



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Pageant celebrates University's past and Law School's future**

A colourful recreation of a historic procession through the streets of Edinburgh will mark the foundation of one of the city's most iconic buildings.

It will culminate in the unveiling of an engraved flagstone to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the University of Edinburgh's present day Old College and to announce the forthcoming refurbishment of the Edinburgh Law School.

The pageant marks a similar occasion from 1789 when 30,000 lined Edinburgh's streets to watch as University and city dignitaries walked from St Giles Cathedral to lay the foundation stone of what is now Old College.

Sunday's procession will begin in Parliament Square, continue along George IV Bridge and Chambers Street, before concluding at a ceremonial unveiling of the stone in Old College's quadrangle.

Photographers and film crews are invited to attend the event, which will feature a piper, a mace-bearer and senior figures from the University, the Law School and the Scottish legal system.

More than 100 members of the Scottish Judiciary, the Faculty of Advocates, the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh and Lothian Sheriffs and other Edinburgh law graduates will be among those processing to Old College.

The inscription on the ceremonial flagstone will read: "This marks the 225th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone for Old College on 16th November 1789. 23rd November 2014."

It took nearly 100 years and the involvement of three eminent architects – Robert Adam, William Playfair and Robert Rowand Anderson – before the vision for Old College was fully realised with the addition of the dome in 1887.

Plans will also be unveiled for the forthcoming refurbishment of Edinburgh Law School, which is housed within the northern side of Old College. The procession marks the beginning of the Old College Law fundraising campaign.

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The University has already committed significant investment towards the project, which will create world-class facilities for generations of law students to come.

The refurbishment will enhance and restore many of the original features of Old College and create new spaces for teaching, learning and research.

Key features include a new law library on the ground floor, featuring octagonal book stacks that echo the shape of Robert Adam's original lecture theatre above. The lecture theatre will be beautifully and sensitively refurbished as part of the project.

The fundraising campaign will also raise money for an enhanced scholarship and bursary programme to ensure everyone with the potential to study law at Old College is able to do so, regardless of personal circumstances. It will also fund an extension of the Law School's student-led pro-bono work, which provides free access to legal representation for the local community.

Work is expected to start next year and will last five years. The refurbishment is being overseen by LDN Architects, which has managed redevelopments of other historic buildings, including Abbotsford House and Fort Augustus Abbey.

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