From the Ashworth building, walk 20m to the bus stop on the right hand side of Mayfield Road. From here you can catch a number 24 bus to the Royal Infirmary, or from West Mains Road you can catch a number 38. Journey time is approx. 10 minutes.

From the Ashworth Building, turn left onto Mayfield Road and walk for approximately 1.7 miles until you reach the Central Area Campus. It is about a 30 minute walk. Alternatively you can take a number 12 bus from Mayfield Road or a number 9 from the bus stop within King’s Buildings outside of Murchison House (location 4). Journey time is approx. 15 - 20 minutes.

From the Ashworth Building walk ahead on Esslemont Road until you reach Liberton Road. Cross over here to the bus stop where you can catch a number 37. Journey time is approx. 30 minutes.

Head 200m up West Mains Road. Go through a grand archway on the left, and up the hill of Observatory Road. At the top, follow the footpath to the left.

Map illustration by BA (Hons) Illustration graduate, Victoria Rose Ball
King's Buildings Tour Map

1. Ashworth Laboratories
   Charlotte Auerbach Road - EH9 3FL
   The best place to begin the tour is on the north east corner outside the Ashworth Laboratories, where the main entrance to King's Buildings lies. This building is used by the School of Biological Sciences. Evolutionary biology, immunology and infection research is carried out in the Ashworth Laboratories, the home of the Centre for Immunology, Infection and Evolution. Ashworth is also home to the Aubrey Manning Gallery which houses part of the University’s collection of natural history specimens.

2. Grant Institute
   James Hutton Road - EH9 3FE
   The Grant Institute is where the School of Geosciences is based. The building was named after its donor Alexander Grant, creator of the popular McVitie’s Digestive biscuit! At the Grant Institute the subjects Geology, Geophysics, and Environmental Geosciences are housed. It has a number of research facilities, including a high-tech micrometallurgical facility where students can analyse rocks, minerals and fluids and measure the physical properties of rocks.

3. Joseph Black Building
   Robert Stevenson Road - EH9 3FL
   The Joseph Black Building is home to the School of Chemistry. King George V laid the foundation stone for this building in 1920, making it the earliest building on campus. It has developed over the decades into a state-of-the-art facility for all modern branches of Chemistry. New teaching laboratories are used by undergraduates and for cutting-edge research into nano-technology, protein structure and function, drug discovery, battery as well as fuel cell materials.

4. Murchison House
   West Mains Road - EH9 3BF
   Murchison House is the former British Geological Survey building, has had an extensive refurbishment, turning it into a multi-functional building with an open-plan teaching hub alongside study spaces, lecture theatres and exhibition spaces. You’ll find a Student Information Point and Facilities Cafe all located on the ground floor. Murchison is also home to administrative services for the College of Science & Engineering including Admissions and Academic Affairs.

5. Crew Building
   Alexander Crum Brown Road - EH9 3FF
   The Crew Building is used by the School of GeoSciences. The Crew laboratories, used to prepare equipment to monitor greenhouse gas fluxes and ecosystem behaviour, were inaugurated by Piers Sellers, former NASA astronaut and graduate of Edinburgh. Here research into Ecology and Atmospheric Chemistry is carried out. This focuses on terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems and their interactions with other components of the earth system.

6. Roger Land Building
   Alexander Crum Brown Road - EH9 3FF
   The Roger Land Building houses the UK Centre for Mammalian Synthetic Biology. Research at the Centre is focused on the development of the underpinning tools and technologies needed to implement engineering principles and realise the full potential of synthetic biology in mammalian systems.

7. James Clerk Maxwell Building (JCMB)
   Peter Guthrie Tait Road - EH9 3FD
   The principal academic units within James Clerk Maxwell Building and its annexe, the Erskine Williamson Building, are the School of Physics & Astronomy, the School of Mathematics, the School of Geosciences and the Biology Teaching Organisation. The centre for research within the building are the Centre for Science at Extreme Conditions (CSEC), the Higgs Centre for Theoretical Particle Physics and the Tait Institute which is dedicated to mathematical physics. In addition, the building has five lecture theatres, a large multi-media teaching space, a café, print shop and many group study rooms.

8. Alexander Graham Bell and William Rankine Building
   Thomas Bayes Road - EH9 3FG
   Researchers in the Alexander Graham Bell Building work on mobile and digital communications, including the latest technology for mobile phones and digital communications systems. The William Rankine Building opened in 2006 as part of the School of Engineering. It houses Civil Engineering, environmental and buildings research and is home to Edinburgh’s Fire Safety Engineering research group.

9. Swann and Darwin Buildings
   Max Born Crescent - EH9 3BF
   The Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology is based in the Swann Building alongside other researchers in cell and structural biology which includes drug discovery, chromosome biology, RNA biology and epigenetic control of cell function. The Darwin Building is undergoing redevelopment. The new building will provide state of the art laboratories, technologies and spaces to support strategic research in Biology of our Changing World, Biology of Health & Disease, and Engineering Biology for Health & Wealth.

10. Alick and Faraday Buildings
    Max Born Crescent - EH9 3BF
    The Alick and Faraday Buildings are home to marine renewables and energy systems research. Edinburgh has a long tradition of wave energy production from Stephen Salters’ work in the early 1970s - including Salters’ Duck. The flow research facility here at King’s Buildings supplements this research by enabling large scale testing of marine energy devices.

11. Sanderson Building
     Robert Stevenson Road - EH9 3FD
     The Sanderson Building houses the Institute for Materials and Process; it has two chemical and mechanical engineering workshops, where academic researchers, research fellows and postgraduate students work in the areas of biomedical engineering, carbon dioxide capture, materials science, molecular simulation and design, multi-phase flows and complex fluids.

12. The Nucleus Building
     Murray Library and KB House
     Thomas Bayes Road - EH9 3FG
     The Nucleus Building, opened in 2022, is a learning, teaching and social hub at the heart of King’s Buildings campus. It has five lecture theatres, studio classrooms and specialist teaching labs as well as 400 study spaces. You’ll also find the Careers Service, a café, and Students’ Association shop. The Nucleus is also open to the public on weekends. The Nucleus Building is directly connected to the Murray Library, which has the KB Café, study spaces, helpdesk and collections. King’s Buildings House, run by Edinburgh University Students’ Association, includes a branch of The Advice Place offering students free, impartial and confidential information on a range of issues.

13. Hudson Beare and Fleeming Jenkin Building
    Colin Maclaurin Road - EH9 3DW
    Hudson Beare is the centre of the School of Engineering with classrooms, a lecture theatre and the Eng Inn coffee shop. In the Fleeming Jenkin Building research is carried out in a number of labs, including those for structural, chemical and electrical engineering. It also has a small wave tank located in the hydraulics lab and a freezer for conducting experiments.

14. The Nucleus Building
    Murray Library and KB House
    Thomas Bayes Road - EH9 3FG
    The Nucleus Building, opened in 2022, is a learning, teaching and social hub at the heart of King’s Buildings campus. It has five lecture theatres, studio classrooms and specialist teaching labs as well as 400 study spaces. You’ll also find the Careers Service, a café, and Students’ Association shop. The Nucleus is also open to the public on weekends. The Nucleus Building is directly connected to the Murray Library, which has the KB Café, study spaces, helpdesk and collections. King’s Buildings House, run by Edinburgh University Students’ Association, includes a branch of The Advice Place offering students free, impartial and confidential information on a range of issues.

Admissions opening times
College of Science and Engineering @Murchison House, King’s Buildings campus: 10:00-16:00, Mon-Fri / Tel: +44 (0)131 6505737
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine @Chancellors Building, Edinburgh Bioquarter: 10:00-16:30, Mon-Fri / Tel: +44 (0)131 2462792
College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences @7 George Square: 10:00-16:00, Mon-Fri / Tel: +44 (0)131 6503565 & Postgrad: +44 (0)131 6504086