8 FoWave

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 FoWave.

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 workshops 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 (ICMB). Enter through the main entrance on the left, near the circular seating in front of you. 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 ICMB and its annex, the Enrique 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 (CSECE), 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 ICMB 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 communication 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 ICMB 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 renewable energy systems research. Edinburgh has a long tradition of wave energy production from Stephen Salter’s work in the early 1970s. The new FoWave 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 hydraulic 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, multiscale processes 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. As you turn, the path 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 left immediately.

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 (Bus Stop) campus. King’s Buildings is around a 10 minute walk from George Square, while many students prefer to cycle. Use the postcode EH9 3JT to search for directions.

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 Hayfield 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/estate/buildings-information/disability

Getting directions

Please enter your starting point and choose your preferred route:

The University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.
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.

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.