**Students at the University of Edinburgh**

**A guide to the Centre for Research Collections' sources for research**



*Class card used by William Dean to gain admittance to Joseph Black’s Chemistry lectures in 1769 (EUA CA6)*

**Introduction**

Our student records date back to the founding of the University: we have a surviving laureation (graduation) list for the very first cohort of students in 1587. Records for student activities vary across different times and disciplines. In general, early records are basic, with more detail being recorded over time. This guide outlines the University’s history as it relates to students; explains how to research individual students; lists the main records that can be used to research students; and provides information on how to access these records.

**Teaching and Learning at the University**

The first class of students entered the University in 1583. The only programme on offer was a 4-year Master of Arts degree whose curriculum had a classical focus, having as its basis Greek and Latin grammar, literature, and philosophy. All subjects were taught by one teacher - a Regent - who took the same class through all four years of their degree. This was known as the ‘Regenting System’ and continued until 1708.

At the end of their 4 years of studying, the students were examined, graduated, and signed the ‘sponsio’ (the Confession of Faith of the Church of Scotland) in the University’s laureation album. The signatures of 47 graduates appear in 1587. Descriptions such as ‘minister verbi’ (Christian Minister) were added next to the names of some of the graduates at a later date, probably by Professors.

In 1708 the Regenting System was abandoned in favour of a Professorial System, in which each subject was assigned to a single teacher. Previously, the University of Edinburgh had been an Arts College offering only a Master of Arts degree, with a Divinity School attached, additional regular teaching in Medicine, and sporadic teaching in Law. Now it consisted of three faculties: Divinity (founded 1620), Law (founded 1707) and Arts (founded 1708).

Although medical degrees had occasionally been awarded from 1705 onwards, the Faculty of Medicine was officially founded in 1726, when the Town Council issued an Act which formally granted the University the right to examine students and confer degrees in Medicine. By 1765 there were four times as many medical students at the University as there were Arts students. The MD (Doctor of Medicine) was the only medical degree available until 1858, when the MB CM (Bachelor of Medicine, Master of Surgery) was introduced as a first degree. Shortly afterwards the MD became a postgraduate qualification. Well-known University of Edinburgh medical students include Charles Darwin and Arthur Conan Doyle, who based the character of Sherlock Holmes on his lecturer Joseph Bell.

One possible surprise to modern researchers is the age that students started university. In Scotland prior to the mid-19th century, students often began studying at the age of 14 or 15, and sometimes as young as 12. Following on from the 1858 Universities (Scotland) Act, entry requirements became more stringent and as a result students attended university when they were older, usually at least 17.

**The Students’ Representative Council**

The University celebrated its Tercentenary in 1884 with a week-long festival which included the granting of 140 honorary degrees and a grand civic banquet. The Students’ Representative Council (SRC) was formed to organise student participation in the Tercentenary whilst maintaining order and preventing outbreaks of student rowdiness, and held its first formal meeting on 17th January 1884.

The SRC’s involvement in the Tercentenary Festival was highly successful, and they used this success as a springboard to launch an appeal to fund a Student Union, which opened on 19th October 1889. The 1880s also saw the first publication of *The Student* magazine (adopted as the official organ of the SRC in 1888 and still published to this day), and the founding of University Hall, the University’s first purpose-built student accommodation. The SRC was granted formal recognition as the University’s official student representative body by the Universities (Scotland) Act of 1889, which entitled it to petition the governing bodies of the University – the Senate and the University Court – on matters affecting students. The SRC currently has responsibility for representation on teaching and learning, welfare, academic services, external affairs, and organising Freshers’ Week.

**World Wars I and II**

Nearly 8,000 of the University’s students and graduates served in World War I, and both the fallen and those who survived are commemorated in the University of Edinburgh Roll of Honour. With many of the country’s young men fighting abroad, women students, who had only been allowed to study for degrees at the University since 1892 and who had previously formed a very small proportion of the student body, surged in numbers. (For more information about women students see the ‘Women students at the University of Edinburgh’ research guide).

World War II likewise significantly affected the University, notably with the founding of the Polish School of Medicine at the University in 1941. This was a unique initiative by the University and the Polish Government in Exile to provide medical training for Polish troops and civilians who took refuge in Britain after the Nazi occupation of Poland. Students were taught in Polish, followed a Polish curriculum, and were awarded a Polish degree. By the time the School closed in 1949, 227 students had graduated from it with an MB ChB, and 19 with an MD.

**Mergers with other institutions**

The 20th and 21st centuries saw several institutions merge with the University. As a result, we hold student records for the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College (merged 1951), Moray House Institute of Education (merged 1998), and Edinburgh College of Art (merged 2011). The student records for Moray House and Edinburgh College of Art are not yet catalogued, so please contact us if you are interested in researching students from these institutions.

New College was founded in Edinburgh in 1843 as a training college for Free Church of Scotland ministers, and after 1900 for United Free Church of Scotland ministers. It merged with the University of Edinburgh’s School of Divinity in 1935. Some historic student records for trainee ministers and Divinity students are therefore held in the archives of New College Library. These archives are temporarily housed at the CRC whilst New College Library is being refurbished (as of 2023) but will eventually be returned to New College.

**How to research individual students**

**Matriculation and graduation records**

Matriculation and graduation records form the backbone of research into students, and it is these that should be searched first. Indexes to matriculation and graduation - arranged alphabetically by student surname - are held in the CRC Reading Room. Once dates of study have been ascertained from these indexes, the relevant original records can be ordered up to the Reading Room for consultation.

Prior to the 19th century university studies and the associated record-keeping were relatively casual. Matriculation (enrolment) albums don’t appear until 1627, and matriculation only become compulsory in 1810. In addition, students often didn’t graduate as studying and graduating were expensive, and degrees were not required by most employers. For example, doctors were not legally required to have formal qualifications to practice until the Medical Act of 1858. Some of our most famous alumni, such as David Hume and Walter Scott, did not graduate from the University.

Early matriculation and graduation albums merely consist of signatures for students; biographical or genealogical details such as dates of birth or names of parents are not included. This makes it difficult to distinguish whether a particular student is the individual being researched. Increasing amounts of information were included from the 1730s onwards: most notably, from 1811 matriculation albums include place of origin.

In 1869 an additional ‘first matriculation’ record was introduced. This was a form that students filled in themselves on entrance into the University, and information included name, birthplace, age at last birthday, faculty of proposed study, and previous university or medical education. More details were added over time and by the 1920s questions included nationality, next of kin, religious denomination, and school education.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, graduation schedules were introduced. These included information on the student’s university studies such as classes taken, names of lecturers, and exam results. Graduation schedules were introduced at different times for different subjects and are therefore listed below by subject. Sometimes schedules of study are available for students who didn’t graduate: these appear on the list as, for example, ‘Non-graduates in medicine’.

**Other student records**

Once the matriculation and graduation records have been checked, other student records can provide supplementary details. Not all students matriculated and/or graduated, so these other records can sometimes fill in the gaps. The specific records to be searched depend on the time period and subject you are interested in: for example, class lists and library borrowing records are useful for students who attended prior to the mid-19th century; published MD theses are held for 18th and early-19th century medical graduates; and for students from the late 19th century and into the early 20th century the University’s World War I Roll of Honour can be useful.

Other records only rarely have details about individual students, but are nonetheless invaluable for providing background information about studying and student life. Of particular use are the Edinburgh University Calendars, which were published annually from 1858 onwards and provide a vast amount of detail, including term dates, timetables, lecturers’ names, course textbooks, and exams. The Edinburgh University Student Handbook was published by the SRC from 1897 and includes information on societies and student life. And finally, the Quatercentenary Collection contains many and varied items relating to the University and especially to students, donated by alumni, their descendants and the general public in response to an appeal made by the University as it approached its 400th anniversary in 1984.

**Collections relating to students in the CRC archives**

**Matriculation and graduation records**

* Matriculation albums, 1627-1980 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/2](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17110) **Index in CRC Reading Room**
* Matriculation index (index to matriculation albums, with references to some additional information such as class lists), 1783-1968 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/3](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17111)
* First matriculations, 1869-1961 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/4](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17112) **Index in CRC Reading Room for 1869-1889**
* Laureation and degrees albums, 1587-1896 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/1](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17109) **Indexes in CRC Reading Room**
* For details of graduation schedules from the 19th-century onwards, see section for the relevant subject

**Other records relating to teaching, learning and administration**

* University Library borrowers & users records, from 1636 [EUA IN1/ADS/LIB/3](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/87296)
* University of Edinburgh class list collection, 18th-20th century [EUA CA14](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85727) **Some class lists indexed in CRC Reading Room**
* Published theses (mainly 18th and 19th century MDs) are in our book catalogue, [DiscoverEd](https://discovered.ed.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=44UOE_VU2&mode=advanced)
* Edinburgh University Calendar, 1858-2003 [EUA IN1/PUB/1](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/27393) and [EUA.P.1](https://discovered.ed.ac.uk/permalink/f/1njkql8/44UOE_ALMA21101976140002466)
* University of Edinburgh examination papers [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/EXM](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/61647)
* Graduation ceremony booklets, 20th century [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/15](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56463)
* Edinburgh University certificates and class cards collection, 18th-20th century [EUA CA6](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86284)
* Un-issued certificates, late 19th century [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/tbc](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/173657) [sic]

**Student life**

* Edinburgh University Students Association, Students’ Representative Council, 1884-1956 [EUA IN20/SRC](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/35929)
* *The Student* magazine, 1887-present [EUA IN20/PUB/1](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/77592)
* Edinburgh University Students’ Handbook, 1897-1984 [EUA IN20/PUB/2](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/78128)
* EDIT: University of Edinburgh alumni magazine, 1582- [EUA IN1/PUB/8](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/77591)
* Records relating to University Hall, Riddle’s Court, 1890s [Coll-1841](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86618)
* University of Edinburgh Roll of Honour, 1914-1919 [Ref.LB1038 Edi.](https://discovered.ed.ac.uk/permalink/f/1njkql8/44UOE_ALMA2198621980002466)
* Collection of documents relating to student theatre in Edinburgh, late 1960s [Coll-1892](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86974)
* Collection of posters of student events at the University of Edinburgh, 1970-1972 [Coll-1867](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86786)
* Quatercentenary collection, 1795-1994 [EUA CA2](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85244)

**Student Societies**

* Records of Edinburgh University Dialectic Society, 1787-1960 [EUA GD9](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85739)
* Edinburgh Plinian Society, 1826-1841, [Coll-275](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/264)
* Records of Edinburgh University Musical Society, 1874-1956 [EUA GD22](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85925)
* University of Edinburgh Boat Club, 1898-1989 [EUA GD33](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/87086)
* Records of Edinburgh University Indian Association, 1903-1983 [EUA GD25](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85740)
* The Chinese Student: official organ of the Edinburgh Chinese Students’ Union, 1921 [S.B.378(41445)05 Chi.](https://discovered.ed.ac.uk/permalink/f/1njkql8/44UOE_ALMA2195545470002466)
* Records of Edinburgh University Sports Union, 1922-1972 [EUA GD31](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85776)
* Edinburgh University Biological Society, 1930s-1980s [EUA GD10](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85730)
* Records of Edinburgh University Psychology Society, 1945-1966 [EUA GD29](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85741)
* Student Societies’ Files, 1964-2007 [EUA IN20/SOC](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/54633)

**Arts students**

* Graduates in Arts, 1893-1970 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/5](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17113)
* Non-graduates in Arts, 1890s-1965 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/5N](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/77546)

**Divinity students**

* Theologues in the College of Edinburgh (Divinity class list) 1707-1725 Da 41, EUA-A-904
* Divinity Hall rollbook, 1800-1887 Da 41, EUA-D-47
* See also New College student records (listed in ‘Related material elsewhere’ section below)

**Law students**

* Graduates in Law, 1864-1964 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/7](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17115)
* Non-graduates in Law, to 1939 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/7N](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/86355)
* Class list of Charles Mackie’s students in History and Roman Antiquities, 1719-1744 [Coll-423, Dc.5.24](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86597) **Index in CRC Reading Room**

**Medicine students**

* Graduates in Medicine, 1833-1989 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/8](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17116)
* Non-graduates in Medicine EUA IN1/ADS/STA/8N, 1896-1975
* Anatomy class list of Alexander Monro (primus), 1720-1749 [EUA GD60](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86544) **Index in CRC Reading Room**
* Chemistry class lists, 1755-1971 [EUA IN1/ACU/C2](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17129) (n.b. Chemistry was originally part of the Medicine degree before the BSc was instituted in 1864)
* Petition by Edinburgh University medical students for more cadavers of anatomical study, 28 March 1828 [Coll-1615](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86106)
* Theses lodged for MD, 1901-1926 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/16](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56464)
* Polish School of Medicine student record schedules, 1941-1948 at [EUA IN14/4](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/18756), student record ‘notebooks’, 1941-1949 at [EUA IN14/5](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/18757), and non-graduating student record schedules, 1941-1947 at [EUA IN14/7](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/18759)
* Papers of Wiktor Tomaszewski relating to the Polish School of Medicine, 1946-1996 [EUA GD46](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85269)
* Papers of Edinburgh Dental School and Hospital, 1862-1992 [Lothian Health Services Archive, LHB25](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/4/resources/187)

**Science and Engineering students**

* Graduates in Science and Engineering, 1888-1965 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/9](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17117)
* Non-graduates in Engineering, 1890s-1949 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/9NE](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/169351)
* Chemistry class lists, 1755-1971 [EUA IN1/ACU/C2](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17129) (n.b. Chemistry was originally part of the Medicine degree before the BSc was instituted in 1864)
* Science exams: Attendance of classes, 1923-1951 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/18](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56466)

**Music students**

* Graduates in Music, 1898-1950 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/10](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56458)
* Non-graduates in Music, to 1939 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/10N](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/78395)

**Commerce students**

* Graduates in Commerce, 1920-1966 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/11](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56459)
* Non-graduates in Commerce, to 1939 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/11N](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/78396)

**Education students**

* Schoolmasters diploma, 1899-1907 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/13](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56461)
* Graduates in Education, 1914-1947 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/6](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/17114)
* Moray House Institute of Education and its predecessors – uncatalogued, contact HeritageCollections@ed.ac.uk for assistance

**Veterinary students**

* Royal (Dick) Veterinary College records of student administration, 1863-1959 [EUA IN2/4](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/53678)

**Art students**

* Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) and its predecessors – uncatalogued, contact HeritageCollections@ed.ac.uk for assistance

**Postgraduate students**

* Register of Candidates for PhD, 1583-1989 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/12](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56460)
* Doctors of Philosophy, 1933-1948 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/14](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56462)
* Higher and intermediate degrees, 1968-1982 [EUA IN1/ADS/STA/17](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/56465)

**Selected collections relating to specific individual students and graduates**

* Senior Surgery medal of Charles A. Anderson, 1888-1889 [Coll-1240](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85235)
* Papers of Joseph Black and family, 1746-1799 [Coll-16](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85883)
* Manuscripts of George Mackay Brown, 1949-1994 [Coll-50](https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/6d13734b-9889-364b-9cf4-3b9e3921ee54?terms=george%20mackay%20brown)
* Class cards, tickets, and letters of testimonial of John Brown, Thomas S. Brown and William B. Clark, 1824-1835 [Coll-1156](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/456)
* Collection of correspondence and papers of Thomas Carlyle, C19th [Coll-128](https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/2a7ee89a-a766-3a6f-a6c8-3d024abd6813?terms=thomas%20carlyle)
* Class cards of Charles Robert Darwin, 1825-1826 [EUA CA6/1825CRD](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/archival_objects/78498)
* Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle MD thesis, 1885 MS 2600 [uncatalogued]
* Papers of David Hume, 18th-century [Coll-373](https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/2d314956-bf7f-3864-b13c-a365ded7655f?terms=edinburgh%20university%20library)
* Physicus medal of Cargill G. Knott, 1873-1874 [Coll-1451](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85009)
* Medals of William A. Knowles, 1882-1893 [Coll-1292](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85186)
* Collection relating to Eric Henry Liddell, C20th [Coll-218](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85775)
* Manuscripts of Norman MacCaig, 1939-1995 [Coll-69](https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/38a9162b-8e4f-3be0-8b61-f706cc9a33a6?terms=norman%20maccaig)
* Norman MacCaig at the Burn, Edzell, and correspondence with Trudy Wallace, 1982-1983 [Coll-1640](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85645)
* Graduation and ordination certificates of William Kerr Smith, 1771-1772 [Coll-1890](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/86975)
* Photographs of University life taken by Capt. Herbert Mather Spoor, 1904-1905 [Coll-1155](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/457)
* Sports and academic awards to Nathaniel W Stewart and Alexander Vivian Stewart, 1911-1914 [Coll-1635](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/85643)
* The Young medals, 1899-1935 [Coll-540](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/resources/212)

**Related material elsewhere**

* New College (Divinity) students administrative records and biographical lists, 1801-1977 [AA1.4](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/5/resources/86583) are held at the CRC as of 2023, and thereafter at [New College Library](https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/finding-resources/subject-guides/divinity/new-college-archives#:~:text=New%20College%20Library%20holds%20rich,School%20of%20Divinity%201930%20onwards)
* New College class photographs, 1857-1984 [AA1.8.2](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/5/resources/86583) are held at the CRC as of 2023, and thereafter at [New College Library](https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/finding-resources/subject-guides/divinity/new-college-archives#:~:text=New%20College%20Library%20holds%20rich,School%20of%20Divinity%201930%20onwards)
* Records of New College and Edinburgh University student theological societies, 1776-2007 [AA3](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/5/resources/86586) are held at the CRC as of 2023, and thereafter at [New College Library](https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/finding-resources/subject-guides/divinity/new-college-archives#:~:text=New%20College%20Library%20holds%20rich,School%20of%20Divinity%201930%20onwards)
* [The Polish School of Medicine Historical Collection](https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/about/history/polish-medical-school-collection) is held in The Chancellor’s Building at Little France, Edinburgh

**Accessing the collections**

**Online databases**

Our [alumni database](https://collections.ed.ac.uk/alumni) has indexes to and transcriptions of various student records (please be aware that this database is not comprehensive and doesn’t include records for all students).

Several lists of graduates have been published and subsequently digitised. A list of Arts, Divinity and Law graduates for the time period 1587-1858 can be found [here](https://archive.org/details/catalogueofgr10600univuoft/page/264/mode/2up), a list of graduates in Medicine for 1705-1866 [here](https://archive.org/details/b21466373/page/n199/mode/2up), and a list of all graduates for 1859-1888 [here](https://archive.org/details/alphabeticallist00univrich/page/n8/mode/2up).

Throughout most of its history, the University has not systematically kept photographs of students. However, we do have a few photos of students that were donated to us by alumni, and our [Directory of photographs](http://archives.lib.ed.ac.uk/photographs/) can be used to identify these.

The website of [UncoverEd](http://uncover-ed.org/), the collaborative student-led archival project to discover and publish stories relating to the University’s international alumni, includes a searchable database.

The [honorary graduates database](http://www.scripts.sasg.ed.ac.uk/registry/Graduations/Honorary_Graduates.cfm) has a searchable index of the more than 2,900 individuals who have received honorary degrees from the University of Edinburgh since 1695.

Profiles of many of the University’s [famous and prominent alumni](https://www.ed.ac.uk/alumni/services/notable-alumni/alumni-in-history) can be found on the University’s website, with one extra profile being added each month.

**Digitised records**

The first laureation album (1587-1809) has been [digitised in browsable form](https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/view/search?search=SUBMIT&q=earliest+laureation&dateRangeStart=&dateRangeEnd=&QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA), and can also be [searched by year](http://www.archives.lib.ed.ac.uk/alumni/search.php?view=ld). Likewise, the [first matriculation album](https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/view/search?search=SUBMIT&q=EUA+IN1%2FADS%2FSTA%2F2%2F1&dateRangeStart=&dateRangeEnd=&QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA) (1627-1703) and the [second matriculation album](https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/view/search?search=SUBMIT&q=EUA+IN1%2FADS%2FSTA%2F2%2F2&dateRangeStart=&dateRangeEnd=&QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA) (1704-1762) have been digitised in full.

[Charles Darwin's class cards](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/digital_objects/137), used by him to gain admission to classes during his time studying Medicine at the University in 1825, can be viewed online.

Many theses - principally from the mid-19th century onwards - have been digitised and are available to download from our online repository, [Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA)](https://era.ed.ac.uk/). They include Arthur Conan Doyle’s [1885 MD thesis](https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/418).

University of Edinburgh students who served in World War I appear in the University’s roll of honour, which has been digitised and can be viewed [here](https://archive.org/details/rollofhonour191400univuoft/page/n12/mode/2up).

Various items relating to [Eric Henry Liddell](https://images.is.ed.ac.uk/luna/servlet/view/search?QuickSearchA=QuickSearchA&) – including his Olympic medals – can be seen on our image collections website.

Selected editions of the [Edinburgh University Calendar](https://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk/repositories/2/digital_objects/22) have been digitised for the time period 1858-1920.

**Accessing physical records in person**

Most student records have not been digitised. To arrange an appointment to view records in person at the CRC, please email HeritageCollections@ed.ac.uk or phone 0131 650 8379. Where in-person visits are not possible, CRC staff can undertake research into specified individuals on your behalf, or arrange for specific records to be digitised for you.

Please note that the Data Protection Act and GDPR apply to records containing personal information about living (or potentially living) individuals, and therefore access to student records less than 75 years old is conditional.

Enquiries about Lothian Health Service Archive records should be directed to lhsa@ed.ac.uk