Doors Open Day

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 September 2019
Welcome

The University of Edinburgh is integral to the intellectual, cultural, social and economic fabric of the city and the wider region. Our buildings play an important part in defining the character of our University and of Edinburgh.

With more than 430 years of history and an estate which includes a mix of old, converted, listed and contemporary buildings, it is always an enjoyable challenge to present an interesting selection for our Doors Open Day visitors.

We hope you will find a great deal to interest and enlighten you during Doors Open Day. Please remember that much of what you see is open throughout the year, whether through normal museum and gallery opening hours, organised tours, or through our extensive programme of part-time courses and public lectures. Further details of all these can be found at www.ed.ac.uk/local.

The University of Edinburgh’s participation in Doors Open Day is part of a weekend-long city-wide event coordinated by the Cockburn Association (www.cockburnassociation.org.uk).

The Central Area

The University’s history as the Tounis College, established by the Town Council in 1583, and its central location in the city’s Old Town serve to underline the symbiotic relationship between Edinburgh and the University which endures to the present day.

Facilities and activities key

- WC
- Accessible WC
- Full wheelchair access
- Wheelchair access with assistance
- Displays, information sheets
- Tours
- Talks
- Audio visual displays
- Children’s activities
- Refreshments

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The cover shows the interior of McEwan Hall.

Cover image: Douglas Robertson
St Cecilia’s Hall

50 Niddry Street (off the Royal Mile), EH1 1LG
(Central Area map ref 1)

Open: Saturday 28 September, 10am–5pm
Sunday 29 September, 12 noon–5pm

St Cecilia’s Hall is Scotland’s oldest concert hall and home to the University of Edinburgh’s world class collection of musical instruments. Built by the Edinburgh Musical Society and designed by Robert Mylne, this Georgian jewel hosted its first concert in 1763. Surrounding the Concert Room are four galleries that display more than 500 musical instruments spanning five centuries of musical heritage and history.

We will be offering short concerts (20 minutes each) in the Concert Room and Laigh Hall.

www.stcecilias.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh Law School

Old College, South Bridge, EH8 9YL
(Central Area map ref 2)

Open: Saturday 28 September, 10.30am–4pm

Located on the north side of the iconic Old College, Edinburgh Law School is a world-leading law school rooted in the eclectic, open and interdisciplinary intellectual traditions of Scots law. The School recently underwent a £35 million refurbishment to create state-of-the-art facilities whilst preserving the historic features of the 18th century building. Exhibits, talks and tours of the newly-refurbished building will be available*.

www.law.ed.ac.uk

* Due to building restrictions, the tours and talk will be ticketed. Please book at www.law.ed.ac.uk/about-us

Old College

South Bridge, EH8 9YL (Central Area map ref 3)

Open: Saturday 28 September, 11am–5pm
Sunday 29 September, 12 noon–5pm

Old College sits at the heart of the University. Work on Robert Adam’s original design began in 1789 and paused at his death. It was completed by William Henry Playfair who combined the two courts into one great court and created the magnificent Library. The dome, added in 1887 to a design by Robert Rowand Anderson, is topped by a six-foot gilded bronze statue of the ‘Golden Boy’ bearing the torch of knowledge. Meeting rooms contain fine paintings, including a dozen portraits by Sir Henry Raeburn, and are available for hire.

edin.ac/doors-open-day

NB: wheelchair access is from the entrance on West College Street. Please telephone 0131 650 8003 in advance for assistance.

Talbot Rice Gallery

Old College, South Bridge, EH8 9YL
(Central Area map ref 4)

Open: Saturday 28 September, 11am–5pm
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Situated in the University of Edinburgh’s historic Old College, Talbot Rice Gallery is one of Scotland’s leading contemporary art galleries. Comprising two distinct exhibition spaces, a neoclassical Georgian Gallery and a contemporary ‘white cube’ space, visitors can currently enjoy the gallery’s festival exhibition Real Music by leading Hong Kong artist Samson Young.

www.trg.ed.ac.uk

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McEwan Hall
Teviot Place, EH8 9AG
(Central Area map ref 5)
Open: Sunday 29 September, 10am–4pm
McEwan Hall was presented to the University in 1897 by William McEwan, not only as a ceremonial hall for graduations but also as a gift to the people of Edinburgh. Designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, with lavish interiors by William Palin, this iconic Grade ‘A’ listed building was reopened in 2017 following a painstaking three-year, multimillion pound refurbishment, which not only refreshed its intricate paintings and stonework, but also expanded the function of the Hall to meet the modern demands of the University.
www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/venues/mcewan-hall

Teviot Row House
13 Bristo Square, EH8 9AJ
(Central Area map ref 7)
Open: Saturday 28 September, 10am–4pm
Teviot Row House is one of several buildings managed by Edinburgh University Students’ Association. It opened in 1889 – making it the world’s oldest purpose-built Student Union building – and was designed by Sydney Mitchell & Wilson in a 16th century Scots architectural style with late Gothic features. It has a variety of catering and bar areas, a debating chamber, a dining room and many other meeting rooms, a number of which will be open to visitors.
www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

Anatomical Museum
Doorway 3, Old Medical School, Teviot Place,
EH8 9AG (Central Area map ref 6)
Open: Saturday 28 September, 10am–4pm*
The Anatomical Museum at the University of Edinburgh opened in 1884 and still forms an integral part of the “Old Medical School” designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson. The museum has one of the largest and best preserved collections of anatomy in Scotland, as well as the skeleton of the serial killer William Burke. The specimens and preparations on display have helped to teach anatomy to students for 300 years. Please note the museum contains human remains which some people may find unsettling. Photography is not permitted and we ask that visitors under the age of 16 are accompanied by an adult.
www.ed.ac.uk/biomedical-sciences/anatomy/anatomical-museum
* The capacity of the museum is 80 people, entry is on a one-in, one-out basis. A queuing system will be in operation throughout the day. Last entry 3.30pm

Bayes Centre
47 Potterrow, EH8 9BT
(Central Area map ref 8)
Open: Sunday 29 September, 10.30am–2.30pm
At the Bayes Centre, world-leading data science and artificial intelligence teams are shaping a better future for everyone. Working with partners, we are a proving ground for data-driven innovation to solve real-world problems through scientific enquiry, inspiring design and industrial collaboration.
The ground floor atrium and seminar room will be open to visitors to find out more about the work happening at the Bayes Centre, including the NASA Valkyrie interactive touchscreen experience.
www.ed.ac.uk/bayes/bayes-events/upcoming-events/bayes-doors-open-day
Please note for information about tours, please see the information under Informatics Forum.
Informatics Forum

10 Crichton Street, EH8 9AB
(Central Area map ref 9)

Open: Sunday 29 September, 10.30am–2.30pm
Did you know the Informatics Forum has a garden roof terrace* with a wonderful view of the surrounding area, including Arthur's Seat?
Opened in September 2008, the Informatics Forum is a fit-for-purpose building, providing a forum for interaction that fosters synergies among 500 researchers in informatics.

www.ed.ac.uk/informatics

* There will be tours to see the garden roof terrace every 30 minutes – an opportunity that shouldn’t be missed by photographers. Tour attendees will then be taken through the terrace link for an opportunity to visit the Bayes Centre next door. Please book at:
www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/news-events/doors-open-day-2019

Main Library

George Square, EH8 9LJ
(Central Area map ref 11)

Open: Saturday 28 September, 12 noon–4pm
Sunday 29 September, 12 noon–4pm

The Main Library building, designed by Sir Basil Spence, was completed in 1967 and ‘A’-listed in 2005. The University library has been collecting printed materials, art and other objects from around the world since the late 16th century, and more recently began building its digital collections, which can be accessed globally 24/7.

www.ed.ac.uk/is/main-library

Chapel of St Albert the Great

George Square Lane, EH8 9LD*
(Central Area map ref 12)

Open: Saturday 28 September, 1pm–6pm
Sunday 29 September, 2pm–5pm

The Chapel is part of St Albert’s Catholic Chaplaincy which serves the spiritual and pastoral needs of University students and staff. The chaplaincy is home to a community of students, staff and others. Mass and prayer in the Chapel are central, but the Catholic Chaplaincy's life includes a wide range of other activities, including weekly community meals, talks, discussions, and various kinds of social outreach.
Built in 2012, the Chapel has won several awards and is now in a number of guidebooks to the city.

www.scotland.op.org

* Access is only from George Square Lane which runs behind 24 George Square, close to Middle Meadow Walk.
The King’s Buildings
Main pedestrian access at the corner of Mayfield Road and West Mains Road. Vehicle and pedestrian access also possible through all gates.

Open: Saturday 28 September, 10am–4pm

Since its establishment in 1920, the King’s Buildings campus, housing most of the University’s College of Science & Engineering, has experienced vast transformation. Explore arts and architecture across the campus and follow our self-guided trail.

On the day, visitors’ maps are available from purple-shirted assistants across the King’s Buildings. For younger visitors, our treasure hunt provides an opportunity to explore the hidden features of our campus.

[Website links]

Grant Institute
School of GeoSciences
The Cockburn Museum, housed in the Grant Institute, holds an extensive collection of geological specimens and historical objects that reflect Edinburgh’s prominent position within the geological sciences. The collections reflect the whole spectrum of Earth science materials – minerals, rocks, fossils – as well as maps, photographs and archives of activity by famous Earth scientists dating back as far as the late eighteenth century.

A variety of hands-on activities, suitable for all ages, will explore Earth science topics from fossils to volcanoes.

[Website links]

Joseph Black Building
School of Chemistry
This is the oldest building on campus, with chemistry taught here since 1922. It is named after Black (1728–1799), an early Professor of Chemistry at Edinburgh, who discovered carbon dioxide and latent heat.

Visitors can tour the building including our stunning new social space incorporating the School of Chemistry museum. Taste our special ice cream and frozen yogurt, freshly made in front of your eyes with liquid nitrogen! Family drop-in activities (suitable for all ages) let you explore the chemistry that happens in our building, meet our chemists, and celebrate the International Year of the Periodic Table.

[Website links]
Peter Wilson Building
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
The Peter Wilson Building is the headquarters of SRUC, Scotland’s Rural College, the country’s leading land-based higher education institution. SRUC delivers teaching and research in agriculture, horticulture, environmental protection, and plant and animal science. From farm to fork just how much of the food we produce is lost or goes to waste? Explore our crop, food and social science research and take a tour of our horticulture and garden design teaching facilities.
www.sruc.ac.uk/edinburgh
@SRUCStudy
SRUCEdinburgh
Please note access to this building’s car park must be via Gate 1.

FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility
School of Engineering
The FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility is one of the world’s most sophisticated onshore laboratories for replicating ocean conditions and testing ocean technologies. One of the largest research infrastructures belonging to the University, the FloWave facility contains a 25m diameter test tank which recreates scale versions of complex ocean conditions. The facility is much in demand by academic and industrial research groups from across the globe and – in combination with Orkney’s European Marine Energy Centre – helps maintain Scotland’s position at the forefront of clean ocean energy research, development and innovation.
www.flowavett.co.uk
@SchoolofEng_UoE
SchoolOfEngineering.UoE

Sanderson Building
School of Engineering
The Sanderson Building is a category ‘B’ listed building. Designed and built by the 20th century Scottish architectural partnership Sir Robert Lorimer and John Fraser Matthew, it was opened in 1932 by Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald. Sanderson is home to the School of Engineering, hosting the Institute for Materials and Processes, workshops, professional services, and a student makerspace. Visitors will be invited to explore a timeline of pioneering alumni from the School’s history, get behind-the-scenes insights into student projects, including HYPED, and try their hand at flying drones on our simulator.
www.eng.ed.ac.uk
@SchoolofEng_UoE
SchoolOfEngineering.UoE

Roger Land Building
School of Biological Sciences
At the time of its construction in the 1960s, the design of this building by Sir Basil Spence, famous for his post-war redesign of Coventry Cathedral, was seen as highly innovative. Intended to house the Animal Research Organisation, it provided lab facilities, administration and a small conference facility. Since then, it has hosted the Institute for Stem Cell Research and, since 2015, School of Biological Sciences researchers. There will be hands-on exhibits and displays of some of the exciting research from across the School of Biological Sciences.
www.ed.ac.uk/biology
www.synthsys.ed.ac.uk
www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-infectious-diseases
@SBSatEd, @SynthSysEd, @edin_EID, @WTcell

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Abden House
1 Marchhall Crescent, EH16 5HP
(See map below)
Open: Saturday 28 September, 10am–4pm
Abden House was built in 1855 for Thomas Nelson, founder of the Scottish publishers of that name, and designed by civil engineer Thomas Davies. Today it’s the property of the University of Edinburgh, through the gift of Sir Donald Pollock, and the home of the Confucius Institute for Scotland. The Institute promotes educational, economic, and cultural ties between Scotland and China. Built with three storeys in the Jacobean reviv-alist style of the 19th century, Abden faces a carriage circle with gates at the end of Marchhall Crescent.
Activities are expected to include Chinese calligraphy, tea tasting and knotting (to make bracelets, etc) and introductions to Chinese chess and musical instruments.
www.confuciusinstitute.ac.uk

MRC Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine
Western General Hospital campus, Crewe Road South, EH4 2XU
Open: Saturday 28 September, 10am–5pm
The MRC Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine (IGMM) at the University of Edinburgh brings together more than 600 scientists, including 200 students, in a single scientific endeavour to improve disease prevention, detection and treatment. Visit the IGMM building to discover how it was designed to link the three constituent centres of the Institute physically and intellectually, encouraging exciting, multidisciplinary collaborations in biomedical research.
The Institute’s research has global impact. We are part of international research collaborations and one third of IGMM’s staff and students are international.
Tours, talks, videos, posters and hands-on activities for all ages. The Nucleus Café will be open.
www.igmm.ed.ac.uk