



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

2020 entry
**International
Undergraduate Guide**



WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

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There are many reasons to choose the University of Edinburgh for your undergraduate experience: the quality of our academics, our stunning location and our international campus combine to make our offering truly special.

Founded in 1583, the University of Edinburgh is one of the UK's oldest and most prestigious universities. Over the last four centuries, we have built an enviable reputation for excellence in both research and teaching, attracting some of the world's leading thinkers to work and study here.

The University is located at the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital and one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. We have been welcoming international students for many years.

In this guide you'll find the information you need to decide if the University of Edinburgh is the right choice for you. If you have questions, you can contact us:

global.enquiries@ed.ac.uk

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international

TOP 50

We're consistently ranked as one of the best 50 universities in the world. We're 18th in the 2019 QS World University Rankings.

4TH

We're ranked fourth in the UK for research power, based on the 2014 Research Excellence Framework.*

20TH

We're ranked 20th in the world's most international universities.[§]

41,000 STUDENTS

More than 41,000 students, with over 25,000 undergraduate students.

167 NATIONALITIES

More than 18,000 international students from 167 countries.

Access to **290** student societies, **5** galleries and museums, **30** libraries.

Top sporting university in Scotland, **top 5 in UK[†]**, with world-class facilities.

Choose Edinburgh

The City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultured city that offers a unique living and learning experience. One of the most vibrant cities in Europe, Edinburgh is regularly voted as one of the most desirable places to live in the world.

Edinburgh also regularly receives high satisfaction ratings for safety and security in the International Student Barometer survey. This cosmopolitan, safe and welcoming atmosphere encourages international students to feel at home quickly.

Location

The University is located at the very heart of the city's identity, and our students are an integral part of everything that is going on. Described as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe by independent guides, Edinburgh is the second most popular tourist destination in the UK after London.

Well known for its friendly people, its safe, green environment and its stunning architecture, Edinburgh is a compact city, which makes it easy to get around. Wherever you are in the city, you are seldom far from open

countryside and our central location and excellent transport links make it easy to travel to other parts of Scotland.

Also known as the 'Athens of the North', the city is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and has a unique blend of history, natural beauty and modern city life.

Culture

Edinburgh is rich in social, cultural, learning and sports facilities. Scotland's capital is home to the Scottish Government and many of the country's national institutions and collections such as museums, art galleries and theatres. The city hosts 12 annual festivals each year including the world's largest arts festival in August and one of the world's largest winter festivals. In 2004 Edinburgh was named the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, in recognition of the city's rich literary heritage. Professor Alexander McCall Smith, best-selling author of the 'No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency' novels is Emeritus Professor in the School of Law. A stone's throw from campus and popular haunt of the University's students, the Elephant House café is the place where J K Rowling worked on her 'Harry Potter' novels.

Photos of Edinburgh by international students

Each year we invite international students to send us their favourite photos of Edinburgh: www.ed.ac.uk/photo-competition



“Edinburgh is the perfect mix of city and campus life, exactly what I was looking for coming from Montreal, Canada. It is unique because you find yourself immersed in the city's culture and way of life, while never being too distant from campus and the social life that comes with it.”

Javier Planas, from Canada

Find out more about the city of Edinburgh:

www.ed.ac.uk/about/city



The University of Edinburgh

Founded in 1583 and one of the UK's six 'ancient' universities, the University of Edinburgh is a top ranking international centre of excellence in research and teaching, and attracts the best students from around the world. With superb resources and facilities for students across a wide range of academic disciplines, the University is committed to providing an outstanding educational experience whilst supporting sustainable trade and the environment.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the largest universities in the UK with more than 41,000 students and comprises three Colleges which are composed of twenty-one Schools.

Reputation and student body

The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked amongst the best universities in the UK in national league tables, which represents our high standards in teaching, research, facilities and the great graduate prospects we offer. The University is a popular and competitive study destination, with an average of 10 applications for each place on our undergraduate programmes.

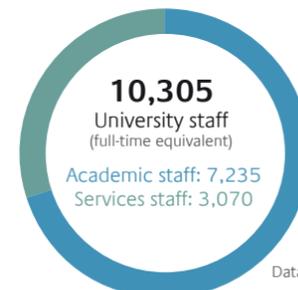
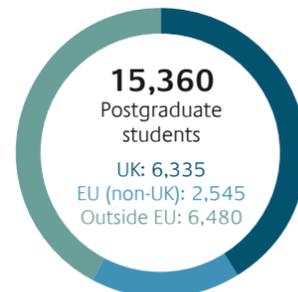
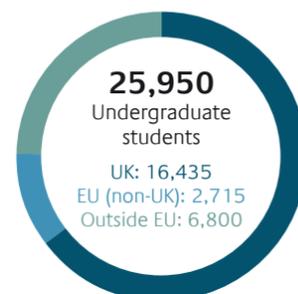
The University of Edinburgh has one of the most diverse international student populations of any Scottish university with more than 167 different nationalities contributing to our cosmopolitan and multi-cultural learning environment.

There are more than 25,000 students pursuing undergraduate degrees at the University of Edinburgh and around a third come from outside of the UK.

Employability

In the last academic year more than 2,600 employers sought to recruit our undergraduate students, and the University ranks 6th in the UK and in the top 100 in the world for the employability of its graduates (Times Higher Education Global Employability University Ranking 2018).

Our community



Data rounded.

Famous alumni

Including the philosopher David Hume, Charles Darwin, John Witherspoon, Joseph Lister, Robert Louis Stevenson and, more recently, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former MI5 director Stella Rimington, NASA Astronaut Piers Sellers, Olympic cyclist Chris Hoy and the writers Ian Rankin, Alexander McCall Smith and J K Rowling.

Nobel Prize winners

We are associated with 24 Nobel Prize winners, including Charles Barkla (Physics, 1917), Max Born (Physics, 1954), Peter Doherty (Medicine, 1996), James Mirrlees (Economics, 1996), Peter Higgs (Physics, 2013), Fraser Stoddart (Chemistry, 2016), and most recently, Daniel Högsta (Peace, 2017).

In 2004, University Honorary Professor Sir Michael Atiyah won the Abel Prize, maths' equivalent of the Nobel Prize. We are also associated with four winners of The Turing Award, recognised as the highest distinction in computer sciences.



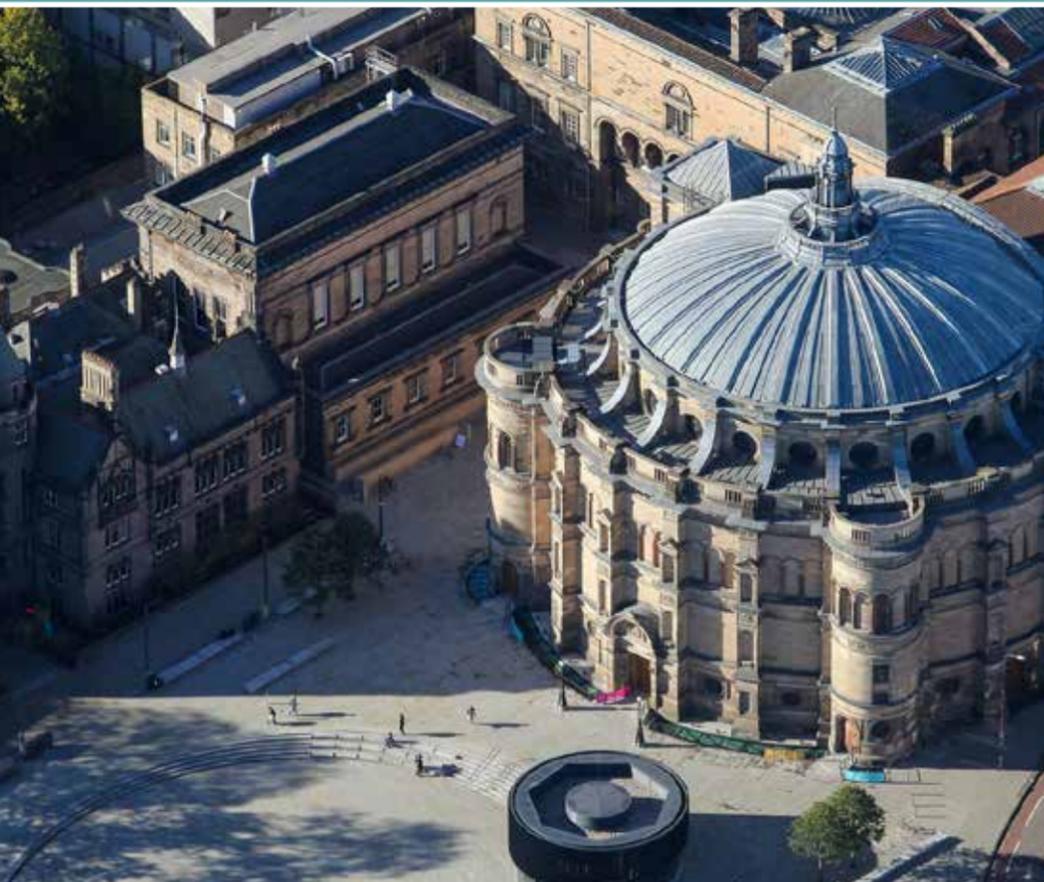
“University life in Edinburgh is not just about lectures; every moment becomes an avenue for self-motivation to learn more, do more, inspire more and discover the best of yourself.”

Omar Kanyi, from Gambia



“I come from a small town so I was really excited at the prospect of meeting more people. I’ve met some absolutely brilliant friends; some from London, some from Northern England, some from Scotland, and three of my flatmates are Chinese. It’s been such a great way to learn about other cultures, traditions and beliefs.”

Ellie Ashton, from Wales



An international university

Climate

Many students have the impression that Edinburgh will be a cold and wet place to live. In fact, Edinburgh has the same annual rainfall as New York and Rome, and has a varied, temperate climate, just a degree or two cooler than London. In the winter, snow is rare in the city and the temperature rarely dips below freezing during the day. In the summer, it is generally warm, with temperatures between 18-24°C / 65-75°F.

Getting around

With a population of around 500,000, Edinburgh is a compact, friendly city which is easy to travel around on foot, by bus, by tram or car. As one of the greenest cities in the UK, there is an extensive network of cycle routes.

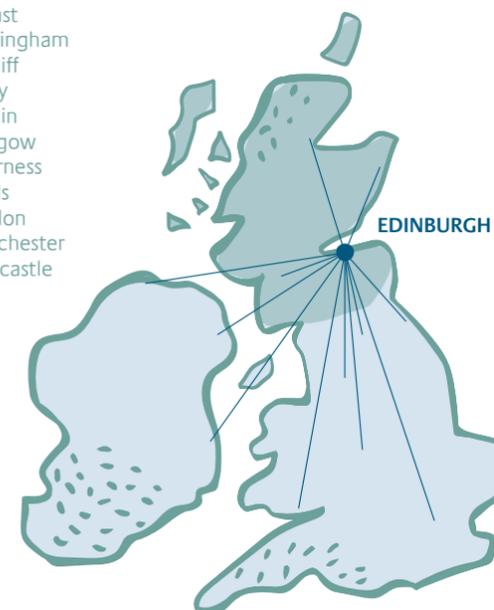
Getting here

Edinburgh has substantive links to all major UK and European cities. Edinburgh International Airport has an extensive range of national and international services with direct flights to most major cities in Europe and to a number of major cities worldwide.

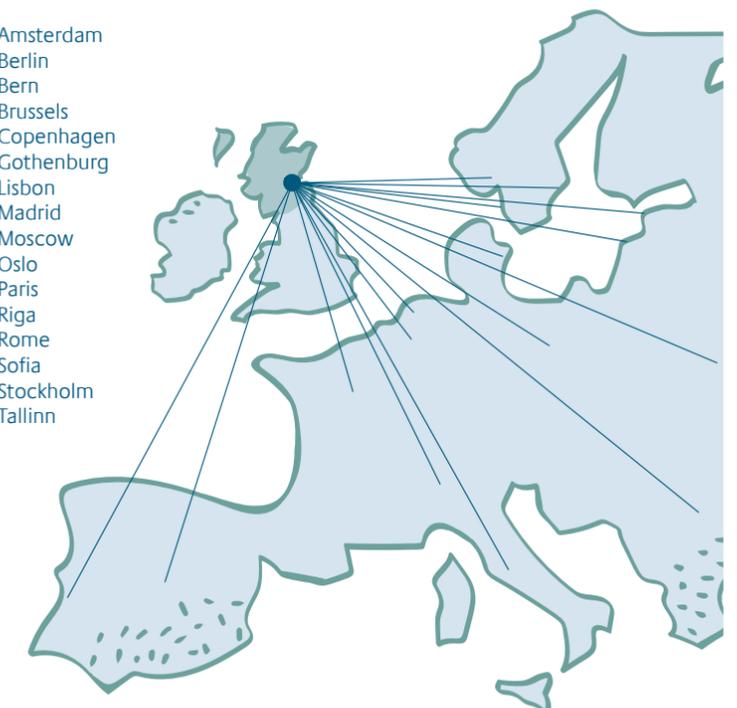
Edinburgh is in an ideal location from which to explore Scotland, the rest of the UK and Europe. The dramatic Highlands offer an ideal getaway from city living, just a couple of hours from Edinburgh by train or car. Popular destinations include Loch Ness, Loch Lomond and the Isle of Skye. It's easy to travel around the UK, with London only four hours away by rail or one hour by air. You can take the opportunity to travel around Europe during vacation periods, or even for the weekend. Direct flights are available from Edinburgh to many European cities and resorts, with Paris just an hour and a half away.

Within reach of UK and European destinations

Aberdeen
Belfast
Birmingham
Cardiff
Derry
Dublin
Glasgow
Inverness
Leeds
London
Manchester
Newcastle



Amsterdam
Berlin
Bern
Brussels
Copenhagen
Gothenburg
Lisbon
Madrid
Moscow
Oslo
Paris
Riga
Rome
Sofia
Stockholm
Tallinn



Student life

Accommodation

www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students

- Guaranteed accommodation offer for all new international undergraduate students.
- Over 6,500 rooms in a variety of modern and historic residences.
- Options for catered or self-catered facilities in flats or halls.
- All residences within walking distance of the University.
- Contracts normally cover Christmas and Easter holidays.
- 24-hour residential wardens and Residence Life team who provide a range of social, welfare and support services.

Sports and fitness

www.ed.ac.uk/sport-exercise

- More than 64 different sport clubs including everything from fencing to skydiving, horse riding to ice hockey.
- Centrally located Pleasance Sports Centre with squash courts, fitness centre and various sports halls.
- Full range of indoor sports facilities and a 25m swimming pool.
- Outdoor facilities include playing fields, tennis courts and Outdoor Pursuits Centres on Loch Tay for sailing and mountain-biking, and near Aviemore for skiing, mountain climbing and hill walking.

Clubs and societies

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities

There are 290 student societies - more than any other university in the UK - covering everything from juggling to economics to volunteering, which can cater to your interests. As well as being fun, many societies can give you the kind of transferable skills useful in future careers. Prospective journalists can cut their teeth on the 'Student' newspaper, or work on the University radio station. Those interested in music and drama are spoilt for choice as there are choral societies, a University orchestra, and the largest student theatre company in the UK.

Student exchanges

www.ed.ac.uk/global/exchanges

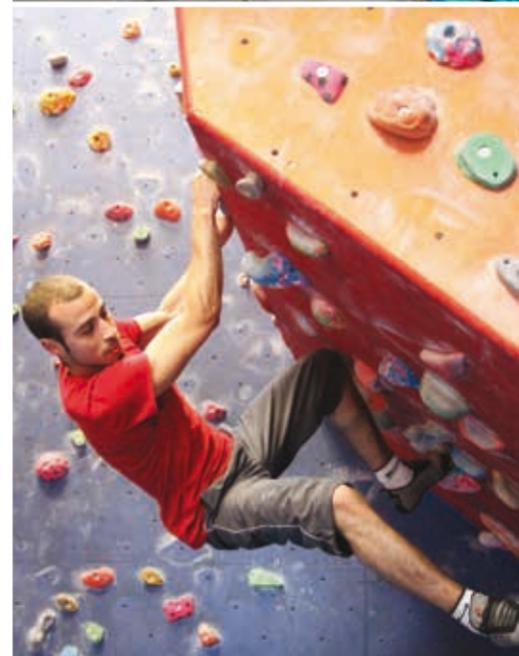
The University has one of the largest exchange programmes in the UK. We have exchange agreements with more than 200 of the best universities in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and Australasia, including The National University of Singapore, The University of Toronto, The University of Sydney, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Copenhagen, Complutense University of Madrid, Sciences Po Paris, ETH Zurich and Ivy League institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania.

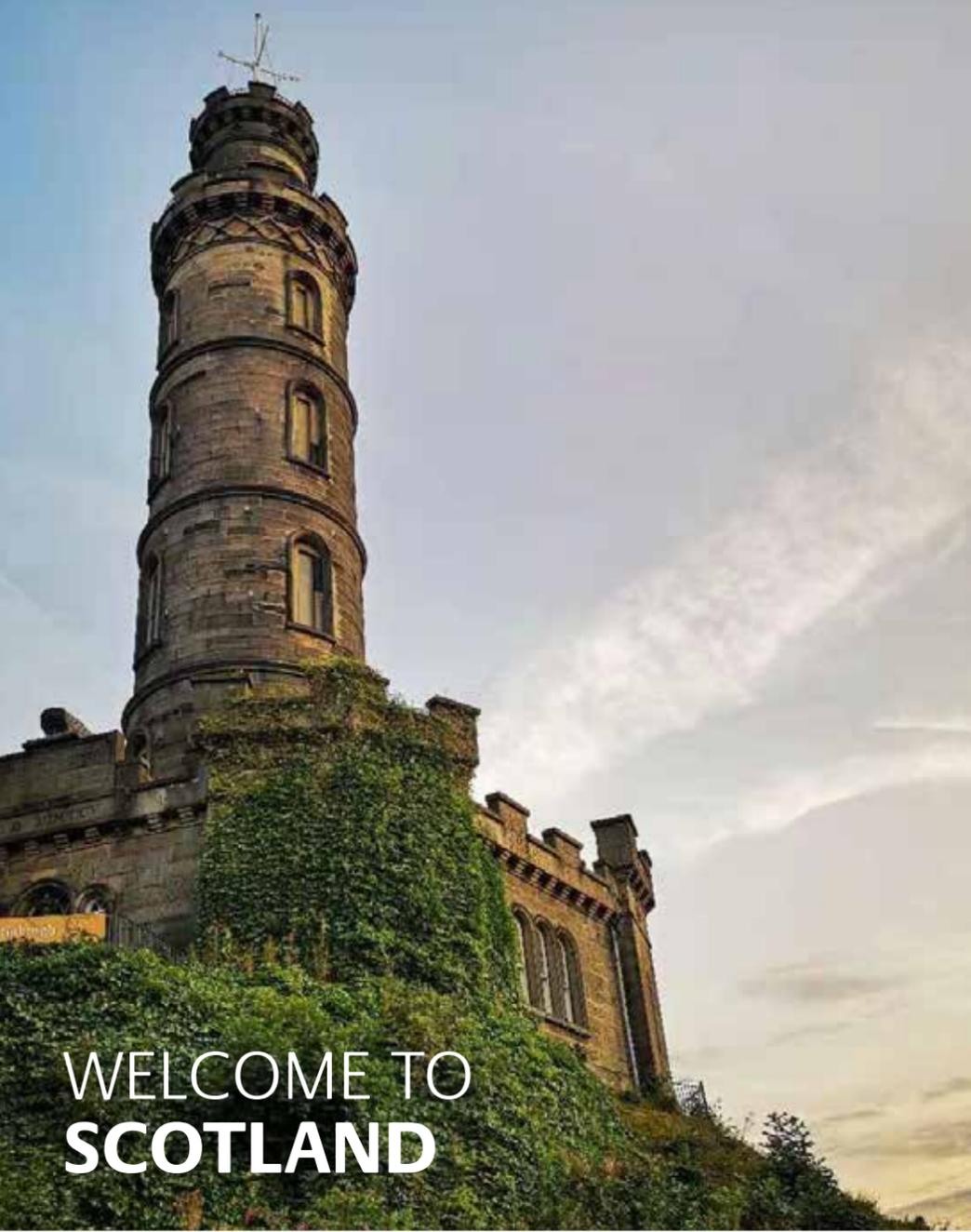
There are also many opportunities to spend time in other countries working, training, volunteering or by creating your own short-term experience.



"I chose the University of Edinburgh because it provided me with access to a high standard of education while allowing me to live in a vibrant, multicultural city. Moreover, the University has a wide range of facilities that aids me in my student life, such as cafés, a world-class sports centre and an extremely supportive academic staff."

Noah Khor, from Vietnam





WELCOME TO
SCOTLAND



Degree programmes

The University's size enables us to offer an unparalleled range of programmes, giving you the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of niche areas or to sample a broad range of courses throughout your undergraduate degree.

Scottish undergraduate degree programmes

Programmes in Scotland are generally four years in duration. The key aspects of Scottish higher education are flexibility and choice. Students often change their programme as they progress, so the big decision of 'what to do at university' can be made when you feel confident choosing the area you want to specialise in.

Exceptions to the broad-based and flexible Scottish degree structure include Fine Art and professionally based programmes such as Accounting, Law, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture.

Direct to second year

You can apply to enter the second year of many of our science, engineering, art and design programmes if you have higher grades than the normal entry requirements, for example if you have taken an art foundation course. For all other programmes, applications for second year are only considered in exceptional circumstances.

Semester dates

The academic year is divided into two semesters, the first from September to December and the second from January to May. A small number of programmes diverge from the standard dates.

www.ed.ac.uk/semester-dates

Admissions selection

The University of Edinburgh is committed to admitting the very best students. While formal qualifications are important, our selectors look at the entire application to assess the suitability and potential of applicants.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applying/selection

Undergraduate masters

Ancient universities confer MA degrees at undergraduate level in humanities and social sciences subjects, sometimes referred to as undergraduate Masters.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/degree-names

Degree finder:

[www.ed.ac.uk/
undergraduate/
degrees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees)



Degree programme choices

500 undergraduate programmes to choose from

Accounting	History
Agriculture	History of Art & Fine Art
Arabic & Persian	Islamic Studies & Middle Eastern Studies
Archaeology	Languages, Countries & Cultures
Architecture & Landscape Architecture	Law
Art & Design	Linguistics
Asian Studies	Mathematics
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	Medicine & Health
Business Management	Modern European Languages
Celtic & Scottish Studies	Music
Chemistry	Nursing Studies
Classics	Philosophy
Cognitive Science	Physics & Astronomy
Computing Science (Informatics)	Politics & International Relations
Divinity & Religious Studies	Psychology
Earth Sciences	Russian Studies
Ecological & Environmental Sciences	Scandinavian Studies
Economics	Social Anthropology
Education	Social Policy
Engineering	Social Work
English & Scottish Literature	Sociology
English Language	Sport Science & Sport Management
Environmental & Ecological Sciences	Sustainable Development
Geography	Veterinary Medicine

Degree finder:

[www.ed.ac.uk/
undergraduate/
degrees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees)



Flexibility & choice

The four-year experience

Our versatile four-year programmes let you try a range of subjects before specialising, for a broader and more flexible education.

You'll benefit from this by experiencing new subjects without committing long-term, by discovering subjects that are best suited to you and being able to tailor your programme accordingly.

Most of our programmes let you study a range of subject in Years 1 and 2, chosen either from related areas or experimenting with different subjects, before specialising in Years 3 and 4.

By the time you graduate, your breadth of knowledge will be highly prized by employers, giving you the best chance of success in your chosen career.

Teaching methods

Teaching usually consists of weekly lectures and tutorials for each course, with laboratory work for science and engineering courses.

The lecture sets out the subject for the week, providing the foundations upon which you build. You will study independently, before meeting in tutorial groups to discuss the subject in more depth. Emphasis is placed on independent research, critical thinking, and logical argument. Classes are normally assessed through a combination of essays, exams and practical work for science and engineering students.

[www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ug/
teaching](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ug/teaching)



“By far my favourite thing about my degree is the flexibility between programmes, allowing me to explore a huge variety of topics, and specialise in those I am most interested in.”

Jordana Black, from Northern Ireland

A degree of choice

For most programmes you can add depth to your education by studying subjects in addition to your core courses.

Year 1	Select from a range of courses related to your area of study or in subjects that interest you in other areas	
Year 2	Try new courses or continue to develop in subjects you have chosen before	
Year 3	Take an opportunity to study abroad if available or select your specialist courses	
Year 4	You'll be confident in choosing which area to specialise in, having studied a broad range of topics	

Degree structure

Find out more about our flexible four-year degree structure: [www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/
degree-structure](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degree-structure)

Admission requirements

How to apply

Applications for undergraduate programmes are made via UCAS, the central organisation that processes applications for all UK undergraduate courses.

Applications can be submitted from September in the year before you plan to start at university. You can make your application before you have your final results:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply

What you need to apply

You'll need qualifications, a personal statement and a reference. You'll also need to provide evidence of your English language level. For some specific programmes there are additional requirements, such as a portfolio, an interview, a work experience summary or an additional test like the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT). You can check requirements for specific programme in our Degree Finder: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees

Qualifications you need

We welcome applications from students studying a wide range of UK and international qualifications, including:

- GCE A Levels
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- ACTs
- SATs
- APs
- Other national qualifications

You can check country-specific information on which qualifications you can use to apply:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/country

Academic requirements vary from programme to programme and are listed in our Degree Finder, along with any additional conditions: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees

English language requirements

You will be asked to demonstrate a level of English language competency, regardless of your nationality or country of residence. The requirements vary depending on the programme you apply for.

We accept a range of qualifications, including IELTS, TOEFL and PTE Academic. We may also accept English qualifications you have taken as part of your high school studies:

www.ed.ac.uk/english-requirements

Foundation programme

We offer a foundation programme for students whose national qualifications or school leaving certificate do not meet what is required for entry to the University. This one-year programme develops your academic skills and English language proficiency, to be eligible for programmes within arts, humanities and social science:

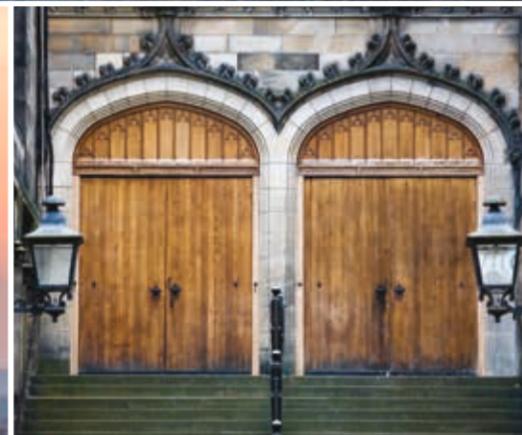
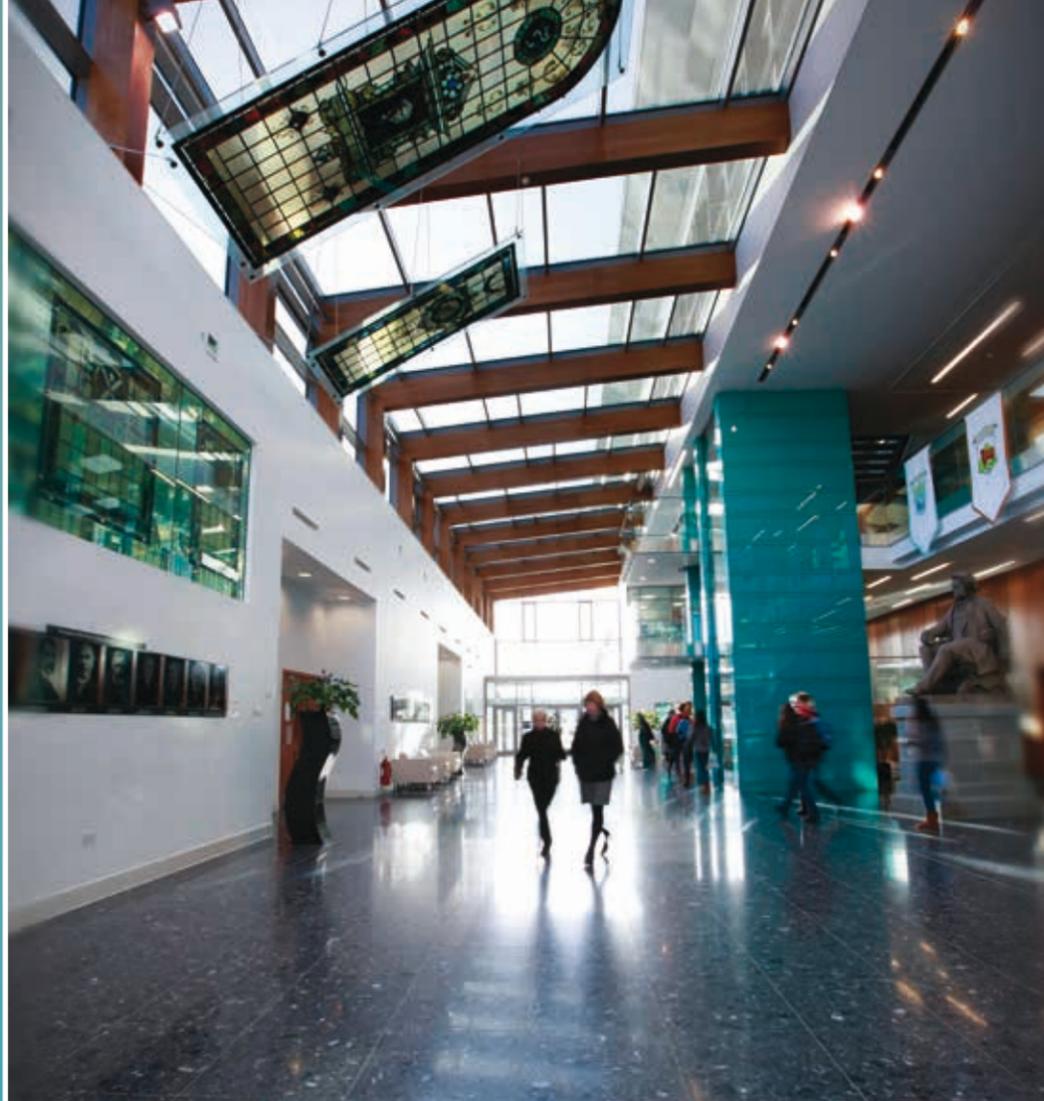
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/applying/foundation

Application deadlines

We welcome applications as early as you are ready. Deadlines for applying can be found online: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/applying/deadlines

Apply now:

www.ucas.com/apply



Funding your studies

Tuition fees

A guide to international tuition fees for new entrants in the 2019/20 academic year:

Programmes	Annual fee
Most programmes	
Class based (non-laboratory)	£19,800
Laboratory based	£26,000
Studio based	£26,000
Medicine	
Years 1-3: Preclinical & intercalated	£32,100
Years 4-6: Clinical	£49,900
Veterinary Medicine	£31,450

International students on full-time undergraduate programmes pay a fixed annual tuition fee giving you the reassurance of knowing exactly how much you'll pay each year before your studies begin.

Find up-to-date details of tuition fees by programme of study, including additional programme costs: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding

Fee status

Check your fee status online: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fee-status

Funding & scholarships

The University offers a number of scholarships to international students, all of which are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Find information on funding and scholarships for study at the University of Edinburgh: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/search

Cost of living

It is important to plan your budget in advance of arrival. The personal budget calculator and information about living costs will help you plan: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance

Working

Many students have a part-time job while in Edinburgh to gain work experience, earn some spending money and meet new people. Students with a full UK Tier 4 General student visa are permitted to take up employment, on or off campus, part-time (up to 20 hours per week) during the academic year and full-time during vacation periods.

At present EU, EEA and Swiss students can work in the UK without restrictions, but this may change when the UK withdraws from the European Union. Check the latest information: www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu

The Careers Service has a dedicated international careers advisor, to assist overseas students in their search for employment both in the UK and internationally. More information is available online: www.ed.ac.uk/careers



Search for funding:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/search

Immigration

International students normally need a visa to study in the UK. You can use our online guidance to find which immigration permission you need: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa

EU, EEA and Swiss students do not currently need a visa to study in the UK. This status may change when the UK withdraws from the European Union. Check the latest information: www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu

Immigration advice

The Student Immigration Service offer full support and information on visas and immigration: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration



Visit us

We welcome visitors to the campus and to our online information sessions throughout the year.

Open days

International visitors are very welcome at our open days which are normally held in June and September. You can also conduct a self-guided tour which can be downloaded at: www.ed.ac.uk/visit/tours/self-guided

On campus information sessions

You can meet our staff on campus at one of regular information sessions. These are combined with a student-led tour of the central campus.

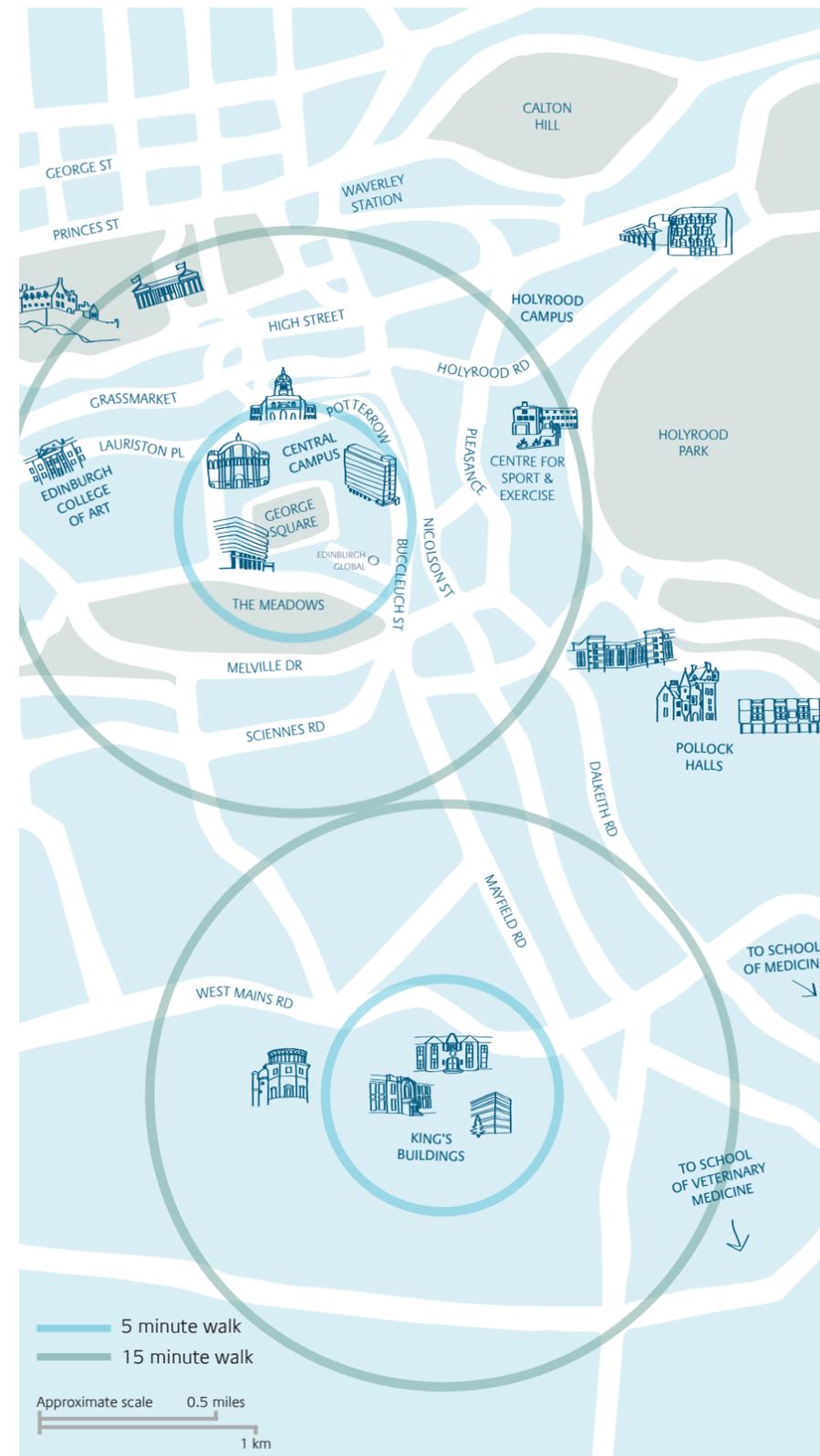
Book a place and find out more about the University: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/visiting

If you have already applied or have an offer to study we can help you arrange to meet academic staff in your subject area.

For visit requests: visits@ed.ac.uk
+44 (0)131 650 4296

Online information sessions

To learn more about study opportunities you can log in to our regular online information sessions: www.ed.ac.uk/international/chat-to-us-online



Contact us

Enquiries

Ask us a question:
global.ed.ac.uk/ask-us-a-question

Visit the website:
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international

Email us:
global.enquiries@ed.ac.uk

Call us:
+44 (0)131 650 4296

Visit us:
Edinburgh Global
The University of Edinburgh
33 Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh EH8 9JS
Scotland, UK

Apply to Edinburgh

www.ucas.com/students/apply

Find out more

Accommodation Services
www.accom.ed.ac.uk

Sport and Exercise
www.ed.ac.uk/sport-exercise

Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA)
www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU)
www.eusu.ed.ac.uk

Tuition Fees
www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fees

New students

You can find useful information about becoming an Edinburgh student on the New Students website. The guidance is designed to ensure you have a smooth transition to student life and includes advice about immigration and visas, travel, registration, accommodation and orientation:
www.ed.ac.uk/new-students

Other links

British Council
The United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.
www.britishcouncil.org

Study UK
Support for students choosing the UK as a study destination.
study-uk.britishcouncil.org

Scotland in Now
A collaborative campaign to tell the authentic story of Scotland.
www.scotland.org

UKCISA
The UK Council for International Student Affairs provides advice for international students in the UK.
www.ukcisa.org.uk

UK Visas & Immigration
The government department for visas and immigration.
www.gov.uk/ukvi

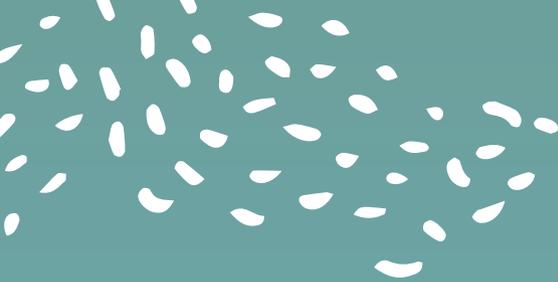
UCAS
The organisation which processes applications for British Universities.
www.ucas.com

twitter.com/appliedinburgh

youtube.com/EdinburghUniversity

facebook.com/appliedinburgh





Contact us

global.enquiries@ed.ac.uk

Join an information session

www.ed.ac.uk/international/chat-to-us-online

Visit us

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/visiting

Our overseas visits

www.ed.ac.uk/international/our-visits-overseas

Apply now

www.ucas.com/students/apply

On 23 June 2016 the UK electorate voted in a national referendum to leave the European Union. Students from the EU can check online for the latest information:

www.ed.ac.uk/news/eu

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