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So, what exactly is a Masters?

An introduction to Postgraduate
Taught programmes at Edinburgh

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Wednesday 23rd April, 2025

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Introduction

- Taught Masters (PGT)
- Edinburgh, UK, Europe
- Structure:
 - 180 credits
 - The academic calendar
 - [Degree Finder](#)



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Hundreds of advanced programmes to choose from

- Progress in a related subject?
 - Or try something new?
- Entry requirements
 - Check them
- A challenge
 - but you can do it!



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Why do a Masters?

Career progression

Change career path

Develop skills & knowledge

Become a researcher / work in academia

Pursue a passion



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What is your main motivation for thinking about a Masters?

1. Career progression
2. Change career path
3. Develop skills and knowledge
4. Become a researcher / work in academia
5. Pursue a passion



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An Edinburgh Masters: what options are available?



- PGT (Taught)
 - Masters
 - MSc, MBA, LLM, MMus, MTheol.....
 - Why MSc?
- PGR (Research)
 - MScR, MPhil
 - PhD



How does the Masters experience differ from undergraduate study?



1. Teaching & Learning

2. The students

3. Specialisation

4. Research

5. Intensity



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Where are you in your higher education journey?

1. I am currently studying (undergraduate level)
2. I have already completed an undergraduate degree
3. I do not have an undergraduate degree but have extensive work experience
4. Other (tell us more in the chat)



1. Teaching & Learning



- Contact time
- Self-directed learning
- Contributions in class
- Assessment and feedback
- Academic staff and contact



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2. The students / your cohort



- Class sizes
- Diversity: ages, nationalities, cultures, backgrounds
- Exchanging ideas
- Networks, friendships



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3. Specialisation



- Focus
- In-depth readings
- Critical assessment



4. Research



- Reading list
 - Engaging with scholarship
- Research methods
- Research skills
- Dissertation
 - Original academic research



5. Intensity



- Workload (intensity)
- Reading (more!)
- Support (peers & staff)



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Other things to consider



- Funding:
 - How are you going to pay for it?
- Student life:
 - balancing hard work and life outside the class

Final thoughts from
our student?



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In summary

- Different
- Independence
- Resilience
- Rewarding



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“Postgraduate studies require more independence, planning, discipline, writing, and reading than undergraduate studies. But above all: it really becomes what you make it, and can be the most learning, fun, and exciting time of your studies!”

Emma, MSc Energy, Society and Sustainability
University of Edinburgh [student blog](#)



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More info...

The University of Edinburgh:

- [Student blogs](#)
- [Chat to our students](#)
- Ask questions
 - During the event
 - Anytime: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
(Enquiry Management Team)

Findamasters.com:

- [What is a Masters Degree?](#)
- [Common questions about Masters](#)
- [MA vs MSc v MRes – What's the Difference?](#)



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Postgraduate Open Days On-demand

For more
information:
edin.ac/pgodod



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Read our students' blogs at
blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories

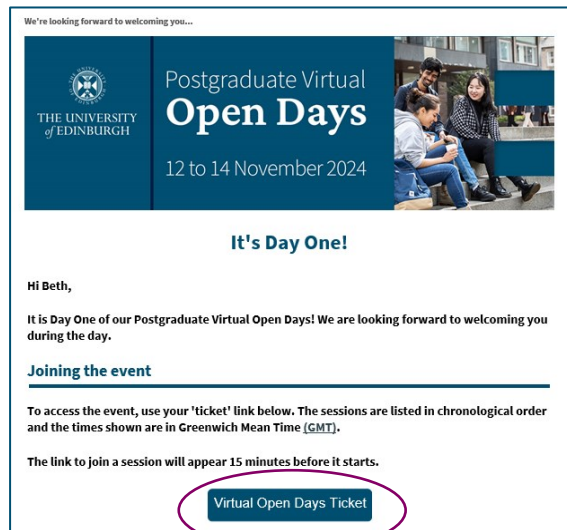


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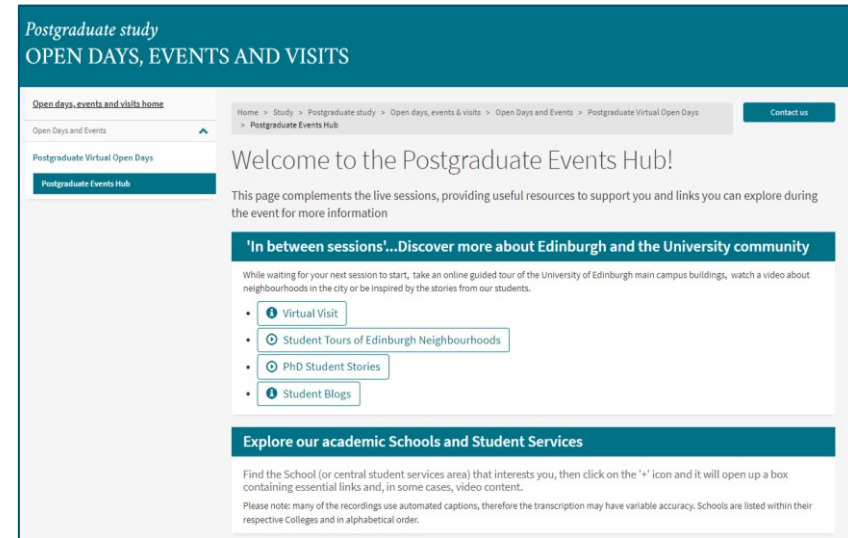
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Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- 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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