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. 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.

The student union is also open for all students at the University. Subjects within the College of Science and Engineering are taught here.

A map showing accessible routes and entrances can be downloaded from: www.ed.ac.uk/estates/buildings-information/disability

The best place to begin the tour is on the north east corner outside the Ashworth Laboratories, where the main 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 micrometrical facility where students can analyse rocks, minerals and fluids and measure the physical properties of rocks.
The bus drop-off point is located next to Murchison House, a key student hub at 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.

Continue to the west past the Grant Institute, take the steps on the left by the lampost 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. The bus stop walk down past Joseph Black building and turn right to head into KB Square, with KB House on your left. Ahead, on the left, is the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library. Opened in 2013, it is named after the late Professor Noreen Murray and Professor Sir Ken Wolf, both of whom worked in the School of Biological Sciences. The ground floor has the KB Cafe, and the upper floors have study spaces, a roof terrace, helpdesk and collection. 

Walk down a set of steps towards SRUC and turn right onto the road, From the Crew Building, continue up Alexander Crum Brown Road. The Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library. To the east of the library is The Nucleus. Located at the heart of the campus this will be a hub for students and staff, with five lecture theatres, teaching studios, group study spaces and event spaces. Due for completion in 2022, the Nucleus will connect to the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library and KB House.

Continue straight ahead, passing the bus stop, 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. You’ll find a Student Information Point, the Careers Service, the Student Counselling Service and Elements Cafe all located on the ground floor. Murchison is also home to administrative services for the College of Science & Engineering including Recruitment & Admissions and Academic Affairs.

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The Crew laboratories, used to prepare equipment to monitor greenhouse gas fluxes and ecosystem behaviour, were inaugurated by Frank Seiler, 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.

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