

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

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 vibrant and intellectually stimulating 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 brightest academics and students. This means that you will learn from and amongst the very best in teaching and research.

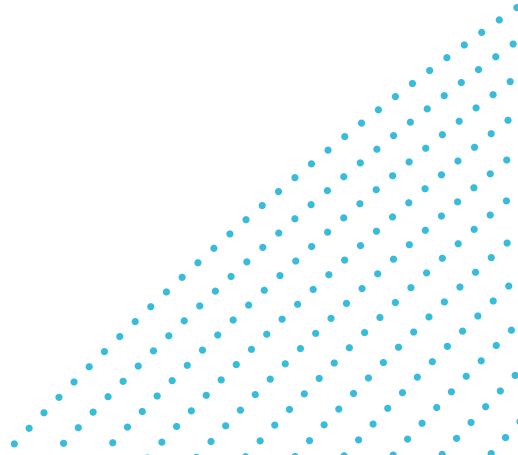
Invest in your future

Choose to study at Edinburgh and you'll be investing in an education that will help you build a successful future. We support students to develop a broad range of skills, and aim to empower them with the confidence to deploy them.

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

Student support is embedded within the School: you will have a named Student Advisor and an academic cohort lead 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 was 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 was originally funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The Q-Step Centre is now an established part of the University of Edinburgh.

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

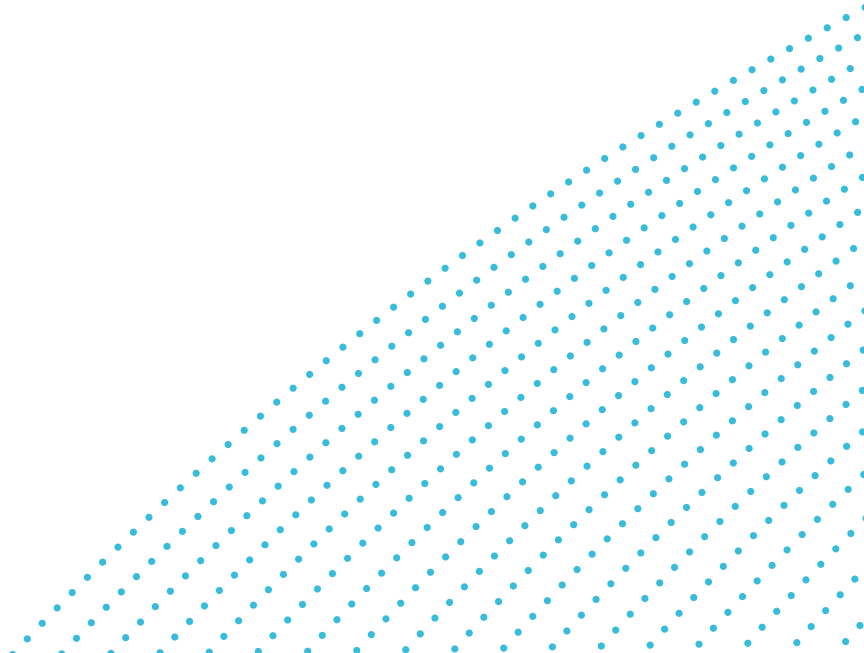


What are quantitative methods and why do they matter?

Data is everywhere. Almost any field that you can think of involves data and data analysis. From health to politics or cyber security, data analysts are employed to organise, interpret and find new meaning with data.

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 evidence-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.



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 so graduates with broad numerical skills are highly prized by employers.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS

An independent review of the Q-Step programme identified graduates employed as consultants and analysts, in sales, business and marketing, Civil Service, policy advisers and financial services along with social research.

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 25 in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023).

A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

You will benefit from small class sizes and the opportunity 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

On this programme, one quarter of your study time will be devoted to quantitative methods, and systematically developing your skills in politics and statistics. You will learn how to research political issues by using data in a practical setting.

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.

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 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 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.

Quantitative Methods careers

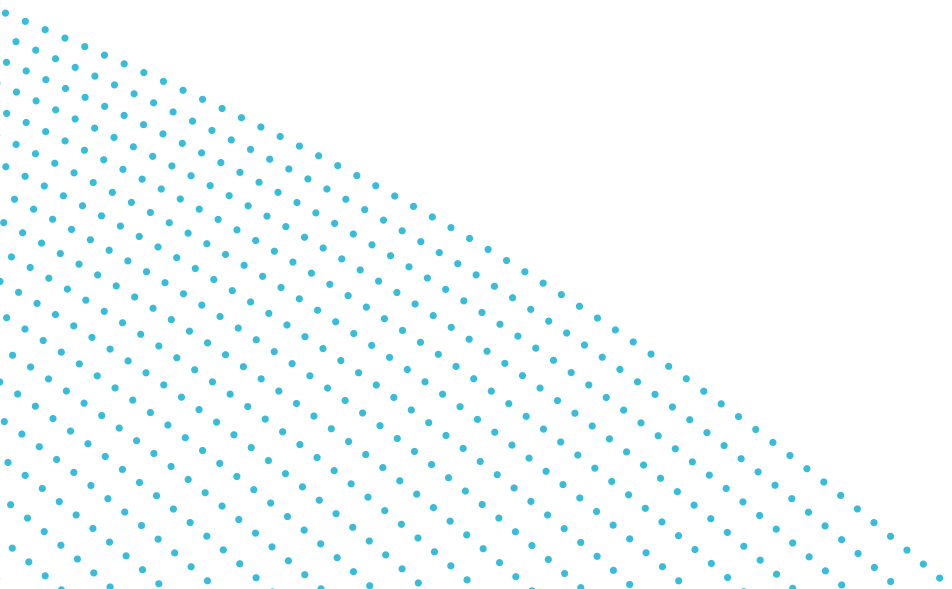
Our programmes have been developed to address skill shortages in the labour market:

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

An independent review of Q-Step showed that a proportion of Q-Step graduates had gone on to found businesses, with others working as:

- Investment associates and financial analysts
- Research officers
- Policy advisors
- Data scientists
- Insight analysts
- Communications managers and executives
- Teachers and trainers
- Business development managers

There are a range of specialisms evident, such as music producer, legal solutions specialist and events management.



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

Politics with QM

www.ed.ac.uk/ug/8M9D

International Relations with QM

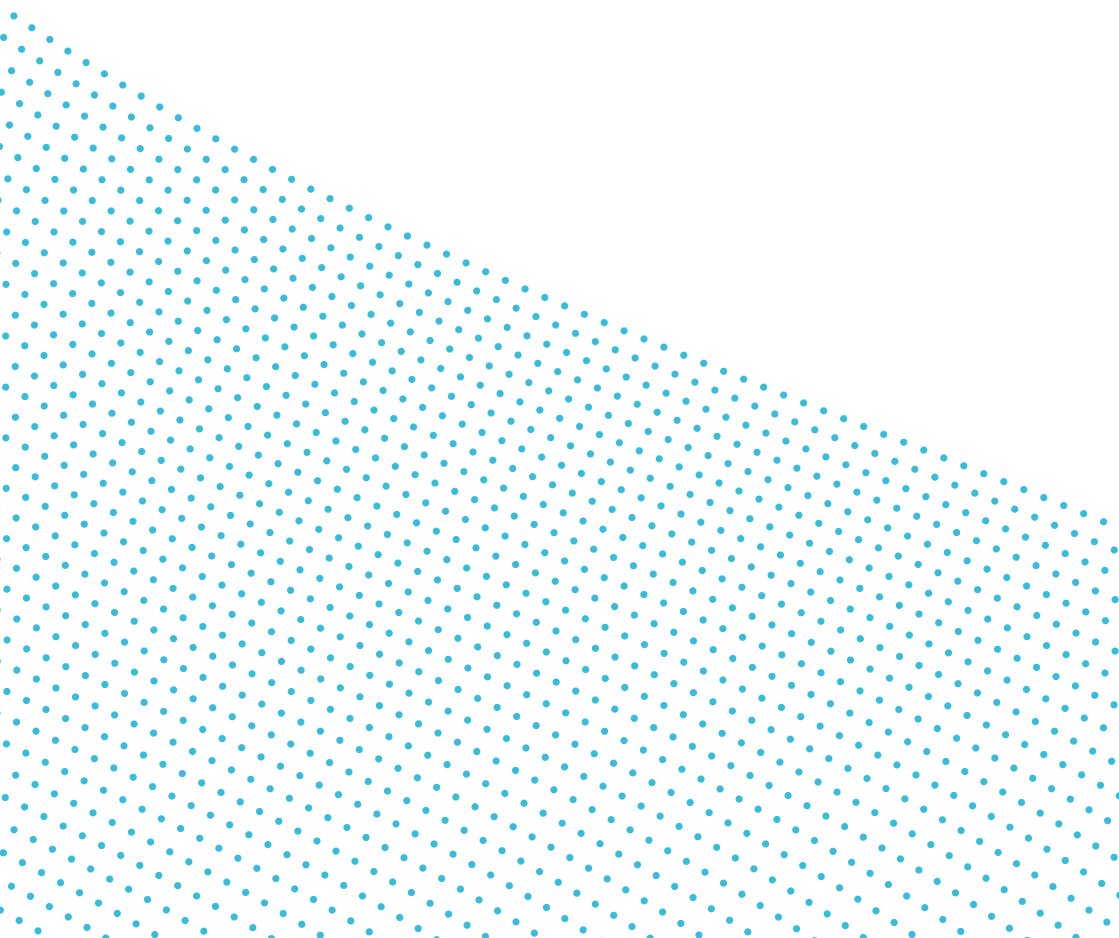
www.ed.ac.uk/ug/2W3A

Social Policy with QM

www.ed.ac.uk/ug/4T6H

Sociology with QM

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 books.

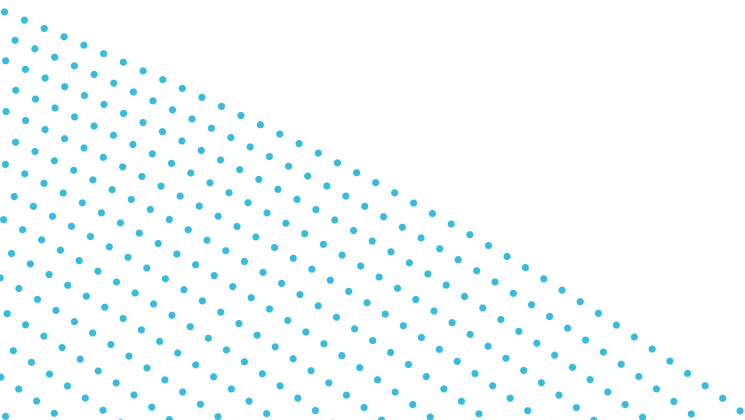
Chivers, T. (2024). *Everything is Predictable: How Bayesian Statistics Explain Our World*. Simon and Schuster.

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

Goldin, C. (2021). *Career and family: Women's century-long journey toward equity*. Princeton University Press.

Spiegelhalter, D. (2019). *The art of statistics: Learning from data*. Penguin UK.

Criado Perez, C. (2019). *Invisible women: Exposing data bias in a world designed for men*. Abrams Press.



Contact Us

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**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

Read more about our programmes at: edin.ac/ourdegrees

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QSTEP