



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

An introduction

Our history

Influencing the
world since 1583

Established in the 16th century by Edinburgh's town council, we are the sixth oldest university in the UK and the oldest civic foundation in the English-speaking world.

From playing a central role in the Enlightenment and establishing the first English literature department in the world, to laying the foundations of electromagnetism and antiseptic surgery, the University is steeped in history.

Our campuses house some of the world's most important collections, spanning more than 400 years and including art, musical instruments, natural history, geology, anatomy, rare books and manuscripts. We have the oldest student newspaper and purpose-built student union in the world. Every year we award the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain's oldest literary awards.

Today, against the backdrop of an ever-changing political landscape, we continue to have a global outlook, in the knowledge that our international partnerships, collaborations, staff and student community make us what we are, and allow us, as an institution, to continue in the tradition of making history.

Our people

Helping you make the best of who you are

From scientific geniuses to sporting heroes our alumni and staff are high achievers who make a difference.



Charles Darwin
Naturalist and author of *On the Origin of Species*.



Ian Rankin
World-famous author and creator of John Rebus, the cynical detective hero of his bestselling crime fiction novels.



Chrystal Macmillan
Pioneer, feminist and pacifist, and the University's first female science graduate.



Dr Rowena Arshad
Co-Director of the Centre for Education for Racial Equality in Scotland.



Professor Peter Higgs
Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Physics and one of the Nobel Prize winners we're associated with.



Robert Louis Stevenson
Scottish novelist who wrote *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*.



Dame Stella Rimington
Popular crime writer and former MI5 Director.



Sir Chris Hoy
Hugely successful cyclist and winner of seven Olympic medals (six gold and one silver).



Gordon Brown
One of three UK Prime Ministers associated with the University.



Professor Sethu Vijayakumar
World-renowned roboticist who carried out research on the NASA Valkyrie, one of the most advanced humanoid robots in the world.



J K Rowling
Celebrated author of the international bestselling Harry Potter books.



Laura Kuenssberg
British journalist and the BBC's first female Political Editor.



Professor Sue Welburn
Leader of Edinburgh's successful Stamp Out Sleeping Sickness campaign and Executive Dean of the Zhejiang Edinburgh Institute.



Dr Steve Brusatte
Internationally recognised palaeontologist who has named more than 15 species of fossil vertebrates and discovered rare sauropod dinosaur tracks in Scotland.



Professor Harald Haas
Developer of LiFi, technology that uses the common LED light bulb to channel WiFi.



Katherine Grainger
Great Britain's most successful female rower and winner of five Olympic medals (one gold and four silver).



Lucy Lumsden
Former Head of Comedy at Sky and now Managing Director of Yellow Door Productions Ltd.



Julius Nyerere
First Prime Minister and later President of Tanzania.



Piers Sellers
Astronaut and ecologist.

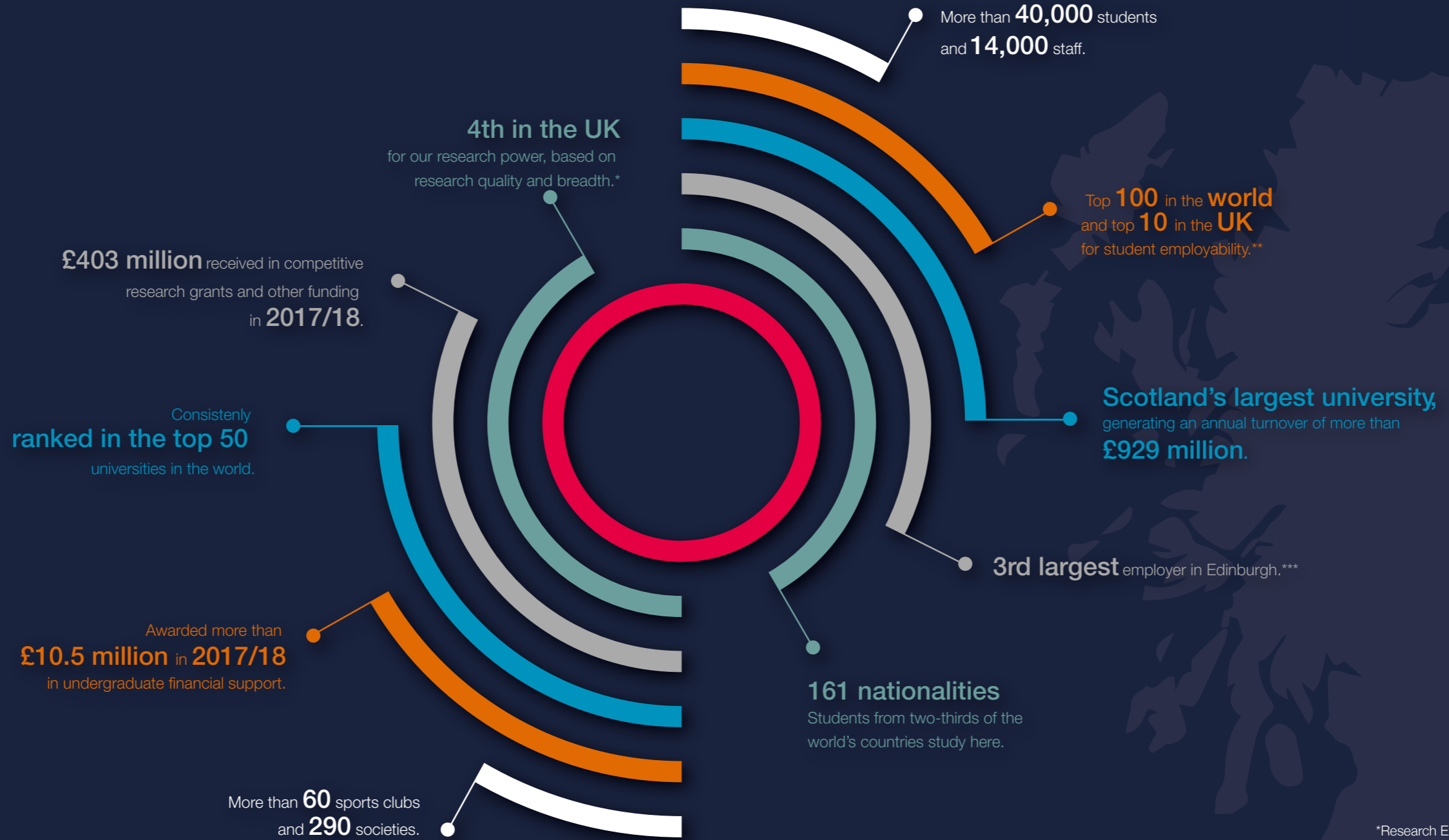


Professor Mona Siddiqui
Leading expert on Islamic and Inter-religious Studies.



Professor Lesley Yellowlees
The first female President of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Our facts



*Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014
**Times Higher Education Global University Employability Ranking 2017
***after City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian

Our achievements

Creating a legacy of excellence and innovation

Our researchers developed Dolly the sheep, the first mammal to be genetically cloned from an adult somatic cell; the first genetically engineered hepatitis B vaccine; the first automated industrial assembly robot; and the first in-vitro fertilisation. We also led the Atlas team at CERN, which co-discovered the Higgs Boson. In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise 83 per cent of our research was deemed world leading or internationally excellent.

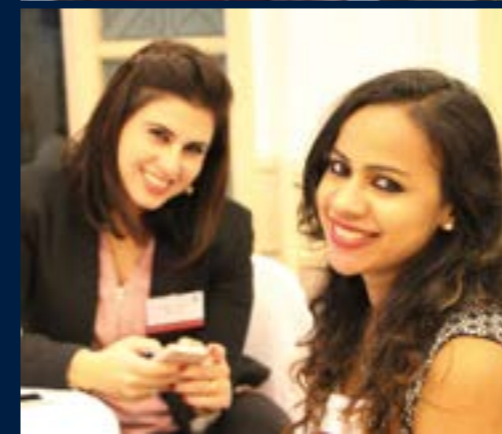
Our commitment to research and learning is paramount. We've been awarded the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize five times, were one of the earliest providers of massive open online courses (MOOCs) and received the highest award for quality of student experience in the latest Quality Assurance Agency assessment.

The University has had a dedicated industry engagement service since 1969. Today Edinburgh Innovations leads a full range of commercialisation activities that boost societal and economic impact, from research collaborations to helping students and staff form more than 50 companies a year.



Our world

Connecting you to a global community



We're home to a rich and vibrant community where 43 per cent of the student population, and 31 per cent of staff are international. We're proud to have some 275,000 alumni spread across almost every nation in the world.

Working with more than 400 live partnerships in 65 countries, we continue to unlock creativity, build capacity and make a difference where it matters most.

Through our Global Academies we've created a diverse community of students and scholars, uniting specialist research strengths to deliver innovative, cross-disciplinary and sustainable solutions to some of the world's most complex and pressing problems.

We believe in global citizenship and the benefits of international experiences. We have more than 1,000 student and staff exchange links worldwide. We are the first university in Europe to partner with the Mastercard Foundation, creating scholarships for African students to attend Edinburgh.

Most of all, we maintain our reputation for international excellence by attracting the best minds, breaking boundaries and delivering benefits to society for generations to come.

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