

Postgraduate Online Learning Open Days 2025

Narrative Futures: Art, Data, Society

Lynda Clark & Jane McKie



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Join us to **Challenge. Create. Change.**

Narrative Futures: Art, Data, Society

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School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures

Why narrative?

Whose narrative?



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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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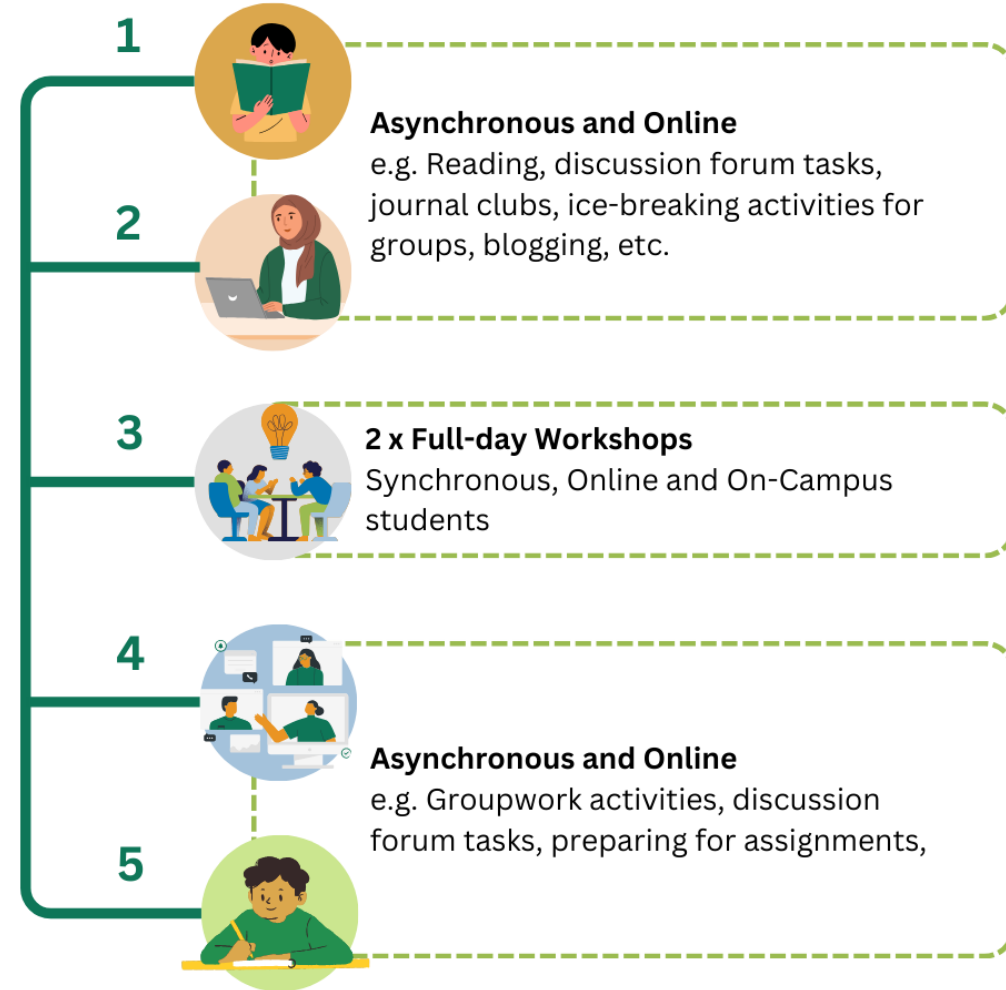
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Fusion teaching

- 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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Synchronous Sessions

Everyone attends
together

(Regardless of timezone)

Might be mixed or
single mode

(E.g. online only, or hybrid - a mix
of online and in-person)

TA is your first point of contact

(In the Narrative Futures cores, this is Jo. She'll
help with trouble shooting, or just getting you
involved.)



Asynchronous Tasks

Work at times to suit you

(You'll have deadlines, but when you complete the work itself is up to you)

Group work can often be asynchronous too

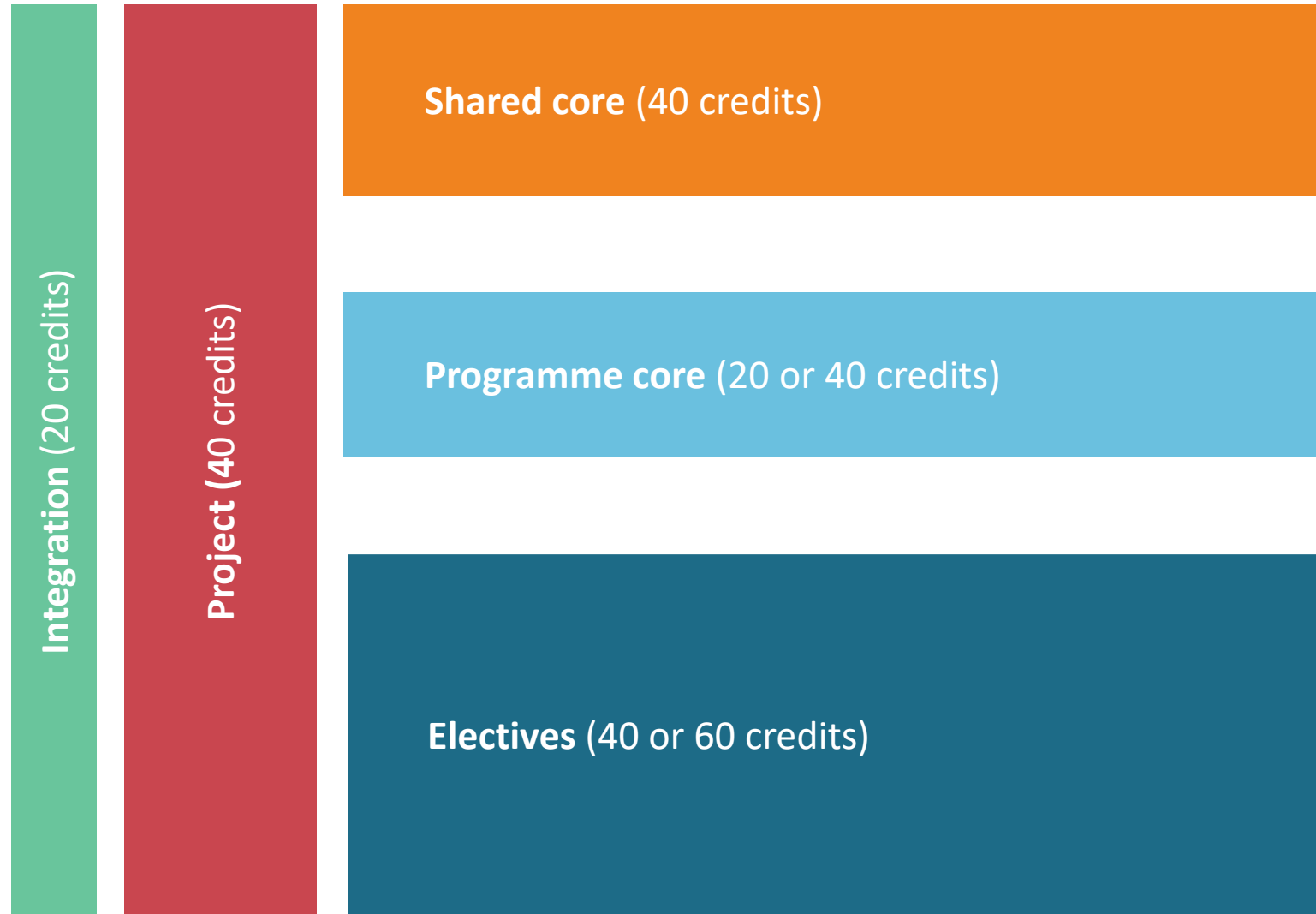
(E.g. share ideas via email, discussion boards, Teams messenger etc)

CO is (usually) your first point of contact

(The Course Organiser is always listed on Learn, although contacting the TA will be fine too)



Our MSc programme structure



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 data literacy, ethical awareness, creative thinking, and methods to address complex issues:

- managing and analysing a variety of 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 You'll Study

- Narrative and the Arts
- Narrative and Society
- Data Literacy
- Creative Practice Skills
- Research and Critical Capacity



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Programme Core Courses

- **The World *of* Story:**
Narrative, Creativity and the Arts
- **The World *as* Story:**
Narrative, Self and Society



Programme Elective Courses

- **Artificial Intelligence and Storytelling**
- **Documentary Narrative in Health: Plan Your Story**
- **Documentary Narrative in Health: Make Your Film**
- **Economic Narratives**
- **Narrative and Computational Text Analysis**
- **Writing Speculative Fiction**

and many others from across the EFI Portfolio



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Other Programmes' Elective Courses with Strong Relevance

- **Aftershock: Trauma and Recovery in an Unequal Society**
- **House on Fire: On Being Human**
- **Narratives of Digital Capitalism**
- **Pitching Your Stories, Services and Products**
- **Future Library and Archive Collections**

and many others from across the EFI Portfolio



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Final Project

Critical or creative; multidisciplinary; multimedia

Possible partners:

Institute of Ecotechnics

National Library of Scotland

Edinburgh International Book Festival (EIBF)



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Questions?

- for further queries contact: **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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