International Exchange 2023-2024

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Contents

Key facts

- The University of Edinburgh is an ancient university, founded in 1583, located in the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland's vibrant capital city.

- Ranked 15th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023).

- The University has approximately 41,000 students, with over 18,000 international students from more than 150 countries.

- 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.

Edinburgh Global

Contacts

Debs Coutts — Study Abroad Manager

Sophie Conway — Study Abroad Manager

Ieva Galvanauskaite — Study Abroad Adviser

Aiste Zilyte — Study Abroad Administrator

Contact us: **www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/contacts**

Edinburgh Global
34 Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh EH8 9JS
Scotland, UK.

www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad

Chat to us online

Students can register for one of our online information sessions:
www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/online-information-sessions

University campuses

George Square (GS)

This is the central University campus, teaching the majority of subjects within the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences. The School of Informatics and parts of the School of GeoSciences are also based there. GS is also home to the Main Library, Career service, Students' Association, and a range of other student services.

The King's Buildings (KB)

This is the main campus of the College of Science and Engineering housing the majority of our seven Schools, 2 km south of GS.

For campus maps please see our website:
www.ed.ac.uk/maps

The University provides a free shuttle bus service for students to travel between the Central campus and the King's Buildings. For more information on our free shuttle service please see the website:
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/transport/public-transport/buses/shuttle-bus

Academic year 2023-24

Semester 1

Welcome week	11 – 15 September 2023
Teaching	18 September – 01 December 2023
Exams	11 – 21 December 2023

Semester 2

January Welcome	10 - 12 January 2024
Teaching	15 January – 05 April 2024
Spring break	08 – 19 April 2024
Exams	29 April - 24 May 2024

Please check with the University website nearer the start of the year in case of unforeseen changes:
www.ed.ac.uk/semester-dates/202324

Welcome Weeks

Welcome Week is not obligatory but it is a useful time for students to settle in and finalise their courses etc. There are also social activities organised as part of the induction.

For more information about our Welcome Weeks please check out:
www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/successful-applicants/welcome-events

Academic information

Academic entry requirements

To apply to study on exchange you must:

- Be nominated by your home university to study on an exchange agreement
- Have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or over on a 4.0 scale OR equivalent (B average) OR ECTS 'C' at your home university

You must also:

- Provide a strong personal statement
- Provide evidence of your written and spoken English skills if English is not your first language
- Provide a transcript (Applicants to the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences will be required to provide a transcript at the point of application demonstrating they have completed a minimum of one full year of study at their home institution. Where one full year has not yet been completed, study at a previous institution will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants to the College of Science and Engineering will be required to provide a transcript demonstrating that they have completed 1 semester of study)

For more information on entry requirements:
www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/study-options/international-exchange

Looking for courses

To enroll in courses you must meet the prerequisites stated in the Course Finder.

We will aim to place you in your preferred courses but cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Please refer to the Course Finder for a list of the available courses. You will find a link on the following web page:
www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/course

Academic information

Programmes & courses not open to exchange students

- Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Studio-based Architecture, Art and Design classes (unless you are coming on an Exchange agreement in one of these subject areas)
- Education and Sport (unless you are coming on an Exchange agreement in these subject areas)

Popular subject areas

Though we endeavor to ensure that majority of our students are allocated their preferred course choices, sometimes this is not possible.

The following subject areas cannot guarantee access to students who are not on a direct exchange in the subject area, either because these subjects are high-pressure (very popular courses with limited capacity and strict pre-requisites) or because they have limited study options available for visiting students:

- Art & Design Elective courses
- English Literature
- History
- History of Art
- Informatics
- Law
- Nursing
- Politics and International Relations
- Philosophy
- Psychology

Credit system

Under the semester system the majority of our courses will be 20 credit (Semester) or 40 credit (Year) courses. Students are expected to take the normal academic load of 60 credits per semester.

Students are not permitted to take more than 60 credits per semester and cannot normally take fewer credits.

Making changes to your course list

If you would like to make changes to your course list after you have submitted your application then please contact your College Visiting Student Office:

College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
CAHSSvisitingstudents@ed.ac.uk

College of Science and Engineering
SCEvisitingstudents@ed.ac.uk

Please note that the last opportunity to add or drop courses will be the end of the 2nd teaching week and no changes will be allowed after that.

Transcripts

An academic transcript will normally be issued by the end of the following February (for semester one students) and by the end of the following August (for semester two and full-year students). One hard copy transcript will be automatically sent to the address you give us in your application.

If you or a third party require a copy of your transcript you can order this at:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/order-documents/transcripts

Student Administration do not automatically send transcripts after re-sits. In this instance an updated transcript must be requested by the student/home institution to:
infopoint@ed.ac.uk

Application process

Your home university will need to nominate you.

When we have successfully processed your nomination we will send you an email inviting you to apply online to the University of Edinburgh.

Please read the application guide which will take you through the online application step-by-step:
www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/how-to-apply/application-guide

To apply you will create an online account with us.

You will get a username and a password, which will allow you to track your application through its various stages.

You will need to upload copies of an official transcript (which lists all courses undertaken and grades received at your home university, to date) and a personal statement.

Application deadlines

Applications must be submitted by the following deadlines:

- **31 May** for students starting in September
- **31 October** for students starting in January

Late applications will not be considered.

English language requirements

If English is not your first language you must provide evidence of your written and spoken English skills.

Please refer to our English requirements:
www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/study-options/international-exchange

Tests & certificates

Your English language certificate must be no more than two years old at the beginning of your course here.

If you have taken or plan to take an English language test that does not appear on our list, please contact us to check if we will accept it.

In-session language assistance

Academic support and independent study materials are available to exchange students who require English language assistance.

Please refer to the English Language Education team for more information: **www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/english-language-teaching**

Visa requirements

Standard Visitor route:

If you are coming to the UK for a programme that is less than six months in length, and you do not wish to work (including work placements as part of their programme) or extend your studies in the UK, you can apply to come to the UK as a Standard Visitor:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/applying-for-visa/standard-visitor

If you are a 'Visa National', then you will need to apply for a visa before you travel to the UK. The list of 'Visa Nationals' is here:
www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list

Visa Nationals will need to make their application online, and submit their biometric information (their finger prints and digital photo) at their nearest Visa Application Centre.

If your country of nationality is **NOT** on the above list, then you are a 'Non-Visa National'.

Non-Visa National students will not need to apply for a visa in advance under the Standard Visitor Route. Most Non-Visa Nationals will need to meet with a Border Force official on their arrival to the UK and get a stamp in their passport.

Check our website for information on the permissions and restrictions of the Standard Visitor Route:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/applying-for-visa/standard-visitor

Studying for longer than six months

For students coming for longer than six months you will need to apply via the Student Route (previously called Tier 4):
www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/applying-for-visa/tier-4

IIf you have questions about immigration to the UK, please contact our dedicated team of visa advisers:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/contact-us

Living costs

Information about living costs is available on our website:
www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/living-edinburgh/living-costs

Further expenses

Exchange Students who are here for only one semester and who stay in private (non-University) accommodation may be required to pay Council Tax. Information about Council Tax is available from The Advice Place:
www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace/accommodation/duringyourtenancy/counciltax

You will be liable to pay the charge incurred for any examination resits.

Accommodation

You can apply for accommodation once you have been offered and accepted a place to study here in Edinburgh.

Information about applying to university accommodation can be found here:
www.accom.ed.ac.uk/applying/ready-to-apply

Accommodation application deadlines

The deadlines for accommodation applications are as follows:

- **16th August 2023** for all students starting in September 2023
- **30th November 2023** for all students starting in January 2024

International Exchange students are guaranteed accommodation, providing their application is submitted by the deadline.

Please note that we cannot guarantee that you will be offered the accommodation you ask for.

Accommodation Options

Search the range of university accommodation available on the Accommodation website: **www.accom.ed.ac.uk**

Our Residence Life team are there to help students get the most out of their experience in University accommodation:
www.ed.ac.uk/residence-life

Early arrivals

If you plan on arriving in Edinburgh before your accommodation contract begins, please contact our Accommodation Allocations team to enquire if it will be possible to move in early:
accom.allocations@ed.ac.uk

Health & personal insurance

All students on a full-time course of studies in Scotland are eligible for National Health Service (NHS) treatment. If you are studying here full time as a visiting student on the Standard Visitor route and you experience an illness or accident, you will be able to access NHS treatment. This is provided for free, however, you may have to pay for dentistry and some more specialised services.

However, it must not be your intention to access healthcare when you travel.

We advise that students take out adequate travel insurance which includes a medical component and also protection to cover personal items, such as baggage, books, personal computers, etc.

If you have a pre-existing medical condition, we strongly advise that you contact the Disability and Learning Support Service which will be able to provide advice and support about treatment and medication:

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

You should research the options available to you and select the insurance policy which is most suited to your situation. For more information about private health insurance:

www.ed.ac.uk/students/new-students/ready-university/top-6-tasks/doctor/private-health-insurance

If you are coming via the Student Route you will pay a fee for this visa which includes a health surcharge and therefore you would be covered for NHS treatment for the duration of your studies.

A level of content insurance is included in the rent for students who are in university accommodation. For more information:

www.accom.ed.ac.uk/during-your-stay/policies

Computing facilities

The University has a number of open-access labs and there is an extensive network of wireless points throughout the University sites.

The University's residential networking system provides a telephone, data and internet service to around 85% of students in our residential accommodation. For more detailed information please refer to:
www.accom.ed.ac.uk/services/it-facilities

Student services

University leisure activities

• **Sport and Exercise** – the sport and exercise facilities are ranked among the very best in the UK
www.ed.ac.uk/sport-exercise

• **Student Union** – Teviot, the oldest purpose built Student Union in the world, opened in 1889
www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/eatdrinkshop/findaspace

• **Student societies** – students can choose from over 270 societies and 65 sport clubs
www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/list

• **Edinburgh Buddies** – there is a Buddy scheme for exchange students to help them adjust to life here in Edinburgh
www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/student-life/buddies

University Services

• **Main Library** – the largest of Edinburgh University's Libraries
www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/library-museum-gallery

• **Advice Place** – professional, free, impartial and confidential advice offered to all students
www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace

• **Nightline** – a confidential phone and online support service run by students for students.
ednightline.com

• **Disability and Learning Support Service** – guidance and support offered for disabled students
www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

• **Counselling Service** – mental health support for all students at the University
www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling

Safety in Edinburgh

Covid-19

Please follow the latest Covid-19 advice and information from the University of Edinburgh's website here:

www.ed.ac.uk/news/covid-19

Teaching and Learning

We are currently providing our teaching and learning in a way that prioritises the health and safety of our students and staff. Our campuses have easily accessible hand washing facilities, increased cleaning and a number of measures to ensure that students can observe physical distancing rules at all times.

Our new safety measures:

www.accom.ed.ac.uk/during-your-stay/security-support/

New student guide

The 'New students' website, which is updated for each semester is a source of useful information.

www.ed.ac.uk/new-students

Useful links

Study Abroad Website	**www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad**
Accommodation Services	**www.accom.ed.ac.uk**
English Language Teaching Centre	**www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching**
International Student Centre	**www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/student-life/isc**
Edinburgh University Students' Association	**www.eusa.ed.ac.uk**
Course Finder	**www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/course**
Tourist Information	**www.visitscotland.com**
University Computing Services	**www.ed.ac.uk/information-services**