Doors Open Day

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 September 2015
The University of Edinburgh is integral and fundamentally vital to the intellectual, cultural, social and economic fabric of the city-region. Our buildings play an important part in defining the character of the University and of Edinburgh.

With a 430-year history and an estate which includes many old, converted, listed and contemporary buildings, it is always an enjoyable challenge to present an interesting selection for our Doors Open Day visitors. This year, New College at the top of the Mound will again open its doors and, for the first time, the MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine at our Western General Hospital campus will welcome visitors to its brand new building.

At all venues, information will be available through leaflets and stewards. At some, you may also find talks, tours, children’s activities, displays and exhibitions. Please note that Saturday 26 September is also a University Open Day for prospective students, so venues are likely to be very busy.

We also recommend that you visit the Chapel of St Albert the Great at 24 George Square, home to the Roman Catholic chaplaincy for Edinburgh’s universities.

We hope you will find something 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.

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The Central Area

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

Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation
High School Yards, EH1 1LZ (Central Area map ref 1)
Open: Saturday 26 September, 10am–4pm
Sunday 27 September, 10am–4pm
Edinburgh’s historic Old High School has been transformed into ECCI’s state of the art, energy efficient hub for low-carbon knowledge, innovation and skills. The 18th-century building is the first refurbished building in the UK to achieve the industry sustainability ‘BREEAM Outstanding’ award at design stage, as well as Building of the Year in the Edinburgh Architectural Awards 2014. The £10.5million project successfully preserved the heritage of the Old High School and incorporated sustainable modern buildings to achieve an exemplar of social, economic and environmental sustainability.
(www.edinburghcentre.org/history.html)
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access
Extras: café, talks, visual displays, information leaflets, video/audio presentations

Old College
South Bridge, EH8 9YL (Central Area map ref 2)
Open: Saturday 26 September, 11am–5pm
Sunday 27 September, 12 noon–5pm
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 Playfair Library. The dome, added in 1887 to a design by Robert Rowand Anderson, is not open to the public. Other meeting rooms contain fine paintings, including a dozen by Raeburn.
Download our free new app about the history of Old College from www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff/2014/old-college-app-210814.
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, wheelchair access with assistance.
Extras: information leaflets

Talbot Rice Gallery
Old College, South Bridge, EH8 9YL (Central Area map ref 3)
Open: Saturday 26 September, 12 noon–5pm
Sunday 27 September, 12 noon–5pm
Talbot Rice Gallery is one of Scotland’s leading contemporary art galleries. Comprising two distinct exhibition spaces, the Talbot Rice hosts a vibrant programme of exhibitions, education and events. The contemporary White Gallery was formerly used as a series of chemistry lecture theatres, and the Georgian Gallery, with its impressive neo-classical interior, was originally designed by Robert Adam and completed after his death by William Playfair.
(www.trg.ed.ac.uk)
Visitors can enjoy the gallery’s festival exhibition, Hanne Darboven: accepting anything among everything.
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access
Extras: guided tours, visual displays, children’s activities
New College  
Mound Place, EH1 2LX (Central Area map ref 7)  
Open: Saturday 26 September, 10am–4pm  
New College was built by William Henry Playfair for the Free (later United Free) Church of Scotland in 1846 after its 1843 Disruption from the Church of Scotland. Following their reunion in 1929, New College merged with the University of Edinburgh’s Faculty (now School) of Divinity in 1935, and is a renowned centre for Theology and Religious Studies. Its twin towers form a dominant part of Edinburgh’s spectacular skyline and visitors can view the Church of Scotland’s Assembly Hall, Rainy Hall refectory, Martin Hall with its war memorial stained glass window, and the Library which was originally the High Kirk of the Free Church.  
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, limited wheelchair access  
Extras: information leaflets, stewards at key points

Anatomy Lecture Theatre and Museum  
Doorway 3, Old Medical School, Teviot Place, EH8 9AG (Central Area map ref 5)  
Open: Saturday 26 September, 10am–4pm  
The remnants of a three-storey Medical Museum are located on the top floor, where historical and contemporary material used by current Anatomy students is displayed. Curiosities include an elephant’s skeleton, a whale’s jawbone, the skeleton of notorious Irish murderer William Burke (of Burke and Hare infamy), and a collection of death masks. The magnificent steeply-raked lecture theatre, still in use today, was designed by Robert Rowand Anderson for the Edinburgh Medical School and built in 1877. The building has been a location for film and television productions. ([www.anatomy.mvm.ed.ac.uk/museum](http://www.anatomy.mvm.ed.ac.uk/museum))  
Talks in the Anatomy Lecture Theatre each hour at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm (20 minutes)  
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, wheelchair access with assistance  
Extras: talks, information leaflets, children’s activities, visual displays

Teviot Row House  
13 Bristo Square, EH8 9AJ (Central Area map ref 4)  
Open: Saturday 26 September, 10am–4pm  
Teviot Row House is one of several buildings managed by Edinburgh University Students’ Association (EUSA). It opened in 1889 – making it the world’s oldest purpose-built Student Union building – and was designed by Sydney Mitchell and 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](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk))  
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access  
Extras: refreshments, guided tours, visual displays

Main Library  
George Square, EH8 9LJ (Central Area map ref 6)  
Open: Saturday 26 September, 12 noon–4pm  
Sunday 27 September, 12 noon–4pm  
The Main Library building, designed by Sir Basil Spence, was completed in 1967, ‘A’ listed in 2005 and extensively refurbished in 2013. It provides world class learning and research facilities in a wonderful setting between the Meadows and George Square Gardens, regularly attracting two million visitors per year. Much of the University’s extensive Collections are housed in the Library: the ground floor exhibition area will have a display on the history of animal genetics, whilst the Centre for Research Collections on the 6th floor will showcase items from the archive of Dr Allinson (founder of Allinson flour and bread). ([www.ed.ac.uk/is/main-library](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/main-library))  
Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access  
Extras: café, Towards Dolly: a century of animal genetics in Edinburgh exhibition
The King’s Buildings
**Max Born Crescent, EH9 3BF** (see map below)

**Open:** Saturday 26 September, 10am–4pm

The King’s Buildings campus houses most of the College of Science and Engineering and, with buildings dating back over the past 100 years, there is plenty for the whole family to explore.

You can use our self-guided maps (available in the Ashworth Laboratories near the main entrance), take the Orienteering Challenge or sign up for 60-90 minute tours at 11am and 2pm. The walks will highlight the dynamics of a campus constantly being adapted for new methods of teaching and learning as well as for the requirements of cutting edge research into vital areas such as Light, Big Data and the Digital Organism, Energy and Sustainability, and Human Health.

**Facilities:** WC, accessible WC, free parking, wheelchair access with assistance (wheelchair access to our buildings varies: many buildings are fully accessible but some have more limited access)

**Extras:** guided tours, lectures, talks, information leaflets/notes, performances, behind the scenes access, children’s activities and refreshments at some buildings, visual displays, stewards/volunteers at key points

Further information on access and activities at [www.ed.ac.uk/science-engineering](http://www.ed.ac.uk/science-engineering).
The King’s Buildings

Please see the map on page 9. We suggest that you enter by the main entrance at the corner of West Mains Road/Mayfield Road, EH9 3JF, to collect a visitors’ map and full details of all activities and variable access to buildings. Stewards in purple shirts will help you.

Ashworth Laboratories
School of Biological Sciences

Note the beautiful sculptural plaques on the exterior of this building, which originally housed the Zoology Department and now hosts part of the School of Biological Sciences. The laboratories will have exhibits, interactive displays and public talks about the range of exciting research currently carried out, including examples of food security research, and how climate change is affecting plant growth and food production. The Natural History Collection will also be open, including over 26,000 specimens of everything from tiny insects to elephant skulls, and scary parasites to the marvels of nature’s inventiveness.

(www.chem.ed.ac.uk/outreach)

Grant Institute
School of GeoSciences

The Cockburn Museum, housed in the Grant Institute, holds an extensive collection of geological specimens and historical objects which reflect Edinburgh’s prominent position within the geological sciences since the time of James Hutton (18th century). The stored 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. A variety of hands-on activities, suitable for all ages, will explore Earth Science topics.

(www.geos.ed.ac.uk/public/cockburn)

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. Guided tours will include viewing the exciting new plans for redevelopment. We will be offering a taste of our special ice-cream, freshly made in front of your eyes with liquid nitrogen! In addition, we will also be using infra-red and ultraviolet-visible spectrometers to identify some mystery food and drink samples.

(www.chem.ed.ac.uk/outreach)

FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility
School of Engineering

Visitors will be able to view a demonstration of the FloWave test tank which holds an impressive 2.4 million litres of water and can recreate complex waves and fast tidal currents in a fully instrumented and controllable laboratory setting. It is used by engineers to carry out research and development of offshore renewables – wave, tidal and offshore wind – before they are installed in live conditions and is a key asset to help developers harvest clean energy from the power of the sea and make the transition to a sustainable low-carbon economy.

(www.flowavett.co.uk)

James Clerk Maxwell Building

Construction of this building began in 1966 as part of a major expansion of the King’s Buildings campus. It is named after James Clerk Maxwell whose most significant work was his theory of electromagnetism, published in 1873. For Doors Open Day, two groups currently working in this building will showcase their work.

School of Physics and Astronomy. Level 2 (Ground Floor)

The Institute for Condensed Matter and Complex Systems (ICMCS) will offer guided tours of the laboratories giving behind the scenes access to research taking place on soft matter on types of novel materials. Sign up on arrival for lab tours which will depart every 20 minutes with a maximum group size of eight people. PhD students and staff will present hands-on demonstrations (suitable for all ages) of soft materials highlighting the research in the group. Children will be able to make and take away their own slime. The activities will be available throughout the day in the Level 2 foyer and the 2216 corridor, where a permanent exhibition of soft matter research is located.

(www.ph.ed.ac.uk)

School of Mathematics. Level 3

Which shapes are the most symmetric in three dimensions? How about in four dimensions? Explore the answers to these questions with Zometool, a plastic construction kit exactly designed for mathematicians to build beautiful shapes. Chat to members of the Maths Outreach Team and find out why high dimensions are important to understanding our universe, and about the different kinds of symmetry we see in the world around us. Our activities, suitable for age 7+, will be available beside the Magnet Café.

(www.maths.ed.ac.uk/outreach)

C H Waddington Building
School of Biological Sciences

Conrad H Waddington was a vital contributor to research in biological sciences at Edinburgh, especially in genetics. This building, completed in 2009, houses SynthSys, a collective which combines synthetic biology and computer science within pioneering research addressing issues in diverse areas, such as medicine, agriculture and biotechnology. A mix of hands-on activities, displays and short talks will be presented in the building, giving an overview of the research undertaken.

(www.synthsys.ed.ac.uk)

Alexander Graham Bell Building
School of Engineering

Completed in 2001, this building houses research which continues the communication legacy of Alexander Graham Bell, one of the University of Edinburgh’s most influential sons. Amongst the newest collaborations housed here is the Li-Fi Centre, which aims to turn off-the-shelf white LED light bulbs into high-speed wireless communications devices. This new technology complements Wi-Fi and gives additional benefits of greater capacity, security and energy efficiency. Demonstrations of Li-Fi will be given by researchers currently working in the field.

(www.lifi-centre.com)
Saturday 3 October, 12 noon–4pm

The Roslin Institute Building and Veterinary Teaching Building,
Easter Bush, EH25 9RG

Visit the University of Edinburgh’s Easter Bush campus, open to
the public as part of Midlothian Science Festival 2015. See behind
the scenes at The Roslin Institute building, home to scientists from
The Roslin Institute and Scotland’s Rural College, and the Teaching
Building of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. Meet our
scientists and vets, hear about their work and get hands-on with fun
activities suitable for all the family.

Dolly’s Café at The Roslin Institute will be open for lunches, drinks
and snacks throughout the afternoon.

www.midlothiansciencefestival.com

Easter Bush Campus Open Day