



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

International Undergraduate Guide 2013

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international



Welcome



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International Undergraduate Guide

Contents

Key Facts.....	03	Flexibility & Choice.....	12
The City of Edinburgh	03	Admission Requirements.....	13
The University of Edinburgh.....	05	Fees, Funding & Immigration.....	15
An International University.....	07	Contacts.....	17
Student Life	09	Visit Us.....	Back cover
Degree Programmes	10		



Welcome

We are delighted that you are considering undergraduate study with us. There are many reasons why you might choose to attend the University of Edinburgh: the quality of our academics, our stunning location and our international campus combine to make our offering truly special.

The University of Edinburgh is one the UK's oldest and most prestigious universities. Over the last four centuries, we have built an enviable reputation for excellence in both research and teaching, attracting some of the world's leading thinkers to work and study here.

The University is located at the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital and one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. We have been welcoming international students to Edinburgh for many years.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with useful information so that you can decide if the University of Edinburgh is the right choice for you. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with the International Office directly; we will be happy to help.

[International Office](#)

Choose Edinburgh



“Not only is Edinburgh one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, it also enjoys one of Europe’s most beautiful settings. There are unexpected vistas from almost every street corner - a glimpse of green sunlit hills, a blue flash of sea, silhouetted spires and rust red crags. The view as you walk out of Edinburgh’s Waverley Station is probably the finest first impression of any city in the world, and almost all of the city’s top sights are within 20 minutes’ walk of where you are standing.”

Lonely Planet Guide

Key Facts

- An ancient university, founded in 1583
- Located in the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city
- 5th in the UK (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2011-12)
- Consistently ranked as one of the top 50 Universities in the world
- 1st in Scotland and 5th in the UK for research (UK Government's Research Assessment Exercise 2008)
- We are ranked 15th in the world for the employability of our graduates (QS World University Rankings 2011/12)
- Over 30,000 students, with more than 20,000 undergraduate students
- Over 11,000 international students from more than 130 countries
- 274 student societies and 63 sports clubs, Edinburgh is the top ranked sporting university in Scotland
- Famous alumni include Charles Darwin (Naturalist), David Hume (Philosopher), Joseph Lister (Surgeon), Piers Sellers (NASA Astronaut), and writers Robert Louis Stevenson, Ian Rankin and J K Rowling.

The City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultured city, which offers a unique living and learning experience. One of the most vibrant cities in Europe, the City of Edinburgh is regularly voted as one of the most desirable places to live in the world and has been rated the "friendliest city in the UK". Edinburgh regularly receives very high satisfaction ratings for safety and security in the International Student Barometer survey. This cosmopolitan, safe and welcoming atmosphere encourages international students to feel at home quickly.

Location

The University is located at the very heart of Scotland's capital city, ensuring that the urban campus is an integral part of everything that is going on. Described as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe by independent guides, Edinburgh is the second most popular tourist destination in the UK after London. Edinburgh is famed for its ancient castle, medieval centre and elegant architecture, which have led it to be known as the 'Athens of the North'. The wealth of historical buildings

in the city centre has led the United Nations to list the city's Old and New Towns as a 'World Heritage Site'.

Culture

Edinburgh is rich in social, cultural, learning and sports facilities. Scotland's capital is home to the Scottish Government and many of the country's national institutions and collections such as museums, art galleries and theatres. The City of Edinburgh hosts 12 annual festivals each year including the world's largest arts festival in August and one of the world's largest winter festivals. Edinburgh is also the 'Brainiest City in Europe' and has more graduates per head of population than any other European city. In 2004 Edinburgh was named the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, in recognition of the city's rich literary heritage. Professor Alexander McCall Smith, best-selling author of the 'No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' novels is Emeritus Professor in the School of Law. A stone's throw from campus and popular haunt of the University's students, the Elephant House café is the place where J K Rowling worked on her 'Harry Potter' novels.



The University of Edinburgh

Founded in 1583 and one of the UK's six 'ancient' universities, the University of Edinburgh is a top ranking international centre of excellence in research and teaching, and attracts the best students from around the world. With superb resources and facilities for students across a wide range of academic disciplines, the University is committed to providing an outstanding educational experience whilst supporting sustainable trade and the environment.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the largest universities in the UK with over 30,000 students and comprises three Colleges which are composed of twenty two Schools.

Reputation and student body

The University of Edinburgh is consistently ranked amongst the very best universities in the UK in national league tables, which represents the high standards in teaching, research, facilities and the great graduate prospects. With almost 41,000 applications for 4,600 undergraduate places in September 2011, it is a very popular and competitive study destination.

The University of Edinburgh has one of the most diverse international student populations of any Scottish university with over 130 different nationalities contributing to our cosmopolitan and multi-cultural learning environment.

There are over 20,000 students pursuing undergraduate degrees at the University of Edinburgh and 36% come from outside of the UK. A significant proportion of our students are trans-national (i.e. they have studied in international schools; lived in a variety of countries; or have parents with different nationalities); but feel at home with us because of the diversity on campus.

Undergraduate students

UK	14,472
EU (non-UK)	2,168
Outwith EU	3,664
Total	20,304

Postgraduate Students

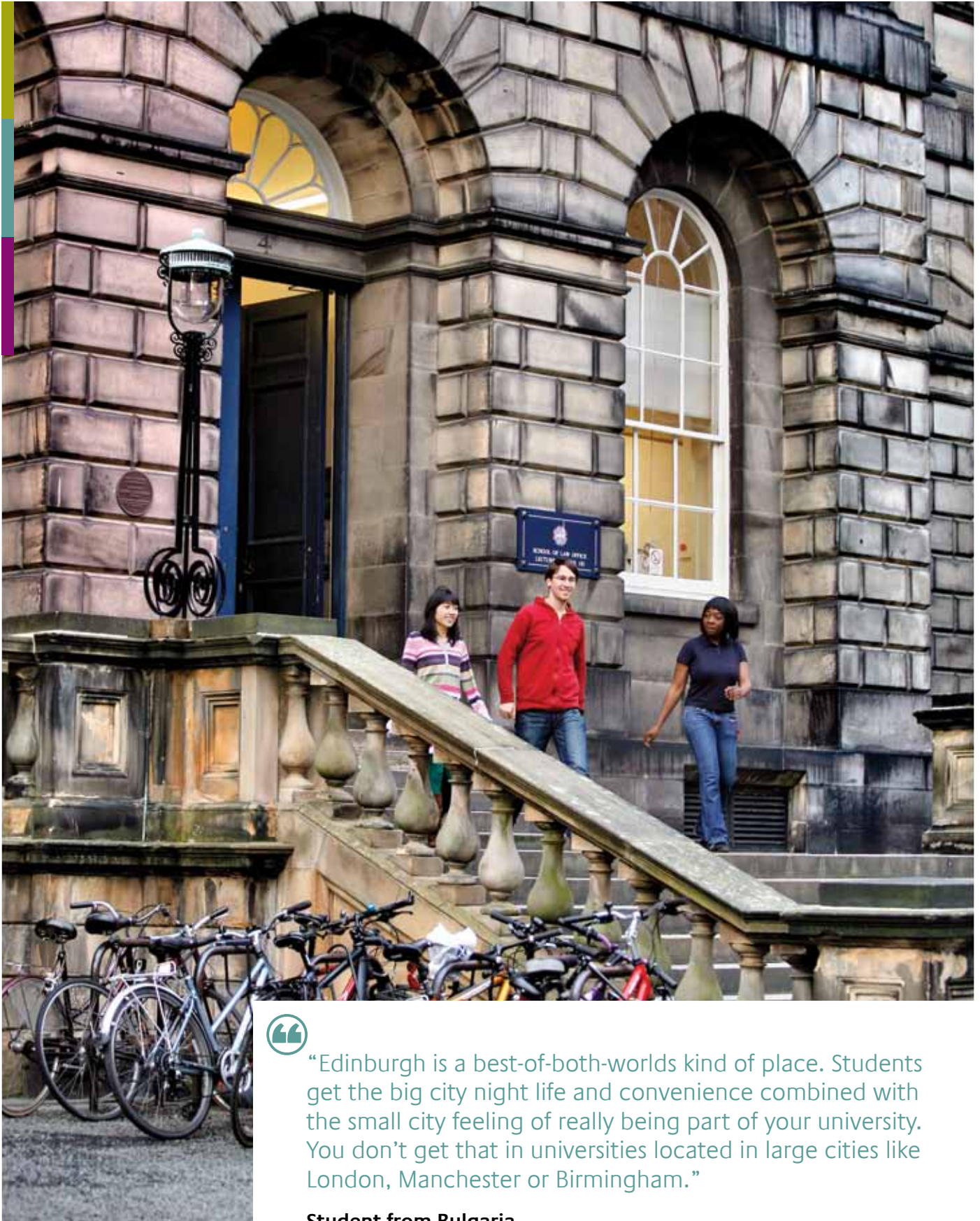
UK	4,829
EU (non-UK)	1,611
Outwith EU	3,621
Total	10,061

Famous alumni

Including the philosopher David Hume, Charles Darwin, John Witherspoon, Robert Louis Stevenson and, more recently, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former MI5 director Stella Rimington, Olympic cyclist Chris Hoy and the writers Ian Rankin, Alexander McCall Smith and J K Rowling.

Nobel Prize winners

We are associated with fifteen Nobel Prize winners, including: Professor Charles Barkla (Physics, 1917), Max Born (Physics, 1954), Peter Doherty (Medicine, 1996), James Mirrlees (Economics, 1996). In 2004, University Honorary Professor Sir Michael Atiyah won the prestigious Abel Prize, Maths' equivalent of the Nobel Prize.



“Edinburgh is a best-of-both-worlds kind of place. Students get the big city night life and convenience combined with the small city feeling of really being part of your university. You don’t get that in universities located in large cities like London, Manchester or Birmingham.”

Student from Bulgaria

An International University

Climate

Many students have the impression that Edinburgh will be a cold and wet place to live. In fact, Edinburgh has the same annual rainfall as New York and Rome, and has a varied, temperate climate, just a degree or two cooler than London. In the winter, snow is rare in the city and the temperature rarely dips below freezing during the day. In summertime, it is generally warm, with temperatures between 18-24°C / 65-75°F.

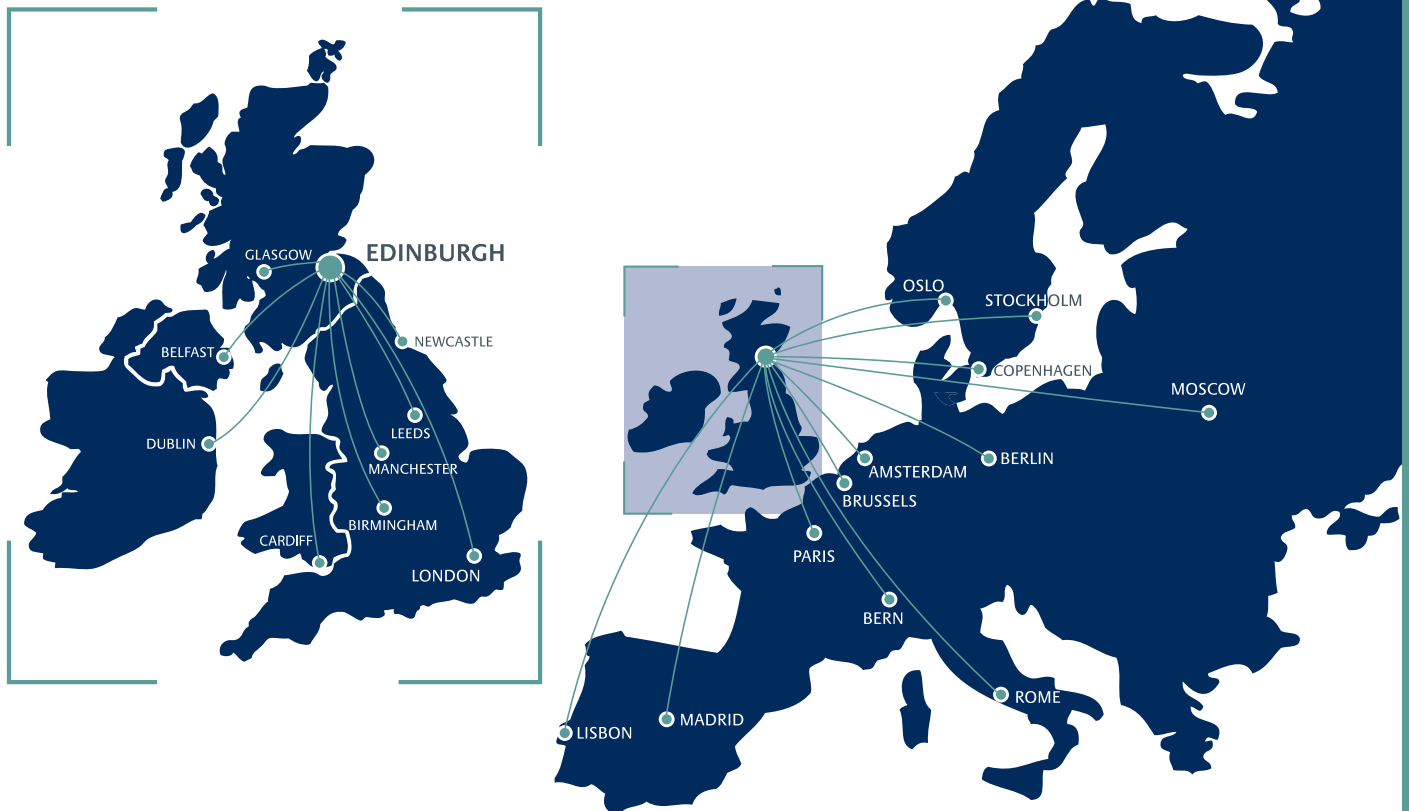
Getting around

With a population of around 500,000, Edinburgh is a compact, friendly city which is easy to travel around on foot, by bus or car. As one of the greenest cities in the UK, there is an extensive network of cycle routes.

Getting here

Edinburgh has substantive links to all major UK and European cities. Edinburgh International Airport has an extensive range of national and international services with direct flights to most major cities in Europe and to a number of major cities worldwide.

Edinburgh is in an ideal location to explore Scotland, the rest of the UK and Europe. The dramatic Highlands offer an ideal getaway from city living, and are just a couple of hours from Edinburgh by train or car. Popular destinations include Loch Ness, Loch Lomond and the Isle of Skye. The rest of the UK is also within easy reach with London just four hours away by rail or one hour by air. Many students also take the opportunity to travel around Europe during vacation periods, or even for the weekend. Cheap flights are available from Edinburgh direct to many European cities and resorts, with Paris just an hour and a half away.



Student Life



Student Life

Accommodation

www.ed.ac.uk/accommodation-services

- Guaranteed accommodation offer for all new international undergraduate students
- Over 6,500 rooms in a variety of modern and historic residences
- Options for catered or self-catered facilities in flats or halls
- All residences within walking distance of the University

Sports and fitness

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise

- Over 63 different sport clubs including everything from fencing to skydiving, horse riding to ice hockey
- Centrally located Pleasance Sports Centre with squash courts, fitness centre and various sports halls
- Full range of indoor sports facilities and a 25m swimming pool
- Outdoor facilities include playing fields, tennis courts and Outdoor Pursuits Centres on Loch Tay for sailing and mountain-biking, and in Aviemore for skiing, mountain climbing and hill walking
- Superb sport and exercise facilities are ranked among the best in the UK

Clubs and societies

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/societies

There are 274 student societies - more than any other university in the UK - covering everything from juggling to economics to volunteering, which can cater to your interests. As well as being fun, many societies can give you the kind of transferable skills useful in future careers. Prospective journalists can cut their teeth on the 'Student' newspaper, or work on the University radio station. Those interested in music and drama are spoilt for choice as there are choral societies, a University orchestra, and the largest student theatre company in the UK.

Student exchanges

www.ed.ac.uk/student-exchanges

The University of Edinburgh has one of the largest exchange programmes in the UK. There are extensive opportunities to spend time on a study or work placement as part of your degree. There are over 380 exchange partners at some of the best universities in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and Australasia. Our exchange partners include prestigious Ivy League institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania, and other world-class establishments including McGill University, CalTech, Fudan University, The National University of Singapore, Peking University, IEP Paris – Sciences Po and The Sorbonne, Paris.



“The students here are very friendly, the professors and staff are very helpful, patient, and experts in their subjects, the university facilities are really good, and I feel like I’m really immersed in an international community”

Student from the USA

Degree Programmes

Scottish undergraduate programmes: A degree of flexibility

- Degrees in Scotland are generally four years in duration. Direct entry into year two may be possible for applicants with higher grades than the normal entry requirements in some subject areas. These subject areas are Medical Sciences; Biological & Biomedical Sciences; Chemistry; Computer Science (Informatics); Earth Sciences; Ecological & Environment Sciences; Engineering; Geography; Mathematics or Physics & Astronomy, or in Art & Design for those students who have taken an art foundation course.
- Master of Arts (MA) degrees are conferred by the Ancient universities for social science subjects and are roughly equivalent to the Bachelor of Arts (BA).

- The key aspects of Scottish higher education are flexibility and choice: in years one and two (for many degrees), students explore a wide range of subjects before deciding their degree title and then specialise in this area. Students often change their degree as they progress so the big decision of “What to do at university?” can be delayed.
- Exceptions to the broad-based and flexible Scottish degree structure include Fine Art and professionally based programmes such as Business, Law, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture.

One of the things students repeatedly comment on and appreciate when they get to Edinburgh is the flexibility and choice of courses available to them. The University's size enables us to offer an unparalleled range of courses, giving students the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of niche areas or to sample a broad range of courses throughout their undergraduate degree.

Degrees of choice:

Around 500 undergraduate programmes to choose from

Accounting	Economics	Music
Arabic & Persian	Education	Nursing Studies
Archaeology	Engineering	Philosophy
Architecture & Landscape Architecture	English & Scottish Literature	Physics & Astronomy
Art & Design	English Language	Politics & International Relations
Asian Studies	Environmental & Ecological Sciences	Psychology
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	Geography	Russian Studies
Business Studies	History	Scandinavian Studies
Celtic & Scottish Studies	History of Art & Fine Art	Social Anthropology
Chemistry	Islamic Studies & Middle Eastern Studies	Social Policy
Classics	Languages, Countries & Cultures	Social Work
Cognitive Science	Law	Sociology
Computing Science (Informatics)	Linguistics	Sport Science & Sport Management
Divinity & Religious Studies	Mathematics	Sustainable Development
Earth Sciences	Medicine & Health	Veterinary Medicine
Ecological and Environmental Sciences	Modern European Languages	

View the full degree programme listings at:
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/degrees

View the full Undergraduate Prospectus at:
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/pdf-download

View detailed information sheets for each subject area at:
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/information-sheets



Flexibility & Choice

Below are three examples of the structure for undergraduate degrees at the University of Edinburgh. These show the four year degree structure - in this case with admission to the MA in Celtic, MA in Business Studies and the BSc in Artificial Intelligence.

Teaching methods

Teaching usually consists of weekly lectures and tutorials for each course, with laboratory work for science and engineering courses. The lecture sets out the subject matter for the week, providing the foundations upon which students build. Students will then study in the library, reading widely, before meeting in small group tutorials to discuss the subject matter in greater depth. Considerable emphasis is placed upon independent research, critical thinking, and logical argument. Classes are normally assessed through a combination of essays and exams and practical work for science and engineering students.

A typical degree curriculum: Celtic

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Gaelic 1A or 1B Celtic Civilisation 1A or 1B Scottish Ethnology 1 (or other joint honours or outside subject)	Gaelic 2A or 2B Celtic Civilisation 2A or 2B Scottish Ethnology 2 (or other joint honours or outside subject)	Sgrìobhadh A (Written Language Skills) Labhairt A (Oral Language Skills) Scottish Gaelic Verse in the Jacobite Period The Gaelic Novel Dissertation (Part 1) Irish Poetry 1600-2000	Sgrìobhadh B (Written Language Skills) Labhairt B (Oral Language Skills) Dissertation (Part 2) Decline and Revitalisation The Heroic Ballads of Gaelic Scotland Scottish Gaelic Verse in The Modern Era: Twentieth-Century Verse

A typical degree curriculum: Business Studies

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Accountancy 1A Accountancy 1B Business Studies 1 Economics 1A Computing for Business	Organisation Studies Marketing Business Economics Economics 2 Career Development Planning	Strategic Management Investment and Securities Markets Contemporary Marketing Literature Managing Employment Law Business Research Methods II: Applications and Analysis The Economics of Corporate Strategy Research in Management	Critical Perspectives on Global Strategic Management Corporate Finance Consumer Behaviour Advertising: Theories and Practice Management Honours Dissertation

A typical degree curriculum: Artificial Intelligence

Year of study	Curriculum			Topics
Year 1	Informatics	Mathematics	Course of your choice	Computation; logic; data; programming; cognitive psychology; learning perception; research methods.
Year 2	Informatics	Mathematics	Course of your choice	Computer systems; algorithms and data structures; problem solving, learning and planning; neuropsychology; socio-biology; statistics
Year 3	Artificial Intelligence Honours courses and projects			
Year 4	Artificial Intelligence Honours courses and projects including a major practical project on which you will write a dissertation			

Admission Requirements

Demand for places at the University of Edinburgh is high, and entry is competitive. Each year we receive at least ten applications for every place.

We encourage applications from well-qualified students, and recognise a wide range of qualifications for entry. Because of the nature of the degree structure at Edinburgh, entry requirements vary from programme to programme. You can find the minimum SQA (Scottish Highers), GCE (A-Levels) and International Baccalaureate academic entry requirements described in the undergraduate prospectus at the beginning of each subject entry.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/pdf-download

Entry requirements

GCE A Levels

Entry requirements for candidates are three A Levels at specified grades in one sitting. For many degree programmes we will expect you to have studied specific subjects at A Level, AS Level or GCSE. Most subject areas will look for breadth of study across subjects.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Award of the full Diploma is required. For many degree programmes, we will expect you to have studied specific subjects at Higher Level (HL) within the IB.

US qualifications

Students are required to hold a strong high school diploma, with evidence of a challenging curriculum and course load, plus one of the following:

- SAT score of 1800 (600 minimum in Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing) plus two SAT Subject Tests with 650 minimum or two APs at Grade 4 minimum
- ACT Composite score of 27 minimum plus two SAT Subjects Tests with 650 minimum or two APs at Grade 4 minimum
- Three APs at Grade 4 minimum
- Successful completion of one year of University in the USA

Other qualifications

For detailed advice and information on other international entry requirements, please refer to our 'Information by country' pages online at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/country

International Foundation Programme

For applicants whose national qualifications or school leaving certificate are not accepted by the University, we offer a one-year foundation programme. The format of the foundation programme depends on the degree programme that applicants are interested in studying. More information is available at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/applying/foundation

English Language requirements

If English is your second language you must provide evidence of good written and spoken English skills. We accept a range of qualifications, however, our requirements vary depending on the degree you are applying for. We may also accept the English qualification you have taken as part of your studies at high school. Details of our requirements can be found at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/english/ug-english

English Language courses

Our English Language Teaching centre (ELTC) offers English courses for international students throughout the year:

www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching

Admission process

Application to the University for our four-year undergraduate degree programmes should be made via UCAS, the central organisation that processes applications for undergraduate courses at all UK universities and colleges. Applications can be submitted from September in the year prior to intended entry to university. Detailed advice and guidance about the UCAS application process is available on our website, the British Council, and UCAS at the following locations:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applications-admissions/applying/ucas

www.britishcouncil.org

Apply now:

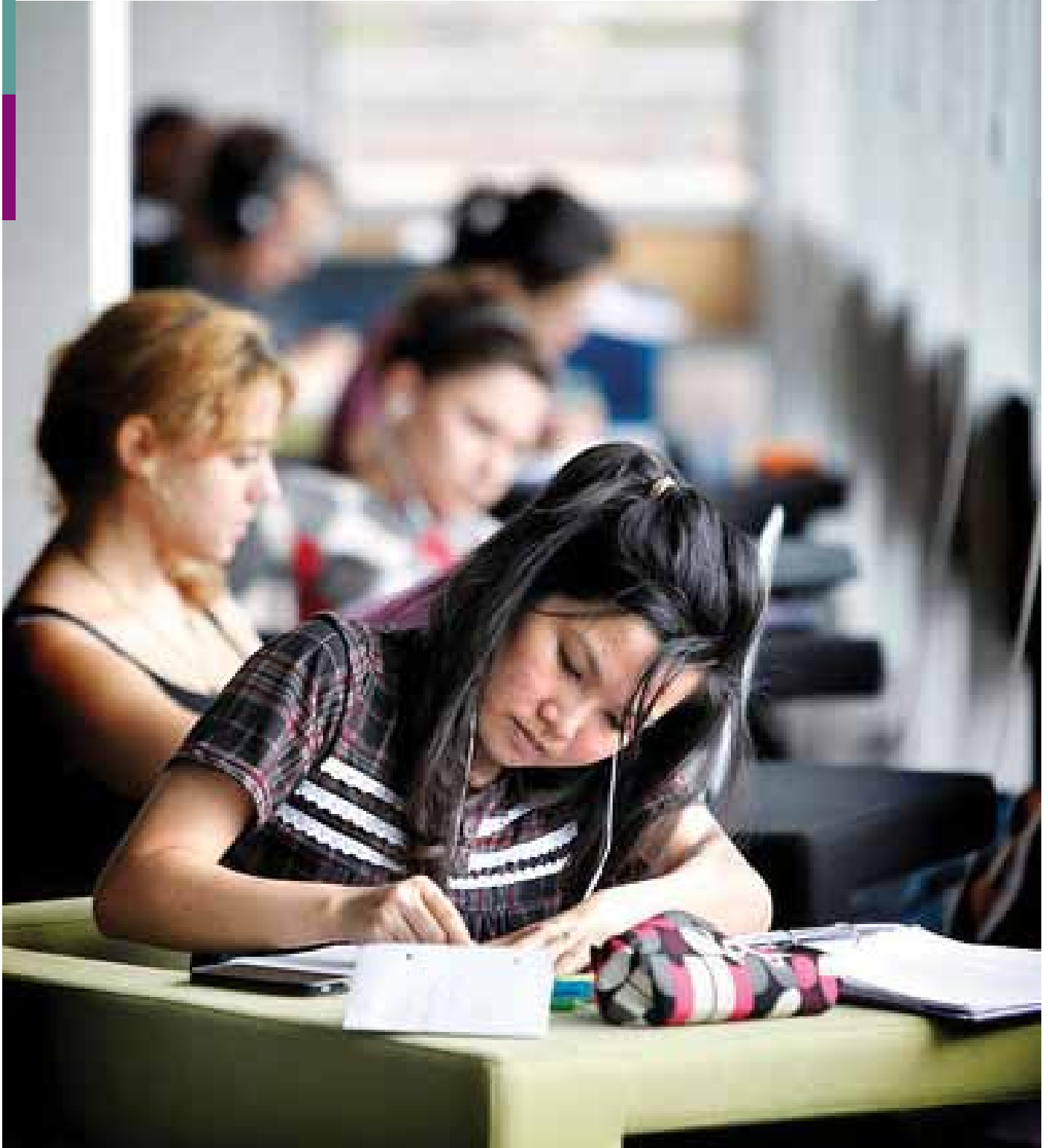
www.ucas.ac.uk/apply

Admissions statistics

Whilst formal qualifications are important, our selectors look at the entire application to assess suitability and potential of applicants. Admissions statistics are available on our website at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applications-admissions/selection

Funding Your Studies



Fees, Funding & Scholarships

Tuition fees

A guide to tuition fees for the 2012/13 academic year

Programmes	Annual fee
Most programmes	£12,650 (class based) £16,650+ (laboratory) £16,650+ (studio arts)
Medicine	£20,600 (Year 1 & 2) £34,850 (Year 3, 4 & 5)
Veterinary Medicine	£19,950 to £26,400 (varying for each year)

For up-to-date details of tuition fees by programme of study, including additional programme costs, please click on the following check the University of Edinburgh website:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fees

Fee status

You can check whether your fee status will be 'home' or 'overseas' by visiting:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fee-status

Funding & scholarships

The University offers a number of scholarships to international students, all of which are awarded on the basis of academic merit. Additional information on funding and scholarships for study at the University of Edinburgh can be found at:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/search

or from the British Council: www.britishcouncil.org

Cost of living

It is important to plan your budget in advance of arrival. You will find a personal budget calculator and information about the cost of living on the International Office website:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance

Working/Volunteering

Many students have a part-time job while in Edinburgh to get more experience, earn some spending money and meet new people. EU/EEA students and students with a full UK Tier 4 General student visa are permitted to take up employment, on or off campus, part-time (up to 20 hours per week) during the academic year and full-time during vacation periods. Similarly, it is common to undertake voluntary work and there are plenty of opportunities to do so, for more information visit the careers website:

www.ed.ac.uk/careers

Immigration

International students need to obtain a visa to study in the UK.

The only students who don't require a visa to study in the UK are:

- students holding passports from European Union (EU) / European Economic Area (EEA) countries
- students from Switzerland

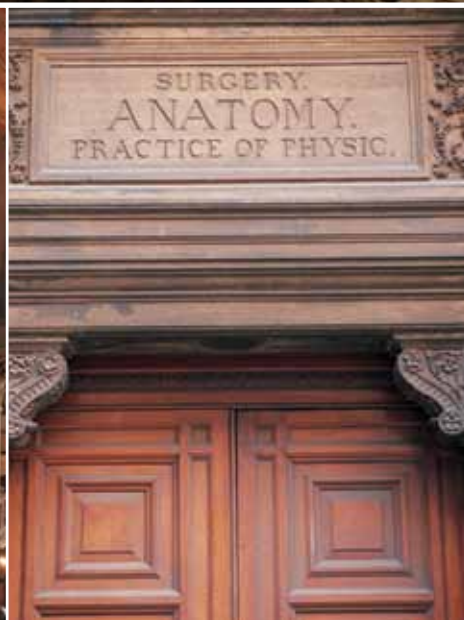
Students from all other countries should use the following guidance to identify the type of visa required (there are two options) and start the application procedure online as soon as possible:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Further advice

Specific detailed help and advice is available on our International Office website:

www.ed.ac.uk/international-office/immigration



Contacts

International Office

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international

The International Office
The University of Edinburgh
57 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9JU
Scotland, UK

Tel: +44 (0)131 650 4296

Email: **enquiries.international@ed.ac.uk**

Useful internal contacts

Accommodation Office

www.ed.ac.uk/accommodation-services

Centre for Sport and Exercise (CSE)

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise

Edinburgh University Students Association (EUSA)

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU)

www.eusu.ed.ac.uk

Tuition Fees

www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/fees

New students

Our new students website is updated throughout the year and during the summer will publish useful information for any students who are planning to start a course in Edinburgh in September. The site includes checklists to ensure you remember everything you need, and useful advice on immigration and visas, travel to Edinburgh, registration, accommodation, orientation and much more.

www.ed.ac.uk/new-students

Edinburgh by international students

In 2011 we asked international students to send us their photos of Edinburgh. You can view them here:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/publications/calendar

British Council

The University works closely with the British Council through its educational arm, Education UK. The British Council website provides a wealth of useful information, regarding the UCAS application process, study in the UK, upcoming education exhibitions, visas, and working regulations.

British Council

www.britishcouncil.org

Education UK

www.educationuk.org

Other useful external links

Visit Scotland

www.visitscotland.com

UKCISA

www.ukcisa.org.uk

UK Visas

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

UCAS

www.ucas.com


Apply to Edinburgh

www.ucas.com/students/apply

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www.twitter.com/UniofEdinburgh

Or watch us on 

www.youtube.com/user/EdinburghUniversity

Follow us on 

www.facebook.com/UniversityOfEdinburgh

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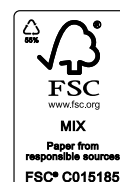
International Office, The University of Edinburgh

Printed by

Belmont Press on 9lives 55 Silk

Photography by

Paul Dodds, Yao Hui, iStockphoto.com, shutterstock.com
Main cover image: Neal Smith, www.nealesmith.com



Visit us

We welcome visitors to the campus throughout the year and offer Information Sessions to prospective international students most Mondays and Fridays. The Information Session is lead by one of our International Officers and is followed by a student-led tour of the central campus. Arrangements can also be made for those visitors who have applied or hold offers to meet with an academic member of staff within their subject area of interest.

To book a place on the Information Session please contact: enquiries.international@ed.ac.uk
+44(0)131 650 4296

International visitors are also very welcome at our open days which are normally held in June and September. You can also conduct a self-guided tour which can be downloaded at www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/visiting/self-guided

For further information about visiting, please visit www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/visiting

