



# Pathways to the Professions

Opening the Doors  
to Higher Education



The University of **Edinburgh**





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student recruitment & admissions  
[www.sra.ed.ac.uk](http://www.sra.ed.ac.uk)

# Pathways to the Professions

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

student recruitment & admissions  
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## Programme

- Welcome and Introduction to Pathways to the Professions / Reach
- Choosing a Course, and the Application Process
- Finance & Funding
- Subject Discussion Groups
- Opportunity for informal discussion



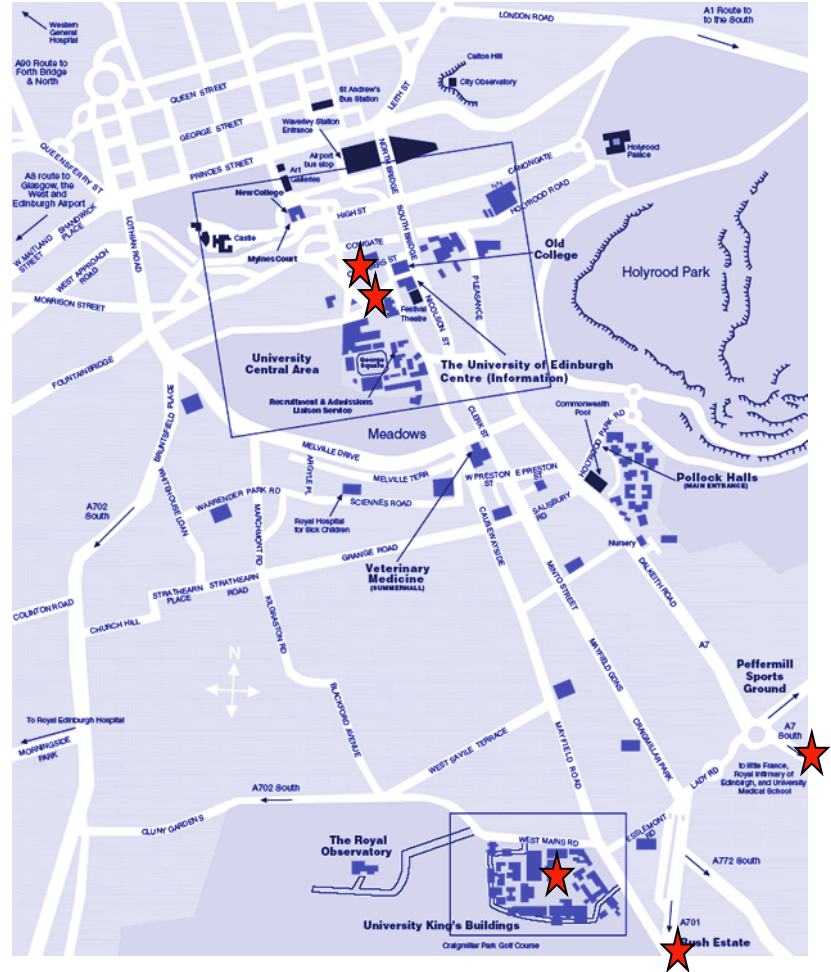
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# Where are we?



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# UoE Strategic Plan

**Strategic theme: Promoting equality, diversity, sustainability and social responsibility**

“We are committed to widening participation, increasing diversity and providing equality of opportunity for all prospective and current students and staff.”

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# Project Overview

- Pathways and Reach give information, support and advice to state school students re Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Architecture working with the subject areas, schools, families and the professional bodies
- Pathways targets state schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians (46) – open to all students with eligibility criteria for certain events (LEAPS eligible). Reach works with target schools in the Scottish Borders and Forth Valley

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# Schools Programme

- S4-S6** Information and advice on course and extra curricular requirements/career exploration for students, their families and advisers
- S4** Course choice event
- S4/S5** Parents' information sessions
- S5** 'So You Want to be a Lawyer/Doctor/Vet' Careers Days  
Priority invitations to public lectures / workshops

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# Schools Programme

**S5** Kickstart Summer Programmes in Science or the Humanities and Social Sciences (Midlothian, East Lothian, West Lothian and Reach)

**S6** 1:1 pre UCAS interviews and admissions guidance (if LEAPS eligible)

**S6** Invitation to LEAPS Summer School (if LEAPS eligible)

**S6** Personal Statement workshops

Ongoing information by phone, email, Facebook, texts, online, [askastudent@ed.ac.uk](mailto:askastudent@ed.ac.uk)

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# Student voices

*"I never really knew much about what becoming a Lawyer would involve"*

*"I chose Edinburgh not just for the prestige of medicine but because through Pathways I already felt part of the university"*

*"without [the project] I would be more in the dark and unsure of where to go for help"*

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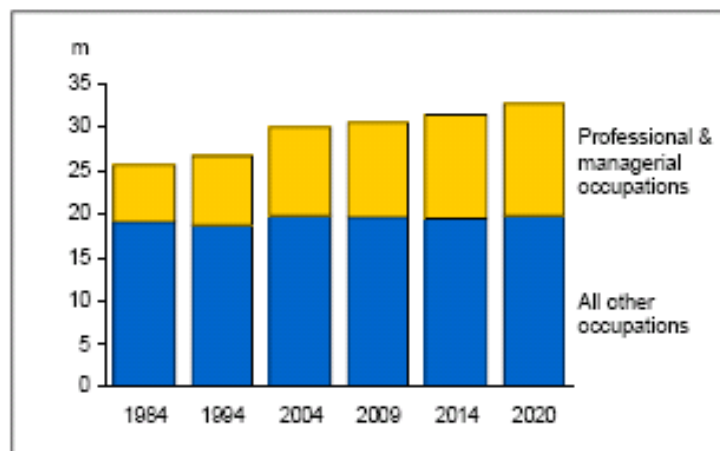




## Access to the Professions is crucial to economic success – some studies suggest in the long term the economy will need up to 7 million new professionals from structural change and replacement needs

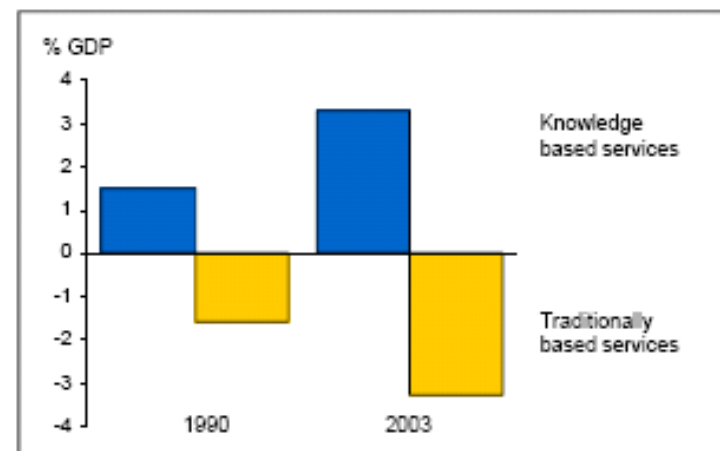
### The UK will need 6.8m new entrants into the Professions by 2020

Historical and forecast labour force by occupation<sup>1</sup>



### The UK will need to compete most fiercely in the knowledge intensive sectors of the economy

Components of services income in UK balance of payments, %GDP<sup>2</sup>



- Some studies suggest long term structural growth will be most concentrated in the professional and managerial sectors of the economy, with up to 9 in 10 of the jobs created likely to be in these sectors
- Demands through structural change and replacement needs can be met through new entry to the labour force (e.g. graduates), from the existing labour force (e.g. through upskilling), and from other sources (e.g. re-entry to the labour force or net migration)

(1) Warwick Institute of Employment Research and Leitch Review of Skills (2004), (2) Rowthorne et al.

# Pathways to the Professions

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

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Film

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# Choosing a course and the application process

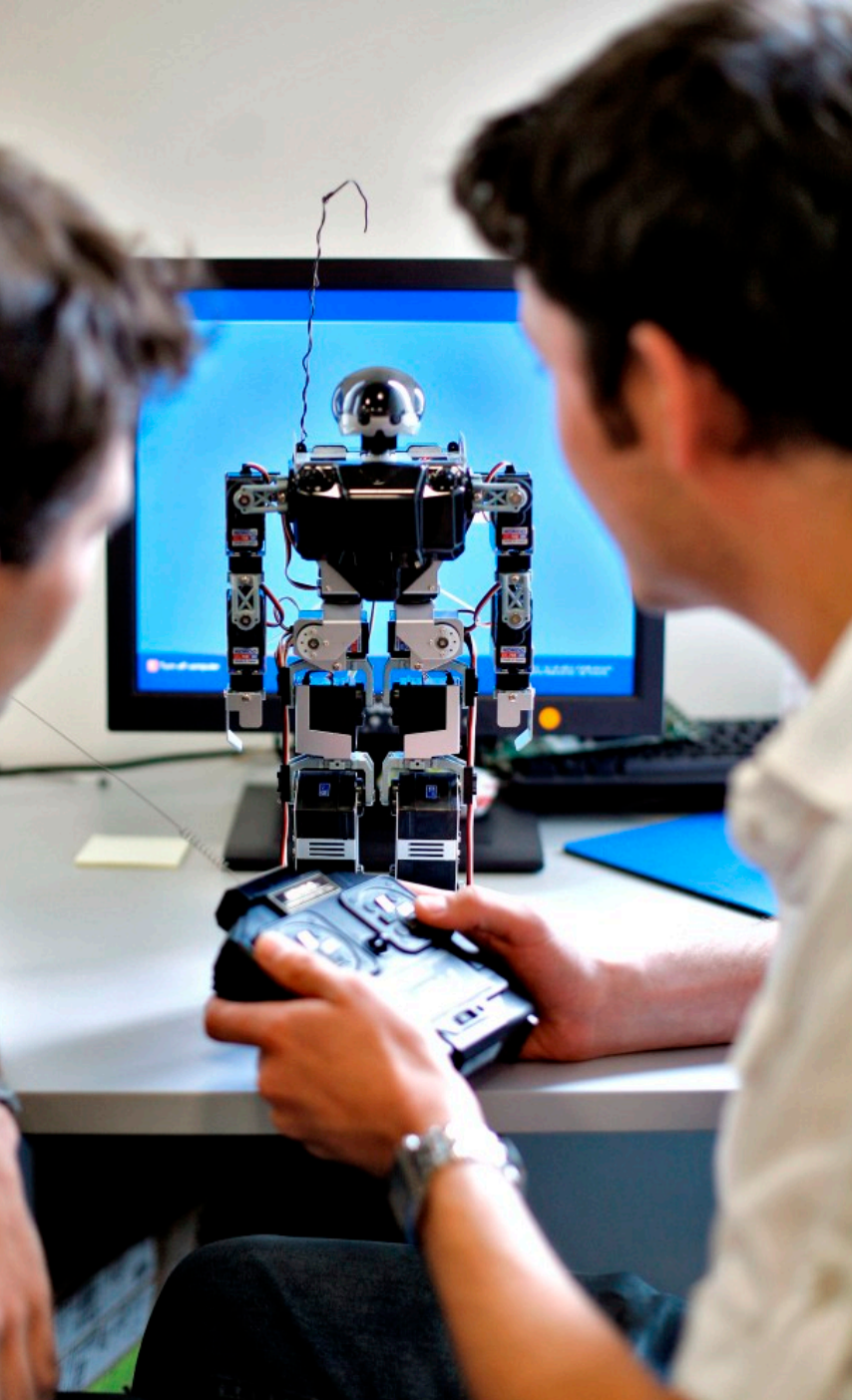


# How to choose

- Research course content carefully (compare institutions)
- Teaching and assessment methods
- Quality of teaching and research
- Consider future career paths

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# Which University?

- Accommodation
- Student support & welfare
- Scholarships or bursaries available?
- Academic, social and sports facilities

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# The UCAS System

- Application system for degree (and HNC/D) courses at any UK University or Higher Education college
- Can apply electronically via *ucasapply* system (paper applications not normally accepted)
- One application for up to **FIVE** courses (four max. for Dentistry, Medicine & Vet Medicine)
- Application to be completed by 15 January of the year of entry, except for:

**Dentistry, Medicine & Vet Medicine** applications or applications to **Oxford or Cambridge**, where the deadline is 15 October the year before entry.

# Choosing your Medical School

28 in UK, 5 in Scotland:

Edinburgh; Glasgow; Aberdeen; Dundee;  
St Andrews

- all excellent
- vary in size
- vary in applications

5 years at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen  
& Dundee.

St Andrews 3 years + 3 at  
Manchester/another Scottish Medical  
School

All interview with exception of Edinburgh (in  
most cases)

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# Medicine Admissions

## Academic Criteria at **Edinburgh**:

- Minimum entry requirement of AAAAB at one sitting including Chemistry plus TWO of Biology, Maths and Physics
- Missing science can be taken in S6 – Biology must be offered at least to Standard Grade level
- 2 Advanced Highers normally expected in S6.
- Selectors will take into account both your achievements in Standard Grade and Higher, as well as predictions for S6
- UKCAT Score

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# UKCAT

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) is used in the selection process by a consortium of 26 UK university Medical and Dental Schools including all 5 Scottish Medical Schools.

Registration opened:	<b>1 May 2012</b>
Testing begins:	<b>3 Jul 2012</b>
Bursary deadline:	<b>21 Sep 2012</b>
Registration deadline:	<b>21 Sep 2012</b>
Last test date:	<b>5 Oct 2012</b>

Register at [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)  
Sitting test costs £65 before 31 August  
(£80 after this date)



# Choosing your Law School

10 LLB providers in Scotland:

Aberdeen; Abertay; Dundee; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Glasgow Caledonian; Napier; Robert Gordon; Stirling; Strathclyde

- 5 recently accredited courses
- vary in size, applications and entry requirements

26 week Diploma courses in Scotland:

Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde and the Robert Gordon University after LLB degree for those wishing to practise law

Highly competitive entry to Diploma – performance in first 2 years of LLB



# Entry Requirements

## Law at **Edinburgh**

- BBBB minimum **HOWEVER**  
Typical Entry Profile of AAAAB
- English Higher essential
- Language other than English,  
plus Maths OR Science at  
Standard Grade 3 or better
- AHs normally expected

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# Choosing your Architecture Course

5 Higher Education providers in Scotland offer degrees in Architecture:

University of Dundee; University of Edinburgh / Edinburgh College of Art (joint providers); Robert Gordon University; University of Strathclyde; Glasgow School of Art

- vary in size, applications and entry requirements
- some request interviews / portfolios

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# Entry Requirements

## Architecture at **Edinburgh**

- BBBB minimum HOWEVER typical offer is likely to be at least AAAA
- English and Language other than English at Standard Grade, plus Maths Standard Grade 1 OR both Maths and Physics Standard Grade 2
- Evidence of artistic ability required (Art & Design or equivalent at least at Standard Grade - no portfolio requested)

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# Choosing your Vet Medicine School

7 in UK, 2 in Scotland: Edinburgh;  
Glasgow; Bristol; Cambridge;  
Liverpool; Nottingham; Royal  
Veterinary College, London

- all excellent
- varying entry requirements
- English universities often primarily consider performance in 3 Advanced Highers
- All normally interview

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# Entry Requirements

## Vet Medicine at **Edinburgh**:

- Minimum AAABB at one sitting in S5 including Chemistry and TWO from Biology, Physics & Maths
- Physics at least to Standard Grade level
- AH essential-Chemistry plus one other science@ BB – Biology preferred)
- Career exploration and evidence of commitment essential

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# What are Admissions Staff Looking For?

## Non- Academic Criteria:

- personal qualities
- career exploration
- Extra curricular achievements

## Looking for applicants who are

- Informed; Motivated; Organised; Interested in others; and have Good communication skills; Team working & leadership abilities

## All are highly competitive

- AAAAA provides no guarantees
- Always have a Plan B.

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# Med/Vet Med 5<sup>th</sup> choice course/career options:

## Biological Sciences:

Genetics, Immunology; Medical Biology; Microbiology & Infection; Neuroscience; Pharmacology; Physiology; Reproductive Biology; Zoology

## Chemistry:

Biochemistry; Medicinal and Biological Chemistry

## Biomedical Sciences:

Aimed at students planning careers in healthcare and healthcare-related professions (includes clinical work)

**5<sup>th</sup> choice must be SAFE and REALISTIC!**

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# How to find out more

- ✓ Publications: Prospectuses, UCAS guide, Course leaflets, Independent guides
- ✓ Internet
- ✓ Careers library
- ✓ Higher Education Conventions
- ✓ Open Days

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# Student Finance: An Overview





# Tuition Costs

## Students from Scotland

- Fees for full-time students from Scotland entering a university in Scotland are paid by SAAS – providing the student is eligible, ie. is “ordinarily resident” in Scotland and has been for 3 years
- Separate system for some courses (e.g. Allied Health Professions)

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# Living Costs

## Students from Scotland

(Figures from SAAS website for 2012 entry)

- Young Students Bursary of **up to** £2640 for those students whose parental income is less than about £35,000 per year
- Student Loans are the main source of support towards living costs for Scottish students.
- Loan rates dependant on parental income. Minimum loan of £620 if living at home or £940 if living away from home.
- Bursary **replaces** part of student loan

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The average Scottish student spends £6000 - £7000 per (academic) year

<b>Income</b>	<b>Bursary</b>	<b>Loan</b>	<b>Additional Loan</b>	<b>Total</b>
18,000	2,640	2,777	810	6,380
20,000	2,518	2,899	503	6,073
26,000	1,453	3,880	0	5,333
32,000	389	4,278	0	4,667
35,000	0	4,333	0	4,333
41,000	0	3,667	0	3,667
47,000	0	3,000	0	3,000
53,000	0	2,246	0	2,246
58,000	0	1,477	0	1,477
60,000	0	1,170	0	1,170
62,000	0	940	0	940

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# Other sources of support

- Supplementary grants
- Discretionary Loans & Funds
- Bursaries & Sponsorship
- Savings
- Overdraft/Credit-Card
- Part-time Job

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# Loan Repayment

- SLC (Student Loan Company) manage the loan once applied for through SAAS
- Graduates don't start repaying until the April after they graduate or leave the course
- Graduates don't pay back until they are earning over £15,795
- Repay 9% of annual income over £15,795
- Automatically comes off pay, like tax
- Interest linked to inflation
- "Good" debt
- Repayments stop if earnings drop below the limit

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# Repayment Examples

Annual salary = £20,795

Income above £15795 = £5000

So, 9% of £5000

Split over 12 months = £37.50 per month – from a monthly after-tax salary of around £1300

Annual salary = £30,795

£112.50 per month from a monthly after-tax salary of around £1,900

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The logo for SAAS (Student Applications and Assessment System) is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a dark blue rectangular background. The background is split into two horizontal sections by a thin white line.

SAAS

# How do you apply?

- Apply online via SAAS
- Apply from the April of year of entry
- Support assessment made and sent to student

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# Other sources of support

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

SAAS: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

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

Pathways to the Professions

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

Phone: 0131 6511755

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# Question time: **Subject Discussion Groups**

