



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

A European University

*Influencing the
world since 1583*



*“As a truly global university,
rooted in Scotland’s capital city,
we make a significant, sustainable
and socially responsible contribution
to the world.”*

The University of Edinburgh Strategic Vision.



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Image:
Old College
quad, Edinburgh.



Introduction

The University of Edinburgh has been an international institution since its foundation more than four centuries ago, and we continue to enhance our global presence today.

For more than four centuries, the University of Edinburgh has been influencing the world. Edinburgh's radical thinkers, by believing that anything is possible, have introduced many ideas, discoveries and inventions, from anaesthetics to the first genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccine to Dolly the Sheep. They have revolutionised surgery, won Olympic medals, published era-defining books, explored space and much more.

Today, Peter Higgs, Nobel Prize winner and current Emeritus Professor at the University, continues the tradition and epitomises the spirit of the Enlightenment, challenging convention and heralding a new age for science. His theory, explaining how the fundamental particles of matter attain their mass, was verified at the CERN laboratory which highlights the importance of international collaboration in advancing science.

We continue in this proud tradition, consistently striving to reveal the unknown, transform imagination into

reality, and unveil new possibilities for future generations. And we do so in the context of our historical and present links with Europe, and as a global university which seeks to tackle problems transcending national boundaries.

As a community, we are determined that the University of Edinburgh will continue to wear its heart on its sleeve as a proudly European and international university and we know that we will be even more global and outward-looking in the future, not less.

A European university

The University of Edinburgh is the oldest civic foundation in the English-speaking world, founded in 1583 by the Town Council. With its post-Reformation outlook, it was therefore more able to take a broad approach to education than the five other universities then existing in Scotland and England, which had been established under religious principles.

Its first Principal, Robert Rollock, looked to universities such as Paris and Leiden for liberal curricular models, largely based on classics, philosophy, logic and mathematics, but later including law, divinity and medicine. Initially, the first-year students at Edinburgh were called

'bajans', a reference to 'bec-jaune' or fledgling, the term used at the University of Paris.

In 1708 Principal William Carstares, following the examples of the universities of Leiden and Utrecht, introduced specialist professors, replacing the old Scottish system where Regents had shepherded their students through the entire four years of study.

A Faculty of Medicine, the first in Britain, was formally established in 1726 with four of its six professors having trained in Leiden. From this point on, the University became renowned worldwide as a centre

of excellence for medical education under staff such as Professor of Surgery Joseph Lister, who developed the use of antiseptics and James Young Simpson, Professor of Midwifery and pioneer of anaesthesia.

The University's progressive curriculum enhanced its international reputation and it attracted students from England, Ireland, France, the Low Countries and the Americas. This, and the near-universal literacy resulting from the introduction of parish schools in Scotland, were important factors in creating the conditions for the Scotland's contribution to the European Age of Enlightenment.





“The University of Edinburgh possessed a set of truly great men, Professors of Several Branches of Knowledge, as have ever appeared in any age or country.”

*Benjamin Franklin,
polymath, 1706-1790.*



Image:
Double-manual
harpsichord from our
St Cecilia's Collection:
Ioannes Ruckers,
Antwerp 1638.



Joseph Black



James Hutton



David Hume



Sir Walter Scott



An Enlightenment university

“It is to Scotland that we look for all our ideas of civilisation.”

Voltaire.

The 18th-century Scottish Enlightenment represented a golden age in the intellectual life of Scotland and it was centred in Edinburgh. Reason and rationality were its hallmarks as science, medicine, mathematics, agricultural improvement, moral philosophy, literary criticism, history and political economy all made rapid advances, helping to build the foundations for the way in which we see the world today. ‘Edinburgh is a hotbed of genius’ – Tobias Smollett.

At the very centre of this intellectual crucible were men connected to the University of Edinburgh, which became one of Europe’s most important centres for innovation and experimentation in science and the humanities. The period saw Professor

Joseph Black’s discovery of ‘fixed air’ or carbon dioxide, and his protégé Daniel Rutherford’s discovery of ‘noxious air’, which we now know as nitrogen. Also in this eminent circle were professors such as Adam Ferguson, pioneer of sociology, and Colin McLaurin, friend of Isaac Newton, alongside alumni like James Hutton, the father of modern geology and David Hume, author of the *Treatise on Human Nature*. Their friend Adam Smith delivered a series of lectures at the University expounding about his books about political economy, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *The Wealth of Nations*.

Their works were reviewed in the major European philosophical journals as soon as they appeared and were soon translated into other languages,

influencing a wide audience in Europe, especially German philosophers such as Kant.

Alumnus Sir Walter Scott found a place at the very heart of European literature with his historical novels and was followed by other alumni such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, JM Barrie and, more recently, JK Rowling. Appropriately, Edinburgh is now UNESCO’s first City of Literature and, indeed, University of Edinburgh alumni and staff played an enormous part in founding the Edinburgh International Festival in 1947.



Image:
Reunion of the Polish
Medical School.



European links



“We the children of two mothers, alma mater Polonia and alma mater Edinburgensis, will always endeavour to uphold the noble inheritance obtained within these ancient walls and live up to the great tradition of your teaching.”

Graduates of the Polish Medical School 1941-1949.

The links between the University of Edinburgh and Europe have not been purely intellectual but often practical as well:

The Polish Medical School

The Polish School of Medicine was established in Edinburgh in 1941 as a unique academic response to the Second World War. It taught students and doctors in the Polish armed forces and also accepted civilians. Students followed a Polish curriculum, taught in Polish, and were awarded a Polish degree. When the School closed in 1949, more than 300 students were registered and 228, including 46 women, had graduated, with 19 obtaining a doctorate or MD. While some returned to Poland, many remained in the UK or emigrated to North America or Australia.

Edinburgh Conversations

Reunions are held in Edinburgh every five years and alumni continue to play an active role in medical education by funding the Jurasz lectureship and scholarships for talented Polish medical scientists to undertake further study in Edinburgh.

At the height of the Cold War, during the early 1980s, the late Professor John Erickson, Head of the University's former Centre for Defence Studies and a world-leading authority on the Soviet Union, created a series of meetings known as the Edinburgh Conversations. These discussions provided a platform for insights from the highest representatives of the Western world and the Soviet Union, and helped thaw tensions between the superpowers during this difficult time. These themes are today maintained in the work on conflict and peace carried out within our Global Justice Academy.

European links today

The University of Edinburgh, located at the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers a wide range of programmes in European languages and area studies encompassing Celtic and Scottish Studies, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian Studies, Scandinavian Studies which includes Danish, Norwegian and Swedish, and Spanish.

Our Europa Institute, founded in 1968, is the University's research centre on European integration and we host many cultural and inter-cultural centres such as the Centre for International Cultural Relations, the Centre de Recherches Francophone Belges, and the Princess Dashkova Russian Centre.

Several of our degree programmes are accredited in the EU or linked

with programmes in other European universities. For example, our veterinary training is accredited by the relevant bodies in the UK, the EU and the US; our European Masters in Landscape Architecture is a joint degree with leading landscape architecture institutions in five European countries; and we offer a Masters in European Law. The University has strategic partnerships with a wide range of universities across Europe and joint doctoral programmes via the EdoLAD and other schemes, and we also deliver an expanding range of online learning opportunities.

The University is a member of several prestigious academic groupings in Europe. The League of European Research Universities (LERU) is a consortium of 23 research-led universities in Europe which advises

the European Commission on a wide range of topics related to EU research policy.

This year, we are proud to hold the Presidency of the Coimbra Group, an association of 39 comprehensive and multidisciplinary European universities of the highest standard. Through exchanging experience and expertise, the Group creates academic and cultural ties to promote internationalisation, collaboration, excellence in learning and research, and service to society.

Edinburgh is also a member of Eurolife, a network of prestigious medical schools across Europe which collaborate in research, share best practice in medical education and seek to influence life sciences agendas at European level.





“The University of Edinburgh will continue to wear its heart on its sleeve as a proudly European and international university.”

Professor Sir Timothy O’Shea, Principal and Vice Chancellor.



Image:
EU students enjoy studying in the beautiful city of Edinburgh.

Our staff

We value hugely the work of our European staff and students who, together with our UK and international staff and students, make this University what it is today.

The University has affiliations with some 20 Nobel laureates. These include Max Born, a refugee from Germany who was appointed the second Tait Professor of Natural Philosophy at Edinburgh in 1936. His research in quantum mechanics, and especially his invention of the statistical interpretation of the wave function, earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1954.

More recently, Norwegians Edward and May-Britt Moser, who carried out post-doctoral research at the University between 1994 and 1996, went on to win the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work in identifying the place cells that make up the brain's positioning system.

Our staff come from 101 of the world's nations. 17 per cent (2,389 people) of our total staff are EU nationals, including 25 per cent of our academic staff. Along with all our staff, they contribute enormously to making Edinburgh one of the world's best universities, and to addressing global challenges.

Professor Harald Haas

Germany

Inventor of LiFi, technology that uses ordinary LED light bulbs to create high speed wireless networks.

Dr Emile Chabal

France

Chancellor's Fellow in History, currently researching contemporary French politics and post-colonialism.

Dr Mathias Thaler

Austria

Senior lecturer in political theory, works on improving our understanding of and responses to political violence.

Dr Esther Mijers

Netherlands

Researching the cultural and intellectual links between Scotland and the Netherlands in the 17th century.

Dr Ulf-Dietrich Schoop

Germany

Head of Archaeology, researching the archaeology of the prehistoric Near East and Anatolia.

Dr Maurice Fallon

Republic of Ireland

Chancellor's Fellow researching localisation, state estimation and mapping of robots and autonomous systems.

Dr Arne Kruse

Norway

Conducting research into Scandinavian place-names in Scandinavia, Scotland and North America.

Dr Thomas Pierret

Belgium

An expert on the Middle East with a particular focus on Syria, and the politics and sociology of Islam.

Professor Antonella Sorace

Italy

Researching, supporting and developing bilingualism over the lifespan, in the UK and internationally.

Professor Igor Rudan

Croatia

An expert in international health and molecular medicine with a focus on global child mortality and genetic basis of human disease.

Dr Claudia Monteiro

Portugal

Head of Public Relations for the Business School and has worked internationally in project management, cultural and public affairs.



Professor Harald Haas

Dr Emile Chabal

Dr Mathias Thaler

Dr Esther Mijers

Dr Ulf-Dietrich Schoop

Dr Maurice Fallon

Dr Arne Kruse

Dr Thomas Pierret

Professor Antonella Sorace

Professor Igor Rudan

Dr Claudia Monteiro



Image:
Project Elpis.



Our students

“I have made friends from all over the world, travelled round Europe and benefited both academically and socially from this excellent opportunity.”

*Law student,
Erasmus exchange to
Utrecht, Netherlands.*

Students from non-UK EU nations make up 14 per cent of our student community.

2017 marks the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus Scheme, in which Edinburgh has participated since it began. During that time we have sent more than 12,000 students across Europe for work and study, and similar numbers of talented European students have come here to Scotland. Edinburgh has Erasmus agreements with more than 250 leading European universities across 20 different nations. We are ranked as the UK's number one host university for Erasmus+ and this year will place more than 500 students. We have been extremely successful in securing Erasmus+ funds and secured more than 20 per cent of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility budget for the UK in 2016, being awarded €1,143,560.

Of almost 300 societies and volunteering groups at the University, there are 15 societies each representing an EU member state. The eXchange360 society organises social events for students on exchange programmes.

Many European students studying in Edinburgh are involved in volunteering and community service. For example, students who speak French and Spanish assist teachers to foster an appreciation of those languages and cultures among primary school children in Edinburgh. A 12-week Foreign Language Outreach programme runs in conjunction with the local city council and enhances our students' CVs.

Among Edinburgh's many remarkable responses to the refugee crisis in Europe, two ventures particularly demonstrate the responsible citizenship we strive to inspire in our students:

Project Elpis, created by students Samuel Kellerhals from Germany and Alexandros Angelopoulos from Greece, installs solar-powered phone chargers in refugee camps in Greece;

The Timber Project, run by Landscape Architecture alumni Kirsty Scott and Chris Moore who gave up their jobs to work on this initiative, builds shelters, shower blocks, children's play areas and other facilities such as distribution centres for refugees stranded in Greece and along the 'Balkan route'.



Image:
Edinburgh's research
is world-leading.

Our research

World-leading research at Edinburgh is addressing local and global challenges and making a truly positive impact in many spheres.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the most internationally collaborative research universities in the UK with almost 55 per cent of our research output published with international co-authors. In the past 10 years, 30 per cent of our research outputs were co-authored with EEA partners.

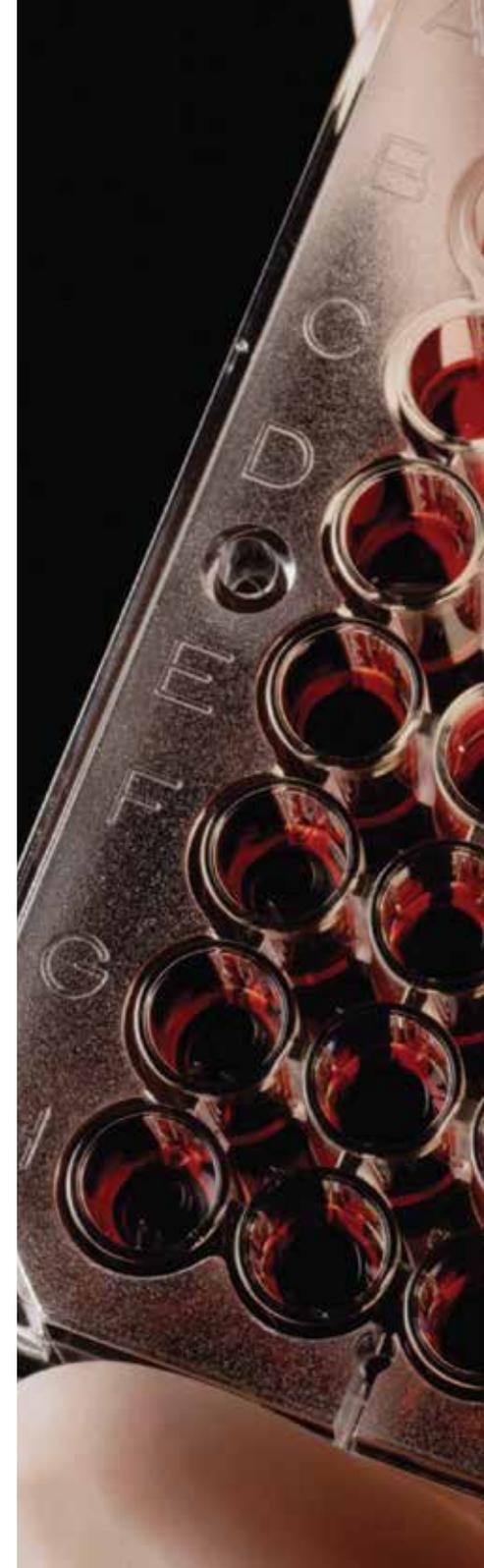
This is achieved in no small part though through our participation in the EU's Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. We have collaborated with researchers in all EU member states, three of four EFTA countries, all EU Membership Candidate countries, more than half of European Neighbourhood Policy countries, as well as with countries throughout the world.

10 per cent of our total research income, around £31m in 2014/15, comes from EU sources with the largest proportion going to research in our College of Science and Engineering. Since the beginning of FP7 (2007) we have participated in more than 170 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Research Fellowship Programmes

created to attract and train the EU's researchers of the future. Of these projects the University has participated in 125 individual Fellowships, with the majority of these being researchers from outside the UK coming to train at Edinburgh.

The UK is one of the most attractive countries in Europe for frontier researchers holding the EU's most prestigious grants awarded by the European Research Council, with more than half of UK-based grant-holders coming from elsewhere in the world. The University has hosted almost 100 of these since 2007.

We have participated in more than 300 large European collaborative research projects, 12 per cent as leading partner, contributing to the EU's policy priorities in the areas of energy, ICT, high performance computing and health research. The University of Edinburgh accounts for 30 per cent of Scotland's 480 Horizon 2020 grants and receives the 7th largest share of Horizon 2020 funds among all participating higher education institutions worldwide.



Dementia research

We are the lead partner in an Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) project in which 36 partners are collaborating to improve understanding and management of Alzheimer's disease in people with very early symptoms or none. Led by Professor Craig Ritchie from our Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences, the European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia initiative (EPAD) hopes to find more effective clinical trials for drugs to prevent diseases such as Alzheimer's, which is expected to affect more than 100 million people globally by 2050. The University is a partner in a further seven IMI projects.

Bilingualism Matters

Our Bilingualism Matters centre aims to encourage and support people of any age to speak more than one language. Led by Professor Antonella Sorace and based at the University, the centre receives EU funding and has a wide international network across the UK, EU and US. The expected benefits for education, business and cultural exchange have been augmented by our research which shows that multilingualism can bring linguistic and cognitive advantages at any time of life and in any language.

The University of Edinburgh at a glance



32nd

Edinburgh is ranked *32nd in the world* for the *employability of our graduates* in the latest Emerging Global Employability University Rankings.



In good company:

20,000

alumni living and working in Europe.



156

nationalities:

14 per cent of our students from non-UK EU nations.



QS World University Rankings:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
21st	17th	17th	21st	19th

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
31,335	32,868	33,110	35,258	36,491

Student Numbers.



30%

Research

In the last 10 years, 30 per cent of our research outputs were co-authored with *EEA partners*.



25%

of our academic staff are *non-UK EU nationals*.



Edinburgh was the *first UK university to offer MOOCs*, and more than *2 million learners* have taken these online courses.



12,000

Edinburgh students have taken part in an *Erasmus exchange* in the 30 years since it was set up and similar numbers of talented European students have come to Edinburgh.



184 The University formed 184 companies between 2010-15 *which is three new companies formed every month for the last five years.*

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*Our mission to discover,
develop and share knowledge
is at the heart of what we do.*

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