



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Study Abroad Guide 2012- 2013

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/visiting-exchange



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 2010-11)

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)

Just under 28,000 students, with 18,978 undergraduate students

Over 9,000 international students from more than 130 countries

Over 260 student societies and 65 sports clubs

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.

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Study Abroad Guide

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Welcome to the University

We are delighted that you are considering studying abroad at the University of Edinburgh. Every year students from all around the world join us for a unique and special experience. The quality of our academic programmes, our stunning location and the opportunities for international travel and friendships are all cited as being influential factors in making Edinburgh a first choice destination for study abroad.

The University of Edinburgh is one of 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 in the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city and one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

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 Study Abroad Office directly: we will be happy to help.

Study Abroad Office



City of Edinburgh & Scotland



“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.”

Visiting student from Bulgaria



Choose Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a cosmopolitan capital city, with national museums, theatres and galleries to rival the best in Europe. At the same time, it is small enough to explore on foot and with an approximate population of 500,000, is not overwhelming. New students soon feel at home in the city which, in a recent national survey, was voted the “friendliest city in the UK”.

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 Georgian architecture, which have led it to be known as the Athens of the North. The entire city centre, which includes many University buildings, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Edinburgh and Culture

More than 13 million visitors are attracted to Edinburgh each year, many of them flocking to the city in the summer to attend the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the largest arts festival in the world. The Fringe is just one of 12 annual festivals, testament to Edinburgh’s reputation as a world centre for the arts and culture. 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 a popular haunt of the University’s students, the Elephant House café was the place where J K Rowling worked on her Harry Potter novels.

Edinburgh and Sports

The city has much to offer sports fans. Edinburgh is home to two Scottish Premiership football clubs and to Murrayfield (the national rugby stadium) which hosts the passionately contested matches of the Six Nations.

For US students who would like a taste of more familiar sports, there are baseball, basketball and American football teams, all of which compete in national leagues. As Scotland’s capital, Edinburgh plays host to a variety of national and international sporting events throughout the year, ensuring that the city’s sports facilities remain world-class. Edinburgh is paradise if you are into outdoor sports. For golfers, there are 6 municipal courses, and no fewer than 28 courses within the city boundaries. There are great parks and routes to the beautiful surrounding countryside and coastline for cyclists and runners. The city’s location on the Firth of Forth also affords opportunities for a whole host of water sports including sailing, canoeing and even surfing.

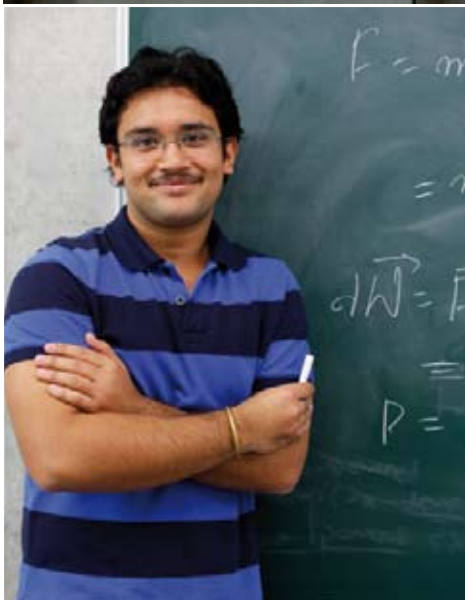
Edinburgh and Scottish Weather

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 (but eagerly anticipated in the ski resorts to the north) and the temperature rarely dips below freezing during the day. In the summertime, it is generally warm, with temperatures between 18 – 24°C / 65 – 75°F.

Escaping from Edinburgh

For a country of only 5 million people, Scotland is full of diversity. The dramatic Highlands of Scotland 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. Edinburgh is an ideal base from which to explore the other cultural capitals of Europe and the rest of the UK and Ireland. Many students take the opportunity to travel around Europe during vacation periods, or even for the weekend. There are many short, cheap and direct flights available to European cities and resorts. See page 17 for a map showing Edinburgh in relation to the European mainland.

Subjects & Programmes



Subjects

Arts

- Asian Studies
- Celtic & Scottish Studies
- Classics
- English Language
- English Literature
- European Languages & Cultures
- History
- History of Art
- Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Scandinavian Studies
- Scottish History

Divinity

- Christian Ethics & Practical Theology
- Ecclesiastical History
- Hebrew & Old Testament Studies
- New Testament Language: Literature & Theology
- Religious Studies

Languages

- Chinese
- Danish
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Japanese
- Norwegian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Russian
- TESOL

Law

- Business, Criminal, Commercial, Civil, Family and Property Law

Medical sciences

Some courses available involving the following topics:

- Chemistry for Life Sciences, Gene & Gene Action, Physiology, Neuroscience
- Pharmacology, Micro-organisms, Cells & Immunity

Music

- History of Music: Compositional, Performance, Scientific & Theoretical Studies

Science & engineering

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Cognitive Science
- Computer Science
- Ecology
- Engineering (Chemical, Civil & Environmental, Mechanical, Electronics & Electrical)
- Earth Sciences
- Geology & Geophysics
- Geography
- Informatics
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Meteorology
- Physics & Astronomy

Social sciences

- Architecture
- Business Studies
- Canadian Studies
- Economics
- International Relations
- Nursing Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Science & Society
- Social Anthropology
- Social Policy
- Sociology
- Sports Science



Programmes

The Parliamentary Programme

The Scottish Parliament was established in Edinburgh in 1999 making the city the national hub for political activity. The University of Edinburgh offers qualified undergraduates the opportunity to carry out research which is supervised by Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) in a semester-length programme. Students may take part in either of two fifteen-week sessions, the first from late August to mid-December and the second from mid-January to late-April. Please note the specific advice in the immigration section on p13. For further information on the Parliamentary Programme at the University visit this website:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/visiting-exchange/parliamentary-programme

The Summer Parliamentary Programme

The Summer Parliamentary Programme is a 9 week course comprising classes at the Institute of Governance and a research placement at the Scottish Parliament, working with an MSP. The programme runs throughout June and July each year. The programme begins with 4 weeks of intensive teaching and other activities, designed to provide participants with an initial grounding in British and Scottish politics, society

and culture. Participants then embark on a 5 week placement with an MSP, based at the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh. During the 5 week placement, 1 day each week will continue to be spent back in the classroom at the Institute of Governance, consolidating the practical experiences of participants with further teaching and activities.

www.ed.ac.uk/humanities-soc-sci/visiting-exchange/summer-parl

Business in the Arts

Business in the Arts offers students the opportunity to engage with the business side of the creative arts industry during the world-famous Edinburgh Festivals. The programme provides undergraduate students of the performing and creative arts with the opportunity to develop their Business skills at the University of Edinburgh, before putting them into practice through an internship with a company during the Festival. The programme runs through July and August, lasting for eight weeks, and is ideal for those students looking for a summer programme to take their creativity to the next level.

www.ed.ac.uk/humanities-soc-sci/visiting-exchange/business-arts



“Studying abroad in Edinburgh has been a unique experience. I’ve had a great opportunity to take courses outside my subject and have a more diverse schedule than at my home university (Caltech), plus Edinburgh is a beautiful, unique and delightful place to be.”

Exchange student from the USA

Your Studies



“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”

Visiting student from the USA

Courses & teaching

You can choose from the classes listed in the course finder (www.ed.ac.uk/studying/visiting-exchange/courses). Every effort will be made to ensure that we offer you your first choice of courses. All the courses in the course finder are also open to home students, as there are no courses (other than Academic English) that are designed exclusively for visiting students. Please be aware that honours courses for some subject areas are under high demand and have limited places. Erasmus students should note that we can only guarantee courses in the subject area of the Erasmus agreement.

Course finder

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/visiting-exchange/courses

Assessment & credits

Most courses will be assessed by a combination of essays, tests and examinations. A credit rating for each course is indicated in the course finder. If you are planning to study in Edinburgh for a full year you need to select courses that equal 120 credits. For each semester you should select courses that equal 60 credits. At the end of your period of study in Edinburgh a transcript of the courses you have taken will be sent to your home university so that the credits achieved in Edinburgh can be transferred.

Teaching methods

Most courses are taught through a combination of lectures and tutorials, with laboratory work for science

based subjects. The lectures form the main teaching frame-work and they provide a guide to the subject matter and set out the foundations on which you are expected to build. The tutorials will consist of a small group of students and will provide the opportunity to develop themes and discuss problems, usually on the basis of written work. The style of teaching at Edinburgh will probably differ from what you are used to at home. You may find that you have fewer hours of direct teaching and are expected to do more independent study. During the induction/orientation, advice and information are provided to help you adapt to our academic style.

www.ed.ac.uk/studying

Director of Studies

Your Director of Studies (or DOS as they are more commonly known), is available to provide you with advice concerning your studies. Their role is to provide you with guidance on fundamental academic matters, such as course choices, which may affect your studies. Your DOS is usually a member of academic faculty at the University, as well as an academic advisor.

Visiting Student Office

Students are also supported by their College Visiting Student Office (VSO) for all non-academic queries. The VSO will also look after course enrolment, confirmation of attendance and any other arrival/departure related issues.



“There is a reason why Edinburgh is among the top 5 UK universities. The quality of teaching is amazing. On top of that I think the university has a special atmosphere to it. Relaxed, multicultural, buzzing with things to do, challenging.”

Visiting student From Germany

Student Life

Student societies & sports facilities

The combination of a diverse student body and one of the most active students' unions in the country provides a fantastic range of extracurricular activities. The University of Edinburgh has over 260 student clubs and societies – more than any other university in the UK – giving you the opportunity to develop your interests, make friends and socialise. Edinburgh is Scotland's premier sporting University. There are 63 sports clubs including everything from fencing to skydiving, and horse riding to ice hockey. The superb fitness and indoor sports facilities based in Centre for Sport and Exercise include extensive gyms, a residential centre for outdoor activities, a swimming pool, widespread playing fields and the leading sports injuries clinic in the country. We also offer a year-round programme of exercise classes, gym support and one of the most highly regarded performance programmes for talented student athletes. You can also sample new activities or develop your skills at Firbush, the University's outdoor activities centre on the banks of Loch Tay in the Southern Highlands. The Firbush programme includes a wide range of water sports and mountain activities, from kayaking to cross-country skiing.

International Students' Centre (ISC)

The ISC is run by student volunteers, and offers a drop-in centre that allows new international students to meet other international and home students. The ISC run a programme of events throughout the year that are designed to appeal to international students including trips around Scotland and the UK, social evenings and formal and informal parties, pub nights and regular coffee evenings at the centre.

Read more at:

www.isced.blogspot.com



“EUSA and all the clubs and societies do an amazing job of providing a great campus community here.”

Exchange student from Australia

Housing

Almost all visiting students are guaranteed University housing as long as they comply with the deadlines. Please check your eligibility on the website (www.ed.ac.uk/new-students/accommodation/guarantee). There is a wide range of accommodation to choose from, including self-catering flats and halls of residence with a full meal plan. En-suite rooms are available and unless you would prefer to share, you will have a single, private study bedroom. The University will provide plenty of information and advice to help you find the right accommodation for you.

If you would like further information about University and private housing, please visit the Accommodation Services website: www.accom.ed.ac.uk

Money

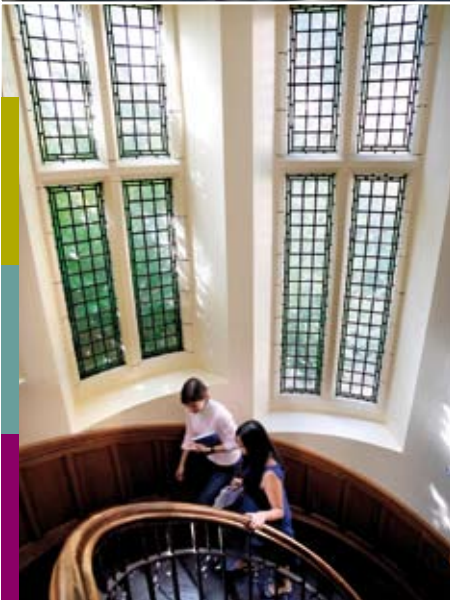
It is important to plan your budget in advance of arrival. You will find a personal budget calculator and information about the cost of living on the International Office website: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance

Working or volunteering

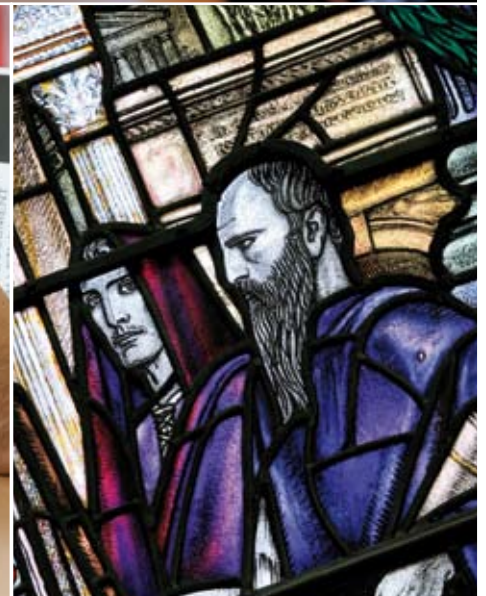
Many visiting students have a part-time job while in Edinburgh to get more experience, earn some spending money and meet new people. EU/EEA students and students with a full UK Tier 4 General student visa are permitted to take up employment, on or off campus, part-time (up to 20 hours per week) during 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.

More information at:

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/volunteering



Applying & Immigration



Applying

You can apply online. To complete your application we require: contact information, a personal statement, an academic reference (preferably from an academic at your home institution), and a transcript or record of education from your home institution. Through your online account you can upload supporting documents and track the progress of your application.

Candidates are expected to have a good academic record with a good 'B' average (for applicants from North America this translates into a GPA of 3.0 or above). You can apply online at:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/visiting-exchange

North American applicants can also apply, if they prefer, through the following Study Abroad programmes:

Arcadia University

The College of Global Studies
450 South Easton Road
Glenside, PA 19038-3295, USA

www.arcadia.edu/abroad

Butler University

Institute for Study Abroad
1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 305
Indianapolis, IN 46208-3345, USA

www.ifsa-butler.org



“I think that studying abroad is a great experience and the University of Edinburgh is a great place to do it. The people are welcoming, the courses are challenging, and the city is wonderful.”

Exchange student from Canada

Immigration

If you are a national of the European Union or European Economic Area or Switzerland, then you only require a valid passport or national identity card to obtain entry to the UK. You are advised to have your letter of admission with you on arrival.

If you are not an EU national or a national of the European Economic Area, you should contact your nearest British Embassy or Consulate at least one month and not more than three months before you intend to travel to the UK to obtain a 'Tier 4' visa.

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

The Parliamentary Programme: if you are not an EU national or a national of the European Economic Area, a Tier 4 (General) student visa is required. US students can apply for a student visa online through the British Consulate in New York. For further information, please visit:
www.ukinusa.fco.gov.uk/en/visas

If you have any questions or concerns that you cannot find an answer to, please contact the Study Abroad Office (see Contacts page 16).

Courses less than 6 months

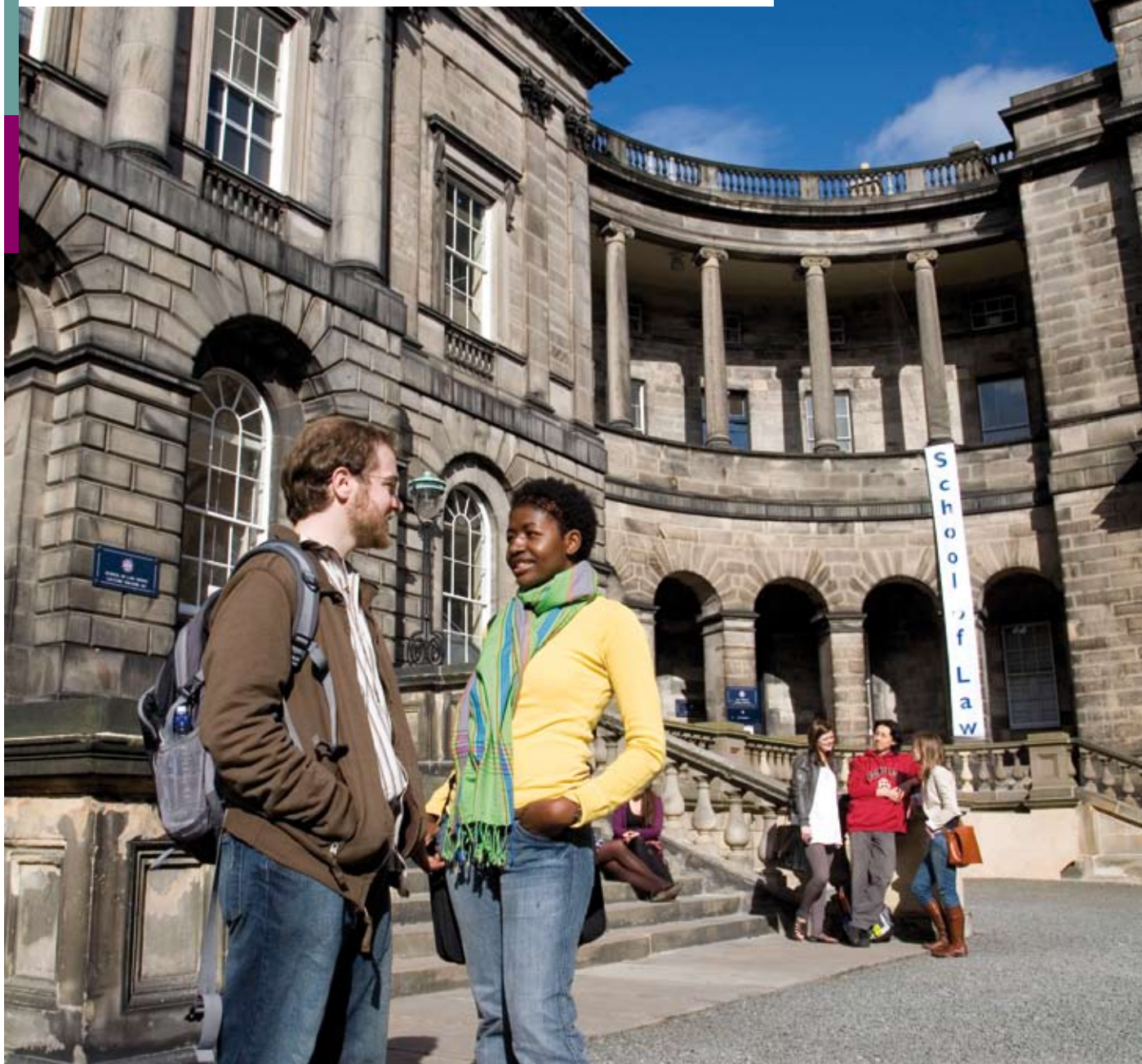
If you intend to travel to the UK to study a programme of studies which is for less than 6 months, you may enter as a Student Visitor visa holder.

The Student Visitor visa is restrictive: you cannot work, extend your stay beyond 6 months or undertake a work placement on this visa.

The benefit of the Student Visitor visa is that if you are a non visa national, you can apply on entry to the UK as a Student Visitor without the need for a paid visa application before you leave your home country. For further information, please refer to the International Office website:

www.international.ed.ac.uk/immigration

Support Services



“The University has given me the opportunity to grow, while providing me with support and never letting me feel lost. All the facilities, help and support have always just been a phone call away.”

Visiting student from India



“The Health Centre has been excellent, as has the Careers Service. My college office is extremely responsive to student concerns and responds quickly to inquiries.”

Exchange student from the USA

The University Health Centre

We hope that you will be in good health while you are with us. However, if you do have an issue, then our health services are very accessible, and many international students are entitled to free or subsidised treatment on the NHS (National Health Service). For further information on eligibility, please visit:

www.educationuk.org/Health-advice-for-UK-international-students

The University Health Centre is an independent NHS partnership located in the central area of the University, for further information please visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/student-life/advice

Student Counselling Service

Our free, confidential counselling service provides professional short-term help for any personal concerns, study-related or not. The Student Counselling Service also offers free weekly courses on how to study effectively and manage stress, for further information please visit:

www.student-counselling.ed.ac.uk

The Advice Place

Our drop-in advice centre, offers free, confidential and independent advice on a range of issues, for more details please visit: **www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/advice**

Immigration Clinic

Our trained immigration advisers offer advice through an appointments system on visa applications and visa extensions, should you need to continue your studies at the University of Edinburgh. For further information visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/visas-immigration

Disabled students

Our Student Disability Service works to create an environment that helps disabled students participate fully in the mainstream of University life. For more details visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

The Chaplaincy Centre

Offers support and guidance to all students, irrespective of religious allegiance. **www.chaplaincy.ed.ac.uk**

New students

Advice and guidance on orientation and arrival is available at: **www.ed.ac.uk/new-students**

Contacts

Study Abroad Office

For initial enquiries and general questions about joining the programme:

International Office

57 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9JU
Tel: +44 (0) 131 650 4296

studyabroad@ed.ac.uk

www.international.ed.ac.uk

College of Humanities & Social Science

Visiting Student Office

College of Humanities & Social Sciences
3rd floor, David Hume Tower
Edinburgh EH8 9JX

hssvisitingstudents@ed.ac.uk

www.ed.ac.uk/humanities-soc-sci/visiting-exchange

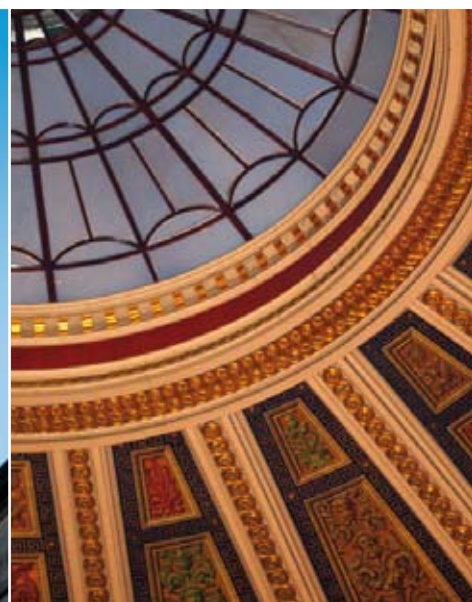
College of Science & Engineering

Visiting Student Office

College of Science & Engineering
Weir Building
The King's Buildings
West Mains Road
Edinburgh EH9 3JY

scevisitingstudents@ed.ac.uk

www.scieng.ed.ac.uk



Timetable

Please check with the University website nearer the start of the year in case of unforeseen changes.
www.ed.ac.uk/news/semester-dates

Academic year 2011/12

Semester 1

Accommodation available from Sat 10 Sep 2011
 International Day Sun 11 Sep 2011
 Freshers' week 10–17 Sep 2011
 Teaching 19 Sep–02 Dec 2011
 Revision & Exams 5–21 Dec 2011

Semester 2

Accommodation available from Sat 7 Jan 2012
 Orientation Sun 15 Jan 2012
 Teaching 16 Jan–6 April 2012
 Spring break 9–20 April 2012
 Consolidation & exams 23 Apr–25 May 2012

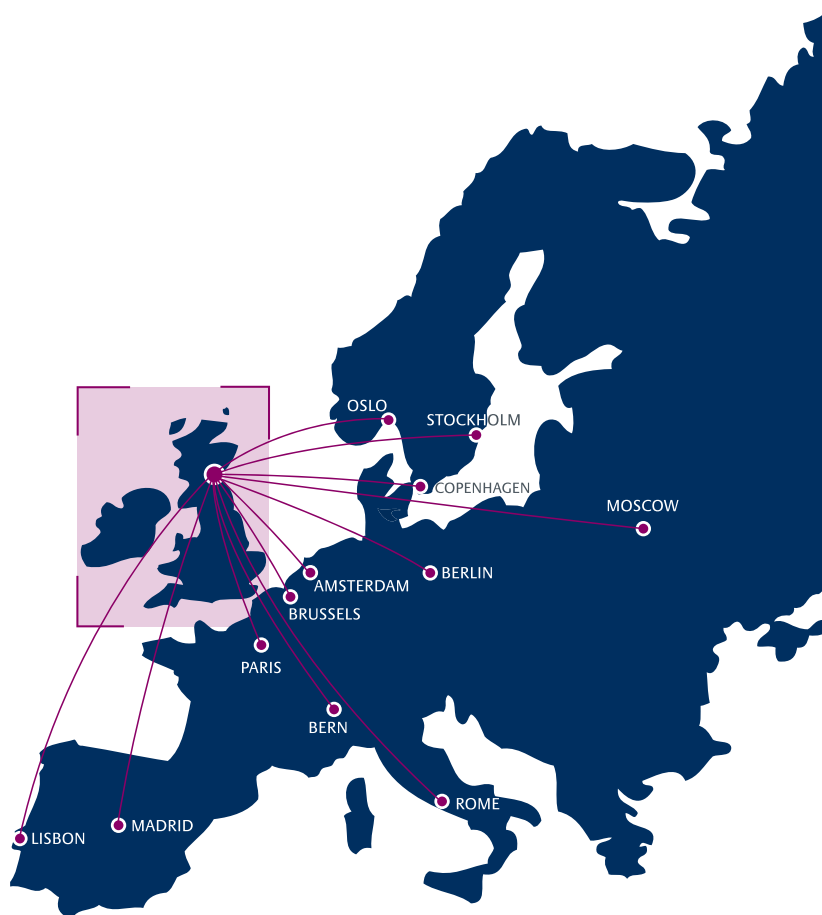
Academic year 2012/13

Semester 1

Accommodation available from Sat 8 Sep 2012
 International Day Sun 9 Sep 2012
 Freshers' week 10–14 Sep 2012
 Teaching 17 Sep–30 Nov 2012
 Revision & Exams 3–21 Dec 2012

Semester 2

Accommodation available from Sat 5 Jan 2013
 Orientation Sun 13 Jan 2013
 Teaching 14 Jan–5 April 2013
 Spring break 8 Apr–19 Apr 2013
 Consolidation & exams 22 Apr–24 May 2013



City campus map



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