



## DEGREE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – AT A GLANCE 2017/2018

The Scottish undergraduate degree is a 'BSc' or 'MA'.

There are many benefits to the MA four year degree structure. It allows you to:

- Enhance your career prospects by gaining a broad education that is attractive to employers
- Experience an enriching variety of new subjects without the need to commit long-term. You might discover new passions, take your career in a new direction or simply enhance your CV
- Discover where your strengths lie and focus your degree accordingly
- Nurture your talent, develop a broad range of skills and grow intellectually over a longer period of time. The majority of our students gain better marks in their fourth year than they did in their third year, thus boosting their final degree award
- Broaden your horizons - opportunities to study abroad are possible on most of our programmes

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*“Edinburgh allows you to be flexible in your subjects. I was able to study economics, philosophy and Italian in my first year, and I’m able to make a much more informed decision about my final degree, having been able to study several subjects to begin with.”*

– Tim, MA Hons Philosophy and Italian

## YEAR BY YEAR

In each year, you take **120 credits** made up from different courses.

In year 1, you usually study three subjects. With the help of your Personal Tutor (PT), you may choose these from related areas or you can experiment with different subjects.

By year 2, you will know which subjects you want to continue with and which new ones you would like to try.

By years 3 and 4 (Honours), you will be confident about choosing which areas to specialise in.

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*“I like that I have had the opportunity to take outside subjects. I didn’t get a chance to take more than one language in school so, when I came to Edinburgh, I used all my outside courses to learn new languages – German, Spanish and Gaelic – and taking these languages has, of course, enhanced my linguistics skills.”*

– Lauren, MA Hons Linguistics

For example, MA Hons in Linguistics:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
LEL1A and LEL1B	LEL2A    LEL2B		
Italian 1	LEL2C    LEL2D		
History of Art	Italian Language 2    Italian Literature: Texts in Context 2		

In the above diagram, the green boxes relate to Linguistics courses. In years 1 and 2 (Pre-Honours) you have compulsory courses, which you must take. In years 3 and 4 you select the courses you wish to study through the experience and knowledge you have acquired in years 1 and 2.

The orange and blue boxes relate to outside courses. In this example, Italian was chosen as the subject to carry into year 2.

## DEGREE TRANSFERS

A major benefit of the 4 year degree is that you may have the opportunity to change your degree, if you decide that one of the other courses that you have studied in year 1 or 2 will suit you better and you meet the Honours entry criteria for that subject area. Your Personal Tutor and/or Student Support Officer can help and advise you through the transfer process. Please note that transfers are not guaranteed and a number of factors are taken into account when considering a transfer application.

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*"I've tried to take courses in as many different subjects as possible; from political economy and political theory to Africa and international security. Experimenting has been helpful in finding out what I want to focus on."*

– Pedro, MA International Relations

## STUDY ABROAD

You may have the exciting opportunity to study abroad during your third year. If you are studying on a joint degree with a language (e.g. French, Japanese, or Chinese) you are required to take your third year abroad, and this will be arranged through the language department.

If you are not doing a joint degree, there is the possibility of studying your chosen subject at a European university, via the Erasmus programme. We have specific links with a number of universities around the world with excellent teaching provision.

In addition, there are also competitive scholarships that you might choose to apply for. These allow you to study at universities in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, amongst others. Choosing to study this year abroad does not require an extra year of study.

## RELATED LINKS

PATH: <https://path.is.ed.ac.uk/>