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# MSc Environment and Development

Dr Clare Barnes | 13 November 2024

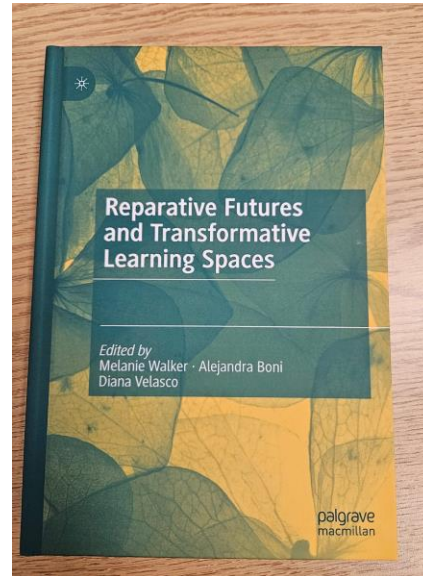
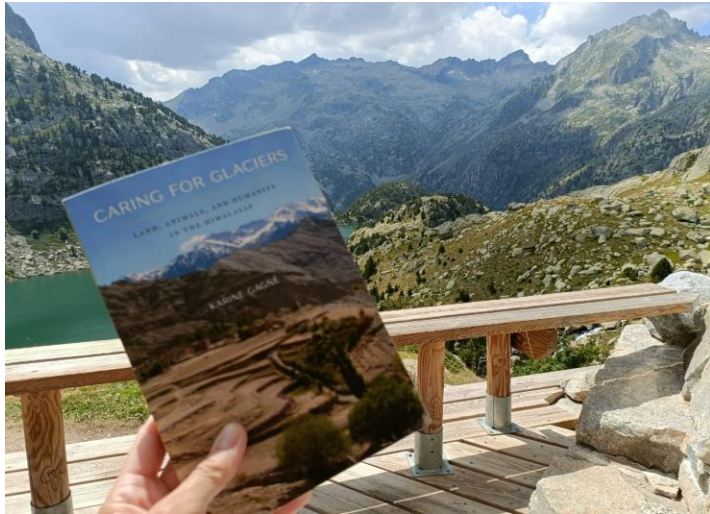
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# Who are we?

- Dr. Clare Barnes (she/her)
  - Programme Director
  - Senior Lecturer
- We work closely as a team so also meet:
  - Dr Regina Hansda (she/her)
    - Lecturer in Development and Justice
  - Dr Sam Staddon (she/her)
    - Senior Lecturer in Environment and Development







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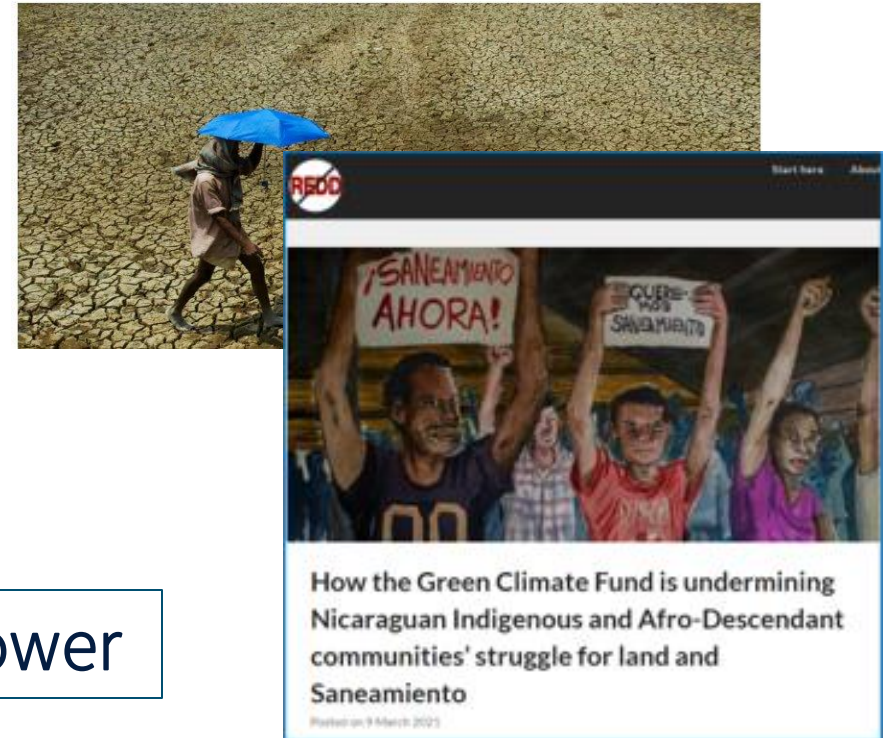
# Why study MSc Environment and Development?

- Enables you to critically evaluate the multiple dimensions of the inter-relationship between development and the environment, with an **abiding concern for social and environmental justice**.
- Explore how to tackle global environmental and social injustices through critical social sciences, political ecology and decolonial theories.
- Understand the linkages between the environment, development agendas, and global inequalities for today and the future.
- Gain the confidence to go on and make a difference in the world through knowledge, skills, care and solidarity.
- Develop the capacity to **critically reflect upon your own positioning**, privilege and power in transformations towards social and environmental justice.

Focus on (in)equalities, (in)justices, politics and power

## 'Loss and damage' deal struck to help countries worst hit by climate crisis

Governments draw up blueprint for fund to be administered at first by World Bank after tense Abu Dhabi talks



Whose perspectives  
are represented in  
policies such as  
National Park  
designations?...and  
whose are ignored?

Why does 'nature'  
mean something  
different to me than  
my classmates?

What are the multiple  
views on development  
and why do some  
views dominate  
international  
discourse?

How do historical  
injustices influence  
communities'  
abilities to adapt to  
climate change?

Why does access to  
food or water differ  
within households?



# Why study at Edinburgh?

- Learn from **world-leading researchers and experienced practitioners** working in environment and development fields
- Unique focus on **justice and inequality** when discussing environment and development issues
- Strong **collaborative connections with practitioners** provide insight into real-world applications



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# Full-time programme structure

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

- 4 compulsory courses
  1. Environmental Justice and Development
  2. Development and Justice
  3. Professional Skills in Environment & Development
  4. Environment & Development in 'the Field'
- 2 optional courses
- Dissertation
  - Can be done in collaboration with NGOs, industry etc.
  - Can involve fieldwork, or be desk-based



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# Part-time 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.
- Two and three-year part-time options are 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 optional courses

## 3-year programme:

- Year 1: 4 compulsory courses
- Year 2: 2 optional courses
- Year 3: Dissertation



# Teaching and assessment

- Courses can be delivered through a mix of:
  - Interactive lectures
  - Tutorials and group discussions/activities
  - Practicals and lab work
  - Short field trips and longer field courses
  - All involve you preparing for class each week
- Assessment can be a mix of individual and group work such as:
  - Group or individual presentations
  - Written work: essays, blogs, policy briefs, reports, reflective journal writing
  - Exams
  - All courses have formative assignments to support your learning (these do not count towards a mark for the course)



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# The E&D approach to studying environment and development

- Our teaching approach encourages you to reflect upon your own role:
  - as researchers and as professionals, in transformations towards social and environmental justice, considering the ethics of engagement in an unequal world.
- Provides a strong basis for engaged citizenship in the world:
  - enabling you to contribute to world debates and actions for reducing inequalities
  - we discuss the connections between what we are learning and what this means for you – in your future careers and as a citizen
  - working towards social and environmental justice and more sustainable practices



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# Dissertation

- Can be done in collaboration with NGOs, industry etc.
- Can involve fieldwork, or be desk-based; mix of qualitative and quantitative
- You will have an academic supervisor to support you
- We help you with writing your dissertation proposal in Semester 2 (Jan-April)
- You start working on your dissertation in April/May and submit in August

## Previous topics include:

- Equity issues of air pollution in London
- Rights of Nature in Ecuador
- Gendered nature of rural land ownership
- Food sovereignty
- Impacts of mining operations on different groups in society
- Community responses to climate change
- Carbon credit off-setting: justice implications
- Participatory approaches to a Just Energy Transition
- Ocean conservation through storytelling





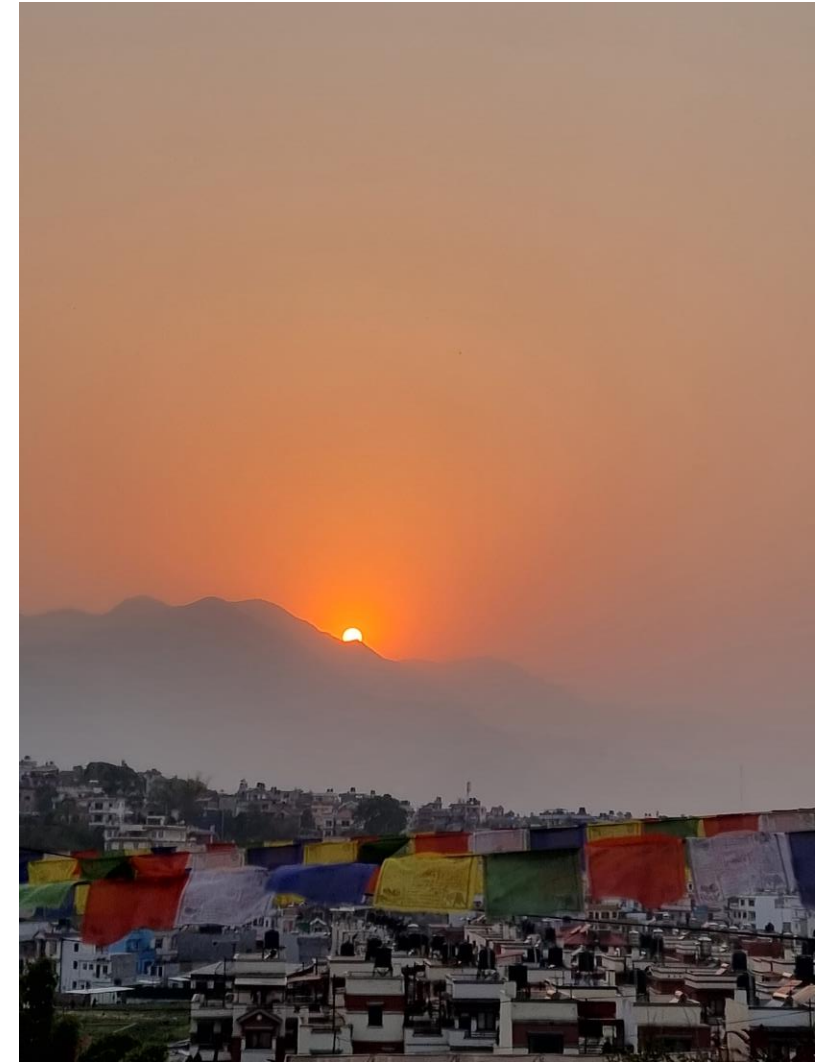
# Typical week for an E&D student during Semester 1 and Semester 2

- 3 classes per week in S1, 2 classes per week in S2 (each 3-4 hours)
- Cohort activities 2-3 times per semester
- Meeting your lecturers during their guidance/office hours
- Independent study includes:
  - Reading to prepare for class (typically 2-3 journal articles per class)
  - Preparing assignments e.g. meeting your student group, independent reading
  - Study groups: many students choose to study together
  - Attending courses at the Institute of Academic Development
- S2 also includes:
  - Dissertation planning and proposal writing
  - Preparation for Environment and Development in 'the field' course (typically runs in April)



# Field trips and Professional Skills in E&D

- You will have a unique opportunity to experience first-hand the intersection of environment and development issues
  - through collaboration with leading research organisations e.g. in Nepal
- Engage with a wide-range of practitioners working in the field of environment and development
- Learn professional and technical skills, making you ready to apply your academic insights in practical ways
- **Please note:** Field course 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 sectors, including:
  - International and national development agencies
  - State agencies
  - Think tanks
  - NGOs
  - Consultancies
  - and the private sector
- Examples of where graduates have secured positions include:
  - The UN
  - Oxfam
  - Plan Vivo
  - Water Witness
  - LTS Consulting Intl.
  - Save the Elephant
  - Natural England
  - A range of NGOs and government departments around the world.





# Our alumni...

*I am currently working for Oxfam Ireland, as the Programme Quality Officer. In this role, I support our development programmes, which have significant environmental aspects/considerations, in Southern and Eastern Africa, through all parts of programme cycle management. Looking back on the course, I think it helped not only **to develop my technical expertise** in the areas of environment and development, but it **has influenced how I approach the challenges** I am faced with at work, making me question and consider how to approach different activities from a **well-rounded** and **ethical** perspective.*

*The MSc offered a turning point for me, opening up a new direction. The course gave me a space to learn **new ideas and ways of thinking**, as well as **unlearn** past assumptions and ingrained perceptions, broadening my horizons considerably **from a personal perspective** as well as for my career. My work now is doing a PhD at the University of Cambridge in conservation (something I never even thought I would do until I did the MSc).*



# 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

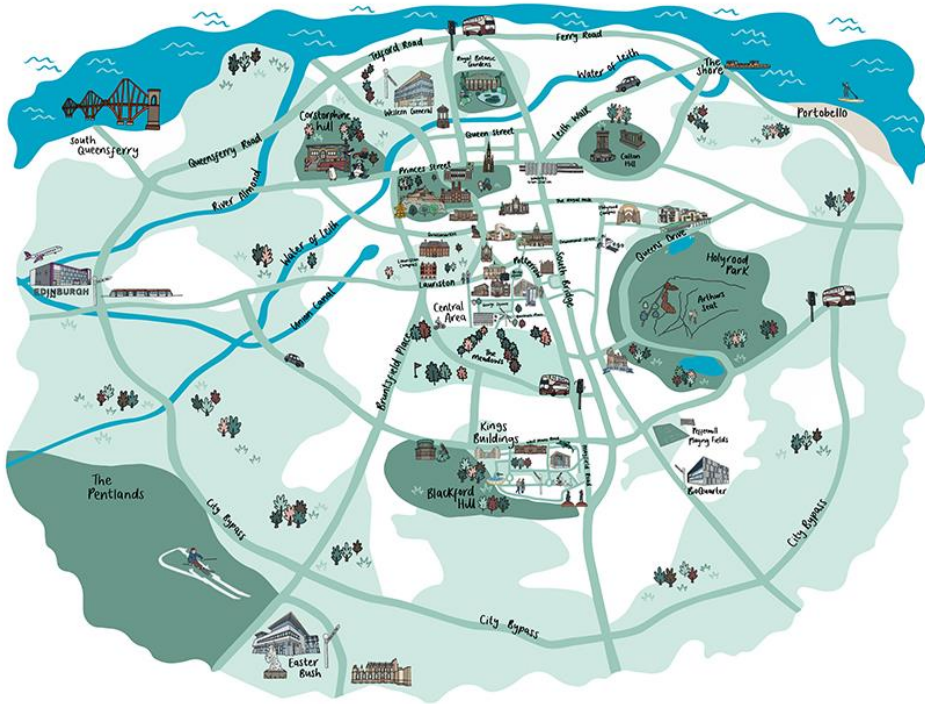


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# Next steps...

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



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



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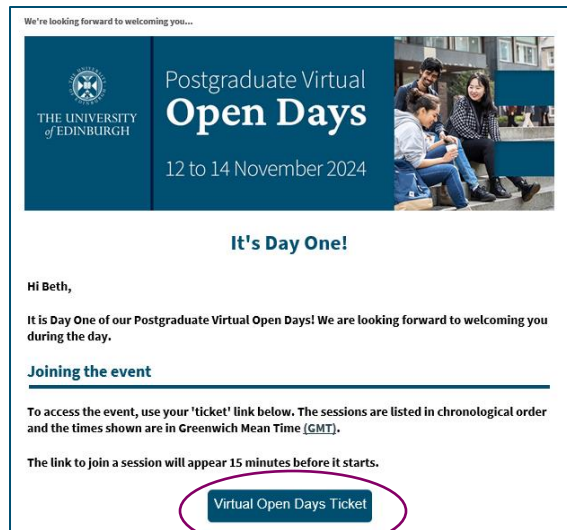
# Contact details for follow-up questions

- 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)
- *Alternatively, Dr Clare Barnes: c.barnes@ed.ac.uk*

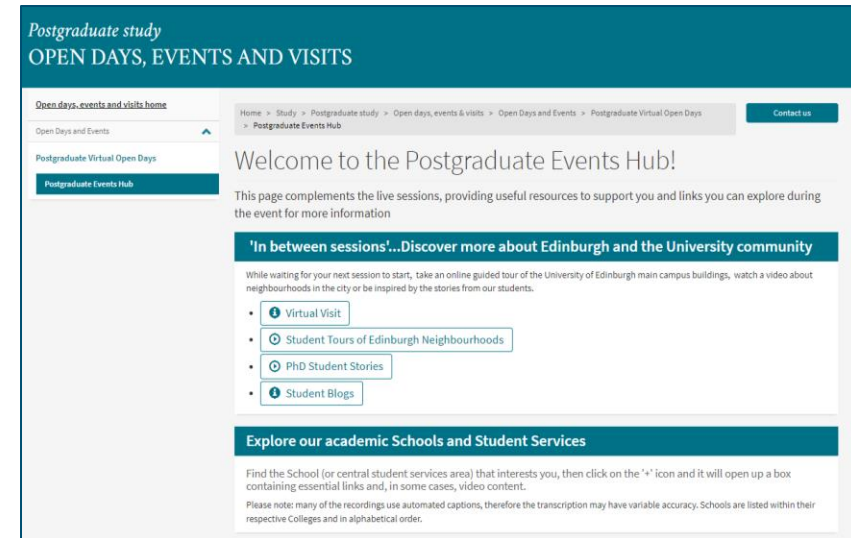


# Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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 Clare Barnes

[c.barnes@ed.ac.uk](mailto:c.barnes@ed.ac.uk)