



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

# International Exchange 2020-2021

[www.ed.ac.uk](http://www.ed.ac.uk)



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## 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 20th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020).
- 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

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Contact us: [www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/contacts](http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/contacts)

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[www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad](http://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](http://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)

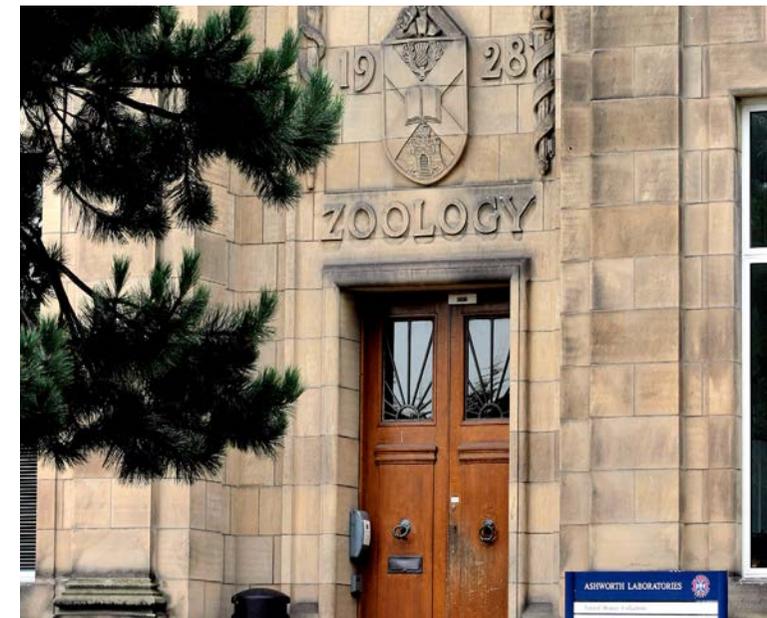
This is the main campus of the College of Science and Engineering housing the majority of our seven Schools, 2 km south of GS.

For campus maps please see our website:

[www.ed.ac.uk/maps](http://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](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/transport/public-transport/buses/shuttle-bus)





## Academic year 2020-21

### Semester 1

Welcome week	14 – 18 Sept 2020
Teaching	21 Sept – 04 Dec 2020
Exams	10 – 21 Dec 2020

### Semester 2

January Welcome	6 – 8 Jan 2021
Teaching	11 Jan – 02 April 2021
Spring break	05 – 18 April 2021
Exams	26 April – 23 May 2021

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

### Welcome Weeks

Welcome Week is not obligatory but it is a useful time for students to settle in, meet their Personal Tutor 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](http://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 (during the application stage, applicants to the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences will be required to provide a transcript which demonstrates that they have completed at least 1 full year of study. 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](http://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](http://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 less 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 us by filling in our online enquiry form:

[www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/contacts](http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/contacts)

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](http://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](mailto:infopoint@ed.ac.uk)

## Application process

Your home university will need to nominate you.

Your university will receive instructions on how to nominate you in February.

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/english-language-teaching)

## Visa requirements

If you are coming to the UK to study for more than 6 months, you should apply for a Tier 4 General visa in your home country before travelling:

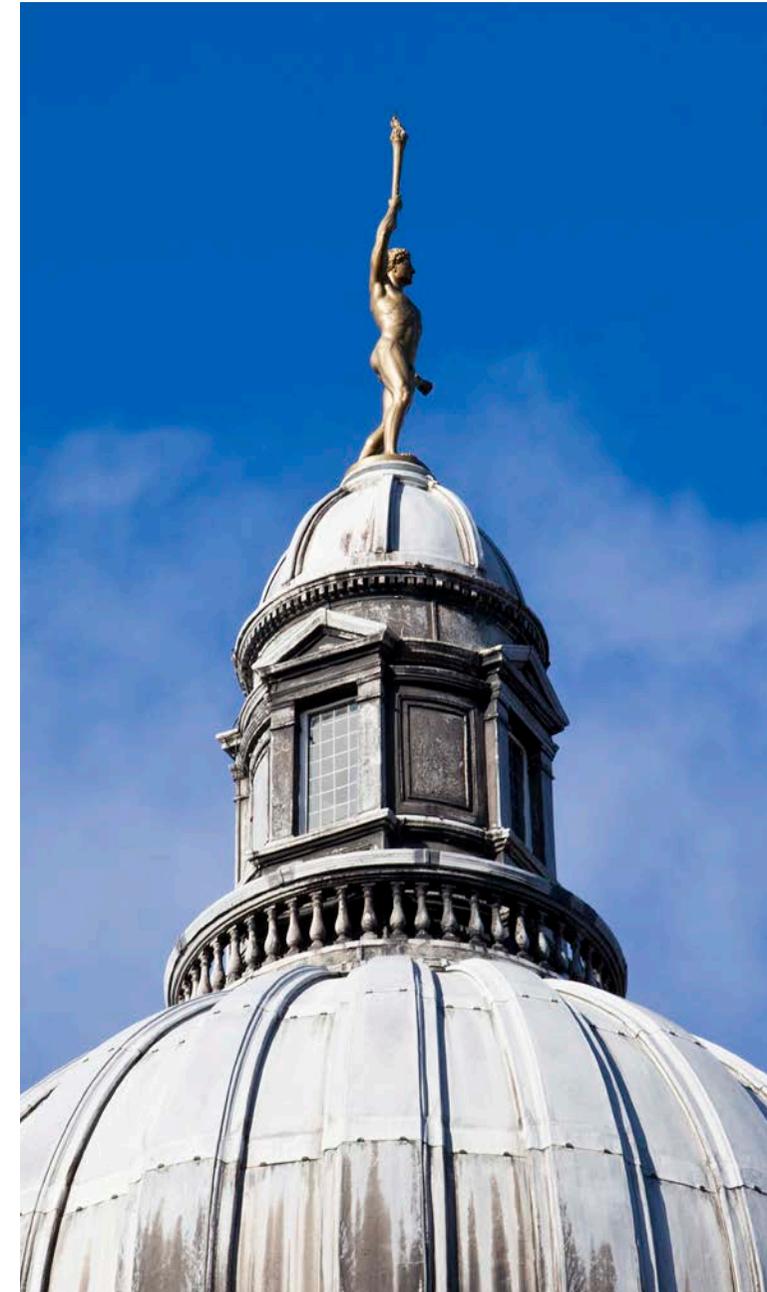
[/www.ed.ac.uk/global/immigration/applying-for-visa/tier-4-visa-requirements](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/immigration/applying-for-visa/tier-4-visa-requirements)

If you are studying here for less than 6 months and you do not wish to work, extend your studies in the UK or bring dependents, then you will require a short term student visa.

Nationals of some countries can travel to the UK for up to six months without needing to apply for a visa before travelling. These are called 'non-visa nationals'. If you are a non-visa national, you can ask for permission to be admitted to the UK when you arrive at the UK Border.

[www.ed.ac.uk/global/immigration/applying-for-visa/short-term-student](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/immigration/applying-for-visa/short-term-student)

If you are planning to apply for the short-term student visa upon arrival at the UK port, you must **not** travel via the Republic of Ireland.



## Living costs

A detailed break down of living costs is available on our website: [www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance/cost-of-living](http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance/cost-of-living)

### 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/moneyandfunding/counciltax](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace/moneyandfunding/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.

You should submit your application online:

[www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/living-edinburgh/accommodation](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/living-edinburgh/accommodation)

### Accommodation application deadlines

The deadlines for accommodation applications are as follows:

- **16th August 2020** for all students starting in September 2020
- **30th November 2020** for all students starting in January 2021

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](http://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.accom.ed.ac.uk/residence-life](http://www.accom.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](mailto:accom.allocations@ed.ac.uk)

## Health & personal insurance

If you are coming to the UK for more than 6 months then you will need to pay an immigration health surcharge when making your visa application. This charge will allow you equal access to the National Health Service (NHS). You may have to pay for dentistry and some more specialised services on the NHS. More information on the health surcharge can be found here:

[www.ed.ac.uk/global/immigration/applying-for-visa/health-surcharge](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global/immigration/applying-for-visa/health-surcharge)

We recommend that short term students get normal travel insurance that includes medical insurance. While students will usually receive NHS treatment free of charge, you may be asked to pay for certain medical appointments and medication, therefore we would usually advise for students to purchase insurance.

For further information please refer to:

[www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/new-students/health-insurance](http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/new-students/health-insurance)

In addition, we advise that students obtain insurance which will provide cover for personal items, such as baggage, books, personal computers, etc.

A level of insurance is included in the rent for students who are in university accommodation. For more information see: [www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/policies-and-guidelines](http://www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/policies-and-guidelines)

## 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](http://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](http://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/our\\_venues/teviot](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/our_venues/teviot)
- **Student societies** – students can choose from over 240 societies and 65 sport clubs  
[www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/societies/findasociety](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/societies/findasociety)
- **Edinburgh Buddies** – there is a Buddy scheme for exchange students to help them adjust to life here in Edinburgh  
[www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/global/buddies](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/global/buddies)

### University Services

- **Main Library** – the largest of Edinburgh University's Libraries  
[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/library-museum-gallery](http://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](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace)
- **Nightline** – a confidential phone and online support service run by students for students.  
[ednightline.com](http://ednightline.com)
- **Student Disability Office** – guidance and support offered for disabled students  
[www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service)
- **Counselling Service** – mental health support for all students at the University  
[www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling)

## 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](http://www.ed.ac.uk/new-students)

## Useful links

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