“We have a great responsibility to our students, and to the world which they will go on to shape, and it is vitally important to demonstrate to them, and to all our stakeholders, that being a sustainable and socially responsible organisation is an absolute cornerstone of our ethos.”

Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea BSc, PhD, FRSE
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
03 Our vision and our mission
05 Principal’s foreword
06 A new world view: ensuring access for all to life-saving drugs
08 Diaspora studies: how far flung Scots shaped the world
10 Teaching excellence: students’ voices heard in recognising outstanding teachers
12 Going global: striving for worldwide partnerships and international excellence
14 From campus to community: university societies come of age
16 Safer mountains: cracking the avalanche code
18 Gene hunting: tracking down the causes of disease
20 Research excellence: latest rankings confirm international standing
22 News in brief
26 Financial review
28 Honorary graduations and other distinctions
30 Awards and achievements
32 Appointments
34 Appendices
   Appendix 1 Undergraduate applications and acceptances
   Appendix 2 Student numbers
   Appendix 3 Benefactions
   Appendix 4 Research grants and other sources of funding
Our vision

To shape the future by attracting and developing the world’s most promising students and outstanding staff.

Our mission

The mission of our University is the creation, dissemination and curation of knowledge. As a world-leading centre of academic excellence we aim to:

• enhance our position as one of the world’s leading research and teaching universities and to measure our performance against the highest international standards

• provide the highest quality learning and teaching environment for the greater wellbeing of our students and to deliver an outstanding educational portfolio

• produce graduates fully equipped to achieve the highest personal and professional standards

• make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to Scotland, the UK and the world, promoting health and economic and cultural wellbeing.
“It is through our core activities of research and teaching that we really make our mark on society – at a regional, national and international level, helping to change people’s lives for the better.”
Principal’s foreword

In these troubled economic times, it is immensely gratifying to note how the work undertaken by the University – in all its manifestations – is more important and relevant than ever.

Despite the global financial uncertainties, it has been another year of success for the University as we continue to produce research of genuine international significance and to innovate in the areas of teaching and the student experience.

It is through our core activities of research and teaching that we really make our mark on society – at a regional, national and international level, helping to change people’s lives for the better. In that sense, institutions like the University of Edinburgh are leading the way in the drive to ensure that public and private sector organisations are accountable and socially responsible.

In our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, I find it particularly pleasing that we work in such successful collaboration with our student body and listen to the generation for whom issues such as climate change mean so much. Historically as an institution we have had a strong environmental track record, with pioneering initiatives in the fields of energy conservation, recycling and green transport schemes. Our partnerships with the student community have allowed our activity in this area to extend even further. It was one of our own students who came up with the concept of a combined heat and power (CHP) generation plant, which has resulted in a significant reduction in our energy costs and harmful emissions. Over the course of the past year we celebrated five years as Scotland’s first Fairtrade university, having worked closely with our student colleagues from the Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA) to attain Fairtrade status.

The extent to which our students contribute to the wider community is evidenced in an article in this Annual Review which focuses on the diverse range of activities undertaken by our student societies and the differences they are making to people beyond the boundaries of campus life.

Increasingly the University is an institution that seeks to transcend national boundaries – and the impact of our research is testament to that. Our efforts to make significant contributions to the global community are mirrored in the role that migrant Scots played in shaping the modern world – and we are seeking to track and explore this role through our Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, a truly innovative research initiative which we feature in this year’s Review. Elsewhere in this publication, you will read about how we’ve adopted a humanitarian agenda for the licensing of our medical research to ensure that life-saving drugs developed in our laboratories will be made available to people in developing countries. You will also learn about our network of international partnerships, Edinburgh Global, and the research we are undertaking in countries such as Uganda to tackle the problem of serious diseases like sleeping sickness. Other international partnerships are bearing fruit in the field of avalanche research that could help to save the lives of skiers and mountaineers around the world and, closer to home, we are focusing on Orkney to conduct research into the role genes play in determining our risk of serious illness.

The quality and breadth of our research, and its ability to have meaningful and practical applications well beyond the sphere of academia, is something of which we are extremely proud. This was upheld in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), the results of which demonstrated beyond doubt that we are a world-leading research institution. Alongside research is our other core activity of teaching. Inspiring our students via continued excellence and innovation in teaching and providing them with the skills and knowledge to make useful contributions to society is at the heart of what we do. It is for this reason that I was delighted to support the first Teaching Awards, established by EUSA, to recognise the many outstanding teachers within our University community.

We live and work in an age of great uncertainty – economically, politically and, perhaps most importantly, environmentally. The future of our planet is of great concern to all generations but that concern is often felt most acutely by young people at the dawn of their careers who come to study at institutions like ours in large numbers, year on year. The education that we are able to offer them needs to reflect current interests and passions and that is why the groundbreaking MSc programme in Carbon Management offered by our Business School has been so tremendously popular.

We have a great responsibility to our students and to the world which they will go on to shape and it is vitally important to demonstrate to them, and to all our stakeholders, that being and continuing to be a sustainable and socially responsible organisation is an absolute cornerstone of our ethos. I thank all the staff of the University of Edinburgh for the determined and effective way in which they are meeting that responsibility and for the tremendous hard work they put into all of the University’s activities.

Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea BSc, PhD, FRSE
A new world view: ensuring access for all to life-saving drugs

The University of Edinburgh is one of the first universities in the UK to adopt a humanitarian agenda for the licensing of its medical research.

As a result of this new policy, life-saving drugs developed in campus laboratories could soon be made available to populations in lesser developed countries that would previously have been unable to afford them.

The University has worked with students from the group Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) to take forward the initiative.

UAEM is a coalition of students, faculty members and researchers at more than 50 universities across Europe and North America. Its aim is to ensure every health-related innovation developed in campus laboratories is made available in the developing world at the lowest possible cost, and that the level and impact of university research on neglected diseases is substantially increased.

Mori Mansouri, UK national coordinator for UAEM and a fourth-year medical student at the University, led the campaign for Edinburgh to adopt the policy.

"Being a medical student and having travelled to various poverty-stricken areas of the world, I'm keenly aware of the problem of access to essential medicines," he says.

"I have seen empty medicine cabinets in rural and urban clinics and hospitals around Zambia and Kenya, and witnessed first-hand patients' deterioration simply because they could not afford existing medicines."

Each year, around 10 million people die due to lack of access to existing therapies. That's 27,000 people a day, 19,000 of whom are children.

Mr Mansouri believes that students should demand that their University recognise its own role in the access crisis, and ask for life-saving drugs developed in their labs to be made affordable to people in the developing world.

Professor David Webb of the School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health at the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine was a key player in ensuring that the ideas behind the campaign had traction within the University.

"The students need the credit for the quality of thinking behind this, because they drove it at the start and then it gained its own impetus," he explains. "It was first brought to my attention by Mori, who raised the issue after one of my lectures."

But Professor Webb also points out that the policy is a natural fit with the University's ethos: "Our role as a world-leading research university extends beyond innovation. We have a responsibility to make a significant and socially responsible contribution to society at large. Millions of people die from often-preventable diseases every year, and we are hopeful that by making our medicines as accessible as possible to those in greatest need, a genuine difference will be made."

The College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine is a hub for research into how drugs can be created to combat diseases in the world's poorer countries. It struck Professor Webb that drawing on the College's pool of expertise in this area would help meet the University's obligations to the wider world.

"Universities have to some extent a dual responsibility," he says. "One as public bodies to do good where possible, but also as charities to recoup adequately the costs of their activities, and to support their activities through commercialisation. Mori and I concluded that you could meet these aims by commercialising in the developed world and allowing drugs to be used more affordably there."

This approach will now be the premise of any discussion between the University and a pharmaceutical company about the development of a new drug. It's a precedent that should signal to pharmaceutical companies a sea change in the way health-related technologies are made available to poorer countries, and persuade them of the powerful reputational advantages in such a move.

Professor Webb feels it is important to remember that universities have been the seedbeds for innovation in medical research for decades.

"If you look at the big blockbuster drugs from the last 30 to 40 years many of them emerged from work at universities," he explains. "Pharmaceutical companies understandably take a lot of credit for what they achieve but much of it is built on the efforts of universities. Industry benefits hugely from the work of universities."

He hopes that the initiative will allow some of the University's leading researchers to work with groups such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the area of research commercialisation.

The policy is part of a broader drive by the University to participate in international collaborations to improve healthcare for poorer countries and promote innovation. The initiative has been warmly welcomed by students at the University, and by Professor Webb's colleagues.

Jonathan R Seckl, Professor of Molecular Medicine and Director of Research at the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, explains: "We are absolutely delighted to do whatever it is we can to support education, access to research and access to medicine for developing countries. We see this as an absolutely central part of the overall mission of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine."

Professor Webb and Mr Mansouri hope that the University's policy will help forge a new consensus on the global effort to make essential medicines available to all.

"I'm really hoping that other universities in the UK will take it up so that ultimately it becomes the status quo," says Professor Webb. "There is a lot of public pressure for this kind of approach so I would hope that it would be adopted fairly quickly. I'm really delighted that the University took this on – it says something very positive about Edinburgh that it supports an initiative that is so important and central to the work we are doing."

Access to life-saving drugs should ensure a brighter future for children across the globe.
“Our role as a world-leading research university extends beyond innovation. We have a responsibility to make a significant and socially responsible contribution to society at large ...”
Diaspora studies: how far flung Scots shaped the world

A £1 million centre of study exploring the role of Scots across the globe has been launched at the University of Edinburgh.

The Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies (SCDS) is the first in the world for the advanced research of Scottish emigration. The Centre was established following a private donation of £1 million from Mr Alan McFarlane, Managing Director of equity investment firm Walter Scott and Partners, and his wife Mrs Ann McFarlane.

Based within the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, the Centre will support doctoral students in the history of the Scottish diaspora, develop scholars who can become affiliated staff, organise events to project research and commentary to the public, and seek collaborations in related fields worldwide. Mr McFarlane’s generous donation also enabled the establishment of two doctoral scholarships in Scottish diaspora studies at the Centre.

Tom Devine, Sir William Fraser Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography, and Director of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies, explains the intellectual context that gave rise to the Centre.

“It’s a development that makes it even more important to value historical research that is led by evidence rather than emotion,” he explains. “International research and comparison will be vital to the Centre. Initially there will be comparative study with other migrant ethnicities and longer term we will have scholars looking at Italian migration, English migration, Irish migration and other paradigms. “We need to recognise the darkness as well as the light in the Scottish diasporic experience. So for example in our current work we are examining the Scottish connection with slave plantations, particularly in the 18th century. We’re exploring the Scottish soldier abroad from a different perspective – not the heroic perspective. And we are asking: what was the impact of being consistently used as the spearhead of the Empire?”

Since its launch the Centre has staged a series of events, recently inviting the distinguished journalist Neal Ascherson to give a keynote address on the long-term relationship between Scotland and Poland. This type of public engagement is integral to the Centre’s ethos, says Professor Devine.

“Our priorities are the highest possible academic standards and on a regular basis exposure of our work to the general public,” he explains. “I do believe firmly that people taking the public purse, as we are, should be returning something. And you can see by our events the extraordinary public interest in these issues.

“History is one of those subjects where you can still retain the internal academic logic and at the same time have accessible exposition.”

The work of the Centre is already yielding surprising results. David Hesse is one of the doctoral candidates at the Centre, supervised by Professor Devine and David McCrone, Professor of Sociology. His research project looks at the continental European dimension of the Scottish diaspora, examining the Scottish clubs, clan societies and festivals that he has found to be rife in France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Russia.

“Sometimes these clubs are intimate genealogical societies, and sometimes they organise folk festivals on a grand scale, with pipe bands, kilts and Highland games,” explains Mr Hesse.

“The festivals are attended by a mixture of people of Scottish descent and those who simply claim an emotional, aesthetic connection with Scotland. The Scots seem to be well informed about what’s going on in the USA and Australia but know very little about the enthusiasm for Scottish ancestry and Scottish symbols across Europe. I was recently at a festival near Leipzig, for example, and there were 15,000 Germans celebrating Scotland, many of them wearing kilts.”

Mr Hesse’s research has captured what he describes as the “historically seasoned” evocations of Scotland that still have mass appeal – tradition, strength, masculinity, and a martial, underdog spirit. These may be “a bundle of stereotypes” according to Mr Hesse, but they are potent ones.

Professor Devine points to Mr Hesse’s research as a fascinating and revealing portrait of “the contemporary fetish with things Scots”. He argues that Scotland has experienced, over the past 10 years, “a new sense of triumphalism, a shift away from an obsession with victim history to an obsession with victor history.”

It’s a development that makes it even more important to value historical research that is led by evidence rather than emotion, Professor Devine says: “There needs to be a credible, trusted, impartial academic base to make commentary at a time when the nation is still in the process of discovering its new identity in the post-Devolution era. The whole purpose of what the Centre does must be intellectual honesty. A mature democracy should be prepared to look at the past, warts and all.”

Professor Tom Devine, Director of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies.
“The best answer to introspection and parochialism in ‘small country history’ is to look outside. The Scottish emigrations are a wonderful laboratory for exploring international human mobility.”
Teaching excellence: students’ voices heard in recognising outstanding teachers

A new series of awards – created and administered by the University of Edinburgh’s student body – has given recognition to teachers who have inspired and enriched the academic lives of their students.

Winners of the inaugural Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA) Teaching Awards were announced at a special ceremony in early 2009, with prizes presented in 10 categories. Some 2,700 nominations were received, for 621 staff, 191 courses and 60 departments.

The awards were established to recognise innovative and inspiring teaching and to highlight the many individual success stories across the University, says EUSA Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Evan Beswick.

“The best support we can give to that is by demonstrating clearly how grateful students are to those academics who devote real effort to making their lectures and feedback as interesting and inspiring as they can be,” Evan says.

Professor Dai Hounsell, Vice-Principal for Academic Enhancement, adds that the awards underline the significance of teaching alongside research.

“We have a challenge of striking the right balance between research and teaching,” he explains. “We see ourselves as a research-intensive university with a worldwide reputation, but the issue is not that one or the other should dominate; rather research and teaching should feed in to each other.”

EUSA’s largest academic campaign to date, the teaching awards received an overwhelmingly positive response from students and the staff members who were nominated, according to Professor Hounsell.

“Good teaching mattered enough to thousands of students to want to nominate somebody, so that is a great sign that they really care about teaching and that the good teachers are recognised,” he says.

“These teachers have been hiding their light under a bushel; these are not people who go around saying how wonderful they are, and many were surprised and delighted to be nominated.”

Among the award winners are: Best Department (Classics); Best Director of Studies (Dr Tony Gilbert from Mathematics); Best Dissertation Supervisor (Dr Yew Ming Chia from Accounting); Best Feedback (Dr John Simpson from Respiratory Medicine); Best Teaching of Employable Skills (Kenny Pyde from Education); Outstanding Communicator (Professor Ian Campbell from English Literature); and Overall High Performer (Dr Elizabeth Bomberg from Politics & International Relations).

Dr Richard Milne, Lecturer in Plant Science at the Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences in the School of Biological Sciences, was winner of the Innovative Teaching award, and says it felt “absolutely wonderful” to have his efforts acknowledged by his students. “I work extremely hard to make my lectures comprehensible, enjoyable and memorable, and it’s fantastic to know that this work has paid off,” he says.

“These awards are a brilliant innovation by EUSA. Research and teaching should have equal prominence as activities within a university, but while excellence in research brings all sorts of rewards and status, excellence in teaching generally brings very few.”

Recipient of the Commitment to All-Round Teaching award, Tonks Fawcett, Senior Lecturer in Nursing Studies at the School of Health in Social Science, agrees the awards are a very positive innovation.

“My focus over the years has been to produce the best nurses possible from the University of Edinburgh and it felt like the students had appreciated this,” she says. “I’m delighted that teaching has been recognised in this way because it was always in the University’s credo. And it’s nice to see the students’ voice being listened to and heeded.”

The School of Law’s Dr Sharon Cowan, Lecturer in Criminal Law & Medical Jurisprudence, won the Best Course award and reveals it was an “enormous honour and privilege” to be nominated.

“I think the results reflect the level of engagement students have in the teaching environment, and their understanding of what it means to be taught well. It shows that they’re not just passive learners,” she says.

“One of the best things about the awards ceremony was that the organisers played excerpts of students talking about other courses, and I learnt what was happening in Botany and Biology, for example, which was fascinating. Hearing about what other staff members at the University were doing was inspiring.”

The University already recognises quality teaching through a number of avenues, including the annual Chancellor’s Award for Teaching and the Principal’s Teaching Awards Scheme. However Professor Hounsell maintains that the EUSA Teaching Awards are particularly powerful as they are devised and operated entirely by students.

“That gives them great street credibility,” he explains. “Another admirable thing about the scheme is its separate awards for best feedback, best course organisation, best course, best communicator… That is important because it says excellent teaching can take many different forms.

“Teaching is about a relationship between a teacher and a student or group of students, and it is probably more challenging now than ever before. These awards are saying, ‘Teaching is a great meeting of minds, a dialogue’, and they serve as a lovely reminder to us all that this relationship matters.”
“These awards are a brilliant innovation by EUSA. Research and teaching should have equal prominence as activities within a university.”

Some of the inaugural winners of the EUSA Teaching Awards outside EUSA’s Teviot Union. From left: Dr Sharon Cowan, Dr Yew Ming Chia, Dr Elizabeth Bomberg, Professor Ian Campbell, Mrs Tonks Fawcett and Dr Richard Milne.
Going global: striving for worldwide partnerships and international excellence

The University of Edinburgh is building on its long-established reputation as an international centre for teaching and research by adopting a new strategy – Edinburgh Global.

Officially launched in June 2009, Edinburgh Global aims to ensure that the University is “a place of first choice in the minds of the world.”

Project head Professor Stephen Hillier, Vice-Principal International, says the strategy will equip the University with the vision and agility to develop its international status and reputation in what is an increasingly competitive global environment.

“The risks of not embracing this agenda are severe,” he cautions. “In this dynamic, exciting and challenging world, to stand still or even just make incremental progress will be to fall behind.”

However, Professor Hillier believes the benefits of success will be seen in terms of vibrant, internationally focused staff and students who are working with the best thinkers worldwide.

Edinburgh Global has four major strategic objectives: to ensure Edinburgh continues to attract the most able researchers; to ensure that student-related teaching and research is of the highest standard; to ensure that Edinburgh remains one of the most attractive universities for students; to continue to attract the most able researchers; and to ensure that the University’s knowledge and research findings have global impact.

An example of how Edinburgh Global will work in practice is the creation of ‘global academies’ within the University, which will draw together teaching and research in key areas for which Edinburgh is renowned. The ‘global academies’ will place an umbrella over the related activities that are occurring across the University, including staff and students’ expertise in the fields of leadership, management and policy development. Each academy will have a prospectus drawn from all three Colleges but with its centre of gravity in a particular College.

Professor Hillier explains: “Taking the Global Health Academy as an example, what we are proposing is that all the specialists from across the University put on the table exactly what they are doing in this area. That will allow us to bring together all our diverse, eclectic and exciting areas of research and use them to develop a prospectus of health-related activities that can contribute to our global position.”

The University has already forged worldwide partnerships within the health arena in fields such as water quality, environmental sustainability, computer sciences, humanities and social sciences.

An example of the global outlook that will increasingly define the University is the work being undertaken at the School of Biomedical Sciences’ Centre for Infectious Diseases, to combat the scourge of tsetse fly-borne sleeping sickness in Africa.

This work is being led by Sue Welburn, Professor of Medical and Veterinary Molecular Epidemiology. Professor Welburn has been working in Uganda for more than 20 years, studying the relationship between the spread of the illness by flies and the role livestock plays in providing a ‘reservoir’ for the sickness.

When she began studying the subject, Professor Welburn worked under difficult conditions in Uganda – it was known that livestock could be a reservoir for human disease, but experts were unsure of how significant a factor this was. No tools were available for testing whether humans were being infected in ‘spillover’ infections from animals.

Professor Welburn explains: “About 20 years ago we started developing quite basic molecular tools that would enable us to determine whether these parasites were infective to humans or not. Over the past 15 years that’s what I’ve been doing: developing more and more sophisticated molecular tools so now we’re actually able to take a sample of blood from an animal, pop it on a card and tell you whether it can infect a human or not.”

There are two forms of sleeping sickness: a chronic form found mainly in the north of Uganda and an acute form that occurs in the southern regions. These diseases have started to move towards each other at a very high rate. Professor Welburn’s team has been working with the Ugandan Government and Makerere University in Kampala, to treat all of the cattle in the zone in which these two diseases need to be eliminated.

“We have a programme to treat up to 500,000 animals and our role and responsibility is to prove beneficial: the two institutions collaborate in running an online Masters course, and offer a full exchange programme for doctoral and postdoctoral training.

Professor Welburn says the Ugandan project’s success has clear applications in other African countries, and future work will be built on relationships with a range of international institutions: “We’re exploring collaboration with Yale University and we already partner with the University of Salford and the University of Cambridge in working in Africa.”

With a view to the future, Professor Hillier explains: “We already lead in certain areas, but we aspire to do more. This strategy will make our activities more accessible and more visible to potential students and collaborators.”
“Already we have reduced the reservoir of infection in animals by 75 per cent, effectively preventing transmission in an entire district ...”
From campus to community: university societies come of age

With a track record in areas as diverse as conservation, charity sector consultancy and support for hospital patients, the University’s student societies are spearheading engagement with Edinburgh’s wider community.

The Edinburgh University Student Association (EUSA) runs more than 200 clubs and societies, groups that are at the heart of student life in the capital. Many of these societies play a role beyond groups that are at the heart of student life in the campus, working with a cross-section of society in Edinburgh, outside the city limits and overseas.

At the University of Edinburgh, half the student body is involved in societies, with participation actively encouraged by EUSA. Camilla Pierry, EUSA Vice-President for Societies and Activities, believes societies encourage students to develop talents and forge friendships that enrich their university experience and advantage them in later life.

“Because students are in Edinburgh for four years, societies give people a real opportunity to shape their time at the University,” she says. “We have a remarkably low drop-out rate at Edinburgh and a remarkably high number of societies. There is an incredibly skilled pool of students here, because of what students learn through their involvement in clubs and societies – and that’s sometimes overlooked.”

EUSA recently launched the Society Oscars, an opportunity to recognise societies’ successes in campaigning, event organisation and public engagement. The awards shortlist reflected the ambition of many societies not just to give their members a focal point for socialising and sharing ideas, but also to liberate themselves from the campus and take their work into the community.

The Oscars’ Community Action trophy was won by conservation society the Dirty Weekenders. The group focuses on improving green spaces in the Lothian area, as fifth-year Geology student and Club President Anna Brookfield explains.

“A lot of the work we do is about improving access to parks and woodlands so that people can get in to and enjoy these beautiful places,” she says. “Our projects include step building at Dalkeith Country Park, burn clearance at the Hermitage of Braid, tree planting at Beecraigs, path maintenance on the Penicuik-Dalkeith walkway and vegetation clearance and step building at Roslin Glen.”

Runner-up for the Community Action award was Fresh Sight, a professional student organisation that offers free consultancy services to the not-for-profit sector. Members conduct projects lasting six to nine weeks for client charities, tackling problems such as funding, business planning, marketing and branding.

Fourth-year Politics student Lucy Geoghegan is Director of Fresh Sight. “We provide a forum for like-minded, enthusiastic and socially concerned students to come together and gain skills through training workshops,” she explains. “They get invaluable on-the-job experience leading and participating in a project for a local charity or social enterprise.”

Clients include the Wester Hailes Health Agency, the Homeless Outreach Project, Autism Initiatives UK, and Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. Ms Geoghegan says part of Fresh Sight’s remit is to renegotiate the relationship between the University and wider Edinburgh community.

“We believe Fresh Sight can help students and key elements of the community to interact in a mutually beneficial way,” she says. “This can last the duration of a project but, more commonly, it has inspired students to continue volunteering or go on to work within the third sector after graduation.”

Also shortlisted at the Society Oscars was Children’s Holiday Venture (CHV), the UK’s only solely student-run children’s charity. CHV works with around 100 children and young people aged from eight to 16 and who come from areas of deprivation in Edinburgh. Members run weekly group activities, annual day trips, residential camps and fundraising events with the purpose of giving children and young people new experiences in a supportive environment.

Society Secretary Rachel Morrison, a fifth-year Chemical Engineering student, explains: “All the children and young people are referred to us through schools and social work departments; one of the reasons we appeal to them is because we have a ratio of two studentsto every three children. Through regular contact, we are able to provide stable relationships that give the children and young people more confidence which, in turn, builds trust and respect.”

Alongside established groups such as the Dirty Weekenders, Fresh Sight and CHV, more than 30 new societies regularly launch each year. The Patient Outreach Project (POP) is a volunteering service operating with NHS Lothian. It aims to provide student visitors for inpatients at Edinburgh’s Royal Victoria Hospital who may have few visitors and friends in the area.

Personal experiences of hospital informed third-year medical student Charlotte Squire’s decision to initiate the project.

“I was thinking about how difficult my family found it when my grandparents were hospitalised near the end of their lives,” she says. “Even when people do their best to juggle work and family commitments to find time to visit friends and relatives, many patients often spend a great deal of time alone in hospital.

“Hospital staff really do their best, but often just don’t have the time to sit and chat with patients. Several studies have indicated the importance of holistic wellbeing to physical recovery, so this is clearly important. I wanted to start a project where students give some time to visit patients in hospital, with the goal of reducing the stress on families, making hospital stays more interesting and less lonely, and bringing students into more contact with the elderly, a group we can learn a great deal from.”

Camilla Pierry hopes EUSA can do more to articulate the achievements of societies in future: “Communication is always a challenge – students do a lot of good work behind the scenes. But there is enormous potential for more; while groups like these are fantastic, there are lots of societies still only exploring the logistics of outreach. We have a lot of student talent here that with more support could really impact on the wider community.”

Ms Pierry is consistently impressed by the commitment, inventiveness and vitality students bring to Edinburgh’s societies: “EUSA doesn’t set up societies pre-emptively; every group springs from an individual student having an idea and coming to us with it. It’s all about student leadership – right from the start.”

The annual Societies Fair is always well attended by ‘freshers’ keen to broaden their horizons.
“Because students are in Edinburgh for four years, societies give people a real opportunity to shape their time at the University.”

Student volunteers give up their weekends to help clear the former Penicuik-Dalkeith railway line, now a popular community walk on the southern reaches of the city of Edinburgh.
University of Edinburgh scientists have made a significant breakthrough in understanding avalanches – and their findings may save the lives of skiers and mountaineers around the world.

Researchers from the School of Engineering have found that slab avalanches, the most common cause of avalanche casualties, could be triggered by fractures or ‘anticracks’ under the snow, which cause the snow to crumble inwards.

This discovery overturns assumptions about avalanches that have been in place since the mid-1970s. Scientists had previously assumed that slab avalanches started when cracks in weak snow layers allowed the snow above to slide off; the avalanche would then be driven down by gravity. It was thought that as the angle of the mountain slope declined, the length of the initial crack that is needed to trigger an avalanche would increase. Field experiments by Edinburgh’s Joachim Heierli, Michael Zaiser and Blair Fyffe have now disproved this.

The researchers created artificial cracks in weak snow layers to establish the conditions under which slab avalanches occur. An understanding of the intriguing qualities of snow itself was fundamental to their work, as Dr Joachim Heierli, now based at the German Fraunhofer Institute for Mechanics of Materials, explains.

“Snow is a very porous and heterogeneous material; it can contain unstable areas,” he says. “When it fractures the fragile grain structure collapses, and this leads to a reduction in snow volume. This reduction in volume had not been captured by previous avalanche modelling.”

The team discovered that more energy is released by this sudden structural collapse than by the sliding of the snow layer in the initial seconds of an avalanche. As a consequence, they realised that fracturing snow is actually much easier than had previously been thought.

“This helped answer the mystery of instances when avalanches appeared to be started by skiers and mountaineers from safe ground,” adds Professor Zaiser. “We now see that anticracks can trigger fractures over large distances, spreading on gentle slopes and on flat areas.”

The snow instability associated with anticracks can result in an abrupt settling, accompanied by a distinctive sound – a ‘whumphf’. “A whumphf occurs when you have a weak layer in the snow pack, which is often what happens because of the way wind and other conditions in winter affect the formation of the snow”, explains Dr Blair Fyffe. “When this layer collapses you get this sudden volume reduction. The whole slab above the weak layer settles and it produces this ‘whumphfing’ noise. If you produce one of these you can hear it propagating through the snow pack. If you’re on the slope at the time it can be quite frightening.”

Heierli, Zaiser and Fyffe’s research findings – recently published in the journal Science – now feed into mainstream dialogue about avalanches, and their work is being communicated to the public. This will result in better awareness of the conditions that can contribute to snow instability and, in particular, the warning signs of fractures.

“It’s already beginning to impact on the information provided by the Scottish Avalanche Information Service,” says Professor Zaiser. “Some of the avalanche reports I’ve read recently have mentioned ‘cracking underfoot’, for example, which is exactly this whumphf phenomenon we are talking about. This was used as an indication that people should be careful because the avalanche hazard risk was high.”

Professor Zaiser stresses that an international partnership, funded by the European Commission, was central to this Edinburgh research project.

“In several respects the international partners have been instrumental,” he says. “The Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research were key because of our ability to do experiments there which are very difficult to do in Scotland due to the climate. And Alain Duclos and Francois Louchet, part of a small company involved in avalanche safety in the French Alps, were vital in giving us examples that taught us about the practical importance of the research.”

The term that came to underpin much of the team’s thinking was coined by fellow researcher Professor Peter Gumbsch, head of the Institute for Reliability of Components and Systems at Germany’s Universität Karlsruhe, with whom Dr Heierli and Professor Zaiser collaborated. “Peter came up with the term ‘anticrack’,” says Professor Zaiser. “This was extremely helpful – it represented progress in one word and could solve a lot of our problems.”

The decision to exploit expertise abroad paid dividends for the University of Edinburgh team, but Scotland’s climate made international participation a necessity.

“Snow that falls in Scotland alters very rapidly due to our maritime climate,” explains Dr Fyffe. “Conditions one day might be suitable for avalanches and the next day they might have changed. So the fickleness of the weather in Scotland makes it hard to do any kind of experimental work here.”

This problem also influences the hit-rate for accurate predictions of avalanches.

“Scotland has perhaps the most challenging environment for avalanche forecasting of anywhere in the world,” adds Professor Zaiser. “In the Highlands, because of the diversity of conditions, there are five different areas for avalanche forecasting. In Switzerland there is just one for an area that’s a similar size to the Highlands.”

Paradoxically, while conditions in Scotland can make avalanches more likely, they also mitigate against them, explains Professor Zaiser: “Scotland has particular risk factors for producing slab avalanches. One is wind, because it takes snow from the windward side of the mountain and deposits it on the leeside, creating these packs of snow. At the same time you have a huge risk redeeming factor: it’s very likely that the temperature will rise above the melting point over the next 24 hours, which means everything melts then refreezes and becomes as stable as concrete.”

The team admit that the research has produced as many questions as it has answers. But the response to their work thus far suggests that, by challenging conventional wisdom about avalanches, Heierli, Zaiser and Fyffe have made an enduring contribution to mountain safety.

“Our discoveries complete a piece of the puzzle of how avalanches occur,” says Dr Heierli. “We hope this will help to pinpoint dangerous telltale signs and so avoid unnecessary dangers to people on mountains.”

The fickleness of Scotland’s weather made international collaboration a necessity.
“Scotland has perhaps the most challenging environment for avalanche forecasting of anywhere in the world ...”
Gene hunting: tracking down the causes of disease

University of Edinburgh-led research in the remote Orkney archipelago is extending our understanding of the role genes play in determining the risk of serious illnesses such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

Orkney’s remoteness and stable population make it an ideal site for the research, which is being led by the University’s Centre for Population Health Sciences in the School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health.

The generally similar diet, lifestyle and occupations of Orkney’s residents allow scientists to filter out many of the environmental factors that can often contribute to the development of diseases.

The Orkney Complex Disease Study (ORCADES) has been under way for five years and through interviewing 1,700 residents it has helped identify more than 200 genes that were not previously associated with disease.

Project head Dr Jim Wilson, Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Centre for Population Health Sciences, is collaborating on ORCADES with the Medical Research Council’s Human Genetics Unit. Dr Wilson’s recent £450,000 grant from Scotland’s Chief Scientist Office will allow the team to recruit a further 1,000 volunteers. Insights gained into the genetic factors influencing disease could suggest new directions for treatment.

“The point is to find genes that are influencing your risk of developing diseases,” Dr Wilson explains. “To do that, we're not looking at people who already have a given disease. Instead we're taking measurements of blood cholesterol levels, blood sugar levels and bone density from across the total volunteer population, healthy or otherwise.”

Many diseases have both a genetic and environmental element, which is why an individual could follow medical advice to avoid heart disease and still have a heart attack, while another could smoke heavily all their life and suffer no ill effects.

“Some of these things cluster in families so we’re trying to unpick those genetic components to try and understand what’s going on,” Dr Wilson explains. “We’re measuring more than 200 different risk factors, some of them physiological, some of them anatomical, which makes for a very powerful approach.”

Dr Wilson’s study is a first step on a long journey to find new drugs and treatments for diseases. “Without a deeper understanding of what it means to be ill or well and of how our bodies work and of how the biology of disease comes into play, we won’t have anything new with which to design a drug against or for,” he explains. “There are still a lot of trials involved but we are showing the potential of this approach.”

While Orkney’s isolation suits this type of study, it has also posed a few logistical headaches for the Edinburgh researchers. Unforeseen complications, such as a crow striking powerlines and cutting the electricity supply to a freezer in which vital plasma samples were stored, is just one hurdle that the scientists have faced.

Fortunately those samples were saved, and despite such challenges, Dr Wilson says Orkney makes a very good research base. “The local people are very community spirited,” he reveals. “The phone rang off the hook when we first started recruiting people and we had 400 people signed up in a week. For this study, people have to be Orcadians over 18 years of age, which means we have a total eligible population of about 10,000.”

Dr Wilson also has a personal connection with Orkney: he grew up on the island, a fact that has been vital to the project’s success. “In the end, practicalities dominate over science, and to get things done you sometimes need to know people,” he admits. “Being from Orkney has helped enormously with recruitment because I know the people and the language.”

The researchers have been careful to ‘future-proof’ the ORCADES project, freezing samples that can be tested once more advanced techniques have been developed.

As ORCADES is an ongoing venture, further analysis and insights will be gleaned should any participants pass away or be admitted to hospital with a serious illness. DNA will have been stored from before they were ill, so that in 20 years time, researchers will be able to compare the numbers of people who have suffered an illness with those who have not.

The first research papers on ORCADES have been published and the findings have put Orkney, and Scotland, on the map among the world’s community of researchers and geneticists.

“We’re now taking part in more than 20 international collaborations in this field of study, which is contributing to the discovery of new genes pretty much every month,” Dr Wilson says.

“I think this work will revolutionise medicine, and I emphasise it’s not ORCADES on its own: these days it’s a numbers game, and the collaborative work we do with other such studies across the world is bringing all the sciences together.”

Alongside his work with ORCADES, Dr Wilson is also conducting a study of multiple sclerosis (MS) in Orkney and Shetland, which have the highest rates of the disease in the world.

“When I was on the doorsteps canvassing opinion for the ORCADES study a typical Orkney response was, ‘Why are you studying these things – don’t you know we have the highest incidence of MS in the world?’” he says.

“It took a while to plan the study, but we obtained funding from the MS Society and we’ve just finished collecting samples from all the willing cases in Orkney and Shetland. That will allow us to start work on a genetic analysis to try and identify the genes that are increasing the risk.”

Delving into the history of this important community.
“We’re measuring more than 200 different risk factors, some of them physiological, some of them anatomical, which makes for a very powerful approach.”
Research excellence: latest rankings confirm international standing

The results of the latest Research Assessment Exercise, or RAE, by the UK Higher Education Funding Councils have reaffirmed the University of Edinburgh’s position as a world-leading research institution.

Edinburgh’s submission was among the largest and most comprehensive in the UK, with 63 per cent of the University’s research activity rated in the highest possible categories of 3* (internationally excellent) and 4* (world-leading).

Among the assessment’s highlights are the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine being rated number one in the UK for hospital-based clinical subjects, based on the proportion of world-leading research. Similarly, the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is now the top-ranked vet school in the UK, based on the volume of its world-leading research.

The primary purpose of the RAE is to produce quality profiles for each submission of research activity made by institutions throughout the UK. The four higher education funding bodies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland then use the profiles to determine their research grants to each institution.

Professor Sir John Savill, Head of the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, says the internationally benchmarked RAE is a rigorous, objective assessment.

“Success in the RAE brings additional resource to the University, and that benefits all activity here,” he explains, adding that the combination of research and teaching is one of Edinburgh’s strengths. “I regard research and teaching as indivisible, particularly in clinical professional education areas such as medicine and veterinary medicine. It’s been said that today’s research is tomorrow’s teaching and the day after’s clinical practice, so it is very important in our fields, which change so rapidly.”

Professor Savill says Edinburgh’s objective to have the “best vet school in the world” is being realised, with medicine ranking in the top 10 internationally in the RAE. “All of this depends on bringing through young people, and I think one of the strengths of Edinburgh has been our commitment to identifying bright young people and bringing them through research careers,” he says.

Professor Elaine Watson, Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, says the RAE is paramount to attracting the very best students and producing high-calibre graduates. “We see ourselves as a research-led School and we are now positioned at the top of the league tables,” she explains. “On the first day of term, I always ask students, ‘Why did you want to come to Edinburgh?’ One of the consistent responses is that they chose it because of our research reputation.

“It’s also particularly important that we feature strongly in the RAE so that we attract a high number of overseas applicants. Because they tend to be mature, committed and highly motivated, the number of overseas students coming to study here brings benefits to everyone.”

Professor John Arlott, Head of Linguistics, says the rankings show “that we have made a world-leading research result for our students.”

Professor Ladd believes collaboration between Schools gives Linguistics a distinct advantage in driving research and dialogue: “We have long-standing links with informatics and we are doing all we can to build that relationship further.”

Professor Fourman says international links are crucial to maintaining high-quality research standards. “We can’t expect to produce all the good results on our own,” he says. “We need to be linked in to all the other people around the world who are working at this level. If you have those close links, students here can be hearing about something that was talked about during the summer just a few months later in the autumn.”

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English Literature is another RAE success story, with 40 per cent of its research activity ranked top in the world-leading level, placing it in the top three submissions in the UK. Dr James Loxley, Head of English Literature, says the ranking shows “that English Literature at Edinburgh is a continuing success story, leading the way in research with...”

He continues: “What I hope it shows to potential students is that this is a place where teaching and supervision are conducted by staff at the top of their game, and that they can be sure of benefiting from participation in a department that prizes and nurtures academic excellence.”

In addition to its achievements in individual subject areas, the University also excelled in its collaborative RAE submissions. The joint submission by the Edinburgh School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture (ESALA), which combines researchers from the University and Edinburgh College of Art, ranked third in the UK by volume of its world-leading research.

ESALA accepted its first intake of students in September 2009, and Professor Stephen Cairns, its Acting Co-Director, says the RAE success has “turned out to be a real foundation stone” for the School. “It means we can claim expertise across many scales of the built environment from domestic dwellings to cities to the countryside,” he explains. “And the fact that it’s based on our research track record makes this a very solid claim.”

Edinburgh College of Art’s Leslie Forsyth, ESALA’s Co-Director, is confident the union of teaching and research expertise that the joint School represents will yield great opportunities for students.

“It’s obviously early days but when I saw the new cohort of students attending the first lecture I saw a real enthusiasm, intelligence and joy,” he says. “My hope is that we can build the foundations for a School of Architecture that in time is one of the top schools in the world.”

World-leading research facilities attract the very best students.
“Success in the RAE brings additional resource to the University, and that benefits all activity here ...”

Mrs Fiona McTachlan of the University of Edinburgh and Dr Soledad Garcia Ferrari of Edinburgh College of Art jointly lead the first year of teaching at the new Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.
News in brief

August 2008
Healthcare expert tackles TB in Nepal

University academic Dr Ian Harper participated in a drive by the Nepalese Government to address the country’s tuberculosis (TB) problem. The medical anthropologist worked with the National Tuberculosis Centre in Kathmandu to help control the disease. He was recruited to help develop public health programmes, including advising on implementing drug treatments. Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of death in HIV-infected people, and he was also tasked with exploring ways to integrate HIV and TB health services as Government figures reveal that approximately 45 per cent of the Nepalese population is infected with TB and between 5,000 and 7,000 people die every year from the disease. Dr Harper said: “The National Tuberculosis Programme in Nepal has made some giant steps in TB control. I was delighted to join them, assisting their other partners, including the World Health Organization, with the support of the University of Edinburgh.”

September 2008
Broadening public access to research

NASA astronaut and Edinburgh alumnus Piers Sellers helped launch a four-year public engagement project led by the University in partnership with 18 other organisations. The Edinburgh Beltane initiative aims to encourage greater public debate and awareness in research areas that impact on our everyday lives, including healthcare, energy, the environment and the arts, encouraging Scottish citizens to have a greater say in Government policy. The project’s programme of events includes a series of public debates. Vice-Principal for Research Training and Community Relations, Professor Mary Bownes, said: “Researchers will share their cutting-edge discoveries in a way that will enable people to engage with the big questions facing us all. We hope that discussions between the public, researchers and the Government will help people to have a say in and influence a knowledge-based economy.”

October 2008
Bursary scheme reaches 10th birthday

The University celebrated 10 years of its Access Bursary Scheme. This support system has benefited more than 1,000 students who, for financial reasons, may have been unable to take up their place at Edinburgh. The anniversary was marked by a ceremony in the University’s historic Playfair Library attended by the latest group of Access Bursary recipients. In 2008 the University awarded its highest number of undergraduate bursaries through the scheme, with 182 students receiving awards. Natalie Gibb, a third-year law student and bursar, said: “For everyone in receipt of a bursary, it provides the opportunity to go to university, the opportunity to realise your potential and hopefully make a better life for yourself and, perhaps one day, to be able to pay back into the bursary scheme.” Increasing the number of scholarships and bursaries is a priority for the University’s £350 million fundraising campaign.

November 2008
Recognition for carbon reduction

The University became the first educational establishment in Scotland to be awarded the Carbon Trust Standard – the world’s first carbon certification initiative. The accreditation provides official recognition of the University’s ongoing efforts to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions. The University installed three combined heat and power engines at its Pollock Halls of Residence and King's Buildings and George Square campus sites. The heating systems have significantly cut carbon emissions and generated savings of £1 million per year. Later in the academic year, the University also became one of the first higher education institutions in the UK to enter the Universities that Count initiative, which is the first quality-assured sustainability and social responsibility benchmarking programme designed specifically for universities.

December 2008
Work begins on multimillion-pound research centre for regenerative medicine

The building of a new £60 million base for world-leading research into regenerative medicine was marked with a sod-cutting ceremony attended by Finance Minister John Swinney. Situated next to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary at Little France, the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine will unite researchers from the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine and the Institute for Stem Cell Research. These scientists will have access to hi-tech laboratories for study into diseases of the blood, bone, brain and liver. Its location, next to a working hospital, will also help translate research findings into treatments for patients. Mr Swinney said: “The Centre builds on Scotland’s strengths and ability to work together across academia, health and industry and will enhance Scotland’s global reputation for science.”

From left to right: James Burbour (NHS); Jack Perry (Scottish Enterprise); Finance Minister John Swinney; Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, the Centre’s Director; the University’s Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea.

January 2009
Satellite project helps combat climate change

For the first time, Edinburgh scientists developed ways to identify region-by-region accounts of the Earth’s carbon emissions by using satellites. The technique will also highlight areas of the planet that are absorbing the most carbon dioxide. This data will help inform vital research into ways to tackle global warming. The satellites, known as the Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) and the Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) were launched by NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency. They will help scientists pinpoint more accurately the worst-polluting regions on Earth and identify more effectively those environmental conditions that encourage absorption of carbon dioxide. Paul Palmer, Lecturer in Remote Sensing and Modelling, said: “This development is unprecedented. We expect to learn where and how much carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere, how much is absorbed by forests and oceans and how it moves around the atmosphere.”

From NASA jet propulsion lab, California Institute of Technology.
February 2009
Fifth year for Fairtrade status

The University celebrated its fifth anniversary of Fairtrade accreditation. To mark the occasion, staff and students were invited to a series of events including a Fairtrade tea party hosted jointly by the University and the Edinburgh University Student’s Association (EUSA). A special guest at the party was Fairtrade consultant and expert Towera Jalakasi who joined the celebrations from Malawi, courtesy of the Scottish Fairtrade Forum. A Fairtrade fifth birthday cake was also provided to honour the anniversary. Adam Ramsay, who was president of EUSA at the time, said: “Since the University of Edinburgh has become a Fairtrade university, thousands of farmers have been helped out of poverty. As the credit crunch hits every sector of the global economy, it’s crucial that people continue to buy Fairtrade, ensuring the poorest aren’t hit hardest by this recession.”

March 2009
Leading names in literature lend support to students

Bestselling authors Ian Rankin and Philippa Gregory were among those named as the University’s first Honorary Writing Fellows. As part of their Fellowship, the writers will give annual masterclasses to Edinburgh students and take part in public readings. The fellowships are supported by the Scottish Arts Council and UNESCO World City of Literature. Other writers appointed as Fellows include Ron Butlin and Rona Munro. Butlin has published six novels and short story collections and several collections of poetry. Munro has written plays, screen and radio, and authored Ken Loach’s 1994 film ‘Ladybird, Ladybird’. Randall Stevenson, Professor of English Literature, said: “We are delighted that some of the most successful writers in the UK will be sharing their expertise with University students. These new positions will help extend our thriving creative community.”

April 2009
Global fight against childhood pneumonia

A University research team was awarded $US2 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help combat childhood pneumonia. Pneumonia is the largest single cause of deaths in children worldwide, and is responsible for two million deaths a year in the under fives. Mathematicians will collaborate with medics to develop a system for predicting the effectiveness of new prevention strategies and treatments. This will help prioritise the approaches that save the most lives. Harry Campbell, Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and Public Health, said: “We are delighted to work with the Gates Foundation to help them prioritise the most effective treatment solutions. By acting now and acting together we could have a great impact on this childhood disease.” The three-year global project will be carried out in collaboration with the John Hopkins University in the US, the Medical Research Council in South Africa, the Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative in Switzerland and the Croatian Centre for Global Health.

May 2009
New venture helps companies cut carbon

The University’s Business School teamed up with ENDS, the environmental publishing unit of Haymarket Media Group, to launch a new spin-out aimed at supporting businesses, which are struggling to cut their carbon footprint. The ENDS Carbon initiative provides detailed analysis to organisations, benchmarking their environmental performance against their peer groups. The first report evaluated the UK supermarket sector and received backing from Tesco, Asda, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose. ENDS Carbon Director, Craig Mackenzie, said: “This new venture can show them how they are doing against their peer group and highlight opportunities to improve performance. Reducing carbon emissions is becoming big business and it is one of the few parts of the economy still growing in the recession.”

June 2009
Taking architecture into the community

University architecture students took part in a project to create a mural for Castleview Primary School in Edinburgh’s Craigmillar region. Incorporating designs by the schoolchildren, the mural was created using textured and brightly coloured concrete panels. These panels were made using a technique, developed by the architecture students, that casts concrete against fabric, giving it a soft, tactile appearance. The concrete can also be coloured by adding dye to the wet mixture. The children were invited to get involved in this community venture to teach them about design, building and construction processes. Iona Taylor from Castleview Primary School said: “Working with the University increases educational aspirations and once the mural is constructed it will give our pupils a great sense of pride in their local community.” The mural will become a feature of the Craigmillar Heritage Trail.

July 2009
Santander extends student scholarship support

Santander Universities pledged to fund an additional 20 scholarships for Latin American students to study at Edinburgh, strengthening the University’s relationship with the bank. The new funding agreement increased by 50 per cent Santander’s annual donation to the University over a two-year period. The funding will support at least seven scholarships for MBA, PhD or masters students from Latin America, five scholarships for students and staff of the University to study or work overseas, support for round-table events to foster collaboration between students and the business community; provision of incubator spaces to encourage business development, and prizes of £1,000 to reward top student entrepreneurs. The University’s Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, said: “We were delighted to welcome Santander to the University and could not be more pleased with their decision to make funding available to the University. As the University continues to develop its international strategy, corporate partners such as Abbey Santander will prove invaluable.”

8 Author and Edinburgh alumnus, Ian Rankin.
9 Honorary graduate Bill Gates.
10 Major supermarkets have backed the ENDS initiative.
11 Schoolchildren marvel at their concrete creation.
12 Emilio Botín, Chairman of Banco Santander.
Against a background of the major uncertainties affecting the UK and global economies over the last 15 months or so, the University continued to grow its turnover by 6.5% to £592 million. It has returned a modest surplus of £4 million for the year, which, in the circumstances, represents a very satisfactory result.

Turnover reflected continuing growth in teaching, research and commercial activities, as well as the first full year effect of the merger of the Roslin Institute in May 2008. Points of note include:

- grants from the Scottish Funding Council increased by 3.7%;
- tuition fee income grew by nearly 12% as a result of further increases in home and international students;
- research grants and contracts increased by 22%, the most notable increase being in Research Council income by 29%, partly due to real growth across the University, to the continuing transition to full economic costing, and to the Roslin Institute (already noted);
- Other income reduced by £6.0 million though this is more the consequence of a spike in the previous year’s income of £20 million, due to the phasing of income in relation to the set-up cost of the HECToR high-speed computing facility;
- again, despite a difficult external market, residence, catering and conferences operations continued to grow, although the profitability of the subsidiary that delivers conferences and other commercial lettings and events fell; and
- endowment and investment income fell by £5.3 million as a result of a revised endowment investment strategy and the fall in interest rates. However, other interest receivable held up quite strongly as opportunities had been taken to put funds on deposit at favourable rates.

Total expenditure increased by £38 million (7%) with staff costs growing in the year by 10%. This was the result of pay awards in May and October 2008 totalling 8%, and a further increase in the employer contribution rate for the local support staff pension scheme. Staff numbers overall remained much the same. While staffing on competitive research grants and contracts grew by more than 100 due to new activity, staffing in other areas fell by a similar amount as vacant posts were not filled and some staff accepted early retirement or voluntary severance.

Though a recovery in stock markets occurred in the latter part of the year, the value of the total endowment funds fell by £20 million to £165 million. The total return performance at -4.3% was considered satisfactory against a background of declining markets.

The position on cash and short-term investments remained strong during the year, increasing by £32 million to £175 million. This largely reflects the receipt of funding for capital buildings and research being received ahead of expenditure.

The £54 million of capital building undertaken during the year included the continuation of the phased refurbishment of the Main Library, the commencement on site of the new Vet School and the campus infrastructure at Easter Bush and the Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine at Little France. The latter two projects will together cost a total of £110 million. Funding receivable during the year of £33 million from external sources is reflected in the increase in deferred capital grants.

In terms of student numbers, research awards and the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) outcome, the University continues to go from strength to strength. The future, however, is less clear with regard to public funding coming to the University. The University is making plans to deal with various scenarios of reductions in funding, in effect hoping for the best whilst planning for the worst. What is clear, however, is that the University must continue to grow funding from non-governmental sources and out-perform its major competition in delivering high-quality teaching and research in order to preserve, if not augment, its share of a potentially declining level of public funding.

The University has started the 2009/10 year in very strong fashion, with record student numbers and continuing strong research grant awards’ success. The level of growth in income over the last five years, at 60%, is not likely to be sustained but the University is, however, extremely well placed to manage in these much more challenging times. The University is acting very sensibly in taking early action, anticipating the more challenging financial pressures to come and showing itself to be nimble in seeking new income. There are many reasons to believe that the University can maintain its forward momentum during the difficult financial climate currently being experienced.
## Group Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 July 2009

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2009 £’000</th>
<th>2008 restated £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding council grants</td>
<td>183,524</td>
<td>176,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition fees and education contracts</td>
<td>91,932</td>
<td>82,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research grants and contracts</td>
<td>174,648</td>
<td>143,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>127,041</td>
<td>133,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment and investment income</td>
<td>14,388</td>
<td>19,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>591,533</strong></td>
<td><strong>555,319</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2009 £’000</th>
<th>2008 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td>328,287</td>
<td>297,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating expenses</td>
<td>231,160</td>
<td>227,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>21,957</td>
<td>21,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable</td>
<td>6,232</td>
<td>4,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>587,636</strong></td>
<td><strong>549,884</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Surplus on continuing operations after depreciation of assets at valuation and before taxation

- **2009**: 3,897 £’000
- **2008**: 5,435 £’000

### Surplus after depreciation of assets at valuation and disposal of assets but before taxation

- **2009**: 3,820 £’000
- **2008**: 5,906 £’000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2009 £’000</th>
<th>2008 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority interest</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers from/(to) accumulated income within specific endowment asset investments</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>(674)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus for the year retained within general reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,966</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,202</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Group Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2009 £’000</th>
<th>2008 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets</td>
<td>1,055,623</td>
<td>1,027,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment asset investments</td>
<td>164,746</td>
<td>185,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net current assets</td>
<td>40,029</td>
<td>52,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets less current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,260,398</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,265,620</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</td>
<td>(56,363)</td>
<td>(61,524)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for liabilities and charges</td>
<td>(7,782)</td>
<td>(7,095)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability</td>
<td>(106,321)</td>
<td>(84,391)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,089,932</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,112,610</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Represented by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2009 £’000</th>
<th>2008 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deferred capital grants</td>
<td>253,572</td>
<td>240,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Endowments</strong></td>
<td><strong>253,572</strong></td>
<td><strong>240,801</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expendable</td>
<td>114,502</td>
<td>130,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>50,244</td>
<td>54,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total endowments</strong></td>
<td><strong>164,746</strong></td>
<td><strong>185,038</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>2009 £’000</th>
<th>2008 £’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation reserve</td>
<td>542,574</td>
<td>550,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves excluding pension liability</td>
<td>235,351</td>
<td>220,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension reserve</td>
<td>(106,321)</td>
<td>(84,391)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>671,604</strong></td>
<td><strong>686,754</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority interest</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,089,932</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,112,610</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This information reflects the audited accounts for the year to July 2009 published in December 2009. Anyone wishing further information is invited to contact the Director of Finance at the University.
Honorary graduations
and other distinctions

Those awarded honorary degrees between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009

Mr Robert Hart
Technical Services Manager (retired Sept 08), School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh
(Degree of Bachelor of Science)

Mr John G Greenwood
Economist
(Degree of Doctor of Science in Social Science)

The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus, Cape Town, South Africa
(Degree of Doctor of Divinity)

Dr Aly Bain
Musician and producer
(Degree of Doctor of Music)

Mr Anthony Bryan Hayward
Chief Executive, British Petroleum
(Degree of Doctor of Science)

Justice Unity Dow
High Court judge, Botswana
(Degree of Doctor of Laws)

Justice Julia Sebutinde
Judge of the High Court, Uganda, seconded to the UN Special Court, Sierra Leone
(Degree of Doctor of Laws)

Sir Muir Russell
Principal of the University of Glasgow
(Degree of Doctor honoris causa)

Mr Alan Little
World Affairs Correspondent, BBC
(Degree of Doctor of Letters)

Professor Emeritus David Falconer
Distinguished Research Professor, Department of Systems and Computer Engineering, Carleton University
(Degree of Doctor of Science)

Professor Jan Carlstedt-Duke
Dean of Research and Professor in Molecular Endocrinology, Karolinska Institute
(Degree of Doctor of Medicine)

Professor Robert Cormack
Principal, UHI Millennium Institute
(Degree of Doctor honoris causa)

Professor Valentin Fuster
Richard Gorlin
Professor of Cardiology, Mount Sinai, New York
(Degree of Doctor of Medicine)
Benefactors

This award recognises as University benefactors individuals or organisations that have made significant contributions, financial or otherwise, to the University.

Dr Alan Wilson
Chairman, Indonesia International Rural and Agricultural Development Foundation
(Degree of Doctor honoris causa)

Sir David Edward Murray
Entrepreneur
(Degree of Doctor honoris causa)

Dr Phil Cunningham
Musician, composer and producer
(Degree of Doctor of Music)

The late Professor Sir Neil MacCormick
Professor Emeritus of Public Law and the Law of Nature and Nations
(Degree of Doctor of Science in Social Science)

Mr Muhtar Kent
President and Chief Executive Officer, Coca-Cola
(Distinction of University Benefactor)

Mr Matthew Macleod MacIver
Chief Executive/Registrar, General Teaching Council for Scotland
(Degree of Doctor of Education)

Mr Stephen R Morrison
Chief Executive, All3Media
(Degree of Doctor of Science in Social Science)

Mr Alan McFarlane and Mrs Anne McFarlane
(Distinction of University Benefactor)

Mr Donald MacDonald and Mr Euan MacDonald
(Distinction of University Benefactor)

Professor Joseph H Weiler
Joseph Straus Professor of Law, New York University School of Law
(Degree of Doctor of Laws)
Awards and accolades bestowed upon members of staff and associates from the University of Edinburgh between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009.

**Queen’s Honours lists**

University of Edinburgh staff members recognised in the New Year’s Honours List include:

- **Professor Sir Neil Douglas, School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health**
  Knighthood for services to Medicine

- **Professor Ian Halliday, School of Physics**
  CBE for services to Science

- **Professor Carole Hillenbrand, formerly Head of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies**
  OBE for services to Higher Education

- **Professor Isobel Sharp, Visiting Professor, Business School**
  CBE for services to the Accountancy Profession

In the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, the following staff members were recognised:

- **Professor Peter Grant, Regius Professor of Engineering, School of Engineering**
  OBE for services to Science

- **Professor Ian Ralston, Professor of Later European Prehistory, School of History, Classics and Archaeology**
  OBE for services to Archaeology in Scotland

**University awards**

**Chancellor’s Awards**

These awards are presented in recognition of innovation, relevance, creativity and personal dedication. They are presented annually by HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University.

- **Professor Joanna Wardlaw, Head of the University’s Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences**
  received the Research Award for her advances in the field of brain imaging.

- **Dr Sian Bayne, School of Education**
  was awarded the Teaching Award for her innovations in teaching including the development of the online masters programme in e-learning.

- **Dr Polly Arnold, School of Chemistry**
  received the Rising Star Award for her research into heavy metals.

**Principal’s Medal**

This new annual award recognises staff and/or students who, as individuals or groups, have made a significant contribution to support or benefit the wider community.

**2008’s joint inaugural winners were:**

- **Lesley Forrest, Senior Administrative Assistant in Financial Accounting**, for her volunteer work with organ donors and transplant recipients.

- **English Literature graduate Grant Guthrie**, for his work with a range of UK and international charitable initiatives.

**Tam Dalyell Prize for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science**

Open to all staff, this annual prize recognises an individual or group for work with a focus on science communication. Such work includes hosting school visits, public event or projects in publishing or broadcasting.

**The inaugural 2008 winner was:**

**Professor Sergio Della Sala, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences**, who is an experienced science communicator and has engaged widely with the media and participated in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

**Alumnus of the Year**

This award is made annually to former students who have made a significant impact in public life.

In 2008 it was awarded to bestselling novelist **Dr Philippa Gregory** for her contribution to historical fiction and charity work.

**EUSA Teaching Awards**

The first EUSA teaching awards recognised achievement in teaching in 10 categories.

See page 10 for details about the winners.

**International recognition**

- **Professor Raj Bhopal, School of Community Health Sciences**, has been awarded the South Asian Foundation’s 10-year award for services to the field of ethnicity and health. He was also awarded the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin National Award and the Medical Journalists’ Association Open Specialist Book Award.

- **Professor Adrian Bird, Director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology**, was awarded the Charles Leopold Mayer Prize from the French Academy of Sciences for his work in biology.

- **Senior Honorary Professor Geoffrey Boulton, formerly Vice-Principal and Regius Professor of Geology**, was honoured in the French New Year’s Honours List as Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques for services to Science and French Culture.

- **Professor Stuart Crampin, School of GeoSciences**, was elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.

- **Professor Sergio Della Sala, School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences**, was elected the President of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology (ESN). The Federation has more than 7,000 members belonging to national societies of cognitive neuroscience, neuropsychology or behavioural neurology from 15 European countries.

Edinburgh PhD student **Ananda Galappatti** received one of 2008’s Ramon Magsaysay Awards, which recognises outstanding achievement in Asia. Mr Galappatti was honoured for his work with victims of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami and the Sri Lankan conflict.

Former Edinburgh academic **John M Last**, Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology and Community Medicine, received the American Public Health Association’s Sedgwick Memorial Medal for Distinguished Service in Public Health.

**Professor Ian Main, School of GeoSciences**, was appointed to an advisory post as part of an international commission. The commission will advise the Head of the Civil Protection Department and the President of the Council of Ministers in Italy. It will offer guidance on the present state of knowledge on the possibility of earthquake forecasting. It will also advise on dealing with damage prevention and prepare related guidelines for future events.

**Professor Laura Marcus, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures**, was awarded the distinguished 2008 James Russell Lowell Prize for her book *The Tenth Muse: Writing About Cinema in the Modernist Period* (Oxford University Press). Awarded in San Francisco, this international prize honours books of outstanding literary or linguistic study by members of the Modern Language Association.
Professional accolades

Andy Kordiak, Equipment Procurement Manager, College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine, won the Individual Award for procurement excellence in the 2008 Scottish Government Opportunities Awards.

The University’s Principal, Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, was elected as Chair of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), succeeding Professor Sir Ron Cooke. The Committee supports a range of information and communication technologies that support learning, teaching and research in the UK.

Innovators in research

Dr Perdita Barran, School of Chemistry, received the Royal Society of Chemistry Joseph Black Award for her developments in the field of mass spectrometry.

Dr Euan Brechin was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry Sir Edward Frankland Fellowship for his work on the design, synthesis and properties of metal coordination complexes that enhances our understanding of d-block molecular nanomagnets.

Professor Steve McLaughlin, School of Engineering, was elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (FREng).

Emeritus Professor John Renwick, Honorary Fellow in French, was elected a Research Fellow of the University of Oxford’s Voltaire Foundation, which is a world leader in research into the 18th century and the Age of Enlightenment.

Talent for the future

Three Edinburgh researchers were awarded Philip Leverhulme Prizes. Recipients of the £70,000 award are typically individuals under the age of 36 who have made an exceptional contribution to their area of study, and are expected to continue to do so. Dr Jared Tanner, School of Mathematics, will use the grant for his work in improving the accuracy of techniques such as MRI scanning and data processing. Dr Paul Palmer, School of GeoSciences, studies the movement and chemical changes in the atmospheric gases that are linked to climate change, and will use the grant to strengthen links between his research group and its collaborators. Dr Jill Burke, School of Arts, Culture and Environment, is an expert in Italian renaissance art and will use the award to write a book in this area.

Credit for research commercialisation

A team of University researchers, led by Professor Alan Heavens, School of Physics and Astronomy, won the top prize in a business competition run by the Research Councils UK for its business plan. The competition is designed to encourage and support the creation of high-quality business proposals for the commercialisation and research carried out in the UK’s universities and research institutions. The team’s concept applied techniques developed in astronomy to help improve the speed and quality of MRI imaging.

Connecting with the public

Chris Bishop, Professor of Computer Science at the School of Informatics and Deputy Director of Microsoft Research UK, was selected to present the 2008 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures on TV channel Five. His five-part lecture series tackled questions such as how microprocessors pack a billion components into the size of a stamp and why a three-year-old child is better at recognising everyday objects than the world’s most popular supercomputer.

Dr Alex Murphy, School of Physics and Astronomy, gave the 2009 Lord Kelvin Award lecture at the British Science Festival. The Award lectures are prizes for talented communicators with an interesting story to tell about their research. Dr Murphy’s lecture was on the ‘dark side of the universe’.
College of Humanities & Social Science

Personal Chairs

Professor Philip Bennett
Personal Chair of Medieval French Language & Culture

Professor Martine Beugnet
Personal Chair of Film Studies

Professor Roland Dannreuther
Personal Chair of International Relations

Professor Federica Pedriali
Personal Chair of Literary Metatheory and Modern Italian Studies

Professor Eberhard Sauer
Personal Chair of Roman Archaeology

Professor Stuart Sayer
Personal Chair of Economics Education

Professor Stephen Tierney
Personal Chair of Constitutional Theory

Professor Charlotte Waelde
Personal Chair of Intellectual Property Law

Professorships

Professor Marilyn Booth
Iraq Chair of Arabic & Islamic Studies

Professor Hugh Goddard
HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Chair of Islam in the Contemporary World

Professor William Rees
Chair of Financial Analysis

Professor Kenneth Reid
Chair of Scots Law

Professor Brian Stanley
Chair of World Christianity

Professor Pauline Weetman
Chair of Accounting

Honorary Professors

Professor David Johnston
School of Law

Professorships

Professor Siddharthan Chandran
MacDonald Chair of Neurology

Professor Anura Rambukkana
Chair of Regeneration Biology

Professor Neil Roberts
Chair of Medical Physics & Imaging Science

College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Personal Chairs

Professor Alan Archibald
Personal Chair of Mammalian Molecular Genetics

Professor John Bartlett
Personal Chair of Molecular Pathology

Professor Jeremy Bradshaw
Personal Chair of Molecular Biophysics

Professor Karen Chapman
Personal Chair of Molecular Endocrinology

Professor Mayank Dutia
Personal Chair of Systems Neurophysiology

Professor Juergen Haas
Personal Chair of Viral Genomics

Professor Megan Holmes
Personal Chair of Molecular Neuroendocrinology

Professor Richard Knight
Personal Chair of Clinical Neurology

Professor Jean Manson
Personal Chair of Neurodegenerative Disease

Professor Elspeth Milne
Personal Chair of Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Professor John Mullins
Personal Chair of Molecular Physiology

Professor Brendon Noble
Personal Chair of Musculoskeletal Regenerative Medicine

Professor Steve Platt
Personal Chair of Health Policy Research

Professor Adrianus Van Den Broek
Personal Chair of Veterinary Immunodermatology

Professorships

Professor Simon Best
School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health

Professor John Brown
School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health

Professor Michael Dixon
School of Molecular & Clinical Medicine

Professor Gary Entrican
The Roslin Institute

Professor David Fitzpatrick
School of Molecular & Clinical Medicine

Professor Nick Hastie
School of Molecular & Clinical Medicine

Professor Paul Padfield
School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health

Professor Brian Perry
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Professor Mary Porteous
School of Molecular & Clinical Medicine

Professor William Reid
College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Professor Onno van Schayck
School of Clinical Sciences & Community Health

Professor Jürgen Schwarze
Edward Clark Chair of Child Life & Health
Appointments commenced between
1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009

College of Science & Engineering

Personal Chairs

Professor Simon Bates
Personal Chair of Physics Education

Professor Nigel Brown
Personal Chair of Molecular Microbiology

Professor Richard Carter
Personal Chair of Parasite Genetics

Professor Deborah Charlesworth
Personal Chair of Plant Population Genetics

Professor Patience Cowie
Personal Chair of Geodynamics

Professor James Dunlop
Personal Chair of Extragalactic Astronomy

Professor William Earnshaw
Personal Chair of Chromosome Dynamics

Professor Martin Evans
Personal Chair of Statistical Physics

Professor Avery Meiksin
Personal Chair of Theoretical & Computational Physics

Professor Robin Milner
Personal Chair of Computer Science

Professor Hiroyuki Ohkura
Personal Chair of Cell Biology

Professor Colin Pulham
Personal Chair of High-Pressure Chemistry

Professor David Robertson
Personal Chair of Applied Logic

Professor Christopher Smyth
Personal Chair of Number Theory

Professor David Tollervey
Personal Chair of RNA Biology

Professor Paul van Gardingen
Personal Chair of International Development

Professor Jacques Vanneste
Personal Chair of Fluid Dynamics

Professor Michael Zaiser
Personal Chair of Mechanics of Materials

Professorships

Professor Manfred Auer
Chair of Chemical & Translation Biology

Professor Robin Milner
Chair of Computer Science

Professor Claus Nerlov
Professor of Stem Cell Biology

Professor Ronald Pethig
Chair of Bio-electronics

Professor Peter Swain
Chair of Systems Biology

Honorary Professors

Professor Roger Croft
School of GeoSciences

Professor Peter Denyer*
School of Engineering & Electronics

Professor John Fox
School of Informatics

Professor David Ingram*
School of Biological Sciences

Professor Peter Lansdorp
School of Biological Sciences

Professor Glenn Martyna
School of Physics

Professor John Toland*
School of Mathematics

Professor Keith van Rijsbergen
School of Informatics

Professor Alan Watson
School of Physics

Professor Alan Shotter
School of Physics

Professor Roy Thompson
School of GeoSciences

* Renewals

Senior Honorary Professorial Fellows

Professor Peter Brand
School of Physics

Professor Derek Branford
School of Physics

Professor Murray Campbell
School of Physics

Professor Deborah Charlesworth
School of Biological Sciences

Professor John Farmer
School of GeoSciences

Professor Clive Greated
School of Physics

Professor David McComb
School of Physics

Professor Jack Ponton
School of Engineering & Electronics

Professor Peter Pusey
School of Physics

Professor Alan Shotter
School of Physics

Professor Roy Thompson
School of GeoSciences

* Renewals
## Undergraduate applications and acceptances

### 2007 year of entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications*</td>
<td>22,174</td>
<td>26,609</td>
<td>48,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places taken up</td>
<td>1,936</td>
<td>2,442</td>
<td>4,378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2008 year of entry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications*</td>
<td>21,193</td>
<td>24,462</td>
<td>45,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places taken up</td>
<td>2,221</td>
<td>2,618</td>
<td>4,839</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2009 year of entry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications*</td>
<td>22,523</td>
<td>25,299</td>
<td>47,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places taken up</td>
<td>2,479</td>
<td>2,870</td>
<td>5,349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Figures defined as number of applications received in each cycle for entry in the same year or deferred entry the following year.

** UCAS reduced the number of applications per applicant from six to five from the 2008 entry cycle.
**Appendix 2**

**Student numbers**

### Headcount by level of study and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Taught Postgraduate</th>
<th>Research Postgraduate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,630</td>
<td>8,162</td>
<td>1,826</td>
<td>15,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,558</td>
<td>1,798</td>
<td>1,977</td>
<td>11,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,792</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,356</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,803</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,951</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Headcount by college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Taught Postgraduate</th>
<th>Research Postgraduate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities &amp; Social Science</td>
<td>10,862</td>
<td>3,261</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>15,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine &amp; Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>2,149</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>3,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>5,781</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>1,427</td>
<td>7,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,792</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,356</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,803</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,951</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Headcount by domicile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domicile</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Taught Postgraduate</th>
<th>Research Postgraduate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU (non-UK)</td>
<td>1,482</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>2,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other UK</td>
<td>6,180</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>7,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside EU</td>
<td>2,527</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>4,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>8,603</td>
<td>1,999</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>12,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,792</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,356</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,803</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,951</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Headcount by domicile top 10 non-UK countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Taught Postgraduate</th>
<th>Research Postgraduate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>1,177</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>1,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (People's Republic of)</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland (Republic of)</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3

Benefactions (this reflects giving from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009)

£1,000–£4,999
A Sinclair Henderson Trust
Mr Iain Allan
Mr John Balfour Allan
Dr Edward Arens*
Mr David Ashton
Mrs Cynthia Atkinson
Dr Margaret Auld
The late Miss Elizabeth Banks
Mr David P Bendix
Dr Alastair Berry
Dr Gordon Biggar
Binks Trust
Blackford Trust
Dr Stuart Blackie
Dr James Boyle
Ms Lorna C Brazell
Mrs Jann Brown
Mrs Ann Burleigh
Mr Richard Burns
Mr Thomas Campbell
Lady Caplan
Professor John W Cassels FRSE
City Inn Limited
Dr Marianne Clark
Mr Neville Cobbe
Prof C. Court-Brown
Cummins Generator Technologies
Dr Simon Cunningham
Vice-Principal Young P Dawkins III
& Mrs Ruth Dawkins
Delta Electronics Europe Limited
Dialog Semiconductor
Mr Simon R Di Rollo QC
Mr Donald Douglas
Dzinaik Charitable Trust for Animals
Mr Dugald Ealie
ECS Technology Limited
Mr Goetz Eggelhofer
The late Lord Elliott MC
Ewan & Christine Brown Charitable Trust
Mrs Enas Faik
Mr Simon Fennell*
Mr John N Frame MBE
Mr Raoul Fraser
Mr Nasreddin Cholizadeh
Gigle Semiconductor
Ms Marlene H Gilchrist
Goldman Sachs & Co*
Mr Randy Gordon*
Mr Morton Gould
Mr Murray Grant
Mr Peter C Grant
Mrs Catherine Gray
The late Mr James Grieve
Grunenthal Limited
The late Mr Norman Hardy
Mr Patrick Hargreaves
Dr Roy Harris OBE
Mrs Caroline V Haviland
Professor William Hill OBE FRSE
Dr William A Howard
Mrs Jacqueline M Howe
Mr James Hunter
The late Mr Ian S Hutcheson CBE
Mr Douglas Hutchison
Jacobs Engineering UK Limited
Dr Brian Jamieson
Jeremy Gardner Associates
Korala Associates Limited
Mr John F Lawrie OBE
Mrs Christine S Lessels
Mrs Bridget Macaskill*
Mr W K & Mrs Virginia Maciver CBE
Mr Angus K Mackay
Dr John Mackay
Malcolm Development Foundation
Marks and Spencer
Mr David A Massingham & Ms Brigid O’Connor
Mr Gordon F Matthew
Mr Nigel F Matthews OBE
Mr William B Mavir
Professor R Alexander McCall Smith CBE
Mr David A McCorquodale
Mr John D McNeil
Mr Jeffrey Meek
Mr Paul Meitner
Dr Elaine B Melrose
Microsoft Research
Mrs C Miller
MISYS Charitable Foundation
Mr Fred Multon
The late Dr Thomas Noble
Professor R Osborne
Dr W George Paley
Lady Fiona Pattullo
Dr Josephine Pemberton
Pfizer Foundation*
The late Mrs Seryl Playfair
Professor Gordon D Plotkin
Mr John Porter
R & SB Clark Charitable Trust ECR Fund
Mr Peter & Mrs Candy Robertson*
The late Mr Allan Rodger
Mrs Deidre Romans
Mr Ian Russell CBE & Mrs Fiona Russell
Sir William S Ryrie KCB
Schlumberger Cambridge Research
Scottish Society of Rehabilitation
Sheila and Denis Cohen Charitable Trust
Mr David Smith
Mr Gordon Smith
Dr Isabella Smith
Mr Alan Steel
Mr David D Stevenson CBE
ST Microelectronics
Mr Mark Storr
Professor Michael Stubbs
Mrs Jean Swan
Mr Gavin R Tait
The Robin Charitable Trust
The Sportsman’s Charity
Mr Graham Thompson
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Professor Henry Ulrich
Mrs M Eileen Waddell
Mr D W S Wardlaw
Ms Cara Watt
Dr Jack Watters & Mr Ian Archer Watters*
Mr Andrew Weatherley
Mr William Webb*
Mr David Wilkie*
The late Mr John S Wilkie
Mr David Willis
Mr David Wood
Dr Rachel Wood
Wood Mackenzie Consultants Limited
Young Presidents’ Organisation

£5,000–£9,999
Albert Bartlett & Sons
Mr Chassan & Mrs Reem Alusi
Ms Leanne Barclay
Mr Michael Barron
Miss Anthea Bond
Mrs Sheila E Cannell
Chevron Corp.*
Mr Yagnish & Mrs Sima Chotai
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Friends of St Cecilia’s Hall
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Miss Aileen Ker
Lady Eda Jardine Charitable Trust
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The late Mr William J Munro
Dr Lloyd Ogilvie*
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Mr Thomas Scott
The late Dr Alice Scott
Selex Sensors and Airborne Systems
The late Mrs Alison Seneviratne
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The Henry Drucker Memorial Fund
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The late Professor Emeritus Margaret S Wright
Mr Eric Young
£10,000–£49,999

A G Leventis Foundation
Mr J Allan Auchnie
Mrs Lindsay Barclay & the Charitable Chieils
Barham Benevolent Foundation
The late Dr John Borthwick
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Mr Colin Christie
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Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland
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The late Mrs Mary Scott
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The late Mr James M Smart
The late Mrs Margaret Stark
Mr Christopher Stone
Sylvia Atkén Charitable Trust
Dr George & Dr Joy Sybert*
The Cordis Trust
The Illumni Debating & Dining Club
The Miss Evelyn M Murdoch Charitable Trust
The Sutton Trust
The late Mrs Catherine L F Wheelans

£50,000+

Abbey Bank
The late Mr Peter Broadbent
The late Miss Veronica Byers
Mr George A David OBE
The late Dr Alina Derola
The late Mr George H Ross
R S Macdonald Charitable Trust
Row Fogo Charitable Trust
Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association
The late Sir Nicholas Shackleton
The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation
Rev Bryan & Mrs Jennifer Tomlinson
The late Dr Helen Tonge
Wolfson Foundation
Wolfson Microelectronics

Carlyle Circle

Alumni and friends who pledged a legacy to the University between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009

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Mrs Julia Bertram
Mr Cameron Bishop
Professor Robert Black QC
Mrs Candice M Blackwood
Mr Brian J Blair
Dr Brian Blandford
Mr David Brown
Dr Christopher Butler MBE
Professor John Cash CBE
Mrs Monique F Cash
Miss Frances Childs
Rev Dr Ronald Chilton
Baroness Clark of Calton QC PhD
Professor Raymond A Coppenger
Dr John Cowie
Lieutenant Commander Michael Cox
Dr John Crichton
Dr Richard Crooks
Mr Brian Cruickshank
Mr Ian Cunningham
Dr Robin Dean
Dr Victor De Lima
Dr Jean Doyle
Mr Anthony Farquhar
Ms Francesca Filacci
Mr John Folds
Miss Jeannie Forbes
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Mr Sandy Gilchrist
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Mrs Ann West Edwards
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* Denotes donors to the University of Edinburgh USA Development Trust Inc., an organisation formed to advance the purpose of the University of Edinburgh.
## Appendix 4

### Research grants and other sources of funding

1. From charities, industry and other institutions

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Universities etc. Durham University 7
Universities etc. Edinburgh College of Art 23
Universities etc. Higher Education Academy 8
Universities etc. Imperial College 3
Universities etc. Queen’s University Belfast 84
Universities etc. Scottish Agricultural College 47
Universities etc. The Open University 25
Universities etc. University College London 95
Universities etc. University of Bath 9
Universities etc. University of Cambridge 651
Universities etc. University of Dundee 102
Universities etc. University of East Anglia 8
Universities etc. University of Glasgow 266
Universities etc. University of Leeds 47
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Universities etc. University of London 179
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Universities etc. University of Oxford 91
Universities etc. University of Reading 471
Universities etc. University of Southampton 87
Universities etc. University of Stirling 242
Universities etc. University of Strathclyde 52
Universities etc. University of the Highlands and Islands 6
Universities etc. University of Warwick 311
Universities etc. University of York 75

Total from research councils and other government agencies £’000 176,903

Grand total £’000 248,936

Note: The above list sets out the total project value of research grants funded from these sponsors. The sponsor will have contributed this whole amount, with the exception of some governmental sources (including research councils) and charitable sources, who fund the majority, with the balance being received indirectly via the Scottish Funding Council.
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