



# Self-guided tour King's Buildings campus and surrounding area

A warm welcome to the University of Edinburgh and the city of Edinburgh. This tour is for King's Buildings, the University's second largest campus. Subjects within the College of Science and Engineering are taught here. The student union is also open for all students at the University.


This tour takes you in a circle, so whichever number you start at will allow you to complete the full tour. The recommended starting points are from the main entrance outside Ashworth Laboratories (Starting Point 1), near Mayfield Road where buses 24, 42 and 67 stop, or from the King's Buildings bus stop (Starting Point 2), where the number 41 bus drops off. The tour should take no more than an hour if walking at a leisurely pace, with time to take in the main buildings and facilities on campus. Add on 20 minutes if you wish to include Blackford Hill for The Royal Observatory Edinburgh.

Directions to the campus from the city centre are on the back of this leaflet. You can also use the postcode EH9 3JT to find your way via a map app/site. A map showing accessible routes and entrances can be downloaded from: [www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information/disability](http://www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information/disability)

**Student Recruitment & Admissions**  
The University of Edinburgh  
33 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JS  
[www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment)

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as large print, please contact: [sra.enquiries@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sra.enquiries@ed.ac.uk)


**8 FloWave**



From Roger Land, walk down a set of steps towards SRUC and turn right onto the road, along the side of SMC. Ahead of you is the FloWave.

Purpose-built for marine energy research, this is the largest tank of its kind in the UK. It consists of a 25 metre diameter circular basin for simulating currents and wave climates. The building also incorporates workshop and office space.


**9 The Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library**



Return to the bus stop and pass the roundabout, turning right and walking along the side of the grey and green building. Straight ahead, on the left, is the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library.

Opened in 2012, it is named after the late Professor Noreen Murray and Professor Sir Ken Murray, who both worked in the School of Biological Sciences. The ground floor has the KB Café, and the upper floors have study spaces, a roof terrace, helpdesk and collections.


**10 King's Buildings Centre**



The building attached to the east side of the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library is the King's Buildings Centre.

This early 1970s building is home to the KB Shop, study spaces and specialist multimedia/IT facilities. It will be closing to students from semester 2 in 2019.


**11 James Clerk Maxwell Building**



Take the pedestrian path opposite the KB Centre. The large building ahead of you is the James Clerk Maxwell Building (JCMB). Enter through the main entrance on the left, near the circular seating outside. (If you would like to take a break, you will find the Magnet Café on level 2.) Continue straight ahead to exit via the double doors in front of you.

The principal academic units within JCMB and its annexe, the Erskine Williamson Building, are the School of Physics & Astronomy, the School of Mathematics, the School of Geosciences and the Biology Teaching Organisation. The centres of excellence within the building are the Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions (CSEC), the Higgs Centre for Theoretical Particle Physics and the Tait Institute which is dedicated to mathematical physics. The School of Mathematics engages in research of various branches of pure and applied mathematics, illustrated by posters in the corridors. In addition, the building has five lecture theatres, a large multi-media teaching space and many group study rooms.


**12 Alexander Graham Bell & William Rankine Building**



Continue straight ahead beside JCMB for around 30 metres, then take the next left through the trees. The glass-panelled structure you reach is the Alexander Graham Bell Building. Continue further to the left to see the entrance of the connecting William Rankine Building.

Researchers in the Alexander Graham Bell Building work on mobile and digital communications, including the latest technology for mobile phones and digital communications systems. The William Rankine Building opened in 2006 as part of the School of Engineering. It houses Civil Engineering, environmental and buildings research and is home to Edinburgh's Fire Safety Engineering research group.


**13 Swann and Darwin Buildings**



Turn around and retrace your steps back to the crossroad. This time, head away from JCMB by taking the next left. You'll immediately face the Michael Swann and Charles Darwin buildings, which are connected. They house Biological Sciences.


The Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology is based in the Swann Building alongside other researchers in cell and structural biology. Other research in this building is focused on addressing fundamental questions in drug discovery, chromosome biology, RNA biology and epigenetic control of cell function. The Darwin Building, a 10 storey 1960's tower, is undergoing redevelopment. The re-engineered building will provide state-of-the-art laboratories, an advanced technology hub and space to support future growth in three strategic areas of research: Epigenetics; Infection and Global Health; and Synthetic Biology.

**14 Alrick and Faraday Buildings**



Across the road from the Swann and Darwin Buildings is the Alrick Building. Immediately behind it, tucked away, is the Faraday Building. The Alrick and Faraday Buildings are home to marine renewables and energy systems research. Edinburgh has a long tradition of wave energy production from Stephen Salter's work in the early 1970s. The new FloWave tank on campus supplements this research by enabling large scale testing of marine energy devices.

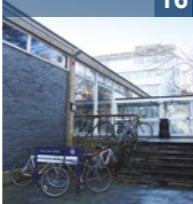
**15 Daniel Rutherford and CH Waddington Building**



Continue straight on. After the Swann and Darwin Building on your right is the Daniel Rutherford Building, used solely by the School of Biological Sciences. Interconnected behind it is the CH Waddington Building.

The Rutherford Building houses research in plant cell biology to understand processes in plant growth, development and immunity that underpin research in plant biotechnology. The Waddington Building houses SynthSys, the Centre for Synthetic and Systems Biology. Research is multidisciplinary and aims to understand and re-design biochemical systems.


**16 Hudson Beare and Fleeming Jenkin Building**



Cross to the opposite side of the road from the Rutherford Building, then take a left through the gardens and walk along the path parallel to the main road. On your left hand side you will see the interconnected Hudson Beare and Fleeming Jenkin buildings. Hudson Beare is the centre of the School of Engineering, while research is carried out in the Fleeming Jenkin Building.

The Hudson Beare Building is home to four Engineering classrooms and a lecture theatre. The Fleeming Jenkin Building has a number of labs, including those for structural, chemical and electrical engineering. It also has a small wave tank located in the hydraulics lab and a freezer for conducting experiments. There are a number of Carbon Capture Research projects running, which aim to find methods of putting carbon dioxide into storage or transportation, thereby helping reduce the levels of this 'greenhouse gas' in our atmosphere.


**17 Sanderson Building**



Continue through the car park to the Sanderson Building on your left. The Sanderson Building houses the Institute for Materials and Processes; it has two chemical and mechanical engineering workshops, where academic researchers, research fellows and postgraduate students work in the areas of biomedical engineering, carbon dioxide capture, materials science, molecular simulation and design, multi-phase flows and complex fluids.

The next part of the tour is the optional visit to the Royal Observatory on Blackford Hill, 10 minutes' walk from King's Buildings campus.

**18 Blackford Hill – The Royal Observatory Edinburgh**



Exit the King's Buildings campus at the main entrance, and head left up West Mains Road. Around 200 metres ahead on the left there is a grand archway. Go through this, and up the hill of Observatory Road. At the top, the paved area becomes a footpath – take the one leading left. Approach the Observatory by continuing along its near side, enter under the archway, and find the reception to your immediate left.

Built in 1893, the Royal Observatory houses the Institute for Astronomy, the UK Astronomy Technology Centre and a visitor centre. One of the UK's major centres of astronomical research, the Institute for Astronomy specialises in survey astronomy, cosmology, active galaxies and the formation of stars and planets.

Return to the main entrance to King's Buildings. Those who began at Starting Point 1 – you have completed the tour; those at Starting Point 2 – continue from the Ashworth Laboratories.

### Getting to King's Buildings


King's Buildings is well serviced by public transport from the city centre. The 24, 42 and 67 buses all pass the campus, while the 41 bus terminates inside the campus itself. All of these buses stop in the city centre, and also pass by the George Square (central) campus. King's Buildings is around a 30 minute walk from George Square, while many students prefer to cycle. Use the postcode EH9 3JT to search for directions.



**King's Buildings campus map key**


- Starting point 1**
  - 1 Ashworth Laboratories
  - 2 Grant Institute
  - 3 KB House
  - 4 Joseph Black Building
  - 5 Murchison House
  - 6 Crew Building
  - Starting point 2**
  - 7 Roger Land Building
  - 8 Flowave Tank
  - 9 Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library
  - 10 KB Centre
  - 11 James Clerk Maxwell Building
  - 12 Alexander Graham Bell & William Rankine Buildings
  - 13 Swann & Darwin Buildings
  - 14 Alrick & Faraday Buildings
  - 15 Daniel Rutherford and CH Waddington Buildings
  - 16 Hudson Beare & Fleeming Jenkin Buildings
  - 17 Sanderson Building
  - Other buildings**
  - 18 Blackford Hill - The Royal Observatory, Edinburgh
- Facilities/Services**
  - University Bus Stop (staff/students only)
  - Lothian Bus Stop
  - Refreshments
  - Wheelchair Access
  - Permit Parking
  - Disabled Parking
  - Bike racks

**1 Starting Point 1 - Ashworth Laboratories**




The best place to begin the tour is on the north east corner outside the Ashworth Laboratories, where the newly-constructed entrance to King's Buildings lies. This building is used by the School of Biological Sciences. Evolutionary biology, immunology and infection research is carried out in the Ashworth Laboratories, the home of the Centre for Immunology, Infection and Evolution. The Aubrey Manning Gallery houses part of the University's collection of natural history specimens.

**2 Grant Institute**




Take the path to the right, where you will pass a two storey building on your left. This is the Grant Institute, where the School of Geosciences is based. The building was named after its donor Alexander Grant, creator of the popular McVitie's Digestive biscuit! At the Grant Institute the subjects Geology, Geophysics, and Environmental Geosciences are housed. It has a number of research facilities, including a high-tech microanalytical facility where students can analyse rocks, minerals and fluids and measure the physical properties of rocks.

**3 King's Buildings House**




Continuing down past the Grant Institute, take the steps on the left by the lamppost and follow the path to the zebra crossing. Ahead of you is King's Buildings House, the campus student union. Run by the Edinburgh University Students' Association, King's Buildings House. There are a number of catering options, as well as a shop and the KB Gym which includes badminton and squash courts. Here there is a branch of The Advice Place, offering students free, impartial and confidential information on anything and everything.

**4 Joseph Black Building**




Follow the other path back towards the main road and turn left down David Brewster Road. Stop at the large red brick building on the left. This is the Joseph Black Building, home to the School of Chemistry. King George V laid the foundation stone for this building in 1920, making it the earliest building on campus. It has developed over the decades into a state-of-the-art facility for all modern branches of Chemistry. New teaching laboratories are used by undergraduates and for cutting-edge research into nano-technology, protein structure and function, drug discovery, battery as well as fuel cell materials.

**5 Murchison House**



Continue straight ahead, crossing the car park, until you reach Murchison House. The former British Geological Survey building, has had an extensive refurbishment, turning it into a multi-functional building with an open-plan teaching hub alongside study spaces, lecture theatres, exhibition spaces, Edinburgh Innovations offices and incubation units and a range of student service offices. This is where you will find the Admissions office for the College of Science and Engineering. Also based here are the Careers Service, Academic Affairs and Student Counselling.

**6 Crew Building**




Returning to Alexander Crum Brown Road, turn right, after around 100 metres there is a grey building to the right with a number of steps - this is the Crew Building, used by the School of Geosciences. The Crew laboratories, used to prepare equipment to monitor greenhouse gas fluxes and ecosystem behaviour, were inaugurated by Piers Sellers, former NASA astronaut and graduate of Edinburgh. Here research into Ecology and Atmospheric Chemistry is carried out. This focuses on terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems and their interactions with other components of the earth system.

**Starting Point 2 - Bus Stop**

The bus drop-off point is surrounded by a number of institutions. When facing Roger Land, on your right hand side there is a modern white research building called the Scottish Microelectronics Centre (SMC). At the far end of the roundabout is Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), a separate institution that provides research into agriculture and related issues.

**7 Roger Land Building**



Roger Land is adjacent to the bus stop. The Roger Land Building houses the UK Centre for Mammalian Synthetic Biology. Research aims to pioneer development of the underpinning tools and technologies needed to implement engineering principles and realise the full potential of synthetic biology in mammalian systems. This builds on the multidisciplinary research carried out by SynthSys, the Centre for Synthetic and Systems Biology, which is housed in the Waddington Building.