

Welcome to our Edinburgh campus!

Situated on the outskirts of Edinburgh, our 380-acre parkland campus has ample space to think, play and relax. By hopping on a Lothian bus, you'll soon find yourself in the very heart of Scotland's beautiful capital city, where medieval lanes meet modern architecture and social and sporting activities are aplenty. Home to the world famous International Festival and Fringe, Edinburgh is a hub for art, culture, comedy and drama, as well as a great place to spend your university years.

POINT – James Watt statue

Make your way outside towards the James Watt statue to begin the tour. The expected duration is 40-60 minutes and you'll cover approximately 2.5km as you explore our campus.

Heriot-Watt University was established in 1821 as the world's first mechanics institute - back then, it was known as The Edinburgh School of Arts. Linen merchant Leonard Horner and clockmaker Robert Bryson set up the School to combat the skills shortage that had appeared during the Industrial Revolution. Over time, the School developed, with a subscription fund set up in the name of inspiring engineer James Watt to secure its future. As a result of this, the School was renamed to the Watt Institution and School of Arts.

The School continued to expand over many years, moving to a new premises on Chambers Street and later merging with George Heriot's Trust. The new organisation was named Heriot-Watt College. By 1938, the College opened its third extension and had become a major presence in the heart of Edinburgh. Heriot-Watt gained its university charter in 1966... and needed a new home. The move to this large campus in Riccarton took 20 years to complete, with all operations ultimately in place by 1992. Today, in addition to Edinburgh, the University has campuses in Orkney, Galashiels, Dubai and Malaysia.

Did you know?

Heriot-Watt is the 8th oldest Higher Education institution in the United Kingdom.

POINT **B** – Oriam

Suggested route:

Enter Oriam through the main entrance and see the sports courts, bistro upstairs, and Europe's largest indoor artificial sports pitch from the spectator viewing area.

Oriam is Scotland's Sports Performance Centre. Opened following significant investment from the Scottish Government, sportscotland and Heriot-Watt University, it is a world-class facility that caters for performance athletes, students and the community in equal measure. Student members of Oriam benefit from access to our Sports Union clubs, unlimited use of our fitness suite and fully refurbished strength room, access to over 70 group exercise classes per week and complimentary squash courts and casual sport bookings.

POINT **C** – Student Union

Suggested route:

The Student Union building may be open for you to explore, depending on the time of day. Heading in the main entrance, Liberty's café is first on the left, Zeros live entertainment space is next, and Geordie's bar is the last door on the left.

Heriot-Watt Student Union exists to make the student experience the best that it can be. The Union is run by elected representatives from the student body who ensure that all those studying are at the heart of learning, teaching and innovation decisions.

The Union's dedicated building also houses Geordie's (our sports bar), Liberty's (our inexpensive and friendly café) and Zeros (a multi-use event space), where students can meet with friends, study or get involved in one of over 70 societies. Later on in the tour, you'll see the shop run by the Union and the Advice Hub, which provides support and guidance independently from the University. All these venues and resources provide fantastic opportunities to work part-time or volunteer on campus.

POINT **D** – The GRID

Suggested route:

Follow the wooden walkway beside the loch to reach the GRID building. It may be open for you to explore inside with study space, teaching labs and PC labs across two floors.

GRID is a state-of-the-art, new facility built to advance Heriot-Watt's global research, innovation and discovery. It was designed to encourage collaboration between academic disciplines, our industry partners and the global community, and has led to exciting new opportunities for mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computer science students and staff.

POINT **E** – Central services (Hugh Nisbet building)

Suggested route:

Follow the path adjacent to the loch to reach the Hugh Nisbet building. Enter through the side door opposite The Piece café, taking a left past the central services. As you head up the main thoroughfare of the University, note the home of Student Wellbeing, the Student Service Centre, our Careers Service, student shop and hairdresser. As you head upstairs, you'll also pass Elements sandwich bar before seeing Cafe Brio and the main canteen. Lift access is available.

You have now reached one of the main hubs of the University and home to many of our central student services and catering outlets. The first café that you'll see is The Piece, where a selection of hot and cold snacks and beverages are served. You then reach our Student Service Centre, located opposite Wellbeing Services where coaching, counselling, disability and mental health support are all available.

Our Careers and Graduate Futures Service offers a wealth of support including CV and application form feedback, mock interviews, help to find work experience, and careers workshops throughout the year. The Student Union run shop can also be seen, across from our hairdresser and the Advice Hub mentioned previously. Elements sandwich bar is located adjacent to the student shop.

By heading up the stairs, you'll see Central on the right, a food court with a wide range of options such as soups, different world cuisines and street foods.

POINT **F** – Library and sunken garden

Suggested route:

When upstairs, head across the bridge then take the double doors on the immediate right (keep your eyes peeled!). Follow the path down the slight slope and round to the left towards the sunken garden. If you would like a flatter route, instead head outside at main reception and follow signs for the library.

This beautiful, landscaped parkland was first developed in the late 18th century by Thomas Craig, who enclosed most of the land. It was then reworked by Sir James and Sir William Gibson-Craig, both of whom were avid collectors of plants and introduced the “sunken” part of the lawn, which served as a curling pond. The elegant mansion that once stood has since been demolished and our library now stands in its place overlooking the gardens.

Following the perimeter of the library round to the left will take you to its entrance. Please just speak to a librarian if you would like to look around, as entry is key card access only.

POINT **G** – Accommodation

SEE INSIDE!



Suggested route:

An external tour of our accommodation will take you up past Robert Bryson Hall to Christina Miller Hall. If you would like to explore further, you are welcome to continue up The Avenue to Anna Macleod Hall, Muriel Spark Hall and Mary Fergusson Hall.

The University has over 2000 rooms on campus, all of which are single occupancy and self-catered. Our halls are grouped into two main categories: traditional and contemporary. An example of our traditional halls would be Robert Bryson Hall. Traditional rooms are around 12m², have single beds and kitchens shared between 4 or 5 students. Contemporary rooms such as those in Christina Miller Hall are larger at around 15m² and have a bigger sized bed. Some contemporary blocks are set up for 10-12 students to share a kitchen, and others for around 4 or 5.

You've now reached the end of the self-guided tour.


*If desired, you can follow **The Avenue back down to main reception.***

Want to learn more? Visit www.hw.ac.uk or email studentrecruitment@hw.ac.uk for information on our courses and how to apply.

Edinburgh Campus



KEY TO MAP

-  Suggested route
- A** James Watt statue
- B** Oriam
- C** Student Union
- D** The GRID
- E** Central services (Hugh Nisbet building)
- F** Library and sunken garden
- G** Accommodation