We’re consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world. We’re 20th in the 2021 QS World University Rankings.

Edinburgh is ranked the second best student city in the UK and 7th in Europe.†

Our students accessed undergraduate financial support totalling more than £10 million in 2019/20.

More than 96 per cent of our students are in work or postgraduate study 15 months after graduating.*

We’re ranked 18th in the world’s most international universities‡.

We’re committed to becoming a net zero carbon University by 2040.

“You are now in a place where the best courses upon earth are within your reach… such an opportunity you will never again have.”

Thomas Jefferson
American Founding Father and President, speaking to his son-in-law Thomas Mann Randolph as he began his studies here in 1786.
Open to a world of possibilities

We live in a complex, fast-changing world and we’re honest about the significant challenges facing us all. As a leading global university, we know education will play a vital role solving those challenges and relish our shared responsibility to respond to them.

As the world comes to terms with the lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, we’re committed to being open to everyone. We will widen access to higher education and bring people together from a range of backgrounds and experiences. We welcome people with new outlooks and perspectives into an international community that values each individual and the contribution they make.

Together, we will be open to change. We will adapt and work in new ways that disrupt the status quo and overturn established ways of thinking. We will do this without boundaries, in facilities where our students, academics and researchers come together with the public and private sectors to learn from each other and work in tandem to create new solutions.

For more than 400 years, we’ve seen the benefits such collaborations bring. Being open to the world today brings greater potential and possibilities for tomorrow.
For you, those possibilities start with the 58 subjects and almost 400 degrees we offer. Many of these are joint honours degrees, offering innovative cross-disciplinary subject combinations. Some of our degrees let you study a single subject in depth, developing a deep understanding of one area. Others feature an open and flexible structure with options to tailor your own studies. This lets you choose whether to experience a wide range of topics before you specialise, or sample multiple subjects in a broader degree.

Our global links offer you possibilities for fieldwork, industry placements and study abroad opportunities, and our research-led, industry-informed teaching incorporates the latest developments in your field.

“My programme is preparing me for my future career by addressing issues from many different perspectives, which is necessary in our globalised world, as well as presenting me with opportunities to volunteer and go abroad.”

Manisha Thill
MA (Hons) Health, Science & Society
As one of Scotland’s four ‘ancient’ universities, many of our full-time degrees in the humanities and social sciences are undergraduate masters qualifications that require four years of study. In science and engineering we offer four-year bachelors degrees or five-year integrated masters. We also offer a smaller number of other qualifications including LLB, as well as a few degrees with shorter or longer full-time study durations. These range from three to five or even six years (MBChB Medicine).

If you have excelled at your studies so far, you may have the option to start in the second year of some of our science, engineering and art and design degrees. We also offer an expanding range of options for students on a Higher National Certificate or Diploma. Alternatively, if you’re considering a year out before you go to university, you may be able to apply for deferred entry.*

*Applications for BVMS Veterinary Medicine or international applications for MBChB Medicine will not be considered for deferred entry. Please contact us to check before you apply.
My story

"I was given the opportunity to visit the University and talk to students because I attended a LEAPS [Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools] high school. This piqued my interest in the University and helped set a goal in mind. I began to attend events organised by the University's widening access team. I was able to interact with students, learn about the University and facilities, and visit the law library. These events allowed me to form a better picture of what life would be like at university. The staff and students were friendly. They made me feel welcome but were also realistic and honest."

Anais Banag

LLB (Hons) Law
Study in breadth and in depth

When you choose to study with us, you’ll find that many degrees take four years to complete. This is an approach that’s common not just to Scotland, but across Europe and in the US. Studying a four-year degree allows you to benefit from greater flexibility and choice during your studies than might be offered in a shorter degree elsewhere. You’ll usually have the time to try different subjects before you concentrate your studies for your final degree. Some students find these experiences change their mind about the degree or specialism they want to qualify in and allow them to take advantage of the flexibility to refocus.

How it works

On most of our degrees in the arts, humanities, engineering, science, and social sciences, you’ll be able to study a range of subjects in Years 1 and 2 before you decide which area to specialise in for your final degree. You’ll study the compulsory courses that are required for your degree and in addition will be able to choose a number of option courses either from areas related to your degree or from different parts of the University. Using your option course choice, you’ll be able to choose to study up to three subjects in Year 1, then continue those subjects or swap some out as you move into Year 2. It’s flexible, letting you try subjects without committing to them long-term, and personal. You’ll develop academically and intellectually, discovering which subjects suit your interests and aptitudes and which are the best fit for your career aspirations.

As you move into Year 3, you’ll have the confidence to say with certainty which area you want to specialise in for your final degree. You’ll also take up any possible option to study abroad, or any industrial placement offered on your degree, usually during Year 3 before returning to the University for your final year. You’ll then focus on the in-depth studies required for your degree across a series of Year 4 compulsory courses and a final project or dissertation. This will allow you to graduate with a versatile combination of skills and knowledge that is highly valued by employers.

Benefits at a glance

• Enhance your career prospects, gaining a broad education that is attractive to employers.

• Experience new subjects without the need to commit long-term – discover new passions, take your career in a new direction or enhance your CV.

• Discover where your strengths lie and tailor your degree accordingly.

• Nurture your talents, develop a broad range of skills and grow intellectually over a longer period of time.

• Develop a global outlook – opportunities to study abroad are usually possible on most of our degrees.

“Coming to the University has been one of the defining moments of my life. The four-year degrees allow a great deal of flexibility and I have been able to freely explore my interests in different subjects.

“I applied to study MA (Hons) French & Classics and took a linguistics option in Year 1, alongside other history courses, then economics in Year 2. This offered me the opportunity to study courses that weren’t available at school and, in particular, to explore periods of history to a greater extent. That led to my change in programme to MA (Hons) Ancient & Medieval History. Since then I have been lucky enough to receive a scholarship to travel to Israel and Jordan to visit historical sites in the Middle East – trips that I would not have been able to afford otherwise.

“Edinburgh has opened up many doors to me and although it is undoubtedly a huge learning curve, it is well worth the journey. Through the flexibility of the four-year system, I have gained knowledge in areas that a shorter structure would not have allowed. This has given me a grounding in a variety of fields which, in turn, gives me transferable skills I can take into my career.”

Tabitha James
MA (Hons) Ancient & Medieval History

“Edinburgh is one of the top campuses that we target for recruitment. If you are looking for a university that will give you the skills and experiences to have a successful career, then Edinburgh is a good place to start.”

Proctor & Gamble
New ways of learning

Choosing to study with us means more than choosing to sit in our lecture theatres.

For many of you, it will mean adopting a whole new approach to your own education that differs from what you experienced at school or college.

You will become an independent learner, working collaboratively with us to enhance and enrich your own education. You’ll need to be proactive, seeking out and seizing the opportunities we offer while managing your own time, learning new ways of studying and developing independent learning skills to meet the demands of your degree. We’ll work with you, of course, providing help and guidance on how to study most effectively and how best to succeed in this new environment. We’ll nurture and support your development as a confident learner with the attributes required for success at the University and beyond.

Our approach
In addition to lectures and tutorials, you’ll experience a range of other ways of learning when you study with us.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we’ve adopted online and hybrid teaching to provide an ongoing education until travel and social distancing restrictions are lifted. When students are back on campus, practical and lab sessions are common in many of our science, engineering and health-related degrees. These let you put what you’ve learned into practice and conduct your own live experiments and other bench work. Fieldwork is a feature of our degrees in areas such as geography and Earth sciences. It will take you away from the University, bringing theory to life in the field as you study the natural world both here in Scotland and overseas.

Art and design students usually spend a lot of time in the studio where you will be expected to develop your own skills, responding to creative briefs through project-based learning. You will also have opportunities to exhibit.

“Getting taught by lecturers who were carrying out their own research and would allow you to work alongside them was a dream come true to me.”

Brinda Willski
BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)

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BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)

Research-led teaching
Our world-class academics are leaders in their fields, conducting groundbreaking research that directly informs the teaching you receive. Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Higgs, for example, proposed the Higgs boson while he was still a lecturer here. The principle of research-led teaching means your lecturers will incorporate their latest research in the teaching you receive, allowing them to share their discoveries with students. You may have the opportunity to get involved in research that will allow you to delve more deeply into your chosen subject. This will not only develop your analytical skills, but will help you prepare for the next steps in your career whether that’s in industry or postgraduate study.

Industry placements
A number of our degrees usually offer you the opportunity to get involved in and sample life on the front line of your future career with an industry placement. These can be short placements or in some cases a full year out. They offer an unrivalled opportunity to hone your skills and put theory into practice under genuine working conditions, tackling live projects side by side with your peers. In some cases, you will be required to find and secure your own placement and in others you will be recruited competitively by the companies offering the positions. Industry placements offer you an opportunity to broaden your horizons, gain valuable insights into the professional application of your chosen degree, and enhance your future career prospects.

Study abroad
We’re one of the world leaders in international student exchanges, offering more than 1,400 opportunities to study abroad across 300 different destinations. Exchanges are possible on most of our degrees and the exact options open to you depend on what you’re studying. Our exchange partners include a broad geographical spread of institutions such as CalTech (the California Institute of Technology), the National University of Singapore, Seoul National University, FU Berlin, KU Leuven, ETH Zurich, the Sorbonne, and the Universities of Auckland, Amsterdam, Vienna, Salamanca, Bologna, Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Pennsylvania, and Toronto. You’ll gain career-boosting international experiences, broaden your network of friends, and develop new perspectives on your subject and insights into another culture. Securing a place can be competitive – you’ll usually apply during Year 2 then study abroad in Year 3 – and most of our students go abroad for the full year but shorter semester-only options may also be available in some subject areas.

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“The freedom you’re given with projects to interpret briefs and tailor them to your own style, concept and imagination is one of the things I’ve enjoyed most.”

Callum Miller
BA (Hons) Performance Costume
Decisions, decisions...

The following list shows you the wide range of degrees we currently offer. Open your mind to the hundreds of options available and find a degree that’s perfectly suited to your personal interests and career aspirations. If you’re still nailing down exactly what you want to study, you may prefer to start with the subjects we offer, which are highlighted in bold. For much more detail on our subjects and on the individual degrees available, please visit our degree finder:

[www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees](www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees)
Open to you

How to apply
You should apply for full-time undergraduate study at the University via UCAS. You can find out more about how to apply online: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply

When to apply
You can submit your application for 2022 study from 1 September 2021. We recommend you apply as soon as possible. You must apply before the relevant deadline:

• 15 October 2021 – deadline for all applications to study medicine or veterinary medicine.
• 15 January 2022 – deadline for all other UK and Irish applicants.
• 30 June 2022 – deadline for all other international applicants. We recommend you apply by 15 January 2022 if possible, as our most popular degrees often close for applications before this final deadline.

What you need to apply
You’ll need your qualifications, a personal statement and a reference to apply. For some of our degrees you may also need to:

• attend an interview, for medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, teacher education, or oral health sciences;
• submit a digital mini portfolio, for art, design and fine art;
• sit an admissions test, such as the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) for medicine;
• provide evidence of relevant work or voluntary experience, and meet fitness to practice standards, for professional programmes.

You’ll also need to provide evidence of your English language skills. We accept a range of qualifications that demonstrate your English language competency including SQA National 5, GCSE, and Standard Level English. For international applications, we will also accept: IELTS; TOEFL – iBT (including TOEFL Home Edition); IGCSE English, First or Second Edition; Trinity ISE; and others:

www.ed.ac.uk/english-requirements

Our entry requirements
Please check the specific subjects and grades we require for entry to the degree you are interested in. You can look at the detailed entry requirements online:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees

We accept lots of different qualifications from around the world. Again, full details are available online: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/entry-requirements

Please also see the information on page 8 for widening access applicants.

International foundation programme
If you’re from a country whose national school leaving qualifications are at a lower level than we require for admission, we offer a one-year foundation programme to develop your academic skills and English language proficiency. If successful, you’ll be eligible for entry to many of our degrees in our College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

Immigration
EU and other international students normally need a visa to study in the UK. We offer online guidance to help explain which immigration permission you need: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration/do-i-need-a-visa

Our terms and conditions
If you apply to the University and are offered a place to study here, please read our Terms and Conditions of Admission online before you accept our offer: www.ed.ac.uk/terms-conditions

Our privacy statement
Before you apply, you can read our Privacy Statement online for information about how we will use your personal data from your application and who we will share it with: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/admissions/privacy-statement

Contact us
If you would like to speak to someone about admission to a specific degree and how to apply, you’ll find our contact information on page 48.

Making an application
What you need to do and where to find out more.

Step 1
Find out more about your degree
Check what, and where, you will study, how you will learn, your career opportunities and more.

Step 2
Check what qualifications you will need to get in
Find the specific subject and grade requirements for your degree.

Step 2a
For help understanding our entry requirements, or if you can’t find your qualifications
Read our guidance on the wide range of UK and international qualifications we accept.

Step 3
Find out how to apply
Read our advice on everything you need to know, including personal statements, references and deadlines.

Step 4
Make your application
You will apply online, via UCAS.
Financial peace of mind

We appreciate that studying here is a significant financial commitment and are dedicated to helping students of all ages and social backgrounds enter higher education, regardless of your financial situation.

We offer one of the most generous financial support packages in the UK for students from the lowest household incomes, as well as a number of scholarships awarded on the basis of academic merit.

After fees, living costs will be your main expenditure so it’s important to know you can afford a life outside the lecture theatre enjoying Scotland’s inspiring capital city.

If you’re a student from the UK, you may be eligible for living costs support from your regional funding body in the form of loans, bursaries or grants. When preparing your regional funding body for starting at university, it is important to understand what you expect to study in the UK, you may be able to work – how much depends on what you are studying and whether or not you’re working while you study.

Working while you study
Working while studying is a great way to earn extra money, take time out of university to meet others and learn new skills. However, it is important that you only take on work that will not interfere with your academic priorities. As a thriving capital city with a year-round tourist season, Edinburgh offers a wide range of job opportunities for our students. Our award-winning Careers Service offers an online portal that includes part-time job opportunities. As an outward looking, global institution with a well-resourced careers service, we are also well placed to support our community of international students. If you have a Student Visa to study in the UK, you may be able to work – how much depends on what you’re studying and whether or not you’re working during term-time. Please check your visa conditions.

Fees at a glance
What you pay and the assistance you may receive depend on where you live. The following information offers an overview of indicative fee levels and funding in 2021. Please check online for up-to-date information for 2022:

- Scotland – for eligible students, fees will be paid by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).
- England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – £9,250 a year reviewed on an annual basis.
- International (including EU) – fees at a glance:
  - £1,000 tenable for one year. You must be a national of a country outside the UK and under 18 at the start of your course.
  - £5,000 per annum to maths students awarded on the basis of academic merit.
  - Three scholarships to assist with tuition fees, commencing a degree in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology.
  - The School of Mathematics provides a number of scholarships worth £5,000 per annum to maths students of outstanding ability.
  - The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine.

The following information offers an overview of indicative fee levels and funding in 2021. Please check online for up-to-date information for 2022:

- Scotland – for eligible students, fees will be paid by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).
- England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – £9,250 a year reviewed on an annual basis.
- International (including EU) – fees at a glance:
  - £1,000 tenable for one year. You must be a national of a country outside the UK and under 18 at the start of your course.
  - £5,000 per annum to maths students awarded on the basis of academic merit.
  - Three scholarships to assist with tuition fees, commencing a degree in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology.
  - The School of Mathematics provides a number of scholarships worth £5,000 per annum to maths students of outstanding ability.

Use our online tool to search for more funding opportunities available to you.
For more than 400 years, our students and staff have been influencing and changing the world for the better. Now it’s your turn.

Play your part

The work done at the University is constantly expanding the depth of human knowledge and improving the lives of ordinary people. The University has laid the foundations of modern economics and sociology, the Scottish Enlightenment, geology, English literature, quantum mechanics, electromagnetism, thermodynamics, antiseptic surgery, nephrology and the theory of evolution.

It has led to the discovery of carbon dioxide, latent and specific heat, chloroform anaesthesia, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), and the Higgs boson particle; and it has developed the Hepatitis B vaccine, the hypodermic syringe, the kaleidoscope, the vacuum flask, the ATM, the diving chamber and in-vitro fertilisation.

It has advanced the public understanding of how our behaviours affect ageing, protected forest ecosystems, and helped bring broadband to remote communities.

Our community has long enjoyed a spirit of innovation and continues to do so today. Working with our partners and building on our strengths in data science, we’ve set out to establish our region as the data capital of Europe. We’re also working towards other historic firsts including new treatments for major diseases such as multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease and cancer; and doing innovative work to tackle climate change.

Join us and you’ll do more than follow in the footsteps of Nobel laureates, Pulitzer prize winners, Olympic medallists, revolutionary thinkers and scientific pioneers. You’ll have the opportunity to lead – to transform your education here into your own mark on our shared history, forging your path to the groundbreaking discoveries and innovative research that will influence tomorrow’s world.

Stand on the shoulders of giants

Our notable alumni include:

- Adam Smith
- David Hume
- Dugald Stewart
- Gordon Brown
- Ian Rankin
- Sir J.M. Barrie
- Crystall MacMillan
- Julia Sebutinde
- Eduardo Paolozzi
- Viscount Palmerston
- Peter Mark Rorer
- JK Rowling
- Robert Louis Stevenson
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Sir Chris Hoy
- Sir Walter Scott
- Sir Winston Churchill
- Kirsty Wark
- Charles Darwin
- Joseph Black
- Joseph Lister
- Annella Sargent
- Zhong Nanshan
- Sir James Young Simpson
- Sophia Jex-Blake
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Daniel Rutherford
- Sir Ian Wilmut
- James Clark Maxwell
- James Hutton
- Sir Ian McCallum
- Dame Elizabeth Blackadder
- Peter Higgs
- Piers Sellers
- Sir Michael Atiyah
- William Rankine
- Dame Katherine Grainger

Academic prizes

- Pulitzer
- One Pulitzer Prize winner
- Turing
- Three Turing Award winners
- Nobel
- There are 19 Nobel Prize winners who are alumni of the University or have been members of academic staff here.
1500

University-founded. The sixth oldest university in the UK.

1583

1600

1687

Acquisition of Sir Isaac Newton’s Principia for the University library.

This great work is still held in our Centre for Research Collections to this day.

1707–1726

First founding of the faculties of law (’07), arts (’08) and medicine (’26).

1713

Our first black graduate, Caribbean student William Fergusson gains his MD.

1750–1800

The Scottish Enlightenment. Edinburgh alumni including Adam Smith, James Hutton, David Hume, Joseph Black and William Cullen lead an era of radical thought and invention making the city a ‘hotbed of genius’.

1776

US Declaration of Independence.

Alumni James Wilson and John Witherspoon signatories.

1800

1855

Wong Fun gains his MD, believed to be the first Chinese graduate of any European university.

1869

The Edinburgh Seven become the first female students allowed to matriculate at any UK university.

1865

Alumnus and lecturer Joseph Lister first uses an antiseptic treatment of carbolic acid to prevent infection.

1884

Alumnus Sir John Murray, the father of modern oceanography, establishes the UK’s first marine laboratory in Granton, Edinburgh.

1900

1919

Sir Michael Woodruff, Chair of Surgical Science at the University, performs the UK’s first successful kidney transplant.

1929

Sir Ken Murray, Head of Molecular Biology, develops a genetically engineered vaccine against Hepatitis B.

1959

Journalist and war hero Elizabeth Wiskemann made the first female professor at the University.

1969

Stephen Salter and Donald Michie, in the University’s Department of Artificial Intelligence, develop the first automated industrial assembly robot.

1979

In a world first, Professor Evelyn Telfer grows human eggs in the lab paving the way for new fertility treatments.

1964

Theoretical physicist Peter Higgs first proposes the existence of the Higgs boson.

1999

Graduation of Sir Chris Hoy (Applied Sport Science) who goes on to become the UK’s second most decorated Olympic medallist.

1996

Sir Ian Wilmut clones Dolly the Sheep, the world’s first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell.

1998

Journalist and war hero Elizabeth Wiskemann made the first female professor at the University.

2000

2017

Ambitious plans to make Edinburgh the data capital of Europe announced.

2019

Work begins to install £79m supercomputer ARCHER2 at the University, boosting the UK’s capacity to run massive research simulations and remain at the forefront of science and technology innovation.

2026 and beyond

Over to you to play your part and write the next chapter.
In the news

As the UK went into lockdown in March 2020, our University community mobilised to contribute to the global fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

While teaching continued online, some students graduated early to join the frontlines. Others found innovative ways to also support the NHS. Student startup Augment Bionics, co-founded by chemistry graduate Elisabeth Feldstein and staffed by students and alumni, pivoted from prosthetic limb development, scaling up to produce more than 120,000 face shields for frontline staff and carers.

Across the University, staff converted workshops and other facilities to manufacture thousands of face shields and other Personal Protective Equipment. The School of Engineering’s Scottish Microelectronics Centre helped manufacture specialist sensors for ventilators and Covid-19 testing kits and core gas sensors used to monitor patients’ respiratory gases.

University experts including Professors Devi Sridhar, Linda Bauld, Rowland Kao, Francisca Mutapi, Eleanor Riley and Mark Woolhouse and Dr Christine Tait-Burkard became prominent and prolific expert commentators on the pandemic, advising governments, bodies such as the World Health Organization and the world media to guide the public through the crisis.

In our labs, researchers discovered the five genes associated with the most severe form of Covid-19 – helping identify potential treatments, save lives and increase protection for the most vulnerable worldwide. They led the world’s largest study of Covid-19 hospital patients, tested existing and experimental drugs contributing to the search for treatment, demonstrated the efficacy of even single layer cotton masks in helping prevent viral transmission and trialled wastewater sampling to track the virus spreading in the population.

Our Covid-19 Partnerships Fund raised more than £1 million for people affected by the pandemic. The donations supported drug treatment research and provided emergency food supplies, career support and vital IT resources for families in need.

Find out more about our response to the pandemic online: www.ed.ac.uk/covid-19-response

In the lab

A sustainable method of making one of the world’s most valuable industrial chemicals has been created.

Scientists grew genetically modified E. coli bacteria in a solution containing guaiacol, a naturally occurring compound. After 24 hours incubation, the modified bacteria had transformed the guaiacol into adipic acid.

Adipic acid is a key component in the manufacture of Nylon. More than two million tonnes of the versatile fabric are made worldwide each year, for products such as clothing, furniture and parachutes, with a market value of around £5 billion.

Conventional production of adipic acid relies on fossil fuels and produces large amounts of nitrous oxide – a greenhouse gas three hundred times more potent than carbon dioxide. The new approach does not produce nitrous oxide or emit greenhouse gases. If scaled up, the method could revolutionise Nylon manufacture and may have wider applications.

“If bacteria can be programmed to help make nylon from plant waste – something that cannot be achieved using traditional chemical methods – we must ask ourselves what else they could do, and where the limits lie. The possibilities of this approach to create a sustainable future are staggering.”

Dr Stephen Wallace
Principal Investigator

In culture

Accounting & Finance student Peter Sawkins, aged 20, became the youngest winner of The Great British Bake Off before returning to university for Year 3 of his degree.

Peter faced stiff competition in a close-fought finale but his signature cranachan custard slices and tiered dessert tower showstopper saw him crowned Britain’s best amateur baker and the show’s first Scottish winner.

“I hope I’ve made Scotland proud being the first Scottish winner – I enjoyed using Scottish flavours and themes throughout the competition. There will be opportunities that arise from this and it would be amazing to try and explore them, but at the same time I am going to keep on going with my degree.”

Peter Sawkins
Great British Bake Off winner 2020

The University has been influencing the world since 1583. We have a long history of making a difference but it isn’t one we take for granted. To this day, we strive to deliver excellence and help tomorrow’s greatest challenges, as these recent highlights show.
In practice

Environmental entrepreneur Charlotte Horler has launched Nula Carbon, a carbon offsetting scheme that lets you estimate and mitigate the impact of your own lifestyle.

After graduating in 2015, Charlotte worked for an ethical manufacturer in the Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary in south eastern Kenya, a section of the Kasigau Corridor strip of forest that connects two national parks.

“In Kenya, I realised there was a real disconnect between the concept of carbon offsetting and the consumer,” Charlotte says.

“I set up Nula to bridge the divide and bring forest protection into the mainstream. I want to show people they can be climate advocates without being activists and shift the narrative from offsetting guilt into investing in people to protect the planet.”

While individual contributions are small and affordable, the aim is to build a collective with the power to make a big difference. Money from Nula subscriptions is invested in partner projects in the Kasigau Corridor. These prevent the deforestation of older trees, which are most effective at storing carbon, and support the people and animals that rely on the forest.

“For a project to be truly sustainable long term, it is vital we partner local communities invested in keeping the forests standing. We see our credits as having triple the impact: positively affecting climate, community and biodiversity.”

Charlotte Horler
MA (Hons) Politics
Founder of Nula Carbon: www.nulacarbon.com

In sports

World-class swimmer Monique Olivier is hoping to perform at the next Olympics, having featured regularly at world and European championship events since 2013. She made her international debut at Herning, in Denmark, in 2013 then represented Luxembourg at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games in China.

South African born but with dual nationality, Monique currently holds seven Luxembourg National Records. She has broken sixteen individual records since coming to study at Edinburgh in 2016.

“It’s hard to put into words what my time at the University has meant to me. The swim team helped me rediscover my passion for swimming and have become my family away from home. My coach, Mat Trodden, told me on my first visit to Edinburgh that once I move here, I will never want to leave… and he might be right!”

Monique Olivier
Year 4 BSc (Hons) Applied Sports Science

In business

Startup software company Yaldi Games aims to become a leading educational game developer. Their debut title, Wholesome, is set in a forest featuring real-world plants. It blends the best elements of videogames with digital learning, developing traditional outdoor skills including foraging, nature awareness, sustainability, healthy cooking and crafting.

Supported by Edinburgh Innovations, Yaldi Games has won multiple awards, including the Creative prize in Scotland’s prestigious Converge Challenge and an Innovate UK Young Innovators Award.

“Yaldi is Scottish slang for excitement – it’s my tribute to Scotland and it’s the emotion we want to create with our games. Our vision is to turn Wholesome into the first gamified wiki and create a whole new genre of meaningful games.”

Elena Höge
MSc Design & Digital Media
Founder of Yaldi Games: www.yaldigames.com
Inspiring minds

You can’t plan on changing the world without starting small. It takes inquisitive minds and curious natures. It takes stimulating teachers who have the passion and enthusiasm to light the fire of a subject in your mind. It takes the confidence to challenge and be challenged instead of just accepting the status quo.

Lewis Green
BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences
Shape your career

Our graduates are highly employable and we can help you stand out in a competitive job market.

You’ll need to take full advantage of the development opportunities open to you, both academically and beyond the University. Your future employers will look for more than just a qualification - they’ll expect you to have the skills, personal qualities and mindset to thrive in the working environment.

That means studying here is about laying the foundations for your future success, whatever shape that takes.

We offer career-enhancing opportunities for you to develop new skills and abilities, learn more about yourself and your working culture. Our global engagement plan ensures world-class experiences are available as you study while our partnerships ensure our teaching and research benefits communities globally. Our current partnerships with leading universities include:

- University of Amsterdam
- California Institute of Technology
- University of Copenhagen
- University of Delhi
- University College Dublin
- ETH Zurich
- Fudan University
- Heidelberg University
- University of Helsinki
- KU Leuven
- Leiden University
- University of Melbourne
- National University of Singapore
- Peking University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- University of Toronto

We’re a member of the global research network Universitas 21 and of the European networks COIMBRA group, UNICA and LERU. We’re also a member of the Una Europa Alliance, with seven other leading European universities, which is committed to creating joint degrees and increased exchange opportunities to build the European university of the future. www.una-europa.eu

Our regional centres for Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, South Asia, North America and East Asia support engagement with students, academics and alumni.

Undergraduate Guide 2022

95/100
High score
Our employer reputation rating in the QS World University Rankings 2021.

13th
Targeted
High Fliers research ranked us the 13th most targeted UK university by top employers’ graduate recruiters.

96.5%
Employment
Graduate Outcomes Survey data shows 96.5 per cent of our students are in employment or postgraduate study 15 months after graduating.

“I’d recommend students get involved with Edinburgh Innovations. They offer practical support to make your business a reality. My sound design software, Dehumaniser, is now used by industry professionals, including Hollywood film studios.”

Orfeas Boteas
MSc Sound Design graduate
EI supported the development of his company Krotos. www.krotosaudio.com

My story

“The Careers Service supported each stage of my development, provided me with confidence when I needed it, and facilitated a change in career. By helping me understand what employers are looking for and decode job descriptions, I was able to tailor my CVs and cover letters to particular roles. A key skill they helped me develop was self-reflection – to draw from my past experiences and apply it to future roles. Through this I was able to gain two internships.”

Olivia Sanemey
MEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering

* Times Higher Education Global Employability University ranking 2020
Open your heart to
Scotland

From its highlands and islands to its lowland borders, Scotland is a country of breathtaking natural beauty.

For a country of its size, there is great variety in Scotland’s terrain from towering mountains to dense woodland glens. Even if you've lived here all your life, it may surprise you to learn that Scotland has more than 6,000 miles of coastline, almost 800 offshore islands and more than 31,000 freshwater lochs. This is a country steeped in history yet firmly focused on the future – a modern, dynamic, European nation where the life sciences, creative industries, digital technology, energy and renewables, financial and business services, and, yes, tourism now drive our economy.

Climate
Scotland’s climate is temperate and oceanic with variable weather. Average temperatures range from 5°C in January to 19°C in August.

"It is one of the most hauntingly beautiful places in the world.”
J.K. Rowling
Best-selling author and alumna
Open your heart to Edinburgh

Scotland’s inspiring capital will be the backdrop to your studies. One of Europe’s great cultural hubs and a stimulating place to study, Edinburgh is an irresistible blend of history, natural beauty and modern city life.

Ranked second in the UK and seventh in Europe in the QS Best Student Cities 2019.

Sometimes known as ‘the Athens of the North’ because of its stunning, historic architecture, Edinburgh is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and was the world’s first UNESCO City of Literature.

Large enough to offer something for everyone, but small enough to feel like home, Edinburgh is a modern, sophisticated and beautiful European city with a diverse multicultural community. Well known for its friendly people, its safe, green environment and its compact size, Edinburgh is easy to get around and get out of – wherever you are in the city you are never far from open countryside.

Edinburgh’s location is perfect for adventurers with diverse and readily accessible opportunities from snowboarding to surfing. A single day could see you hillwalking in the morning, lazing on the beach in the afternoon, and enjoying the treasures of the medieval lanes and Georgian streets by night.

“Edinburgh is one of Europe’s most beautiful cities, draped across a series of rocky hills overlooking the sea.”

Lonely Planet
Edinburgh's festivals include:
- International Science Festival
- International Film Festival
- Jazz and Blues Festival
- International Festival
- and Festival Fringe
- Art Festival
- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- International Book Festival
- Edinburgh Mela
- Edinburgh’s Hogmanay

Getting here. Getting around
Edinburgh’s International Airport puts the city within reach of the rest of the world thanks to direct flights from most major cities in Europe – Paris is just an hour and a half away – and a host of destinations worldwide.

Within the UK, Edinburgh is easy to reach and makes an ideal location from which to explore. London is just four hours away by train while a two-hour jaunt north puts you at the heart of the Scottish Highlands.

Within the city limits, Edinburgh is one of the UK’s greenest cities with an extensive cycle route network (and bikes for hire) plus reliable bus and tram services. Its compact size makes Edinburgh ideal for exploring on foot too!
Welcome on campus

Your student union
As soon as you join the University, you’ll be welcomed into the Edinburgh University Students’ Association, which works on your behalf to ensure you have the best possible experience during your time here.

The Students’ Association is led by five elected student sabbatical officers and supports a Student Council which all students can participate in. You will be represented by elected school and programme representatives, and by black and minority ethnic, disabled students’, LGBT+, trans and non-binary, and women’s officers.

The Students’ Association supports more than 290 student-led societies and volunteering groups, from the A Cappella and Business societies, to the Yoga and Zoology societies. Their facilities include a thriving centre for student activities at the iconic Pleasance complex, which includes dance studios, a multipurpose performance space, TV and radio production facilities and a cafe and bar. Students’ Association venues deliver award-winning food and drink and hundreds of events throughout the year; from language cafes to silent discos and from ceilidhs to food fairs.

Teviot Row House, opened in 1889, is the oldest purpose-built students’ union in the world. It sits in the Central Area, next to the unique, domed, Potterrow venue. On the King’s Buildings campus, King’s Buildings House offers shops, study and meeting spaces, a cafe, a bar and a gym.
Open to getting active: Play. Train. Perform

Whether you’re a recreational gym-user or a performance athlete going for gold, our world-class sport and fitness offer caters for you. We’ve long been recognised as one of the UK’s leading sporting universities, consistently finishing in the top four of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) rankings. We were awarded ‘Facility of the Year’ in the Education category at the 2019 National Fitness Awards.

Play: club and recreational sport

With more than 60 sports clubs made up of more than 200 teams, we offer something for everyone. Our clubs offer regular coaching, training, tips and competition, both locally and nationally, with opportunities to participate and/or compete most days of the week. We run Scotland’s largest intramural sports programme, offering informal leagues, tournaments and fun events, alongside a pioneering ‘EdEx’ come and try programme in an array of sports. We also deliver sports-related volunteering and skills development opportunities through our Coaching and Volunteering Academy.

Train: something for everybody

We have some of the UK’s best sport and fitness facilities:

- The Pleasance Sport Complex and Gym, our main indoor sport and fitness hub, offers more than 20 gym and sport spaces including a 182-station cardiovascular gym, cycling, rowing and class studios, extensive free and fixed weights areas, sports halls and dedicated spaces for squash, dance, boxing, grappling, archery and shooting, as well as indoor climbing and bouldering.
- The Easter Bush Gym is our first satellite gym offering the opportunity to stay active in a safe, fun and welcoming environment. Serving the students and staff of the Easter Bush campus it provides a range of cardiovascular conditioning and free and fixed weights equipment.
- A 25-metre, six-lane pool, free weights gym and multi-activity sports halls at St Leonards Land.
- Puffinmill Playing Fields, one of Scotland’s leading outdoor sports facilities, with international standard, floodlit, water-based artificial hockey pitches, 3G football/rugby facilities, 3G five-a-side pitches, artificial cricket nets, a 100-metre training track and a Scottish Football Association-approved football arena.
- Firbush Outdoor Centre, on the banks of Loch Tay in the Highlands, offers tailored activities and services, from windsurfing to mountain leadership training, with fully-accredited, experienced instructors and all specialist equipment.

We also offer one of the country’s best fitness and wellness programmes, with flexible and affordable membership packages, a year-round programme of more than 100 weekly exercise classes, fitness challenges and sports participation events. Our Active Lives programme helps you get started on your fitness journey and stay active, offering one-to-one support, beginners’ groups and advice for a healthy active life.

Perform: compete at the highest level

Our Performance Sport Programme is one of the most highly regarded in the UK. It enables athletes to achieve a world-class degree and perform to the best of their sporting ability. Our top-class coaches, facilities and services are currently supporting more than 350 students. We offer exceptional team-specific programmes in rowing, swimming, hockey, women’s fencing, orienteering, rugby and women’s basketball. These are led by dedicated performance coaches, with specialist conditioning, medical and advisory back-up. Support is also offered to athletes competing in other sports through our Individual Performance Programme. Performance athletes have access to our state-of-the-art facilities, including our dedicated Performance Gym for sports-specific and strength and conditioning coaching. We also offer elite sports accommodation for first-year students, sports science and flexible studying, mentoring and academic support, lifestyle and nutritional advice, and access to the world-renowned FASIC (Sport & Exercise Medicine Clinic). There is also access to funding opportunities through the Winning Students network. We now boast an elite athlete access and scholarship policy to support applications to study at the University from talented sports performers.

"If I hadn’t gone to Edinburgh I’d never have taken up rowing. I’d never have had the life I’m currently living."

Katherine Grainger
Olympic champion rower and Edinburgh law graduate
A home away from home...

The University is an integral part of the city. You’ll be learning, and living, just a short walk or bus ride from the city centre of one of Europe’s most vibrant capitals.

Our undergraduate accommodation typically includes:
- all heating, hot water and electricity costs;
- wi-fi in your study-bedroom and in common areas;
- contents insurance;
- secure bike storage; and
- laundry facilities.

We realise you need more than just a place to live. You need an environment in which you can thrive. That’s why we guarantee accommodation for as many new undergraduates as possible. If you’re from outside Edinburgh, intending to study for the full academic year, and apply by the deadline, our accommodation guarantee is open to you. We also aim to provide accommodation for as many students as possible who are studying for just part of the year with us.

Pollock Halls provides catered accommodation for around 2,000 students. You will typically live in a single study-bedroom, more than half of which are en suite, with shared common rooms. The meal plan included in your rent provides breakfast and dinner every weekday, with brunch and dinner at weekends, in our award-winning restaurant. We were the first university in Scotland to win the Food for Life and Food for the Brain awards.

Our range of self-catering flats and houses is a convenient alternative that costs less than catered options and still delivers a sociable and supportive environment. Most residents have a single study-bedroom with an en suite or shared bathroom and shared kitchen facilities. Flats are typically shared with four to six other students.

All our students have access to our Residence Life team, Residents’ Assistants and Wardens who live with you in your accommodation. They offer a full range of events and activities to help you settle in to life in Edinburgh and to create a supportive and inclusive community in which to live.

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“’It can be hard to fit in at first but people here are so friendly. They are literally from all over the world – I’ve met someone from all six inhabited continents at Edinburgh – and from all walks of life. You learn a lot outside the classroom about where people are from and their home cultures, I can’t even begin to describe how it feels to wake up in such a beautiful city surrounded by people from so many different cultures.’”

Elizabeth Lund
MA (Hons) Scandinavian Studies & History

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation
Individual support

We appreciate that coming to University, often living away from home for the first time, can seem overwhelming and we're committed to helping you and making it easy for you to access consistent information, guidance, care and support whenever and wherever you need it.

Our Health and Wellbeing Centre in Bristo Square brings together our essential Student Counselling and Disability Services with the University Medical Centre and Pharmacy in a single, central hub. The Centre includes the Wellbeing Lounge, a quiet, relaxing space where you can take time out of your busy schedule or participate in events promoting good mental health and mindfulness.

We’re currently reviewing exactly how we provide student support to you to ensure we offer the best service possible. You’ll find up-to-date information online:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/support

The School in which you study will be your first point of contact for your teaching and academic advice and guidance. You will be supported by a combination of academic and professional student experience and administration staff, who will provide you with academic and wellbeing guidance and support. You will also have access to a variety of student societies and peer learning and support activities to benefit from peer to peer networks.

On campus and online, EdHelp provides straightforward access to key services where you can find answers to common support questions and raise any issues with the team. They will work with areas across the University – including student administration, finance, the libraries and information services (IT) – to resolve these.

In addition, Edinburgh University Students’ Association supports numerous student-led peer learning and support schemes across the University to help you settle in to your studies. The Association provides professional, independent and confidential advisory support to students on money matters, accommodation, academic issues and much more through the Advice Place.

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

Omar Kanyi
BEng (Hons) Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
Find out more

We offer many opportunities for you to find out more about the University, including Online Information Sessions to access from the comfort of your own home and Open Days you can attend online or, when possible, in person. For further information on any of these options: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/visiting

Virtual Visit

Can’t visit Edinburgh in person? Our Virtual Visit allows you to virtually explore the University and the city. View a range of videos, 360° photos and image galleries to find out what it is like to live and study here: https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/ug

Chat online

Wherever you are in the world, UniBuddy gives you the chance to chat to a current student about their experiences. You will be able to connect with a range of students studying different subjects: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/student-life/student-chat

Our visits to you

If you are unable to visit the University, we attend events worldwide whenever possible during the year. Find out about your next opportunity to speak to us in person: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/open-days-events-visits

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or Open Day, or take a Virtual Visit:
www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/visiting
https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/ug

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