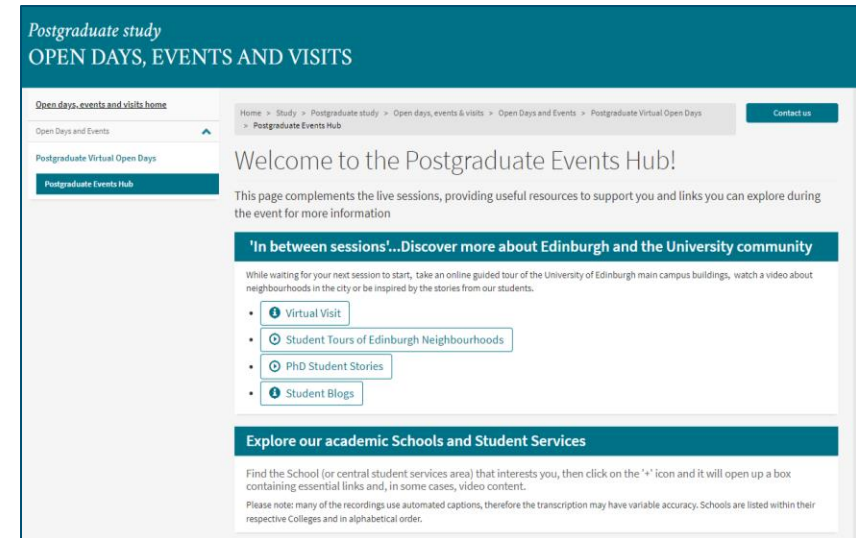
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# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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