

ELLIOT NAPIER

he / him

ESRC-funded PhD student researching queer migration in Central Asia, award-winning tutor, and Erasmus Mundus alumnus with diverse career experience in public service and governance.

EDUCATION

University of Glasgow Sep 2022 – ongoing

PhD in Central and East European Studies: 'Becoming a queer migrant in Kazakhstan'

I work with aspiring queer migrants in Kazakhstan across the LGBTQ+ spectrum to explore how and when they make decisions about moving between countries and how those decisions change over time. My [project](#) is fully funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

University of Glasgow, University of Tartu, KIMEP University Sep 2019 – Jun 2022

Erasmus Mundus triple master degree in Central and East European, Russian and Eurasian Studies

I was awarded a scholarship from the European Commission to study on this prestigious programme, graduating with: *International Master (IntM)*, with distinction, University of Glasgow, Scotland; *Master of Arts (MA)*, University of Tartu, Estonia; *Master of International Relations (MIR)*, *summa cum laude*, KIMEP University, Kazakhstan. My thesis on queer migration in Kazakhstan is available online [here](#).

University of Glasgow

Sep 2014 – Jun 2019

MA(Hons) in Central and East European Studies and Russian Language

First class honours degree with distinction in spoken Russian.

- Dissertation topic: Lived experience of queer men in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

EMPLOYMENT

University of Glasgow

14/09/2025 – present

Graduate Teaching Assistant (part-time)

I won the award for best GTA at the Glasgow University Students' Representative Council's Student Teaching Awards, having been nominated by my students and selected from among over 1000 such nominations by a panel of expert judges. I teach on Central and East European Studies level 2 courses and on honours-level Qualitative Research Methods. Duties include planning and leading tutorials and workshops, grading exams and essays, and providing a point of contact for students on matters academic and pastoral.

Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences

22/01/2024 – 21/01/2026

Associate Officer for Student Engagement (part-time)

Inaugurating this new role, I worked within the governance structures of Scotland's main funding body for postgraduate study in the social sciences, ensuring the student voice was included at every level of decision-making. I supported initiatives like student-led training and conferences, gathered student experience and welfare issues and liaised with the ESRC to address problems.

University of Glasgow

10/10/2022 – 10/10/2023

Widening Participation Postgraduate Tutor: Top-Up (part-time)

I taught specially designed study skills courses to young people living in Scotland's most deprived areas, young carers, refugees, asylum seekers, and care-experienced students. Top-Up is equivalent to a first-year university course and successful completion leads to adjusted entry requirements to universities across the UK. Content covered critical thinking, research, referencing, academic writing. I taught energy policy, Scottish culture, and the ethics of science.

UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office

04/02/2021 – 12/08/2021

Education and Communications departments

I provided research, logistical and administrative support to the Education Sector's activities and events promoting inclusive education. I assisted in compiling and preparing briefings, reports, concept notes and conference papers, as well as drafting major publications, providing research, translation and proofing support. I prepared publication and news media output, wrote articles and press releases and administered the office's official Twitter account.

The Scottish Parliament – Office of Bob Doris MSP**04/02/2020 – 05/01/2021****Constituency Caseworker****08/04/2019 – 11/07/2019**

I carried out policy-related research and drafted official communications and documents from Mr Doris to public bodies, government ministers and departments. I had responsibility for progressing requests for support or intervention from constituents and organisations, and also provided general administrative support.

John Smith Centre for Public Service**21/01/2019 – 07/04/2019****Parliamentary Intern**

I undertook a paid, 10-week, non-party political internship working in the constituency office of Bob Doris, Member of the Scottish Parliament for Maryhill and Springburn. I supported Mr Doris and his office staff with constituency issues, casework and press enquiries as well as policy research and responses to policy queries. The John Smith Centre parliamentary internship is designed to give insight into politics and public service to outstanding students who lack the family connections or financial means usually required for such experience.

University of Glasgow Court**11/10/2017 – 16/10/2019****Member of Court (University Governor)**

I was a full member of University Court, the University's highest governing body. I was twice elected to this position to scrutinise strategic decision-making on finance, policy, public relations, internationalisation and welfare during a period of rapid expansion and £1bn+ capital investment.

PUBLICATIONS

Academic

Napier, E. (2024) "'As long as you're not an asshole": insider-outsider dynamics in queer research', Central Asian Survey, 43(2), doi: [10.1080/02634937.2024.2337652](https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2024.2337652).

Napier, E. (2024) 'Collection: Queer Research in Europe-Asia Studies, 1954–2024', virtual special collection, Europe-Asia Studies. [Available online](#).

Napier, E. (2025) "'As long as you're not an asshole": insider-outsider dynamics in queer research', republished as a book chapter in J. Dall'Agnola and C. Wilkinson (eds) LGBTQ+ Visibilities in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Routledge, doi: [10.4324/9781003567400-11](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003567400-11).

Other

Napier, E. (2025) 'Global Design: A geek's guide to transport museums that reveal each city's invisible design and story', The Straits Times. [Available online](#).

Napier, E. (2021) 'How to become a better teacher during the pandemic', UNESCO Almaty. Archived in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

Napier, E. (2021) 'Improving online learning with UNESCO', UNESCO Almaty. Archived in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

Napier, E. (2021) 'Bright Future for Sustainable Education in Kyrgyzstan', UNESCO Almaty. Archived in [English](#) and [Russian](#).

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Best Graduate Teaching Assistant – Student Teaching Awards**2026****Glasgow University Students' Representative Council**

Selected from over 1000 nominees, in recognition of innovative and enthusiastic teaching.

WISLI Scholarship and CESSI Tuition Remission**2023****Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Two scholarships, amounting to full funding, to intensively study beginners' Kazakh.

MacFie Bequest in Sociology and Anthropology**2016****University of Glasgow**

Awarded for highest mark in Sociology.