



THE MAIN LIBRARY

Self Guided Tour



The Foyer

The Main Library was designed by Sir Basil Spence; the building was completed in 1967 and A-listed in 2006. Major redevelopment has taken place in recent years. The state-of-the-art decor offers a harmonious mix between contemporary architecture and the Library's unique 1960s interior design. The panoramic view of The Meadows and George Square is in line with Sir Basil's original vision.

The Main Library is open 24 hours, 7 days a week (except for the festive season). For access, swipe with your University card!



The EdHelp Desk

Staff here assist directly with Library, IT, Admin-related queries, Lost and Found, and University Card Services; they also escalate enquiries to appropriate teams for more specialist help.

The High Use Book (HUB) Collection (restricted access for staff and students)



Reception

Staffed 24/7 by Library Facilities and Estates, if you are visiting the library, or have lost your University card, this desk will be your first port of call.



Also in the HUB, requested books await collection from the Hold Shelf, and there is a self-collection Laptop Service.

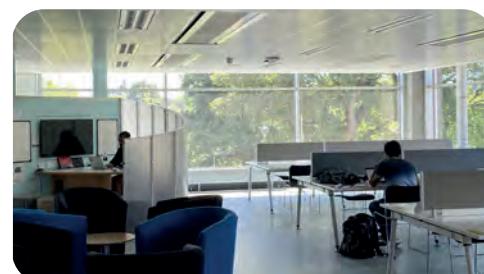
Self-Issue Machine



Users can borrow books using the self-issue machines on the Ground Floor, floors 2, 3 and 4.

Located adjacent to the Helpdesk, the HUB supports over half of all loans and is mainly used by undergraduates (years 1 and 2). For new students, the HUB makes an easier transition from a school library to University Library. More advanced undergraduates and postgraduates tend to use the upper floors of the Library.

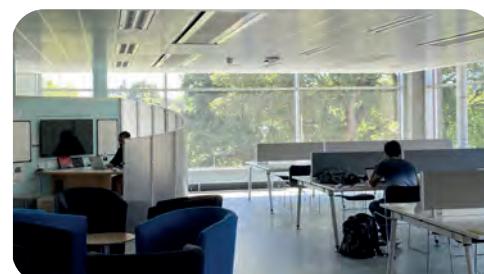
Ground Floor study spaces



Self-Return Machine



Available on the Ground Floor at the entrance to the Library and to the right of the Helpdesk.



Three types of study spaces are available here: fixed PCs, study pods, and informal seating areas; there are 20 quick-use computers for students to check emails or print documents. The 30 additional study pods allow group work and discussion spaces; most pods include digital display spaces.



Exhibition Room

Featuring bespoke exhibition cases created by Goppion of Italy, the Exhibition Room was funded by the Friends of Edinburgh University Library. Various exhibitions take place throughout the year, open to the University community and to the public.



Ground Floor



The pièce de résistance of the Main Library Foyer, this is an often-times photographed centre-piece art installation by Turner Prize-nominated artist, Nathan Coley.



The Signature Room

This study space allows students to work in groups and displays the signatures of famous Edinburgh students including Charles Darwin, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle and Walter Scott. Designed to look "Like the inside of a cigar box" as an homage to the historic use of this space as a smoking room.



The Library Café

Accessible from inside and outside the Library, the Café is open to the public as well as to the University community; PCs are available for staff and students.



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

We hope you find this guide useful. Should you have any particular questions regarding the library which are not covered here, or if you require the guide in an alternate format, please email:
Miruna.Cuzman@ed.ac.uk & Zofia.Guertin@ed.ac.uk.

Lower Ground Floor



This floor offers a combination of individual desks and group study areas, with or without PCs.

Floor 1



- Accessible study rooms- for use by individual students who require specialist equipment and technology
- Study space - a mix of single desks and group study pods, with or without PCs
- Training and Tutoring rooms



- uCreate Makerspace provides equipment, advice, training and support for a wide range of specialist equipment from 3D Printers to VR headsets. Multimedia Bays hold high performance computers, specialist software and hardware for multimedia, motion graphics and other creative work. Our loan service lets you borrow specialist kit for use off site.



Floor 2 and 3

- Main book collection (Library of Congress classification)
- East Asian collection
- Music collection

Floor 3

- Bookable study spaces
- Careers Service

Floor 4

- Older book collection (Dewey classification system)
- Journals and newspapers
- Centre for African Studies (CAS), Sergeant, Watt, and Smith collections

Floor 5

Silent study, with a designated postgraduate area.

Floor 6

The Centre for Research Collections - prominent research hub which houses University archives, rare books, manuscripts, as well as an eclectic art and musical instrument collection.

DiscoverEd (Library Catalogue)

Search points, where users check the availability and location of resources, are available on the Ground Floor, floors 2, 3 and 4.

IT and print

Computing (for registered staff and students), copying, printing and scanning are available on floors Lower Ground to 5.

In the Main Library there are over 2 million books and print journal titles; members of the University can access 2.2 million e-books, 206,000 e-journals, 900+ databases and 115, 000 streaming videos!