



Start here

Getting In, Getting On University Guide

This is your step-by-step guide to getting into and getting on at university. We believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to study at Edinburgh and we want you to come as you are.

Get ready

5th/6th year / The year before applying to university

If you're thinking about going to university, it's time to start preparing for the journey.

- Research the subject area or career path you're interested in.
- Check out:
 - Opportunities/schemes/programmes that Edinburgh offers: www.ed.ac.uk/widening-participation/projects
 - Also check with your school for local opportunities and schemes such as LEAPS and ACES.
- Our online prospectus: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees
- Visit us! The University of Edinburgh has three open days per year. A great opportunity to check out the University and the city: www.ed.ac.uk/visit
- Talk to us: call and speak to Laura, Neil, Lesley, Melanie, Aoife, Jess, Stevie, Ryan or Susan: 0131 650 4383

Myth

Only straight A students get into the University of Edinburgh.

Fact

We offer places based on a range of grades, depending on the educational context in which your results were achieved. Check with us to see if you are eligible for a context plus offer of ABBB. www.ed.ac.uk/studying/contextual-admissions

✓ Top tips

Adult learners can find out about our Access Programme: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/access-programme

Get into the swing of learning with a free online course or MOOC. If you live in Edinburgh the University also offers a wide range of day and evening classes: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/short-courses

Start researching your finance options.

✓ Top tips

Deadlines are key – allow plenty of time for each stage of your application.

Keep track of all your achievements. That list will come in handy when you need inspiration for your personal statement: edin.ac/lucas-personal-statement

Research and choose the five courses you want to apply to. Think about what you want to study, where you want to live and what support will be available to you.

Apply

Apply
To understand the undergraduate application process check out UCAS:

www.ucas.com/undergraduate

Getting in

Edinburgh welcomes students from all over Scotland, the wider UK and the rest of the world who represent diverse experiences, backgrounds and cultures. We consider the 'context' of everyone's application, it's not just about your grades. You may qualify for a contextual offer if:

- your circumstances made it harder for you to achieve good grades;
- you attended a school where fewer people go to university than the national average or you live in a less affluent area;
- you have ever spent time in local authority care; or
- you are a refugee or an asylum seeker.

Myth

I'm too old to go to university.

Fact

You're never too old. We welcome learners of all ages. If you have already left school (however long ago) you can still apply to university. www.ed.ac.uk/studying/mature

“I was eligible for LEAPS support because I came from a low income family, I was the first in my entire family to go to uni and Dalkeith High in general has quite a low uptake level of higher education. So, I was able to get my conditions lowered from LEAPS and they gave me help with UCAS and that kind of stuff.”

Ellis Reilly, current 4th year MA (Hons) Social Policy & Sociology student

Offer

Conditional offer
You've got a place at university so long as you meet certain conditions – usually exam results.

If you don't meet your conditions, it's not the end of the world. You have other options:

- UCAS Clearing in August is a chance to get in to universities who still have spaces.
- Consider resits or further study at college. Ask the universities you're interested in about your best route forward.

Unconditional offer

Congratulations – you've got a place at university!

Now take your time. Don't rush in to making a decision, come and talk to us (see our contact number) or even better visit us.

We can help as this is not an easy decision to make. Keep an eye out for further messages from Edinburgh about next steps: edin.ac/lucas-offers

Once you receive all your decisions you will choose which offer(s) to accept. Your firm choice is your first preference. You may also be able to make an insurance choice in case you don't meet the conditions of your firm choice.

Myth

I'll be loaded down with debts to pay back afterwards.

Fact

You don't have to take out a full student loan, and if you do get one, repayments work like a tax rather than a repayment system and don't affect your credit rating.

✓ Top tips

Visit universities on post-offer visit days to give you an idea of the people and the place and to meet future lecturers and fellow students. At the University of Edinburgh, these take place in March and April.

Prepare

Paying fees
What will you have to pay and when?

If you live in Scotland and are studying full-time – the government covers your first degree fees. Apply to the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) to have your fees fully paid. You can also apply to SAAS for bursaries and loans to help with the cost of living while you study at university.

£££ University of Edinburgh Scotland Scholarships – up to an extra £3,000 a year on top of your SAAS funding or SAAS award.

These are the most generous bursary packages within the UK. The Scotland Scholarship is awarded automatically (no application form required!) to students who meet certain criteria. You don't even have to pay it back! Awards are based on income, background and personal circumstances: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/scotland

“Money was an issue, I was really worried about my financial situation, because my mum was on a very low income. I'm from a single parent family, so it was something I was really stressed about. I didn't want to be reliant on her for a lot of my university time but it turned out that Edinburgh offered the most amazing bursary scheme.”

Jess Brandham, current 2nd year (MA) French & Linguistics student

Finding housing

You have lots of options to help find your home from home.

- Choose whether to live at home; with family or friends; or independently.
- Choose university accommodation. The University of Edinburgh guarantees accommodation to new students from outside Edinburgh who meet the application requirements: www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/undergraduates
- Choose to commute: www.16-25railcard.co.uk <https://uk.megabus.com>

Myth

Edinburgh isn't for me. I'm not going to fit in.

Fact

You will. We have a multicultural student body that's roughly one third Scottish, one third international and one third from elsewhere in the UK.

✓ Top tips

Information on tuition fees, scholarships and financial support: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees-finance

Students don't pay Council Tax. ResLife (our accommodation support team) can help you settle into your university accommodation and introduce you to your neighbours: www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/accommodation-support

Welcome to university

Welcome Week / Freshers' Week
Your university experience starts here.

- Welcome Week is your first week in your new home – remember everyone's in the same boat! Get ready for lots of social events and official stuff too.
- It takes place in the week before actual teaching starts.

Essential tasks in your first week

- Attend academic induction/introduction events and activities.
- Register (matriculate).
- Choose your option courses.
- Meet your Personal Tutor and tour your study and learning areas.
- Register with a doctor and dentist.
- Get insurance if you own anything expensive such as a laptop or bicycle.

Living in Edinburgh

How to live comfortably and cheaply.

How to budget
www.studentcalculator.org
www.ed.ac.uk/international/cost-of-living
www.moneydashboard.com

Different ways to travel

- On foot. Edinburgh city centre is easy to walk round.
- By bike. Edinburgh has great cycle routes: www.ed.ac.uk/transport/cycle-routes
The University has secure bike sheds on all campuses and a regular free bike clinic.
- Public transport. Edinburgh has an efficient transport system which offers discounts to students: www.lothianbuses.com/using-the-bus/student-guide

Consider part time work

- Use the Careers Service for the latest student job ads and internship advice: www.ed.ac.uk/careers/looking-for-work
- The Edinburgh University Students' Association also advertises student jobs: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/jobs

✓ Top tips

Check out our website for new students: www.ed.ac.uk/new-students

Keep a diary – there is so much going on that you'll want to remember!

You will automatically become a member of the Edinburgh University Students' Association, which covers student representation and activities including clubs and societies: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

✓ Top tips

Move into your flat/halls, see what's there – then buy anything else you can't face living without.

Split grocery bills and cook with friends to keep costs down.

Buy second hand – try Edinburgh's charity shops. Our swap and reuse hub, Shrub, offers a swap shop and food sharing: www.shrubcoop.org

Support at university

Academic support

Where to turn for advice.

- You'll have an assigned Personal Tutor who will provide personal, one-to-one academic guidance and support.
- Every school has a Student Support Team that offers advice on all the University's services.

Learning support

Make the most of the resources available.

- Personal Tutors provide academic guidance and support to help you make the most of your studies.
- Free laptop loans are available from our libraries.
- The Main Library is open 24/7.
- Online resources can be accessed 24/7 on and off campus.
- 24 hour computer access is available in the Main Library and in several computer labs across the uni.
- Lecture notes, course materials, reading lists and some lecture recordings are available online.
- Additional support to aid learning is also available: www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service
- Free study skills workshops and online resources: www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/undergraduate

Peer support

Getting help from the student community.

- You can find help from your fellow students, student-run helpdesks, and buddying and mentoring schemes: edin.ac/eusa-peers-support

Personal support

Help with non-academic matters.

- The Advice Place offers free, impartial and confidential advice and information: edin.ac/eusa-advice-place
- Nightline (8pm–8am) is a student-run support and information service: www.ednightline.com
- Student Counselling: www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling
- Big White Wall is a 24/7, online, confidential peer support community that also offers confidential chats with trained professionals: www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling/big-white-wall
- Liberation Champions – Edinburgh University Students' Association has liberation champions for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), disabled, LGBT+, and women students. They create a space for self-defining students to meet, discuss issues affecting them and improve their student experience: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/eusapolicy/liberation

Myth

If I get in with minimum grades, I will struggle to catch up.

Fact

Our grades are set by academics at the level you need to succeed. If you got in, it's because we believe you have the ability to do well. We will give you the time and support you need to settle in.

Myth

It's impossible to go to university if you have kids.

Fact

Lots of people juggle university life with raising a family. Check out our childcare options: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/childcare

✓ Top tips

Learn a language for free: www.ed.ac.uk/literatures-languages-cultures/open-languages

Get free access to Lynda.com for video tutorials on topics ranging from Excel to InDesign. Explore creative learning and innovation: www.innovativelearning.ed.ac.uk

* Did you know?

We welcome people from all backgrounds: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/edinburgh-community

Edinburgh is one of 143 universities that support women in science, engineering and technology, in the arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law, and in professional and support roles, and also support trans staff and students: www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity/athena-swain

Making friends

Community
There are lots of ways to make friends and be part of our community. Before long you'll feel right at home.

Volunteer

The Edinburgh University Students' Association volunteering service has loads of opportunities: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/volunteering

Join a society

Meet like-minded people interested in the same things as you: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/societies

Keep learning

A range of free seminars, lectures and talks at the University: www.ed.ac.uk/events

Or in the city: <https://edinburgh.org/whats-on>

Wellbeing

Five ways to wellbeing: www.ed.ac.uk/students/managing-your-wellbeing

Chaplaincy – meditation, prayers, yoga and mindfulness – for all faiths or none: www.ed.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Get active

We have more than 60 University sports clubs: www.ed.ac.uk/sport-exercise/sports-clubs

Join the gym: www.ed.ac.uk/sport-exercise/memberships

Go for a walk or cycle: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20087/cycling_and_walking

Get cultural

Edinburgh is the festival city: www.edinburghfestivalcity.com

Free museums and galleries: www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

www.ed.ac.uk/talbot-rice

For music events: www.whatsonlineinedinburgh.co.uk/events/music

Discover hidden Edinburgh: www.ed.ac.uk/visit/city

* Did you know?

Edinburgh is one of the safest cities in the world.

The University has a 24-hour security team, and the safety and wellbeing of our community is at the heart of what they do: edin.ac/eusa-safety

✓ Top tips

Top tips from Police Scotland on safety: www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe