About our building

We are located in the west wing of the Old Medical School quadrangle on Teviot Place, known as the William Robertson Wing.

Our building was designed by Robert Rowand Anderson, a noted Scottish architect, and was completed in 1886. Constructed in the Northern Italian Renaissance style, incorporating details like palazzed frontages and a corbelled stair turret, Rowand Anderson believed the building would inspire students and staff to “inquire into the nature of all things”.

Prior to the School of History, Classics and Archaeology moving into the building in 2010, the interior was completely refurbished at a cost of £14 million, providing state-of-the-art facilities for staff and students. Additionally, a wide selection of artworks and artefacts from each subject area are on display, decorating the hallways, study spaces and meeting areas throughout the building.

William Robertson

Our building is named after William Robertson (1721–93), a leading scholar of the Scottish Enlightenment.

Educated at the University, Robertson wrote an acclaimed *History of Scotland during the Reigns of Queen Mary and James VI* (1759), as well as histories of America and of the Emperor Charles V, some of the most influential historical works of the eighteenth century. He went on to become Principal of the University (1762) and Historiographer Royal (1764).

History was not yet an entirely distinct subject, but it owes much as a discipline generally and for its place within the University, to his pioneering work.
Some of the School's key rooms and facilities

Jim McMillan Room – room 1.31
A common room for staff and postgraduate students named in honour of the first Head of School. The room also houses a kitchen with vending machines.

Rosalind Mitchison Room – room 2.30
A common room for undergraduate students named in honour of the former Professor of Social History, Rosalind Mitchison. This social space offers comfy sofas, lunch tables, a snack machine, a tea preparation area with fridges and kettles, laptop tables and lockers.

Postgraduate Study Room – room 2.35
A study space for postgraduate taught and research students with flexible hot-desks and specialist software/hardware. Colour printing and copying facilities available.

Teaching Computer Lab – room 2.36
A dedicated teaching room for computer-based classes.

Student Research Room – room 02M.25
Used for study and houses seven book collections and computing/printing facilities.

PhD Study Room – room 3.06
A large study room for PhD students.

Scottish History Library – room 3.07
Dedicated Scottish history library with hot desks available for all PhD students.

This is a schematic diagram, designed to show the approximate location of the most commonly used rooms. Rooms which appear next to each other here may be on opposite sides of the same corridor.