2025
Undergraduate Guide
Where visionaries, dreamers and pioneers converge to shape extraordinary futures.

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

Edinburgh is ranked the sixth best student city in Europe and 10th in the world.¹

We’re ranked fourth in the UK for research power, based on the 2021 Research Excellence Framework.²

The University awarded more than £10m in undergraduate financial support in 2022/23.

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

We’re ranked third in the UK and sixth in Europe in the QS Sustainability Ranking 2024. We will be Net Zero by 2040.

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¹ QS Best Student Cities 2024
² Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions (REF 2021)
³ QS World University Rankings 2024
⁴ Times Higher Education, Most International Universities in the World 2024
⁵ QS World University Rankings 2024
Our world faces a planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and water quality and availability. The University plays a leading role in tackling this polycrisis. We bring people together from across the world to understand the problems and work with local communities, businesses, and governments on solutions. We have an impressive, diverse range of sustainability experts and educators for you to learn from, regardless of what you study. You’ll also have access to a range of training programmes, such as Carbon Literacy, Biodiversity Literacy and Circular Economy Literacy, to improve your knowledge and employability.

Our values guide our work. You’ll find progressive sustainability action in our operations and enterprises, and in the partnerships we form. On campus, we will be zero waste by 2030 and net zero carbon by 2040. We’ve won awards for helping nature to thrive in our campus greenspaces, meaning you have lots of nature-rich places to visit, be inspired, relax and unwind.

Every person counts when it comes to tackling the climate crisis. As part of our community, you’ll have opportunities to deepen your knowledge, meet like-minded people and take positive action: from influencing University policy to planting trees. You’ll also be inspired. Our students and staff are known globally for tackling the climate crisis – whether as media-savvy scientists or activists on Instagram – and we can’t wait for you to meet them.

Read more: www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability

We’re ranked third in the UK and sixth in Europe in the QS Sustainability Ranking 2024. We will be net zero by 2040.

Please recycle this guide after use. The paper stock is from well-managed, FSC-certified forests and other controlled sources. It has been printed by an FSC and ISO 14001 (Environmental) certified printer using vegetable based inks. The cover has been treated with an ecological biodegradable lamination.
The University will lead the new era of generative AI, with a multimillion-pound initiative that will benefit society and stimulate economic growth.

Our new Generative AI Laboratory (GAIL) will unite our world-leading researchers and innovators to develop safe AI solutions for wider society.

Generative AI is a type of machine learning that generates content such as images, audio, video, and computer code. Our researchers will develop techniques for its use in areas such as robotics, drug discovery, medical diagnoses, semi-conductor development, and tackling climate change. Experts will also work in partnership with our Centre for Technomoral Futures to look at the ethical, legal and regulatory frameworks necessary to ensure the safe and responsible use of AI.

The University has a well-established high performance computing infrastructure, with international reach. We already host the UK’s national supercomputer, ARCHER2 and in 2025, installation of the UK’s first, next-generation exascale supercomputer begins. This will help researchers model aspects of the world, test scientific theories and improve products and services in areas including advanced engineering, astrophysics, and AI.

Since 1963, Edinburgh has been a world leader in research into AI and computer science, developing systems that now underpin generative AI such as machine learning and Natural Language Processing. These initiatives build on that 60-year legacy, with the ambition of establishing Edinburgh as the data capital of Europe.

“Edinburgh is uniquely placed to provide world-class leadership and expertise around generative AI. This exciting initiative will create a new pipeline of talent with the skills to both benefit from and shape the economic and societal benefits of this transformational technology.”

Professor Iain Gordon
Vice Principal and Head of the College of Science & Engineering

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The University of Edinburgh

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www.ed.ac.uk/impact

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Edinburgh is an entrepreneurial city, home to two of the UK’s $1 billion-valued unicorn companies. It’s an environment in which the University and Edinburgh Innovations, our commercialisation service, are pivotal. You'll join one of the UK’s most entrepreneurial student bodies. In 2022/23 our student startups secured more than £32 million in investment, grants and funding. During that time, we helped form 115 student startup companies. We increasingly see a number of socially and environmentally-focused startups each year. Sunsave Solutions, for example, which was founded by School of Social & Political Sciences graduate Mekila Ngwambe, is prototyping an affordable solar power kit to provide electricity to rural households in the world’s poorest areas.

Consistently hitting more than 100 startups each year, for the last three years, our support for entrepreneurship is no one off. Previous successes include audio tech company Two Big Ears, which was acquired by Facebook in 2016. “Our impressive students are notably using data and artificial intelligence to transform areas of society from health care to energy provision. Their ideas have the potential to change the world.”

Dr George Baxter
CEO (2016-24), Edinburgh Innovations
Why this extraordinary place?

For more than 400 years, discoveries and advances from here in Edinburgh have changed the way the world is understood, thanks largely to the benefits our collaborations bring. Embracing innovation and entrepreneurialism, and encouraging our people to push the frontiers of knowledge today, helps ensure we make a positive sustainable mark on the world tomorrow.

Extraordinary choice

Our global links offer you possibilities for fieldwork, industry placements and study abroad opportunities, and our research-led, industry-informed teaching incorporates the latest developments in your field.

Extraordinary choice

*-(#0K K 4-.-£*1-.$)
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Extraordinary choice

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“My programme is preparing me for my future career by addressing issues from many different perspectives, which is necessary in our globalised world, as well as presenting me with opportunities to volunteer and go abroad.”

Manisha Thill
MA (Hons) Health, Science & Society
Your options

As one of Scotland’s four ‘ancient’ universities, many of our full-time degrees in the humanities and social sciences are undergraduate (4-year) qualifications that require four years of study.

In science and engineering we offer four-year bachelors degrees or five-year integrated masters. We also offer a smaller number of other qualifications including LLB Law, as well as a few degrees with shorter or longer full-time study durations. These range from three to five or even six years (MBChB Medicine).

Depending on your qualifications, you may have the option to start in the second year of some of our science, engineering, biomedical sciences and medical sciences, and art and design degrees. We also offer an expanding range of options for students progressing from a Higher National Certificate or Diploma.

If you’re considering a year out before you go to university, you may be able to apply for deferred entry.*

*Applications for BVMS Veterinary Medicine or international applications for MBChB Medicine will not be considered for deferred entry. Please contact us to check before you apply.
We believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to study at the University of Edinburgh. We welcome and celebrate the diverse experiences, backgrounds and cultures of students from all over the world.

Quick Q&A

Do only straight A students get into the University of Edinburgh?

No. We’re committed to widening access and admission of students we believe can succeed. We consider the context in which results were achieved, to students we believe have the potential to succeed.

I didn’t think I was likely to meet the entry requirements. I found I was eligible for a widening access offer and this helped me recognise my ability to make it to university. Having the reassurance of the contextual offer made a massive difference to my confidence to apply.

Kalim, BSc Neuroscience

Am I too old to go to university?

No. Whatever age you are, you’re welcome. Adults returning after a break is a lot of support so the leap didn’t feel as overwhelming as I’d anticipated. Even if you haven’t gone straight into university, you certainly haven’t missed your chance. When you do start your degree, even if it is later in life, you’ll be equipped to get even more out of it.

I was quite anxious about being accepted into the student community as an openly transgender student. However, I’ve used it as an opportunity to support and educate my fellow students. I became a member of my School’s Equality and Diversity Committee to share my experiences and help organise events for LGBT+ History Month."

Mature student Tristan Craig.

My story

Tristan prepared to return to education by doing some recent academic study, which helped him make the transition to degree-level study:

“As a mature student from a high school with particularly low rates of progression into higher education, I was nervous about being an outsider. However, I soon discovered how broad the student body is and you’ll undoubtedly meet people from a similar background to you. There is a lot of support so the leap didn’t feel as overwhelming as I’d anticipated. Even if you haven’t gone straight into university, you certainly haven’t missed your chance. When you do start your degree, even if it is later in life, you’ll be equipped to get even more out of it."

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Mature student Tristan Craig.

We believe everyone deserves an equal opportunity to study at the University of Edinburgh.
When you choose to study with us, you'll find that many degrees take four years to complete. This is an approach that's common not just to Scotland but across Europe and in the US. Studying a four-year degree allows you to benefit from greater flexibility and choice during your studies than might be offered in a shorter degree elsewhere. You'll usually have the time to try different subjects before you concentrate your studies for your final degree. Some students find these experiences change their mind about the degree or specialism they want to qualify in and allow them to take advantage of the flexibility to refocus.

How it works
On most of our degrees in the arts, humanities, engineering, science, and social sciences, you'll be able to study a range of subjects in Years 1 and 2 before you decide which area to specialise in for your final degree. You'll study the compulsory courses that are required for your degree and in addition will be able to choose a number of option courses either from areas related to your degree or from different parts of the University. Using your option course choices, you'll be able to choose to study up to three subjects in Year 1, then continue those subjects or swap some out as you move into Year 2. It's flexible, letting you try subjects without committing to them long term, and it's personal. You'll develop academically and intellectually, discovering which subjects suit your interests and aptitudes and which are the best fit for your career aspirations.

As you move into Year 3, you'll have the confidence to say with certainty which area you want to specialise in for your final degree. You'll also take up any possible option to study abroad, or any industrial placement offered on your degree, usually during Year 3 before returning to the University for your final year. You'll then focus on the in-depth studies required for your degree across a series of Year 4 compulsory courses and a final project or dissertation. This will allow you to graduate with a versatile combination coveted by prospective employers – a specialist focus built on a broad base of interdisciplinary experience.

Benefits
• Enhance your career prospects, gaining a broad education that is attractive to employers.
• Experience new subjects without the need to commit long-term – discover new passions, take your career in a new direction or enhance your CV.
• Discover where your strengths lie and tailor your degree accordingly.
• Nurture your talents, develop a broad range of skills and grow intellectually over a longer period of time.
• Develop a global outlook – opportunities to study abroad are usually possible on most of our degrees.

"Edinburgh is one of the top campuses that we target for recruitment. If you are looking for a university that will give you the skills and experiences to have a successful career, then Edinburgh is a good place to start."

Proctor & Gamble

Tara used the four-year degree system to explore options and to refocus.

"I've always had this natural curiosity for the world around us and particularly for social, racial and environmental inequalities, so geography was quite a natural choice for me. I thought for a while that I wanted to do medicine and went back and forth a little bit but geography was always the subject I was most interested in."

"When I joined University, I wasn’t sure whether my strengths lay more with physical or human geography. I sort of experimented a little bit in first and second year with different humanities courses. I really valued being able to explore social anthropology, criminology and sociology and really enjoyed them. They confirmed my interest in human geography, made me more sure about pursuing the MA and I really valued having more time to settle in to the place and the new way of learning."

"Looking back on it now, the different courses I did actually really shaped my interest within geography. All those disciplines are so inter-related and have ultimately really influenced my choice of dissertation topic, for example. My dissertation is about gender-based violence in the greater Glasgow area. My different choices in first and second year have all proven very useful for that."
New ways of learning

Choosing to study with us means more than choosing to sit in our lecture theatres.

Research-led teaching

You will become an independent learner, working collaboratively with others both here in Scotland and overseas.

Industry placements

These let you put what you’ve learned into practice in the workplace, working alongside peers. In some cases, you will be required to find and secure your own placement and in others you will be recruited competitively by the companies offering the positions. Industry placements are common in many of our science, engineering and health-related degrees. These let you put what you’ve learned into practice in the workplace, working alongside peers. In some cases, you will be required to find and secure your own placement and in others you will be recruited competitively by the companies offering the positions. Industry placements are common in many of our science, engineering and health-related degrees.

Study exchanges

A number of our degrees usually offer you the opportunity to get involved in research that allows you to delve deeper into your chosen subject. This will not only develop your analytical skills, but will help you prepare for the next steps involved in and sample life on the front line of your future career with an industry placement. These can be short placements or studies away in Year 3. Most of our students go abroad for the full year but shorter semester-only options may also be available in Year 2. Details of deadlines and how to apply are published on the Undergraduate Admissions website.

Interdisciplinary Futures

Building on expertise from across the University, and working in an inclusive and participative environment, the Edinburgh Futures Institute offers a four-year undergraduate degree – the Interdisciplinary Futures (IF) option course.

“Getting taught by lecturers who were carrying out their own research and would allow you to work alongside them was a dream come true to me.”

Brenda Mionki

BSc (Hon) Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)
**Decisions, decisions...**

The following index lists the extraordinary range of options available, you'll find the ideal degree for your personal interests and career aspirations, even if you're still nailing down exactly what you want to study.

For much more detail on the subjects and individual degrees available, please visit our degree finder: [www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees)

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The University of Edinburgh

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English & Scottish Literature
English Literature
English Literature & Classics
English Literature & History
Scottish Literature & Classics
Scottish Literature & History
Scottish Studies & History

French & Francophone Studies
French & Portuguese
French & Politics
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Landscape Architecture

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Linguistics & Social Anthropology

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Mathematics & Music
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Mathematics & Statistics

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HCP-Med for Healthcare Professionals

Music
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Nursing Studies
Nursing Studies

Oral Health Sciences
Oral Health Sciences

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Psychology
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Psychology & Economics
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Russian Studies
Russian Studies

Russian Studies & Classics
Russian Studies & English Language
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Scandinavian Studies
Scandinavian Studies

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Sociology with Quantitative Methods

Spanish, Portuguese & Latin American Studies
Spanish

Spanish & English Language
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Sport
Applied Sport Science

Sustainability
Sustainable Development

Theology & Religious Studies
Divinity

Divinity - Graduate Entry
Divinity & Classics
Philosophy & Theology
Religious Studies
Religious Studies & English Literature
Religious Studies & Scottish Literature

Veterinary Medicine
Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary Medicine & Zoology

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees
How to apply
You should apply for full-time undergraduate study at the University via UCAS. You can find out more about how to apply online: www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply

When to apply
You can submit your application for 2025 study from 1 September 2024. We recommend you apply as soon as possible. You must apply before the relevant deadline:
• 15 October 2024 – deadline for all applications to study medicine or veterinary medicine.
• 29 January 2025 – all other UK and Irish applicants must apply before the UCAS January deadline. We also recommend international applicants apply by this date as many of our degrees are competitive and may close on, or soon after, the January deadline.

What you need to apply
You’ll need your qualifications, a personal statement and a reference to apply. For some of our degrees you may also need to:
• attend an interview, for medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, teacher education, or oral health sciences;
• submit a digital mini portfolio, for art, design and fine art;
• sit an admissions test, such as the UCAT for medicine;
• provide evidence of relevant work or other experience, for professional programmes;
• provide evidence of relevant work or other experience, for international foundation programmes.

International foundation programme
If you’re from a country whose national school-leaving qualifications are at a lower level than we require for admission, we offer a one-year foundation programme to develop your academic skills and English language proficiency. If successful, you’ll be eligible for entry to many of our degrees in our College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

Immigration
EU and other international students normally need a visa to study in the UK. For help understanding our immigration requirements, or if you can’t find your qualifications online, read our guidance on the wide range of UK and international qualifications we accept. For help with your application and to understand which immigration permission you need, check our online guidance: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration

Our entry requirements
Our entry requirements vary from degree to degree, but we accept a range of qualifications that demonstrate your English language competency including SQA National 5, GCSE, and IB Standard Level English. For international applications, we will also accept: IELTS; TOEFL – iBT (including TOEFL Home Edition); IGCSE English, First or Second Language; Cambridge C1 Advanced (CAE) / C2 Proficiency (CPE); Trinity ISE; PTE Academic and others: https://edin.ac/ug-english

Find out more about your degree
Check what, and where, you will study, how you will learn, your career opportunities and more.

Step 1
Find out more about your degree
Check what, and where, you will study, how you will learn, your career opportunities and more.

Step 2
Find out how to apply
Read our advice on everything you need to know, including personal statements, references and deadlines.

Step 3
Find out more about your degree
Check what, and where, you will study, how you will learn, your career opportunities and more.

Step 4
Make your application
You will apply online, via UCAS.

Contact us if you need more help
See page 56 for our contact details.
peace of mind

We awarded

Examples of available funding

Access Edinburgh

The Access Edinburgh scholarship is for full-time undergraduate students who live in the UK. Awards are worth up to £5,000 a year depending on your circumstances and household income.

More than 3,000 students a year receive Access Edinburgh scholarships. Any student from a lower income household, which includes those who have been in care, or those estranged from their family, will receive an Access Edinburgh scholarship.

Your award will be automatically assessed, based on your household income when you pay tuition fees, and your study period. Eligible students receive a government-funded fee (which is fixed for the duration of your studies). At the time of publication, international students fees for 2023 are £35,200. Fees may change, please check online for the most up-to-date information.

Details on the Access Edinburgh scholarship can be found online. As funding opportunities are subject to change, please check online for up-to-date information for 2025.

Mathematics Scholarships

The School of Mathematics provides a number of scholarships worth £5,000 a year to maths students of outstanding ability.

Robertson International Scholarships

£3,000 tenable for one year. You must be a national of a country outside the UK and be liable to pay the overseas rate of tuition fees, commencing a degree in the School of History, Classics & Archaeology.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies UK Graduate/ International Scholarship

There are two scholarships, each of £5,000 a year, available to UK graduates or international students studying BVMS Veterinary Medicine.

Use our online tool to search for more funding opportunities available to you: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding
Extraordinary people

Our notable alumni include:

- Adam Smith
- David Hume
- Dugald Stewart
- Gordon Brown
- Ian Rankin
- Sir JM Barrie
- Chrystal MacMillan
- Sir Winston Churchill
- Viscount Palmerston
- Peter Mark Roget
- JK Rowling
- Robert Louis Stevenson
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- Sir Chris Hoy
- Sir Walter Scott
- Kirsty Wark
- Charles Darwin
- Joseph Black
- Sir Walter Scott
- Sir James Young Simpson
- Sophia Jex-Blake
- Alexander Graham Bell
- Daniel Rutherford
- Sir Ian Wilmut
- Dame Elizabeth Blackadder
- Dame Katherine Grainger

Academic prizes

- Pulitzer Prize winner
- Turing Award winners
- Nobel Prize winners

The University of Edinburgh

The University has laid the foundations of modern economics and sociology, the Scottish Enlightenment, geology, English literature, quantum mechanics, electromagnetism, thermodynamics, antiseptic surgery, nephrology and the theory of evolution.

Work carried out at the University is expanding the depth of human knowledge and improving lives around the world.

The University has led to the discovery of carbon $5\times 10\text{^3}$ C, $\mathrm{O}_2$, $\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O}$, $\mathrm{CO}_2$, $\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O}$, $\mathrm{C}_2\mathrm{H}_4$.

Hippocrates, a 5th-century BC Greek physician, advanced the public understanding of antiseptic surgery, nephrology and the theory of evolution.

It has advanced the public understanding of multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease, climate change, and lead to transform your education here into your own mark on our shared history, forging your path to the groundbreaking discoveries and innovative research that will influence tomorrow’s world.

For more than 400 years, our students and staff have been influencing and changing the world for the better. Now it’s your turn.

Make your future extraordinary

Now it’s your turn.

Work carried out at the University is expanding the depth of human knowledge and improving lives around the world.
To this day... says Dr Finch.

"AI is an extremely powerful tool that can be used to identify important patterns and trends in our School of GeoSciences, uses AI to scour near real-time greenhouse gas emissions data. He aims to create a worldwide database of near pinpoint those from features like power stations, satellite data, identify emission hotspots, and in our School of GeoSciences, uses AI to scour orbit each week, enormous volumes of climate information on consumption patterns and from complex datasets, from UK Government... 1963. Today, a growing number use it to better adapt to climate change and map out ways of adapting to it. Dr Joe Kennedy, of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems, uses AI to reveal the impact of tens of thousands of food products. This could be done manually but would take four researchers nine painstaking months and cost around £300. The climate impact of UK diets by matching the FoodDB database of the environmental change and map out ways of adapting to it. While AI's own environmental footprint is growing, its benefits to science are difficult to ignore. Dr Kennedy concludes: "AI can help disentangle which factors in an extreme event are...inguinella influenza in chickens will need several simultaneous genetic changes." The findings are an encouraging step forward, but further work will be required to produce a chicken population that cannot be infected by bird flu. Principal investigator Mike McGrew says the experiment illustrates the importance of responsible gene editing:

"Gene-editing offers a promising route towards permanent disease resistance, but the myriad complex ways they intersect make pinpointing clear links tricky. Professor Hegerl says AI can address this: "Combining...all the myriad complex ways they intersect make pinpointing clear links tricky. Professor Hegerl says AI can address this: "AI can help disentangle which factors in an extreme event like a heatwave are the active drivers and which consequences are linked to it, rather than just happen at the same time."

Read more: edin.ac/ai-climate-change

Read more: edin.ac/gene-edited-chickens

A data-driven future

$m \in \mathbb{R}$ $\land$ $m \in \mathbb{R}$ $\implies$ $m \in \mathbb{R}$ $\land$ $m \in \mathbb{R}$

"AI will enable us to answer questions in a much faster timeframe, and that is essential because the window we have to mitigate and adapt to climate change is rapidly closing." Hegerl says AI can address this: "Combining climate modelling and AI will enable us to better understand how extreme events will affect us in the future, how we can better adapt to them and what the limits of adaptation are." Climate, weather, environment and society: they increasingly large, the potential solutions it offers will happen at the same time." She sees clear roles AI might play to mitigate and adapt to climate change: “Combining climate modelling and AI will enable us to better understand how extreme events will affect us in the future, how we can better adapt to them and what the limits of adaptation are.”

"AI will enable us to answer questions in a much faster timeframe, and that is essential because the window we have to mitigate and adapt to climate change is rapidly closing." Climate, weather, environment and society: they increasingly large, the potential solutions it offers will happen at the same time.”

Read more: edin.ac/ai-climate-change

Read the Principal’s thoughts in full: edin.ac/data-driven-future

We want to change these figures in the long term. That’s why we’re creating opportunities for everyone to improve their data skills, from early years to adult learners and including people from all backgrounds and social groups.”

"Data is all around us, and it’s shaping the way we live, work and engage with each other,” says Professor Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

"The UK’s digital economy was worth nearly £151 billion in 2019 and has grown since. Yet only one quarter of the technology workforce in the UK is female, and only one in twenty is from an ethnic minority. People from so-called working-class backgrounds make up a third of the UK population, but account for just one in five people working in information technology."

Read more: edin.ac/gene-edited-chickens

The findings are an encouraging step forward, but further work will be required to produce a chicken population that cannot be infected by bird flu. Principal investigator Mike McGrew says the experiment illustrates the importance of responsible gene editing: "Gene-editing offers a promising route towards permanent disease resistance, which could be passed down through generations, protecting poultry and reducing the risks to humans and wild birds. Our work shows that stopping the spread of avian influenza in chickens will need several simultaneous genetic changes." The findings are an encouraging step forward, but further work will be required to produce a chicken population that cannot be infected by bird flu. Principal investigator Mike McGrew says the experiment illustrates the importance of responsible gene editing: "Gene-editing offers a promising route towards permanent disease resistance, which could be passed down through generations, protecting poultry and reducing the risks to humans and wild birds. Our work shows that stopping the spread of avian influenza in chickens will need several simultaneous genetic changes.”

Read more: edin.ac/gene-edited-chickens
A sea change in blue carbon storage

Our former students are behind the idea for an underwater seed-planting robot which has the potential to capture carbon and tackle climate change.

Niall McGrath, a 2022 MEng Mechanical Engineering with Renewable Energy graduate, set out to produce a cost- and time-efficient robotic alternative:

“To date, seagrass restoration has not received the same attention and PR investment as other nature-based climate solutions like forestry, or kelp farming. Through our technology we aim to bring seagrass restoration processes up to parity with those of alternative ecosystems and make it a more attractive option for meaningful climate action.”

Niall founded the company Robocean as a solution to the problem, along with fellow graduates Isobel Harris, David Kong, Caroline Gallan, Harry Doyle, Anushika Joglekar, Hiro Onishi, Charlotte Edge and Joe Ralph. Their prototype subsea crawler has the potential to completely transform seagrass carbon capturing methods by moving along the seabed depositing and burying seagrass seeds into the sediment as it goes.

What video games can teach us about the past

Dr Glaire Anderson, Senior Lecturer in Islamic Art, worked with Ubisoft Entertainment as an advisor on Assassin’s Creed Mirage. She believes historical accuracy in gaming can be an important tool in shaping public understanding of the past.

“Video games are among the most popular forms of mainstream entertainment, with an estimated 3.38 billion players globally. Given their popularity, and research showing how influential they are on the public’s understanding of the past, academics and developers need to work together to create authentic game worlds that address problematic colonialist and orientalist stereotypes.”

Mirage is set in ninth century Baghdad, capital of the Abbasid Caliphate. It includes an in-game educational feature that offers players a way to learn about the historical setting.

“Most history-themed video games still locate the medieval past in Europe. Games that portray Muslims and premodern Islamic history in ways that prioritize historical authenticity over easy Orientalist tropes and misinformation, and that make good on the medium’s potential to make substantive academic knowledge accessible, could help shape public understanding of more inclusive global histories.

“Video games can aid in understanding the built environment, visual culture, art, and history. Historians must be able to bring their expertise to game environments that purport to represent the past. Understanding how these game spaces are created and made will help us educate a new generation.

“While teaching students in universities and sharing research in scholarly circles through traditional academic publications remains the central work of scholars, we can and should do more to help the public find and interact with research on Islamic art and history.”
A force for good

Alumni Karis Gill and Aayush Goyal think business has the power to change the world. Since meeting at Edinburgh Business School, they’ve harnessed their passion for helping others as co-founders of sustainable corporate gifting company Social Stories Club.

They create impact at multiple levels, employing individuals with barriers to employment, offering carbon-neutral delivery, and investing in reforestation projects. Their gift options champion products from social ventures across the UK – such as teas supporting education for girls and chocolates providing help to refugees.

Led by social and environmental goals, social enterprises build a positive impact with their work. There are currently more than 100,000 social enterprises across the UK, contributing £60 billion to the economy.

Karis is optimistic about how this could shape the future: “Social enterprises are transforming communities and creating innovation. I have a vision that one day businesses will solve some of the world’s biggest social issues.”

Supported by Edinburgh Innovations, Karis and Aayush have grown their business from a market stall in Glasgow to achieve a turnover of more than £1 million, providing more than 6,500 hours of work to individuals with barriers to employment, introducing more than one million people to social enterprise, and investing more than £480,000 into the social enterprise economy.

Karis said: “We want to become the largest gifting company in the UK and ensure that everyone in the country knows what a social enterprise is and how they can support them.”

Stepping up

When hundreds of displaced Ukrainian children arrived in Edinburgh’s schools, our staff and students stepped up to organise tutoring, translation, and tunes.

Teaching Fellow Katia Popova was born in Russia and has Ukrainian heritage. Supported by Russian-speaking students at the University, she has helped scores of refugee children with learning and music tuition, and young adults with language exchange and befriending opportunities. She was able to broker relationships between the many Scottish people who wanted to help and those who needed it.

“I really admired people’s response to this crisis,” she says of the Scotland Ukraine Host Support Group and numerous other organisations who rallied to help. “I’m really proud to be part of this community.”

Katia and her volunteers have provided services for families prior to their placement in schools, in-classroom language assistance, translating in school meetings with parents, and music tuition. Playing music is common in Ukraine, including as an after-school activity, so for those she helps, music is about more than playing an instrument. It is about building routine, familiarity, and structure back into their disrupted lives, and has mental health and child development benefits. Katia stresses, music can help people of all ages address and overcome their challenges and build resilience.

Karia said: “I want to become the largest gifting company in the UK and ensure that everyone in the country knows what a social enterprise is and how they can support them.”

Read more: edin.ac/social-stories-club

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Read more: edin.ac/stepping-up
You can’t plan on changing the world without starting small. It takes an inquisitive mind and a curious nature. It takes extraordinary teachers to challenge and be challenged instead of just accepting the status quo. It takes the confidence with the passion and enthusiasm to light the fire in your mind. It takes the teaching you receive. Join us and be part of our enthusiastic community of pioneers, visionaries and scholars, studying the latest developments in your subject with the prospect of working on life-changing research yourself.

Your studies will take place in our cutting-edge facilities and remarkable historic buildings – an invigorating environment in which ideas can be researched, tested, and databases.

Our Centre for Research Collections is unique, bringing together more than 400,000 rare books, manuscripts, as well as six kilometres of archives, and museum-standard collections of art and artefacts. Our unique FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility, built in 1762, is Scotland’s oldest purpose-built concert hall. It now houses our Collection of Historical Musical Instruments – one of the world’s most important collections of musical heritage with a founding partner of FastBlade, the world’s first rapid testing facility for tidal energy turbine blades.

St Cecilia’s Hall (B3), a purpose-built concert hall. It now houses our Collection of Historical Musical Instruments – one of the world’s most important collections of musical heritage with a founding partner of FastBlade, the world’s first rapid testing facility for tidal energy turbine blades.

Our Institute for Astronomy, based at Edinburgh’s historic Royal Observatory, is one of the UK’s major centres of astronomical research, with special strengths in survey astronomy, cosmology, active galaxies and the formation of stars and planets. Our Institute for Astronomy, based at Edinburgh’s historic Royal Observatory, is one of the UK’s major centres of astronomical research, with special strengths in survey astronomy, cosmology, active galaxies and the formation of stars and planets.

Our unique FloWave Ocean Energy Research Facility, built in 1762, is Scotland’s oldest purpose-built concert hall. It now houses our Collection of Historical Musical Instruments – one of the world’s most important collections of musical heritage with a founding partner of FastBlade, the world’s first rapid testing facility for tidal energy turbine blades.

Edinburgh is renowned for biomedical research and I like that lecturers incorporate the latest developments into their teaching material. It keeps you up to date with what issues are facing scientists today.”

Lewis Green
BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences

Our worldwide reputation for teaching and research helps attract some of the international research world-leading MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, 2A - 2c (0.44%) 1.1 (& 0.5%) 2 treatments for cancer, heart disease, liver failure, $\phi$ (O) 1.2 ($\phi$) 2 - 3 ($\phi$) 3 neuron disease.

Our Bayes Centre brings together world-leading mathematical, computational, engineering and natural $\phi$ 3 - 3 ($\phi$) 5 intelligence innovation hub to work across disciplines applying data technology to solve real-world problems. We also host the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute(ECCI), Scotland’s leading climate action hub for research, teaching, policy and practice, and the Edinburgh Earth Initiative, which works to accelerate interdisciplinary research, partnerships, teaching, and innovation for the climate and environmental emergency.

Other facilities include state-of-the-art laboratories and world-leading analytical facilities including a $\phi$ 1.1 ($\phi$) 1.0 ($\phi$) 1.0 at 3,000 metres.

Edinburgh Imaging (EIC) hub for research, teaching, policy and practice, and the Edinburgh Earth Initiative, which works to accelerate interdisciplinary research, partnerships, teaching, and innovation for the climate and environmental emergency.

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Our graduates are highly employable and we can help you stand out in a competitive job market. Opportunities open to you, both academically and beyond the classroom, are numerous and varied. Our award-winning Careers Service provides tailored advice, individual guidance and personal assistance, internships and networking opportunities with employers from local SMEs to top multinationals, and access to the knowledge and experience of our worldwide alumni network:

- University of Amsterdam
- California Institute of Technology
- University of Copenhagen
- University College Dublin
- ETH Zurich
- Fudan University
- Heidelberg University
- University of Helsinki
- KU Leuven
- Leiden University
- University of Melbourne
- National University of Singapore
- Peking University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- University of Toronto

Our current partnerships with leading universities include: University of Toronto, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, and the European networks COMBRA group, UNICA and LERU.

“Edinburgh gave me an excellent grounding for my future, encouraging me to explore different paths and have a rounded approach to my life and career.”

Anna Manford
MA (Hons) Italian & Politics

“I used the Careers Service during my time at University and afterwards. They were a great help before my year abroad, giving advice about different options and what to expect. After graduation, I reached out again. I found their advice really helpful and incredibly useful – I was particularly impressed how they were able to help with international applications. I was very glad that I had contacted them.”

Orfeas Boteas
MSc Sound Design graduate
El supported the development of his company Krotos: www.krotosaudio.com

“I’d recommend students get involved with Edinburgh Innovations. They offer practical support to make your business a reality. My sound design software, Dehumaniser, is now used by industry professionals, including Hollywood film studios.”

EI supported the development of his company Krotos: www.krotosaudio.com
From its highlands and islands to its lowland borders, Scotland is a country of breathtaking natural beauty.

For a country of its size, there is great variety in Scotland’s terrain from towering mountains to dense woodland glens. Even if you’ve lived here all your life, it may surprise you to learn that Scotland has more than 6,000 miles of coastline, almost 800 offshore islands and more than 31,000 freshwater lochs. This is a country steeped in history yet firmly focused on the future – a modern, dynamic, European nation where the life sciences, creative industries, digital technology, energy and renewables, financial and business services, and, yes, tourism now drive our economy.

“It is one of the most hauntingly beautiful places in the world.”
JK Rowling
Best-selling author and alumna

Climate
Scotland’s climate is temperate and oceanic with variable weather. Average temperatures range from 5°C in January to 19°C in August.
Edinburgh is one of Europe’s most beautiful cities, draped across a series of rocky hills overlooking the sea.
A student city

Around 100,000 students call Edinburgh home, giving the city a unique buzz and ensuring you'll be in good company. The friends you meet, places you discover and the lasting memories you create will contribute as much to your university experience as your formal learning.

In the summer months the pace of city life usually festivals get under way. The city hosts 30 festivals each year, which attract almost four million visitors to the city, and many of them take place either on campus or near to the University making for a vibrant addition to student life.

Getting here. Getting around

Edinburgh's International Airport puts the city within reach of the rest of the world thanks to direct flights from most major cities in Europe – Paris is just an hour and a half away – and a host of destinations worldwide.

Within the UK, Edinburgh is easy to reach and makes an ideal location from which to explore. London is just four hours away by train while a two-hour jaunt north puts you at the heart of the Scottish Highlands.

Within the city limits, Edinburgh is one of the UK's greenest cities with an extensive cycle route network plus reliable bus and tram services. Its compact size makes Edinburgh ideal for exploring on foot too!

Edinburgh regularly receives high satisfaction ratings for safety and security in the i-graduate International Student Barometer survey.
Welcome on campus

Your student union

As soon as you join the University, you'll be welcomed into the Edinburgh University Students' Association, which works on your behalf to ensure you have the best possible experience during your time here.

The Students' Association is led by five elected student sabbatical officers and supports a Student Council which all students can participate in. You will be represented by elected school and programme representatives. They include black and minority ethnic, disabled students', LGBTQ+, trans and non-binary, and women's officers. There are also Commuter Students', International Students', Mature Students', Part-time Students', Student Carers', and Student Parents' Representatives.

The Students' Association supports more than 400 student-led societies and volunteering groups, from the A Cappella and Business societies, to the Women in STEM and Yoga societies. Our student participation grant can even remove the financial barriers students face, taking part in sport and joining student societies.

Facilities include a thriving centre for student activities at the iconic Pleasance complex, which includes dance studios, a multipurpose performance space, TV and radio production facilities and a cafe and bar. Students' Association venues deliver award-winning food and drink and hundreds of events throughout the year; from language cafes to silent discos and from ceilidhs to food fairs.

The refurbished Teviot Row House, first opened in 1889, is the oldest purpose-built students' union in the world. Set in the Central Area, next to the unique, domed, Potterrow venue, it now provides accessible and environmentally efficient facilities, including a new community lounge, cafe bar, and wellbeing studio, while retaining the unique character, history and design of the iconic, original spaces such as the Debating Hall and Library Bar. On the King's Buildings campus, the Students' Association provides a coffee bar and a cafe, common room spaces and a wrap bar and shop.

Your University community

Total students (2022/23)


Undergraduates


Undergraduates coming from:

Scotland


Other UK*


International (inc. EU)


academic staff

More than 9,100 academic staff employed across our 23 Schools.

countries

Students from 180 different countries have studied here in the last 10 years.

*Includes Channel Islands and Isle of Man
Play. Train. Perform

# / # / #

recreational gym-user or a performance athlete
go for gold; our
world-class sport and
29
Olympic and Paralympic medals
48
Commonwealth Games medals

"If I hadn’t gone to Edinburgh, I’d never have taken up rowing. I’d never have had the life I’m currently living.”

- Dame Katherine Grainger

Olympic champion rower and Edinburgh law graduate

Train: something for everybody
d1 - 35 / 3

• The Pleasance Sport Complex and
spaces. This includes an extensive
range of cardiovascular equipment,
(1 / 2, 1 / 2, 1 / 2, 1 / 2, 1 / 2)
s, gym, riding and all specialist equipment.

• Giffnock Sports Centre

Play: club and recreational sport
5 / 6 / 6 / 6 / 6 / 6

• First Play

Fitness Awards.

The University of Edinburgh

Welcome on campus

Our Performance Sport Programme
is one of the most highly regarded in the
UK. It enables athletes to achieve
a world-class degree and perform
at the highest level within their sport.

- to athletes competing in all sports through
our Sport Scholarship Programme.

Performance athletes have access to
our state-of-the-art facilities, including
our dedicated Performance Gym for
coaching. Alongside this, students are
able to access a full range of support
services: sports psychology, sports
science, mentoring, lifestyle advice,
and nutrition. Performance Athletes are
do college programmes in rowing, swimming, hockey,

support policy to support
studies at the University.

There is also access to funding opportunities
through the Winning Students network.

Olympic and Paralympic medals

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The University of Edinburgh

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Sports success
Our students and alumni have claimed:

29
Olympic and Paralympic medals

48
Commonwealth Games medals

Performance: compete at the highest level
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Welcome on campus

“It can be hard to fit in at first but people here are so friendly. They are literally from all over the world – I’ve met someone from all six inhabited continents at Edinburgh – and from all walks of life. You learn a lot outside the classroom about where people are from and their home cultures. I can’t even begin to describe how it feels to wake up in such a beautiful city surrounded by people from so many different cultures.”

Elizabeth Lund
MA (Hons) Scandinavian Studies & History

A home away from home...

You need an environment in which you can thrive. Many new undergraduates as possible.

Pollock Halls provides catered accommodation for around 2,000 students. You will typically live in a single study-bedroom, more than half of which are en suite, with shared common rooms, an on-site bar and a large gym. The meal plan included in your rent provides breakfast and dinner every weekday, with brunch and dinner at weekends, in our award-winning restaurant. We were the first university in Scotland to win the Food for Life and Food for the Brain awards.

Our range of self-catering flats and houses is a convenient alternative to catered accommodation, should you prefer to prepare your own meals, but still deliver a sociable and supportive environment. Most residents have a single study-bedroom with an en suite or shared bathroom and laundry facilities.

For further information, visit: www.accom.ed.ac.uk

The University of Edinburgh
Undergraduate Guide 2025
Welcome on campus

“University life in Edinburgh is not just about lectures; every moment becomes an avenue for self-motivation to learn more, do more, inspire more and discover the best of yourself.”

Omar Kanyi
BEng (Hons) Mechanical & Electrical Engineering

Individual support

While university life is full of extraordinary opportunities, it can also be overwhelming. We appreciate that coming to university helping you access consistent information, guidance, care and support when and in the way you need it.

Your first point of contact for teaching, academic advice and guidance will be your Student Adviser within the School in which you study. Through them, the University will support you with a combination of academic and dedicated student experience and support for any challenges you face, whether directly related to your learning and teaching or arising from life situations. You will also have access to a variety of peer-to-peer learning networks as well as student societies.

Your Student Adviser will refer you to a Wellbeing Adviser if you need more specialist support. Our wellbeing support includes the Chaplaincy, Disability and Learning Support Service, Student Counselling, the Listening Service, and the Student Wellbeing Service. Our vision is to empower the University community to thrive, and from which everyone is able to thrive. All our services are based in and around our award-winning Health & Wellbeing Centre in Bristo Square, which includes a wellbeing lounge for quiet time on campus.

On campus and online, EdHelp provides straightforward access questions and raise any issues with the team. They will work with areas across the University – including student administration, the Advice Place, a free, professional and confidential advice service open to all our students. The Advice Place can advise on a range of issues such as academic or accommodation concerns, and safety and wellbeing. We also have Peer Learning and Support programmes in all our Schools. Student leaders, trained by the service open to all our students. The Advice Place can advise on a range of issues such as academic or accommodation concerns, and safety and wellbeing. We also have Peer Learning and Support programmes in all our Schools. Student leaders, trained by the

Whatever your ambition, we are here for you
There's far more information online. Visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate

Alternatively, skip straight to our degree finder and choose your perfect programme:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees

Contact us

Our prospective students’ 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

Chat online

Wherever you are in the world, UniBuddy gives you the chance to chat to a current student about their experiences. You will find a list of current students available to chat:

edin.ac/student-chat

Our visits to you

If you are unable to visit the University, we attend events worldwide whenever possible during the year. Find out about your next opportunity to speak to us in person:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/visiting

Our overseas representatives

We also work with education agencies around the world, who provide application support and guidance. For a list of our approved representatives:

edin.ac/international-agents

Get social

Visit our social media pages for the latest news:

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Where we are

Detailed maps can be found at:

www.ed.ac.uk/maps
Take part in an Open Day (on 17 June, 5 October, or 26 October 2024), campus visit, or online information session:

www.ed.ac.uk/undergraduate/visiting

virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/ug