

# Pathways to the Professions

Opening the door to careers in Law,  
Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and  
Architecture

student recruitment & admissions

[www.sra.ed.ac.uk](http://www.sra.ed.ac.uk)



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

The University of Edinburgh's Pathways to the Professions Project works with local schools, prospective students and their families and professional bodies to raise awareness of courses and careers in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture.

### Activities include:

- One to one pre-application guidance for prospective students and their families
- Guidance on relevant work observation opportunities
- Information on course and extra curricular requirements from S4
- The opportunity to meet and shadow current students
- Mentoring
- Parents' information sessions

### Depending on your eligibility Pathways to the Professions will:

- Provide a pre-application interview to eligible school students and advice on personal statement
- Give advice and guidance on course and extra curricular requirements to students and their advisers
- Offer shadowing of current undergraduate students
- Help to arrange relevant work observation opportunities
- Hold careers information events in collaboration with the Law Society of Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
- Hold information evenings for parents
- Arrange mentoring in S6 and in the first year at the University of Edinburgh
- Provide revision sessions for Highers

### How to find out more

#### Do you want to find out more about becoming a doctor, lawyer, vet or architect?

If you attend a state secondary school in Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian or West Lothian, the Pathways to the Professions Project will work with you, your school and family from S4 course choice through to university entrance to give you information on how YOU can apply for a degree in Law, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine or Architecture. For more information on how you can register please contact:

#### Pathways to the Professions

Student Recruitment and Admissions  
University of Edinburgh  
57 George Square  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9JU

Telephone: 0131 651 1905

Email: [pathways@ed.ac.uk](mailto:pathways@ed.ac.uk)

Web: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/pathways](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-recruitment/widening-participation/pathways)

to register online or download a registration form.

If you require this document in an alternative format e.g. large print please telephone 0131 651 1905 or email [pathways@ed.ac.uk](mailto:pathways@ed.ac.uk)

# Law

A degree in law is necessary as the first step in becoming a solicitor; but did you know it can also open up a wide range of career opportunities both in and out with the legal profession? If you want to be a solicitor, you will need to gain an undergraduate law degree (LLB, soon to be called the 'Foundation Programme'), a one-year postgraduate qualification called 'Professional Education and Training 1' (PEAT 1) then a two year traineeship (PEAT 2). You are paid during your traineeship period, making the seven years of study more financially feasible.

Many students who study an LLB degree do not, however, choose to be a solicitor. The analytical skills and precision of thought learnt during the study of law are valued in a wide range of careers and opportunities include journalism, politics, roles within the financial professions, campaigning bodies, teaching and many more.

The Foundation Programme is offered at the following Scottish Universities: Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Abertay, Dundee, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Edinburgh Napier, Robert Gordon, Stirling and Strathclyde. Competition for places at the University of Edinburgh's School of Law is strong, as you would expect, and exam achievement is important. The School also places strong emphasis on applicants' motivation and commitment and in your UCAS personal statement you should take care to show *why* you want to study law as well as details of the steps you have taken to learn about the subject. Non-academic interests will also show you are a well-rounded and interesting person... and this in turn will make you a better law student and lawyer.

During your degree you will study a wide range of legal subjects covering areas such as criminal, contract, European, family and employment law; but there are also options to study many other subjects from across the University (known as outside courses). Teaching is carried out through lectures and tutorials and assessment usually comprises essays and written examinations. The School participates in the ERASMUS programme, as well as other exchanges,

giving students the chance to study abroad for a year during the degree. It is a demanding course and it is worth noting that the first two years are when the subjects required for professional practice are studied and entry to PEAT 1 is based partly on the results of these first two years. Help is at hand for first years, however, as the School offers each first year law undergraduate a place on its Peer Assisted Learning Scheme (LawPALS) for informal study and peer support.

The University of Edinburgh's School of Law is based in Old College, the historic central building of the University. Many of Scotland's famous legal writers, judges and politicians studied here, including David Hume, Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson. The campus is within the traditional 'legal heartland' of Edinburgh with the Sheriff Court, Court of Session, High Court, Faculty of Advocates and Signet Library a stone's throw away. Students are encouraged to go and sit in the courts in the public gallery and we would encourage you to do the same. It is free and will provide you with an insight into the legal proceedings and cases. The Scottish Parliament is also close, at the foot of the Royal Mile.

Pathways to the Professions provides you with the opportunity to find out more about studying law and whether a career in law is right for you. We have many opportunities for you to explore within this career path and we will support you in making your application if you decide it is the right path for you.

# Medicine

To become a doctor, you will first of all need to complete a five-year undergraduate medical degree at university, the MBChB. As well as the University of Edinburgh, courses are also offered at Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and St Andrews (please note St Andrews' is 3 years in St Andrews plus 3 clinical years at another medical school).

There has been a medical school in Edinburgh since the 18th Century. Today's modern and innovative curriculum provides excellent training for doctors to meet the challenges of practising medicine in the 21st century. The standards of entry for all medical schools are high and competition for places is strong. Generally, medical schools will look for applicants to have 5 good passes at Higher in S5 plus Advanced Higher subjects in S6. A good grade in Chemistry Higher is essential, and they will generally look for high grades in your other subjects as well.

The majority of UK Medical Schools, including Edinburgh, use an aptitude test, the UKCAT, for entry to medical courses and this is now a mandatory requirement for all applications. Further information about the test is available at [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)

It is important to note that each medical school sets its own entry requirements so you should contact the individual medical schools for more detailed information where necessary.

Every medical school has its own course content. Each course is different and uses different methods of teaching so it is important that you think carefully about the kind of course that would suit you. You can obtain a copy of the syllabus from each medical school.

Unlike some other medical schools, the University of Edinburgh does not normally interview students as part of the selection process, so your UCAS personal statement is even more important. It should highlight that you know what studying medicine and becoming a doctor will entail, the qualities you have to be a good doctor and your understanding of the course. You should also mention your work at school, hobbies and any personal interests you have.



Appropriate work experience or work shadowing (working with diseased, disabled and disadvantaged), as evidence of an informed decision to apply for a medical programme, is considered positively. The many activities offered through Pathways to the Professions may help you in this area, and guide you to other opportunities.

When considering a career in medicine, you may have an interest in a specialist area. Some of the links in the contacts sections of this booklet will be able to provide further information to help you understand what is required for the various specialties. However, you will not be expected to make a decision on what area of medicine you would like to practise until after you graduate.

# Veterinary Medicine

To become a veterinary surgeon, you will first of all need to complete a five-year undergraduate veterinary medicine degree. There are seven veterinary schools in the UK so you should contact the individual vet schools for more detailed information about entry requirements.

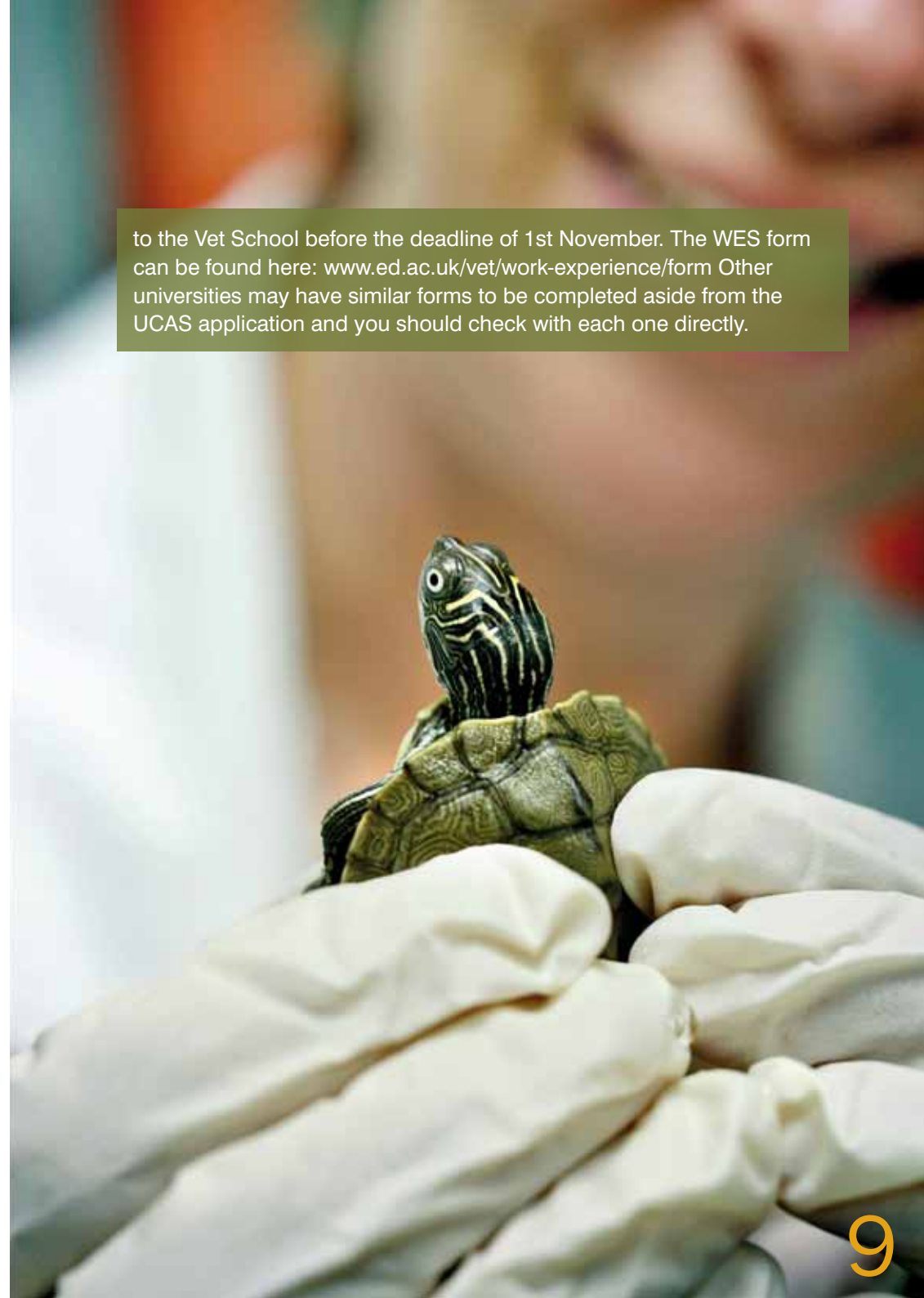
The University of Edinburgh School is The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, or the “Dick Vet” as it’s known locally in Edinburgh. It was established in 1823 by William Dick and was the first veterinary school in Scotland, and the second in the UK.

As with all universities in the UK offering veterinary medicine, competition is very strong and the standards for entry are high at the University of Edinburgh. The Undergraduate Selection Panel at Edinburgh will look for applicants with 5 good passes at Higher in Chemistry, two of Biology, Physics & and Maths and two other subjects in S5. Two Advanced Higher subjects are also required in S6 to include Chemistry and one other science, preferably Biology.

Universities interview students as part of the selection process for veterinary medicine, so the information you provide on your UCAS form is very important. Through your UCAS personal statement, you should highlight your motivation to become a veterinary surgeon, hobbies and personal interests and any relevant work experience you have undertaken or observed. The University of Edinburgh’s Vet School receives over 1200 applications, so it is important that you make sure that you clearly state periods of time spent on any work placements.

The variety of work experience you can get will depend on what is available to you in your local area; but you should aim to include experience of veterinary practice with both large and small animals if possible, and spending time on livestock farms (dairy and lambing are particularly useful). In addition, zoos, kennels, catteries, wildlife centres, pig farms, poultry farms, stables, abattoir and Veterinary Investigation (VI) centres are all possible sources of work experience. When you apply through UCAS to the University of Edinburgh, you should also complete and submit a Work Experience Summary (WES) form directly

to the Vet School before the deadline of 1st November. The WES form can be found here: [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/work-experience/form](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/work-experience/form) Other universities may have similar forms to be completed aside from the UCAS application and you should check with each one directly.



# Architecture

There isn't a Higher or A-level in architecture. So, as a university subject, it's new to everyone. To be a student of architecture, you need to enjoy the challenge of learning new things and thinking about familiar things in new ways. Architecture is not just building. Whilst we approach the builder to have built what we know we want, we get from the architect something that we couldn't have thought of for ourselves.

So, architecture is a profession for imaginative people; but it's also for practical people. Buildings have to stand up, serve their functions and inhabit their environment appropriately in social and ecological terms. In particular, architecture is a profession for people who want to make a difference to our living conditions. These conditions can be on the smallest domestic or the largest urban scale.

It takes a long time to become an architect – five or six years before you get a job, and another couple of years or so before you gain professional accreditation; but that's broadly typical of the professions. You do have the opportunity after four years to take a placement period where you can work in an architect's office and put theory into practice. Students of architecture enjoy learning, and they hope to be respected for it when they qualify.

The University of Edinburgh – unlike other universities who offer architecture in Scotland – doesn't interview or ask for portfolios. Your artistic ability is sufficiently indicated by your qualifications: you'll acquire a lot more through your years on the architecture programme. You can think of your personal statement serving as your half of an imagined interview. It is therefore important that you communicate your interest and enthusiasm. If you can gain some work experience in some area of activity that's connected with architecture, that will be firm evidence of commitment that you can include.

Once you've been accepted onto the programme, you follow three general threads: artistic, scientific and cultural. In any week, you will be doing Architectural Design – the main activity – both in the studio, and our workshops; you'll be attending lectures, tutorials and practical

workshop sessions in Technology and Environment; you'll be attending lectures and tutorials in Architectural History. In subsequent years, these threads become more entwined as your design work matures.

You will be a student within the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA). Our facilities are spread between our Chambers Street and Lauriston Place facilities. Your student life will be spent using and enjoying the varied resources of these sites.

Of course, you will also look around you in Edinburgh: one of its great recommendations as a place to study architecture is, as well as the School of Architecture, the city itself. Its long history and its variety of architecture rest upon a topography that is unusual and challenging for architecture. Edinburgh's architecture has often been hard-won on the rocky terrain where it often clings, perches and leaps. Many of the subjects you will take also involve field trips to the great cities of Europe and further afield. It's an exciting setting for the study of a challenging and important subject.

There are a number of universities in Scotland that offer architecture, so you should contact the individual universities for more detailed information about entry requirements and course structure.

## Undergraduate Admissions

### For Medicine:

Undergraduate Admissions  
The University of Edinburgh  
Room GU218  
Chancellor's Building  
49 Little France Crescent  
Edinburgh EH16 4SB  
Tel: 0131 242 6407  
Email: [medug@ed.ac.uk](mailto:medug@ed.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine](http://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine)

### For Law and Architecture:

College of Humanities & Social Science  
The University of Edinburgh,  
David Hume Tower  
George Square  
Edinburgh EH8 9JX  
Telephone: 0131 650 3565  
Email: [hssug@ed.ac.uk](mailto:hssug@ed.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.law.ed.ac.uk](http://www.law.ed.ac.uk)  
[www.esala.ac.uk](http://www.esala.ac.uk)

### For Veterinary Medicine:

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies  
The University of Edinburgh  
Easter Bush Veterinary Centre  
Roslin EH25 9RG  
Tel: 0131 650 6178  
Email: [vetug@ed.ac.uk](mailto:vetug@ed.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.ed.ac.uk/vet](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet)

## Professional Bodies

Pathways to the Professions has the support to date of the following professional bodies:

### Law

#### Law Society of Scotland

26 Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh EH3 7YR  
Telephone: 0131 226 7411  
Email: [lawscot@lawscot.org.uk](mailto:lawscot@lawscot.org.uk)  
Web: [www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk)

#### Faculty of Advocates

Advocates Library  
Parliament House  
Edinburgh EH1 1RF  
Telephone: 0131 226 5071  
Web: [www.advocates.org.uk](http://www.advocates.org.uk)

### Medicine

#### British Medical Association Scotland

14 Queen Street  
Edinburgh EH2 1LL  
Telephone: 0131 247 3000  
Email: [info.edinburgh@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.edinburgh@bma.org.uk)  
Web: [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)

#### Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

9 Queen Street  
Edinburgh EH2 1JQ  
Telephone: 0131 225 7324  
Web: [www.rcpe.ac.uk](http://www.rcpe.ac.uk)

#### Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Nicolson Street  
Edinburgh EH8 9DW  
Telephone: 0131 527 1600  
Email: [mail@rcsed.ac.uk](mailto:mail@rcsed.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.rcsed.ac.uk](http://www.rcsed.ac.uk)

### Vet Medicine

#### Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Belgravia House  
62-64 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 2AF  
Telephone: 020 7222 2001  
Email: [admin@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:admin@rcvs.org.uk)

### Architecture

#### Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

15 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh EH21 2BE  
Telephone: 0131 229 7545  
Email: [info@rias.org.uk](mailto:info@rias.org.uk)  
Web: [www.rias.org.uk](http://www.rias.org.uk)

### Student Funding

#### The Student Awards Agency for Scotland

Email: [can be sent via website](mailto:can be sent via website)  
Web: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

#### University of Edinburgh Scholarships and Finance Office

For information about bursaries available whilst studying at the University of Edinburgh and how to apply online  
[www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding)

## Volunteering Opportunities

Some volunteer experience can be obtained via a range of organisations including Edinburgh Volunteer Exchange - [www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk](http://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk) where there are also links to their sister organisations in East Lothian, Mid Lothian and West Lothian.

You could also approach Community Service Volunteers Scotland ([www.csv.org](http://www.csv.org)) for full time volunteering opportunities, particularly useful for those taking a gap-year.

## Useful Information

### LEAPS

Pathways works closely with Lothians Equal Access Programme for Schools.

### LEAPS

Telephone: 0131 650 4676  
Web: [www.leapsonline.org](http://www.leapsonline.org)

### Careers

#### Careers Scotland

Telephone: 0845 8502 502  
Web: [www.careers-scotland.org.uk](http://www.careers-scotland.org.uk)

## Useful Websites

Please note, Pathways to the Professions is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

### **New Media Medicine Forum:**

[www.newmediamedicine.com/forum/forum.php](http://www.newmediamedicine.com/forum/forum.php)

A useful forum for prospective medical students

### **BMA: Becoming a Doctor:**

[www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)

A useful resource for information about careers in Medicine

### **PlanIT:**

[www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net)

A guide through lifelong learning and the world of work, providing detailed case studies on careers in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture

### **Scottish Law Online**

[www.scottishlaw.org.uk](http://www.scottishlaw.org.uk)

A web portal for lawyers, solicitors or advocates, academics, students or the public who are interested in Scots Law

### **UCAS**

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

You apply through UCAS to any university courses in Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture and will find useful information on their website

## Application Timetable

Below are the key dates of the UCAS application cycle. Remember to allow yourself time to draft and redraft your application, since your personal statement is very important for these courses.

**1 September:** Applications accepted by UCAS

**15 October:** Deadline for applications for Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Medicine, ANY course at Oxford and Cambridge

**15 January:** Deadline for all other UCAS courses including Law and Architecture

**Easter Time:** Application forms for financial support normally available from SAAS

**End of April:** If all offers have been received by 31 March then students should respond to UCAS by this date

**1 July:** Applications received after this point will only be considered through clearing - because of the competitive nature of professional courses they rarely go into clearing

## Career Case studies

*The Faculty of Advocates exists to ensure that, in the interests of justice, the people of Scotland have the highest possible standard of representation before the Supreme Courts of Scotland. For this to happen, it is necessary to have advocates of the highest quality, regardless of their family background, race, gender etc. This requires the widest possible pool of candidates and accordingly it is essential that candidates from Widening Participation backgrounds are given an opportunity to develop their potential to become advocates. The first step in the qualification process is to obtain an LLB degree. The encouragement and assistance Pathways*



*gives to such candidates to apply for and obtain an LLB is of benefit not just to the students themselves but ultimately to the Scottish Bar and the people of Scotland.*

**Andrew F. Stewart Q.C.**

*Pathways gave me the opportunity as a school student to attend career days and helped me to arrange work experience. As no one in my family had attended university before, Pathways enabled me to experience the university environment and speak to current students. By continuing to engage with Pathways as a student I hope I supported, advised and inspired the doctors of tomorrow. I am starting my first job in Oxford soon and will definitely stay involved with Pathways.*



**Lynn Hryhorskyj MBChB; B Med Sci (Hons)** who graduated from the University of Edinburgh recently is from East Lothian and is now commencing her career as a doctor.

*I grew up in a rural community in South West Scotland where my combined fascination for science and love of animals made veterinary medicine an obvious career choice. Following my undergraduate studies, I spent 3 years in general veterinary practice before studying for a PhD at the vet school in Edinburgh.*

*I subsequently joined the University teaching staff and specialised in pathology. My current job as a senior lecturer includes teaching veterinary students and both diagnostic and research pathology. We deal with all animals from rabbits to rhinos!*



**Prof Susan Rhind** University of Edinburgh, Professor of Veterinary Education & Veterinary Pathologist.



## Case studies/quotes from students

*Having attended every Pathways event passed my way over the last two-and-a-half years, I can safely say that the University of Edinburgh feels very like home to me. I've developed my confidence, broadened my understanding of the legal profession greatly, and made a new group of friends within both the Pathways team and amongst the other students. I can't begin to express how thankful I am that Pathways were there to support me as I took the final steps. Roll on the LLB!*



**Leon Macmillan** is from Leith and is shortly starting his Law degree at the University of Edinburgh.

*Pathways gave me the confidence and support to pursue my ambition of studying medicine. From attending events, meeting medical students and university staff through to being able to get advice from the Pathways team on the phone, the experience offered by Pathways was invaluable and made me eager to begin my university career.*



**Scott James** is from West Lothian, studies Medicine at Edinburgh and was the first in his family to go to university.

### Quotes from **school students** on Pathways to the Professions:

*Through Pathways I was able to attend various workshops and presentations which better informed me of what life as a lawyer would be like...Without this help I don't think I would have stayed the course.*

*I just wanted to say that today's architecture event was really excellent. It has only added to my excitement.*

*I have confirmed my Medicine place at Edinburgh! A big thank you for all the help and support you have provided! I have found the Pathways events to be extremely informative and very enjoyable over the years.*

*Just want to say thanks to Pathways for giving me the opportunity to go to Langhill Farm. I really enjoyed it and learnt a lot. It was a great experience!*