



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

MSc Environmental Sustainability

Dr. Teresa Armijos Burneo, Programme Director & Cohort Lead,
13 November 2024

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Why study MSc Environmental Sustainability?

- Ensuring the environmental sustainability of society is one of the major challenges facing humanity in the 21st century including: combatting climate change, and ensuring **just transitions to sustainability** which require changes in behaviour of organisations and individuals.
- This programme explores these and other related topical questions. You will be encouraged to **think across different disciplines** and consider scientific, community-local, and policy perspectives to better understand and foster sustainability in the Global South and Global North.

What will you learn?

- What is Sustainability?
- What are the debates and challenges surrounding different approaches to SD?
- Critical social and global issues and ways to address these to benefit individuals, communities, societies and nature considering justice



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Why Environmental Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh?

- Great Cultural Location
- History and Reputation
- International Environment
- Arts Scene – Music and other activities
- Outdoor activities - Nature
- Sustainability choices



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Full-time Programme Structure

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

- This programme is comprised of:
 - 4 compulsory courses
 - Case Studies in Sustainable Development - will involve field work to the highlands
 - Applied Research Skills in Environment and Society
 - Principles of Environmental Sustainability
 - Ecosystems and Global Change
 - 2 option courses (40 credits) – one in Semester 1, one in Semester 2
 - Dissertation



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 or 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
 - 2 optional courses - 40 credits
- Year 2:
 - 1 compulsory course
 - 2 optional courses - 40 credits
 - Dissertation

3-year programme

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



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

Who will be teaching you?

- A team of interdisciplinary academics with expertise in the physical and social aspects of sustainable development. From Ecologists to Social Scientists with extensive applied research experience.



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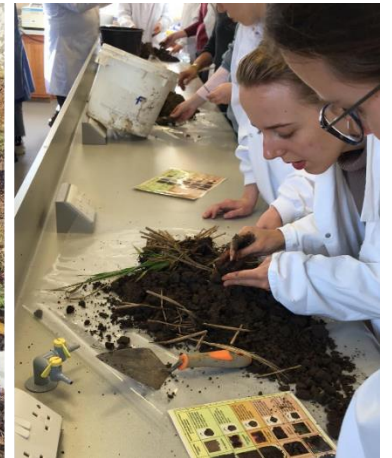
Dissertation

- Students can choose their dissertation topic and will get guidance from the Programme Director and their supervisors in choosing it.
- Students can pursue desk-based research or conduct fieldwork for their dissertations.
- Possible topics around Environmental Sustainability in the Global North and South include:
 - Energy Transition, Sustainable Food Production, Environmental Justice, Waste Management, Climate Change Policy Processes, Climate Change Adaptation, Environmental Change, Disaster Risk, Resilience and Vulnerability, Agriculture and Sustainability, Just Transitions to Sustainability.
 - We have links with local and international organisations with whom students could pursue their dissertation research:
 - **For example**, Dr. Armijos Burneo has links with local practitioners and universities in Latin America and the Caribbean with whom students could pursue research on issues relating to Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental Change, and Environmental Justice for their dissertations.
 - *The process to access these projects is competitive and is not guaranteed to all students.*



Field Trips

- Practical and experiential learning is core to the degree.
- During Welcome Week we will visit the **Botanic Gardens** and conduct a half day activity as a cohort to understand the Programme and get to know each other better.
- During the first term, as part of the Course Principles of Env. Sustainability, we will visit the **National Mining Museum of Scotland** – explore Justice and transition to low carbon society.
- Case Studies in Sustainable Development field trip will visit the **Isle of Eigg**, a small island in the Scottish Inner Hebrides, and NGO and consultancy firms in Scotland's central belt. On this course, students will observe 'real-world' examples of sustainable development in local & national government, private businesses, NGOs, and local community partnerships across Scotland.
- Other short fieldtrips will also be part of the programme depending on the courses you choose.



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MSc Environmental Sustainability

Skills

- On completing the MSc Environmental Sustainability, you will be able to:
 - **assess the sustainability of policies**, programmes and projects at scales ranging from the local to the global
 - **critically analyse environmental problems** using knowledge from different disciplines, leading to well-founded and considered solutions
 - **advocate sustainable development** and engage in informed debate on current environmental controversies
 - **be comfortable using interdisciplinary approaches** to summarise technical scientific documents for use in policy, business strategies and other local and international initiatives.
 - speak about, and understand environmental sustainability from multiple perspectives and appreciate the complexity of development, conservation, **environmental justice and sustainability**
 - Work in teams and individually to solve problems and propose creative solutions to sustainability issues



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Career Opportunities

- This programme will prepare you for a wide range of roles within:
 - environmental consultancy,
 - national and local government,
 - non-profit organisations,
 - environmental agencies,
 - education or research at community,
 - national or international levels
- Examples of organisations our graduates have gained employment at include:
 - Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
 - Carnegie Wave Energy
 - E.ON
 - Friends of the Earth
 - The Scottish Government
 - Transport for London
 - Zero Waste Scotland
- Careers Services
 - You will have access to the Careers Services at the University of Edinburgh for tailored and individual advice



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When to apply?

- Due to high demand for this programme, we operate on a series of early application deadlines.
- We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible.
- You should **avoid applying** to more than one degree. Applicants who can demonstrate their understanding and commitment to a specific programme are preferred.
- If you plan to apply to more than one programme, you should discuss your choices with us before you submit your application.
- Where possible, we may make an alternative programme offer if you have been unsuccessful in your chosen programme.



Scholarships and funding

- 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

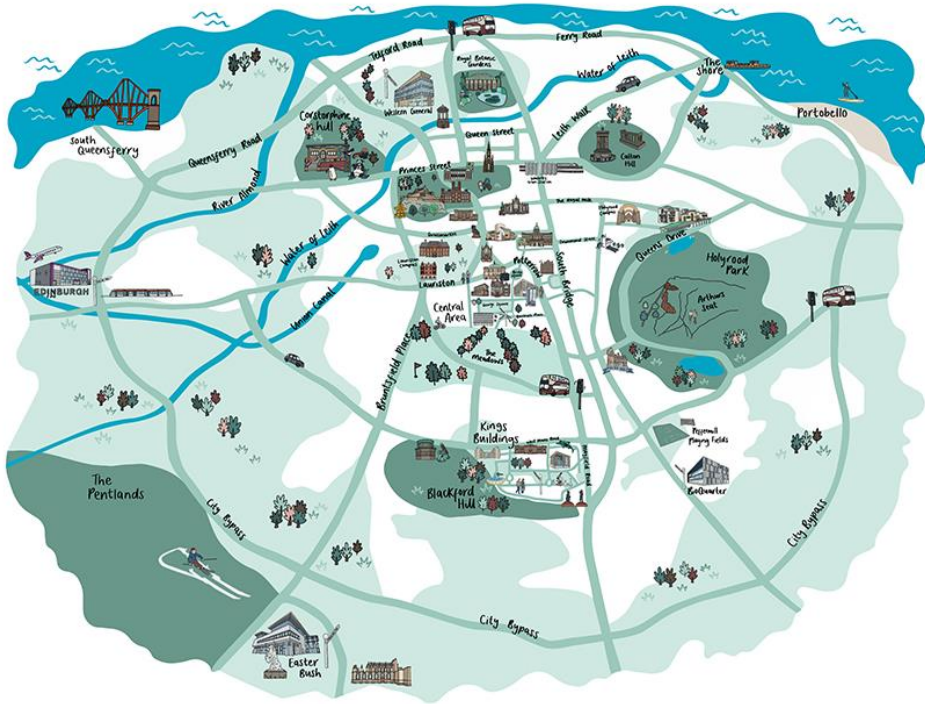


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Next steps...

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



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



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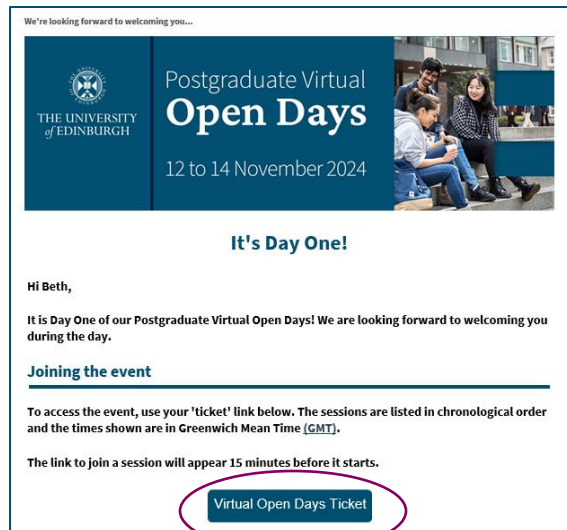
Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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

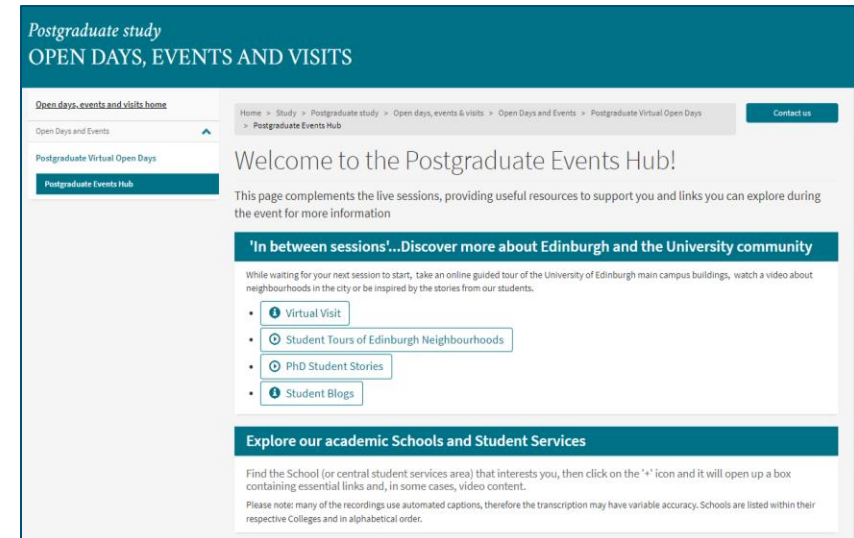


Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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