



For the future you want

## Edinburgh College Coronavirus Travel Guidance - Students

This document provides guidance for students on how to travel safely to Edinburgh College campuses. It sets out government guidelines on using public transport, and provides advice and information on walking, cycling, and driving. More detailed advice can be found on the Scottish Government website [here](#). **If you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, have tested positive or are isolating you should not travel into campus, and follow government advice.**

In summary:

- Edinburgh College is adopting a blended learning approach for 2021/22 following Scottish Government guidance. College staff will keep you up-to-date on when your timetable will be online or face-to-face. **You should only come to campus if you are asked to by your lecturer.**
- If you are traveling, then you should try to walk or cycle, where possible.
- When using public transport, you should plan ahead and avoid travelling at peak times where possible. The wearing of face coverings is mandatory on public transport unless you have an exemption.
- If you are driving to College, you should plan ahead and try to avoid travelling at peak times. The College has currently suspended the need to display a parking permit when parked in campus car parks, due to the low number of students and staff planned to be on campus for the beginning of session 2021/22. More information is included later in the document.
- Please be aware that when arriving on campus, each building will have one-way systems and specific entrance and exit points to enable social distancing. For more information, please see the [FAQ page on the college's website](#).
- **It is important that you read our [Health and Safety Guidance for Students](#) before entering any Edinburgh College Campus.**

## Planning your journey

A personalised travel planning tool is available on the [College Website](#) and [Students' Association Website](#). It will give you a detailed breakdown of all the travel options available from your home postcode to your campus and how much they roughly cost, based on the date and time you need to arrive by. You'll then be sent an email with the best travel options for you.

## Walking & Cycling

Where possible, we would recommend walking or cycling to campus. If you live close enough, walking and cycling will likely be the easiest and most reliable way to get to College. Plus, it's cheap and healthy!

Our Students' Association can also offer free walking and cycling safety equipment such as lights and high-vis items so you are safe walking and cycling - get in touch with them on [go.green@ecsa.scot](mailto:go.green@ecsa.scot) if you're interested.

## Routes

There are several signposted "quiet routes" for pedestrians and cyclists throughout Edinburgh. These keep you away from busy main roads and pavements. The City Council website has an [interactive map](#) which shows these routes, as well as cycle parking locations. To add to this network, the City Council are also introducing temporary road closures, cycle lanes, and wider pavements to make it easier to walk and cycle whilst following physical distancing. You can see information about all these closures [here](#).

You can also use [Cyclestreets](#). This is a useful journey planner for active travel, as there are options to see quieter routes, set your expected speed, and see a profile of the routes you can take (e.g. how hilly it is; how many traffic lights you'll need to stop at). Don't let the name fool you, you could use this for mapping out a quiet walking route too, the only difference would be the time it would take.

## On-campus facilities

There are a range of facilities at the College to help you cycle. If you're using your own bike to get to campus, you can request access to our secure cycle storage areas by speaking to a member of the Security team at reception - you will just need to show your student card - or by contacting them on [security@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:security@edinburghcollege.ac.uk) if you aren't required on campus as frequently. There are also showers and changing areas on all campuses, which you can also enquire about with reception - [reception@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:reception@edinburghcollege.ac.uk). The communal changing facilities in sports areas will be open, and there are facilities specifically for cyclists and

runners, if you need to come onto a campus. These will be cleaned regularly as part of improved campus cleaning processes put in place across the College.

Regular Bike Doctor events, where you can get your bike fixed on campus for free, will be scheduled soon - keep an eye out for more details on [ECSA's Go Green Travel Hub](#).

Puncture repair kits and bike pumps are kept at reception desks for staff and students to use should you have to come onto campus. Some bike storage areas also have a pump.

## Getting a bike

If you don't have your own bike, you can use the City's [Just Eat Cycles](#) to travel to our Sighthill and Milton Road campuses. College students can [buy a pass](#) at a discounted rate. It costs just £10 for four months of unlimited one-hour rides.

If you have a bike already, but it's needing some TLC or some new parts, the [Wee Spoke Hub](#) have cheap second hand parts.

There are several second-hand bike shops in the city where you can buy a cheap bike. Here are some suggestions:

- [The Bike Station](#), 250 Causewayside, EH9 1UU
- [Pedal Forth](#), 17 East Cromwell Street, EH6 6HD
- [Soul Cycles](#), 1 Brougham Place, EH3 9HW
- [Eastside Bikes](#), 1 Cadzow Place, EH7 5SN
- [Velow Bikeworks](#), 19 Windsor Place, EH15 2AJ
- [Wee Spoke Hub](#), 13 Guthrie Street, EH1 1GJ

There are also a few schemes that provide free bikes:

- [Brake The Cycle](#) - free refurbished bikes for people in need.
- [Bikes For Refugees](#)

# Public Transport

Face coverings are currently a legal requirement when travelling on public transport (unless you have an exemption), so plan for this.

From Monday 9 August, the legal requirement for physical distancing is no longer in place. That said, we still encourage those using public transport to give space to others, where possible.

All public transport providers have measures in place to reduce the risk of using their services. These should therefore still be considered as a reasonable transport option, to avoid increased congestion from increased single-use cars on the roads. To access up to date travel times and routes for Lothian Buses and Trams you can download the *Transport for Edinburgh* app on Apple or Android.

## Buses

The [Lothian Buses website](#) and [First Buses website](#) both have a wide range of information about timetables, journey planning, and ticket pricings. Guidance surrounding safe travel on both services differs slightly, so check out [Lothian Buses](#) and [First Buses](#) information depending on which buses you'll be using.

A Lothian Buses Ridacard can be good value if you use the buses and trams a lot - but do remember that you are likely to be travelling less than usual, so it might be cheaper to just buy tickets for the day you travel, rather than a season ticket.

Now that restrictions are starting to be relaxed, there are also likely going to be roadworks and diversions due to any necessary roadworks. We'd therefore suggest you check the [Council website](#) to see if there will be any delays on your route.

## Trains

Train timetables are currently subject to change, so Scotrail recommends checking your service 24 hours before you travel. You can book tickets as usual on [their website](#), where they also have [guidance on how to travel safely](#).

There are train stations near almost all of our campuses:

- Brunstane station is approximately a 5 minute walk from Milton Road campus
- Eskbank station is approximately a 5 minute walk from Midlothian campus
- Edinburgh Park station is approximately a 15 minute walk from Sighthill campus

No stations are within easy walking distance of Granton campus, however there are multiple Lothian bus routes (24, X37, 47, 113) that arrive at the campus from near Haymarket and Waverley stations.

## Trams

If you are travelling to **Sighthill** campus, there is also the option of taking the tram (the **Bankhead** stop is a few minutes walk away). Lothian Bus Ridacards can be used on the trams, as long as you activate your card on the tram platform before you board. You can also buy individual tickets (£1.80 for a single or £3.40 for a return) on the platform before you travel. More information about the trams is available on the Edinburgh Trams [website](#), along with their [Covid-19 guidance](#).

Even if you are travelling to a different campus, the tram line might still be a useful link in your journey. They run from the West of the city to the city centre (as shown in the line map below), where you can then get bus links to all other campuses whilst still using the same day-pass:



## **Driving**

### Liftsharing

If you have to come onto a campus and use a car, lift sharing might be the better option, as you can share the costs with other passengers. If you are interested in lift sharing, you should try to only travel with members of your own, or extended, household, where possible. We recognise that there may be occasions when there is no alternative but to travel with people out with your household. On such occasions, you should:

- share the transport with the same people each time (for example with other students in your class)
- keep to small groups of people at any one time

- maintain good ventilation by keeping the car windows open if possible
- ask everyone to wear face-coverings
- clean your hands before and after your journey
- if the vehicle is your responsibility, clean the door handles and other areas that people touch
  - alternative transport arrangements should be considered in case the driver develops symptoms or is notified as a close contact whilst on campus.

If this seems like the most feasible travel option for you, we have a dedicated Liftshare site for Edinburgh College students – this means that you can choose to keep your journeys shareable only with other students at the College. To sign up to this, go to [our Liftshare site](#).

### Parking at Edinburgh College

The College has currently suspended the need to display a parking permit when parked in campus car parks, due to the low number of students and staff planned to be on campus for the beginning of session 2021/22.

We will be reintroducing parking permits later in the term and will ensure all students are aware of when this comes in to place and how to request a permit.

## International Travel

There are ongoing restrictions on international travel in and out of Scotland. To keep up to date with this guidance, visit the [Scottish Government website](#) to see if you will need to isolate upon arrival into Scotland after any foreign travel.

## Travel Funding

To check if you are eligible for travel funding, you can use the College's [funding tool](#). If you are on a full time Further Education course, please make sure you complete your EMA/bursary application form. For other courses, or if you're not sure, you can contact the student funding team on [studentfunding@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:studentfunding@edinburghcollege.ac.uk).

Currently, all Further Education bursary and Education Maintenance Allowance applicants are being assessed for campus travel as normal. If the college makes the decision to deliver your course 100% online for any period of your course, you would not receive travel payments for the period you're not required to attend campus (or placement). If you only have to attend campus for part of a week, your travel award would still be paid in full.

Students on part-time or ESOL courses who would normally apply for help with their travel from the discretionary funds should do so as normal when courses start, and will be assessed according to their individual need.