Parents’ and Supporters’ Welcome Talk 2019
Gavin Douglas
Deputy Secretary – Student Experience
Did you know?

• Ancient University
• Large population
• Global and local
• Long and proud reputation in medicine...
• ...and now in AI and data-driven information
• Key partner in Edinburgh festivals
Undergraduate students:
Approx. 6200 students
(34% Scottish, 31% RUK, 10% EU, 26% International)
Large
Diverse
Spread Out

...ALL OVER A WONDERFUL CITY
Lots of Student Support

Student life support:
- Edinburgh University Students’ Association
- Advice Place
- Sports & Exercise and Sports Union
- Sustainability and Social responsibility
- Security
- Transport

Career Development Services:
- Careers Service
- Study and Work Away
- Institute for Academic Development

Wellbeing Services
- Student Counselling
- Student Disability Service
- Chaplaincy

Copies of the Here to Help Guide are at the Tea reception after this talk
The University and Parents
Welcome

Katrina Castle
Head of Strategic Partnerships and Transitions
Who are you?

• First time supporting a student?

• Where are you from?

• Any prospective students here?
Who are the students?

- How do you see them?
- How does the Uni see them?
- Who are the students?
Changes at University…

- Academic
- Time management
- Social and interpersonal
- Personal change
The W-Curve

- Honeymoon
- Initial adjustment
- Acceptance and integration

- Culture shock
- Mental isolation
What can you do?

• Listen and encourage

• Be aware of the resources available

• Staff that provide academic and pastoral support throughout degree:
  ➢ Personal Tutor
  ➢ Student Support Offices
  ➢ Resident Assistants/Wardens
Student Support Services

- Advice Place
- Student Disability Service
- Institute for Academic Development
- Chaplaincy
- Careers Service
- Information Services
- Library
- English Language Education
- Pharmacy
- Student Counselling Service
- Go Abroad
- ResLife
Welcome Week
What can you do?

• Be an educated supporter

• Encourage your student to take ownership

• Enjoy it!
We’re here to support our members and help them make the most of University life:

- Supporting over 280 student-led societies & volunteering groups
- Offering free, professional, confidential support through Advice Place
- Helping make the most of study time with Peer Learning and Support
- Campaigning on students’ behalf and representing them to the University and beyond
- Providing a home from home in our 4 buildings: Running entertainment, coffee shops & everything in between
- Giving members countless opportunities to get involved!
Offering A Warm Welcome

Helping students to:

• Settle in to the university and the city, and their student union
• Find their way around
• Meet like-minded people
• Find activities they enjoy
• Access information and support
We support over 280 student-led societies and volunteering groups!

- From A Cappella to Zoological Society, there’s something for everyone! Carry on an interest you love or try something new!

We have 4 union buildings where students can meet, study, eat and drink, socialise and have fun as well as access support.
Support and Community

- Tandem Language Exchange
- Global buddies
- Events, trips, networking
- International/cultural societies

Meet people. Have fun. Improve your grades.

- School-based PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Schemes)
- Peer Support Groups

Support Resources:
- eusa.ed.ac.uk/global
- eusa.ed.ac.uk/peersupport
Advice Place

Free, professional and confidential service

- Drop in, call, download our advice guides or make an appointment

- Advice and guidance on a whole range of subjects: Money; Accommodation; Wellbeing; Academic issues, University processes and lots more....

- Safer sex products through C:Card, and free sanitary products.

- eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace
Representation

Sabbatical Officers

• Elected student representatives
• Liberation and Student Groups
• Course and School reps
• Campaigning
Emergency Taxi Scheme

Our students need never be left stranded
• Flag down a Central Taxi cab, or call on 0131 229 2468
• Give a University of Edinburgh student number
• Students’ Association will pay the fare and check in with the passenger afterwards to make sure they’re ok and arrange repayment
• eusa.ed.ac.uk/taxi
Top Tips From Us to You

- Edinburgh is historical, culturally rich and one of the most beautiful cities in the world – make the most of having someone study here and explore it with them!

- Sometimes a care package of goodies will be just what we need

- It’s reassuring for students to have someone outside the University to talk to who understands their experience – so get to know how the University works and what it is the student you’re supporting is doing here
If the student you’re here for is living away from home…

- Don’t judge if they seem to be getting through a lot of new television series – this can be a great way to bond with new pals!
- If they start calling Edinburgh ‘home’ there’s no need to be alarmed! This is a good sign that they’re settling in
- Message picture of your pets at home from time to time – this is a sure route to being cheered up after a 9am lecture!
- When you visit don’t be horrified by messy halls…but maybe bring a little gift of toilet roll and washing up liquid?
Please join us for tea, information and conversation in Teviot Row House
Thank you

You’re all invited to come join us for a cup of tea or coffee in the Students’ Association Union Building – Teviot Row House!