

Postgraduate Online Learning Open Days 2025

Introduction to the Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health MSc/PG Programmes

Presented by
Dr Ellie Devenish-Nelson (Deputy Programme
Director) and Dr Harriet Thatcher (Teaching
Fellow)

with Victoria Jackson (Student Advisor) and Nina
Lenger/Emily Hobson-Martin (current students)

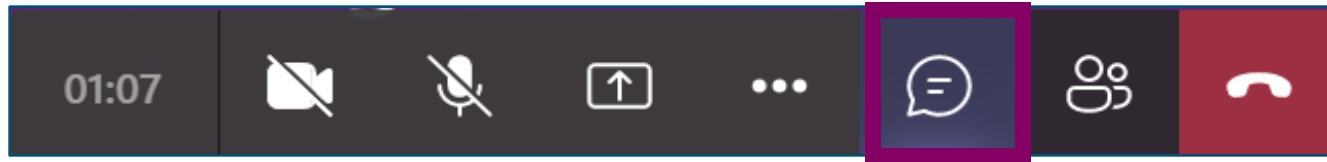


Session Start Time (BST) 9am/4pm

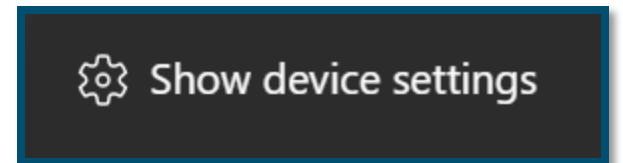
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 - Don't worry, the session is being recorded

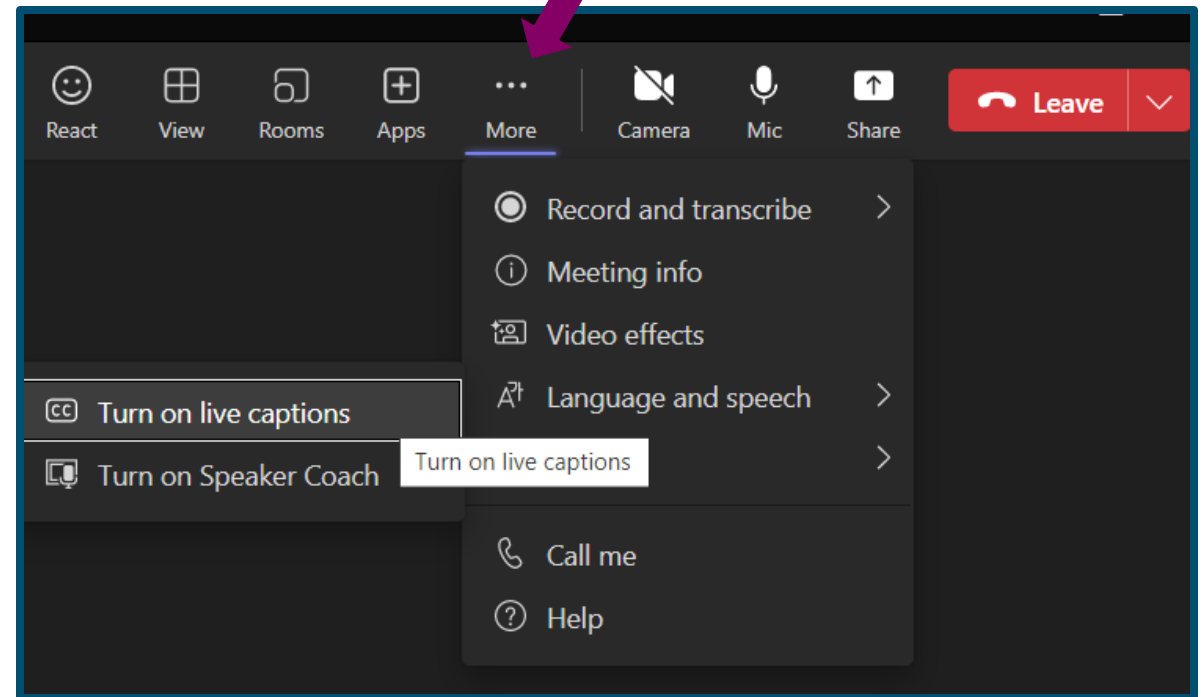


Live captions

You can turn on automated live captions as follows:

- More > Language and speech > Turn on live captions

These are automated therefore won't be 100% accurate



Recording



- Today's session is being recorded
- Any information that you provide during a session is optional and in doing so you give us consent to process this information
- If you don't want your question or name read out in public, you can email your question to futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- Please note - a few attendees' names may be visible in the recording, if it is important that your name not be visible in the recording, please exit the session and re-enter typing in a pseudonym for yourself
- The session will be stored by the University of Edinburgh and published on our website after the event on a non-indexed web page
- ***You will be emailed with a link to watch the session recording by the end of next week***



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Our Programme – since 2010, more than 350 graduates

- PG Certificate – 60 credits, takes 1 - 2 years, 3 compulsory core courses
- PG Diploma – 120 credits, takes 2 - 4 years, 6 of 25 elective courses
- MSc – 180 credits, takes 3 – 6 years, choose ‘traditional’ research project OR ‘alternative’ route
- PG Professional Development – 10 to 50 credits taken over 2 years max, selection of courses
- Intermittent (ICL) study option – pay course by course and up to 6 years to complete full MSc
- Summer School (usually every 2 years, not credit-bearing)
- Degree Programme Timetable: [DPT: Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health \(Online Learning\) \(MSc\) \(Part-time\) \(PTMSCBIOWE1P\) \(ed.ac.uk\)](#)



How to Choose?

- **PG Certificate?** Cost-effective, cumulative, progressive pathway through designated academic skills & content
- Ideal for those with non-biological academic backgrounds and those wanting to change direction
- Courses
 - Evolution and Biodiversity
 - Ecosystem Health and Sustainability
 - Environmental Ethics and Governance
- Use a cohesive assessment strategy to enable students to progressively develop a range of foundational graduate and professional skills and competencies
- Encapsulates set of meaningful learning outcomes within each course, that are also aligned with the overall programme 'identity'



How to Choose?

- **PG Diploma?** Build subject learning with tailored choice of extensive choice of elective courses – ideal for those who don't need/want research element
 - Including invasive species, wildlife trade, climate change, food security, genetics, behavioural ecology, One Health, communication, leadership, social science, finance, and psychology
- **MSc?** Opportunity to undertake independent research through 'traditional' or 'alternative' route – ideal for those seeking advanced, specialist research training and need higher qualification
- **PG Prof Dev?** aimed at working professionals to advance knowledge through postgraduate-level course without time/need for PGCert/Dip



Who are we?



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Our Teaching, Admin and Student Support Team

- Dr Sharron Ogle – Senior Lecturer, Programme Director
- Mr Rob Thomas – Lecturer, Programme Deputy Director
- Dr Ellie Devenish-Nelson – Lecturer, Programme Deputy Director
- Dr Harriet Thatcher – Teaching Fellow
- Dr Flora Rendell-Bhatti – Teaching Fellow
- Dr Andre Phillips – Teaching Fellow
- Andrew LeTissier and Stepha Heck – Admin team
- Victoria Jackson – Student Support Advisor
- Guest course tutors – experts, practitioners and alumni



Student support

- Programme-specific:
 - Course Organisers
 - Academic Cohort Lead
 - Dissertation Supervisor
 - PG Student Support team
 - Student Advisors Victoria and Amy
- General:
 - Institute for Academic Development (IAD)
 - Disability and Learning Support Service
 - Careers service
 - Etc...same as our on-campus students



Entry requirements and application procedure

- Academic background
- UG degree 2:1 or equivalent
- Work/field/volunteer experience
- References (academic/non-academic)
- English language requirements

- Online application system – degree finder page:

[Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health \(Online Learning\) MSc, PgDip \(ICL\), PgCert \(ICL\), PgCert, PgDip, PgProfDev | The University of Edinburgh](#)



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Fees and Funding

- Fees paid yearly, in instalments if preferred
- Can pay by course (intermittent study route)
 - Fees for 2025-26:
 - Full year = £6,370
 - 10 credit course = £1,065
 - 20 credit course = £2,125
- Fees fixed in line with first year of study (part-time mode)
- MSc Total (starting Sep 2025, study for 3 years) = £19,100
- Scholarships
 - Edinburgh Global Online Distance Learning Scholarships
 - Scholarship search:
 - <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate>



How online learning works

- Learning platform: Learn Ultra (Blackboard)
- Asynchronous, flexible
- Weekly learning activities
 - Course notes
 - Recommended reading
 - Websites/other resources
 - Discussion with peers and tutors
 - Occasional live drop-in sessions
- Assessment
 - ‘Online’
 - ‘Written’

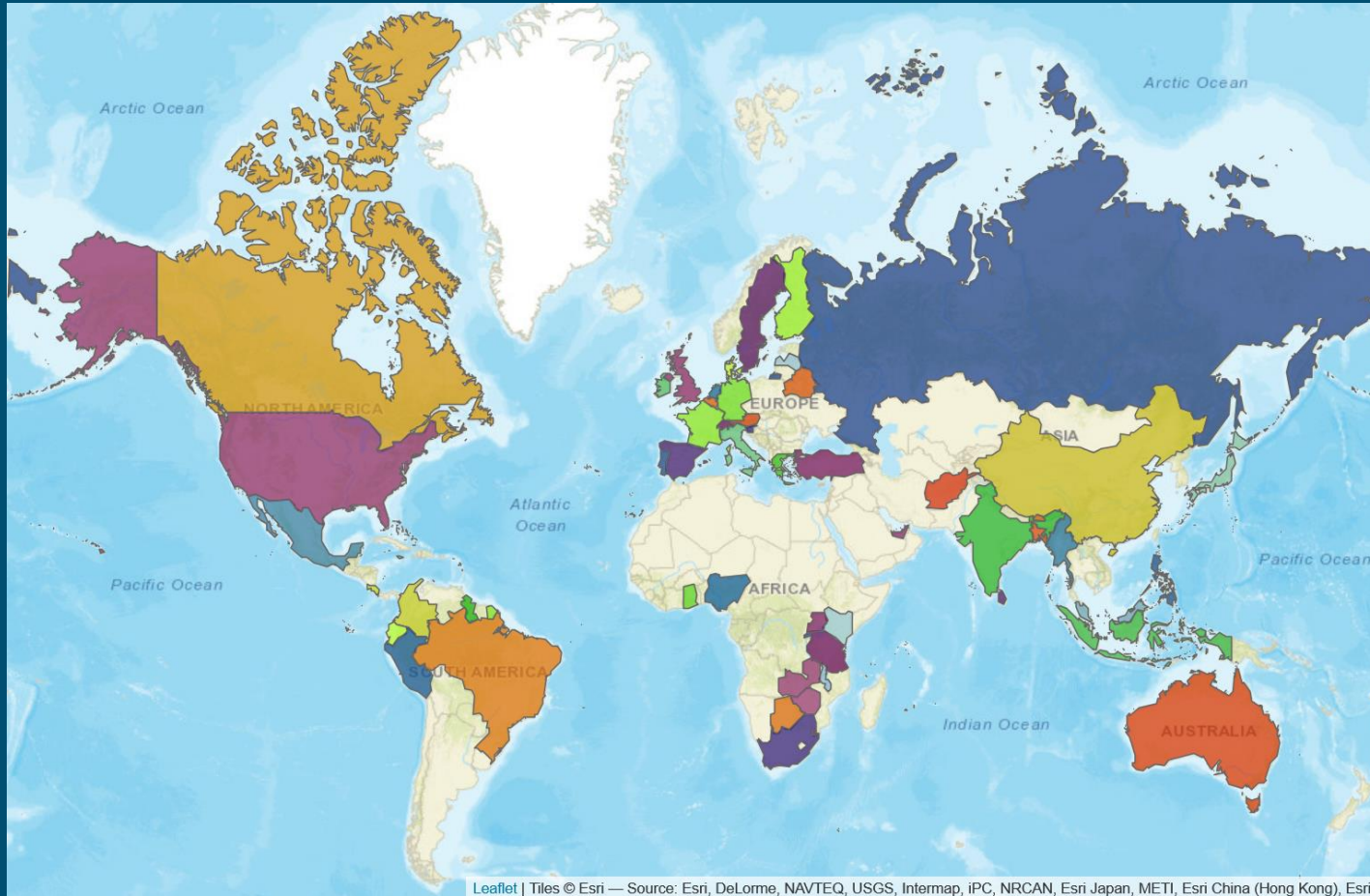
[Let's see an example of Learn Ultra](#)



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Our students – Diverse!



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Student experience

"This MSc program has helped me to apply veterinary medicine to the field of conservation and the research involved with the dissertation has helped me get more than a foot in the door in the fields of wildlife and conservation medicine."

Pete

"I have learned so much from the BWEH course and it has really changed my life"

Halina

"Everyone on this course (is) fabulous; it attracts people who care about our planet."

Wendy

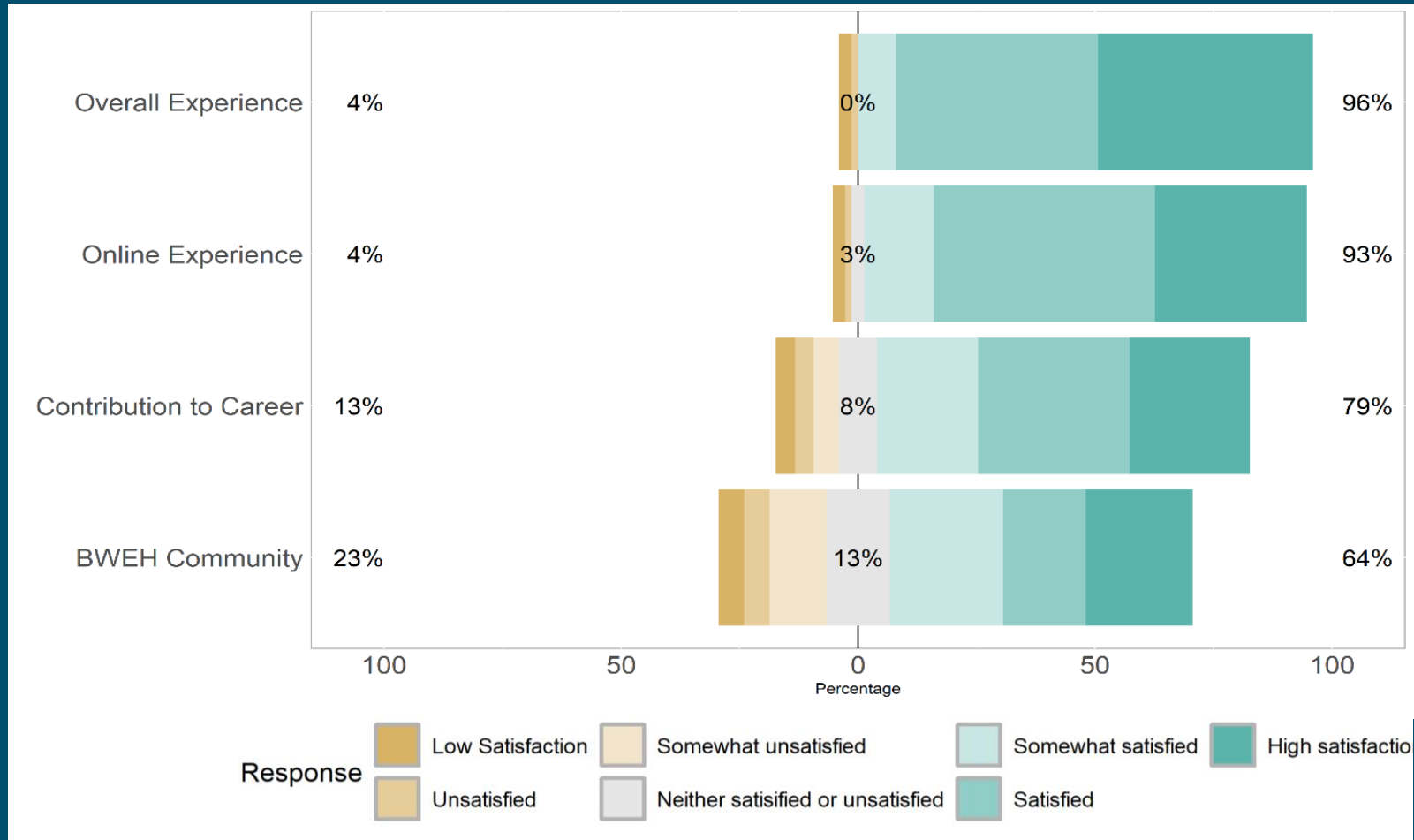
Alumni
inspiring
change



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Student experience – alumni survey



*'I trusted the process
and learned so much.'*



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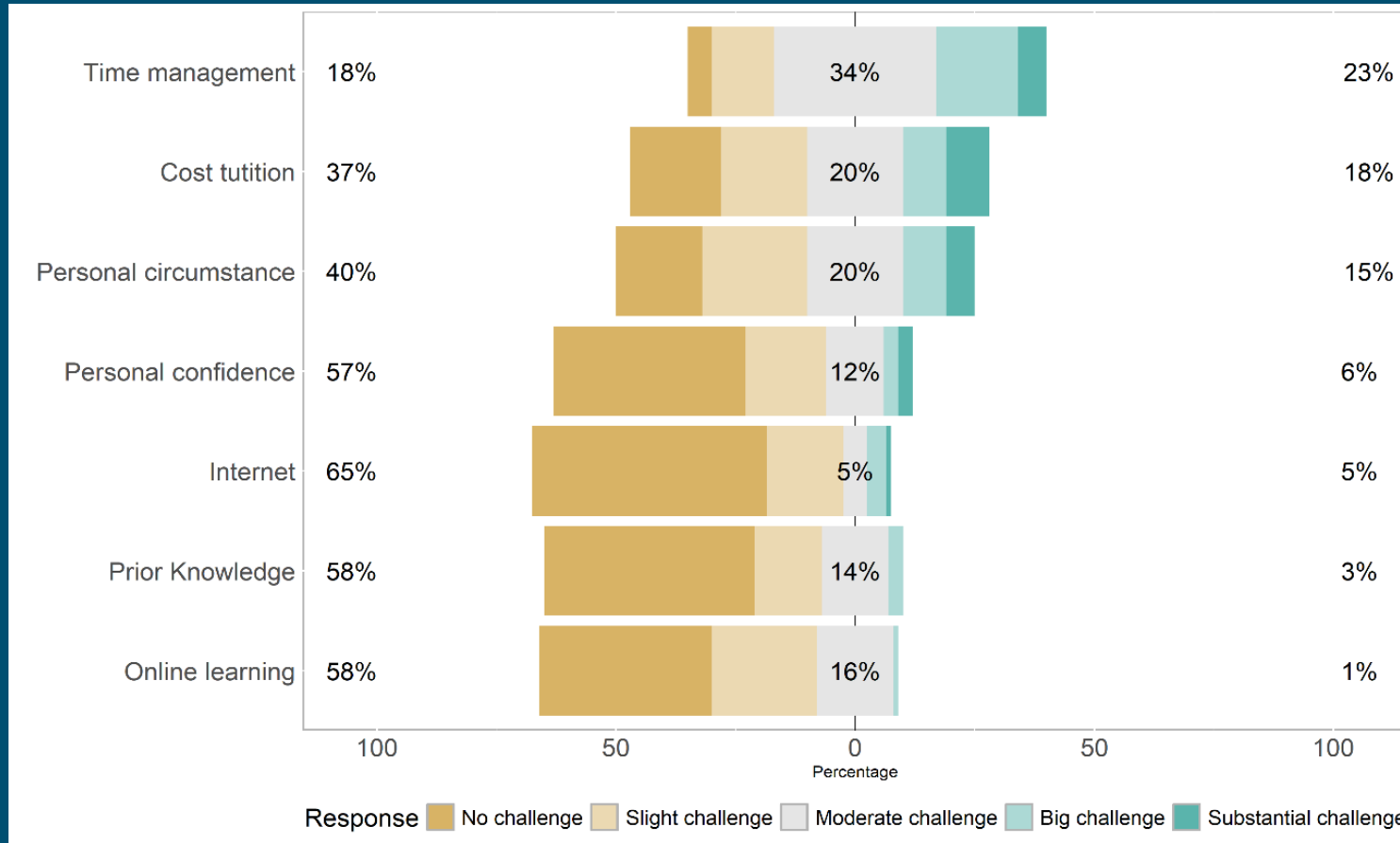
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Overall programme satisfaction very high

- Programme chosen because online and offered flexibility
- No feeling online programme disadvantaged career progression
- Subject knowledge, applied knowledge and life-long skills contributed most to career
- Valued interacting with a greater diversity of students than in-person
- >70% found discussion boards positive contribution to community and learning
- > 90% of summer school attendees positive contribution to feeling of community

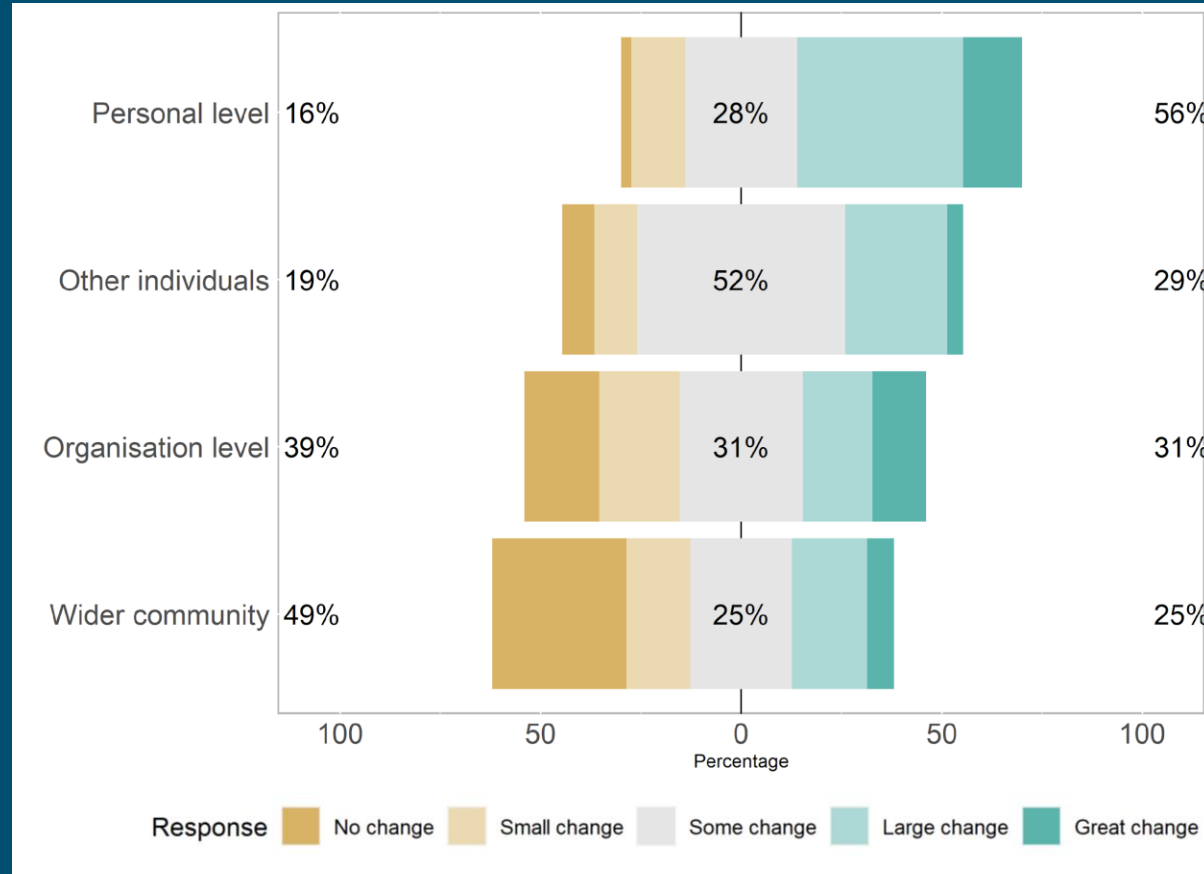


Biggest barriers to learning: time management, personal circumstances, cost



‘Balancing work and family was one of the bigger challenges for me during the programme.’

Positive change post-graduation in perceived impact at personal to community level



'...helped advance my professional career and personal self-satisfaction and increased my level of environmental activity within my community.'

Student experience

Let's hear from Joe, a current student who came to Summer School last year

[Joe Nash - BWEH Summer School 2024](#)



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Q & A Session



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Useful links

Programme website:

[Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health \(MSc, Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma\) | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Degree Programme Timetable:

[DPT: Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health \(Online Learning\) \(MSc\) \(Part-time\) \(PTMSCBIOWE1P\) \(ed.ac.uk\)](#)

Application page (degree finder):

[Biodiversity, Wildlife and Ecosystem Health \(Online Learning\) MSc, PgDip \(ICL\), PgCert \(ICL\), PgCert, PgDip, PgProfDev | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Scholarship search: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate>

Email: BWEH.onlineMSc@ed.ac.uk

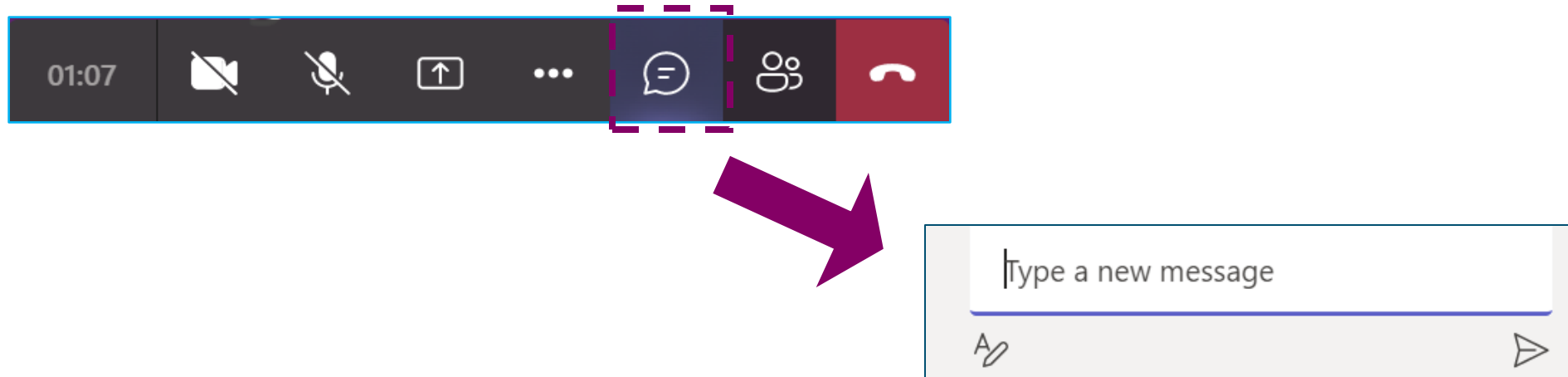


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Asking questions

- Type your question into the Chat Area



Contact details for follow-up questions

If you have further questions about the programme, please contact:

Rob Thomas

Deputy Programme Director

Rob.Thomas@ed.ac.uk

BWEH

Programme inbox

BWEH.onlineMSc@ed.ac.uk



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Thank you

Ellie, Harriet, Nina and Emily

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