

Edinburgh Scholars Study Abroad Program

Program Description & Application Requirements

Applications due 3pm, January 25

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 2018 fall semester are Monday, **September 17 through Friday, December 21. Participants are required to attend the orientation Welcome Week that is held the week prior to the start of the semester (Sept. 8-16).** Academic calendar: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/semester-dates/201819>

Final examinations are formal and must be taken on the official date.

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>

Subjects in the College of Science and Engineering are taught at the Kings Buildings, 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 and a gym. Classes in the humanities and social science are held in the George Square campus, which is nearer to the city center and has many additional facilities. The university runs a shuttle bus between the two campuses during weekdays.

Room and Board

Caltech students live in an Edinburgh University owned and managed student flat. The student flats are near the central George Square campus area and the entertainment area of the city (Cow's Gate and Grassmarket). Students live in a single room and share a kitchen, bathroom, and lounge with about 4 to 5 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. Students will not be on a board plan, but rather be buying and cooking their own meals and would need to budget for three additional weeks of food costs. The housing supplement depends on Edinburgh charges and the exchange rate. Students on financial aid may be eligible for additional funding to cover these costs and should talk to the Financial Aid Office if they have questions.

Academic Program

The University is organized into three Colleges: Humanities & Social Science, Science & Engineering, Medicine & Veterinary Medicine - ***No courses can be taken in this college! The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine does not participate in the Visiting Student program, but for future medics, (pre-med students) some Medical Science courses are available through the College of Science and Engineering.*** The three colleges are composed of 22 schools.

Edinburgh's *Study Abroad In Edinburgh* is a good starting point for researching course options:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad>. Click on the Courses and Credits link and use the course finder link to search for classes. A comprehensive list of courses is found on the Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study (DRPS): <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/>

Due to the terms of our exchange, Caltech students can choose any course within the Faculties of Humanities & Social Science (up to 20 credits) or Science & Engineering for which they have proper background and for which there is not limited registration. Limited registration courses (usually senior seminars) can be taken only with the approval of the department offering the course. *Note that students may not take graduate level courses or seminars in the humanities or social sciences.* Consult the website URLs at the end of this handout for course information.

IMPORTANT: Note that students can only take a total of 20 Edinburgh credits in the College of Humanities and Social Science. The only exception to this is BEM/Economics students who can take two courses (40 credits) in the Economics Department. The Geography Department, which is in the College of Science and Engineering, offers many social science oriented courses *for which you can request social science credit for quantitative classes and humanities credit for writing intensive classes.* There are also some very interesting Social Science courses in the School of Geosciences, Environmental Courses:

http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17/dpt/cx_sb_envi.htm

Unlike at UCL, you will NOT have an Admitting Department. Rather, you will be admitted into the College of Science and Engineering. However, at least two of your classes must be in or pertinent to your option and at least one of these in your school. For example: a physics student could take 2 classes in the School of Physics or one in the School of Physics and one in the School of Mathematics to meet a Caltech requirement. The remaining one to three courses are the student's choice within the College of Science and Engineering or in the College of Humanities and Social Science (up to 20 credits - usually one course).

Classes are equal to 9 Caltech units. Your proposal should list 4 to 5 courses totaling 60 to 80 Edinburgh credits. You may take a maximum of 5 classes. If a student must take a particular class at Edinburgh that is 10-credits, and it is equivalent to a 12 CIT unit class at Caltech, then the student can request 12 CIT units. It is always up to the evaluating professor to decide how many CIT units to grant.

Note you must take at least 4 courses, a minimum of 60 Edinburgh credits and up to a maximum of 80 Edinburgh credits. Most students take 70 credits. Most courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences are 20 credits each. Many courses in Engineering are 10 credits each.

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.

Teaching methods are usually a combination of lectures and tutorials, with laboratory work for science-based courses. For most 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.

The 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.

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. 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, Institute, or general units and, with permission, use Edinburgh courses to fulfill general, institute, or option requirements.

Web Page Information

Note that Caltech will have its 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/>.

Department and Course Information

• **The *Study Abroad in Edinburgh Guide*** at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad> shows the years in which classes are usually taken in each School (Department). This is a good starting point to begin to understand the academic options available.

• ***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 1st year 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 high level courses, and these will be noted on the DRPS with "SS" under availability, or "Not available to Visiting Students" on the course description.

• Students can choose courses from the **Study Abroad Course Finder:** <http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad/course>.

DRPS

Students can also choose their courses directly from the Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study (DRPS), which is the Edinburgh Course Catalog: <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/> It is wise to read through the glossary to understand the terminology used in the DRPS: http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/17-18/whole_glossary.php. **Make certain to choose classes taught in Semester 1, e.g. the period of teaching (Delivery Period) should be designated as S1.** Most courses are available to Visiting Students, but there are exceptions. *Courses not available to Visiting Students are marked 'N' in search results.*

Note that **Part Year Variant Courses** are delivered (taught) across the full academic year or are delivered during Semester 1, but have their final exam in Semester 2. In fact, normally all final examinations for classes, including those taken in Semester 1 take place in April-May and, therefore, special arrangements need to be made to allow Visiting Students to be examined in December. Therefore, a VS designation in the DRPS is noted to indicate that such arrangements **MUST** be made for one semester classes as well as those Part Year Variant courses that allow students to take only the fall half. If a class has an 'N' designation (NO), Visiting Students are not allowed to take that class.

As noted above, some of these 'Part Year Variant Courses' can be taken by Visiting Students. Courses of this nature are variants of an existing parent course and have their own course code, with different assessment arrangements and details. Such courses that may be taken by Visiting Students are usually designated by a VS1 (for Semester 1) signifying that there is an assessment set up for December.

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

Note that you must choose at least two courses in your option or a related field at the upper-class course level. If you have a dual option, you should select one of your fields to be your primary field of study at Edinburgh.

If you need more information about a course, you should write directly to the department or instructor. Note that for full year courses, you will almost certainly have to contact the instructor or department to learn which topics are covered in the fall and to determine (if not clearly stated in the course information) whether students may take the fall semester only of a full year course.