Edinburgh Scholars Study Abroad Program
Program Description & Application Requirements
Deadline date: January 25, 3pm

Email all materials including transcript to: SAapplications@caltech.edu & have references emailed to: SAreferences@caltech.edu

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 2023 fall semester are Monday, September 18 through Friday, December 22. Participants are required to attend the orientation Welcome Week that is held the week prior to the start of the semester (Sept. 11-14). Academic calendar: https://www.ed.ac.uk/semester-dates/202324

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 in a very lively area of the city (Cowgate 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: The University is organized into three Colleges:

College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Science (CAHSS)
College of Science & Engineering (CSE)
* College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine - **No courses can be taken in this college** *except in the Biomedical Sciences track in the College of Medicine as long as they have 40 units in the College of Science and Engineering and do not exceed the 80 unit maximum and 5 class maximum for all colleges.*

The Degree Regulations and Programs of Study (DRPS) provides comprehensive information of classes. http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/ 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.

Edinburgh's Study Abroad in Edinburgh can also be used to research classes, but the DRPS is recommended as it is the official course catalog: http://www.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad. Click on the Courses and Credits link and use the course finder link to search for classes.

Due to the terms of our exchange, Caltech students can choose any course within the Faculties of Humanities & Social Science (up to 40 credits) or Science & Engineering (must have 40 credits minimum) for which they have the background and which are open to visiting students as noted above. 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.

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.

Unlike UCL, students do NOT have an Admitting Department. Rather, students are admitted into the College of Science and Engineering, but classes are reviewed by the department closest to their option. However, at least two of your classes must receive option elective or required equivalent class credit. For example: a physics student could take two classes in the School of Physics and Astronomy or one in the School of Physics and Astronomy and one in the School of Mathematics to meet an option elective requirement. The remaining classes are the student's choice within the College of Science and Engineering or in the College of Humanities and Social Science (up to 40 credits).

Classes are equal to 9 Caltech units. <u>Your proposal should list 4 to 5 courses totaling 60 to 80 Edinburgh credits.</u> You may take a maximum of 5 classes. Classes are either 10 or 20 Edinburgh credits each and given 9 Caltech units. If a student must take a particular class at Edinburgh that is 10 or 20 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 and Mathematics are 10 credits each. This varies by subject and this is why all classes get 9 units.

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 -- <u>this is done after you are selected for study abroad.</u>

Due to the terms of our exchange, Caltech students can choose up to 40 credits from the CAHSS provided they also have 40 credits in CSE. All students must list a minimum of 60 credits total and 4 classes (max 5) with at least two being STEM classes in the department at Edinburgh most equivalent to their Caltech. A 3.0 GPA minimum is required to apply.

Limited registration courses may be taken based on availability. Note that students may not take graduate level courses or seminars in the humanities or social sciences. Consult the website URLs for course information.

Teaching methods are usually a combination of lectures and tutorials, and some STEM classes have laboratories called practicals. In some areas such as engineering, design/project classes are offered. 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. Each class description in the DRPS (Edinburgh course catalog) provides the number of teaching, lab, etc. hours and specifies the type of assessment and the diet, i.e., date of the exam, which must be December.

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.

<u>Web Page Information</u>

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

Department and Course Information⌴SEP⌴
• 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 and the DRPS states that the class is open to visiting undergraduates. 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**: https://www.ed.ac.uk/global/study-abroad/course or in the current year's DRPS – see below.

DRPS & What SV1, SS1 and VV1 Course Codes Mean
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/22-23/ **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.*

Only use the SCQF credit numbers, either 10 or 20. Do NOT list ECTS credits. ECTS are listed for the convenience of European visiting students.

In the DRPS classes have codes such as SVI, SS1 and VV1. These codes indicate when a class is taught

- **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.**

- **SS1** are not available to visiting students because these are usually field classes, yearlong project classes, or yearlong classes not open to visitors.

- **VV1** are no longer available to visiting students, due to the exam date. Fall visiting students cannot take VV1 classes as they now all have a May exam date.

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 once classes for the fall are listed. [1] SEP

Note that you must choose <u>at least two courses in the department most equivalent to your option.</u> If the student has a dual option, you should select one of your STEM fields to be your primary field of study at Edinburgh.