13. Joseph Black Building (Map Ref 5)

Turning right takes you along the front of the Joseph Black Building. This is where School of Chemistry is based and is where it has been taught since 1922. King George V laid the foundation stone for this building in 1920 making it the oldest building on campus.

Joseph Black (1728-1799) was French born to a Northern Irish father and Scottish mother and studied Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He discovered latent heat and Carbon Dioxide through his work. He was an associate of Adam Smith the economist and David Hume the Philosopher.

14. King’s Buildings House (Map Ref 10)

Turning right after the Joseph Black Building takes you to a newer building on your left. This is King’s Buildings House, the Student Union on campus. There is a bar, shop, gym, squash and badminton courts and an Advice Place.

This is the only building on campus run by the Edinburgh University Student Association, which is run by the students of the University of Edinburgh for the University of Edinburgh. It is open all year round (except during the Christmas break) and is heavily used by both staff and students alike.

15. Grant Institute (Map Ref 9)

Head back towards the front of the Joseph Black Building and turn right. The building you see on your right is the Grant Institute. This is the School of Geosciences is based and was opened on the same day in 1931 as the Sanderson Building by James Ramsey Macdonald. An extension was built in 1991 to the rear of the building.

Named after Sir Alexander Grant (1826-1884) who was a New York born educationalist who spent much of his life in India. He became the Principal of the University of Edinburgh in 1868 and spent much of his time ensuring the wellbeing of the University.

16. Tour End

Continue down the hill back to the Ashworth Laboratories where the tour began. This concludes your tour of the King’s Buildings Campus. If you have any additional questions please return to the Weir Building or contact:

The College of Science and Engineering,
The University of Edinburgh,
Weir Building,
The King’s Buildings,
West Mains Road,
Edinburgh,
EH9 3JY

Email: sciengmail@ed.ac.uk
Tel: (+44) (0)131 650 5763
Fax: (+44) (0)131 650 5738

http://www.scien.ge.ac.uk

Getting to King’s Buildings

King’s Buildings is well serviced by the public transport from the city centre. The 42 and 67 both pass the campus, while the 41’s final destination is the King’s Buildings. All of these buses stop on the Waverley Bridge outside Waverley Station and also pass by the George Square campus. (Please note that not all number 41 buses go to King’s Buildings. If in doubt, check with the driver). King’s Buildings is also only a 20-30 minute walk from George Square.

Self Guided Tour
King’s Buildings
Science and Engineering Campus

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

Design by Colin Johnston. © School of Engineering, University of Edinburgh.
Self Guided Tour of the King's Buildings

A warm welcome to the University of Edinburgh and the City of Edinburgh. The University has three main sites within the City - this tour is for the King's Buildings campus. Subjects within the College of Science and Engineering are taught here. The student union is also open for all students at the University. Your starting point on this tour will depend on where you pick up this leaflet, however the tour takes you in a circle and so regardless of which number you start at you will end up close to where you begin. Walking at a leisurely pace with time to take in King's Buildings' unique atmosphere and architecture, the tour should take no more than an hour. Look out for the various buildings on University, which have been erected to commemorate the achievements of individuals who have been associated with the University throughout its 400 years.

1. Ashworth Laboratories (Map Ref 14)
The tour starts on the North East corner outside the Ashworth Laboratories. This is one of the buildings used by the School of Biological Sciences. Begin walking south, down the slight hill.

The Ashworth Laboratories was one of the first buildings to be built on the campus and was opened originally in 1929 with two extensions opening in 1967 and 2004. The building is named after James Hartley Ashworth, who was Professor of Zoology and Natural History at the University.

2. Sanderson Building (Map Ref 16)
The next building on the right is the Sanderson building where some Engineering is taught. Notice the balcony above the doorway, from here there are fantastic views across the south-east of Edinburgh.

The Sanderson Building was built in 1931 and was opened by the then Prime Minister, James Ramsay MacDonald and named after a benefactor, James Sanderson, who gifted £50,000 to the University to be used by Engineering or Chemistry.

3. Daniel Rutherford Building (Map Ref 27)
Continue through the garden at the end of the Sanderson building and turn right when you reach Gate 4. Turn right here up the hill and on your left is the Daniel Rutherford Building. This is another building used solely by the School of Biological Sciences.

Named after Daniel Rutherford (1749-1819) who was a Professor of Botany at the University. He was credited with being the first person to isolate Nitrogen in 1772 and also the Keeper of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh.

4. Hudson Beare Building (Map Ref 22/23)
To your right you will see a cubic building and a row of windows beyond it. This is the Hudson Beare Building and the Engineering Lecture theatre. This is the centre of the School of Engineering and has several smaller classrooms in it.

Sir Thomas Hudson Beare (1859-1940) was Professor of Engineering at Edinburgh for 39 years overseeing the School's move to King's Buildings and transformation from a small department to one with over 100 students. Born in Australia, he studied in Melbourne and London before travelling to Edinburgh to work.

5. Alrick and Faraday Buildings (Map Ref 24/22)
Beyond the Hudson Beare building on the right are the Alrick and Faraday buildings. These are home to the School of Engineering's administration, Graduate School and Teaching Organisation.

Both built in the 1970's, the Alrick Building was built after funding was given to the University by the Alrick trust and extended in 1988. The Faraday Building was named after Michael Faraday, the British scientist who was involved in electromagnetism and electrochemistry.

6. Swann and Darwin Buildings (Map Ref 25/26)
The tall building across from the Alrick Building is actually two joined together, the Swann Building and the Darwin Building. Both house biological and various research groups, and the Darwin Building is home to the Darwin Library and Biology Teaching Organisation.

Both buildings are named after eminent graduates of the University of Edinburgh. Michael Swann (1920-1990) was a molecular and cell biologist who was Principal of the University between 1964 and 1973 and also chairman of the BBC. The second is named after Charles Darwin (1809-1882), author of "On the Origin of Species" and whose work established evolutionary descent with modification as the dominant scientific explanation of diversification in nature.

7. James Clerk Maxwell Building (Map Ref 13)
Head towards the large building in front of you and follow the path on the right hand side of it. Head up the steps and if the building is open, go inside. This is the James Clerk Maxwell Building. Physics and Astronomy, Maths and Geology are all based here along with computing labs, lecture theatres, the Science and Engineering library and a coffee shop with a large social area. You will see a staircase behind you on your left, go up one floor to see the newly refurbished coffee area and make sure to keep an eye out for the hologram of James Clerk Maxwell here. This might be a good time to stop for a short break if you have time.

Construction on the James Clerk Maxwell Building began in the early 1960's and the departments began moving in soon after. Named after the famous Scottish physicist and mathematician James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) who was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, a little known fact about him is that he created the first true colour photograph in 1861.

8. King’s Buildings Centre (Map Ref 11)
Follow the path to the right of the James Clerk Maxwell Building (from the rear or the front) and you will find yourself at KB Centre.

This is home to the Spot Café, KB Shop and several 24 hour microlabs. Obviously named after the campus it is built on, the name King's Buildings comes from the endorsement of a purpose built Science and Engineering campus at the University of Edinburgh from King George V in 1920.

9. William Rankine and Alexander Graham Bell Buildings (Map Ref 18/19)
If you look to your right, down the hill you will see a new looking building. This is another building which is actually two buildings joined together. The Alexander Graham Bell Building and the William Rankine Building. Civil and Electrical Engineering are both taught here. The building has solar panels on its side which can supply power to the building.

The right hand side of the building is named after one of the most famous of Edinburgh alumni, Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), inventor of the telephone. He was also less known for his work with the deaf and was a founding member of the USA's National Geographical Society. The left hand side is named after William Rankine (1820-1872) who was a founding contributor to the theory of Thermodynamics and developed a complete theory of the steam engine.

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10. Roger Land and the Scottish Microelectronics Centre (Map Ref 7/6)
From KB Centre, turn left and head up the hill until you reach building on your left. Turn left once you reach the front of it.

This is the Roger Land Building, where the Centre for Regenerative Medicine is housed. Across the road from this is the Scottish Microelectronics Centre. A purpose built facility for work in clean rooms from microelectronics. A free shuttle bus from the University's central campus runs here from, along with a public bus service.

11. Weir Building (Map Ref 3)
Walk back towards where you came and you'll notice a small path on the left hand side. If you follow this you will come out at the Weir Building, which is where the College of Science and Engineering's Admissions office is. Should you have any questions about admissions, feel free to drop in here. If the College office is shut, or you do not have any questions, continue along the road, following the side of the large building on your right.

The single storey Weir Building was designed in 1960 by students at the Edinburgh College of Art and has had many occupants over the years until the College office moved in during 1993.

12. Crew Building (Map Ref 4)
On your left you will see an older building. This is the Crew Building, another building used by the School of Geosciences.

Opened in 1930 for the study of animal genetics, it was named after Frances AE Crew, who was the Chair of Animal Genetics at the University at the time.