

Postgraduate Online Learning Open Days 2025

MSc Social Justice and Community Action

Dr Claire Bynner, Lecturer in Social Justice
& Community Action
on behalf of Dr Callum McGregor,
Programme Director

Session Time: 12:30-1:30 (BST)



Why study our MSc?

- Part-time (2 routes) and fully online
- Critically engage with foundational ideas and debates around equality, fairness, power, democracy and citizenship
- Designed for :
 - Professionals working on social justice issues in research, policy or grassroots practice in the public, private or non-government sectors across the globe
 - Recent graduates who wish to gain the necessary skills to enter the fields of social justice and community practice
- Global community of students



MSc (2 Part-time Routes)

1. Over 3 years, studying 60 credits each year (final year 60-credit dissertation / action research project)
2. 2-6 years intermittent study - 120 credits over 1-5 years, then 60 credit dissertation

2025/26: £1690 per 20 credit course



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PgDip / PgCert (intermittent)

Pg Diploma

120 credits over 2-4 years. Can then choose 60 credit dissertation / action research course to achieve MSc.

Pg Certificate

60 credits over 1-2 years. Can then enrol on PgDip to study a further 60 credits.



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Programme Structure

3 compulsory courses:

- Theories and Politics of Social Justice (20 credits)
- Community Engagement: co-constructing knowledge with communities (20 credits)
- Activist Social Research (20 credits)

MSc students must study Dissertation (60 credits)



Programme Structure

Options Courses:

- Organisational Management for Social Justice
- Policy Analysis for Social Justice
- Learning for Democracy
- Working with Children and Young People for Social Justice



Examples of ‘outside’ options courses

Our students also have access to a fairly wide range of elective courses from other online postgraduate provision.

Usually, students would select these course options before the start of semester 1 of each academic year.

Your Student Advisor will support you with this process.

Dynamics of African Development
Digital Education in a Global Context
Displacement and Development
Key Skills in Development Practice
Politics and Theories of International Development
Global Development Challenges
Global Health Governance
Health Inequities and Social Determinants of Health



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MSc Social Justice and Community Action programme

Activist Social Research

Working with Children and Young People for Social Justice

Policy Analysis for Social Justice

Learning for Democracy

Community Engagement: co-constructing knowledge with communities

Theories and Politics of Social Justice

Organisational Management for Social Justice

Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- Combines political commitments to addressing social problems with rigorous research about those problems.
- Knowledge and skills to plan, design and execute a programme of activist research for real-world application



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Theories and Politics of Social Justice

Organisational Management for Social Justice

Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- Enables students to critically identify and analyse the core challenges of working for and achieving social justice with ch&yp in majority and minority world contexts
- Introduces students to several social justice approaches already practised across the globe



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Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- Challenges of enacting social justice ideas, principles and practices in policy-making processes
- Offers a range of frameworks and strategies for shaping and influencing the policy process in different contexts



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Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- Changing relations between the state, economy and civil society in the context of globalisation
- Learning for democracy implies an active role for education in resourcing and supporting people and communities to pursue their democratic interests



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Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- Introduces students to theoretical frameworks, models and methods for applying social justice ideas and principles to engagement practices in community-based settings across the globe
- Address the core challenges associated with community engagement which sets out to work alongside communities



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Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- Explores the competing ways social justice is defined, theorised and operationalised in local, national and international contexts
- Debates how social justice translates into the political realm and how activists have confronted or been confounded by the dilemmas of social justice



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Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- What is meant by organisational management for social justice and its purpose
- Investigating the nature of organisational structures and considerations for promoting social justice
- Problematize aspects of organisational leadership for social justice



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Organisational Management for Social Justice

Dissertation / Applied Research Project

- An activist research project that investigates a social justice issue or your choice
- Can be a hypothetical or applied research project in your work / volunteering
- One year duration



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What an academic year looks like (2024-25)

Semester 1 (Sep – Dec)

Theories & Politics of
Social Justice
(20 credits)

Activist Social Research
(20 credits)

Options Course

Policy Analysis for
Social Justice
(20 credits)

Semester 2 (Jan – April)

Community
Engagement: co-
constructing knowledge
with communities
(20 credits)

Options Course

Working with
Children and Young
People for Social
Justice (20 credits)

Dissertation



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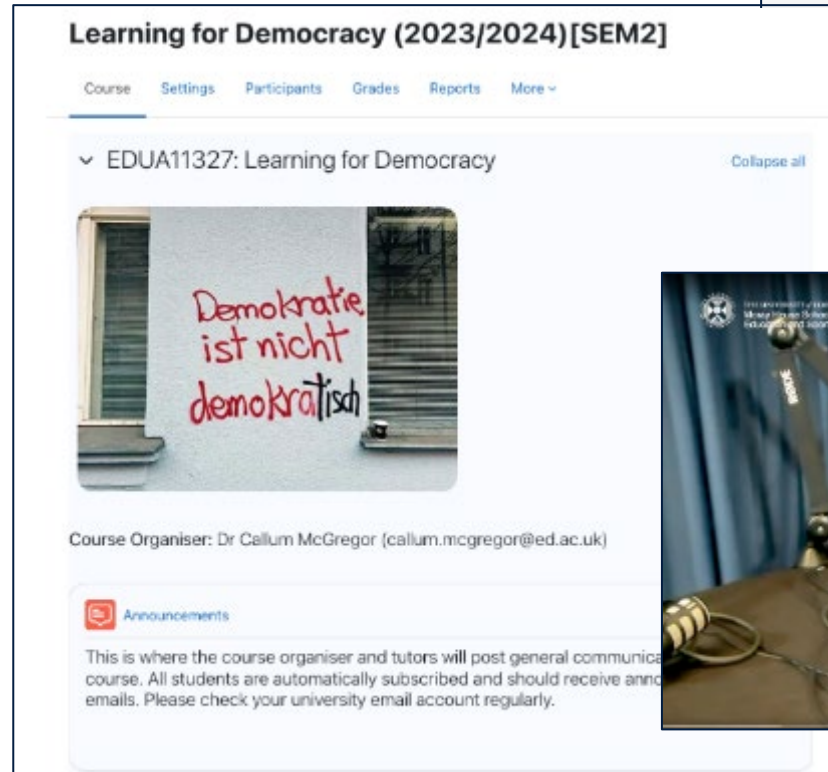
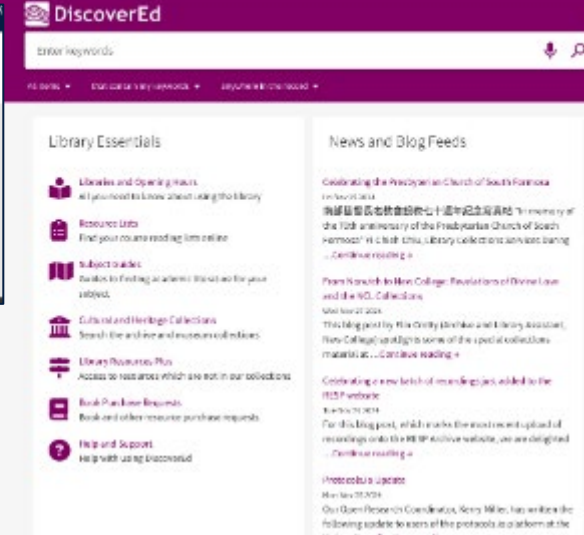
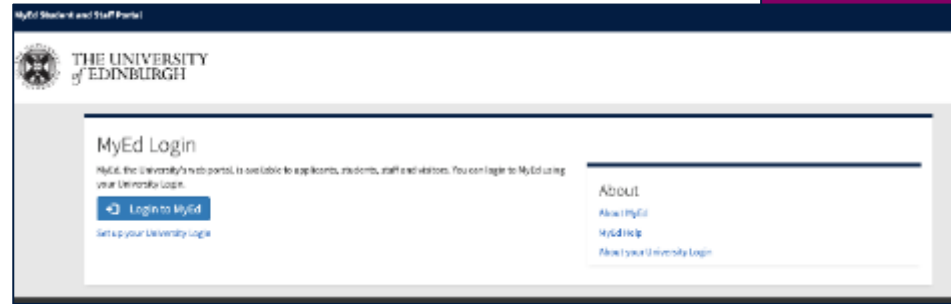
Students' Study Patterns

- We recommend that students take no more than 1-2 courses (20-40 credits) per semester over 2 to 6 years
- For each 20-credit course, you can expect 24 hours of lecturer contact time.
- Each course requires a time commitment from you of approximately **15-17** hours a week. This commitment is likely to increase around the time of assignment completion.
- We make use of synchronous and asynchronous spaces, meaning that you can study around your own commitments.



Learning styles

- Weekly taught inputs (lecture, podcasts)
- Weekly discussion forums
- Blogging
- Optional synchronous sessions (eg. on Zoom)
- Digital group work
- Independent reading and scholarship



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Independent Study

- Involves essential and recommended reading, structured reflection and preparation for the assessment (formative and summative)
- Wider reading and engagement with other sources of media
- Taking control of your own learning and having confidence in the decisions you make
- All this will enable you to design and execute richer assessments



Student Support (Examples of Support & Guidance)

Academic and Peer Support

- Course organisers & tutors
- Academic Cohort Lead
- Dissertation supervision

Pastoral Support

- Student Advisor (SESO)
- Extensions and Exceptional Circumstances / Student Disability Service
- EUSA - Advice place
- Student Counselling

Study & learning skills

- Library
- Institute for Academic Development
- Academic Cohort Activities





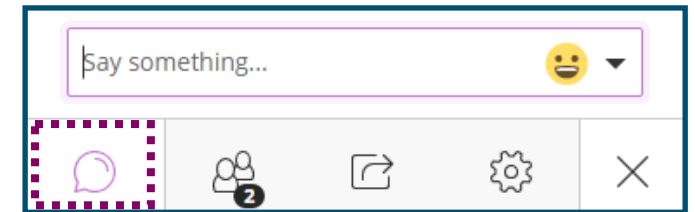
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Thank you

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Dr Callum McGregor, Programme Director
Callum.mcgregor@ed.ac.uk

Asking questions (Collaborate)

- Please hold all questions until the end of the formal presentation
- Always use the ‘hand raise icon’ to queue up your question
- When called upon to ask your question, type it into the “Text chat area”
- Once your question is answered, please lower your hand



Contact details for follow-up questions

If you have any questions in the future, please email:

futurestudents@ed.ac.uk



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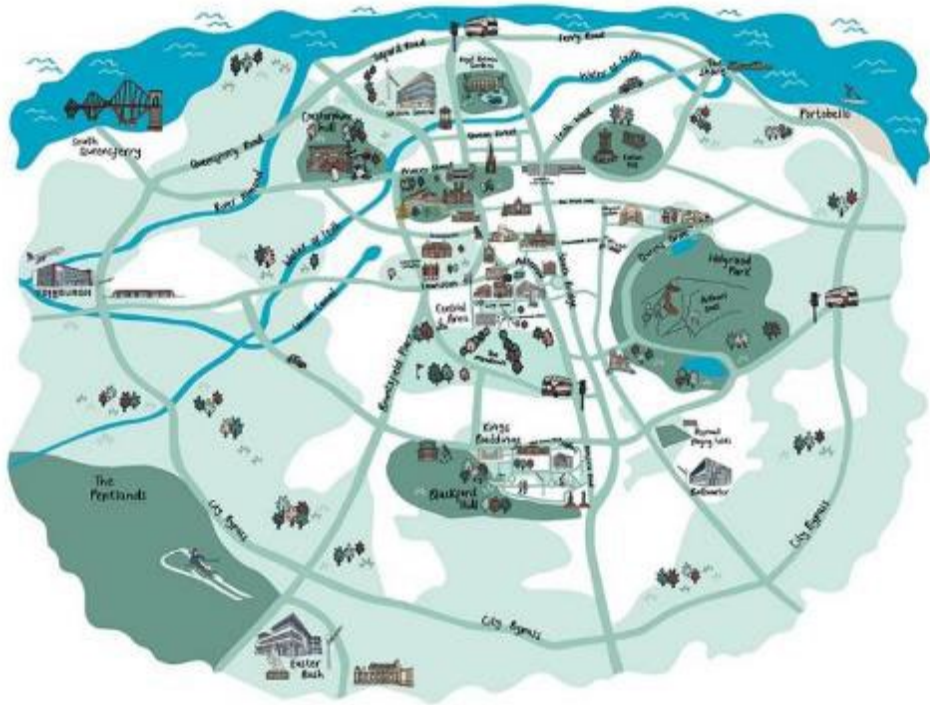
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Next steps...

<https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg>



<https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>



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