

# Postgraduate Online Learning Open Days 2025

**Future Governance**

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Edinburgh Futures Institute

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# Future Governance

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# Study at Edinburgh Futures Institute

## Interdisciplinary

Bringing arts, humanities and social sciences together with sciences, engineering and medicine to address complex global issues.

## Participatory and porous

Inviting diverse groupings to bring their ways of working and thinking together. EFI extends this invitation to industry, the public and government.

## Critical and research-led

Working on pressing social issues that require new ways of thinking. Mindful of the role of universities in confronting uncomfortable questions.

## Future-facing

Embracing the non-traditional, the untried and the unexpected. EFI defines challenges and co-creates responses to build better futures.



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# Sustainable Futures

- Data, Inequality and Society
- Planetary Health
- Sustainable Lands and Cities
- Future Infrastructure, Sustainability and Climate Change



# Creative Futures

- Service Management and Design
- Creative Industries
- Narrative Futures: Art, Data, Society
- Cultural Heritage Futures



# Just Futures

- Data and AI Ethics
- Education Futures
- Future Governance



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# What's Different About Education at EFI?

- interdisciplinary programmes taught by leading academics from different Schools and disciplines
- equipping you with the critical, data and creative skills needed to navigate a rapidly-changing world
- you can study flexibly, please see degree finder for programme specific information and options
- we will help you apply leading-edge knowledge to live projects you care about
- we are proud of our ecosystem and the opportunities to connect you to our partners in the community, industry and government



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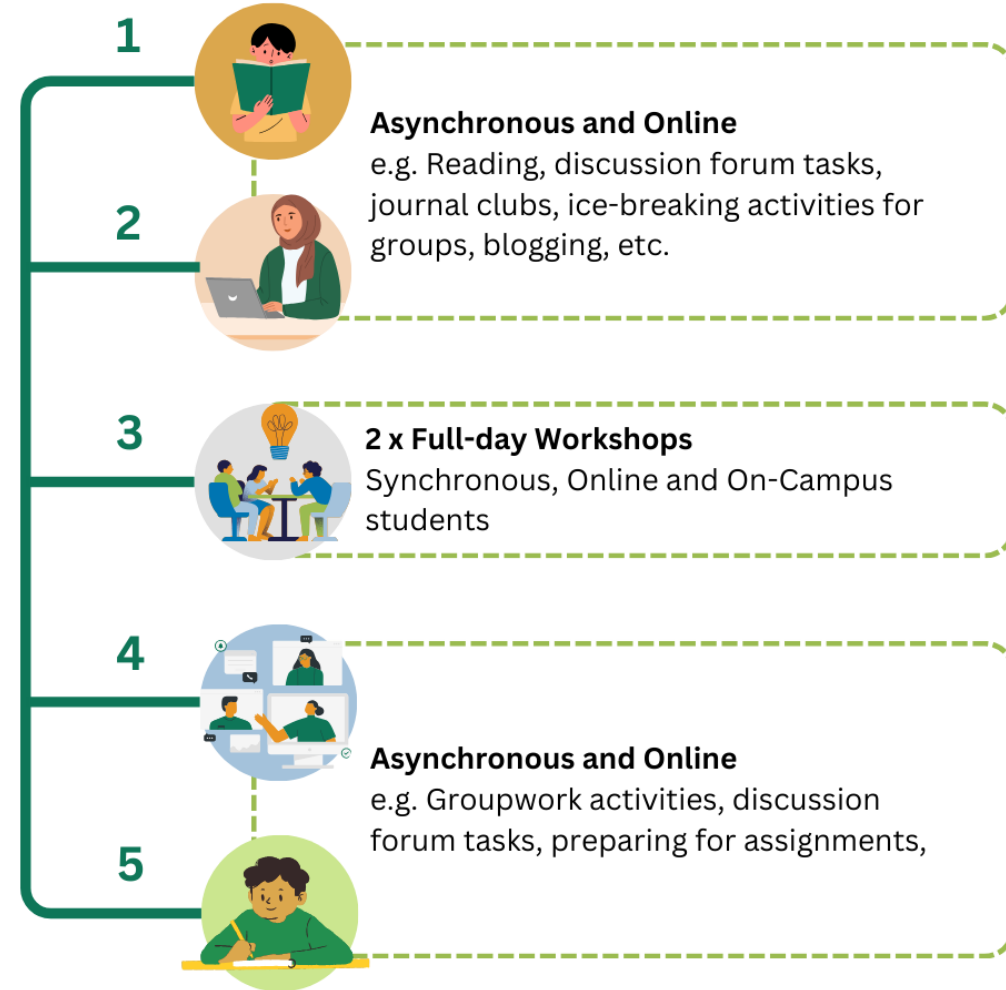
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# Fusion Teaching

- breaking down the online/on-campus distinction
- community-focused: bringing students from across the world together as a single cohort
- accessible: most courses are taught in five week blocks, with online activities and a two day long intensive sessions (09:00-17:00 Edinburgh local time)
- connected: employers work with us on the design and teaching of our programmes and help support projects

## Intensive Course Timeline

Weeks



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# Our MSc Programme Structure

Integration (20 credits)

Project (40 credits)

Shared core (40 credits)

Programme core (20 or 40 credits)

Electives (40 or 60 credits)



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# Our Core Courses

## Futures Methods

Practical skills to apply cutting-edge futures and foresight methods and tools across diverse fields

## Insights Through Data

Data science foundations, analytic and programming skills

or

## Text Remix

Basic programming and creative skills

## Representing Data

Programming and maker skills for data visualization and physicalisation

or

## Building Near Futures

Futures methods and responses shared in a public-facing format

## Ethical Data Futures

The ethical dimensions of contemporary data practices





# Skill Focused

Working in cross-disciplinary teams with students from other Futures Institute programmes, you will learn critical data skills, ethical awareness, creative thinking, and methods to address complex issues:

- collect, manage and analyse computational datasets
- use emerging methodologies for mapping and designing possible futures
- learn the fundamentals of data ethics
- learn how to use creative skills in the analysis and representation of data-informed and qualitative inquiry



# The Student Experience

- global and diverse cohort, on campus and online
- a very well supported experience with a dedicated student experience and support team
- events and networks to connect with each other



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# What is 'Future Governance'?

- Response to shifting world with new and rapidly changing technologies and data sources.
- Transforming the parameters of governance: both in terms of how we are governed, what needs to be governed and who is involved in making these decisions.
- MSc Future Governance participants will gain the skills and knowledge required to evaluate and harness diverse data sources and emerging technologies and to understand, critique and shape the future of governance, policy-making and democracy.
- Interdisciplinary teaching teams (social & political science, computer science, design informatics, business, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, digital humanities) & cross-sectoral partnerships, addressing contemporary governance issues.



# Who Is It For?

- Full time postgraduate students transitioning from undergraduate studies and seeking to develop interdisciplinary knowledge and skills to carve out a niche in the rapidly transforming field of governance.
- Mid-career professionals from the private, public, and third sectors, aiming to lead on governance projects with a strong data aspect, or transition to such careers.
- Future Governance graduates will have a robust understanding of data-driven decision-making in governance processes; they will be ready to institute positive change in the decision-making environment.



# Why?

- The impact of technology and the need for data-literacy for understanding and shaping governance processes is unlikely to abate.
- This unique programme will leave our data-literate graduates well placed to offer the cross disciplinary skills that are in demand from decision-makers and researchers in the public, private and third sectors.
- Exciting EFI vision, community & delivery model: International cohort, fusion teaching, flexible learning journey, intensive delivery model, future-oriented challenge-based approach.



# Programme Core Courses

- **FUTURE GOVERNANCE**

Examines how technology and data is used within governance and public policy, in the policy process, in political communication, and more widely how big data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence are used within government. Engages critically with the interface between governance/public policy and technology, considers how technology is used in the delivery of public services, and addresses the limitations of these approaches.

- **DIGITAL DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS**

Explores how digital tools are transforming democratic engagement by enhancing citizen participation and influence in governance. Examines the rise of data-driven innovations, such as crowdsourced policymaking, participatory budgeting, and citizen assemblies, across various governmental and community platforms. Empowers students to assess global democratic innovations and develop strategies for collaborative governance.



# Electives and Optional Courses

- Data Civics
- Datafication, Accountability and Democracy
- Designing Market Places and Place Markets
- Digital Influence
- Evidence, Argument and Persuasion in a Digital Age
- Neuropolitics of Decision Making
- Text Mining for Social Research





# Questions?

- for further queries contact: **[efi.education@ed.ac.uk](mailto:efi.education@ed.ac.uk)**
- visit the EFI website: **<https://efi.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate-study>**
- search for 'Edinburgh Futures Institute' on our degree finder: **<https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees>**



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Join us to **challenge, create**, and make **change** happen.



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