

## International Pre-Arrival Guide

January 2026

For more information please contact:

Email: [international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk)  
[www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/international](http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/international)

## Welcome to Edinburgh College!

We're delighted that you have decided to study with us and look forward to meeting you shortly!

This document is designed to give you some practical information about coming to Edinburgh. We will provide more detailed information during your Induction to help you make the best of your time at Edinburgh College.

If you have any questions about the information we have given you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Best wishes,

*The Edinburgh College International Team*

## Your Pre-Arrival Guide

This is what information you can expect to find in your pre-arrival guide to Edinburgh College:

1. [Key Dates & Induction](#)
2. [Entry Clearance & Arriving in Edinburgh](#)
3. [The College](#)
4. [Your Course](#)
5. [Practical Information](#)
6. [Contact Us](#)



## Induction

All international students have an international induction on day one of their course. Year-round students (e.g. students of Access, HNC or HND courses) will also attend induction sessions specific to their course during week one.

## College Calendar

**Year-round courses:** Term dates and holidays can be found on website here - [College Calendar | Key Dates and Events | Edinburgh College](#)

**Summer School:** Summer School dates can be found on our website here - [Summer School Fees and Bookings | Edinburgh College](#)

All international students receive pre-arrival information before they arrive, with course specific information including induction details, and a timetable for their course.

## Your first few days at Edinburgh College

The Induction is designed to help you get to know more about the College, Edinburgh and Scotland. It will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have and to meet other new international students.

During the International Induction you will get to know more about:

- Edinburgh College
- Living in Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK
- Studying in Scotland and Edinburgh College
- Student rights and responsibilities
- Practical information (e.g. opening a bank account, registering with a doctor, travel, etc.)
- Student support services
- Employment and volunteering in the UK
- Students who are under 18

You will also have the opportunity to meet international team members, who are here to help you throughout your studies.

To complete your enrolment at the College, **you will be asked to fill out a Pre-Arrival Form**. You will need to provide details about your stay in the UK, such as your arrival date (or estimated date if you haven't booked your flights yet), local phone number and address, as well as personal information including any medical conditions or support needs you may have during your studies. We will contact you directly to arrange this.

This information is very important, as it helps us maintain accurate student records and ensure that you receive the appropriate support.

In the Pre-Arrival Form, you will also be asked to read and sign the following declarations:

- International Student Agreement
- Privacy Consent Form

Depending on your individual circumstance, you may also be required to provide additional documents in order to complete your enrolment. This might include, for example:

- Contract of Responsibility (for students under 18)
- Updated copies of your passport / visa / visa decision letter / qualification documents



## Entry clearance and arriving to Edinburgh

Before travelling to the UK, please ensure that you have been granted entry clearance and that you plan to travel only within the timeframe stated in your decision letter from the UK Home Office, and before your course or induction week begins.

Entering the UK before the date shown on your entry clearance will result in your entry being classed as a visitor, meaning you would need to leave and re-enter the country after the correct date.

If you plan to arrive after your course has started, please inform us as soon as possible so that we can update your student records accordingly.

If you are travelling directly to Edinburgh, you will find different options to get here by train, bus or plane. If you have not yet booked your transport to Edinburgh, or if you will come via another UK city, you may wish to look at the following websites:

All UK Public Transport [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)  
UK Bus Travel [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)

European Train Travel [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com)  
UK Train Travel [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**Arriving by Train:** There are two major train stations in Edinburgh – Waverley station is in the city centre whilst Haymarket is 1 mile west of the city centre. Both train stations have good bus and tram links. See below for more information on using public transport in Edinburgh.

**Arriving by Bus:** The bus station is located in the city centre and has many public transport links. See below for more information on using public transport in Edinburgh.

**Arriving by Plane:** Edinburgh Airport is around 11km west of the city centre. There are a few ways to travel between the airport and the city centre. See the table below for useful transfer services.

Pick-Up Service	College staff can meet you in the Arrivals area of the airport and take you to your accommodation. If you would like to book this service, please contact <a href="mailto:international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk">international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk</a> with your arrival details. This service costs £85.
Bus	The Airlink 100 bus offers fast and frequent transfers to the city centre and other areas of the city. Buses depart every 10 minutes during the day and also run less frequently overnight. A one-way ticket costs £6 and a return ticket costs £8.50. Buy your tickets at the airport from the cashier or from the bus driver. You can use cash or card, but most services do not offer change for cash payments. The Skylink 200, 300 and 400 buses also offer airport transfers to other areas of the city.
Tram	Trams offer an easy transfer from the airport to the city centre. They depart every 7-10 minutes but <u>do not</u> run during the night. A single airport transfer costs £7.90, whilst a return costs £9.50. Tickets must be bought <u>before</u> boarding the tram.
Taxi	Taxis are available from outside the Arrivals area. The taxis are official “black cabs” (see picture on page 9) and are safe to use. There is a meter inside which will tell you the cost of the journey. The trip from the airport to the city centre will cost approximately £25-£40, depending on the location of your accommodation.



## Public transport in Edinburgh

Edinburgh has great public transport – buses and trams are very frequent and go to all parts of the city. Depending on the location of your accommodation, you may need to get a bus or tram to the College.

For help using Edinburgh’s public transport download the Bus & Tram app:  
[www.tfeapp.com](http://www.tfeapp.com)

For more guidance on how to travel on public transport in Edinburgh, visit [Students - Lothian Buses](#). Students under the age of 22 may be entitled to [free bus & tram travel](#) if they have a [Young Scot card](#) (eligibility dependant on time spent living in Scotland and proof of address needed).



## Travelling to College

Depending on where you are staying, you may choose to travel to the College by public transport. It is a good idea to look at directions on the [Journey Planner - Lothian Buses](#). You can also use [Google Maps](#) for routes and arrival times for different methods of travel. If you are staying with one of our homestay hosts, they will also help you to travel to the College on your first day.

## Going Out in the Evening

In the evening, buses and trams run as normal until around 11:30pm. From midnight until 4:30am there are [night buses](#) which run on specific routes once an hour. If you plan to be out at night, plan how you will get home in advance.

Taxis are safe to use in Edinburgh. They are more expensive than public transport but can be cheap if you share them with friends. Metered black cabs (similar to those in London) are the most common kind of taxi but you can also book private hire cars, or use apps such as [Uber](#).



## Travel Around Scotland or the UK

If you would like to plan your own trips around Scotland or the UK, have a look at tourist information sites for ideas on where to go and what to see: [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) & [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com).

There are different ways to travel around the UK:

	General Information	Average Journey Time	Useful Websites
Train	There are regular train, bus and coach services from Edinburgh to other major cities in the UK. Book in advance to take advantage of discounts. Buses or coaches are generally cheaper than trains.	Glasgow - 50 minutes London - 4.5 hours	<a href="http://www.nationalrail.co.uk">www.nationalrail.co.uk</a>
Bus / Coach		Glasgow - 1.5 hours London - 10 hours	<a href="http://www.nationalexpress.com">www.nationalexpress.com</a> <a href="http://www.megabus.com">www.megabus.com</a>
Driving	The rules of hiring a car may vary depending on the company but generally, you must have a full, valid driving license for at least a year and be over 21 years old.	Glasgow - 1 hour London - 8 hours	<a href="http://www.enterpriseclub.co.uk">www.enterpriseclub.co.uk</a>

## The College

### Campuses

Edinburgh College has four campuses:

- Granton
- Sighthill
- Milton Road
- Midlothian

Your offer letter tells you which campus you will study at, and you can find directions to each campus [on our website](#).



### College Facilities

Our campuses have a range of excellent facilities:



#### Libraries

There are libraries and resource centres on all campuses, which provide students with the use of PCs and a place to study when at the College.

#### Food & Drinks

All campuses have on-site cafes, with a range of hot and cold food and drinks options. Our Granton and Milton Road campuses are also home to training restaurants during term time (bookings usually required).

#### Sports Facilities

Students can gain access to gym facilities at our Granton, Sighthill and Milton Road campuses (annual/monthly fees apply).

#### Multi-faith prayer rooms

Each campus has a multi-faith prayer room for prayer and contemplation. This is open to all students and staff members

#### Social Spaces

All campuses have both indoor and outdoor social spaces available for students to use, including large open-plan spaces and smaller quiet spaces.

#### Hair and Beauty

Our Milton Road and Granton campuses have hair and beauty training salons on site with treatments available at discounted prices (bookings usually required).

### My EC and your Student ID card

**My EC** is the main platform for accessing College services and official information. You can log in from your computer or laptop, or download the mobile app for convenient access on your phone: [Home | MyEC](#)

Through My EC, you can view your timetable, access Moodle (for online learning resources), use the library, among other useful features. Further information about how to make the most of these resources will be provided during induction.

The platform also allows you to create and access your digital student ID card, which you can use to receive student discounts at many tourist attractions, cinemas, theatres, shops and restaurants.

#### Granton Campus

350 West Granton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 1QE

#### Milton Road Campus

24 Milton Road East  
Edinburgh  
EH15 2PP

#### Midlothian Campus

46 Dalhousie Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3FR

#### Sighthill Campus

Bankhead Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4DE

 0131 669 4400

 [edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

## Section 4: Your Course

You should receive your course timetable by email at least one week before your course starts. If you have not received this, please let us know. When you arrive, the international team will be available to make sure you know where all of your classes are. Students on full-time courses tend to have around 15-20 hours of classes per week. This is in addition to regular homework, assignments and self-study that you will need to complete outside of class time.

Please bear in mind that you are expected to attend all of your classes unless prevented by illness or emergency. There are strict requirements on how to notify us of any absences, and we will let you know how to notify the College about your absence during the International Induction.



---

**Granton Campus**

350 West Granton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 1QE

**Milton Road Campus**

24 Milton Road East  
Edinburgh  
EH15 2PP

**Midlothian Campus**

46 Dalhousie Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3FR

**Sighthill Campus**

Bankhead Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4DE

**t** 0131 669 4400

**w** [edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

## Practical Information

### Weather

Scottish weather is unpredictable! It can change dramatically from one day to the next, or even within the same day. Daytime temperatures range from 1° or lower in January, while it is common to get temperatures above 22° in July/August. Rainfall is quite high throughout the year, with February – May generally being slightly drier.

To see current weather forecasts, visit: [Edinburgh \(Edinburgh\) weather - Met Office](#)

We recommend you pack clothing you can layer. You will likely need a good, light waterproof raincoat all year round and a warm winter coat in autumn and winter. An umbrella can also be useful, provided it is not windy.

### Electronics & Telephones

The standard voltage in the UK is 230V AC. Plugs have three square pins.

If you are bringing low-medium power electrical appliances from home, you may need to bring an adaptor.



We request that all students have a working mobile phone during their stay in Edinburgh. This is so that you can be in touch with your classmates during your time here, but also so that you can contact us in case of an emergency. Make sure your phone is unlocked before you leave your home country so that it can be used in the UK. Check with your mobile phone provider before you depart to understand how much it will cost to use your phone in the UK for calls, messages and internet. If you wish, we can provide you with a UK SIM card that you can setup and use during your stay in the UK.

### Safety & Emergencies

Edinburgh is a very safe city, even at night, with well-lit streets and CCTV in many parts. However, like all cities, you should take sensible precautions. For example, walk home with a friend or take a taxi or bus, especially late at night; don't carry large amounts of money; don't keep your phone or valuables in your back pocket.

In an emergency, you should call the emergency services on **999**. You can then ask for the Police, Fire Brigade or Ambulance Service.

If you are the victim of a minor crime (e.g. your phone is stolen), call or visit your local police station to report the problem. If you need to contact the police in a non-emergency situation, phone **101**. The police in Britain are friendly and helpful. You should never feel afraid to speak to a police officer if you are concerned about your safety or are lost.

The College also has a 24-hour emergency number: **+44 7876 873 319**. A member of the College staff will be available to answer calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You should call this in an emergency as soon as you can (but after you have phoned 999 if this is necessary).



**Granton Campus**  
350 West Granton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 1QE

**Milton Road Campus**  
24 Milton Road East  
Edinburgh  
EH15 2PP

**Midlothian Campus**  
46 Dalhousie Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3FR

**Sighthill Campus**  
Bankhead Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4DE

**t** 0131 669 4400

**w** [edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

## Health

If you have any physical or mental health conditions that we should know about, please let us know in advance when completing your pre-arrival form. If you are taking any medication, remember to bring this with you.

If you are seriously ill or have had a serious accident, you should go to the nearest hospital or dial 999 immediately for the emergency services.

In the UK, pharmacies are often your first point of contact for minor medical issues. Pharmacies are locally available throughout the city. Basic medicine for minor medical issues such as colds and flu are available to buy from supermarkets, convenience shops and pharmacies.

If a pharmacy cannot help you, they will direct you to a local General Practice (GP). GPs are local doctors available throughout the city and are able to help with medical issues that are non-emergency or not life-threatening. If you are under a Student visa, all the treatments will be covered by the health surcharge you paid when applying for your visa.

Hospitals in the UK are usually for emergency treatment, life-threatening conditions, or longer-term treatment after you have been referred by a GP.

Many dental practices are private and will need to be paid for by yourself or your own insurance.

For year-round students, during induction, we will tell you about how to access the [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#) and how to register with a local General Practice (GP). For dental practices, we will advise you on how you can register with a dental practice that allows NHS patients, which may allow you to get a discounted price for some services.

## Insurance

The College does not provide travel or medical insurance. You must make sure you have suitable insurance for your travel and stay in Edinburgh. We recommend this includes medical cover at a minimum.

We advise anybody coming as a visitor to the UK to get their own health insurance. If you are a temporary resident in the UK (staying for less than 6 months) and you are from the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland and need care, some of the treatment might be free if you show your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and a letter from the College which confirms your placement on a full-time course as well as when your course starts and ends:

[Healthcare for overseas visitors](#)

## Banks & Money

**UK Bank Account:** If you are a year-round student, we will provide you with advice about setting up a UK Bank account during the International Induction. For students staying a short time, it is not usually possible to open a UK bank account.

**Cost of living:** Many visitors to Edinburgh find the price of food, travel and entertainment more expensive than in their own country. You can see up-to-date exchange rates at [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)

When you arrive, we will give you advice on discounts and special student deals. Below is what you can expect to pay for some purchases:

- A meal deal (sandwich, snack and drink) in a supermarket: £3-7
- A main meal at a restaurant (excluding drinks): £10-18
- A cup of coffee: £3-5
- A return train ticket to Glasgow: £16

---

**Granton Campus**  
350 West Granton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 1QE

**Milton Road Campus**  
24 Milton Road East  
Edinburgh  
EH15 2PP

**Midlothian Campus**  
46 Dalhousie Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3FR

**Sighthill Campus**  
Bankhead Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4DE

 0131 669 4400

 [edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://edinburghcollege.ac.uk)

**Paying by card:** Credit and debit cards (e.g. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, etc) are widely accepted. However, you may be charged a fee to use them overseas. Many shops will also accept contactless payment using your mobile phone (e.g. Apple Pay or Google Pay).

**Travelling with money:** Don't travel with large amounts of cash. You can ask your bank about the best way to bring money to the UK. Since the Covid pandemic, some smaller cafes, shops and restaurants in the UK do not accept cash.

**Withdrawing money:** There are lots of ATMs (*Automatic Teller Machines*) in Edinburgh. Depending on your home bank account, you will probably be able to withdraw money. The exchange rate at ATMs run by major banks is usually reasonable and do not change between banks. You will normally only be able to withdraw up to £200 each day. Check with your home bank to understand about any charges for using your bank card in the UK to withdraw cash.

**Exchanging money:** There are lots of places to change money in Edinburgh – banks, building societies and bureau de change offices. We can advise you about where to find these when you arrive. Always check extra charges and exchange rates before changing money. Travellers' cheques can also be changed at most banks.

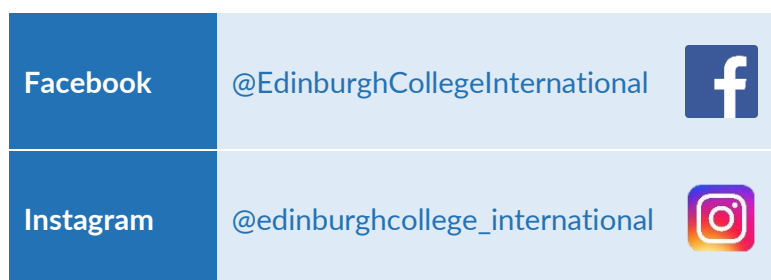
**Banknotes:** In Scotland we accept banknotes produced by the Bank of Scotland, Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank and Bank of England.

## Contact Us

Over the coming weeks, please do keep in touch with us regarding the outcome of your visa application and travel arrangements (if applicable). If you have any questions, please email us at [international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk), or call +44 (0) 131 297 9995 if you have any questions!

Find out more about Edinburgh College by visiting our website: [www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk).

You can also keep up to date with Edinburgh College International by following us on social media.



**Remember: If you have a question, need advice, or have a problem, there will be somebody in the College who can help. Speak to us!**

**Granton Campus**  
350 West Granton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 1QE

**Milton Road Campus**  
24 Milton Road East  
Edinburgh  
EH15 2PP

**Midlothian Campus**  
46 Dalhousie Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3FR

**Sighthill Campus**  
Bankhead Avenue  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4DE

 0131 669 4400

 [edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://edinburghcollege.ac.uk)