



international
student guide

This guide is designed as a supplement to the information contained in our undergraduate and postgraduate prospectuses. If you require a copy of either prospectus, have further questions or would like more information, please contact:

International Student Recruitment,
SAC Edinburgh, West Mains Road,
Edinburgh EH9 3JG, UK.

Internationalstudent@sac.ac.uk
www.sac.ac.uk/learning



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SAC... a unique institution

SAC is a Higher Education Institution offering university-level education. We have three campuses, in Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh, and offer courses in a range of subjects relevant to our land-based, rural and environmental expertise.

We're a small and friendly place where you won't be a lost face in a crowd. Class sizes are generally smaller than at larger universities, and you'll have excellent access to lecturing and support staff.

In addition to offering undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and other courses, and training opportunities, SAC also runs an international advisory and consultancy service, and has a large specialist research division.

SAC staff are recognised authorities in their field and as a student at SAC you have relevant access to this up-to-the-minute knowledge and expertise. SAC offers a unique blend of academic and commercial environments which creates exceptional opportunities for innovative, vocational higher education. We believe no other higher education institution can offer this exciting blend of expertise and experience.

SAC has over one hundred years' experience in providing land-based and rural education. We pride ourselves on providing a friendly and supportive learning environment; all our students are part of the SAC community, which works with them in creating their own success in the future.

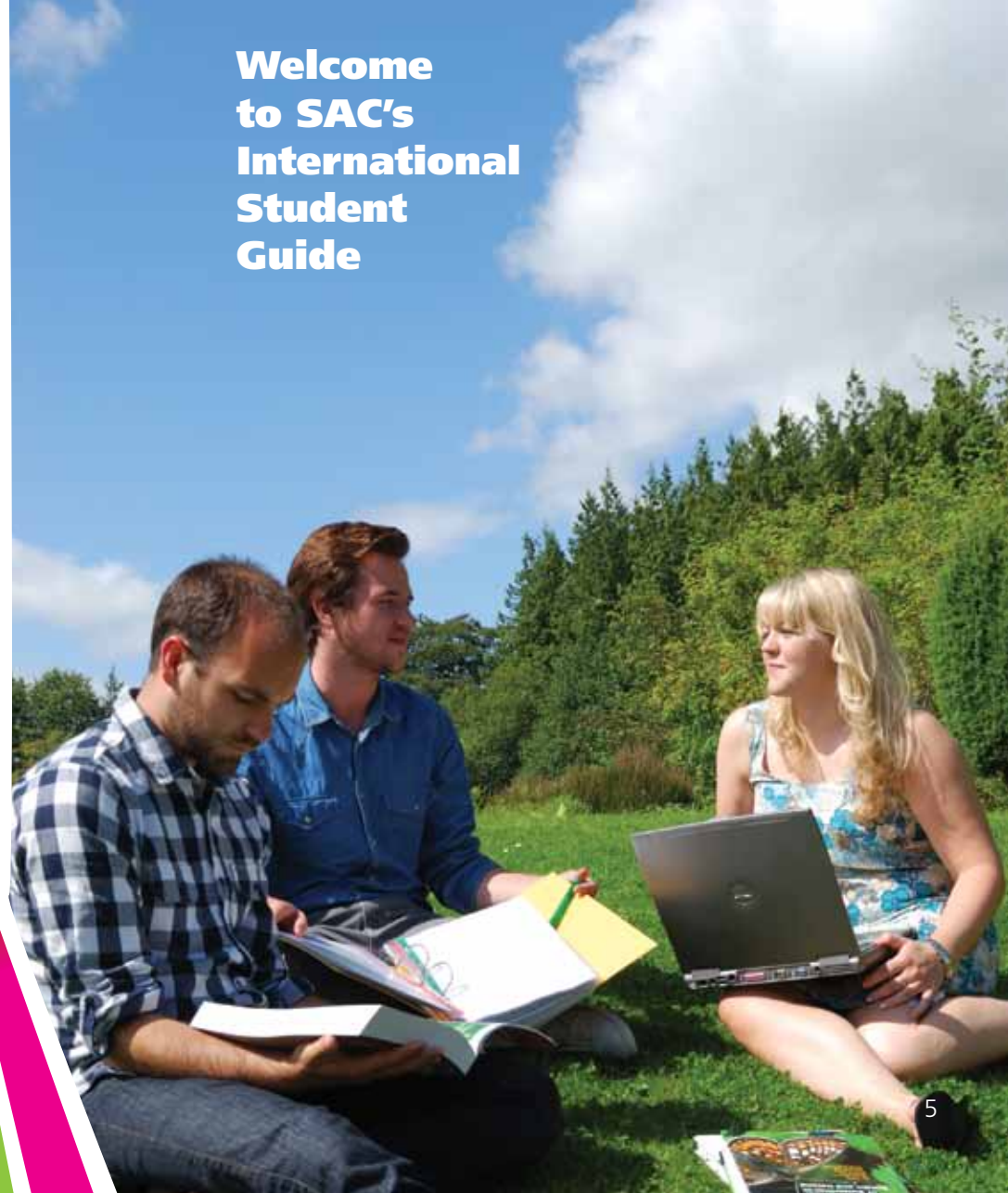


At SAC, we believe education is not just about what you learn in the classroom. Being a student is about acquiring new knowledge and experiences not only in your chosen academic subject but also in life itself. We have a long tradition of welcoming international students who have benefited from SAC's expertise and reputation as the leading higher education institution in Scotland for land-based education. In turn, SAC has learnt from our international students through their sharing of experience and knowledge.

We hope that what SAC offers in terms of its expertise, facilities, locations, and links with industry which lead to real jobs for our students, will provide you with an experience you will value throughout your future.



Welcome to SAC's International Student Guide



Scotland

Scotland is a country rich in heritage and culture. Famous for its friendly people and astonishing scenery, Scotland is home to just over 5 million people. In addition, over 1.5 million overseas tourists visit Scotland each year, and over 40,000 students from outside the UK choose to come and study here, giving Scotland a vibrant, cosmopolitan flavour. With mountains, castles, distilleries, lochs, beaches, highlands, islands, and coastline, Scotland really is a place of amazing history and dramatic beauty.



Scotland is one of the four nations (along with England, Wales and Northern Ireland) which make up the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Though part of the UK, Scotland has retained its own identity and culture. For example, it operates a slightly different school system than elsewhere in the UK and since 1999 has had its own parliament which has the power to legislate on most issues affecting Scotland. Scotland remains, however, very much a vital part of the UK and a Scottish education is also a British education.



Why Study in Scotland?

Scotland's tradition of excellence in education is world renowned. Of the six oldest Universities in the UK, four are located in Scotland: St. Andrews University was founded in 1413, The University of Glasgow in 1450, The University of Aberdeen in 1494 and The University of Edinburgh in 1583. SAC's degrees are awarded by two of these ancient Universities: Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Scottish education enjoys a reputation for unsurpassed quality throughout the world. When France and the USA set up their own education systems it was the Scottish model they followed. In addition to its excellent educational pedigree, the Scottish people are famous throughout the world for their hospitality and friendliness to strangers.

Scotland has been welcoming international students to its shores for centuries – quite simply, we believe there is no better place to study!



Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Ayr: a choice of locations



SAC has three teaching campuses – in Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital city in the South-East of the country, in Aberdeen in the North-East, and in Ayr in the West of Scotland.

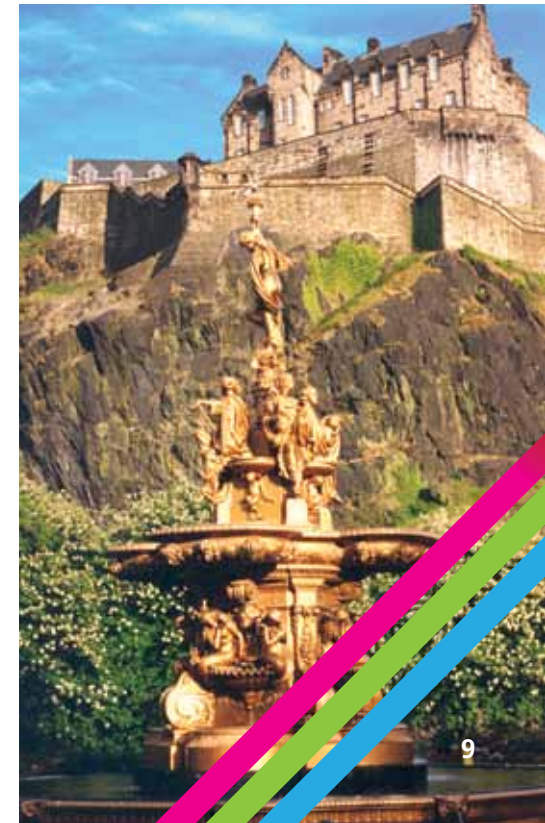
Not all courses run at all campuses – please visit our website for specific information about your course of interest.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh has a population of half a million people, and over 10% of those are students. With this large student population, it’s no surprise that Edinburgh provides a colourful array of entertainment and culture, to suit all tastes. Edinburgh boasts all the attractions expected of a capital city, while being friendly, safe and easy to navigate. It’s a welcoming city that enjoys an unrivalled quality of life. In addition to a large variety of galleries, museums, concert halls, nightclubs, cinemas, cafes and restaurants, and live music venues, each summer Edinburgh hosts the largest Arts Festival in the world – The Edinburgh International Festival and accompanying Festival Fringe, where live entertainment spills out onto the city streets. Edinburgh also boasts international standard sporting facilities and a number of public golf courses.

Edinburgh’s historic centre is registered as a world heritage site and really is one of the world’s finest capital

cities, packed with tourist attractions and also now one of Europe’s major financial centres. Edinburgh is perfect for student life: vibrant and full of activity, yet compact enough to get around easily. SAC’s Edinburgh campus is centrally located and shares many facilities with the University of Edinburgh.



Aberdeen

Located in the northeast of Scotland, Aberdeen and its surrounding area has some of Scotland's most breathtaking scenery. Many of the highest mountains in the UK are a short drive away in the Highlands, there are long beaches, picturesque coastline, country parks, and golf courses to enjoy, and over half of Scotland's Whisky distilleries are in this region. With its sparkling granite buildings, Aberdeen is Scotland's third largest city (with a population of around 200,000), and offers an excellent quality of life: shopping, restaurants and cinemas, golf courses and parkland, castles, country houses and museums. With two universities, and several colleges of further and higher education, there is a large and vibrant student population in Aberdeen, making it a cosmopolitan and friendly place to live.

SAC's Aberdeen campus is located on the Craibstone Estate, a few miles to the west of the city centre. The rural campus and the surrounding area provide superb resources for studying Agricultural and Environmental subjects.



Ayr

Located on the west of Scotland, the Ayrshire coast is beautiful and striking, offering a wide variety of scenery, attractions, and world-famous golf courses. The seaside town of Ayr is a busy and historic centre, offering good social and recreational facilities and attracting many visitors throughout the year. Golf, countryside activities, sailing, cinema, theatre and live music are all available nearby, and there are a variety of pubs and clubs in Ayr. Ayr offers a semi-rural location whilst being only a short distance from Glasgow, Scotland's largest and most diverse city. Glasgow has a population of around 700,000 people and offers a broad selection of cultural

and entertainment facilities: more than twenty museums and galleries (including the world famous Burrell Collection), and a large number of cinemas and theatres, nightlife, and live music venues. Glasgow is also the home to the National Opera and Ballet, and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and will host the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

SAC's Ayr campus is located on the riverside in a parkland setting close to the centre of Ayr. The campus was opened in 2011, and SAC shares the beautiful riverside location and extensive facilities with the University of the West of Scotland.



Studying Overseas

You will have your own reasons for wanting to study abroad, but here are some more advantages which you may not have thought of!

Academic Development:

Academically, studying overseas will give you a different perspective on your field of study, as well as introducing you to different learning and teaching styles. You will be tested and challenged by new ideas and concepts, discover new opportunities, and gain valuable skills and knowledge.

Social Reward:

Socially, during your time spent abroad, you will learn more about yourself and your capabilities. You'll explore and gain understanding of a new culture, whilst also gaining insights into your own. You'll also meet local students as well as other international students from around the world and will forge friendships as well as opportunities for future travel.

Professional Advantage:

An overseas qualification undoubtedly gives you an edge in the job market, in whichever country you are applying for work. Employers realise that having studied abroad will have made you more confident and independent, more sensitive to and knowledgeable of cross-cultural issues, and more able to communicate with a wide variety of people. If English is not your first language, your improved English language skills will also be valuable to you. A period spent abroad will give you a global outlook and a level of international understanding highly regarded by employers.



SAC is Scotland's specialist national Higher Education Institution for courses that relate to the rural and land-based sectors

We offer postgraduate and research degrees, undergraduate degree courses, as well as Higher National (HND & HNC) courses.

Please take a look at our website for the most up-to-date information: www.sac.ac.uk/learning

The following pages offer an introduction to the types of courses we offer.

More detail about a specific programme can be found in our undergraduate and postgraduate prospectuses, which can be requested or downloaded from our website.

Subjects for you

Agriculture

Undergraduate Courses:

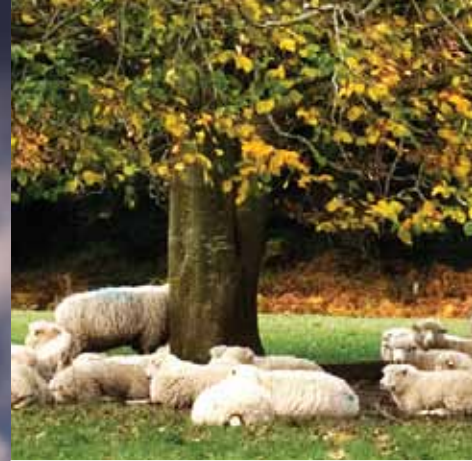
SAC is the first choice for agriculture-related higher education in Scotland. We offer degree and Higher National courses in Agriculture as well as in related subjects such as Rural Business Management.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/agriculturalcourses

Postgraduate Study:

SAC offers taught postgraduate courses relating to organic farming, food security and agronomy. We conduct specialist research, offering opportunities for PhD study, in the areas of agricultural and sustainable livestock systems.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Animal Science

Undergraduate Courses:

SAC offers a specialist degree course in Applied Animal Science, as well as related courses in the areas of biological sciences and livestock such as Poultry.

For details visit:

www.sac.ac.uk/appliedanimalscience

www.sac.ac.uk/poultry

Postgraduate Study:

As well as taught postgraduate courses in animal behaviour and welfare and poultry science, SAC offers specialist research, including opportunities for PhD study, in the areas of sustainable livestock systems, animal behaviour and welfare, animal breeding and genetics, animal reproduction and development, avian science and animal health.

For details visit:

www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Applied Science and Technology

Undergraduate Courses:

SAC offers a range of undergraduate courses in the areas of biological science such as applied bioscience, and the application of technology for a sustainable future, such as green technology and sustainable building technology.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/sciencecourses

Postgraduate Study:

SAC offers expertise, including the provision of taught courses and research opportunities, in the areas of renewable energy, agronomy, and crop and soil systems research including disease and pest control.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Business

Undergraduate Courses:

SAC offers degree and Higher National courses in Rural Business Management; an innovative business course incorporating specialist rural related modules alongside a core of entrepreneurship, marketing, economics, finance, IT and human resource management.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/businesscourses

Postgraduate Study:

SAC offers expertise, including the provision of taught courses and research opportunities, in the areas of rural business management, rural development, food security, food marketing, rural strategy, economics, farm business support, supply chain development, rural policy analysis, and work on the analysis and development of rural economies and rural communities.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Environment

Undergraduate Courses:

SAC offers a range of undergraduate degree and Higher National courses relating to the environment, sustainability, environmental and resource management, environmental protection, the countryside, green science, and conservation issues.

For details visit:

www.sac.ac.uk/environmentalcourses

Postgraduate Study:

SAC offers taught postgraduate courses relating to countryside management, ecological economics, and environmental protection and management. We conduct specialist research, offering opportunities for PhD study, in the areas of resource economics, biodiversity, rural policy analysis, and renewable energy.

For details visit:

www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Horticulture

Undergraduate Courses:

SAC offers degree and Higher National courses in the areas of horticulture, plantsmanship, and garden design. Our Horticulture with Plantsmanship courses are taught jointly by SAC and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/horticulturalcourses

Postgraduate Study:

SAC offers expertise, including the provision of taught courses and research opportunities, in the areas of agronomy and soil science.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Sport and Tourism

Undergraduate Courses:

SAC offers degree and Higher National courses in the areas of sports coaching and development, sports management, outdoor pursuits, and activity tourism. These courses combine academic study with real-life practical skills and experience, and the opportunity to gain industry recognised awards and qualifications.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/activecourses

Postgraduate Study:

SAC offers expertise, including the provision of taught courses and research opportunities, in the areas of rural policy analysis, diversification (such as use of farmland for tourism or outdoor pursuits), and work on the analysis and development of rural economies and rural communities.

For details visit:
www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/postgrad



Quality Education

SAC are proud of the quality of our programmes which ensure that all our students have the best educational experience possible.

Ensuring Excellence

Scotland was one of the first countries in Europe to establish a quality assurance system for its educational institutions. From student support, to the quality of the teaching staff, and the content and assessment of the academic courses, SAC along with all other teaching establishments in the UK, is subject to rigorous scrutiny. The Further and Higher Education Charter for Scotland sets out the standards expected of Higher Education Institutions and these are encompassed within SAC's education quality system, the College Commitment to Service, and its Student Charter.

Student Representation

At SAC, all students have the opportunity to make a difference. Our students' opinions matter to us, and we consult with them regularly throughout their time at SAC. Student

representatives have direct and formal means of communication not only with lecturing staff and programme leaders, but also with SAC's senior managers and Board of Directors. In addition, SAC's Student President works with the student body at each campus to ensure the student voice is heard.



Student Support

SAC aims to provide the best possible support to its students. From the moment students commence their studies at SAC we offer an induction programme that helps to foster close staff-student relations and provide students with the necessary skills and information to succeed in their chosen programme of studies.

SAC has an enviable staff:student ratio which ensures that teaching staff get to know you and can support you through any problems you may have.

As well as the academic and pastoral relationship between students and all staff, there are a number of specific staff at each SAC campus who have a formal responsibility for student welfare: Each campus has a Senior Tutor who is responsible for ensuring relevant information and advice is available to all students across a range of topics including finance, health, and welfare. Each course has a Programme Leader who ensures a smooth and high quality educational experience and will deal with any course-specific issues. In addition, the Advisers of Studies have a specific responsibility

for a single year group, formally monitoring students' progress and providing general support.

Both undergraduate and postgraduate students will find they are able to draw on support from a number of different staff members.



How to Apply

Undergraduate Courses

It is possible to study any of SAC's undergraduate courses full-time or part-time, though international students should be aware that part-time study may not meet visa requirements for entry into the UK.

If you are intending to study full-time you should apply for your course through UCAS. UCAS is the University and Colleges Admissions Service – take a look at their website: www.ucas.ac.uk. The UCAS website offers a great deal of information and advice about how to apply through their on-line 'Apply' system.

Applicants should ideally apply for their course before the first UCAS deadline – usually the 15th January prior to the course start date.

Those wishing to study part-time should contact SAC for more information.

Further information is given in our Undergraduate Prospectus and on our website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning

Postgraduate Courses

Application procedures for SAC's taught postgraduate courses vary depending on the course. Further information is given in our Postgraduate Prospectus and on our website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning

Research Applications

Applications for research degrees within SAC are made by CV and covering letter. Ideally, applicants should provide a one-page description of the topic they wish to pursue. Further information is available on our website: www.sac.ac.uk/research/postgraduate/apply



European Students

SAC welcomes students from a number of EU/EEA countries each year. We accept a range of qualifications (including most High School leaving certificates, and the International Baccalaureate) as appropriate for entry to our undergraduate courses. Further information can be found on our website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/international

If you would like any advice or information prior to submitting an application, please email us at internationalstudent@sac.ac.uk.

International Students

International applicants should try to put as much information as possible onto their UCAS application form. If you have problems entering any information on the form, please send any supplementary information by email to internationalstudent@sac.ac.uk.

If you are not an EU or EEA national, entry to the UK for study purposes requires you to obtain a visa. Further information can be sourced from your local British Council office or from the following website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

English Language Requirement

As all teaching, learning materials, and assessment is in English, competency in written, spoken and the understanding of English must be demonstrated. SAC prefers the Academic IELTS exam as proof of English language level, but we will accept a range of equivalent qualifications.

Typically, SAC requires achievement of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent for entry to any programme.

Tuition Fees

The most up-to-date tuition fee information is available on SAC's website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/tuitionfees



Living and Studying in Scotland

Independent studies confirm that Scotland offers an excellent quality of life. There is a huge variety of things to do in your spare time: clubs and societies, cinema and theatre, bars and restaurants, live music and concerts, walks and tours, castles and gardens, history and heritage, sports and activities, museum and galleries, ceilidhs and cafes... the list goes on. Whatever you like doing with your spare time, you're sure to find something enjoyable to do! If you want to know more about life in Scotland, a good place to start is the Scottish Tourist Board's website: www.visitscotland.com

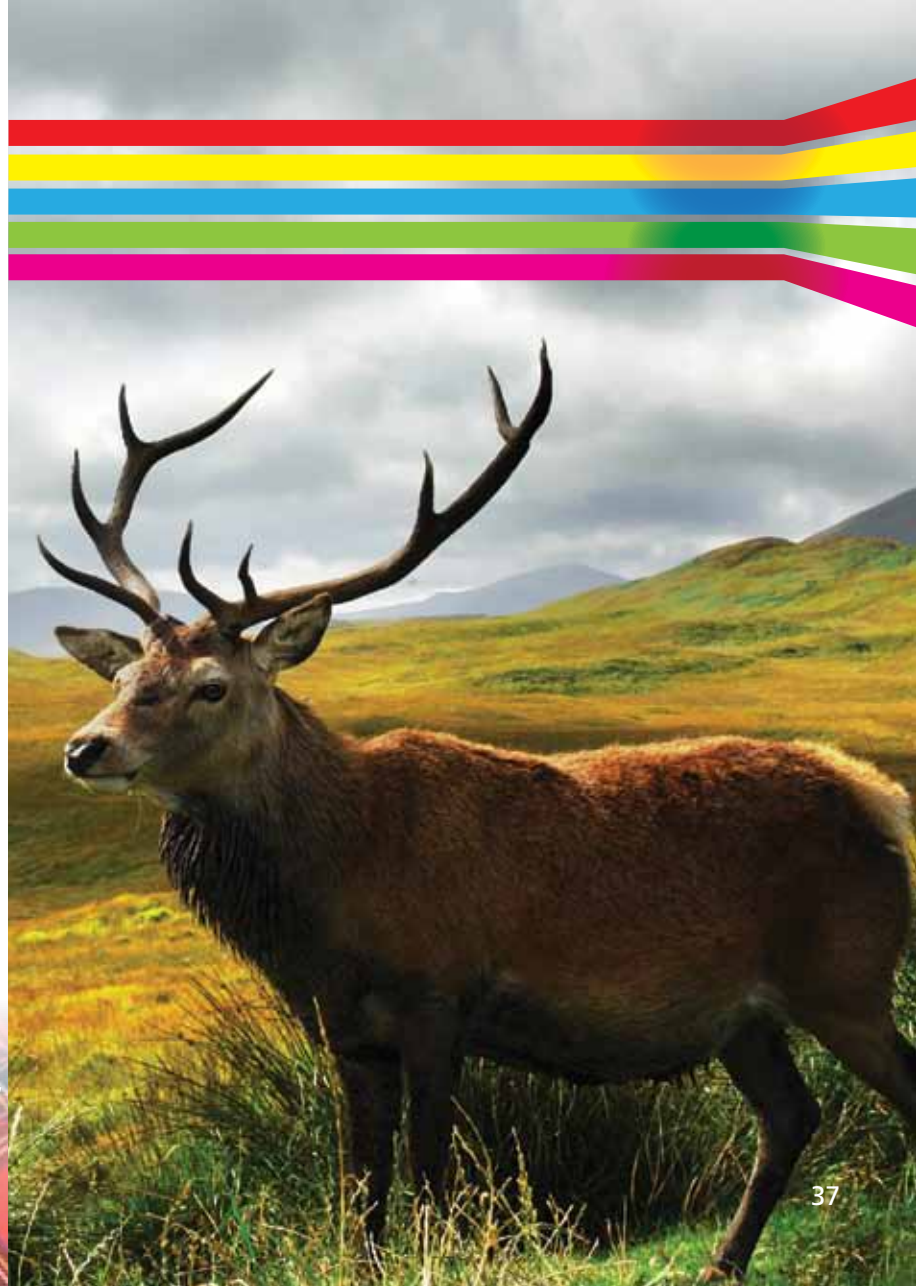
Weather

People in the UK talk about the weather quite a lot! Average temperatures in Scotland are similar to those in the rest of the UK, though

Scotland does not get as hot as the south of England. Maximum temperatures in the summer months are usually around 25 degrees, and in the winter months the average temperature falls between 0 and 10 degrees, sometimes colder in January and February. The main aspect of Scottish weather is that it is changeable. You should expect a mixture of sunny days, rainy days, windy days, and calm days at any time of year – and sometimes these all seem to happen at once!

Money

When you arrive in Scotland it will be a good idea to open a basic bank account. You should ask for advice from your own bank in your own country about transferring money into the UK. To open a bank account you will normally need your passport, a letter from SAC confirming your enrolment on your course, and proof of your address in Scotland. Standard brands of credit card, such as Visa, Mastercard, and Maestro are widely accepted in the UK.



Travel and Maps

SAC Edinburgh

Edinburgh International Airport is only 7 miles (11km) to the west of the city centre and offers direct flights to cities throughout Europe and the rest of the world as well as frequent connecting flights from London and other cities in the UK. In addition, Glasgow International Airport offers a similar range of connections and is only 55 miles (88km) from Edinburgh.

As well as convenient air travel, Edinburgh's central train and bus stations offer frequent connecting services to the rest of Scotland and mainland UK.

SAC Edinburgh, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JG, UK.



SAC Aberdeen

SAC Aberdeen is located about 7 miles (11km) to the north-west of the city centre, close to Aberdeen International Airport. The city of Aberdeen is well-connected with regular international flights as well as frequent scheduled flights to cities throughout the UK.

In addition to convenient air travel, SAC Aberdeen is served by the local Dyce train station, as well as the central station in Aberdeen. Aberdeen offers rail and bus connections to the rest of Scotland and the UK.

SAC Aberdeen, Craibstone Estate, Aberdeen AB21 9YA, UK.



SAC Ayr

SAC's Ayr Campus is served by Glasgow Prestwick International Airport which is only 4 miles (6km) from the campus. Prestwick Airport offers direct flights to cities throughout the UK and Europe. In addition, Glasgow International Airport is centrally located only 30 miles (48km) from Ayr and offers a huge number of flights to destinations in the UK and around the world.

In addition to convenient air travel, Ayr's central train and bus stations offer connections to the rest of Scotland and mainland UK, and are only a short walk from the campus.

SAC Ayr, Riverside Campus, University Avenue, Ayr KA8 0SX, UK.



Useful Web Links

www.sac.ac.uk/learning
www.educationuk.org
www.ukcisa.org.uk/student
www.ucas.ac.uk
www.visitscotland.com
www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk
www.studentcalculator.org.uk/international/

Contact Us:

The easiest way to contact us is via email – we can ensure that your question is directed to the best person.

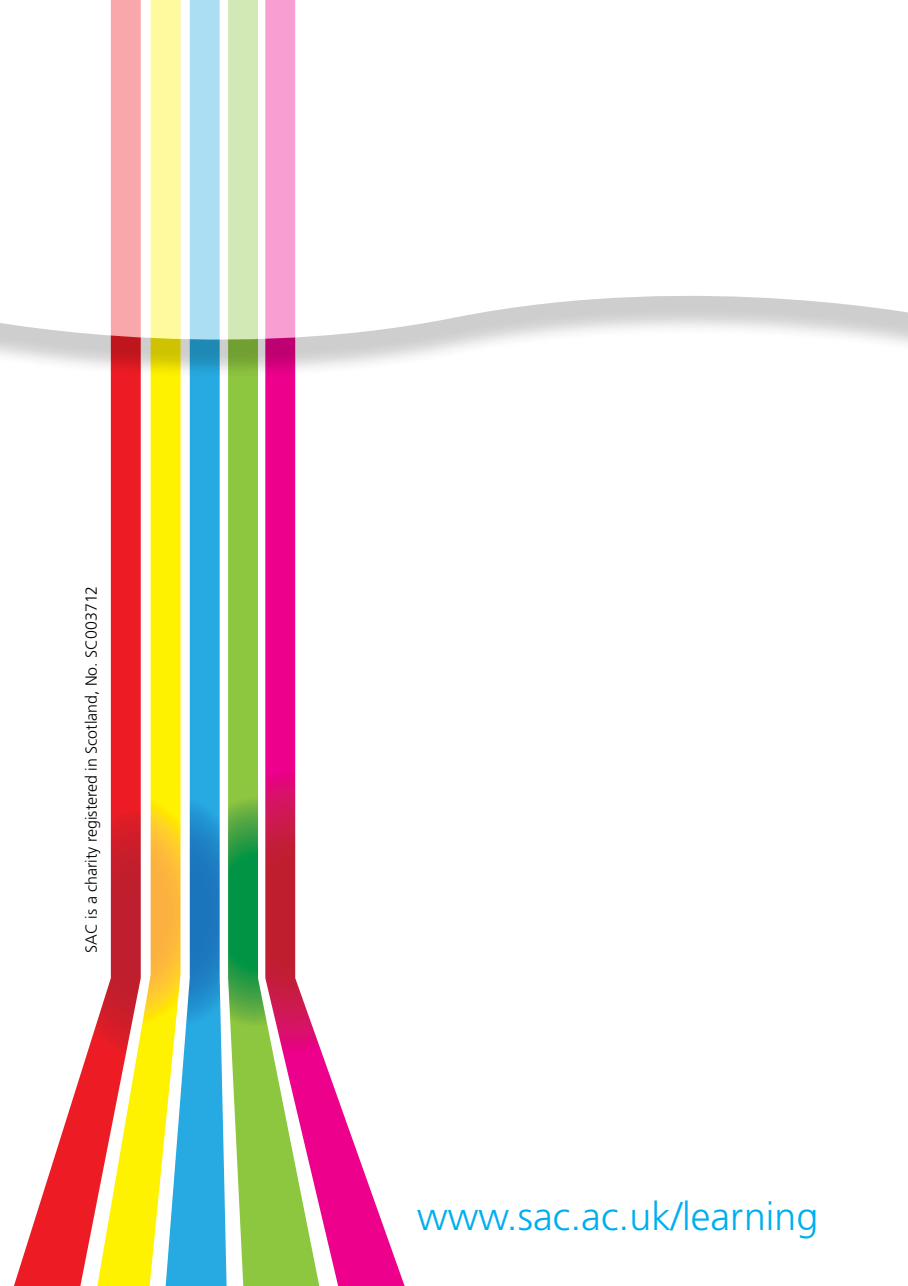
Email internationalstudent@sac.ac.uk with any questions!

www.sac.ac.uk/learning

Important information

The information contained within this booklet is correct at time of writing in October 2011. SAC reserves the right to make variations where necessary and the most up-to-date information can be found on our website.

The majority of photographs have been provided by SAC and the RBGE.



SAC is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC003712

www.sac.ac.uk/learning