



THE UNIVERSITY
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MSc Global Challenges

Virtual Information Session 2025 | 3.00pm BST Session Start

Dr Sam Spiegel | Programme Director

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Overview

- Introduction
- Programme structure
- Assessment
- Online learning: how to manage?
- Who are our students?
- Entry requirements & scholarships
- Career destinations after graduation
- Q&A



Introduction



- A collaboration between the three University Colleges and the Global Academies – global networks of experts from 25 disciplines developing innovative solutions for the world's most challenging problems.
- Part of the University's commitment to offer world leading interdisciplinary postgraduate degrees that equip future leaders to tackle global challenges and contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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Programme Structure

Global Development Challenges

40 core credits

20 elective credits

Global Environment Challenges

40 core credits

20 elective credits

Global Health Challenges

40 core credits

20 elective credits

- Certificates can be taken in any order, but not simultaneously
- Complete each certificate in 1 to 2 years
- Complete the MSc in 3 to 6 years



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Global Development Challenges

Core Courses

- **Global Development Challenges**
 - Issues in global development
 - How development challenges get defined and turned into practical strategies – whose interests are served, and who is excluded?
- **Analysing Development**
 - Actors in global development
 - What development means to these actors
 - Organisational approaches to development
 - Specific openings and constraints that various development actors face in negotiating the boundaries of institutions, incentives and politics.



Global Development Challenges

Electives

- **Politics and Theories of International Development**
 - Analyses the dominant and alternative social scientific theories that seek to explain development outcomes, and the actors and institutions involved.
- **Dynamics of African Development**
 - Explores how various strategies employed over the decades since colonial times to bring about social, political and economic transformation in Africa have framed and defined the continent.
- **Displacement and Development**
 - How should the international community respond to refugee crises? Can transnational diaspora help build peace – or ferment war? Should we distinguish between migrants from poverty, those fleeing conflict or other civilians trapped in crisis?



Global Health Challenges

Core Courses

- **Global Health Challenges**

- What does our world look like today – in 20 years' time? – An overview of planetary health challenges – their causes and effects, traditional and novel ways of tackling their associated health problems, intended and unintended consequences of investment.

- **Evaluation of Global Health and Development Programmes**

- Actors Evaluation matters – for industry, governments, UN agencies, NGOs, charities, health systems.
- When and how can evaluation be used, the range of evaluation processes and methods.
- How to design useful evaluations of public health, development or humanitarian programmes taking into account specific contexts.



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Global Health Challenges

Electives

- Maternal and Child Health in a Global Context
- Global Challenges in Health Ageing – run with the University of Melbourne
- Migration and Health
- Leadership and Management in Public Health



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Global Environment Challenges

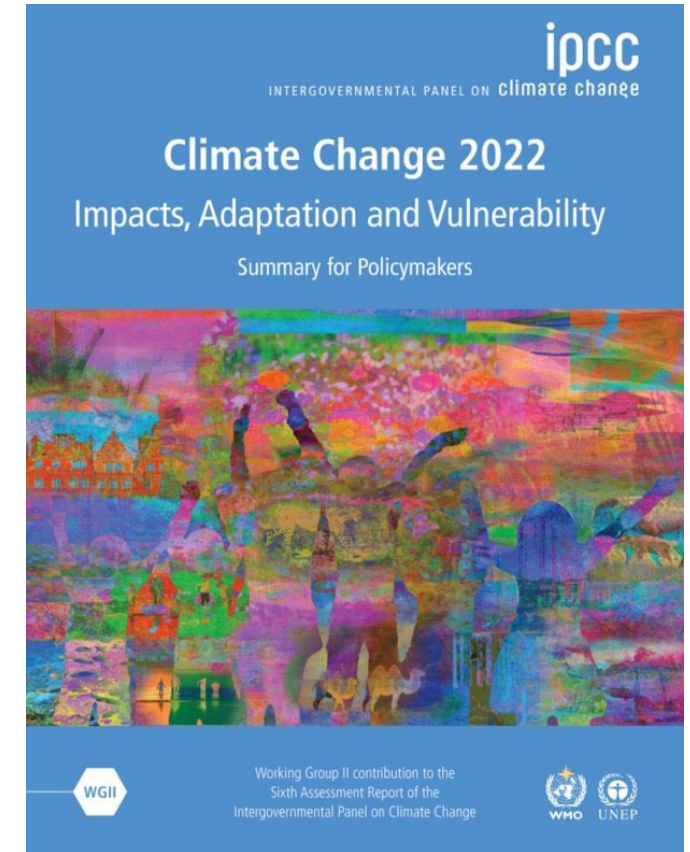
Core Courses

- **Global Environment Challenges**

- An introduction to a range of 'global environment challenges' facing humanity.
- Understanding the policies, politics, governance and ethics, and decision-making processes that underpin the causes of, and responses to, environmental change. Appreciation of the social construction of the term 'global environment challenges'

- **Ecosystem Values and Management**

- An introduction and critical reflection on the ecosystem services concept.
- Exploring ecosystem services valuation to support policy. Both social (non-monetary) and economic valuation and their links to policy instruments explored through foundational literature and themed case studies.



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Global Environment Challenges

Electives

- **Nutrition for Food Security**

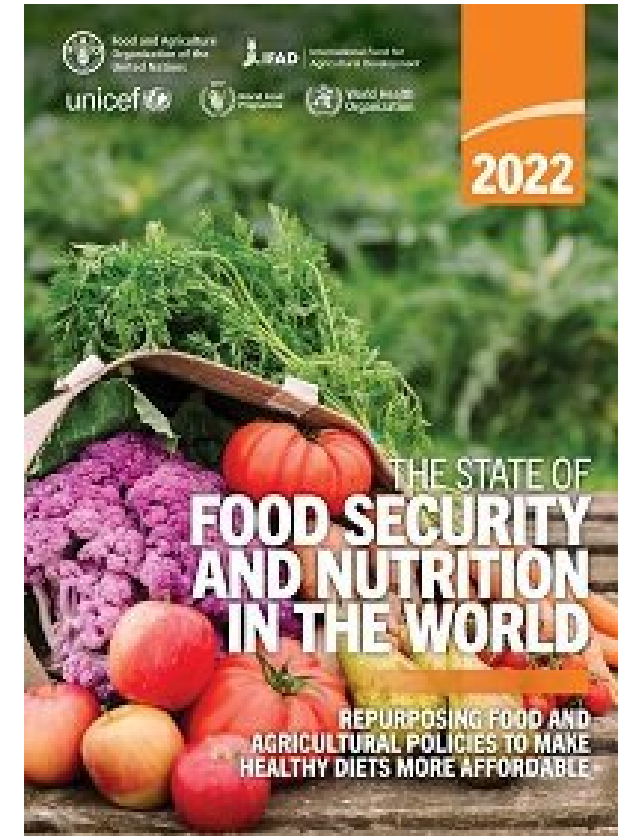
- Introduces key theories and practices of nutrition from a food security perspective. How can programmes be developed that are nutritionally sensitive? What are the health outcomes of poor nutrition? How do we develop nutritionally sound supply chains?

- **Sustainability and Social Responsibility**

- Explores sustainability and social responsibility concepts through a multidisciplinary approach, examining them from a scientific, social, economic, political, and artistic viewpoint. Investigate the relationship between planetary boundaries, resource consumption and social development and explore the range of interdisciplinary approaches to address these global challenges.

- **Innovations in Sustainable Food Systems**

- Producing food sustainably requires innovation systems that meet the needs of a range of actors across food systems. This course explores innovation and sustainability in the context of food production.

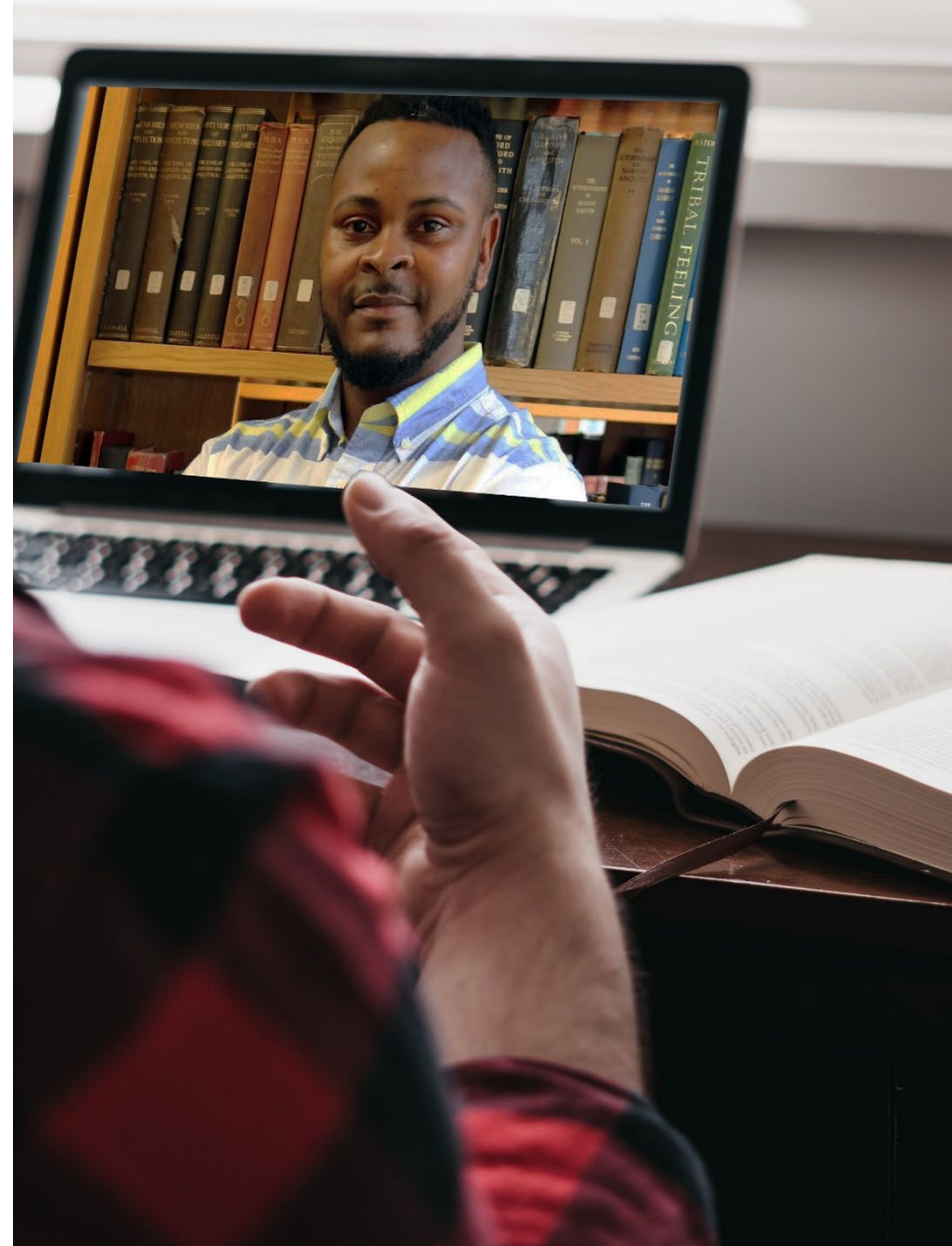


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Assessment

- Each course deploys a range of assessments:
 - Discussion fora
 - Written essays
 - Online activities (blogs, wikis, infographics)



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Online learning – how to manage?

- Students spend between 10 and 20 hours per week on their degree.
- Our students said:

I tended to stay late after work through the week and work a full day on a weekend.

The flexibility allowed me to be available to my spouse and employers and work my studies around other activities.

Sometimes organising the learning around other commitments was challenging ... I was travelling extensively with sometimes limited online access so I had to make sure that I had downloaded all relevant documentation - just a bit of planning required.

I set aside around two hours every weeknight to ensure I was able to keep on top of the reading.



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Who are our Students?

- Our students come from all over the world - Australia, Canada, France, Croatia, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland, UK and USA.
- They are at different stages of their careers.
- A lot of our students are practising professionals, some in a related field – e.g. international development, international policy/organisations, NGOs, healthcare, etc.



Entry Requirements

- A UK 2:1 honours degree or its international equivalent
- Evidence of English language competence
- References
- You can apply for the PG Cert of your choice or directly for the MSc

The Main Library
The Centre for Research Collections, 5th Floor Study Areas.



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Career destinations

Research

Consultancy

Public Sector

NGOs

Private
Sector

UN

World Bank

EU

Government

WHO



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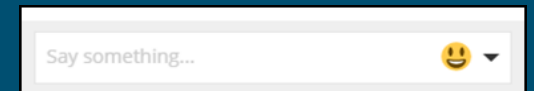
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Questions?

Always use the hand raise icon to queue up your question.



When called upon to ask your question, **type a question** in the “Text Chat Area”



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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



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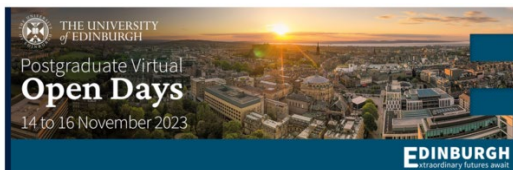
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Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

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 event homepage:

<https://edin.ac/3CymWA3>



It's Day One!

Hi {{contact.full_name.first_name|case:camel}},

It is Day One of our Postgraduate Virtual Open Days! We are looking forward to welcoming you during the day.

Joining the event

To access the event, use your 'ticket' link below. The sessions are listed in chronological order and the times shown are in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). The link to join a session will appear 15 minutes before it starts.

[Virtual Open Days Ticket](#)



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Thank you