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

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 2027 fall semester are September 13 through December 21. Participants are required to attend the orientation Welcome Week that is held the week prior to the start of the semester (Sept. 6-10).

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

A 3.0 GPA minimum is required to apply.

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 30,000 students at the university. Of these, about 1/3 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.

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:
https://edinburgh-global.ed.ac.uk/study-abroad

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 8000 students studying science or engineering. There is an on-site student union and a gym. Classes in the humanities and social science are held on 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 14-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 food plan but rather buy and cook 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 a Financial Aid meeting will be head once you are placed at a program.

Academic Program

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 about classes. http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/25-26/

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

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.

Students may NOT take graduate level courses or seminars in the humanities or social sciences.

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. 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).

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.

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 6 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.

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 if 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.

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.

In the Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study (DRPS) classes have codes such as SVI, SS1 and VV1. These codes indicate when a class is taught and courses not available to Visiting Students are marked 'N' in search results.

- **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. The period of teaching (Delivery Period) should be designated as S1. All classes you list should be SV1.

- **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.

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 teachings, lab, etc. hours and specifies the type of assessment and the diet, i.e., date of the exam, which must be in 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. 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 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 Edinburgh faculty on a Course Report Form. Students will take all courses at Edinburgh for grades and will receive a transcript, but only credit or no credit will transfer to the Caltech transcript. Students can receive option credit, general credit or with permission ahead of the term, an Edinburgh courses could fulfill course equivalent credit.

Web Page Information

Caltech has its own selection process for the Edinburgh Scholars Program. If you come across any directions on the University of Edinburgh website about how to apply for visiting student status, please ignore this information.

General Information

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

Department and Course Information

- **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, 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.

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 FASA office and Edinburgh staff once classes for the fall are listed.