

History

Undergraduate programme
and course information

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ENTRY

www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of History, Classics
and Archaeology



Welcome to the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. I am delighted that you are thinking about coming to study with us. You have come through a tough selection process and you should be rightly proud of receiving an offer.

Our School is a vibrant academic community. All three disciplines represented are concerned with the study of the human past: historians, classicists and archaeologists have much in common with each other. Together we form a diverse and international community and you will have the opportunity to meet people from all over the world.

The University was established in the sixteenth century and there are tangible benefits from having such a long history, especially when combined with our modern outlook. The School also derives much from its physical and cultural setting in Scotland's capital city. The close relationships that we have with the

libraries, museums and galleries are a unique aspect of the student experience. We hope that you will learn about many areas of the world and about themes that have global implications, whilst also learning about Scotland.

We encourage our students to be adventurous, try out new areas of study and take the chance to explore disciplines and languages that they have not studied before. The Scottish degree system allows breadth of study over four years and Edinburgh has a greater range of choice than most institutions – take advantage of that – your wider student life should be enriched by your experience.

The University has a very active careers service and there will be many career-related events in the School in which you can participate. Volunteering might be another way of adding to your experience. The Edinburgh University Students' Association provides information and opportunities in this area.

We are delighted that you are considering a degree programme in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. Our aim today is to give you the chance to sample what we offer and give a flavour of what it might be like to be a student with us. You will have the chance to meet staff and students and to see our facilities. I hope you have an enjoyable day, and decide to join us in September.

Professor Ewen Cameron, Head of School, Sir William Fraser Professor of Scottish History



The University

Consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world, the University of Edinburgh has been making its mark on the world for more than 400 years.

We are ranked 13th in the World's Most International Universities 2017 – students from two-thirds of the world's countries study here. We are 19th in the 2016/17 QS World University Rankings, 4th in the UK for research power and 32nd in the world for the employability of our graduates. By choosing to study with us you'll be investing in an education that offers the very best in teaching and research, and one that will help you build a successful future.

Our hands-on innovative approach will equip you with the skills, insights and perspectives to enhance your employability and career prospects. Our flexible programmes, world-class facilities and award winning support services combine to ensure an exceptional student experience.

Edinburgh is ranked 2nd best student city in the UK, so you'll also be living in a vibrant, historic and inspiring capital city with world-class cultural festivals and the mountains and beaches of Scotland on your doorstep.

Times Higher Education: The World's Most International Universities 2017

QS World University Rankings 2016/17

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

Latest Emerging Global Employability University Ranking 2016

QS Best Student Cities 2016

Studying History

We offer a wide variety of History degree programmes.



Dr Thomas Ahnert, Head of History

Breadth and depth of study

The first and second year history courses offered by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology consider broad historical periods from a variety of perspectives. They range from ancient to modern history and cover most geographical regions in the world. Following entry to honours, you will then devote yourself to more specialist study during the next two years of your degree.

In third year you usually take two core courses, which reflect on approaches to the study of the past and build on the historical skills introduced in the first and second year courses. Four further option courses are chosen from a wide range on offer.

In your final year, in addition to writing a dissertation, you will take an intensive Special Subject course. These courses represent the apex of the degree programme and provide the opportunity to work with primary source material in depth. The courses on offer are intimately related to the research interests of our members of staff and change regularly in order to stay at the cutting edge of scholarship.

Teaching format

In the first and second years teaching is mostly conducted in lectures and small group meetings called tutorials where you will have a chance to discuss selected topics in greater detail. Tutorial groups normally comprise around twelve students.

The emphasis shifts in the third and fourth years towards more specialised, seminar-based courses and independent study.

Assessment

Assessment in years one and two tends to be based on continuous assessment of written work as well as tutorial participation, in conjunction with examinations.

Students' coursework in third and fourth year is assessed mainly by means of essays and examinations.

Dissertation

In your final year you will write a dissertation on a topic of your choice; you work on this independently, with one-to-one supervision. For many students, the dissertation is the most rewarding part of their programme.

“I was drawn to Edinburgh because of its world-class status, its record for graduate employability, and for the opportunity to be taught by leading and prolific academic experts. The city of Edinburgh is also immersed in history and being in one of the UK’s capital cities has allowed me to observe British and Scottish politics first-hand.”

Tom Wrench

2nd Year MA History and Politics



A flexible four-year degree

As a Scottish university, Edinburgh offers a four-year honours degree, which gives you the benefit of developing a breadth as well as depth of knowledge. In your first two years you can study subjects outside of your core discipline, before specialising in your third and fourth years.

Among the advantages of the four-year degree are:

- **Breadth of Study.** The flexible nature of our degrees enables you to expand your academic range by studying subjects outside your major discipline during the first two years.
- **Joint Degrees.** A huge range of joint degrees offers you the opportunity to study two disciplines in real depth.
- **Third Year Abroad.** An extensive network of reciprocal exchanges with major international universities gives you the chance to study overseas for an entire year, and still spend a full three years in Edinburgh.
- **Final-Year Dissertation.** A feature of the fourth year is a dissertation undertaken by all students. This piece of original research, of up to 12,000 words, represents the culmination of your undergraduate career and the demonstration of your abilities as an independent scholar.
- **MA (Hons).** On completion of the four-year honours degree you will be awarded an MA.
- **Academic Maturity.** The added experience and intellectual depth that you will gain over the course of four years is widely recognised and greatly valued by employers.



Study abroad

The University of Edinburgh offers students the opportunity to undertake a wide variety of international experiences. Living and studying abroad can broaden your horizons, transform your academic perspective, and help you to get the very most from your undergraduate career.

Meeting people with different views and lifestyles gives you new insights and widens your frame of reference. Studying abroad provides you with a different perspective on your degree subject and this is your chance to see something of the world, and to find out who you are!

You can apply to study overseas during Year 3 of your degree programme. We have partnerships with a large number of prestigious universities across Europe, North and South America, Australasia and Asia from which you may choose.

For further information on studying abroad visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/global/go-abroad



History degree programmes

Your history degree will offer a wide range of subjects giving you the flexibility to study topics within and outside it.

History offers a wide range of Master of Arts (MA) degree programmes:

- History
- History & Archaeology
- History & Classics
- History & History of Art
- History & Politics
- History & Scottish History
- History & Sociology
- Economic and Social History
- Economic History
- Economic History & Business
- Social & Architectural History
- Scottish History
- French & History
- Geography & Economic and Social History
- German & History
- Italian & History
- Law & History
- Politics & Economic and Social History
- Portuguese & History
- Primary Education with History
- Russian Studies & History
- Scandinavian Studies & History
- Scottish Ethnology & Scottish History
- Scottish Literature & History
- Scottish Literature & Scottish History
- Social Anthropology with Social History
- Social Policy & Social and Economic History
- Sociology & Social and Economic History
- Spanish & History

In addition the following joint honours programmes are also available:

- Ancient and Medieval History
- Arabic & History
- Celtic & Scottish History
- Chinese & History
- Economics & Economic History
- English Language & History
- English Literature & History

About your degree structure

For more information on each programme and our history courses, visit our website: www.shca.ed.ac.uk/ug-history

Courses available to study in history

Our courses reflect the expertise of our staff and demonstrate the breadth and flexibility of our provision.

First year courses

The Historian's Toolkit

A practical, hands-on introduction to studying History at university. It will build your confidence by training you how to think and work like a historian. The course will take you through all the steps of the historical research process. A large part of the course is dedicated to working with historical evidence, both primary and secondary, and including non-written sources.

Medieval Worlds: A Journey through the Middle Ages

The European Middle Ages were a time of enormous diversity, change and discovery. It was during this period, between the fifth century and end of the fifteenth, that the ancient Roman world was transformed by the emergence of new empires and kingdoms, new identities and new ideas. This introductory course takes you on a journey, primarily through the central Middle Ages (c.800 to c.1300), seeking to capture key aspects of this age of transformation.

Early Modern History: A Connected World

The period between c.1500 and c.1800 was an age of discovery, in which

adventurers, merchants and diplomats sailed farther than ever before, and the lives of peoples from disparate parts of the globe became meaningfully entangled for the first time in human history. You will learn how established relationships between church, state and the individual were contested; how social and technological developments allowed for the dissemination of the written word beyond a privileged elite; and how a vibrant and noisy urban culture – and the emergence of women into the public sphere – brought with it new opportunities, as well as new anxieties.

Making of the Modern World

This course contextualises modern history by providing a framework in which major historical processes can be understood. It moves away from a Eurocentric position towards a more global history that takes in different approaches and regions. Although the structure of the course is chronological, the main focus is on processes and themes. You will be expected to use specific case studies to illuminate large themes such as modernity, revolution, nationalism and decolonisation.

British Society, 1650–c.1880 (Social History 1.1)

This course is a study of Britain between 1650 and 1900 with a focus on the nature of everyday life. Social history is about life in the past for men, women and children of all social groups and about the causes and consequences of change in everyday experience. We take a broad and varied historical perspective, and use sources such as imaginative literature, personal testimonies, and visual illustration, as well as official documents, legal records and statistical evidence.

British Economic and Environmental History since 1900

The course examines the main developments in the British economy since 1900, and the persistent and increasing interest in the environmental impact of economic activity. As well as looking at major shifts in macro-economic policy, the course will also examine the process of deindustrialisation, the rise of public expenditure, and the growing concern with sustainability.

The History of Edinburgh: From Din Eidyn to Festival City

This course is designed to introduce you to the history of the city in which they are studying. The lecture series will highlight both the way in which the built environment and physical layout of the city has been shaped by historical processes, and how extant buildings, monuments and objects can be used to illuminate the concerns and ambitions of those societies that have occupied the area from the early-medieval period onwards.

The Making of the United States

This course aims to provide a general overview of American history from the

arrival of the first permanent European settlers at Jamestown in 1607 through Reconstruction.

The major topics covered in the course include pre-Columbian America, colonization, the American Revolution, the Constitution, the early Republic, slavery, Western Expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Second year courses

Introduction to Historiography

You will be introduced to some of the important frameworks through which academic historians approach (and have approached) the past. By surveying and analysing distinct approaches to the past, the course will ground you in what historiography is and why it matters.

Making and Breaking Medieval Britain: England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales c.1100–c.1500

This course starts with the profound transformation of the various polities within the British Isles in the wake of the Norman Conquest of Anglo-Saxon England. Thereafter, Frankish political and cultural norms extended over much of the British Isles and Ireland, drawing the various societies of the islands into European networks, largely mediated through the English crown and its associated institutions. The course outlines the way in which this 'Europeanisation' process allowed the English monarchy to reinforce its dominant position within Britain, before the impact of war, plague and famine in the fourteenth century destroyed the coherence of this 'English Empire'.



Themes in Scottish History since 1560

This course introduces you to the main themes in Scottish history in the period since 1560. Beginning with the Reformation and the union of crowns of 1603, you will then examine the Anglo-Scottish union of 1707 and post-union Scotland, including such themes as Jacobitism, the Scottish Enlightenment and imperial expansion. The course encompasses nineteenth-century industrialisation, political reform and social change, before turning to the radical political and cultural upheavals of the twentieth century.

Britain, Ireland and Empire c.1800–2000

The course provides a wide-ranging introduction to the history of, and relations between, modern Britain, Ireland and the Empire over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Themes discussed include the evolution of the British political system, the development of the British state, the changing nature of the union (with particular emphasis on British-Irish relations), the expansion (and eventual loss) of an overseas British empire, and Britain as a warfare state (with particular emphasis on the two world wars).

Themes in Modern European History

This course offers a broad survey of European History from the late eighteenth century to the present. Its prime purpose is to demonstrate how European society has evolved as a result of the interplay of major economic, social, political and cultural developments of the period c.1780 to the present.

Modern United States History

This course explores key themes in the development of the United States,

from the post-Civil War period to the twenty-first century. The course pays particular attention to the development and challenges of American democracy, particularly with regard to minorities. The course will promote the development of your skills (both written and non-written) in historical research and analysis, especially focusing on historiographical engagement and the analysis of primary sources.

Global Connections since 1450

The course explores the global history of three themes – goods, peoples and ideas. We interrogate the new forms of power which sought to reshape global connections in the period from c.1450. At the same time, the course also provides an opportunity to reflect critically on the writing of global history and to consider how we best make sense of the intersections of the local and the global in this period.

The Global Economy since 1750

In the nineteenth century the world economy underwent decisive changes with the emergence of modern industrialisation and modern forms of economic development. We consider the question "what made it all happen, in some economies to a far greater extent than in others?"

The Making of the Modern Body

This course aims to provide you with an understanding of how the physical body has been understood, experienced and regulated in the modern West, from c.1450 to the present. We will explore the social history of the human body in Britain and its colonies, Europe and America, and take a long-term view by covering both the early-modern and late-modern periods.

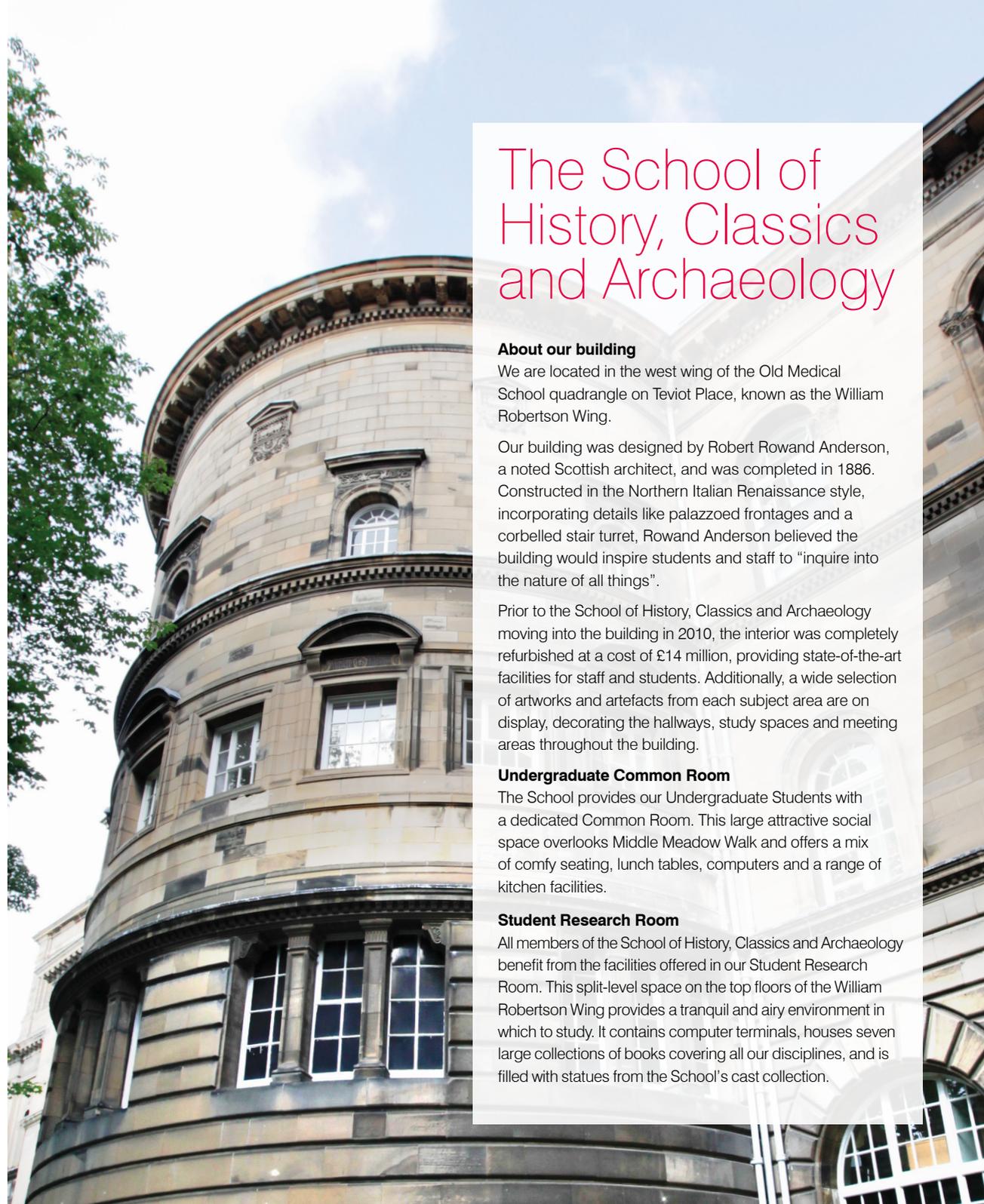
Third year courses (junior Honours)

For most of our programmes in third year you will take two compulsory core courses on historical skills and methods. You will also choose several from a very wide range of Option courses. These will vary slightly from year to year, but the entire programme usually comprises around fifty different courses. Current examples include courses on the American Civil Rights movement, the Third Reich, post-colonial Africa, the history of the Crusades, Machiavelli and his world, the history of medicine, twentieth-century China, the history of India from 1700 until independence, Britain and the Second World War, the French Revolution, and the Scottish Enlightenment.

Fourth year courses (senior Honours)

Fourth-year students normally choose a so-called Special Subject. This is a year-long course which involves close work with primary source material. Again, the programme of Special Subjects varies from year to year, but current examples include courses on the Spanish Civil War, Gandhi and popular movements, the European witch-hunt in the early modern period, the United States in Vietnam, the history of East Central Europe over the last two hundred years, the history of financial crises between 1300 and 1914, Irish history since 1780, and the history of medieval England in the years after the Norman conquest. Depending on your degree programme, you may also choose Option courses as in third year.

All fourth-year students write a research dissertation. This is a substantial piece of independent research and, in many respects, represents the culmination of the four-year degree programme. Topics are chosen in consultation with a named academic advisor. They range widely and have included, for example, studies of relations between Norman Sicily and Islam, Gandhi and race relations in South Africa, banqueting at the court of James I, French student revolt in 1968, and the Brass Band Movement between 1962 and 1982.



The School of History, Classics and Archaeology

About our building

We are located in the west wing of the Old Medical School quadrangle on Teviot Place, known as the William Robertson Wing.

Our building was designed by Robert Rowand Anderson, a noted Scottish architect, and was completed in 1886. Constructed in the Northern Italian Renaissance style, incorporating details like palazzoned frontages and a corbelled stair turret, Rowand Anderson believed the building would inspire students and staff to “inquire into the nature of all things”.

Prior to the School of History, Classics and Archaeology moving into the building in 2010, the interior was completely refurbished at a cost of £14 million, providing state-of-the-art facilities for staff and students. Additionally, a wide selection of artworks and artefacts from each subject area are on display, decorating the hallways, study spaces and meeting areas throughout the building.

Undergraduate Common Room

The School provides our Undergraduate Students with a dedicated Common Room. This large attractive social space overlooks Middle Meadow Walk and offers a mix of comfy seating, lunch tables, computers and a range of kitchen facilities.

Student Research Room

All members of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology benefit from the facilities offered in our Student Research Room. This split-level space on the top floors of the William Robertson Wing provides a tranquil and airy environment in which to study. It contains computer terminals, houses seven large collections of books covering all our disciplines, and is filled with statues from the School's cast collection.

Some of the School's key rooms and facilities

Jim McMillan Room – room 1.31

A common room for staff and postgraduate students named in honour of the first Head of School. The room also houses a kitchen with vending machines.

Rosalind Mitchison Room – room 2.30

A common room for undergraduate students named in honour of the former Professor of Social History, Rosalind Mitchison. This social space offers comfy sofas, lunch tables, a snack machine, a tea preparation area with fridges and kettles, laptop tables and lockers.

Postgraduate Study Room – room 2.35

A study space with flexible hot-desks and specialist software/hardware. It has colour printing and copying facilities.

Teaching Computer Lab – room 2.36

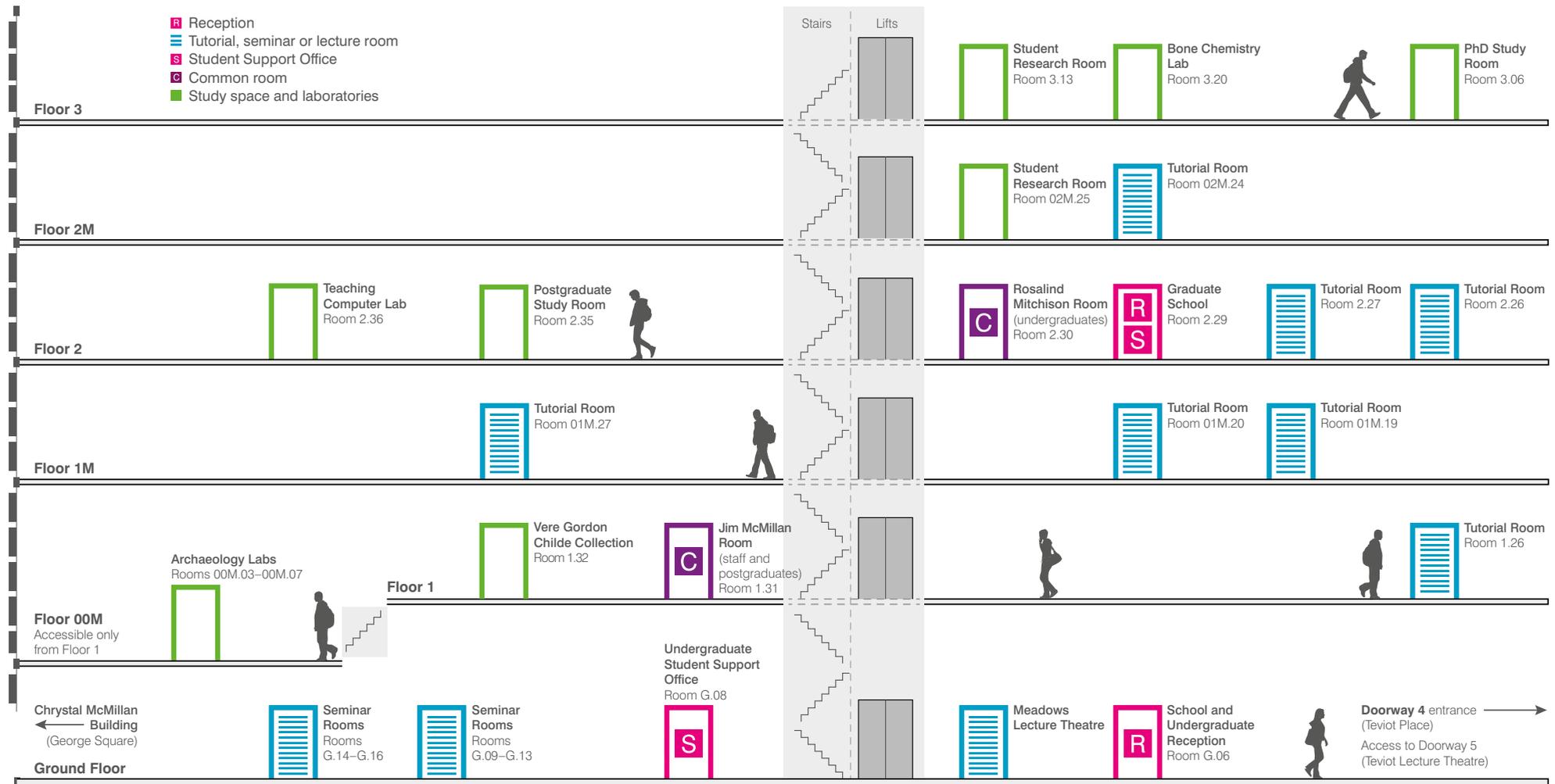
A dedicated teaching room for computer-based classes.

Student Research Room – room 02M.25

This large airy room is used for study and houses seven book collections and computing/printing facilities.

PhD Study Room – room 3.06

A large study room with both hot-desks and allocated desks for PhD students.



This is a schematic diagram, designed to show the approximate location of the most commonly used rooms. Rooms which appear next to each other here may be on opposite sides of the same corridor.

Drawn to
EDINBURGH
by our world-class city

You are in good company. Our 23,000-strong undergraduate community call Edinburgh home. Learn more at www.ed.ac.uk

Join us

For further information about studying history at Edinburgh, email: **HCA-prospective-UG@ed.ac.uk**

For further information about your application, email: **CAHSS.UGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk**
Tel: **+44 (0)131 650 3565**

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this handbook before going to print. However please check online for the most up-to-date information:
www.ed.ac.uk/hca/history



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