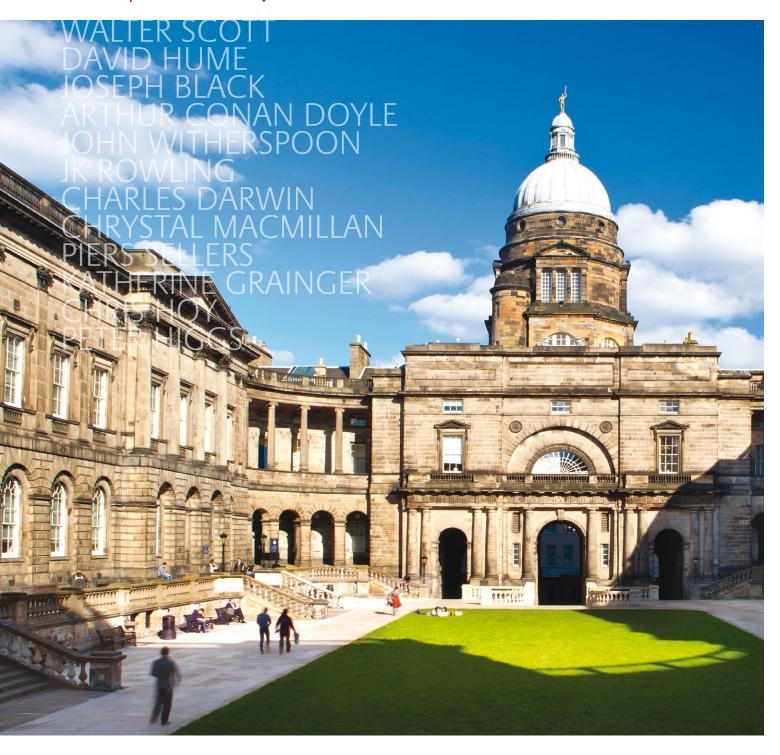
# International Undergraduate Guide

2016/2017 entry





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# Key facts

- An ancient university, founded in 1583
- Located in the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city
- Consistently ranked as one of the top 50 universities in the world
- 1st in Scotland and 4th in the UK for research\*
- Ranked **18th** in the world for the employability of our graduates\*\*

- Over 33,000 students, with more than 22,000 undergraduate students
- Over 13,800 international students from more than 150 countries
- Access to 250+ student societies, 5 galleries and museums, 30 libraries
- Top sporting university in Scotland, top 5 in UK, world class facilities



<sup>\*</sup> UK Government's Research Excellence Framework 2014

<sup>\*\*</sup> Global Employability University Ranking 2014

# WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



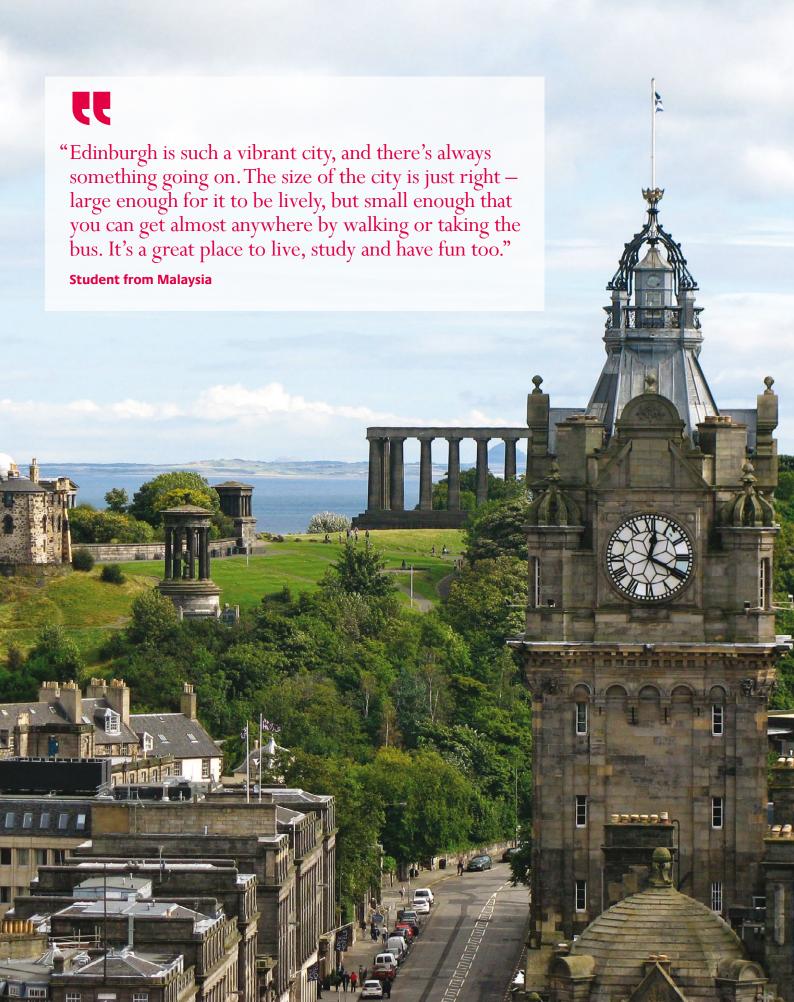
We are delighted that you are considering undergraduate study with us. There are many reasons for you to choose to attend the University of Edinburgh: the quality of our academics, our stunning location and our international campus combine to make our offering truly special.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the UK's oldest and most prestigious universities. Over the last four centuries, we have built an enviable reputation for excellence in both research and teaching, attracting some of the world's leading thinkers to work and study here.

The University is located at the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital and one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. We have been welcoming international students to Edinburgh for many years.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with useful information so that you can decide if the University of Edinburgh is the right choice for you. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with the International Office directly; we will be happy to help.

International Office



# Choose Edinburgh

### The City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultured city, which offers a unique living and learning experience. One of the most vibrant cities in Europe, the city of Edinburgh is regularly voted as one of the most desirable places to live in the world and has been rated the third 'most welcoming' city in the world. Edinburgh regularly receives very high satisfaction ratings for safety and security in the International Student Barometer survey. This cosmopolitan, safe and welcoming atmosphere encourages international students to feel at home quickly.

#### Location

The University is located at the very heart of Scotland's capital city, ensuring that the urban campus is an integral part of everything that is going on. Described as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe by independent guides, Edinburgh is the second most popular tourist destination in the UK after London. Edinburgh is famed for its ancient castle, medieval centre and elegant architecture, which have led it to be known as the 'Athens of the North'. The wealth of historical buildings in the city centre has led the United Nations to list the city's Old and New Towns as a 'World Heritage Site'.

#### Culture

Edinburgh is rich in social, cultural, learning and sports facilities. Scotland's capital is home to the Scottish Government and many of the country's national institutions and collections such as museums, art galleries and theatres. The city hosts 12 annual festivals each year including the world's largest arts festival in August and one of the world's largest winter festivals. In 2004 Edinburgh was named the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, in recognition of the city's rich literary heritage. Professor Alexander McCall Smith, best-selling author of the 'No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' novels is Emeritus Professor in the School of Law, A stone's throw from campus and popular haunt of the University's students, the Elephant House café is the place where J K Rowling worked on her 'Harry Potter' novels.

> Find out more about the city of Edinburgh www.ed.ac.uk/ about/city







"I would definitely recommend the University of Edinburgh because of the extent of knowledge you can gain during your course and the experience of being a member of such a diverse international community."

Student from Canada

# The University of Edinburgh

Founded in 1583 and one of the UK's six 'ancient' universities, the University of Edinburgh is a top ranking international centre of excellence in research and teaching, and attracts the best students from around the world. With superb resources and facilities for students across a wide range of academic disciplines, the University is committed to providing an outstanding educational experience whilst supporting sustainable trade and the environment.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the largest universities in the UK with over 33,000 students and comprises three Colleges which are composed of twenty two Schools.

### Reputation and student body

The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked amongst the very best universities in the UK in national league tables, which represents

the high standards in teaching, research, facilities and the great graduate prospects. With over 55,000 applications for 5,600 undergraduate places in September 2014, it is a very popular and competitive study destination.

The University of Edinburgh has one of the most diverse international student populations of any Scottish university with over 150 different nationalities contributing to our cosmopolitan and multi-cultural learning environment.

There are over 22,000 students pursuing undergraduate degrees at the University of Edinburgh and 30% come from outside of the UK. A significant proportion of our students are trans-national (i.e. they have studied in international schools; lived in a variety of countries; or have parents with different nationalities); but feel at home with us because of the diversity on campus.

#### **Undergraduate students**

UK	14,820	
EU (non-UK)	2,535	
Outwith EU	4,870	
Total	22,225	

#### **Postgraduate Students**

UK	4,985
EU (non-UK)	1,735
Outwith EU	4,670
Total	11,390

Data rounded.

### **Employability**

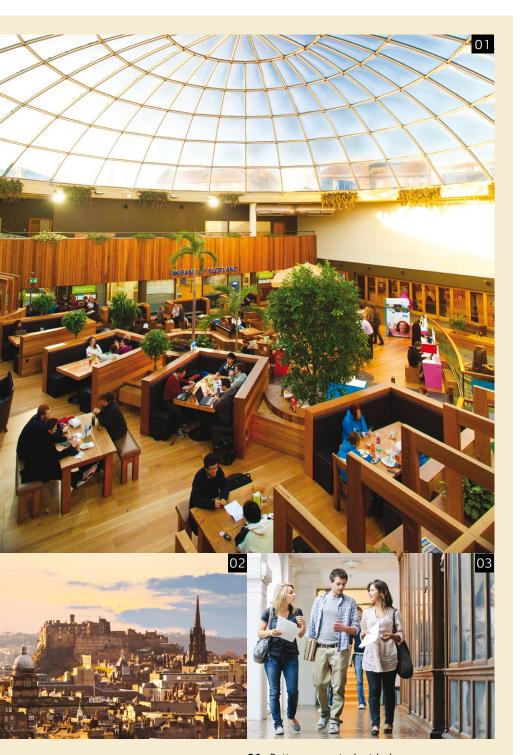
Last year over 2,500 employers sought to recruit our undergraduate students, and the University ranks 5th in the UK for graduate employment (Global Employability University Ranking 2014).

#### Famous alumni

Including the philosopher David Hume, Charles Darwin, John Witherspoon, Joseph Lister, Robert Louis Stevenson and, more recently, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former MI5 director Stella Rimington, NASA Astronaut Piers Sellers, Olympic cyclist Chris Hoy and the writers Ian Rankin, Alexander McCall Smith and J K Rowling.

#### **Nobel Prize winners**

We are associated with sixteen Nobel Prize winners, including: Charles Barkla (Physics, 1917), Max Born (Physics, 1954), Peter Doherty (Medicine, 1996), James Mirrlees (Economics, 1996) and most recently Peter Higgs (Physics, 2013). In 2004, University Honorary Professor Sir Michael Atiyah won the prestigious Abel Prize, Maths' equivalent of the Nobel Prize.



- **01** Potterrow, a student hub on campus
- **02** Old College dome and the city skyline
- 03 Inside Edinburgh College of Art

# 75

"Edinburgh has an old world charm to it. The mix of the old and new is very appealing. The people of Edinburgh immediately make you feel part of the city and there is a sense of being part of the community. It is a wonderful place to be a student because your experience goes beyond university life."

Student from India

# An international university

#### Climate

Many students have the impression that Edinburgh will be a cold and wet place to live. In fact, Edinburgh has the same annual rainfall as New York and Rome, and has a varied, temperate climate, just a degree or two cooler than London. In the winter, snow is rare in the city and the temperature rarely dips below freezing during the day. In summertime, it is generally warm, with temperatures between 18-24°C / 65-75°F.

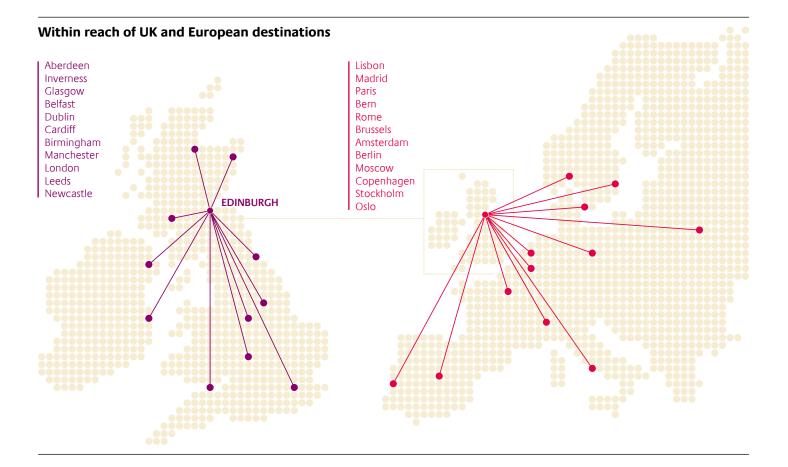
### **Getting around**

With a population of around 500,000, Edinburgh is a compact, friendly city which is easy to travel around on foot, by bus, by tram or car. As one of the greenest cities in the UK, there is an extensive network of cycle routes.

### **Getting here**

Edinburgh has substantive links to all major UK and European cities. Edinburgh International Airport has an extensive range of national and international services with direct flights to most major cities in Europe and to a number of major cities worldwide.

Edinburgh is in an ideal location to explore Scotland, the rest of the UK and Europe. The dramatic Highlands offer an ideal getaway from city living, just a couple of hours from Edinburgh by train or car. Popular destinations include Loch Ness, Loch Lomond and the Isle of Skye. The rest of the UK is also within easy reach with London just four hours away by rail or one hour by air. Many students also take the opportunity to travel around Europe during vacation periods, or even for the weekend. Cheap flights are available from Edinburgh direct to many European cities and resorts, with Paris just an hour and a half away.



# Student life

### Accommodation

### www.ed.ac.uk/accommodationservices

- Guaranteed accommodation offer for all new international undergraduate students
- Over 6,500 rooms in a variety of modern and historic residences
- Options for catered or self-catered facilities in flats or halls
- All residences within walking distance of the University

### Sports and fitness

www.ed.ac.uk/schoolsdepartments/sport-exercise

- Over 60 different sport clubs including everything from fencing to skydiving, horse riding to ice hockey
- Centrally located Pleasance Sports Centre with squash courts, fitness centre and various sports halls
- Full range of indoor sports facilities and a 25m swimming pool
- Outdoor facilities include playing fields, tennis courts and Outdoor Pursuits Centres on Loch Tay for sailing and mountain-biking, and in Aviemore for skiing, mountain climbing and hill walking
- Superb sport and exercise facilities are ranked among the best in the UK
- The city's Royal Commonwealth Pool was a Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games venue, as host of the Diving competitions.

### Clubs and societies

#### www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/societies

There are over 250 student societies more than any other university in the UK - covering everything from juggling to economics to volunteering - which can cater to your interests. As well as being fun, many societies can give you the kind of transferable skills useful in future careers. Prospective journalists can cut their teeth on the 'Student' newspaper, or work on the University radio station. Those interested in music and drama are spoilt for choice as there are choral societies, a University orchestra, and the largest student theatre company in the UK.

### Student exchanges

#### www.ed.ac.uk/student-exchanges

The University of Edinburgh has one of the largest exchange programmes in the UK. There are extensive opportunities to spend time on a study or work placement as part of your degree. There are over 380 exchange partners at some of the best universities in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and Australasia. Our exchange partners include prestigious lvy League institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania, and other world-class establishments including McGill University, CalTech, Fudan University, The National University of Singapore, Peking University, IEP Paris -Sciences Po and The Sorbonne, Paris.



# **33**

"The students here are very friendly, the professors and staff are very helpful, patient, and experts in their subjects, the university facilities are really good, and I feel like I'm really immersed in an international community"

Student from the USA





# Degree programmes

One of the things students repeatedly comment on and appreciate when they get to Edinburgh is the flexibility and choice of courses available to them. The University's size enables us to offer an unparalleled range of courses, giving you the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of niche areas or to sample a broad range of courses throughout your undergraduate degree.

### Scottish undergraduate programmes: A degree of flexibility

Degrees in Scotland are generally four years in duration. Direct entry into year two may be possible for applicants with higher grades than the normal entry requirements in some subject areas. These subject areas are Medical Sciences; Biological & Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Computer Science (Informatics); Earth Sciences; Ecological & Environment Sciences; Engineering; Geography (single honours); Mathematics or Physics & Astronomy, or in Art & Design for those students who have taken an art foundation course.

Ancient universities confer MA degrees at undergraduate level in humanities and social sciences subjects.

The key aspects of Scottish higher education are flexibility and choice: in years one and two (for many degrees), students explore a wide range of subjects before deciding their degree title and then specialise in this area. Students often change their degree as they progress so the big decision of 'what to do at university' can be delayed.

Exceptions to the broad-based and flexible Scottish degree structure include Fine Art and professionally based programmes such as Accounting, Law, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture.

Degree finder: www.ed.ac.uk/ studying/ undergraduate/ degrees

#### Admissions statistics

Whilst formal qualifications are important, our selectors look at the entire application to assess suitability and potential of applicants. Admissions statistics are available on our website:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applications-admissions/selection

# Degrees of choice: Around 500 undergraduate programmes to choose from

Accounting

Arabic & Persian

Archaeology

Architecture & Landscape Architecture

Art & Design

**Asian Studies** 

Biological & Biomedical Sciences

**Business Management** 

Celtic & Scottish Studies

Chemistry

Classics

Cognitive Science

Computing Science (Informatics)

Divinity & Religious Studies

**Earth Sciences** 

Ecological & Environmental Sciences

**Economics** 

Education

Engineering

English & Scottish Literature

English Language

Environmental & Ecological Sciences

Geography

History

History of Art & Fine Art

Islamic Studies & Middle Eastern Studies

Languages, Countries & Cultures

Law

Linguistics

Mathematics

Medicine & Health

Modern European Languages

Music

**Nursing Studies** 

Philosophy

Physics & Astronomy

Politics & International Relations

Psychology

**Russian Studies** 

Scandinavian Studies

Social Anthropology

Social Policy

Social Work

Sociology

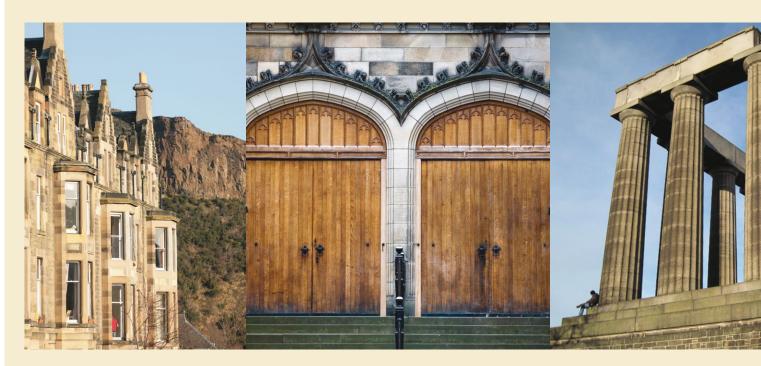
Sport Science & Sport Management

Sustainable Development

Veterinary Medicine

View the full Undergraduate Prospectus: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/pdf-download

View the Degree Programme Tables and details of courses: www.drps.ed.ac.uk/15-16/dpt/drpsindex.htm



# Flexibility & choice

Below are three examples of the structure for undergraduate degrees at the University of Edinburgh. These show the four year degree structure - in this case with admission to the MA in Social Anthropology, MA in Business Management and the BSc in Biological Sciences.

### **Teaching methods**

Teaching usually consists of weekly lectures and tutorials for each course, with laboratory work for science and engineering courses. The lecture sets out the subject matter for the week, providing the foundations upon which students build. Students will then study in the library, reading

widely, before meeting in small group tutorials to discuss the subject matter in greater depth. Considerable emphasis is placed upon independent research, critical thinking, and logical argument. Classes are normally assessed through a combination of essays, exams and practical work for science and engineering students.

### A typical degree curriculum: Social Anthropology

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Social Anthropology 1A: An Introduction	Social Anthropology 2: Into the Field	Anthropological Theory Consumption, Exchange, Technology	Belief, Thought & Language Culture & Power
Social Anthropology 1B: The Practice of Social Anthropology Chinese 1 Economics Principles & Applications	Ethnography: Theory & Practice Chinese 2A History of Art 1	Kinship: Structure & Process Ritual & Religion Imagining Anthropological Research Democracy & its Discontents Happiness: Cross-Cultural Perspectives	Indigenous Peoples of Lowland South America Anthropology of Health & Healing Dissertation

### A typical degree curriculum: Business Management

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Accountancy 1A	Marketing	Strategic Management	Entrepreneurship & New Venture
Accountancy 1B	Career Development Planning	Investment & Securities Markets	Creation
Economics 1	Business Research Methods I:	The Entrepreneurial Manager	Risk Management
Computing for Business	Quantitative Techniques	Managing Employment Law	Consumer Behaviour
Foundations of Business	Organisational Behaviour 2	Business Research Methods II:	Advertising: Theories & Practice
Study Skills for Business	Innovation & Entrepreneurship	Applications & Analysis	Management Honours Dissertation
	Principles of Finance	The Economics of Corporate Strategy	
	International Business & the Multinational Enterprise 2B	Research in Management	

### A typical degree curriculum: Biological Sciences (Biotechnology)

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4
Origin and Diversity of Life 1	Genes and Gene Action 2	Biotechnology 3	Biotechnology Project
Molecules, Genes and Cells 1	Microorganisms, Cells and	Molecular Microbiology 3	Biotechnology Synoptic Examination
Biological Chemistry 1A	Immunity 2	Molecular Genetics 3	Biotechnology Industrial Visits and Core
Biological Chemistry 1B	The Dynamic Cell 2	Immunology 3	Skills
Philosophy of Science 1	Chemistry for Life Sciences 2	Medical Microbiology 3	Enzymology & Biological Production
Logic 1 Environmental Chemistry 2 The Green Planet 2	Dinosaur Palaeobiology	Novel Approaches	
	The Green Planet 2	Gene Expression & Microbial Regulation	Honours courses in biological or biomedical sciences

# Admission requirements

Demand for places at the University of Edinburgh is high, and entry is competitive. Each year we receive around ten applications for every place.

We encourage applications from well-qualified students, and recognise a wide range of qualifications for entry. Because of the nature of the degree structure at Edinburgh, entry requirements vary from programme to programme. You can find the minimum SQA (Scottish Highers), GCE (A-Levels) and International Baccalaureate academic entry requirements described in the undergraduate prospectus at the beginning of each subject entry.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ undergraduate/pdf-download

# Entry requirements GCE A Levels

Entry requirements for candidates are three A Levels at specified grades in one sitting. For many degree programmes we will expect you to have studied specific subjects at A Level, AS Level or GCSE. Most subject areas will look for breadth of study across subjects. Minimum requirements range from ABB to AAA.

### **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

Award of the full Diploma is required. For many degree programmes, we will expect you to have studied specific

subjects at Higher Level (HL) within the IB. Minimum requirements range from 32 to 38 points overall.

#### **US qualifications**

Students need to undertake standardised tests, for example:

- Three SAT Subject Tests with 650 minimum or
- Three APs at Grade 4 minimum or
- A combination of three SAT Subject Tests or APs in different subjects

Note: SAT Reasoning score of 1800 (600 minimum in each section) or ACT Composite score of 27 minimum can replace one SAT Subject Test or AP.

### Other qualifications

For detailed advice and information on other international entry requirements, please refer to our 'Information by country' pages online at:

www.ed.ac.uk/international/country

# International Foundation Programme / GlobalSelect

For applicants whose national qualifications or school leaving certificate are not accepted by the University, we offer opportunities to access degree programmes within humanities, social science, science and engineering. More information is available at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ international/applying/foundation

# English language requirements

If English is your second language you must provide evidence of good written and spoken English skills. We accept a range of qualifications, including IELTS, TOEFL and Pearson, and requirements vary depending on the degree you are applying for. We may also accept the English qualification you have taken as part of your studies at high school. Details of our requirements can be found at: www.ed.ac.uk/english-requirements

#### **English Language courses**

Our English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) offers English courses for students throughout the year: www.ed.ac.uk/english-languageteaching

### Admission process

Applications for our undergraduate degree programmes should be made via UCAS, the central organisation that processes applications for undergraduate courses at all UK universities and colleges. Applications can be submitted from September in the year prior to intended entry to university. Detailed advice and guidance about the UCAS application process is available online:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ undergraduate/applicationsadmissions/applying/ucas

Apply now www.ucas. com/apply

# Funding your studies

#### **Tuition fees**

A guide to international tuition fees for the 2015/16 academic year

Programmes	Annual fee
Most programmes	£15,850 (class based) £20,850+ (laboratory) £20,850+ (studio arts)
Medicine	£24,400 (Year 1, 2 & 3) £47,200 (Year 4 & 5)
Veterinary Medicine	£29,000

For international students the tuition fee will be fixed for the duration of your degree. This means that you will know before you start your studies exactly what you will pay each year.

For up-to-date details of tuition fees by programme of study, including additional programme costs, please click on the following to check the University of Edinburgh website: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding

#### Fee status

You can check your fee status online: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fee-status

### **Funding & scholarships**

The University offers a number of scholarships to international students, all of which are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Additional information on funding and scholarships for study at the University of Edinburgh can be found at: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/

# www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/search

or from the British Council: www.britishcouncil.org

### **Cost of living**

It is important to plan your budget in advance of arrival. You will find a personal budget calculator and information about living costs online: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ international/finance

### Working

Many students have a part-time job while in Edinburgh to gain work experience, earn some spending money and meet new people. EU/ EEA students and students with a full UK Tier 4 General student visa are permitted to take up employment, on or off campus, part-time (up to 20 hours per week) during the academic year and full-time during vacation periods. The Careers Service has a dedicated international careers advisor, to assist overseas students in their search for employment both in the UK and internationally. More information is available online:

www.ed.ac.uk/careers

Search for funding www.ed.ac.uk/ student-funding/ search

# **Immigration**

International students need to obtain a visa to study in the UK.

The only students who don't require a visa to study in the UK are:

- students holding passports from European Union (EU) / European Economic Area (EEA) countries
- students from Switzerland

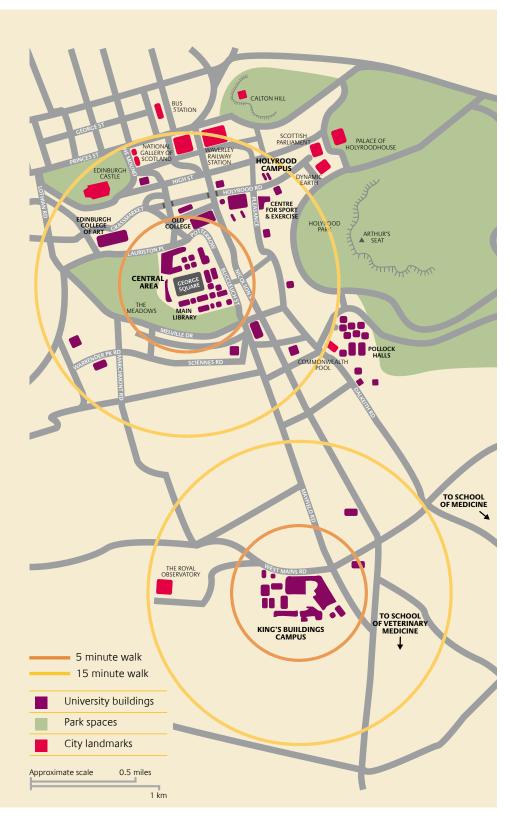
Students from all other countries should use the Home Office guidance to identify the type of visa required (there are two options) and start the application procedure online: www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

### **Further advice**

Detailed help and advice on immigration is available at: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration



# Visit us



We welcome visitors to the campus throughout the year and offer Information Sessions to prospective international students most Mondays and Fridays. The Information Session is led by one of our International Officers and is followed by a student-led tour of the central campus. Arrangements can also be made for those visitors who have applied or hold offers to meet with an academic member of staff within their subject area of interest.

To book a place on the Information Session please contact: **enquiries.international@ed.ac.uk** +44(0)131 650 4296

International visitors are also very welcome at our open days which are normally held in June and September. You can also conduct a self-guided tour which can be downloaded at www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/visiting/self-guided

For further information about visiting, please visit

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/ undergraduate/visiting

## Contacts

### **International Office**

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international

The International Office
The University of Edinburgh
33 Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh EH8 9JS
Scotland, UK

Tel: +44 (0)131 650 4296

Email:

enquiries.international@ed.ac.uk

### **Useful internal contacts**

Accommodation Services www.ed.ac.uk/accommodation-services

Centre for Sport and Exercise (CSE) www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise

Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA) www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU)

www.eusu.ed.ac.uk

Tuition Fees www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fees

#### New students

Our new students website is updated throughout the year and during the summer will publish useful information for any students who are planning to start a course in Edinburgh in September. The site includes checklists to ensure you remember everything you need, and useful advice on immigration and visas, travel to Edinburgh, registration, accommodation, orientation and much more.

www.ed.ac.uk/new-students

# Edinburgh by international students

Each year we invite international students to send us their photos of Edinburgh. You can view them here: www.ed.ac.uk/photo-competition

#### **British Council**

The University works closely with the British Council through its educational arm, Education UK. The British Council website provides a wealth of useful information, regarding the UCAS application process, study in the UK, upcoming education exhibitions, visas, and working regulations.

British Council www.britishcouncil.org

Education UK www.educationuk.org

### Other useful external links

Visit Scotland www.visitscotland.com

UKCISA www.ukcisa.org.uk

UK Visas & Immigration www.gov.uk/ukvi

**UCAS** 

www.ucas.com

Apply to Edinburgh www.ucas.com/students/apply

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Watch us on You Tibe www.youtube.com/user/ EdinburghUniversity

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/
UniversityOfEdinburgh

### Contact the International Office

enquiries.international@ed.ac.uk

### Visit us

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/visiting

### Our overseas visits

www.ed.ac.uk/international/our-visits-overseas

### Apply now

www.ucas.com/students/apply

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