



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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Famed gates due for auction ready to return to campus

A show of affection by former students has prompted the return of landmark gates to the University of Edinburgh.

Principal Sir Timothy O'Shea has pledged to bring back the 19th century gates, which stood next to the University's graduation venue, the McEwan Hall.

The carved sandstone and wrought iron entrance – removed as part of a £33million redevelopment of the hall – had been due to be sold off at auction.

Now, thanks to a deal struck between the University and Sussex-based Summers Place Auctions, the gates – which have provided the backdrop for countless graduation photos – are to be reinstated on campus.

Proposals to refurbish McEwan Hall and transform neighbouring Bristo Square have adopted an open plan approach that encourages movement around the site.

The gates did not feature in the landscape design and an agreement was reached with the University's contractor to have them removed.

Professor O'Shea said: "On hearing news of the proposed auction, Edinburgh graduates far and wide contacted the University to express their fondness for the gates. The views of our alumni are very important to us so we are happy to bring the gates back."

Summers Place Auctions director James Rylands said: "We are delighted to be able to work with the University to facilitate the return of the McEwan Hall entranceway to Edinburgh where we hope it will be admired by residents and visitors for many generations to come."

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