

## eCycle “Try before you Buy” Scheme - FAQs

eCycles are bikes with a small motor which provide assistance as the user pedals. They make cycling much easier and therefore more accessible to all ages and abilities. As less energy is required to pedal, the user avoids getting hot and sweaty and can travel longer distances. They offer a great alternative to normal cycling, walking, public transport or the car.

The purpose of the “Try before you Buy” scheme is to provide University staff with the opportunity to try out an eCycle for 1 month to help them decide if buying their own is the right decision.

### What is the offer?

There are 2 small and 2 medium eCycles available for staff to hire for 1 month. Hirers are supplied with:

- Giant Prime E+2 electric bike (incl. battery & charger for charging in a domestic plug-socket)
- Kryptonite D-lock and cable
- Helmet (you do not have to use this but we recommend you do or get your own)
- 2 x waterproof panniers (optional)
- 1 x High-viz jacket (optional)
- Lights are built-in to the bike

There is no hire charge, but a deposit of £50 is required. This is returned in full if the bike is returned in good condition at the end of the hire period. The cost of repairs or replacement parts will be deducted from the deposit. Hirers must sign a Hire Agreement.

The small eCycles are best suited to people with a height between 5’3 and 5’7.

The medium eCycles are best suited to people over 5’8

### What can I use the eCycle for?

Primarily we want you to use the bike to try commuting to work. You are very welcome to also use it in your leisure time, and in fact you may wish to start out by using the bike in your leisure time to build up confidence before cycling to work. You can also use it at work to travel to meetings etc.

The bike is for your use ONLY.

### How do I recharge the battery?

The battery has a range of approx. 30 miles. You will be provided with a charger. This just plugs into a normal domestic plug socket and it takes around 3-4 hours to charge the battery from flat. The battery is removed from the bike to recharge.

### Where should I store the bike?

Unfortunately bike theft is very common. In order to hire an eCycle you need to ensure you have somewhere secure to store the eCycle at home. This must **not be** in a common stairwell – unfortunately these are notorious for bike theft. Ideally you should be able to bring the bike into your home, garage or shed – all of which must be secure. Please note that the bike is very heavy – carrying it up more than a few stairs is not easy. You will be provided with a lock for the bike. This must always be used to lock the bike to an immovable object (ideally a cycle rack). At work, if there is a convenient secure bike store nearby, you should use it.

### **What should I do if there is a problem with the bike?**

Let the Transport Office know. If it is a simple problem like a puncture, then it is your responsibility to get it fixed. A bike shop can fix a puncture for around £10. Remember to keep the tyres inflated – we can advise on where your nearest track pump is at the University.

### **If I like using the bike, how do I go about buying my own?**

eCycles are expensive, which can be a barrier to ownership (many cost upwards of £1,000). If a member of staff wishes to buy an eCycle, they can opt to do this via the Cycle to Work scheme which offers a saving of at least 25%. Staff who get a bike through Cycle to Work pay for the cost of the bike in 12 monthly instalments direct from their salary.

The maximum that can be spent on the Cycle to Work scheme is £1,000. There are some eCycles that cost less than £1,000. If you wish to get a bike costing more than £1,000 you can still get it through Cycle to Work, but you will have to pay the amount over £1,000 at the point of purchase.

More info here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/transport/cycling/getting-a-bike/cycle-to-work>

### **I am nervous about cycling – is there any help available?**

Yes! The Transport Office offers:

1. Bike buddies – staff across the University have offered to help less confident cyclists by buddying them on the journey in to work.  
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/transport/cycling/training/bike-buddies>
2. Free one-to-one training with The Bike Station. Contact the Transport Office to request this.
3. Throughout the year group cycle training and led bike rides are offered to students and staff. Contact the Transport Office to find out about latest dates and times.
4. Cycle training is also on offer through other organisations including Cycling UK, Cycling Scotland, Sustrans

### **Can I have a look at the eCycle and try it before committing to hiring one?**

Of course. We are happy to arrange a 30 minute demonstration and test ride with you.

### **Can I take the eCycle on public transport?**

It depends on the mode and time of travel.

Lothian Buses *only* allow folding bikes on board.

You can take a bike on a train, but some train operators require you to book in advance, e.g. East Coast and Cross Country. Some of the more local ScotRail services do not require you to pre-book and there are clearly designated locations in the carriages to put bikes.

On the Edinburgh Trams up to 2 bicycles may be carried on all off peak services. This excludes Monday to Friday 07:30 – 09:30 & 16:00-18:30 hours. In addition, bicycles are not permitted throughout the Edinburgh International Festival in August or any pre-publicised events.

### **Where can I get more information?**

The eCycle Manual has information on the bike, how it works, the battery and how far you can ride the bike, how to check it is safe to ride and tips on safer cycling, and insurance cover. This is available to read on our eCycle website.