

Add Quantitative Methods  
to your degree at Edinburgh

**Study Quantitative  
Methods** at one  
of the world's  
leading universities.  
Develop the **data  
analysis** skills  
employers need

**International Relations** with Quantitative Methods

**Politics** with Quantitative Methods

**Government, Policy and Society** with Quantitative Methods

**Social Policy** with Quantitative Methods

**Sociology** with Quantitative Methods



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
School of Social and  
Political Science

## Teaching during Covid-19 (March 2021)

This brochure is based on a traditional campus-based teaching model, however our actual teaching model for 2021-2022 will depend on Covid-19 restrictions at that time. We will provide you with regular updates on what to expect throughout the application process.

For up-to-date information, visit [edin.ac/covid19](https://edin.ac/covid19)

# Welcome to the School of Social and Political Science

The School of Social and Political Science is one of the leading schools of social science in the UK and we pride ourselves on our innovative teaching, lively community of staff and students, and pursuit of academic excellence.

Our research is world class and it informs and shapes our teaching. As one of our students, you will enjoy a challenging, rich and rewarding learning environment, as well as the opportunity to engage in the most current debates from the start of your studies.

The School of Social and Political Science brings together specialists in a wide range of disciplines and is also home to a large number of research centres and institutes.

Our school is a big, vibrant and intellectually exciting place to study, which will provide you with an education enriched with insights from across the social and political sciences and beyond.

# Why Edinburgh?

## **World-class reputation**

The University of Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities. We are consistently ranked amongst the 50 best universities in the world, which allows us to attract some of the world's brightest academics and students. This means that you will learn from and amongst the best and you'll experience the very best in teaching and research.

## **Invest in your future**

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you'll be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We help students to develop a broad range of skills, grow in confidence and learn more about themselves.

As a result, employers regard Edinburgh as an excellent training ground for high-flyers and value our graduates for their intellectual ability and the attributes they're able to develop while studying with us.

## **A supportive environment**

You will be allocated a Student Support Officer and Personal Tutor to guide you through university life. There are also a number of student peer-learning opportunities in place to ensure you always feel supported.

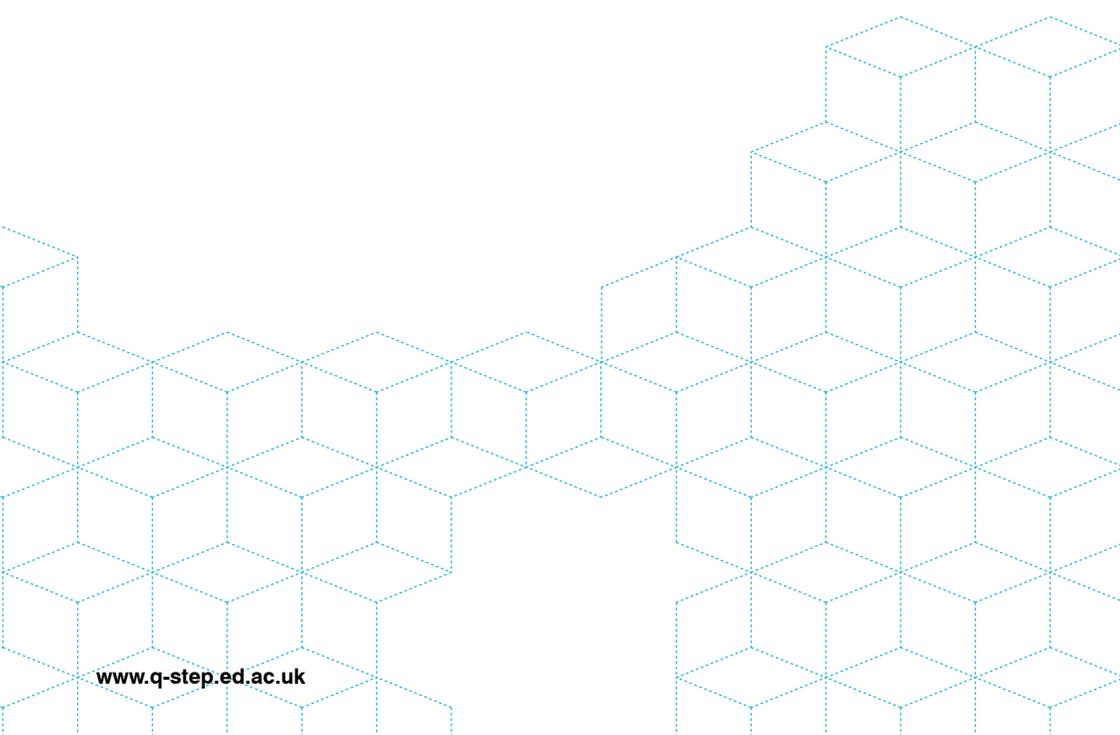
# What is Q-Step?

Q-Step is a £19.5 million programme designed to promote a step-change in quantitative social science training. Q-Step was developed as a strategic response to the shortage of quantitatively-skilled social science graduates. It is funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The University of Edinburgh is one of only 15 universities in the UK chosen by Q-Step to develop new forms of quantitative skills training. We are leading the way with a comprehensive range of degree programmes, courses and sessions.

[www.nuffieldfoundation.org/q-step](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/q-step)

[www.q-step.ed.ac.uk](http://www.q-step.ed.ac.uk)



# What are quantitative methods and why do they matter?

Generating and analysing data requires you to be numerate and statistically savvy. Quantitative Methods (QM) can include anything from the ability to design surveys or experiments to using quantitative evidence from surveys, digital media, archives and open data.

QM underpin effective evidenced-based planning and procedure in the public, private and other sectors. There is currently a QM skills deficit in the UK, with many employers reporting widespread QM weakness amongst their employees.

It has been estimated that by 2018 there will be a shortage of 15k-20k data scientists and up to 1.5m data savvy managers and professionals in the US alone (McKinsey).

# Why study with us?

## Develop the skills employers need

Developing quantitative skills alongside knowledge of your subject will prepare you for a variety of exciting and well remunerated careers. There is currently a shortage of data scientists and so graduates with broad numerical skills are highly prized by employers.

## Gain valuable work experience

You will have the chance to practise your skills in internships with one of a range of host institutions including the Scottish Government, Audit Scotland and third sector employers.

## Study at a world top 20 university

Edinburgh is one of only 15 UK Universities selected to host Q-Step Centres. By taking this programme you will ensure your CV stands out. The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked in the top 20 in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020).

## A supportive environment

You will benefit from small class sizes and the ability to develop your skills in close proximity to experts. There is also plenty of help at hand to guide those less confident with maths.

# What will you learn?

Studying our programmes will provide you with a deep knowledge of your subject and advanced skills in statistics and data analysis.

One quarter of your study time will be devoted to quantitative methods courses, teaching you how to use and interpret data to answer questions in your area of study

## MA International Relations with Quantitative Methods

You will look at the origins and evolution of the state system and the changing nature of state power. You will learn about the driving forces behind international cooperation and conflict and you will explore security and prosperity in the international system.

## MA Social Policy with Quantitative Methods

You will study society and how this changes through political debate and policy making. Social policy influences many aspects of our lives, from education, crime, health, housing and employment to family support and child protection.

## MA Politics with Quantitative Methods

You will explore the origins and present day contexts of domestic and international conflicts about power and resources. You will also study the morality of political action, the limits of freedom and justice, and the processes of governance at various levels.

## MA Sociology with Quantitative Methods

You will study the relationships between individuals and groups, issues of identity and the social causes of cooperation, conflicts and the way societies and social institutions are formed and change over time.

## MA in Government Policy and Society with Quantitative Methods

You will look at the ways in which public policies, social institutions and market forces affect how contemporary societies operate and are affected by debates about social justice. Social policy is relevant to many areas of everyday life, including housing, employment, income, health and education.

# Quantitative Methods careers

Our programmes have been developed to address skill shortages in the labour market:

**Social statisticians, Investigative journalists, Government economists, Government statisticians and researchers, Evidence-based policy makers, Political aides and opinion pollsters, Trade union representatives, Health informatics analysts, CEO and industry officials, PR and market analysts, Host institutions**

The internship is an important part of the programme which provides the opportunity to apply the skill you have learnt in the real world. Some of the organisations our students have completed internships with are listed below:

**Audit Scotland, Fathers Network Scotland, Ipsos MORI, JHPIEGO Kenya, MoveOn, National Museum of Scotland, National Records of Scotland, Penumbra, ScotCen - National Centre for Social Research, Scottish Government, The Advance Group New York**

# Full details of the entry requirements for Quantitative Methods programmes can be found at:

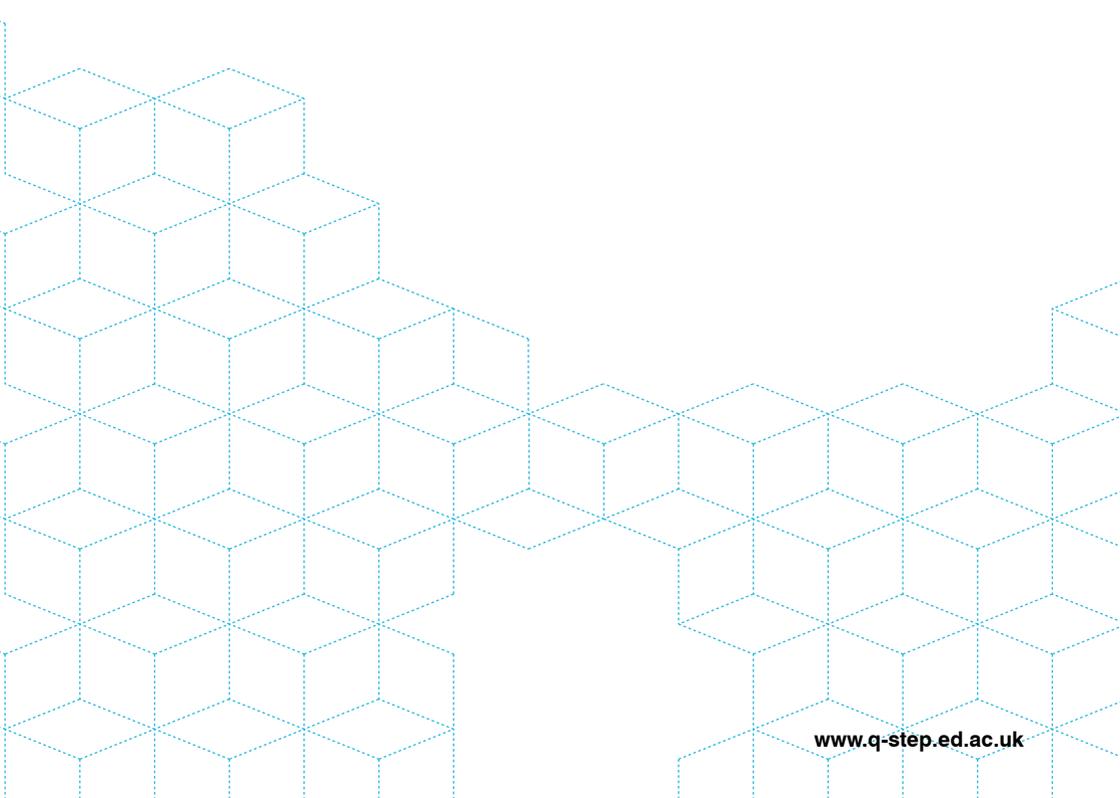
**Government Policy and Society  
with QM**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/ug/L231](http://www.ed.ac.uk/ug/L231)

**Politics with QM**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/ug/8M9D](http://www.ed.ac.uk/ug/8M9D)

**International Relations with QM**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/ug/2W3A](http://www.ed.ac.uk/ug/2W3A)

**Social Policy with QM**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/ug/4T6H](http://www.ed.ac.uk/ug/4T6H)

**Sociology with QM**  
[www.ed.ac.uk/ug/5S9K](http://www.ed.ac.uk/ug/5S9K)



# Getting ready for Edinburgh

## **If you'd like to get ahead with some background reading, we recommend the following:**

Dilnot, A. and Blastland, M. (2008), *The Tiger That Isn't: Seeing Through a World of Numbers*. Profile Books.

de Vries, R. (2018), *Critical Statistics: seeing beyond the headlines*. Red Globe Press.

Marsh, C. and Elliott, J. (2008), *Exploring Data: An Introduction to Data Analysis for Social Scientists*. Polity Press.

Huff, D. (1991), *How to Lie with Statistics*, Penguin Books.

Macinnes, J. (2016), *An Introduction to Secondary Data Analysis with IBM SPSS Statistics*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

Holdworth et al. (2013), *Population and Society*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

## Contact Us

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**Q - Step**

**A step-change in  
quantitative social  
science skills**

Funded by the  
Nuffield Foundation,  
ESRC and HEFCE

For further information on entry requirements visit: [edin.ac/entry](http://edin.ac/entry)

Read more about our programmes at: [edin.ac/ourdegrees](http://edin.ac/ourdegrees)

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this booklet at the time of going to press. However, it will not form part of a contract between the University and a student or applicant and must be read in conjunction with the individual degree specifications, which can be found at [www.drps.ed.ac.uk](http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk).

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