



Edinburgh, Scotland

The University of Edinburgh



The University of Edinburgh founded in 1582, is an internationally renowned centre for teaching and research in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. It is the sixth university to be established in the British Isles, making it one of the ancient universities of the United Kingdom. The university is amongst the largest and most prestigious in the world and currently ranks in the world top 25.

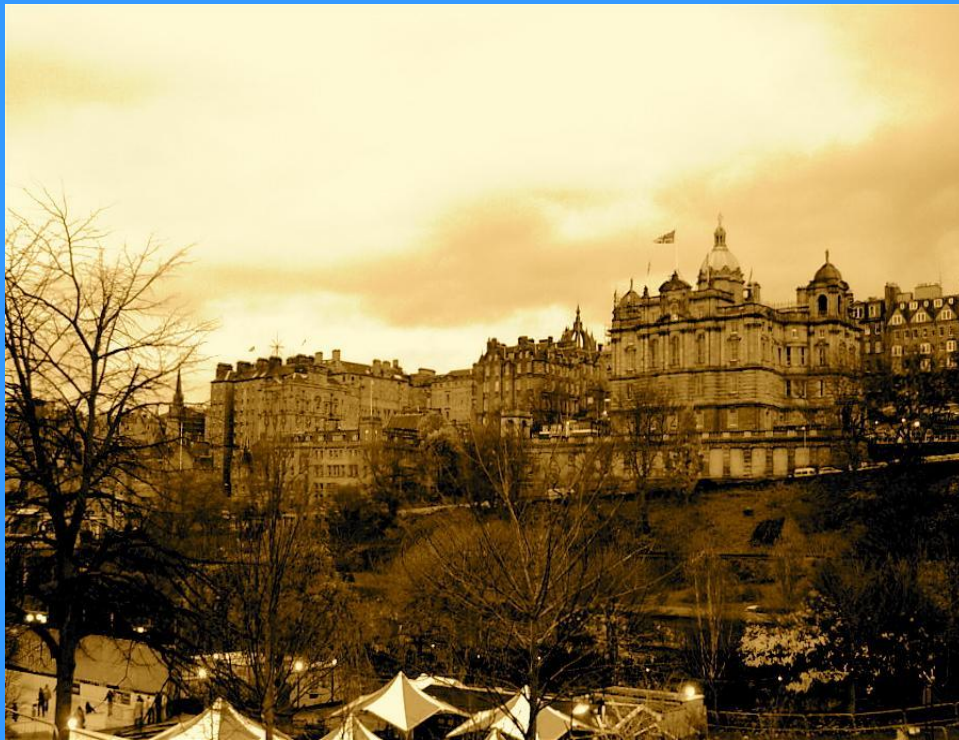
Latin: *Universitas Academica Edinensis*

Established:	1582
Type:	Public
Endowment:	£185 million¹
Chancellor:	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Rector:	Iain Macwhirter
Principal:	Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Staff:	2752
Students:	24,220 (2007-08)
Undergraduates:	16,980
Postgraduates:	7,240
Campus:	Urban
Affiliations:	Russell Group Coimbra Group LERU Universitas 21 EUA
Website:	http://www.ed.ac.uk

History



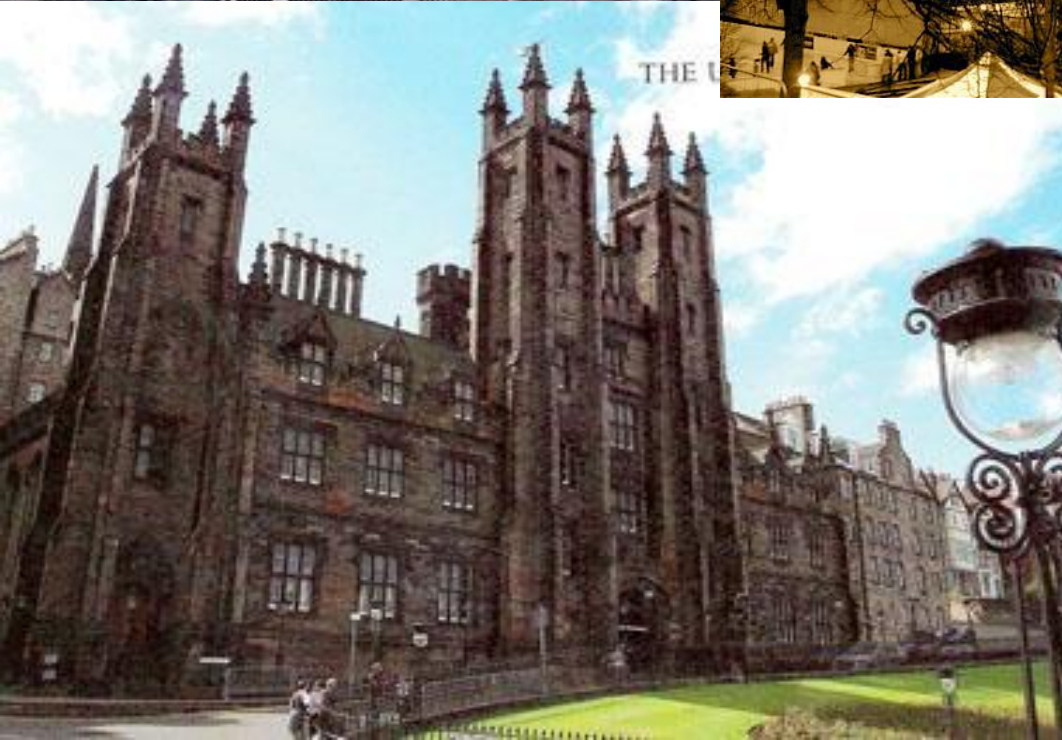
The founding of the University is attributed to Bishop Robert Reid of St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney, who left the funds on his death in 1558 that ultimately provided the University's endowment. The University was established by a Royal Charter granted by James VI in 1582, becoming the fourth Scottish university at a time when more populous neighbor England had only two.



Students at the university are represented by Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA), which consists of the Students' Representative Council (SRC), founded in 1884 by Robert Fitzroy Bell, the Edinburgh University Union (EUU) which was founded in 1889. They are also represented by the Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) which was founded in 1866.

In 2002, the University was re-organized from its 9 faculties into three 'Colleges', and now comprises the Colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Science and Engineering (CSE), and Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (MVM). Within these Colleges are 21 'Schools', which are of roughly equal sizes, generally significantly larger than the more-numerous departments they replaced.

By the 18th century Edinburgh was a leading centre of the European Enlightenment and became one of the continent's principal universities.



Academic reputation

In the Third European Report on Science & Technology Indicators (2004), compiled by the European Commission, the University of Edinburgh ranked as follows:

- 5th in Europe
- 3rd in the UK
- 1.35 score of citation impact (0.2 points below the leader, University of Cambridge)

The 2007 Times Higher Education Supplement [THES] World University Rankings ranked the University of Edinburgh as follows:

- 23rd in the world
- 5th in the UK
- 5th in Europe overall

The Guardian University Guide 2008 ranked the University of Edinburgh as follows:

- 7th in the UK overall
- 1st in the UK for computer science
- 1st in the UK for physics
- 2nd in the UK for medicine
- 2nd in the UK for veterinary science

The THES also ranked world universities in broad subject areas in tables published in the THES itself, and available to subscribers via the THES website. The University of Edinburgh was ranked:

- 28th in the world for arts and humanities
- 29th in the world for life sciences and biomedicine
- 47th in the world for social sciences

The Academic Ranking of World Universities 2008 [ARWU] ranked the University of Edinburgh as follows:

- 6th in the UK
- 13th in Europe
- 55th in the world



among others - include 3rd in [English](#) in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, an approximately 5 yearly audit of the research quality of British higher education establishments, the University of Edinburgh was placed 10th overall, a rise of 4 places from 14th in the 2001 RAE. The University was also placed 5th in the UK in terms of the power of its research departments. It was rated top in the UK for Computer Science studies, a category in which the University of Edinburgh School of Informatics made every eligible research submission whereas other universities submitted selectively. It was rated top in the UK for medical research submitted to the Hospital-based clinical subjects panel. The University was also placed 3rd in the UK for both Engineering and Chemistry . Notable positions - among others - include 3rd in English, joint 5th in [Pure Mathematics](#) In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, an approximately 5 yearly audit of the research quality of British higher education establishments, the University of Edinburgh was placed 10th overall, a rise of 4 places from 14th in the 2001 RAE. The University was also placed 5th in the UK in terms of the power of its research departments. It was rated top in the UK for Computer Science studies, a category in which the University of Edinburgh School of Informatics made every eligible research submission whereas other universities submitted selectively. It was rated top in the UK for medical research submitted to the Hospital-based clinical subjects panel. The University was also placed 3rd in the UK for both Engineering and Chemistry . Notable positions - among others - include 3rd in English, joint 5th in Pure Mathematics and 6th in [Physics](#). The results for each of the 39 subject areas subjected for quality assessment can be retrieved at Guardian Education or the official RAE website.



Colleges and Schools

College of Humanities and Social Science

- School of Arts, Culture and Environment
- School of Divinity
- School of Health in Social Science
- School of History, Classics and Archaeology
- School of Law (Edinburgh Law School)
- School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
- University of Edinburgh Business School
- Moray House School of Education
- School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
- School of Social and Political Sciences
- The Office of Lifelong Learning





College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

- School of Biomedical Sciences
- School of Clinical Sciences and Community Health
- School of Molecular and Clinical Medicine
- Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

College of Science and Engineering

- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Chemistry
- School of GeoSciences
- School of Engineering
- School of Informatics
- School of Mathematics
- School of Physics and Astronomy



School Facts:

- ❑ With over 20,000 students, 3,600 from an international background and about 120 nationalities, Edinburgh has a very cosmopolitan and diverse student community.
- ❑ The University of Edinburgh is one of the UK's most prestigious universities and has been attracting international students for over four centuries.



Semester Dates:

- ❑ Fall Semester: September-December (Semester 1)
- ❑ Spring Semester: January-May (Semester 2)

Locations

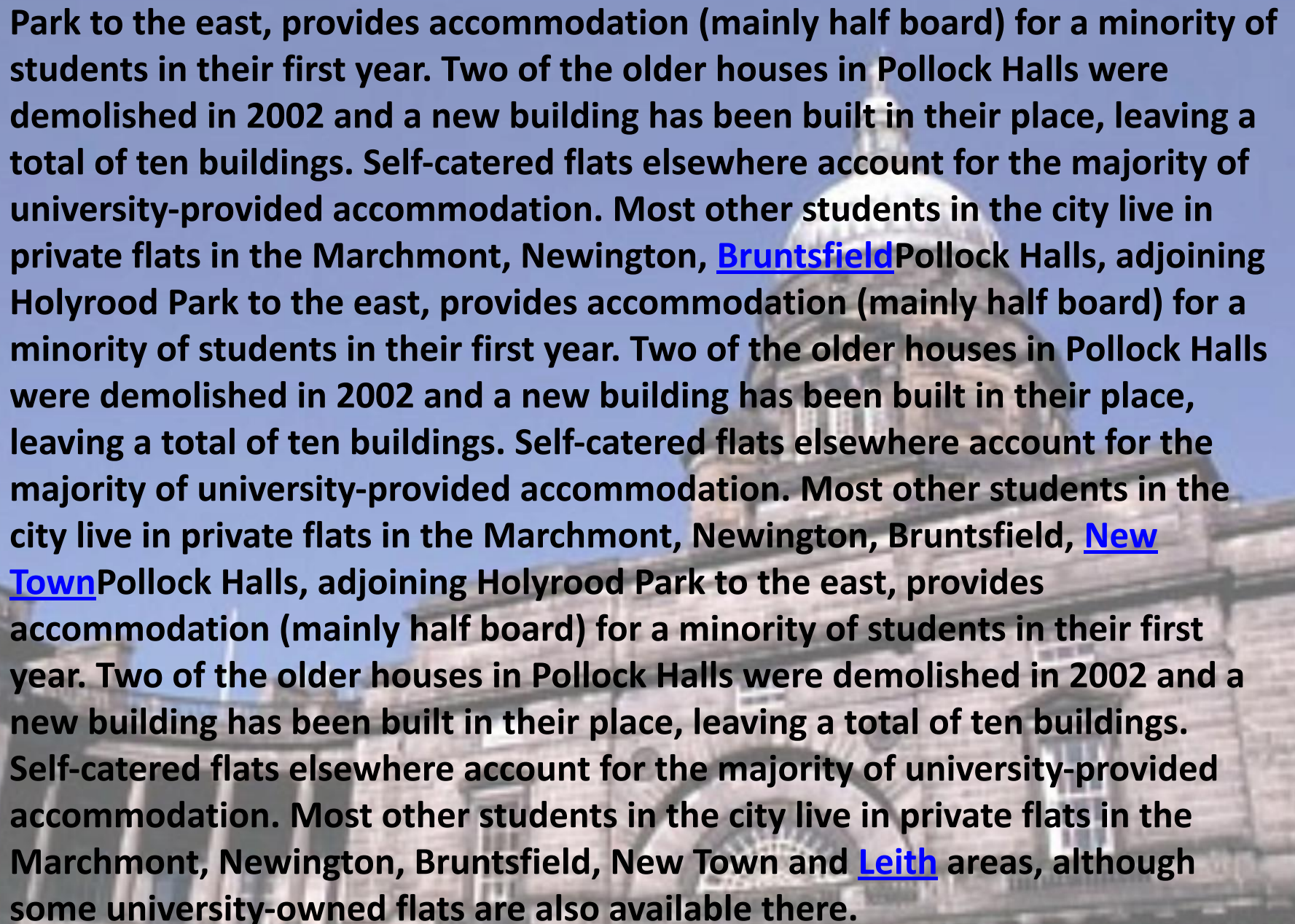




Edinburgh is considered by some as one of the greenest and most architecturally beautiful cities in [Europe](#) often referred to as the "Athens of the North". The University plays an integral role in the city, contributing to its vibrant atmosphere.

With the expansion in topics of study the university has expanded its campuses such that it now has seven main sites:

- ❑ The Central Area includes George Square, the [Informatics Forum](#), The Dugald Stewart Building, Old College, the [old Medical School buildings](#) in Teviot Place, and surrounding streets in Edinburgh's *Southside*. The [Appleton Tower](#) is also used for teaching first year undergraduates in science and engineering. Meanwhile, Teviot Place continues to house pre-clinical medical courses and biomedical sciences despite relocation of the Medical School to Little France. Nearby are the main EUSA buildings of Potterrow, Teviot Row House and the [Pleasance Societies Centre](#). Old residents of George Square include Sir [Arthur Conan Doyle](#). A number of these buildings are used to host events during the [Edinburgh International Festival](#) every summer.



Park to the east, provides accommodation (mainly half board) for a minority of students in their first year. Two of the older houses in Pollock Halls were demolished in 2002 and a new building has been built in their place, leaving a total of ten buildings. Self-catered flats elsewhere account for the majority of university-provided accommodation. Most other students in the city live in private flats in the Marchmont, Newington, [Bruntsfield](#) Pollock Halls, adjoining Holyrood Park to the east, provides accommodation (mainly half board) for a minority of students in their first year. Two of the older houses in Pollock Halls were demolished in 2002 and a new building has been built in their place, leaving a total of ten buildings. Self-catered flats elsewhere account for the majority of university-provided accommodation. Most other students in the city live in private flats in the Marchmont, Newington, Bruntsfield, [New Town](#) Pollock Halls, adjoining Holyrood Park to the east, provides accommodation (mainly half board) for a minority of students in their first year. Two of the older houses in Pollock Halls were demolished in 2002 and a new building has been built in their place, leaving a total of ten buildings. Self-catered flats elsewhere account for the majority of university-provided accommodation. Most other students in the city live in private flats in the Marchmont, Newington, Bruntsfield, New Town and [Leith](#) areas, although some university-owned flats are also available there.

houses most of the Science and Engineering schools including a Biology School that is a world leader in genetics. The [Scottish Agricultural College](#) The King's Buildings campus, further south, houses most of the Science and Engineering schools including a Biology School that is a world leader in genetics. The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and [British Geological Survey](#) (BGS) also have a presence on campus.

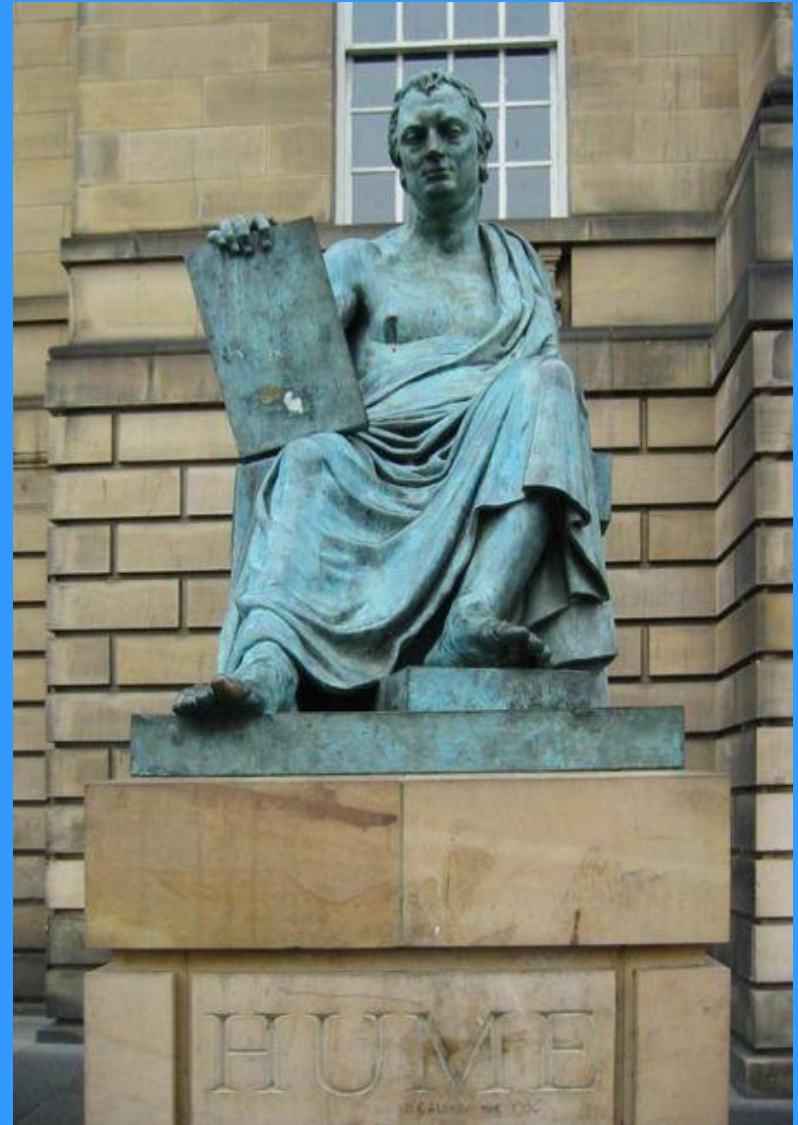
- ❑ The Chancellor's Building was opened on 12 August 2002 by [The Duke of Edinburgh](#) The Chancellor's Building was opened on 12 August 2002 by The Duke of Edinburgh and houses the new £40 million [Medical School](#) The Chancellor's Building was opened on 12 August 2002 by The Duke of Edinburgh and houses the new £40 million Medical School at the New Royal Infirmary in Little France. It was a joint project between private finance, the local authorities and the University to create a large modern hospital, veterinary clinic and research institute and thus the University is currently (2003) in the process of moving its Veterinary and Medical Faculties there (and quite possibly also the School of Nursing). It has two large lecture theatres and a medical library. It is connected to the new [Edinburgh Royal Infirmary](#) by a series of corridors.



Alumni and faculty

medical pioneers [Joseph Lister](#) and [James Simpson](#), mathematician [Colin Maclaurin](#), cyclist [Chris Hoy](#), cyclist [Chris Hoy](#), philosopher [David Hume](#), cyclist [Chris Hoy](#), philosopher [David Hume](#), geologist [James Hutton](#), cyclist [Chris Hoy](#), philosopher [David Hume](#), geologist [James Hutton](#), chemist and two-time recipient of Alexander von Humboldt research prize for senior scientists [Narayan Hosmane](#), cyclist [Chris Hoy](#), philosopher [David Hume](#), geologist [James Hutton](#), chemist and two-time recipient of Alexander von Humboldt research prize for senior scientists [Narayan Hosmane](#), Dr. [Valentin Fuster](#).

At graduation ceremonies, the Vice-Chancellor caps graduates with the Geneva Bonnet, a hat which legend says was originally made from cloth taken from the breeches of [John Knox](#) At graduation ceremonies, the Vice-Chancellor caps graduates with the Geneva Bonnet, a hat which legend says was originally made from cloth taken from the breeches of John Knox or [George Buchanan](#) At graduation ceremonies, the Vice-Chancellor caps graduates with the Geneva Bonnet, a hat which legend says was originally made from cloth taken from the breeches of John Knox or George Buchanan. The hat was last restored in 2000, when a note from 1849 was discovered in the fabric. In 2006, a University emblem taken into space by [Piers Sellers](#) was incorporated into the Geneva Bonnet.



The Main Library

The Main Library is the largest unit in Edinburgh University Library. It holds the primary collections in Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Medicine and Informatics, together with the Library's general collections and older books and periodicals in all subjects, most of the Special Collections of rare books and manuscripts, the University Archives and the Lothian Health Service Archives (Centre for Research Collections); also teaching collections for certain Science and Engineering subjects.





Student organizations

Students' Association

The Edinburgh University Students' Association consists of the unions and the Student Representative Council. The Unions include Teviot Row House, Potterrow, Kings Buildings House, the Pleasance, and a number of shops, cafe's and refectories around the various campuses. Teviot Row House is said to be the oldest purpose built student union building in the world. The Student Representative Council represents students to the University and the outside world. It is also responsible for Edinburgh's 222 student societies. The Association has four sabbatical office bearers - a President and three Vice Presidents. Turnout in elections for these positions has, in recent years, been among the highest in the UK. The Association is affiliated to the National Union of Students.

Student activism

There are a number of campaigning societies at the university. The largest of these is environment and poverty campaigning group People & Planet, which is affiliated to the national People & Planet net.

Student sport

Edinburgh University is one of Britain's most successful sporting universities. Student sport consists of 65 clubs from the traditional football and rugby to the more unconventional hot air ballooning and korfbal. Run by the [Edinburgh University Sports Union](#), these 65 clubs have seen Edinburgh rise to 4th place in the British Universities' Sports Association (BUSA) rankings in 2006-07. It continues to be the most successful Scottish University for sport.

During the [2008 Summer Olympics](#) in Beijing, the University of Edinburgh alumni and students secured four medals - three gold and a silver. The three gold medals were won by the cyclist [Chris Hoy](#) and the silver was won by [Katherine Grainger](#) in female rowing.

Edinburgh University 5 Mile Road Race

The Edinburgh University 'KB' 5 Mile Road Race is organized every year by the Edinburgh University Hare and Hounds. It is usually held in late February or early March. The 2009 race took place on Saturday 7 March at 11am and was won by David Simpson of Carnegie Harriers and Ruth Joss of Glasgow University H&H. The race starts and finishes inside the Kings Buildings Science and Engineering Campus, on West Mains Road. The course consists of a 5 mile road loop around the leafy streets of south Edinburgh, with quite a few hills, though none of them steep. The race is always popular with both students and local club runners and usually attracts around 250 participants. More information can be found at <http://haries.eusu.ed.ac.uk>



Media

Newspapers:

□ ***Student*** is a weekly Scottish newspaper produced by students at the University of Edinburgh. Founded in 1887 by author Robert Louis Stevenson, it is the oldest student newspaper in the United Kingdom. It has held the title of Best Student Newspaper in Scotland, awarded by the *Herald* Student Press Awards, for two years running, having won in 2006 and again in 2007.

□ ***The Journal*** is a very recent addition to the student media scene at the university. It is an independent publication, established in 2007 by three students at the University of Edinburgh, and also distributes to the four other higher education institutions in the city - Heriot-Watt University, Napier University, Queen Margaret University and the Edinburgh College of Art. It is the largest such publication in Scotland, with a print run of 14,000 copies and is produced by students from across the city.

Endowment

The university has the third largest [financial endowment](#) among UK universities at £185m and the third largest endowment per student, according to the Sutton Trust, The university has an annual turnover of more than £400m.



Affiliations

The University of Edinburgh is a member of the [Russell Group](#) of large, research-led British universities. It is also the only Scottish university, and (along with [Oxford](#) and [Cambridge](#)) one of the only British universities, to be a member both of the [Coimbra Group](#) and the [LERU](#): two leading associations of European universities. The University is also a member of [Universitas 21](#), an international association of research-led universities.

