Postgraduate Online Learning Open Days 2025

Take one of our free short online courses!

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Online Learning Marketing Team

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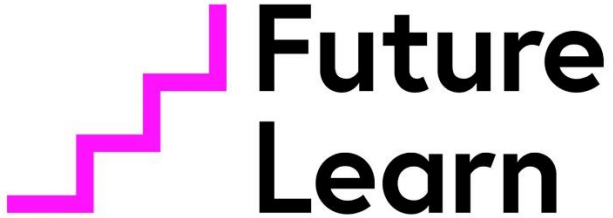
EDINBURGH
Extraordinary futures await

About free short online courses

- Sometimes known as massive open online courses (MOOCs)
- Last 2-6 weeks around 2-3 hours per week
- Flexible, can fit around other commitments
- Community of learners
- Meet experts in their field
- Varied methods with videos, articles, quizzes and discussions
- Interactive learning
- Lifelong learning to stay relevant in career

Course platforms



Why take an online course?

Career

Adapt skills while working.

Evidence existing skills.

Networking.

Hobby

Dive into your interests.

Personal growth and intellectual stimulation.

Engineering and Technology

Advance your skills in innovation, design, and cutting-edge technologies.

Environment and Sustainability

Tackle pressing environmental, sustainability, and climate issues for a better future for all.

Health, Care and Wellbeing

Develop your skills in healthcare and wellness and gain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours to advance your career.

History and Archaeology

Uncover the pivotal moments and historical contexts that shape our world.

Languages

Develop your language and communication skills for travel, work or leisure.

Law

Learn about legal systems and ethical frameworks for justice and governance.

Literature, Writing and Film

Explore storytelling, critical analysis, and cinematic techniques.

Music

Gain a deeper appreciation of music through technical insights and historical contexts.

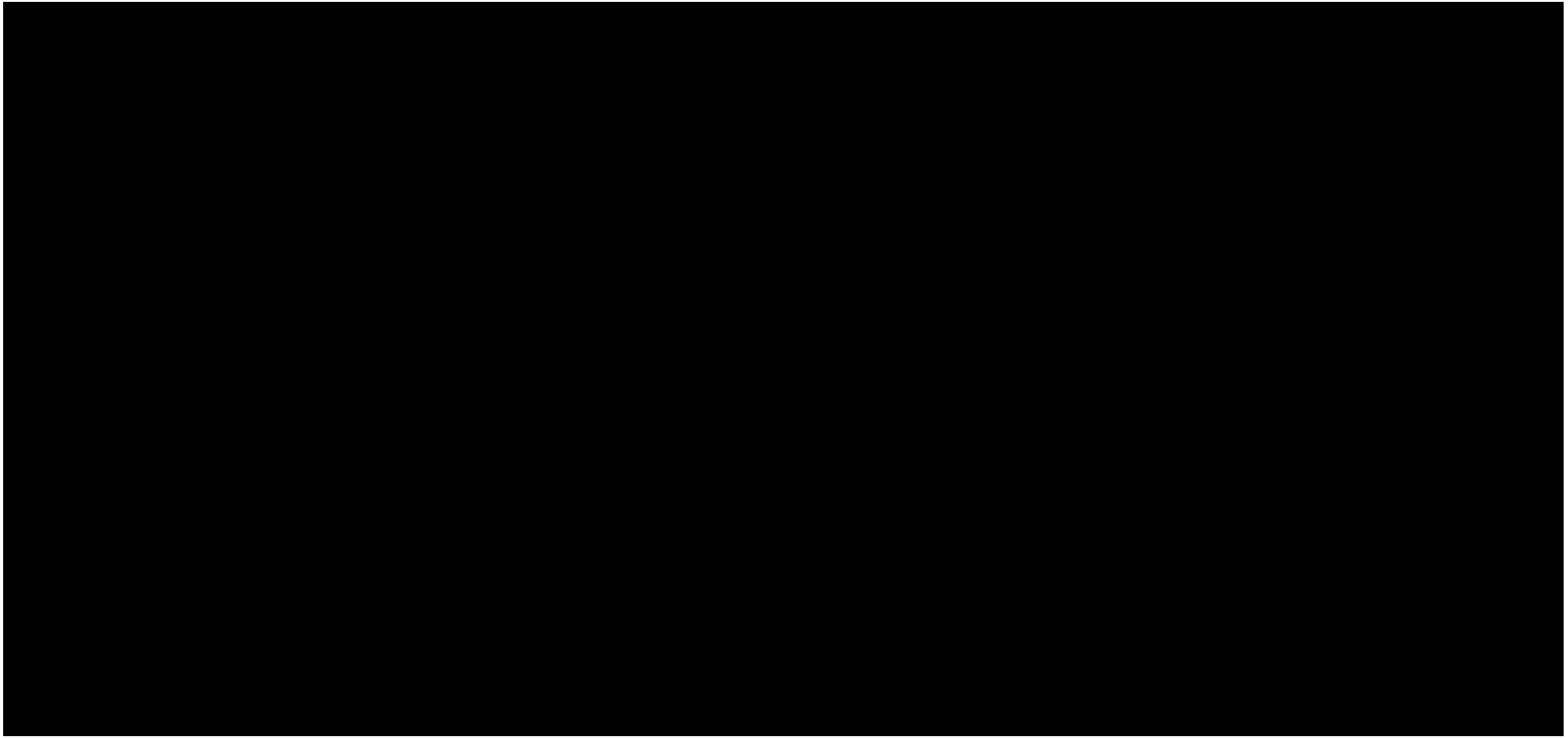
Philosophy and Religion

Explore beliefs and practices through the study of religions and philosophy.

https://shortcourses.ed.ac.uk/

Free v.s. optional upgrades
(edX, Coursera, FutureLearn courses only)

Free	Optional upgrade with certificate
• **All of our courses are available for free** (you need to filter the cost in the "search" to free – more details on next slide) • Usually **time-limited access** to course materials • Usually **no access to assignments**	• **Unlimited access** to course material • **Certificate** provided upon completion • Requires a **small fee** (there may be subscription options on FutureLearn and Coursera)



Case study:
Ludoviko Zirimenya, Masters in Public Health

- Certificate in Decision Making in a Complex and Uncertain World (MOOC)
- Certificate in Learning How to Learn: Powerful Mental Tools to Help You Master Tough Subjects (MOOC)
- Certificate in Clinical Supervision with Confidence (MOOC)
- Certificate in Geriatric Palliative Care (MOOC)

“They were mostly for career advancement and help me in performing work responsibilities.

The major difference compared to online masters was that they were all self-paced, so I set myself timelines on how to complete it.”

Top tips

- Pick a course based on why you want to take it
- Connect with the community of learners to learn from their different perspectives
- Check you meet any prerequisites
- Take all the quizzes / assessments available
- Create a schedule with deadlines and make sure you can meet the time commitments
- If online learning is new to you, explore a few modules of a course

Linguistic accessibility

- Nitrogen: A Global Challenge (see languages in graphic above)
- Code Yourself! - Spanish, Arabic
- Climate Change: Carbon Capture and Storage – Chinese
- Climate Solutions: Mexico (Spanish), Climate Solutions: India (Hindi)

UN Sustainable Development Goals

- Our courses also play an important role in supporting the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide "a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future".
- Every one of these courses demonstrate and celebrate our commitment to providing free, open-access-learning on a global scale.

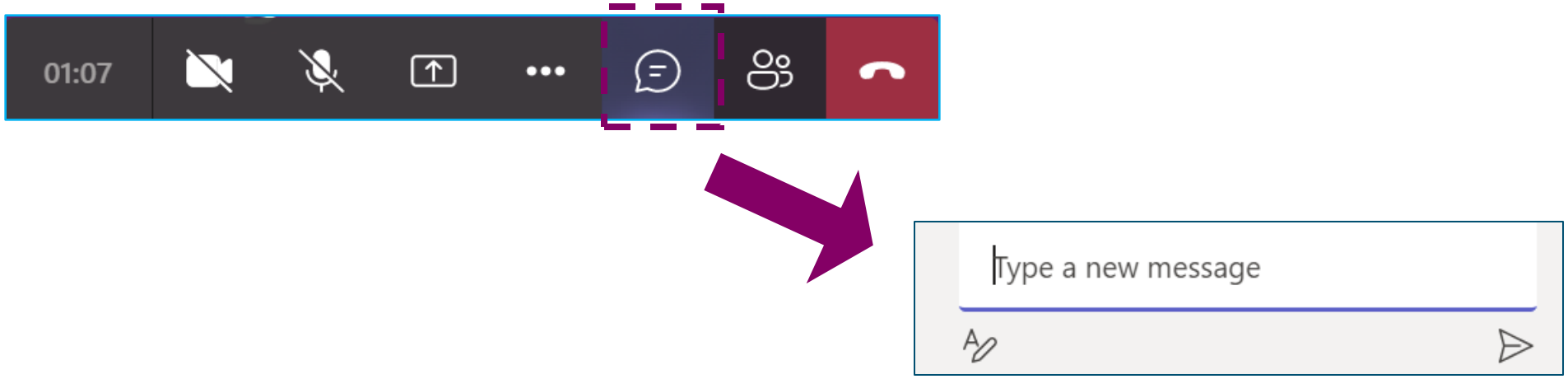
Need some recommendations on what to learn? Check out some of our popular courses:

- Climate Solutions
- Sit Less, Get Active
- Digital Marketing Fundamentals
- Fundamentals of Music Theory
- Code Yourself!

Head to: shortcourses.ed.ac.uk

Asking questions

- Type your question into the Chat Area



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Thank you

online.learning@ed.ac.uk

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