Edinburgh Scholars Study Abroad Program Description & Application Requirements

Deadline date: January 25, 3pm

Turn all materials including transcript & references in to:
Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad (FASA)
Rm 319, Center for Student Services, Mail Code 319-87

Please read the following pages carefully as this information is essential for completing an application. You will find most of your questions answered.

Introduction and General Information

The Edinburgh Scholars Program is a study abroad program in which Caltech students study at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland during their junior or senior year. Students can study during the Caltech Fall Term only. *The dates for the Edinburgh 2019 fall semester are Monday, September 16 through Friday, December 20.* Participants are required to attend the orientation Welcome Week that is held the week prior to the start of the semester (Sept. 9-15). Academic calendar: https://www.ed.ac.uk/semester-dates/201920

Final examinations are formal and must be taken on the official date and are proctored. There are no exceptions.

The University of Edinburgh: Location, History, and Student Body

The University of Edinburgh was founded in 1583 and is one of Scotland's ancient universities. Many of the university buildings are landmarks of the City of Edinburgh. The university is large and, like the city itself, combines both the modern and ancient. Alongside the tradition and history of the university, there are cutting edge facilities for science and engineering. The university has a worldwide reputation for excellence in research.

There are 20,000 students at the university. Of these, about 3,800 are from abroad, including the U.S. Because of its large student population, the City of Edinburgh is geared towards offering entertainment and facilities that suit the student community. There is a very European tone to the city with a hip, vibrant restaurant, pub, music, club and café scene. As a capital city, Edinburgh provides many opportunities to see name performers of every music genre from classical, to country, to folk, to rock.

Edinburgh is a truly beautiful city with a captivating cityscape that includes an ancient volcanic crag called Arthur's Seat and a 12th century castle, which is perched above the city center. Edinburgh is located on the estuary or Firth of the River Forth, where it flows into the North Sea between Fife to the north and West Lothian, the City of Edinburgh and East Lothian to the south. The city is divided into the Old Town (12th – 15th century) and New Town (18th century-new by Scottish standards!).

For an overview of the university, you can look at the Edinburgh Study Abroad Guide here: http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/visiting-exchange/homepage

Campus Locations
Subjects in the College of Science and Engineering are taught at the Kings Buildings with the exception of Informatics and Geography classes, two miles south of the city center. Just minutes by bus or bike, the King's Buildings are a self-contained campus serving over 6000 students studying science or engineering. There is an on-site student union, a library, many eating options, and a gym.

Classes in the humanities and social science are held in the George Square/Central campus, which is near to the city center and has many additional facilities. There is a very campus for sports and athletics. There are other university campus locations such as the School of Medicine and Veterinary Science, School of Education, School of Law, etc.

The university runs a shuttle bus between the George Square/Central and King's Building campuses during weekdays. There is also public bus transit. Many students walk (about 30 minutes) or bike (15 minutes).

Room and Board
Caltech students live in an Edinburgh University owned residence hall. The halls are near the central George Square campus area in the Cowgate and Grassmarket area, which are very lively parts of Edinburgh. Students live in a single room and share a kitchen, bathroom, and lounge with 4 to 12 flatmates. Living in flats is a good opportunity to get to know a small group of flatmates. Sharing kitchen, bathroom, and common room areas with a small group of students requires that flatmates practice common courtesy and are willing to keep common areas clean.

Due to the longer length of the Edinburgh 12-week semester and orientation week compared to the 10-week Caltech term, there is a housing supplement charged to cover those additional weeks of room and food costs. Students will **not** be on a board plan, but will buy and cook their own meal, get prepared food, or eat out and will need to budget for additional weeks of food costs unless granted financial aid as noted below. The housing supplement depends on the Edinburgh charge, the Caltech room charge and the exchange rate. Students on financial aid should be eligible for additional funding to cover room and food costs based on the additional cost of housing and the additional weeks of the term for food costs and should talk to the Financial Aid Office if they have questions.

Academic Program
The University is organized into three Colleges: The University is organized into three Colleges:

College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Science (CAHSS)
College of Science & Engineering (CSE)
College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine (CMVM) - **No courses can be taken that are offered by CMVM!**

Admitted to College of Science and Engineering: Unlike UCL or Cambridge, Edinburgh bound students will NOT have an Admitting Department or Tripos/Subject. Rather, students will be admitted into the College of Science and Engineering (CSE) and all students nominated to Edinburgh will have their class list reviewed by the Academic Officer of CSE and faculty in the School or Schools related to their option.

Course Catalog: The Degree Regulations and Programs of Study (DRPS) provides comprehensive information on classes. http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/18-19/. Choose classes that are noted as available to all students or visiting students AND labeled as SV1 and taught in Semester 1 or VV1 (if a December exam is noted under the exam timetable in the description. VISITING STUDENTS CANNOT TAKE SS1 classes as these are a year-long sequence assessed only in the spring.

Study Abroad in Edinburgh can also be used to research classes, but the DRPS is recommended as it is the official course catalog and Study Abroad in Edinburgh is not updated as reliably: http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad. Click on the Courses and Credits link and use the course finder link to search for classes.

The DRPS Demystified: The DRPS (Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study), is the Edinburgh Course Catalog: http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/18-19/. **Make certain to choose classes taught in Semester 1, e.g., the period of teaching. The Delivery Period should be designated as S1.**

Browse (search for classes) by School or Subject Area. Some Schools such as Geosciences have multiple subjects (Earth Science, Ecological Science, Environmental Courses, Geography, Geosciences, Meteorology, etc.) while some like Informatics only has Informatics (Computer Science.)

Only refer to the SCQF credit numbers, either 10 or 20. Both 10 and 20 credit classes equal 9 Caltech units. This is explained further in the CREDIT section below.

Do NOT list ECTS credits. ECTS are listed for the convenience of European visiting students.

In the DRPS classes has codes such as SVI, SS1 and VV1. These codes must be understood to properly choose classes:

- **SV1** – *available* to visiting students– *check semester class is taught* – MUST BE **SEMESTER 1 and all SV1 Semester 1 classes have a December exam date.**
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- **VV1** – available to visiting students, but **check if taught in Semester 1** AND the class has a December exam date. Fall visiting students cannot take Semester 1 VV1 classes that have a May or June exam date.
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- **SS1** are not available to visiting students because these are usually field classes, yearlong project classes, or yearlong classes not open to visitors.

- A class listed as postgraduate that is SV1 or VV1 with a fall exam or assessment is not open to undergraduates. Postgraduate classes can say Available to all students, but that indicates **graduate students** and not **undergraduates**.

- The DRPS indicates in the top left corner of each class description which year a class is usually taken by undergraduates, e.g., Year 4 = senior, but a well-prepared junior (when at Edinburgh) might be able to take a Year 4 class. And seniors (when at Edinburgh) can take classes below Year 4 should they wish to.

Classes for next fall are not listed until the summer and students should choose classes from the current year's course catalog. Changes will be permitted upon consultation with the director of study abroad in concert with the CSE Academic Officer once classes for the fall are listed.

Credit: At least two of classes (18 Caltech units) must receive option equivalent or option elective credit in the student's primary STEM option. Usually these two required classes are in the School most similar to the student's Caltech option. In some situations, the two required option credit classes can be split between two schools. For example: a physics student could take two classes in the School of Physics or one in the School of Physics and one in the School of Mathematics to meet the two class Caltech requirement.

Each Class is equal to 9 Caltech units whether the class is listed as 10 or 20 Edinburgh credits. Each school has a different unit system so all classes are treated at 9 Caltech units with the only exception being the need to fulfill a Caltech 12-unit equivalent class at Edinburgh. Students must have a minimum of 40 credits in the College of Science and Engineering **CSE**.

HSS Credit: Courses in the humanities and social science can be taken to fulfill CIT HSS requirements provided that you obtain Caltech's HSS departmental permission from the Social Science or Humanities Executive Officer through an evaluation agreement -- this is done after you are selected for study abroad.

Note that the Geography Department http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/18-19/dpt/cx_sb_gegr.htm in the School of Geosciences offers some social science classes that can be taken for HSS credit, sometimes advanced if a student has taken an introductory class in that subject already. This is at the discretion of Caltech Executive Officer for Social Sciences.

Note that while Edinburgh offers some fine art classes, these are very difficult to get into and placement are often not decided until the summer.

Course Level: Courses are designated by level. Courses taken by 3rd and 4th year students (juniors and seniors) are at level 9 and above. Courses listed as level 7 or 8 are usually introductory classes.

Level 7 or 8 classes in the humanities or social sciences are more appropriate than higher-level classes for those with minimal prior coursework in a subject. For example, if a student has never taken a philosophy class before, the level 7 or 8 classes may be more suitable than level 9, 10 or 11 classes, which often need a solid foundation in a subject even if no prerequisites are noted. In their option or a closely related field, most students take courses at level 9 or 10. Many departments offer level 10 and 11 classes, which are equivalent to senior year or graduate level. Students can take these IF they have the background and meet the prerequisites. However, some departments do not allow visiting students to take such advanced courses, and these will be noted on the DRPS with "SS" under availability, or "Not available to Visiting Students" on the course description. Postgraduate classes cannot be taken even if the description notes the class is Available to All Students.

Course List Requirements: The Course List should list 4 to 5 courses totaling 60 to 80 Edinburgh credits. Note you must take at least 4 courses, a minimum of 60 Edinburgh credits

and up to a maximum of 5 classes and max of 80 Edinburgh credits. Most students take 70 credits.

In your course list <u>only</u> list the <u>SCQF</u> credits (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework).

DO NOT LIST ECTS credits. This only relevant for those doing their degree in Europe. *This can be confusing so make sure you are looking only at the SCQF credit numbers which are located at the top left side of each DRPS Description.*

Aside from the two mandatory option credit classes for 18 Caltech units, the remaining two to three courses are the student's choice within the College of Science and Engineering **CSE** or in the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences **CAHSS** (up to 40 credits - usually two courses) as long as the following criteria are met and see DRPS information above as well:
- **Class is taught in Semester 1**
- **Class has a December examination or final assessment**
- **Class is open to visiting undergraduate students. In the DRPS the course level**
- **Classes designated as only postgraduate cannot be taken by undergraduates.**
- **Student has the academic background to take the class demonstrated by prior classes in the subject germane to the class the student wants to take**

Teaching methods: Teaching methods are usually a combination of lectures and tutorials, with laboratory or project work for some courses. For some courses, lectures are the primary teaching method. The lectures provide a guide to the subject matter and set out the foundations on which students are expected to build their understanding of the subject through labs, problems sets, essays, reading, or projects as appropriate to the course being taken. Much of this is done independently by the student.

Tutorials will consist of a small group of students and will provide the opportunity to develop themes and discuss problems, usually on the basis of written work or problem sets. The style of teaching at Edinburgh will differ from what you are used to at Caltech. You may find that you have fewer hours of direct teaching (this will depend on the subject area), and in this case, you are expected to study in the library, work through the reading list and demonstrate your work in essays, problems sets, exams and by contribution in tutorials.

Project/Design Classes: These classes may have some lectures or be all group or individual project work. Design classes can be only lecture based. Check the DRPS description for each class.

Examinations and Coursework: Students are required to take all exams and do all required work. End of term exams are often set up specifically for the visiting students, as Edinburgh students take their exams at the end of the year. *Note well: as with all of Caltech's study abroad programs, all work must be completed and turned in by the end of the host university's semester or term and prior to departing the host university. No extensions are granted for any reason. You must bring your work back with you to Caltech for evaluation – a process that will be described in full after you are accepted into the program.*

Caltech students will be evaluated by Caltech and Edinburgh faculty on a special evaluation form, the Edinburgh Course Report form as well as receiving a transcript from Edinburgh.

Students will take all courses at Edinburgh for grades, but only credit or no credit will transfer to the Caltech transcript. Students can receive option, HSS or general units to fulfill option or Caltech requirements.

Online Selection Information
Note that Caltech and Edinburgh have their own selection process for the Edinburgh Scholars Program. Therefore, if you come across any directions on the University of Edinburgh web pages about how to apply for visiting student status, please ignore this information.

When you copy course descriptions from web pages, please adjust the spacing so that the descriptions are single-spaced.

General Information
You can reach the main University of Edinburgh web page at: http://www.ed.ac.uk/