

2024 Postgraduate Guide



TOP 50

We're consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world. We're 22nd in the 2024 QS World University Rankings.

4TH

We're ranked fourth in the UK for research power, based on the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.¹

16TH **6**

Our graduates are ranked 26th in the world by employers.³

19

There are 19 Nobel Prize winners who are alumni of the University or who have been members of academic staff here.

22ND

We're ranked 22nd in the world's most international universities.²

6TH

Edinburgh is ranked the sixth best student city in Europe and 10th in the world.⁴

ONLINE LEADER

Edinburgh has one of the largest online postgraduate portfolios in the UK.

1S7

We're ranked first in the UK and fourth in the world in the QS Sustainability Ranking 2023. We will be Net Zero by 2040.



¹ Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions (REF 2021)

² Times Higher Education, The World's Most International Universities 2023

³ QS World University Rankings 2024

⁴ QS Best Student Cities 2023



At the University of Edinburgh, extraordinary is just something our community has always done.

Working together, for more than 400 years, we've influenced the world in extraordinary ways – expanding the depth of human knowledge and improving the lives of people worldwide. Research conducted here led to the discovery of chloroform anaesthesia, the Higgs boson particle and in vitro fertilisation. Our academics, students and alumni have discovered carbon dioxide, led the Scottish Enlightenment to lay the foundations of contemporary thought, developed a genetically engineered vaccine against Hepatitis B, and identified the SARS Coronavirus.

As a leading global university, we're confident education will play a vital role solving the problems of tomorrow too.

We have long enjoyed a spirit of innovation and collaboration, bringing people with new outlooks and perspectives together in an international community. If you agree the future is a place of extraordinary possibilities, bring your limitless potential and join us. Anything could happen – extraordinary futures await.

Global connections

Our ambitious global engagement plan puts world-class teaching and research experiences within reach. We collaborate with global partners, directly and through prestigious networks such as Universitas 21, COIMBRA, UNICA, LERU, and Una Europa. Our five regional centres in Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Asia, North America and East Asia, engage with students, academics, and alumni worldwide. Our interdisciplinary Global Academies and Edinburgh Futures Institute are tackling the issues that challenge us all – the climate crisis, poverty, the spread of epidemics and cross-border injustices. Find out more: www.ed.ac.uk/global





edin.ac/insider-guide

Join our community of minds



49,065



On campus

13,985

Online learning 4,855



Research postgraduates:

6,395

We are a wonderfully diverse mix of people of all kinds and minds. Our global community includes more than 45,000 students and researchers across more than 150 academic disciplines including:

- · art, architecture, design and music
- · biological and biomedical sciences
- business
- chemistry
- clinical sciences
- divinity and religious studies
- economics
- education and sport
- engineering
- geosciences
- health and social science
- history, classics and archaeology

- informatics
- interdisciplinary studies
- law
- literature, languages and cultures
- mathematics
- medicine
- molecular, genetic and population health sciences
- philosophy, psychology and language sciences
- physics and astronomy
- social and political science
- veterinary studies

Study in Edinburgh

On campus, you can choose full- or part-time, taught degrees, professional qualifications or independent research. All our postgraduates benefit from our inspiring research culture and the academics involved in your teaching and learning include leaders in their fields. The emphasis at postgraduate level is very much on independent study, supported and enhanced by the wealth of resources and opportunities we offer.

Further information and a full list of all our programmes is available online: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees

Study online

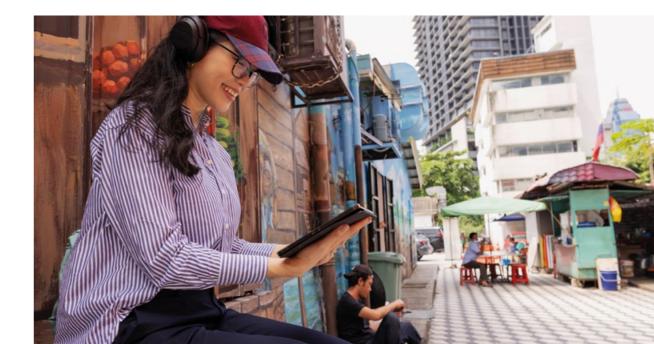
We deliver flexible online learning to thousands of postgraduates worldwide – letting you study with us from home, or on the go, alongside your work and other commitments. We offer more than 80 innovative online degrees, across a range of subjects, which are academically equivalent to qualifications earned on campus. Our flexible learning environment and interactive learning technology adapt to your needs. We take the quality of your experience, the delivery of online teaching,

and the support you receive, as seriously as we do on campus. Online students value our diverse international learning community. Many work while studying, taking what they learn from their tutors and global classmates and applying it immediately to their own role.

Most students take an online masters part-time, but we also offer full-time and intermittent options, short courses, fusion degrees and free study through Coursera, FutureLearn and edX. Find out more: www.ed.ac.uk/onlinelearning

Edinburgh Futures Institute

In addition, the Edinburgh Futures Institute offers opportunities to develop creative, critical, and data-informed thinking in programmes that cut across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Their fusion teaching approach gives you greater choice about when to study on-campus, and when you study online, at the level of each individual course. Please note, some exemptions apply. Further information online: efi.ed.ac.uk







Your postgraduate experience here will be supported and enhanced by the wealth of resources and opportunities on offer.

Industry links and innovation

We were one of the first UK universities to develop commercial links with industry, government, and the professions. Edinburgh is an entrepreneurial city, home to two of the UK's \$1 billion-valued unicorn companies.

We boast one of the most entrepreneurial student bodies in the UK and our commercialisation service, Edinburgh Innovations (EI), has helped students launch more than 100 startups in the last year alone.

One in five was a social enterprise, and just under half were founded by women. El offers free support to student entrepreneurs including one-to-one business advice, a range of workshops, events and competitions as well as a dedicated student enterprise hub.

You don't need a business background or even an idea to access the service – El encourages that first innovative spark and your startup ambitions:

edinburgh-innovations.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh Futures Institute

The challenges of the modern world demand new ways of working that can disrupt the status quo and question established ways of thinking. Our Edinburgh Futures Institute is focused on tackling today's increasingly complex issues and shaping the world through education and research with a difference. It brings people and disciplines together to spark the unexpected and create a curious, open-minded, thought laboratory in order to make better futures possible. The cross-sector, interdisciplinary approach showcases the very best the University has to offer and includes learning and collaboration across many fields and areas of expertise. Find out more: efi.ed.ac.uk

Institute for Academic Development

All postgraduate students can benefit from our Institute for Academic Development (IAD), which provides information, events and workshops to develop the skills you will need throughout your studies and in the future. IAD events also offer the perfect opportunity to meet and network with other postgraduates from across the University. Further information is available online:

www.ed.ac.uk/iad/postgraduates

For taught postgraduates, the IAD provides a popular study-related and transferable skills support programme designed to help you settle into postgraduate life, succeed during your studies and move confidently to the next stage of your career.

For researchers completing a doctorate, IAD provides a comprehensive programme of transferable-skills training, resources and support, designed to help you successfully prepare for the various milestones of your PhD, from getting started with your research, to writing up and preparing for the viva, and developing personal and professional skills that can be transferred to your future employment. IAD also offers online resources and planning tools to help get your research started, as well as support for tutoring and demonstrating, and public engagement and communication.

You will be supported by academic and professional student experience and administration staff, who will provide academic and wellbeing guidance and support.

We aim to provide an environment that enables and supports you to flourish; to promote good mental and physical health among our students; and ensure you are well supported during your studies:

www.ed.ac.uk/students/health-wellbeing

All students should register with a doctor:

www.health-service.ed.ac.uk

International students can find further information on UK medical care:

edin.ac/ukcisa-healthcare

Our Counselling Service offers you a professional, confidential service and the Advice Place, run by Edinburgh University Students' Association, offers free, confidential and independent advice:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace

Student Disability Service

Students with a disability are encouraged to discuss specific support needs with one of our Disability Advisers as soon as possible. Our service works to create an environment that helps disabled students participate fully in university life:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

Language support

Our English Language Education service offers free academic English tuition, self-study materials and advice:

www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-education

For international students, Edinburgh University Students' Association provides support by tapping into the language skills and cultural knowledge of our global community. They offer peer proofreading, free taster language courses and language networking events:

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/global

Careers Service

Our Careers Service provides comprehensive, high-quality online resources and workshops for postgraduates and offers tailored sessions for international students. The service develops our already strong links with employers from all industry sectors, from the world's top recruiters to small local enterprises, and organises opportunities for you to meet employers:

www.ed.ac.uk/careers/postgrad

Employ.ed for PhDs

Employ.ed offers part-time internships enabling PhD students to gain project-based, paid employment. This will help you develop a range of skills to complement your academic and research experience:

www.ed.ac.uk/careers/pg/employed-for-phds



Whatever your ambition, we are #hereforyou

Bring your individuality, your power, your energy and your potential. We can't wait to see all that you can do. Here's how to apply.

Apply online using our Degree Finder: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees

STEP 1

Gather your supporting documentation, write your personal statement, and select referees.

The supporting documentation required varies. Typically, you will need to provide:

- academic transcripts
- your degree certificate
- a personal statement
- academic reference(s)
- a research proposal (if appropriate).

You will need certified translations of your official documents if they were not originally issued in English. Some programmes require specific evidence of your suitability for study, such as a portfolio, relevant experience, or attendance at interview.

STEP 2

Apply online using our Degree Finder. You will create an Applicant Hub account to write and submit your application and upload supporting documentation:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-systems/applying-online

International students may also apply using a representative, who will guide you through your application. We have approved agents in 40 countries: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/agents

Application fees/deposits

A small number of programmes charge an application fee and/or require a deposit. Where applicable this will be stated in the Degree Finder.

Deadlines

Check the Degree Finder or PhD project website for application deadlines.

We strongly recommend that you apply as early as possible, particularly if you need to allow time to apply for a visa or for financial support – you must have received an offer to apply for some sources of funding.

Applying for a student visa

If you are a national of a country outside the UK, it is likely that you will have to apply for a student visa to study on campus: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration

STEP 3

Regularly track your application online through the Applicant Hub, which we will use to contact you if we require any further information and to inform you of the outcome.

Find out more

For further information on applying:

www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/applying

Taught programmes

Use our Degree Finder to choose your programme and check specific academic and English language entry requirements: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees

Academic entry requirements

We usually expect a minimum of a 2:1 honours degree, or international equivalent. Guidance on equivalents: www.ed.ac.uk/international/postgraduate-entry

English language requirements

Regardless of your nationality or country of residence, you must demonstrate a level of English language competency. You can apply before receiving English language test results – offers will be conditional on meeting language requirements. English language qualifications must be no more than three and a half years old from the start date of your programme, unless you are using IELTS, PTE, TOEFL, or Trinity ISE, which must be no more than two years old. We also accept a degree, taught and assessed in English:

- in a majority English-speaking country as defined by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI); or
- by one of our approved universities in non-majority English-speaking countries.

If you are not a national of a majority English-speaking country, your degree must be no more than three and a half years old from the start date of your programme.

www.ed.ac.uk/english-requirements/pg

PhD research

There are two main routes to apply for PhD study:

Apply to a funded project

When we receive funding for research on a specific topic, we advertise doctoral positions on our website and on other websites, such as FindAPhD.com. We recommend you contact the project supervisor to discuss your suitability and then apply through the Degree Finder. If applying to a funded project, you may not need to develop a full research proposal but will be asked to give an indication of your preparedness for this type of study. You should use your personal statement and relevant experience sections of your application to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and subject expertise, which make you the ideal candidate.

Propose your own research topic

To carry out independent research, you can apply for a PhD by submitting your research topic. We recommend you contact us to discuss your intended research before you apply. We can give feedback on your ideas and identify whether we have supervisory expertise in your area. If your intended research is multidisciplinary, it might be helpful to talk to more than one potential supervisor: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/phd-supervisors

You will need to submit a research proposal with your application to help us assess your suitability for a research degree and whether we can offer appropriate supervision and facilities. It can potentially also be used to apply to external bodies for funding: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-proposals

To apply for PhD study in a doctoral training centre, see the Degree Finder entry for more details.

If you already have a PhD, or are near completion, we advertise postdoctoral vacancies for current research projects: www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk

Further information on PhD study: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/research

For a world in need of extraordinary change

Our long history of making an impact isn't one we take for granted.

To this day, we strive to deliver excellence and help address tomorrow's greatest challenges, as examples like this show. You'll find more online.

Edinburgh's AI legacy

In 1963, Edinburgh scientist Professor Donald Michie forecast "in the future, people will draw information from computers as they do water from a tap."

For 60 years since, Edinburgh has led advances in computer science and artificial intelligence that have shaped our modern world. Professor Michie's prediction has taken on a prophetic hue – our lives are flooded with data.

Michie was assembling Europe's first AI research hub at the University in 1963. Before long he was making some of the most important discoveries in machine learning, robotics, and computer games, demonstrating it was possible to build a machine that could learn.

By 1973, his team had developed FREDERICK - Friendly Robot for Education, Discussion and Entertainment, the Retrieval of Information and the Collation of Knowledge.

Freddy I and Freddy II could identify, select, and assemble objects from a jumbled heap. Michie correctly predicted that within a decade robots would handle production line jobs. Professor Sidney Michaelson, the University's first professor of Computer Science, also formed Edinburgh's pioneering Computer Unit in '63.

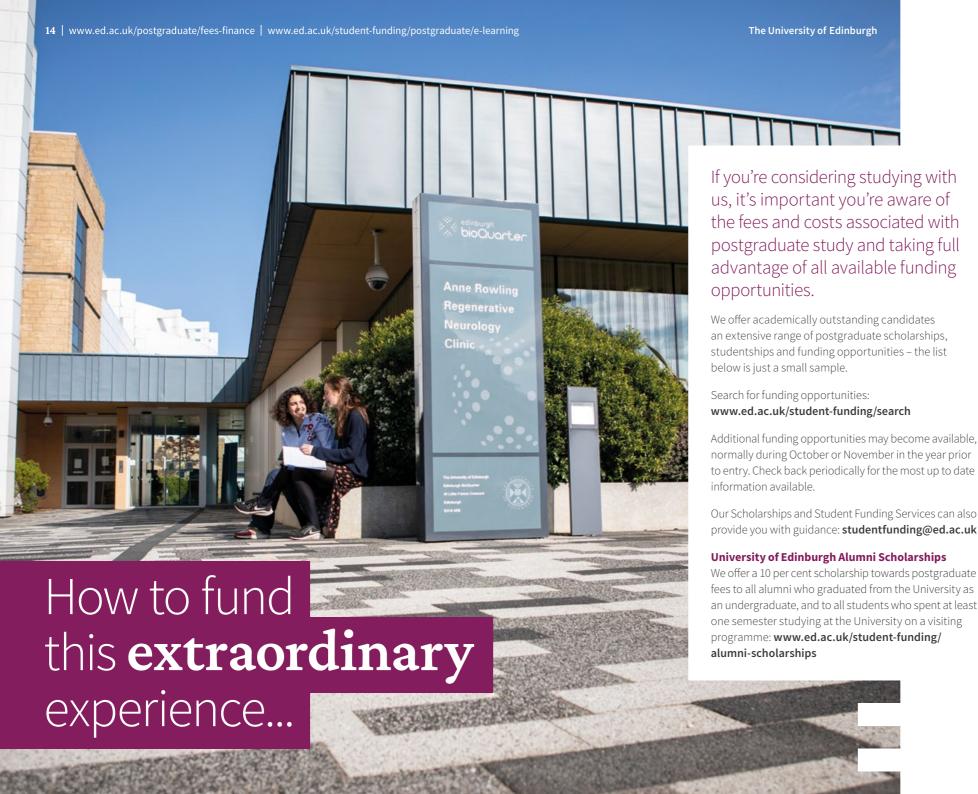
Professor Robin Milner co-founded the pioneering Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science in 1973.

His vision of a new science of information inspired the formation of our School of Informatics, merging computer science, artificial intelligence and cognitive science.

The school is now the UK's largest research and teaching establishment of its kind and a worldwide centre of expertise. Head of School, Professor Jane Hillston said: "Computer science and AI from Edinburgh have had a significant impact on the world through our research and continues to do so."

Today, Edinburgh scientists work to expand our world-leading quantum computing expertise. They are poised to make further significant impact on the world by unlocking quantum computing's vast potential.





Chevening Scholarships

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office funds a number of Chevening Scholarships for postgraduate study, for one-year taught masters degrees. Full details of these awards can be obtained from your local embassy or high commission: www.chevening.org

Commonwealth Scholarships

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan provides opportunities for students in one Commonwealth country to pursue advanced academic study at masters or MPhil/PhD level in another Commonwealth country. Applications are made to the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency (usually the Ministry of Education) in the applicant's home country: cscuk.dfid.gov.uk

PhD Scholarships

There are a growing number of full scholarships available for doctoral studies, including the Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarships. Full scholarships cover all fees and a stipend. The length of these varies between subject areas and Schools, but typically covers three to four years. All our programmes aim to provide training to become an autonomous researcher as well as additional training in areas such as entrepreneurship, teaching, public engagement, knowledge exchange and data science. Full details can be found on School websites or via our scholarships portal:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate





www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate

The University hosts a number of Centres for Doctoral Training, Doctoral Training Partnerships, and four-year PhDs that are funded by UKRI Research Councils, charities, trusts or other bodies. A full list is available online: doctoral-college.ed.ac.uk/ doctoral-training-centres/about

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC): www.sgsah.ac.uk

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): www.sgsss.ac.uk

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC): https://bbsrc.ukri.org

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC): https://epsrc.ukri.org

Medical Research Council (MRC): www.ukri.org/councils/mrc

National Environment Research Council (NERC): https://nerc.ukri.org

Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC): https://stfc.ukri.org

UK Government loans

The Student Awards Agency Scotland offers eligible students who meet their nationality and residency criteria tuition fee loans for taught and research programmes at diploma and masters level, which will be paid directly to the University. Eligible full-time students can also apply for a non-income assessed living cost loan: www.saas.gov.uk

Student Finance England offers eligible students who meet their nationality and residency criteria postgraduate loans for taught and research masters programmes and also for doctoral degree study: www.gov.uk/student-finance

Student Finance Wales offers eligible students who meet their nationality and residency criteria postgraduate finance for taught and research masters programmes, and postgraduate loans for doctoral degree study: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Student Finance Northern Ireland offers eligible students who meet their nationality and residency criteria a tuition fee loan for taught and research programmes, at certificate, diploma, and masters level, which is paid directly to the University: www.studentfinanceni.co.uk

We also recommend you review the comprehensive guidance provided at: edin.ac/findamasters-pg-funding

Tuition fees

You will find up-to-date fee levels for your specific programme online. We expect 2024 tuition fees to be confirmed and published in August 2023:

www.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees/find

You will also find information on other studying and living costs online: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-finance

Fee status: We will assign you a fee status depending on whether you are from Scotland, elsewhere in the UK, or another country. You can find out more about this and check your fee status at:

www.ed.ac.uk/tuition-fees/fee-status

Postgraduate students from the Republic of Ireland who are living within the Republic of Ireland will pay the UK fee rate. EU nationals living within the UK who have preor settled status and who meet the three-year residency requirement will also pay the UK fee rate. All other EU nationals living in the EU will be charged the international fee rate. Please check the latest information online and ensure you know your fee status and the fee rate you will pay, before you apply.

International/EU student fees for multiple year postgraduate research programmes have been fixed, meaning you will not be affected by an annual tuition fee increase, and will be charged a fixed annual fee based on your start date.

Living costs

For information on the day-to-day cost of living in Edinburgh, please use our online budget planner and money-saving tips to help plan ahead:

www.ed.ac.uk/students/living-costs



We know that finding the finances to fund your studies can seem overwhelming. We've compiled some top tips online to help you make the most of your funding application:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate



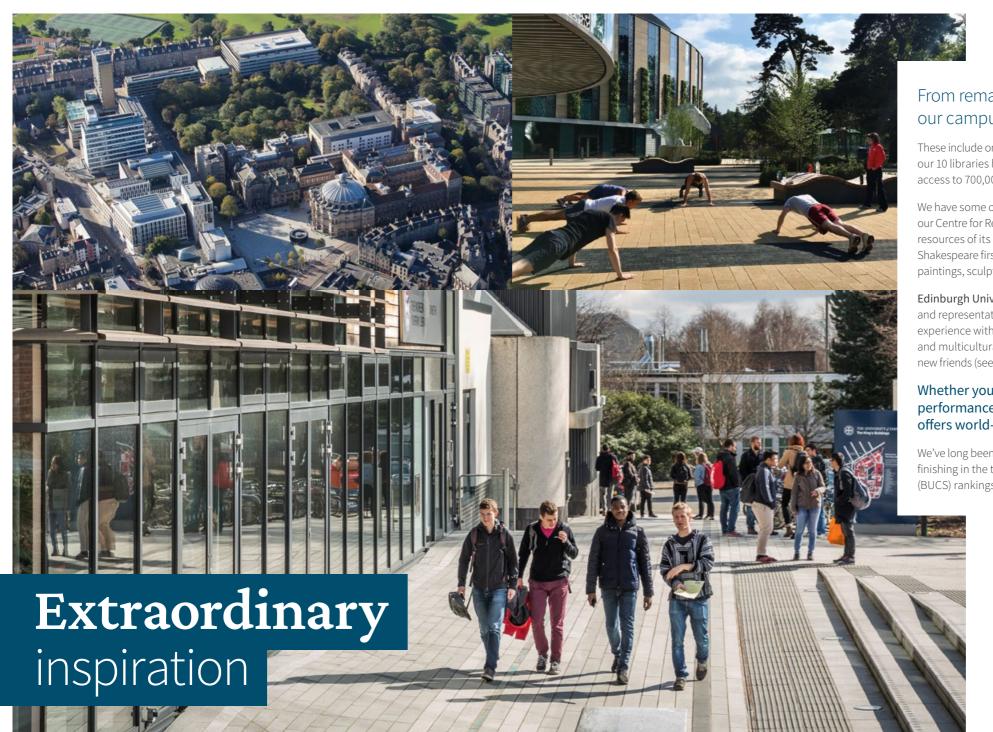


Scotland's inspiring capital will be the backdrop to your life.
One of Europe's great cultural hubs and a stimulating place to study, Edinburgh is an irresistible blend of history, natural beauty and modern city life.

Regularly voted one of the most desirable places to live in the world, Edinburgh is large enough to offer something for everyone but small enough to feel like home. It is a modern, sophisticated and beautiful European city with a diverse multicultural community. Well known for its friendly people, its safe green environment and its compact size – Edinburgh is easy to get around and get away from it all – wherever you are in the city, you are never far from open countryside.

Edinburgh is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and was the world's first UNESCO City of Literature.

In the summer months the pace of life accelerates as the world-famous annual festivals get under way. Its location is perfect for adventurers, with diverse and readily accessible opportunities, from snowboarding to surfing. Scotland's natural beauty, from the Pentland Hills to the south to the coastline along the Firth of Forth to the north, is also on Edinburgh's doorstep. A single day could see you hillwalking in the morning, lazing on the beach in the afternoon, and enjoying the treasures of the medieval lanes and Georgian streets by night.



From remarkable and historic to cutting edge, our campuses provide inspirational facilities.

These include one of the largest academic libraries in the world – in total, our 10 libraries hold millions of printed and online volumes and grant access to 700,000 electronic journals and databases.

We have some of Europe's foremost research facilities on campus and our Centre for Research Collections is one of the world's most important resources of its kind, encompassing rare books, musical heritage, Shakespeare first editions, oriental manuscripts, architectural drawings, paintings, sculpture and more.

Edinburgh University Students' Association provides support, advice and representation during your studies and helps enhance your student experience with more than 400 student societies. Several international and multicultural societies offer support settling in and help you meet new friends (see page 8). Find out more: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

Whether you're a recreational gym user or a performance athlete, our **Centre for Sport and Exercise** offers world-class sport and fitness opportunities.

We've long been one of the UK's leading sporting universities, consistently finishing in the top four of the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) rankings.





Students from all over the world live on campus or in private accommodation across the city.

Live on campus

Our postgraduate accommodation is in either traditional halls of residence or blocks of self-contained flats, featuring four to six single study bedrooms, with a mix of en suite rooms or shared bathroom facilities. All our accommodation is self-catered and located within easy reach of key University buildings and Edinburgh city centre. It includes:

- comprehensive community and welfare networks
- mixed gender residences, with some single sex flats available
- laundry facilities
- secure cycle storage
- personal contents insurance
- network services in each bedroom for access to email and the internet.

We offer adapted accommodation for those with disabilities and have a small selection suitable for students who wish to live with their partner or family. For details, please contact our Allocations team.

Rents typically include utilities, internet, personal contents insurance and some cleaning. Based on a typical 51-week lease during the 2023/24 academic year, single room rent was in the range of £6,266–£10,914, while shared room rent started from £4,931.

You are guaranteed an offer of University accommodation if:

- you are a new, single postgraduate research (typically PhD) student or taught postgraduate student from outside the UK;
- you apply for accommodation by 31 July 2024 and have accepted an unconditional firm offer to study at the University;
- you will be studying in Edinburgh for the whole academic year starting in September 2024.

Live in the city

If you are not guaranteed an offer of University accommodation, or if you choose not to take up an offer, you will probably need to use private sector accommodation

Our Domus service can help connect you with private sector landlords. A wide range of flats and studios is available, with the peace of mind of renting through the University and benefits included such as contents insurance, internet, and telephone. For more information, please visit: www.domus.ed.ac.uk





Find city accommodation

www.domus.ed.ac.uk

24 | www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduateThe University of EdinburghPostgraduate Guide 2024

Shape your **extraordinary** future

Click

There's far more information online. Visit: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate

Alternatively, skip straight to our online degree finder: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees

Contact us

Our Enquiry Team can advise you about admission to specific degrees or help if you have general enquiries about applying to the University:

futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

International students

If you are an international student with specific questions about your application, please email our enquiry team or check online for additional information:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international

Our overseas representatives

The University has certified representatives in specific regions and countries worldwide. Contact details for your local representatives are available online: www.ed.ac.uk/international/representatives

Find out more

We offer many opportunities for you to find out more about the University, including online Open Days and events you can access from the comfort of your own home, as well as campus visits:

www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/open-days-events

Virtual Visit

Can't visit Edinburgh in person? Our Virtual Visit allows you to virtually explore the University and the city. View a range of videos, 360° photos and image galleries, and hear from our students and staff to find out what it is like to live and study here: virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg

Chat online

Wherever you are in the world, UniBuddy gives you the chance to chat to a current student about their experiences: edin.ac/student-chat

Get social

in t

linkedin.com/school/university-of-edinburgh



twitter.com/EdinburghUni



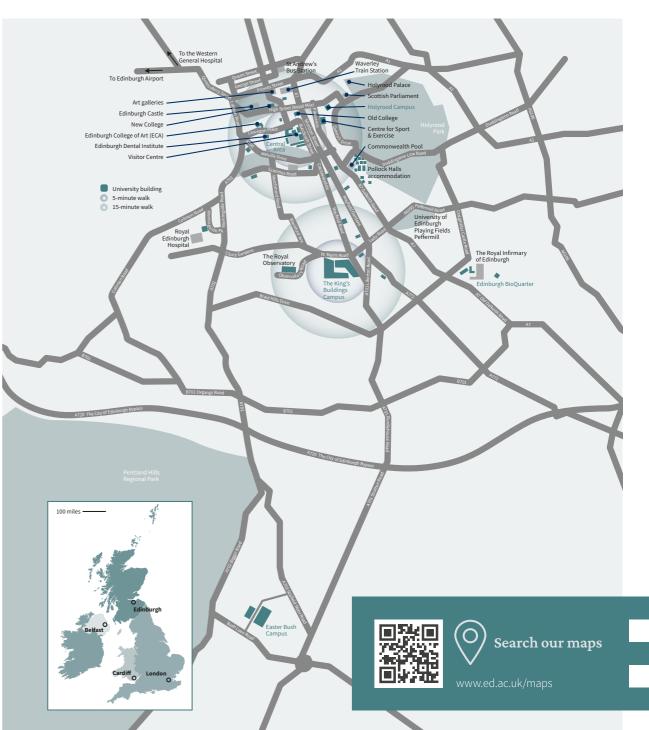
facebook.com/UniversityOfEdinburgh



instagram.com/edinburghuniversity



youtube.com/EdinburghUniversity



Find out more

Take part in an online event or campus visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/open-days-events

virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg

Find a degree:

www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees

Published by: Communications and Marketing, The University of Edinburgh

Designed by: The Gate Edinburgh

Printed by: Sterling Press

Photography by:

Chris Close Laurence Winram
Chris Dumont Oscar Wong
Getty Images Paul Dodds

Guthrie Aerial Photography Paulius Staniunas @ All Is Amazing

© The University of Edinburgh 2023

No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission from the University. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide before going to print. However, please check online for the most up-to-date information: www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate

The University's standard terms and conditions will form an essential part of any contract between the University of Edinburgh and any student offered a place here. Our full terms and conditions are available online: www.ed.ac.uk/terms-conditions

This publication is available online at www.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate and can be made available in alternative formats on request. Please contact communications.office@ed.ac.uk

Please recycle:

We are committed to reducing carbon emissions and becoming a net zero carbon university by 2040. This guide is suitable for recycling after use.

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

www.ed.ac.uk