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# MSc Environment, Culture and Society

Dr Rachel Hunt | 12 November 2024

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# About me/who are we

- You are supported in the MSc a programme director, cohort lead and dissertation coordinator.



- Dr. Rachel Hunt
  - Programme Director



- Professor Tim Creswell
  - Cohort lead



- Dr. Pip Thornton
  - Dissertation Coordinator

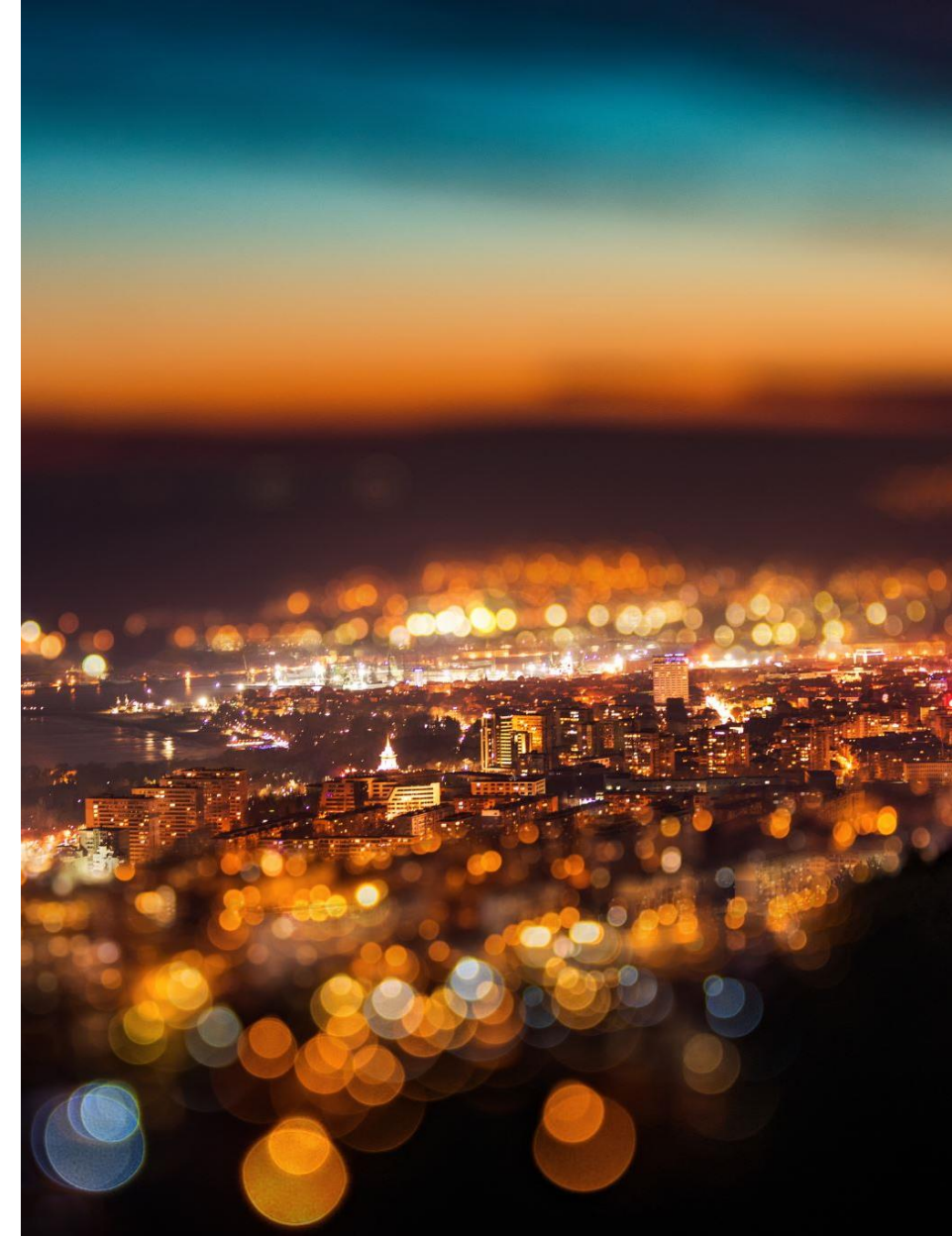


# Why study MSc Environment, Culture and Society?

How have the ways we think about the environment led us to our current situation? How might other ways of thinking lead us to a different and better place?

These are driving questions for this course and you should consider taking this programme if these questions are important to you.

This MSc provides you with up-to-date knowledge of the contemporary issues and debates on the relationships between the environment, nature, culture and society. This programme provides a unique critical perspective. You will develop the skills and abilities to assess the importance and implications of geographical and other conceptual debates with shape environmental policy and practice.



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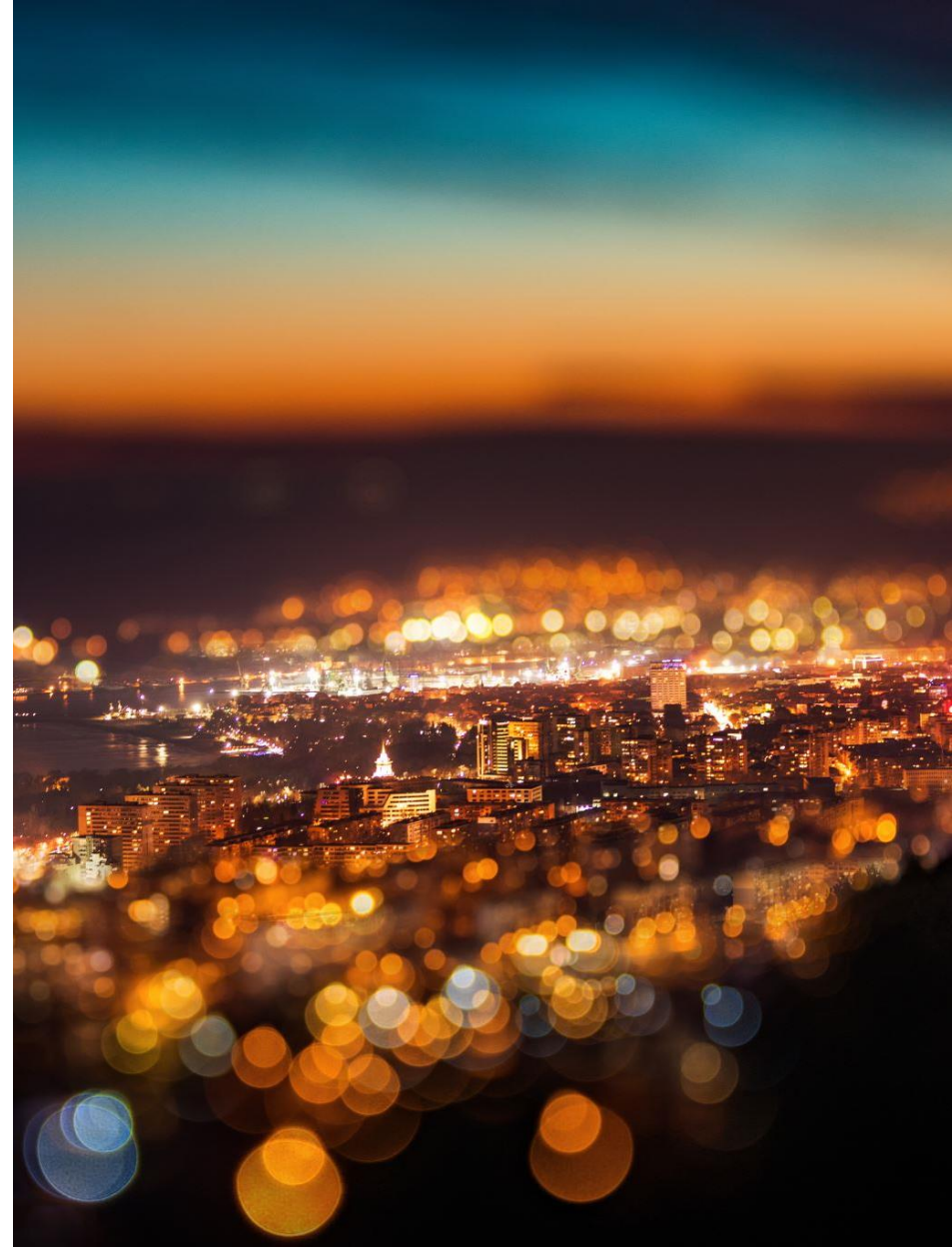
# Programme aims and outcomes

## Programme outcomes:

- Advanced knowledge of contemporary theoretical and conceptual debates concerning relationships between environment, nature, culture and society

## Programme will help you to:

- Understand key concepts and theories.
- Develop a critical perspective.
- Gain multidisciplinary research skills.

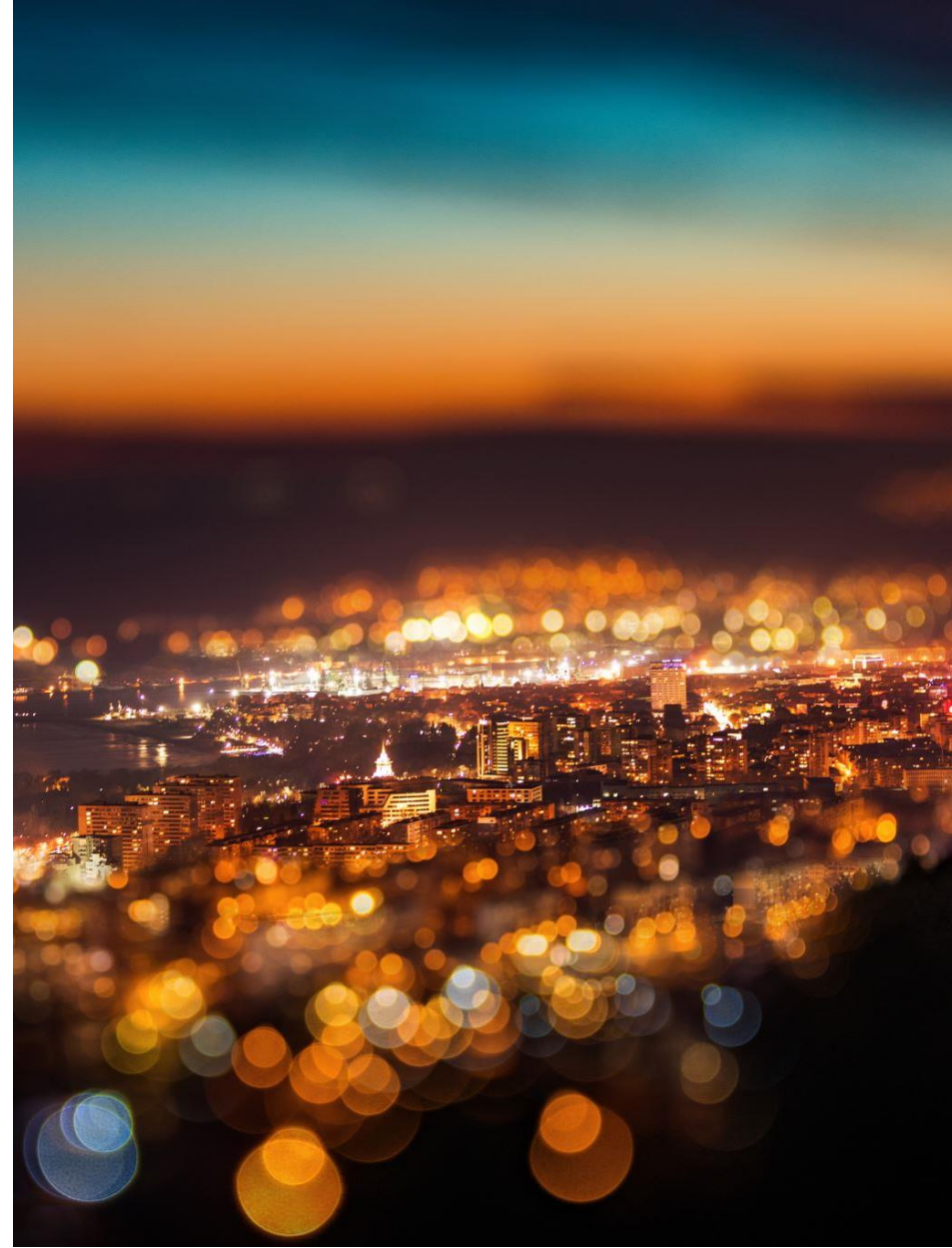


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# What does the course offer

- Learning from world-leading researchers working in the environmental humanities
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Critical perspectives
- Please note – environmental or geography background is NOT required



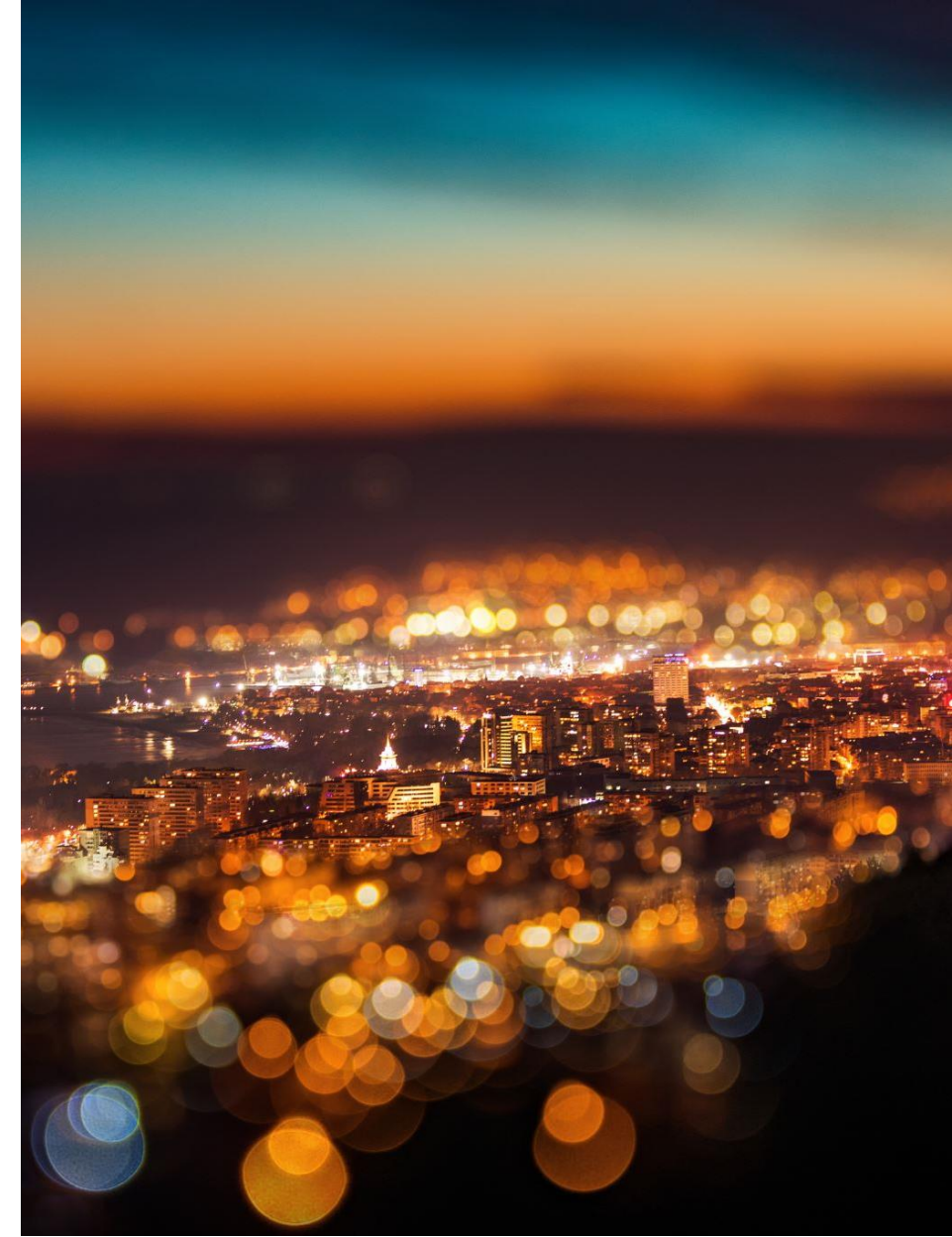
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# Full-time programme structure

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

- 3 compulsory courses
  - Values and the Environment
  - Political Ecology
  - Creativity and the Environment
- 3 optional courses
- Dissertation
  - Can involve fieldwork, or be desk-based; mix of qualitative and quantitative



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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.
- 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 structure:

- Year 1: Compulsory courses and one option course
- Year 2: Two option courses and dissertation

Note: There is flexibility in this.





# Teaching and assessment

- You will experience a range of teaching and assessment styles while you are studying. Each course/ module is taught differently.
- Courses can be delivered to you through:
  - Lectures
  - Tutorials
  - Seminars
  - Workshops
  - Fieldtrips
- Option courses offer students a broad range of educational opportunities to select based on own interests.



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# Dissertations

- The MSc dissertation is a maximum of 12,000 words and will be on a topic agreed by you and your supervisor.
- The dissertation is designed to provide an opportunity for students to undertake independent research on a topic of their own choice, employing appropriate research methodologies and involving theoretical and, potentially, empirical work developed through the coursework programme, and directed reading supported by expert supervision.
- Can involve fieldwork, be desk-based or a combination of both.
- The subject of the dissertation varies according to students' interests.
- Has ranged from creative work (such as film making with accompanying text) to scientific lab-based work.

## Previous dissertation titles

- Geographies of Belonging in the Cairngorms National Park
- Nurturing Nature: Exploring British Parents' Hopes and Fears over their Children's Connection with the Natural World
- Bringing forward cultural values in Environmental Impact Assessment in Chile: a feminist and decolonial approach.
- Ecological grief in the Extinction Rebellion movement.



# Typical Week

- 3 classes (around 3 hours per class). You have Values and the Environment, Political Ecology and Environmental Justice and Development.
- One of the compulsory classes, Values and the Environment, has a fieldtrip visit that week
- Independent study time – reading for class, completing assignments
- Cohort event – each programme organises events for their cohort of students. Not every week.
- Seminar with the Environmental Humanities research Network (external speaker, optional extra)
- Potentially activity with a sports or interest club activity – e.g. mountaineering



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# Field Visits in ECS

- This programme provides various day trips and workshop opportunities in locations across southern Scotland.
- Previous locations have included
  - The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh
  - Jupiter Artland
  - A day with the folk singer Karine Polwart
  - Future trips may include a Cairngorms residential writing retreat

Please note: Field excursion locations may change for a variety of reasons including the health and safety of our students, staff and communities, and to ensure we can maintain the highest standards for your educational experience.



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# Career opportunities

- Students on the MSc can go on to seek roles in a variety of careers including environmental policy, education, business, communications and research.
- This can mean working in a range of sectors including: Government, stage agencies, NGO's, think tanks, consultancies, the creative industries, academia, and the private sector.
- Examples of where graduates have secured positions include:
  - Academic positions (lecturers, researchers)
  - Environmental policy (e.g. Scottish Environmental LINK, Nature Scot, The Climate Commission, UNESCO World Heritage Centre)
  - Nature Conservation (e.g. RSPB warden, Conservation International)
  - But also....Theatre Technician/Production manager





# 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

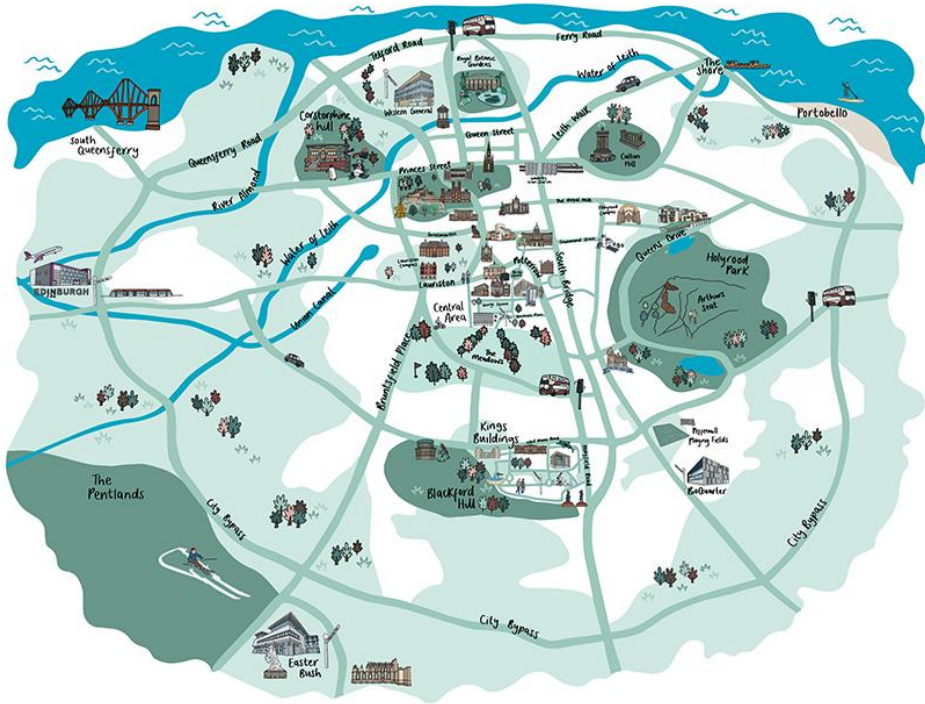


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# Next steps...

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



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



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# Contact details for follow-up questions

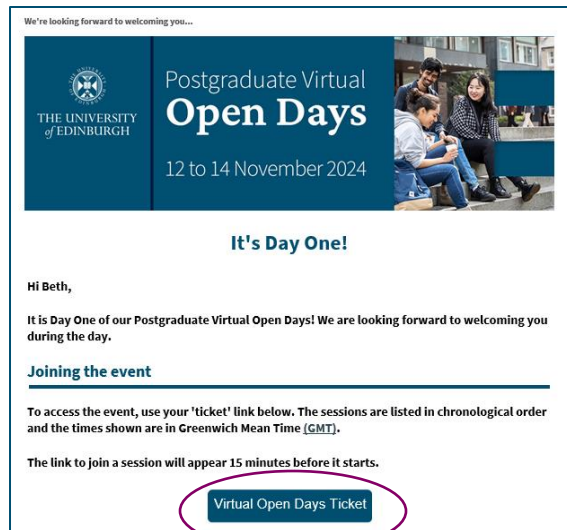
- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: [futurestudents@ed.ac.uk](mailto:futurestudents@ed.ac.uk)
- Or, Dr Rachel Hunt: [rachel.hunt@ed.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.hunt@ed.ac.uk)



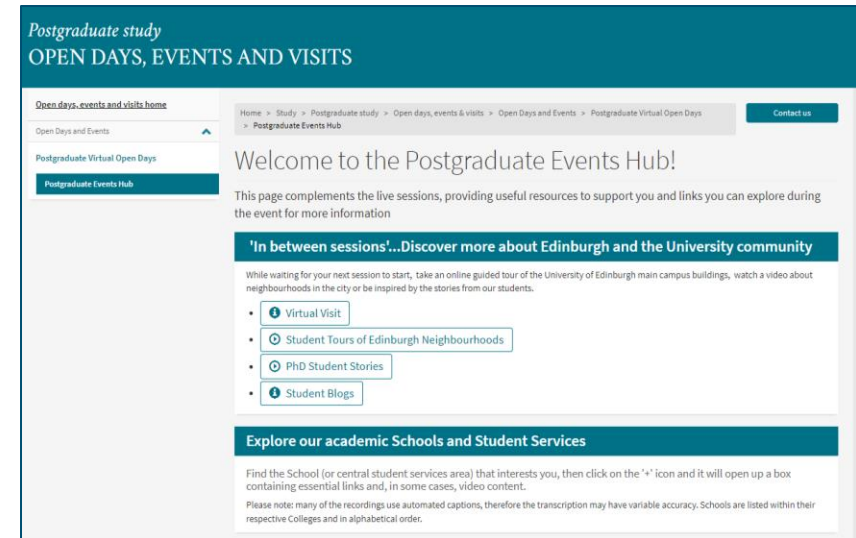


# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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

Rachel Hunt

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