

# The Scotland Handbook

for Higher Education Institutions



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Glasgow

# The Scotland Handbook

for Higher Education Institutions

Written and compiled by Ashleigh Park

Design and Layout by Traffic Design Consultants

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The University of Aberdeen, Abertay University, The External Relations and Communications team at Edinburgh Napier University, The University of Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian University, The University of Glasgow, The Glasgow School of Art, The University of Stirling, and The University of Strathclyde.

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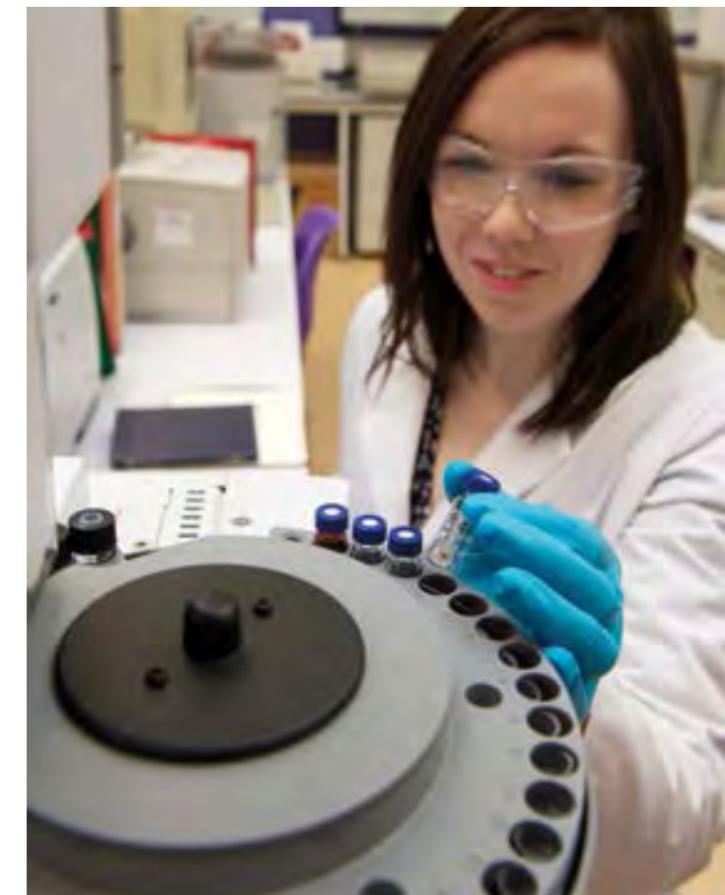
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# Introduction

## Welcome to Scotland

Whether you have recently relocated to Scotland, or you are considering taking a post in Scotland, we hope that your experience of working here will be both positive and rewarding.

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This Handbook is designed to introduce you to our country, our culture, and to our higher education industry. We hope that it will be of continuing use during your employment in Scotland.

In addition to providing useful information about living in Scotland, the handbook also showcases what the University of Strathclyde has to offer. If you require clarification or any additional information please refer to our Useful Contacts section.

Section 1

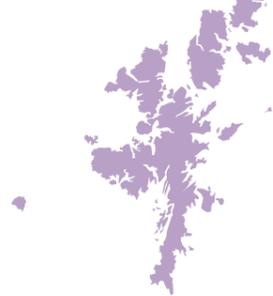
# Discover Scotland

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Situated in Western Europe, Scotland is a progressive nation built on dynamism, creativity and the fabulous warmth of its people. Read on to find out more about our regions, and our customs.



# 1.1 Scotland's Geography



Scotland accounts for the northern third of Great Britain. With a mainland bordering England to the south, Scotland is otherwise surrounded by several different seas.

Our country consists of nearly 800 islands, including the northern isles of Shetland and Orkney, the Hebrides, Arran and Skye. The country boasts a sprawling coastline occupied by numerous magnificent castles, just waiting to be explored.

But we're more than just breathtaking scenery. Whether you're looking for an exciting social life in one of our multicultural cities, or you're searching for the tranquility of a relaxing town, Scotland is perfect for adults, children, singles and families alike.

Scotland itself consists of five distinct regions:

- Glasgow and the West
- Edinburgh and the East
- Dundee and Perth
- Aberdeen and shire
- Inverness and the Highlands

Each of Scotland's regions offers an inspiring mix of cosmopolitan life and stunning countryside just waiting for you to explore. Scotland's landscape and distinct geography are unique to any other British country. Read on to find out more about the country's regions and customs.



- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 University of Glasgow         | 6 Edinburgh Napier University |
| 2 Glasgow School of Art         | 7 University of Edinburgh     |
| 3 Glasgow Caledonian University | 8 Abertay University          |
| 4 University of Strathclyde     | 9 University of Aberdeen      |
| 5 University of Stirling        |                               |



- < The Old Man of Storr, Skye
- 1 George Square, Glasgow
- 2 Pilot boat at Lerwick, the Shetland Islands
- 3 Dunnotar castle, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire
- 4 Edinburgh

## Glasgow and the West of Scotland

The West of Scotland is considered home to approximately two million people, making it Scotland's most populous region. Multicultural, magnificent and brimming with personality, Glasgow is Scotland's largest city. The center is steeped in rich history, stunning architecture and the best shopping in the UK outside of London.

Glasgow is also one of the highest ranking cities in the UK for quality of life (Source: Mercer survey, 2012), blending the best of urban-living with the splendour of lush gardens and parks. Impressively, the city boasts more green space per square mile than any other city in the UK. Glasgow is also home to five universities and seven colleges.

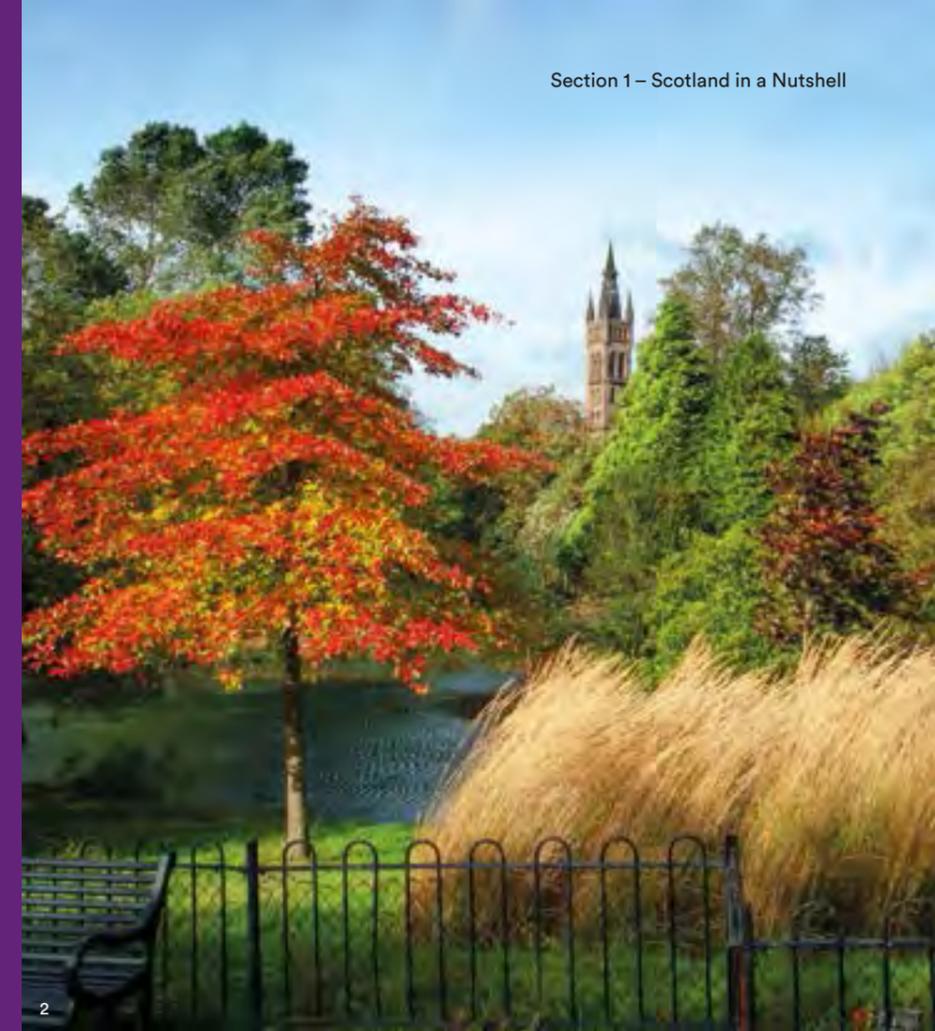
Outwith the daily work life, there is always plenty to see and do on the west coast. Glasgow enjoys a year-round buzz with an unrivaled arts and nightlife scene. The city offers a blend of internationally-acclaimed museums and galleries operating on an ethos that 'art is for the people,' the city houses over 20 fantastic art galleries, museums and other attractions – all of which are free to visit.

Glasgow's array of restaurants and bars are so diverse, that every taste and budget is catered for. When it comes to food and drink, this area is said to offer some of the best culinary experiences, from first class dining to charming pubs, arty cafés to authentic Scottish restaurants.

In addition to the city of Glasgow, areas such as Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, and Renfrewshire are all within easy reach of picturesque towns, villages and some of Scotland's most scenic beaches, captivating wildlife and tranquil spaces. Offering the best of both worlds, Glasgow is close to breathtaking countryside, which is ideal for sports pursuits such as hill walking, sailing, and cycling, and golf.



*Glasgow enjoys a year-round buzz with an unrivaled arts and nightlife scene.*



- 1 Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery  
Photo: Brendan Howard / Shutterstock.com
- 2 Kelvingrove Park
- 3 Ashton Lane in Glasgow's West End  
Photo: DrimaFilm / Shutterstock.com
- 4 Riverside Museum, Glasgow  
Photo: Targn Pleiades / Shutterstock.com

*Brimming with history, the city unites cutting-edge city talent with spectacular coastlines and ancient medieval architecture.*



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### Edinburgh and the East of Scotland

From the magnificence of the country's thriving capital city – Edinburgh – to the tranquility of picturesque coastal villages and golf courses, you'll be charmed, captivated and compelled to call this region home. Edinburgh and the East of Scotland make up one of the most prosperous parts of the country. It has the strongest economy of any city in the UK outside London.

Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, developed around its Old Town until the late 18th century, and as a result, the city still maintains its distinct character. From the iconic castle at the top of the Royal Mile to the Grassmarket below, where public hangings formerly took place, Edinburgh is positively brimming with history.

From as far back as 1583, Edinburgh has been considered a hub for educational and professional development, with the foundation of the city's first world-famous university. The University of Edinburgh still stands today as a symbol of the knowledge and intellectual talent to be found in the city. Edinburgh has since continued to develop into the 20th century, marking it as both a financial centre, alongside a historical capital. Edinburgh is also considered one of the world's most walkable cities. Atmospheric cobbled streets, old closes and wide avenues are still preserved, making exploring the heritage and beauty of the capital city much easier.

Today, Edinburgh combines both modernity and tradition. As Scotland's award-winning capital, it was ranked the third best city to live and work in the UK in 2013. The city unites cutting-edge city talent with spectacular coastlines and ancient medieval architecture. Modern architecture such as the Scottish Parliament sits alongside wonderful baroque buildings including the Palace of Holyrood House, giving a unique sense of both the past and present.

The Lothians is also steeped in fascinating history, filled with castles, stately homes and battle sites.

1 Street performer on the Royal Mile  
Photo: coxy58 / Shutterstock.com

2 The Meadows

3 Leith Photo: Patrik Dietrich / Shutterstock.com

4 Edinburgh Castle

## Stirling

Stirling is the largest city in central Scotland. Located at the heart of the country, it is a key location for businesses in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and even the North of England. In fact, over half of Scotland's population lives within an hour's drive of the city. The city's handy location, rich, enthralling history, and striking backdrop makes it an alluring area to live and work in. What's more, it has one of the most qualified and highly-paid workforces in Scotland, allowing for an outstanding quality of life.

Stirling is Scotland's heritage capital, steeped with a sense of history and nationhood. This is where the Wars of Independence were fought and won, and where monarchs ruled in regal splendour for three centuries while merchants and craftsmen plied their trade below the castle rock.

Overlooking the scene of one of Scotland's most famous battle sites and the Stirling Bridge is the 220 ft high National Wallace Monument. Climb the 246 steps for glorious views from the Forth bridge to Loch Lomond. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is merely 30 minutes from the city centre of Stirling, making the city an ideal space to enjoy the outdoors.

The compact heritage mile that links Stirling's Old Town with its bustling modern city centre boasts the finest concentration of historic buildings in Scotland. Beautifully preserved medieval and Renaissance churches and mansions cluster around the Old Town, flanked by cobbled streets, period street furniture and Victorian styled iron work.

Forth Valley, Fife, Falkirk, Midlothian and West Lothian make up the Eastern region of Scotland, in addition to East Lothian. Approximately 1.3 million people have made their homes in Edinburgh, Stirling and the surrounding area.



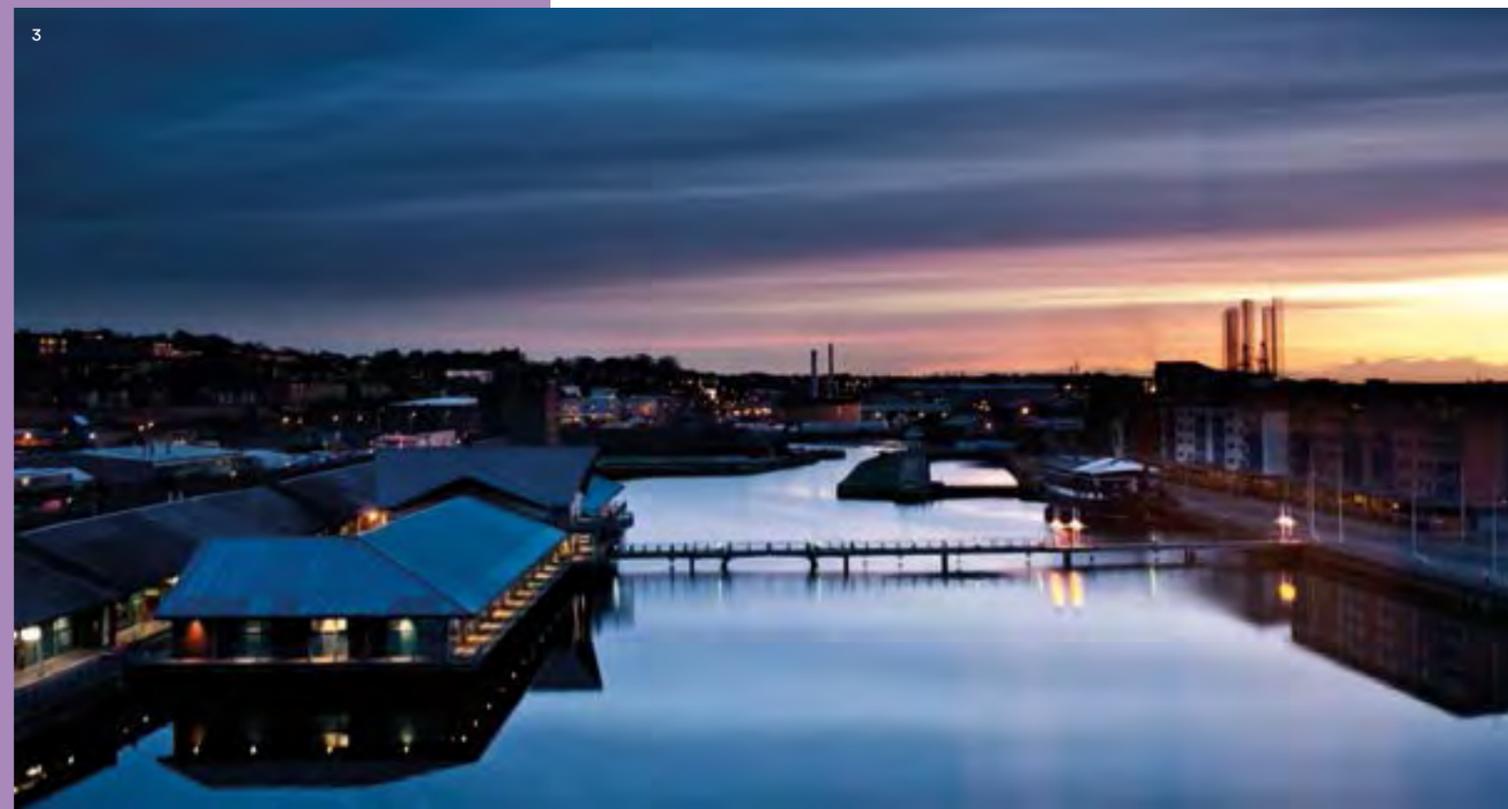
- 1 Stirling Castle, at sunset
- 2 Town centre
- 3 View from the Wallace Monument

*The city's handy location, rich, enthralling history, and striking backdrop makes it an alluring area to live and work in.*





*The perfect blend of city, country and coastline, with more hours of sunshine each day than any other Scottish city*



## Tayside

Accredited as one of most environmentally conscious areas of Scotland, approximately 412,000 people enjoy living in this area of Scotland. Dundee, Angus, Perth and Kinross make up this vibrant region – between them offering the perfect blend of city, country and coastline. The Dundee & Angus regions are steeped in history, from remnants of the ancient Pictish heritage to the proud scientific and industrial legacy.

## Dundee

The city of Dundee was originally known for the ‘three Js’ – jute, jam and journalism – the three industries on which the city’s prosperity was built.

Now also known as the ‘City of Discovery’ and literally Scotland’s brightest city – Dundee is pioneering and innovative, and it enjoys more hours of sunshine each day than any other Scottish city. Dundee boasts a wealth of thriving industries, with many of the 145,000 inhabitants coming from around the world to work in some of the city’s diverse businesses. From sciences, to digital media, oil and gas, and more.

The city also prides itself on its rich history, considered home to an impressive selection of museums and galleries, and two legendary ships – the RRS Discovery and HM Unicorn. The Unicorn is one of the world’s last intact warships from the days of sail and one of the six oldest ships in the world.

1 The McManus gallery and museum

2 The Tay Road Bridge

3 Tayside, at night



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## Perth

Known as the heart of Scotland, Perth provides effortless access to the entire country – from St Andrews to the Isle of Skye. Located on the banks of the River Tay, this picturesque city is home to over 46,000 people. Perth was Scotland’s ancient capital for almost five centuries, and in 2012 it regained its official city status to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Beautifully presented, the city is a regular contender for the Royal Horticultural Society’s ‘Britain in Bloom’ award. It is also renowned for first-rate whisky production, world famous golfing tournaments, and delectable local produce.

Aside from city living, both Dundee and Perth are surrounded by idyllic towns and villages. Kinross is an ideal location for hillwalking, golfing, cycling or simply enjoying spectacular scenery, and in the beautiful harbour town of Arbroath sits the impressive ruins of Arbroath Abbey. The abbey is best known as the spot from which the Declaration of Arbroath (often regarded as the most important document in Scottish history) was sent in 1320.



*Perth was Scotland’s ancient capital for almost five centuries.*

## Angus

Angus is a region which spans northwards from Dundee on the Firth of Tay to the high peaks of the Grampian Mountains. Angus has a scenic character that varies from the rugged highland area in the north to the unspoiled coastline. During the first millennium, Angus was a hub for Pictish life and the remnants from this period are still spread across the countryside. The region has held on to this history, in providing hands-on exhibits and archaeological relics.

Angus is also home to the impressive Glamis Castle. Situated amidst the breath-taking natural beauty of the Strathmore Valley, this magnificent building is saturated in history and legend. Renowned throughout the world as the setting of Duncan’s murder in Shakespeare’s Macbeth, the castle is even said to have a secret room where a nobleman played cards with the devil himself.

The Angus Heritage Week event is held annually every September. It celebrates the county’s history, traditions, architecture, wildlife, culture and natural surroundings and features a varied range of special events for all ages and interests.

The friendly, bustling region of Tayside is truly ideal for family, leisure facilities, and excellent schools, all with well-connected road and rail links.



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1 The River Tay, Perth

2 Queens View, Loch Tummel, Perthshire

3 Town centre  
Photo: Walencienne / Shutterstock.com

4 Kenmore, Loch Tay

## Inverness and the Highlands

Some of the world's most picturesque scenery can be found in the Highland regions of Scotland. From stunning mountains to an expansive shoreline, there's no wonder this natural splendour has been repeatedly voted one of the most sought-after places to live in the UK.

The Scottish Highlands still remain immersed in their ancient Gaelic culture. Here, many inhabitants still speak the Celtic language alongside English. The influence of Scotland's Norse ancestors is also prevalent in the buildings, art, and dialect of the Northern Isles – Shetland and Orkney.

The region's charming capital, Inverness, is world famous for its scenery, hospitality and quality of life, providing a home to almost 55,000 inhabitants. The area also boasts a thriving economy. It has one of the highest employment rates in Scotland. The Highland capital is often placed in the top five most desirable places to live in the UK. Bright, beautiful and quite literally a breath of fresh air, Inverness has some of the lowest pollution rates of any city in Britain.

The highlands is also an ideal location for outdoor enthusiasts, as the region is often referred to as 'Scotland's scenic playground.' Here, you can enjoy our national game shinty, go mountain climbing, sailing, golfing, or skiing.

Countless scenic landmarks are located in the highlands and islands of Scotland, including Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle and the Moray Firth (which is also home to a colony of bottle-nosed dolphins). Inverness is home to Loch Ness, infamous for its mythical inhabitant 'Nessie,' the reputedly large unknown animal that lives within the Loch.

The celebrations never end in the highlands and islands, with a host of great events throughout the year. The Highland Games, Highland Festival, and the Rockness and Belladrum music festivals to name but a few.



*This natural splendour has been repeatedly voted one of the most sought-after places to live in the UK.*



- 1 Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness
- 2 The Glenfinnan viaduct  
*Photo: Targn Pleiades / Shutterstock.com*
- 3 Ben Nevis



## Aberdeen City and Shire

Esteemed as a global energy hub, the coastal 'Granite City' of Aberdeen is much more than just stone. In 2013, the city was ranked as Scotland's best city to live and work and the second best in the UK. With low unemployment and higher than average wages, Aberdeen offers exceptional education and healthcare facilities and is globally connected with air, rail and road links.

As one of the only British cities with a beach, Aberdeen has a year round programme of events, and boasts a wealth of exceptional bars, restaurants and theatres. What's more, this particular region is the driest and sunniest in Scotland. Vibrant and invigorating, you can choose to live either in the cosmopolitan city of Aberdeen or opt for a slower pace of life in one of the region's towns or seaside villages.

Rural Aberdeenshire has been recognised as Scotland's best rural quality of life in the Bank of Scotland's 2013 survey, making it one of the most peaceful places to live in the UK. High earnings, low crime, outstanding school results, and low unemployment were all contributing factors.



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*You can choose to live either in the cosmopolitan city of Aberdeen or opt for a slower pace of life in one of the region's towns or seaside villages.*



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- 1 Aberdeen harbour
- 2 Rooftops in the old town
- 3 Stonehaven
- 4 Footdee

## 1.2 Currency



Our British currency is the pound sterling (£), with 100 pence (p) to a pound, but we sometimes use the word ‘Quid’ as a slang term for the pound.

### On arrival

On arrival into Scotland, you should have no problems in obtaining British Currency. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Glasgow Prestwick, and Aberdeen airports all have good-value exchange counters open for incoming flights. The bureaux de change found in international airports are more reliable in that they charge less than most high-street banks, and cash sterling traveler’s cheques for free. Be cautious when using the bureau de change outside of the airports. They sometimes offer good exchange rates but frequently charge hefty commissions and fees.

International cards, such as Visa and MasterCard are all widely accepted by businesses throughout Scotland. Personal charge cards such as Diner’s Club and Amex cards can also be used but please note that these may not be accepted in smaller establishments.

Amex or Thomas Cook cheques are also widely accepted and have efficient replacement policies. Bring pounds sterling to avoid changing currencies twice. In Scotland, traveler’s cheques are usually only accepted by banks.

Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Cirrus, Plus and Maestro can all be used to withdraw cash from ATMs belonging to most banks and building societies in Scotland. Cash withdrawals from some ATMs may be subject to a small charge (about £1.50), but most are free. ATMs that do charge a transaction fee often have a ‘LINK’ sign and will have a notice explaining that there is a service charge for using them. These types of machine are usually based within small shops, pubs, or gambling outlets.

It is always best to have Sterling cash when visiting Scotland, Euros will only be accepted in Scotland at particular major tourist attractions and a few exclusive hotels.

It may be worth noting that numerous Scottish banks will issue their own bank-notes. These notes differ in design to the standard British sterling note, and should not cause problems when using them directly south of the Scottish borders (in the Northern parts of England). It can be difficult to use Scottish banknotes in the southern parts of the country, however all U.K. banks must accept them. Foreign banks will not accept Scottish banknotes.

1 Intricate stonework on an Edinburgh bank

2 A Scottish ten pound sterling note

## 1.3 Climate

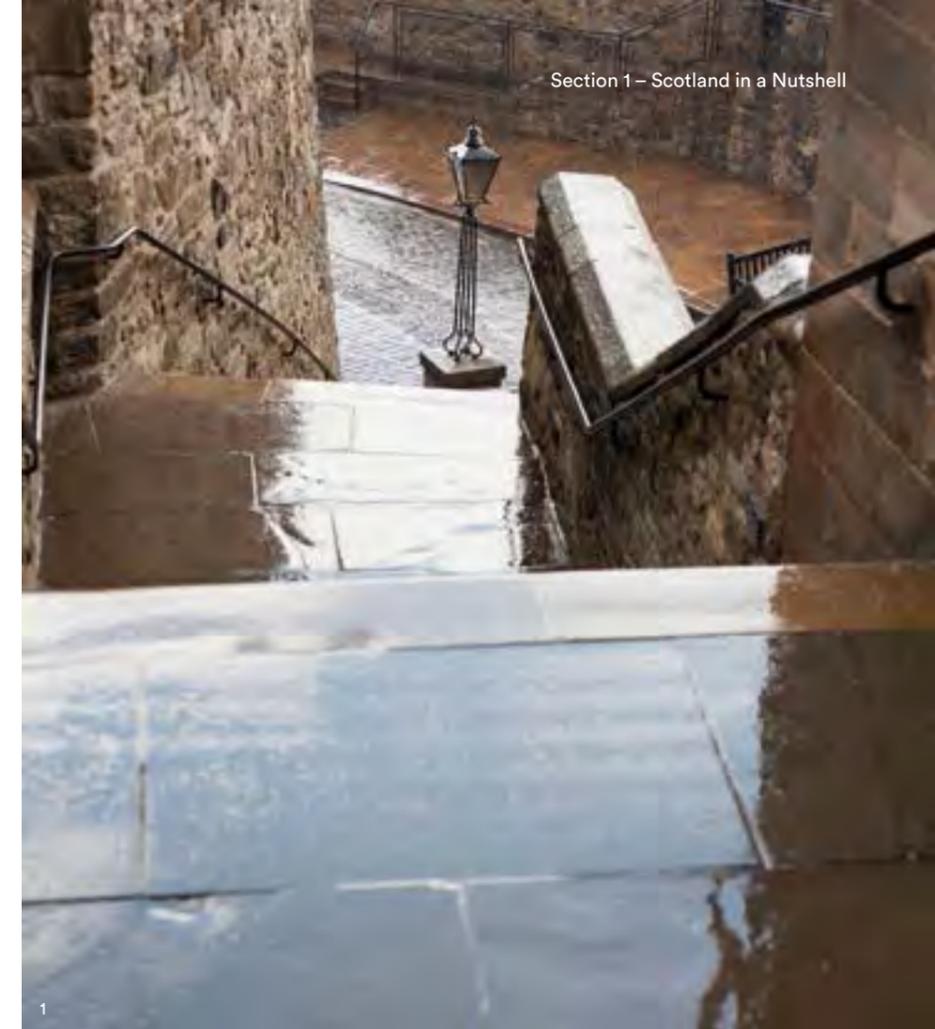
The Atlantic Ocean, which frames the coastline of western and northern Scotland and its Islands, is warmed by the north Atlantic drift. This makes Scotland’s climate temperate and changeable, but rarely extreme.

Average temperatures for winter range from 1-6 degrees Celsius; whilst summer temperatures average from 11-19 degrees Celsius. Western coastal areas of Scotland are warmer than the east and inland areas due to the influence of the Atlantic currents.

Rainfall totals vary widely across Scotland. Rainfall tends to be associated with the autumn and winter. Autumn and early winter are the wettest seasons here in Scotland, especially from October to January. A further factor affecting rainfall is altitude. The mountainous Western Highlands force warm wet air to rise in contact with the coast, attracting rainfall and making this area one of the wettest places in the UK.

Snowfall is not frequent in the south of Scotland, but it becomes common with altitude. Parts of the Highlands average 26 to 60 snow days per year, whilst snow is not common in the Western coastal areas.

The number of hours of bright sunshine is controlled by the length of day as well as cloudiness. In general, December is the dullest month of the year, with May and June being the sunniest.



1 Steps, Edinburgh Castle

2 Dunnotar castle, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire

# 1.4 Our Culture



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## Language

Many varieties and accents of the English language are spoken throughout the U.K. In Scotland, the general accent is influenced by the old Scottish language of Scots.

Gaelic is a traditional language that is spoken in some parts of the Scottish highlands and Islands, however almost all residents in Scotland use English as their first language.

## Scottish Traditions

### Clans

A Scottish clan is a kinship group with a sense of shared identity and descent, and an association to a place. Clans have their own heraldry and coat of arms. They also have a tartan pattern.

### Tartan

Tartan is a woven material, generally of wool, with stripes of different colours and widths. The arrangement of colours has the appearance of being a number of squares intersected by stripes which cross each other.

Each clan has its own colours and patterns for weaving cloth. Weavers in the Highlands and Lowlands would produce a cloth pattern favoured in their area. As prominent clans or families would wear the tartan of their area, the rest of the clan members would be keen on adopting it.

### Kilts

The kilt is the traditional garment of the highland clansmen, which was made to be suitable for climbing through rough hills. Nowadays, the kilt is considered the national costume, worn for special formal occasions. Formal dress consists of a kilt, woolen socks (called kilt hose) turned down at the knee and a sporran (leather pouch which hangs around the waist)



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### Ceilidhs

A Ceilidh /'keili/ is a traditional Gaelic social gathering. It involves the playing of traditional Scottish folk music, with a set of traditional dances, for both groups and couples. The formality of Ceilidhs can vary. Nowadays, some Ceilidhs fuse modern popular music with the traditional Scottish country melody. Dress codes can vary from the obligatory ceremonial highland, to relaxed dress.

### Music

Bagpipes are a key part of the musical tradition of Scotland. Originally used as a military musical instrument, bagpipes now mark special occasions, from commemorations to graduations, to public festivals. If you're interested in piping, you can hear the best we have to offer at the annual International piping festival held each year in Glasgow.

### Food and Drink

Haggis is a traditional Scottish dish made out of sheep's 'pluck' (heart, liver and lungs) which is minced with other ingredients such as onion, oatmeal, spices, suet, salt and stock. Traditional cooking methods require it to be simmered in the animal's stomach, although it can be purchased nowadays from supermarkets wrapped in plastic film.

Aberdeen Angus beef is world renowned for its superior quality. Angus cattle were developed from cattle native to counties of Aberdeenshire and Angus in Scotland, although they are now bred in many parts of the world. In order to qualify as being 'Certified Angus', these particular cuts of beef must exhibit certain traits, such as a specific degree of marbling, a specific stage of maturity, a size of 10 to 16 square inches, and have a weight of less than 1000 pounds.

Tablet is a compact sugary sweet made from sugar, condensed milk, butter, and vanilla essence, boiled to a soft ball stage and allowed to crystallize. It dates back to the early 18th century.

Scottish Whisky, often referred to by its somewhat shortened name of Scotch, is a malt whisky made following a process that is specified by law. In order to be officially named a 'scotch' whisky it must be produced from water and malted barley. Grains are mashed, fermented by yeast, distilled at an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 98.4% and matured in oak casks for at least three years.

Whiskies are produced in different regions of Scotland, and each has a distinctive feature and taste. When ordering whisky at a pub in Scotland, the correct term is a 'dram' as a unit of measure for a whisky.



## Traditional celebrations

Scotland is proud to host some of the most internationally renowned annual celebrations.

### Burns night

Burn's night commemorates the birthday of poet Robert Burns on the 25th January. To celebrate, we enjoy Burns suppers around the date. These suppers typically include haggis and scotch whiskey.

### St. Andrews day

St. Andrews day is celebrated on the 30th November. This celebrates our patron saint of Scotland. The day is marked around Scotland with a celebration of Scottish culture, including traditional food, music and dance. This may include Ceilidhs, dance festivals, and bagpipe playing.

### Christmas

Christmas in Scotland occurs on the 25th December, and as a tradition, Scots tend to exchange presents and enjoy large family dinners. The lead up to Christmas day is filled with celebrations including Christmas markets throughout the country, which sell crafts, food and mulled wine, all accompanied with Christmas fun fairs.

- 1 Sheep's wool on colorful tweed cloth
- 2 Traditional haggis, neeps and tatties
- 3 Whisky distillery stills, Islay

# 1.5 Getting Around Scotland

In Scotland, travelling to the main tourist destinations is straightforward and with careful planning, more remote areas are readily accessible too.

Scotland's road and rail transport network is modern and efficient, with a variety of options available for getting from A to B. Public transport provides trains and bus services to Scotland's towns and cities as well as many villages and ferry ports.

Access to very remote areas and islands is straightforward by car, ferries and aeroplanes.

Travelling between Scotland's cities is hassle free, with Glasgow's City Centre for example, is a mere 45 minute train journey, away from the country's capital Edinburgh, costing as little as £13 – there's no excuse not to explore!

## Public transport

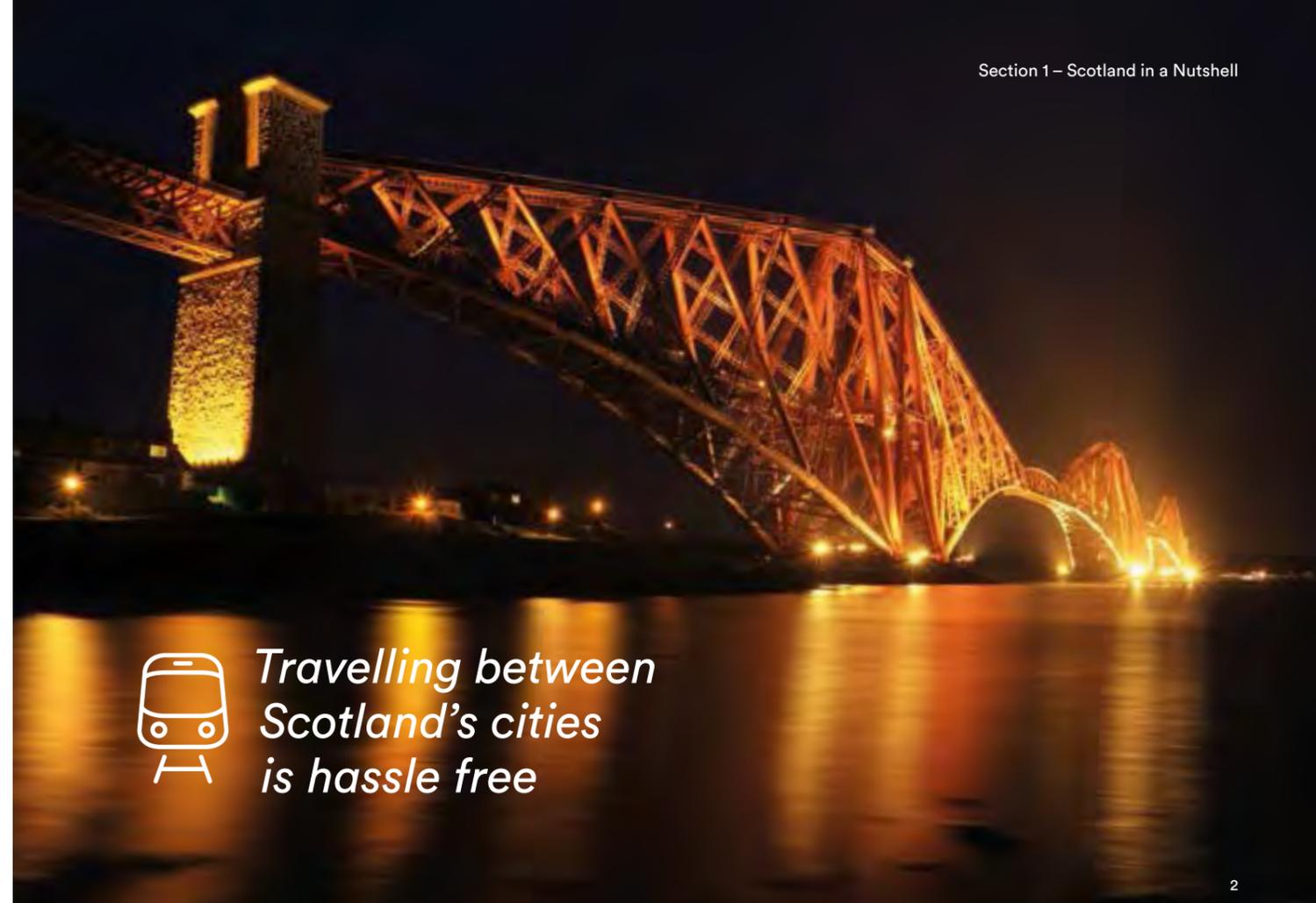
Public transport has a wealth of benefits as a means of getting around Scotland. With public transport for example there is no need to search for parking spaces, which are hard to come by in inner city areas.

If you are arranging any travel around Scotland, you may find that the Traveline is a useful journey Planner, as it timetables public transport for the whole of Scotland. The Transport Direct Journey Planner UK wide – also factors car routes into your journey planning.

## Cycling

Cycling through Scotland is one of the easiest (and healthiest) ways to experience the beauty of the country's landscapes, seascapes, towns and cities. No matter whether you prefer a quiet country cycle or a challenging cliff-top path, there's always a cycle route in Scotland with your name on it.

The dedicated National Cycle Network is a great place to start. Covering thousands of miles across the country, these routes include everything from flat city trails and canal paths, to the rugged landscape of the Highlands and islands. Each section of the network is graded, which will give a clear idea as to how easy or challenging the adventure is likely to be.



*Travelling between Scotland's cities is hassle free*

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It is not necessary to own a bike in Scotland. There are dedicated cycle shops throughout the country that specialise in top quality bike hire.

Scotland's many islands, from Cumbrae, Bute, Arran and Skye to the Outer Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland, make fantastic playgrounds for cyclists, and are laden with numerous bike hire companies.

Wherever you are in Scotland, you can always find out more about local cycle hire at the one of the Visit Scotland Information Centers.



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1 Glasgow Subway

2 Forth Rail Bridge

3 Off-road cycle path



## Cars

Scotland has an extensive road network covering the country, providing fast and efficient travel between cities and major towns and easy access to more rural areas.

Rural areas tend to have numerous single-track roads, where passing places will need to be used with care and courtesy. Livestock are frequently encountered on the roads, so caution and slow speeds are always recommended.

The motorway network is chiefly concentrated in the central belt of Scotland. Major links also extend further north to Aberdeen and south to England. Trunk roads (also called A roads) connect the rest of the country.

Inner city areas are all fairly accessible by car, but it can be easier to use public transport or one of the park-and-ride facilities to avoid parking in the City Centre.

Useful information on all aspects of parking and driving through Scotland's cities can be found on the parking pages of the relevant city Council website.



### Short-term car parking

A range of on-street and covered parking facilities are available across cities. Time limits vary so it is essential to check the parking ticket machine for the maximum amount of time allowed. Check for restrictions too, as you may be required to move your car once the ticket expires. Parking attendants regularly check cars throughout cities so please be careful and if you get a parking ticket don't ignore it.

### Park & Ride

Park & Ride is a great way to travel into some city centers, letting someone else do the driving and avoiding parking charges. There are six park and ride locations surrounding Edinburgh, three surrounding Glasgow, and two in Aberdeen.

### Motorcycle parking

Providing your bike doesn't have a sidecar, you can park it free of charge in designated bays in many of Scotland's City Centers.



## Walking

Revitalize your mind in Scotland, known as a country perfect for walking. Whether you fancy a gentle stroll in the countryside among forests and rivers, a brisk coastal ramble along our sandy beaches or a ramble over the wild mountains that overlook the lochs, Scotland has it all in abundance.

Scotland's cities and towns are all fairly easy to get around on foot. True to our undulating landscape, Glasgow and Edinburgh are both built upon a number of hills, so expect a few gradients. Most cities and hills can be easily tackled by those with an ordinary level of fitness, and the views on offer are worth the endeavour. A walk through the city isn't all alongside noisy traffic though. If you fancy a quiet stroll, Scottish cities have a number of peaceful parks you may like to explore.

In rural areas, you can discover some of Scotland's great trails, which will allow you to see for yourself Scotland's breathtaking landscapes as well as uncovering wonderful wildlife, old castles, abbeys, canals and other fascinating aspects of Scotland's unique heritage.

Wherever you choose to walk in Scotland, it is important to be safe, so familiarize yourself with some simple safety guidelines to ensure you enjoy an invigorating and satisfying walk in the beautiful Scottish countryside.

1 The Mitchell Library overlooking the M8 motorway, Glasgow

2 Ben Nevis, seen from Carn Mor Dearg

3 Glen Rosa, Isle of Arran

Section 2

# Working in Scotland

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Made up of 15 universities, an Open University, an art school, a conservatoire, and Scotland's Rural College, the higher education sector in Scotland is diverse. Scotland's academic research performance punches well above its weight, with every Scottish higher education institution being judged to have research of world-leading quality.



## At the forefront of world-leading discoveries

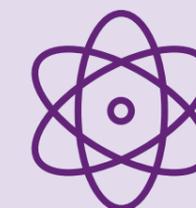
Scotland produces over 12,000 published academic papers every year, and is consistently increasing its share of research. With the number of research staff also increasing year on year, Scotland draws ahead of most nations in terms of research publication output.

In the field of research, all of Scotland's universities contribute world-leading findings. 86% of all research in Scottish universities has been rated as being of international quality or better, with 15% of all of submissions by Scotland's universities judged to be 'world leading' – the highest quality achievable on the scale.

In addition to this, Universities throughout the UK bid for public funding from the UK Research Councils on a competitive basis. Scotland's success as a country in winning this income is yet another indicator of the quality of our research.



## Efficient and Effective Research



Scotland's share of world citations is exceptional for a country with less than 0.1 per cent of the world's population. The impact of Scotland's research, as measured by citations per paper (i.e. the number of times that someone's work is referred to by another researcher) has been well above world average. Scotland ranks among the best in the world and higher than any of the G8 nations in terms of the number of citations relative to Higher Education Expenditure on Research and Development (HERD). Researchers are highly productive in terms of citations per researcher, ranking third in the world after Switzerland and the Netherlands and ahead of all other G8 countries. Scottish research has a high impact in comparison to research from other countries including the UK as a whole. Scotland produces 1.9% of the world's top 1% of highly-cited papers.

Research impact as a distinctive asset in Scotland rests largely on the success in the STEM disciplines; a group made up of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. While the STEM disciplines attract some of the highest levels of funding, there is research excellence in arts, humanities, law and social sciences. These non-STEM subjects attract high-quality international postgraduate students to Scotland at a rate that surpasses the rest of the UK.

Scottish research pools constitute an innovative approach to research collaboration that leverages excellence to concentrate activity and stimulate collaboration between universities (both domestically and internationally). Scottish universities secure high levels of research funding from the UK Research Councils and are also successful in forming spinoff companies.





1

## In some of the most esteemed institutions

Scotland has a long tradition of respect for its universities and their achievements. Four of the Scottish institutions in the *Times Higher Education World University Top 200* pre-date all other UK universities, excluding Oxford and Cambridge. These are: St Andrews (founded in 1413), Glasgow (1451), Aberdeen (1495) and Edinburgh (1582).

However, the Scottish Higher Education sector has not become complacent; instead it has grown in diversity and responded to the evolving needs of society, business, industry and government whilst still delivering high-quality research.

- 1 Archway, University of Strathclyde
- 2 Glasgow Caledonian University's Spitalfields Campus, London

## Collaborating Worldwide



2

A clear asset of the Scottish higher education sector is its joined-up nature. Connections between higher education institutions, the Scottish Government, and its organisations are always in play. Scottish higher education is represented as a linked and cooperative sector, made possible by its size and the Scottish ethos for public good.

A study commissioned by British Council Scotland Scale (2013) of the Scottish Higher Education Sector's distinctive assets highlighted the Scottish sector's 'absolutely extraordinary' ethos of collaboration as one of the most important. Working together in partnership was also seen as 'part of the DNA of the Scottish sector,' suggesting that the willingness to work collaboratively is great throughout the whole of Scotland.

The impact of this can be found in the delivery of teaching, research and policy, including research pooling. Scottish research pools concentrate activity and stimulate collaboration between universities in an innovative manner. As a result Scottish universities do particularly well in securing research funds from the UK Research Councils and also produce larger numbers of spinoff companies than universities in the rest of the UK.



Section 3

# Living in Scotland

This section provides useful information on day to day life in Scotland



# 3.1 Your Finances

Find out how to manage your finances, from borrowing and saving to tax and other contributions

## Bank accounts

When you relocate to the UK, one of the first things you will need to set up is a bank account. UK workplaces such as our Universities need to pay your salary into a bank account, using BACS (Banker's automated Clearing Services.) Usually, outgoings such as rent are paid as standing orders, as they come out of your bank account monthly. Many other services (such as mobile phone, utilities, broadband, landline, gym subscriptions, membership or subscription fees, TV license, council tax, and other recurring payments) are often organized as direct debits taken monthly from your bank account.

You can apply to open a bank account before you come to Scotland and save yourself some trouble by doing this in advance. Most banks will require either proof of address or proof of ID to let you open an account. Depending on the bank, you may or may not need to deposit money into the account in order to open it.

If you are already in the UK and try to open a bank account, the process can be tricky if you don't have a permanent address. Without a bank account, it will also be complicated to rent accommodation (and get a permanent address!) so this becomes a circular problem and a stressful situation. However, do not panic if you have visited bank branches already and they advised that they could not help. You may be able to use your contract of employment or a letter of introduction from the HR department of your University to help you to open an account. If you struggle, the HR department of the University may be able to help.

< Buchanan Street, Glasgow

1 A British one pound coin

2 Credit cards are commonly accepted throughout the country



## Applying for a loan

Banks take into account your personal circumstances in order to establish the appropriate level of credit to grant you. To help them do this, applications may be assessed using a process called credit scoring. This is meant to establish an individual's identity, credit history, and current commitments, and to assess the probability that he or she will meet his or her financial commitments.

Credit scoring uses, where available, information from a bank's own records. These systems help banks to make decisions about opening accounts and granting credit by using statistical techniques to measure the likelihood that a customer applying for credit will be an acceptable risk. It can also help to accelerate the decision making process.

## Security

When you borrow large amounts of money, your bank may ask you to provide security. If the loan is very large they may ask for a mortgage over your property, which may enable them to repossess your home and sell it, if you have been unable to keep up with payments. If you provide security, you may pay less for borrowing that you have arranged.

In the event that you are asked to guarantee somebody else's borrowing, please be advised that giving security is a serious financial commitment and you should consider taking this very carefully. Giving security means that you will be asked for repayments if the borrower is unable to repay the loan.

## Borrowing Money

### Overdrafts

On opening your bank account, you may be offered an overdraft facility. This is provided by your bank which allows you to continue to make payments or draw money even when the balance of your current account has reached zero. An overdraft is a form of credit, and as such it attracts interest charges for as long as you are overdrawn. An overdraft can be useful to help your cash flow if your regular income does not match your outgoings for a short period of time. Used in this way, it could be a good safety net. You agree an authorized overdraft with your bank manager upon opening the account. If your account does not have this facility or you overspend beyond the agreed overdraft, you will incur interest and penalty fees.

### Loans

Personal loans allow you to borrow money from a bank, building society or other lender, and spread the repayment over a number of instalments. They can be useful when spreading the cost of larger items such as a car. A repayment loan will have you make regular (usually monthly) payments to service the loan and pay the interest that's due. When agreeing on a loan, remember to consider the reasons as to why you are borrowing credit from the bank. Consider the amount borrowed, the number of repayments, and the annual percentage rate (or APR)

### Additional fees or costs

It is always worth asking for a quote so that you can see clearly what you are likely to pay. Your bank may also offer a number of different features, such as a fixed or variable interest rate for loans. A variable rate will usually fluctuate with base rate, enabling you to take advantage of a lower rate when the life of the borrowing that you have taken out, which gives you certainty of the amount that needs to be repaid each month and protects your from increases to base rate.

### Credit Cards

Credit cards are a flexible form of short term borrowing. They give you the option of repaying your monthly balance in full (without being charged interest) or opting for a minimum repayment and accumulating debt that generates interest. Credit cards can also offer you better security and protection for your purchases than any other method of payment. Credit cards are available from banks, building societies, the post office, some department stores, supermarkets and lenders such as American Express. Be mindful of the terms and conditions of the card, the interest rates charged, fees you may be charged when using the card abroad or paying for items in foreign currency.

## Statutory Contributions

### Taxes

Whilst living and working in Scotland, you will pay income tax, which will be automatically deducted from your monthly salary.

Income tax is calculated on the basis of your annual income. Details about income tax and current rates can be consulted online: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/incometax/intro-income-tax.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/incometax/intro-income-tax.htm)

A tax year runs from 6 April one year to 5 April the following year. The percentage rates or bands of taxable income may change for each tax year.

### National Insurance

National insurance (NI) is also deducted from your pay. This is a tax which is used to pay for social security benefits, including healthcare sick pay, and maternity pay. You need to apply for a National Insurance number. You must provide your employer with an NI number as soon as possible after you start work. It is used as a reference number for you UK tax and National Insurance.

Your National Insurance number is a personal account number used to organise and record tax contributions, and it is your reference number for the UK social security system. The number is personal and permanent (it does not change if you move abroad, marry, change your name etc...)

You will need to call job Centre plus on Tel 0845 600 0643 to arrange to get your NI number, and the application is filled at an 'Evidence of identity interview' which you will need to organize. You can reach the job centre plus between 8:00am and 6:00pm Monday to Friday.

At the 'Evidence of identity' interview you will be asked for these documents:

- Evidence of employment e.g. employment contract or pay slips
- A letter to confirm your address in the U.K.
- Passport
- National identity card
- Residence permit or visa including biometric immigration residency documents
- Full birth or adoption certificate
- Full marriage or civil partnership certificate
- Driving license (can be UK or foreign)

If you are an EEA national, and your spouse or partner is not an EEA national, your spouse or partner will need to apply for a Residence card. These are issued to EEA national's family members who are not EEA nationals themselves. The card is in fact a sticker (also called a 'vignette') placed in his or her passport, which confirms his/her right of residence in the UK under European law. It is normally valid for 5 years, and he/she should produce it as evidence of his/her status when asked to do so. (In some circumstances, the home office may issue your spouse or partner with an immigration status document and their passport should be produced as evidence of his/her status when asked to do so.) The residence card will help prove that your spouse or partner who is not an EEA national is lawfully resident in the UK. If he/she leaves the UK, he/she will usually need to obtain an EEA family permit before returning here, in order to guarantee readmission as the family member of a qualified EEA national.

## 3.2 The Housing Market

Buying a property in Scotland for the first time may seem daunting to those who are not native to the UK. The following section will help to explain some of the terms you may encounter.

## Renting and buying

### Renting a property

If you are looking to rent a property, you will first need to consider the types of arrangement available, such as:

- A house or flat with sole tenancy – a person or family are the only tenants in the property
- A house share or flat share – a person or couple may rent a room in a property also occupied by other tenants. The property must be approved for this.
- Lodging – rental of a room from a private property owner who also resides in the property. These arrangements tend to be informal.

Many rental properties will be listed as being furnished or unfurnished, while in some cases the landlord may be flexible about letting their tenant decide which option they prefer. While a furnished property may take away the hassle of having to buy lots of new furniture, damaging the landlord's furniture or fittings may increase the risk of your deposit being held, and the rental value of the property will be higher.

If you approach estate agents to find a rental property, be sure to mention your requirements as clearly as possible. The agent should be able to organise viewings of properties that meet your requirements. If there are any available, there should not be a charge for viewing properties.

Once a suitable rental property has been found, letting agents will charge a fee to handle administrative work, such as checking references. There administrative costs can range from £25 to £250 or more, depending on the agent, the property, and the location. In addition, they may also ask for a holding fee.

1 A British passport and birth certificate

2 Victorian Tenement Flats, Glasgow





1 Harbourside apartments, Newhaven

2 The Shore, Leith

3 Modern Homes, North Berwick

4 Modern riverside apartments, Glasgow

### Ways to find available property

There are numerous ways to access information about the property market in Scotland. These can include:

- Local newspapers and classified sections
- Estate agents
- 'To let' or 'for sale' boards in the areas that interest you
- Online aggregators.

### Establishing a budget

It is essential that you establish a budget before renting or purchasing a property. It is almost inevitable that additional fees will be incurred.

These include:

1. Survey fees
2. Valuation fees
3. Stamp and duty tax
4. Fees charged by the mortgage lender
5. Solicitor's fees
6. VAT
7. Removal expenses
8. Final bills from your previous home which are still due to be paid

Other things to consider may include:

1. The cost of any unnecessary repairs
2. Cost of furniture and furnishings needed
3. Other monthly costs, including: heating bills, maintenance, council tax, and insurance costs.

### Mortgages

Mortgage rates represent the interest paid on any mortgage.

In order to borrow money to purchase a property, there are two types of mortgage available. These are:

- Repayment mortgages: In which the borrower pays off the loan and interest at the same time
- Interest only mortgages: in which the borrower pays the interest on the mortgage but must find a separate way to pay the loan at the end of the mortgage if he or she wishes to purchase the property.

Mortgages can be categorized depending on the rate systems they follow.

- Fixed rate mortgages – have a fixed, unmoving mortgage rate for at least a part of the mortgage
- Variable rate mortgages – moved depending on a number of variables
- Tracker mortgage – closely tracks the bank of England base rate
- Capped rate mortgages – the interest from these cannot rise above a certain level
- Offset mortgages – Work in conjunction with savings accounts, the mortgage payments are lessened in relation to the amount saved, as the risk of lending is diminished.

Mortgages are available from a number of sources. The businesses that provide mortgages to prospective homeowners are:

- Building societies
- Banks
- Insurance companies (these only provide endowment mortgages)
- Large building companies
- Finance companies
- Specialised mortgage companies

It is important to ask the lender which mortgages are available, how much money they are making available to borrow, and under which terms and conditions. Generally, the best mortgage deals are available to those who are able to put in at least 15% of the property's values into the purchase, requiring the mortgage company to lend the other 85%.

If you put in less than 10%, you have to pay a 'higher lending fee' (often referred to as a mortgage indemnity or a mortgage guarantee charge) which will add to the cost of your mortgage.

Once you submit your mortgage application, you should expect to receive and answer in two to four weeks. To decide whether or not you've been granted the credit, mortgage lenders will take your credit history into account as well as your incomings. They are particularly interested in how often you have defaulted on other payments, and your existing credit agreements.

## Useful things to know

### Solicitors

Solicitors are essential in ensuring that the rental or purchase of a property is legal and above board. Engage your solicitor and get a survey if necessary

If you're purchasing a property, remember to request the home report and read through carefully.

### Taxes

If you buy a property in the UK over a certain price, you will have to pay 'Stamp duty' otherwise known as land tax. This is charged on all purchases of land or buildings. The rate you pay will depend on:

- The purchase price of the property
- Whether the property is residential
- Whether the property is in a disadvantaged area.

### Council tax

Council tax is levied on households by local authorities to part fund the services provided by the council (local government) it is based on the estimated value of the property, the location of the property, and the number of people living in it.





## 3.3 Supporting Your Family



In Scotland, local authorities have a duty to secure a funded part time preschool education place for every 3 and 4 years old whose parents wish it.

Local authorities work with local childcare partnerships to plan and support childcare, which can be provided by a local authority nursery school, a nursery class in a primary school etc.

The childcare you are entitled to receive from the local government is for 475 hours per year. This is usually delivered daily as a 2.5 hour session, in either the morning or afternoon, during school term times. You may be able to get a different pattern of sessions to suit your child or your pattern of work. For example you might want two sessions a day for two days and then one session on another day. If you want a different pattern you should discuss this with your local authority.

The cost of the childcare you budget for depends on the number of children you have, the age of the children, your household income, the number of hours care you will need, and where you live. There are considerable variations in the cost and the availability of childcare depending on where you live in Scotland. It is important to factor this in when you look for a place to live. Ideally, you would want to settle in a place where childcare is available and affordable. There are a number of different childcare options available for those in need of such services, as detailed further on in this handbook.

### Nurseries

You can choose to enrol your child into either a private, or a public nursery. You are not legally obliged to send your child to nursery, but it may be convenient for you if you want the child to socialise, learn English and start his or her education.

Generally, there are two types of nursery to choose from:

1. Private nursery schools
2. State nursery schools (or the nursery unit of a primary school)

In searching for a suitable nursery, you may find it useful to ask your GP or other mums you meet in playgroups or other social activities. Before you select one, make a shortlist and visit the facilities of your potential nurseries.

Securing a place in a Scottish nursery (public or private) may prove difficult at short notice, as places are often limited. If at all possible, plan in advance and pre-register. It is often the case that local mothers contact nurseries whilst they are pregnant to get their child on the nursery's waiting list for when they reach the age when they can be enrolled.

Please note that if you have moved to Scotland due to your job and have no family members locally who might support you with childcare, you should be sure to mention this in your application, as this may improve your chances of securing a place in a nursery for your child.



## Child-minders

Hiring a child-minder is not equivalent to an informal arrangement to babysit your child. In Scotland, it is a legal requirement that anyone being paid to look after someone else's children for more than two hours per day is registered with and inspected by the care inspectorate. A child-minder is someone who is self-employed and looks after children in their own home (often including their own children.) Nevertheless they are dedicated to childcare to make a living, they are professionals. Therefore in order to register with the care inspectorate they must have appropriate qualifications, training, and skills, as outlined in the national care standards.

A child-minder can offer childcare before or after school, during school holidays or to young children. Some offer flexible hours. Child-minders are allowed to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old, of which usually no more than three may be under the age of five. Child-minders are usually paid on an hourly rate.

There are a few things to consider in hiring a child-minder:

- The child-minder needs to have public liability insurance. Ask to see their registration certificate and details of their insurance policy
- Remember to ask for a copy of the child-minder's policies and procedures
- It may also be worth asking to talk to a couple of parents of the children cared for by your prospective minder.
- Take your child along for a 'settling in' visit so you can assess how comfortable your child is in the setting. A good child-minder should offer a settling in period.
- Always remember to sign a contract with the child-minder. So that you are both aware of the terms and the service provided.

## Nannies

If you'd like to employ someone to look after your child in your home, you might want to consider hiring a nanny. Nannies are usually qualified in childcare. They may work longer hours than child-minders and provide continuity of care within your own house. A nanny would be expected to take care of all aspects of looking after your children, including tasks such as planning and preparing educational activities, doing the nursery and school runs, taking children to appointments and activities, organising play sessions with other children, preparing meals, washing, cleaning their rooms and cooking their food. Duties should be agreed with the nanny beforehand.

There are different types of nanny services in Scotland: a daily nanny leaves at the end of each day and works an agreed number of hours; a live-in nanny has a room of their own in your house.

A nanny may also share work between yours and another family, sometimes looking after the children of both families together. Nannies that are shared by three or more families must be registered as child-minders; aside from this nannies are not obliged to register with the care inspectorate. Many nannies will have nursery nurse or childcare training, but nannies do not have to hold qualifications.

## Au pairs

Au pairs are single young people who come to the UK to study and stay with a family. In exchange for a room, meals and a stipend, they work for up to five hours a day (up to 25 hours per week) taking care of children. They must have two free days per week. Usually they are not trained to work with children and may not be ideally placed to look after pre-school children whilst parents are away. They may be a good option for providing after school childcare for children in primary school, for example.

## Financial support for families

### Tax credits

Support for parents with the cost of childcare is provided through tax credits and childcare vouchers, which currently operate under a complex system. Tax credits are payments from the UK government if you're responsible for at least one child or young person who normally lives with you, you may qualify for child tax credit. If you work but earn low wages, you may qualify for the childcare element of the working tax credit. To get tax credits to help with your childcare costs, your childcare provider must be one of the following;

- Registered with social care and social work improvement Scotland
- A childcare club that is registered with SCSWIS to provide childcare outside of school hours
- A person from a registered childcare agency, sitter service or nanny agency providing childcare in your child's home.



### Child benefit

Child benefit is a payment made to you by the UK government, which you can claim for your child. It is usually paid every four weeks, but can sometimes be paid weekly for example if you are a single parent. The payment can be claimed by anyone who qualifies, regardless of their income or savings.

Separate rates are payable for each child, with a higher amount for your eldest (or only) child. You get £20.30 a week for your eldest child and £13.40 a week for each of your other children. It is paid directly to your bank account, and you can choose whether this is a current or a savings account.

### For non-UK residents

In order to receive child benefit, you will need to be a UK citizen or resident, who is both physically present and ordinarily resident in the UK with your child living with you.

However, if your child does not live with you, you are still entitled to claim child benefit if:

- You pay towards their upkeep
- What you pay is at least the same as the amount of child benefit
- The person your child lives with is not getting child benefit for them, as the benefit is only paid once per child.

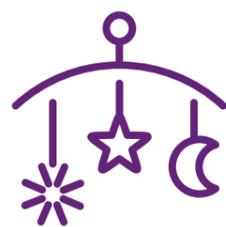
If you are not a UK national, but your main home is here in Scotland and you have chosen to settle here, you are entitled to child benefit.

However, if you have a visa to remain in the UK under the points-based system, you are generally not entitled to claim Child Benefit if your visa has a stamp that reads 'no recourse to public funds'

Child benefit usually stops when your child reaches the age of 16, unless they are still in education or a form of training that counts for child benefit. Child benefit is available for education if it is full time. In this case your child has to have started, enrolled, or been accepted onto a course that counts before their 19th birthday.

You should claim your child benefit as soon as:

- Your child is born
- A child that you are responsible for comes to live with you
- You adopt a child
- You start paying towards the cost of looking after the child when they are living with someone who is already paying child benefit.





## Education, Education, Education

Scotland has an outstanding reputation in education and schooling. Scotland has a comprehensive state education system and all children attend from ages 5-16. Free schooling is available for all children over 5 years old. Parents are legally obliged to enrol their school age children full time but please note that schools are under no obligation to enrol a child over the age of 16.

### The school system

State schools are owned and operated by local authorities who act as education authorities. There are also a number of independently run schools in Scotland. The aim of our education system is to encourage young people to think, question, research and work together, rather than being fed information.

Pupils go through seven years of primary school education (these years are often referred to as P1/ Primary 1 through to P7/Primary 7) spanning an age range from 3-12.

After primary school, children must start 4 years of compulsory secondary school education, which can then be followed by an optional further two years of education in secondary school. This age range therefore spans 12-18 years of age.



### National qualifications

Qualifications at the secondary and post-secondary (further education) level are provided by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

Children are not assessed in the primary stages of their education. In secondary education however, students gain at least two forms of national qualification.

**Standard grades** – These are generally studied over two years in the child's third and fourth year of secondary education. Students generally take 8 subjects including Maths and English. There are three levels of study: credit, general, and foundation. The level of study followed will usually be determined by the student's performance in that subject.

**Intermediates** – These are designed for students who have passed standard grades at a foundation level and for any student wishing to take up a new subject at school or college

The intermediate 2 acts as a stepping stone towards Highers for students who have not studied a subject before.

**Highers** – These qualifications which are generally needed for entry to University or colleges in order to study for degrees or Higher National courses (HNCs or HNDs) They are aimed particularly at students who have passed subjects at Standard Grade Credit level, or who have successfully completed a subject at Intermediate 2. Highers are usually studied in the final two years of secondary education.

**Advanced Highers** – can be taken by students who have passed their Highers; they extend and build upon the knowledge gained from standard Highers.



### Enrolling a child in a school

Which school your child goes to depends on the area in which they live, known as a 'Catchment Area' Parents can also apply for a placement request if they would like their child to attend a school outside their catchment area, and a panel will decide if the child is the most worth (out of all placing requests) to take one of the spaces left. It is essential however, to register your child for education at the local primary school initially and before submitting their placement request form.

All children who come from overseas on a Dependent visa and children who are EU nationals are entitled to attend public schools in Scotland. Children who come to Scotland on a child visitor visa are not entitled to education in Scottish public schools.

You do not need to contact the school in advance of arriving in the UK in order to register. The child must be present in the UK at the time of registration and cannot be enrolled before arriving.

Checking the government's directory to find the nearest primary or secondary school is recommended. The directory can be accessed via the link below:

[www.glasgow.gov.uk/index](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index)

The documents required to enrol a child in school are:

- A birth certificate (translated into English)
- Proof of residence within the school catchment area (for example a utility bill or a child tax credit form)
- A document that shows the relationship between the child and the adult for applying for a place in the school on behalf of the child (a birth certificate with your name as a parent will suffice)
- Passports showing the child's and parents' or carers' visas. A child's visa must be a dependent visa.

You do not need school documents from your home country to register the child in a school in Glasgow. However, if you have them, they can be useful to help the school understand the child's achievements to date. Ensure you have them translated into English.

### Language requirements

Children do not need to sit any proficiency exams to be able to enrol in a school in Glasgow. If your child does not speak English upon starting school, there is support available from the EAL (English as an additional language service) this is designed to help children who are not native English speakers who attend educational establishments in Glasgow. Your local school should be able to advise in this regard.

Once enrolled in a Scottish school, children will follow the Scottish education curriculum as applicable to their age. However, if your child is older and is joining the Scottish school system at a secondary school level, it may be better for him or her to join a lower class. This is because he or she could benefit from having more time to prepare for the exams, which would be especially important if they are not fluent in English.

If you have a placement request (to have your child attend a school out with the catchment area where you live) refer to this website for placing request forms and information on the authority's placing request procedures.

Placing request forms can be submitted from the second week in November until 15th March each year and should be sent to the appropriate area office for the chosen primary school. A directory of area offices can be found here:

The Scottish government's online project to enable the public and practitioners to discuss education, learning, youth employment and early years policy directly with ministers and teams responsible for these topics.

### Children with special needs

If you have a child with special needs, you must request a meeting at the school to explain the child's situation and needs. In general, it is assumed that every child will attend their local school and will be supported there, encouraging them to mix with other children and make friends. There are normally special units up in mainstream schools to support needs such as vision or hearing impairments and, children can take part in other school activities outside the time spent in special units.

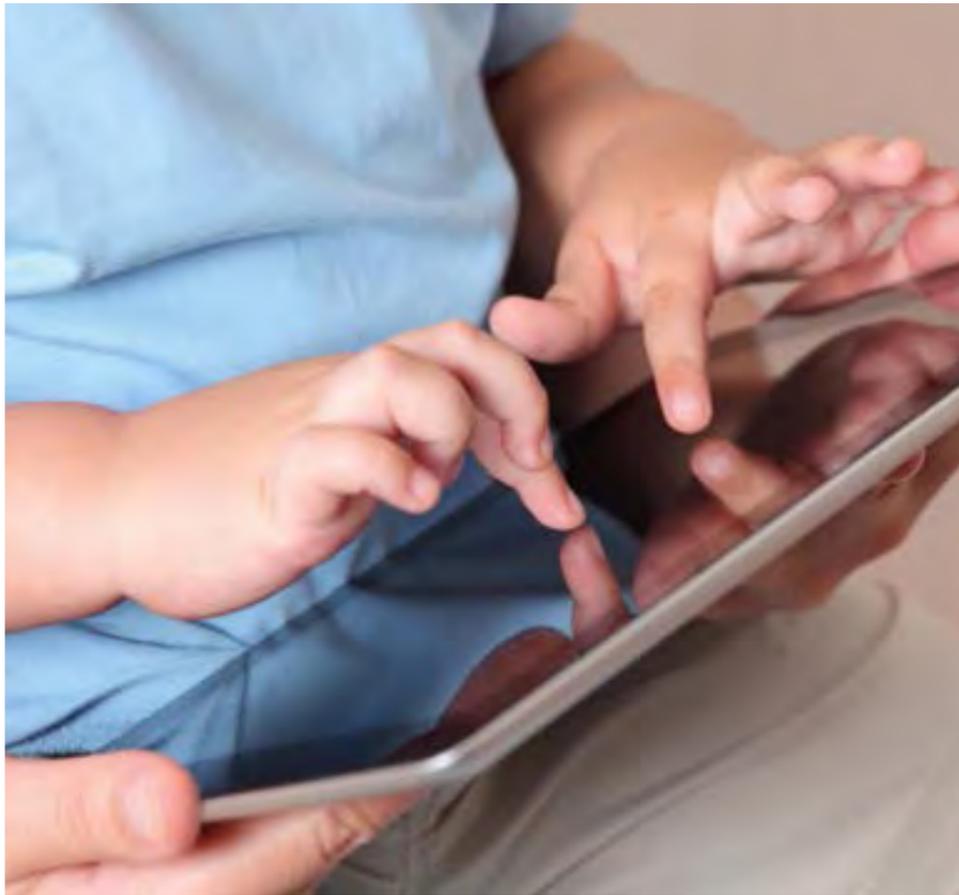
If there is a good reason as to why a child cannot attend a mainstream school, options will be presented to the family, depending on the child's individual needs.

You may wish to contact Enquire (on telephone number: 08451232303). They are the national advice and information service for additional support for learning to discuss your concerns and seek advice. Enquire also have a range of free guides and factsheets which may also help you.

### School catchment areas

Councils divide cities, towns and country areas into catchment areas and children living in a catchment area usually go to the same local school. If you have children who need to be enrolled at a school, it is important to consider the schools you might like them to attend before selecting a property to buy or rent, as this will influence whether the child gets a place in your chosen school.

The schooling system is free and available to all children under the age of sixteen.



## 3.4 Your Health

As a resident of Scotland, you can take advantage of a full and diverse range of health services, with both the National Health Service and private health services available.

### The NHS

The National Health Service is known throughout the UK as the NHS. Formed in 1948, it has grown to become the world's largest publicly funded health service. It was born out of the ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of their wealth. With the exception of charge for dentistry and optical services, the NHS is free to any Scottish resident. Services cover anything from antenatal screenings, transplants and emergency treatments, to routine medical check-ups.

### Access to healthcare

If you are moving from overseas to work in Scotland, and you live here legally, you are entitled to free health care from the NHS.

In order to receive many of the NHS services, you and your family must register with the local family doctor. The doctor is usually referred to as a 'GP' which stands for 'General Practitioner' these doctors are based in surgeries, medical practises, or health centres.

The GP will look after all of your health needs. They will decide if you need to see another health professional for a specific ailment. If you do, then the GP will refer you to that person and make the appointment for you.

### Cost of treatment

The government pays for health services in Scotland; however you may have to pay for some services. For example, dental or optical services. Some residents are exceptions to these costs, for example those under the age of 16, those who are older than 60 and women who are pregnant.



### Registering with a doctor

You will need to register with a doctor as soon as possible after you arrive in Scotland, and ask them to register you as an NHS patient. You do not have to pay to register with a doctor.

Often, to register with a GP you must live in the catchment area for that particular surgery. Medical proactive or health centre where the GP is based. You can find your local GP practitioner by entering your postcode on this website: [www.nhs24.com/FindLocal](http://www.nhs24.com/FindLocal)

You will need to provide some documents in order to register as an NHS patient. If you require hospital care, you may need to produce these documents.

If you are from any EEA country (except Bulgaria and Romania) or Switzerland, the NHS staff will ask to see your European Health Insurance card.

If you are from Bulgaria, Romania, or if you are not from the EEA or Switzerland, you will be asked to produce documents which prove you are working legally in the United Kingdom. These include:

- Your work permit
- A recent letter from your employer, a work contract, or a current payslip
- If you are self-employed, an invoice or receipt for your work should provide adequate evidence.



### Translation services

If your partner or family does not speak or understand English, the NHS has interpreters for some of its health services. Sometimes an interpreter can go with you to an appointment, or sometimes they can simply talk to the doctor or nurse via telephone. For hospital appointments it is best to use an interpreter, as they will ensure you understand specific medical terminology. Please be sure to ask for an interpreter if you require one.

### Access to specialists

In the UK, you cannot simply make an appointment with a specialist through the NHS. If you have a pre-existing health condition that needs specialist care, you need to make this known to your GP. It is the GP's responsibility to refer you to a specialist or a hospital unit to receive specialist care.

Appointments with optometrists and dentists can be made whenever you need to, and there is no need for a referral by your GP, as these are considered basic.

### Private medical insurance

Insurance companies usually require a letter or referral from a doctor. Some companies will accept GP's referrals to consultants, while others have their own lists of consultants.

If you have private medical or health insurance and you need specialist treatment, check your policy to find out:

- If your policy covers the treatment you need
- Whether your insurance company accepts consultant referrals from GP's or it has its own list of consultants
- When you need to contact your insurance company to tell them that you've been referred for treatment

If you ever need to make a claim on your medical insurance, some sections of the claim form will need to be completed by a doctor. In most cases, the doctor who provides your treatment will be the best person to complete this form as they will have the information required. You can also ask your GP or an NHS doctor to complete the form. They do not have to do this however, and are entitled to charge for such services.

### Medication

Only appropriate practitioners can prescribe medicines in the UK. These include doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, midwives, podiatrists and physiotherapists.

Only a few medications can be purchased over the counter without a prescription. These include some flu and cold medications and other ointments to treat minor wounds. When you are issued a prescription by a practitioner, a friend or relative can collect it for you if you cannot do it yourself. Pharmacists may request that the person collecting the prescription shows proof of ID for the patient, this person may also be asked to confirm the date of birth and address of the patient.

In Scotland, prescriptions are free of charge.

### Access to healthcare beyond GP working hours

Most NHS services are only available during the day, from Monday to Friday. But there are other places you can go that are open at other times. For advice, you can go to a pharmacy. If you need help during the night, at the weekend, or on a public holiday you can phone NHS24 where someone will tell you where to go to get the relevant help.



### Accidents and emergencies

If you have a serious accident or illness and you need help immediately, you can go to a hospital that has an Accident and Emergency department.

If you have a medical emergency that is life threatening, you must phone 999 and ask for an ambulance.

### Dental and oral health

Details of your local dental health specialist can also be found on the NHS website [www.nhs24.com/FindLocal](http://www.nhs24.com/FindLocal). Similar to the GP practice, you will most probably have to register with the particular dental practise before receiving treatment.

### Eye care

The NHS also provides free eye examinations for everyone who is entitled to receive NHS services. Eyes tests are designed to check the health of your eyes, find any problems before they become serious, and to look for signs of other health problems. Adults and children are encouraged to have an eye test every 2 years.

You can get your eyes examined free of charge by an optometrist in Scotland who provides NHS services. Most opticians' practices in Scotland have an optometrist who provides NHS services.

### If you feel unwell...

- Go to a pharmacy and ask for advice.
- Visit the NHS 24 website at [www.nhs24.com](http://www.nhs24.com) for health information and advice
- Or phone the NHS on 08454242424 if the GP surgery where you are registered is closed, or if you have not registered as an NHS patient.
- Contact the GP surgery where you are registered. If you need an interpreter, ask the GP surgery to arrange this for you.
- In an emergency – if you feel your condition is very serious, phone 999 and ask for an ambulance.



1 The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh  
Photo: Brendan Howard / Shutterstock.com

2 Pharmacies are common throughout Scotland

3 The NHS provides free examinations

Section 4

# Seeing Scotland

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From weather beaten fortresses and arcane lochs, vibrant cities and remote glens, you'll be spoiled for choice with things to do when you're living in Scotland.



# 4.1 Things to do

Scotland is a vibrant country which plays host to a number of festivals and events annually throughout the year. Whether you're happiest indulging in some retail therapy, or you fill your weekends with active pursuits, there's always something to do.

< Wild stag overlooking Loch Torridon and the Wester Ross mountain range

1 Piper, Edinburgh  
*Photo: andras\_csontos / Shutterstock.com*

2 The Cobbler

3 Prince's Square, Glasgow

4 Bonfire night

5 The Kelpies



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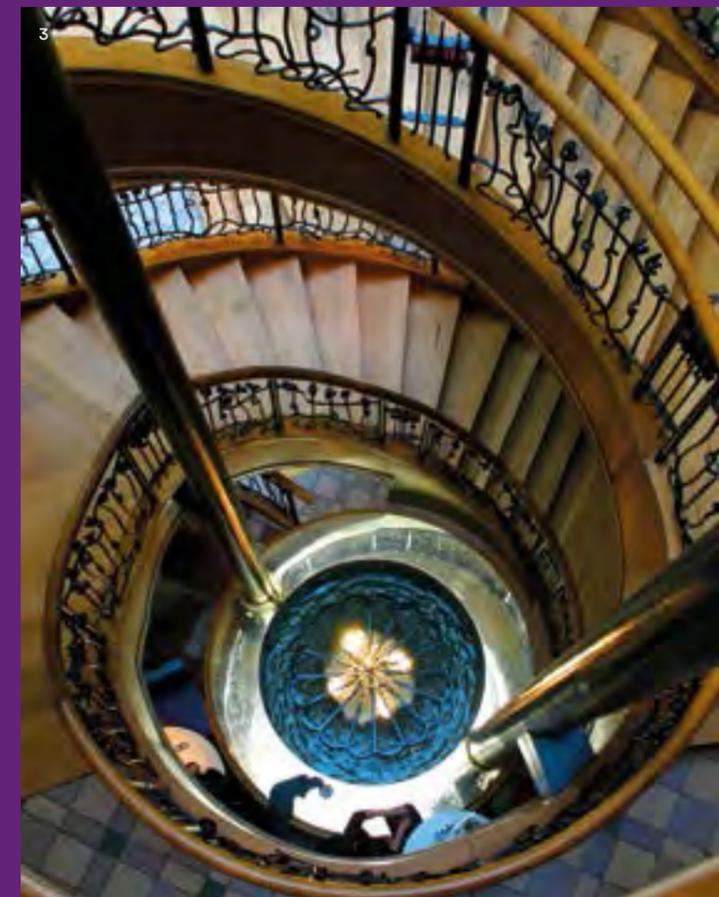
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# 4.2 Arts and Culture

There is always something to see or do in Scotland. Scotland boasts an unrivaled theatre scene, is home to local and global musical talent and experience dance in all its diversity from the Highland fling to ballet.

As the world's largest art festival, the Edinburgh Fringe is internationally renowned. Scotland prides itself upon celebration, playing host to many other food, film, music and literary festivals happening year round across the country.

Scotland's castles, landscapes and metropolises are the new film stars wowing people on the silver screen.

Follow the country's movie trails and discover sprawling beaches, ancient castles, rugged mountains, rolling hills, distinctive cities and picturesque towns and villages – all which have taken centre stage, many times over on the silver screen.

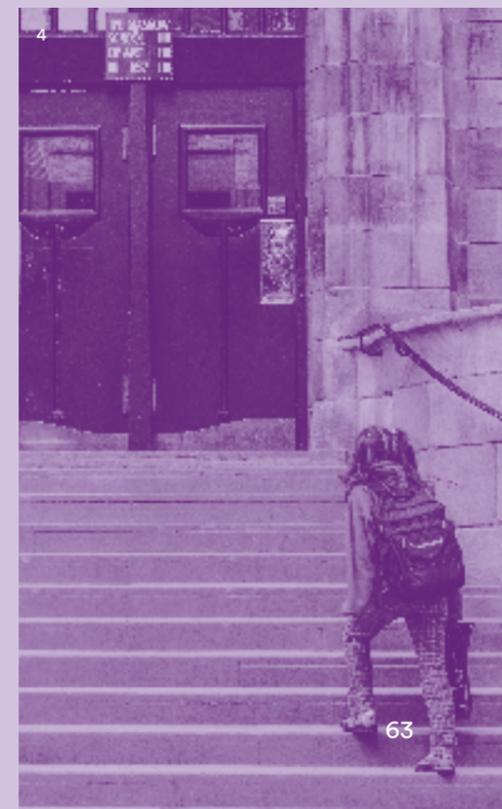
Discover the distinct architecture of our towns and cities including Britain's oldest building Skara Brae, Charles Rennie Mackintosh's radical designs and our Scottish Parliament, which impressively includes numerous sustainable design elements.



Kilts, bagpipes and tartan are only part of our rich Scottish culture, steeped in tradition and ever-evolving to embrace customs from around the globe. Be inspired by our artistic history and latest creations found at museums and galleries across the country – many of them free, making the perfect family day out.

With an eclectic range of theatre and dance, the world's festival capital, outstanding summer music festivals, blockbuster movie locations, breathtaking art and architecture and a captivating literary history - Scotland has a truly thriving arts and culture scene. Now is the perfect time to plan your trip to ensure you make the most of the wonderful arts and culture on offer.

- 1 Skara Brae, Orkney
- 2 The Scottish Parliament building, Edinburgh
- 3 Street performer, Edinburgh's Fringe festival
- 4 Glasgow School of Art  
*Photo: Cornfield / Shutterstock.com*



## Come and experience all the drama and be inspired by Scotland's creativity

### Theatre

From large scale professional touring companies to local amateur dramatics, plays and musicals, there is a fantastic range of theatrical productions on offer across Scotland. You can experience all the drama and be inspired by Scotland's creativity.

Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, boasts a wide range of theatres. Home to the largest all-seated auditorium in the UK, the Playhouse hosts many big touring shows and one-night only events. The theatre has recently welcomed West End shows, and its upcoming programme of events is exciting as always.

The Festival Theatre also offers a diverse programme, from plays and popular musical theatre to cutting-edge contemporary dance. It recently enjoyed a sell-out run of Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse*.

The King's Theatre in Edinburgh is a beautifully preserved variety venue built in 1906 with a great range of popular shows on offer, while the Traverse, Scotland's 'new writing theatre', embraces innovation and nurtures new talent through a variety of events.

The city of Glasgow also boasts both the Pavilion Theatre and the Theatre Royal alongside one of the city's most historic theatres, the King's.



1 Dance Odysseys, courtesy of Scottish Ballet  
Photo: Nisbet & Wylie

2 The Nutcracker, courtesy of Scottish Ballet  
Photo: Andy Ross

3 King's Theatre, Glasgow  
Photo: Jimmy Baikovicus (jikatu)



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Scottish Ballet and Scottish Opera both regularly perform at Glasgow's Theatre Royal, and in the summer the Botanic Gardens become a Shakespearean stage at the annual Bard in the Botanic festival.

Outwith the major cities, there is plenty to keep you entertained, with comedy and tragedy to musical theatre. The Eastgate Arts Centre in Peebles opened its doors in 2004 and the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, set amid the stunning Perthshire landscapes, has been keeping audiences entertained for more than six decades.

Eden Court, in Scotland's Highland capital, Inverness, boasts a thriving arts and culture scene and is the place to watch all the drama play out. Originally opened in 1976, the theatre underwent a full refurbishment in 2007 and is now one of Scotland's finest art centres, offering range of performances from opera to popular music and drama.

Come and make the most of Scotland's creativity and experience our excellent arts and culture scene for yourself.



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## 4.3 Sports and Fitness

When people think of sport in Scotland, they often think of our sporting traditional – the Highland Games.

The Highland Games involve a programme of field and track events, bagpipe playing and dancing competitions. In older traditions, the Highland Games were a contest of strength, employed as a means of selecting the most strong and able men to defend the clan. Highland Games still continue to this day, being held each year throughout Scotland, and are well worth a visit if you're interested in sports or field events against a beautiful backdrop.

Two of the most popular Highland events are the Cowal Games and the Braemar Gathering. The Cowal Highland Gathering, also known as the Cowal Games, is held in Dunoon every August. The Cowal Games are recognized as the largest of the highland activities, whereas the Braemar gathering in Aberdeenshire is usually attended by the Queen, as it is held each year a short distance from her royal summer retreat on the Balmoral estate.

1 Weight throwing at the Highland Games

2 Cycling

3 Traditional Highland Dancing

4 Kayaking



### Open to the elements

Sporting in Scotland is not always traditional. Sports and fitness events can be enjoyed all year round, be it on land, in the water, or in the air. From white water rafting to kayaking, archery to 4x4 driving, fishing to golf, there are a range of activities to suit everyone, whatever your skill or taste.

### Earth

#### Cycling

Cycling is a popular mode of transport for those keen to explore some of the many Islands Scotland has to offer. Flatter islands such as Islay, Millport, Arran, and Tiree are perfect for cyclists. A leisurely two-day pedal will take you through all of Islay's famous whisky distilleries, whereas cyclists on Tiree can expect to be bowled over by the endless beaches and the butterflies, dragonflies and rare bumblebees that inhabit the island.

A trip to islands such as Arran and Tiree also provides visitors with the chance to take a unique view of the rural Scottish scenery, providing the setting for an enchanting off-road cycle. Whilst rough in places and occasionally hilly, the effort is more than rewarded with spectacular landscapes.

A host of impressive glens and valleys boasting wild off-road mountain biking trails sets the scene for the more energetic island adventurer. On Skye the epic and Wild Glen Slighachan pass offers a challenging ride, which could be split into two days for those who want to enjoy a more leisurely trip coupled with an overnight stay.





**Sporting in the city**

Each city in Scotland (and many of the smaller towns) have their own regional football team. Scots would consider football their national passion. Locals can often become heavily invested in the sport, and it is one that has the power to divide or unite fans and football fanatics. Scotland also has a successful Rugby team, who frequently play matches in Edinburgh’s Murrayfield stadium.

Inner city areas of Scotland are rich in providing city dwellers with gym facilities. Most Scottish universities offer discounted/ staff membership rates for the use of such facilities, with most being located on university campus’ for staff members’ convenience. It may therefore be worth enquiring and comparing cost plans and pricings for such facilities. Scotland also boasts a wealth of inner city parkland, providing residents with a wealth of open spaces in which to run, cycle, or play a sport.

**Golf**

As Scotland is often referred to as the ‘home of Golf’, it is well worth spending at least a day at one of our phenomenal golf courses. Our two internationally renowned golf courses are the Old Course at St Andrews, and the newer PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles.

Scotland is rightly renowned for its historic links courses. Illustrious Open venues like the Old Course at St Andrews, Royal Troon, Muirfield, Carnoustie and Turnberry never fail to enthuse and astonish. These iconic courses continue to attract awestruck golfers from all corners of the globe. There are copious amounts of courses worth exploring, purely because the sheer quality of golf on offer in Scotland is unrivalled. The elegant Gleneagles boasts three championship courses (the PGA Centenary Course is host to the Ryder Cup in 2014). Royal Dornoch in the Scottish Highlands is also a timeless classic. Beautiful Blairgowrie in Perthshire is where Greg Norman picked up his first European Tour title.



1 The Old Course at St Andrews

2 Red Deer, Glen Etive



	Atlantic Salmon		Red Squirrel
	Osprey		Bottle nosed dolphin
	Puffin		Minke Whale
	Red Deer		

**Wildlife**

Alongside fascinating people and places, Scotland also provides a home to some of the most fascinating wildlife. There are eight popular and iconic species which accentuate the seasonal and geographical diversity of the country’s wildlife. From the majestic golden Eagle and the Scottish wildcat, to the leaping Atlantic salmon or the stunning bottle nosed dolphin, the magnificent osprey or the friendly puffin, the regal red deer or the cheeky red squirrel.

Atlantic salmon can be seen at their most spectacular, fighting their way upstream to spawn in Scotland’s major rivers. Amongst the best viewing sites are the Falls of Shin in Sutherland and Pitlochry Fish Ladder in Perthshire.

For bottle nosed dolphins, head to the Moray Firth in North East Scotland. Throughout the year, keep an eye out around the Firths of Tay and Forth or in the summer head to the Hebrides.

Osprey prime viewing locations include Loch Garten in the Cairngorms National Park, Loch of Lowes near Dunkeld and Glentress in the Borders.

Everyone’s favourite seabird, the puffin, may be seen on the Isles of May, Staffa and Mull. With an estimated 300,000 red deer here in Scotland you are never too far away from a population. Hotspots include Galloway Forest Park, Islands of Rum and Jura, Perthshire, and the North West Highlands.

The mischievous red squirrel can be seen in Galloway, Perthshire or the Cairngorms National Park. These creatures have adapted well to commercial forest plantations as well as their native pine forests and oak woods so keep an eye out here too.

Warmed by the Gulf Stream, the waters around the Isle of Mull offer sightings of Minke whales, dolphins and even basking sharks.



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## Air

Scotland has many beautiful flying sites and several good clubs. The terrain in Scotland is ideal for learning but the weather can sometimes keep our feet on the ground – so it's good to take a holiday and be prepared to enjoy doing other activities!

Paragliding is also a popular sport amongst those who take a fancy to air sports. The big selling point of paragliding is that you simply carry your harness in a rucksack up a hill, unroll the material and step forward into the open air. A wing will form above your head and you will be flying!



1 Paragliding

2 Kayaking, Aberlour, Moray  
Photo: JASPERIMAGE / Shutterstock.com

3 Skiing in the Cairngorms

## Water

As a country that borders the coast almost every way around, there are a variety of adventures to be had in Scotland's seas and rivers. Take to the water for a gentle paddle around the coast in a sea kayak, or get the adrenaline pumping with a fast-paced ride along a river.

Many Scottish islands boast a shoreline abundant with wildlife. For the best views try the peaceful pursuit of sea kayaking. A paddle along the coast of Arran offers a chance to spot seals, porpoise and seabirds up close.

More experienced paddlers will relish the opportunity to pack up their crafts with provisions and camping gear for a week long island-hopping extravaganza. There are so many beautiful islands to choose from but the summer islands, off the north-west mainland, the long and glorious coastline of the Outer Hebrides with its dazzling white beaches and myriad wildlife are to be recommended.



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## Ice

Winter opens up a whole new range of adventures in Scotland. Winter hillwalking and winter mountaineering are two of Scotland's most popular sports during this season, offering an infinity of possibilities, from exploring the arctic nature of the Cairngorms' incredibly high plateau, to tackling rocky ridges and snowy slopes right across the Highlands. There are so many places available for winter mountaineering in Scotland. Some of the key areas to visit alongside the Cairngorms in the winter months are Glencoe and the Grey Corries (close to Fort William)

Some of Europe's finest ice climbing is located at Ben Nevis. If you're interested in climbing you may want to try hanging on by your ice axes to the infamous crucial traverse of 'Route 2.'

Skiing, snowboarding, and ski mountaineering is all popular in Scotland. There are five ski centers and Snow sport resorts in Scotland, all are located in the Highlands and all offer skiing and snowboarding tuition with equipment hire. Scotland's winter mountains offer a drama and a beauty that can't be found anywhere else in Britain and these Scottish ski resorts remain transformed by snow and ice in many parts for up to eight months a year.

With the Scottish snow scene being so accessible, it's often as simple as just checking conditions (on the Ski-Scotland website) and heading north. Advanced booking is advised at peak times such as half term and national holidays, but this is not always necessary. If you're a non-skier or snowboarder, you can still join in the fun, with sledging courses available (an activity that requires nothing but balance). If you're a fan of sledging, you may even want to take control of your own team of huskies and try dog sledging through some of the UK's oldest coniferous forests.

# University of Strathclyde

Established more than 200 years ago 'for the good of mankind', the University of Strathclyde has always had a global outlook. The University is situated in the heart of Glasgow – one of the UK's largest cities – and has a vibrant, international community including 22,000 students and around 3,500 staff from 100 countries.



# A place of useful learning

Strathclyde is dedicated to being a place of ‘useful learning’ and is recognised internationally for its close working relationship with global businesses, and its partnerships with industry, government and policy makers. The University’s academics are committed to working with partners to tackle the major research challenges of the 21st Century, while developing the highly-skilled graduates needed by industry and the professions. Its high-profile alumni include John Logie Baird, inventor of the world’s first television; James Blyth, the wind energy pioneer; David Livingstone, the medical missionary and explorer; and Henry Faulds, originator of fingerprint identification.

< Rottenrow Gardens, John Anderson Campus

1 Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences

2 View from the campus

3 Times Higher Education awards



## Key facts

- Named UK Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2013, and UK University of the Year 2012, by the Times Higher Education
- Home to the first UK hub of Fraunhofer – Europe’s largest contract research organisation
- Has attracted numerous global partners who are investing in its vision, including Babcock, GlaxoSmithKline, Rolls-Royce, EDF, NASA, Boeing, The Weir Group, SSE, ScottishPower and AstraZeneca

## Faculties and Focus

The University’s four faculties – Strathclyde Business School, Humanities & Social Sciences, Engineering, and Science – work across disciplines to give Strathclyde a distinctive and enviable track record in making technologies and innovations of benefit for society.

Every year, thousands of students choose Strathclyde because of its reputation for first class teaching and excellent facilities. The University is continuing this tradition through a £350 million investment in its dynamic, digital campus over 10 years.

Students benefit from an education that is informed by leading-edge research and the needs of today’s global employers. These strengths were reflected in the University’s five-star rating in the 2013 QS Stars international Higher education ranking, scoring 100% in 23 of the 37 categories in which it was rated.

Strathclyde has an international reputation for gold-standard PhD training for graduates in industry and the professions and is a partner in 15 UK Doctoral Training Centres. It leads six of these in areas including medical devices, wind energy and advanced manufacturing.



## Research strengths

Challenging conventional wisdom has been part of the University's core business since it was founded in 1796. Today, Strathclyde is committed to working side-by-side with other leading academics and the business community to deliver solutions to global challenges, in areas including:

- energy and the environment
- health technologies and drug discovery
- business innovation and efficiency
- new technologies, devices, materials and systems
- policy, law and education



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## Partnerships

The University is taking its partnership approach to new heights with the development of an £89 million Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC). It is bringing together world-class researchers with partners from business, industry and the public sector to accelerate the development of new technologies, help companies compete on the world stage, and inform policy development.

The centre works in parallel with the University's other global research institutes, including two government-funded Catapult centres which are transforming the UK's innovation capability in offshore renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

Strathclyde is also a founding member of the world's first international Max-Planck research partnership, and is home to the UK headquarters of Fraunhofer Gesellschaft – Europe's largest contract research organisation.

The University collaborates with a wide range of leading universities including New York University; Stanford University in California; Tsinghua University in Beijing; Nanyang Technological University in Singapore; and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

It has over 200 agreements with institutions in around 50 countries – and more than 2,000 informal links globally. More than 100 nations are represented among Strathclyde's student community, with international students accounting for 10 per cent of the overall student population. Strathclyde also offers courses through overseas partners, and is home to the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools, which promotes education in Chinese language and culture.



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The University was ranked highly in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) measuring the quality of research in higher education institutions and the latest results have shown that Strathclyde has major strengths in science, engineering, business and the humanities. In particular, our Department of Physics has been rated the number one department in the UK and the Strathclyde Business School and our Electronic and Electrical Engineering departments were ranked number one in Scotland. The University has a number of excellent research centres such as:

- Advanced Forming Research Centre (AFRC)
- Advanced Space Concepts Laboratory
- European Policies Research Centre
- Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship
- Institute for Energy and the Environment
- Institute of Photonics
- Scottish Centre for Employment Research
- Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences

In addition to a number of high quality research facilities such as:

- Cancer Research UK Formulation Unit
- Digital Design and Manufacturing Studio
- High Performance Computing
- Hydrodynamic Test Facilities
- Plasmas Physics Laboratory

1 & 2 Researchers at work

3 The Technology and Innovation Centre, opening 2015



3

*Bringing together world-class researchers with partners for business, industry and the public sector*



## Employability

The University's close links with business and industry, combined with access to company scholarships, help to give its graduates a head start in their careers. Statistics show that 90.3% of Strathclyde's first degree leavers were in employment and/or further study six months after completion. The University also incorporates careers advice and development training as an integral part of its courses, and organises Scotland's largest graduate recruitment fair each year.

Strathclyde's collaborative approach is also supporting students and graduates through research-led teaching and unrivalled industry engagement, internships, bespoke executive education and continuous professional development.

## Our Values

The University has a Values Statement which describes the five core values which define the way we work.

The University of Strathclyde is a place of useful learning where we are recognised as being:

- People-oriented: committed to our staff and students, providing opportunities and investing in their development.
- Bold: confident and challenging about what we do, and supportive of appropriate and managed risk in our decision-making.
- Innovative: focused on discovering and applying knowledge with impact, and encouraging creative thinking and new ideas.
- Collaborative: working together, internally and externally, with integrity and in an open, respectful way.
- Ambitious: for our institution, staff and students as well as supporting the ambitions of our partners.

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. Our Values set out how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.



## Careers and Benefits

As well as the culture and facilities described above, staff at the University of Strathclyde benefit from an exceptional career structure. As well as long established academic, research and teaching career pathways, Strathclyde has established a ground breaking knowledge exchange career pathway for those with an academic focus linked to meeting the needs of business and industry. Professional Services colleagues benefit from a diversity of available roles. The University of Strathclyde is committed to meeting the learning and development needs of all employees and has a wide range of opportunities for participation including programmes for research leaders, a coaching and mentoring programme and a range of learning interventions covering areas from IT skills to change management and leadership.

In addition, The University offers a generous reward and benefits package including a significant contribution to relocation expenses for those moving to Glasgow from overseas. Strathclyde is dedicated to the principles of equality and diversity and hold a bronze Athena Swan award, emphasising our commitment to women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (STEMM).

1 Graduation

2 Research in action

3 Royal College

A leading international technological University established more than 200 years ago, the University of Strathclyde is situated in the heart of Glasgow and is dedicated to being a place of 'useful learning'. We work with international partners in industry, government and policy making to tackle major research challenges and develop highly-skilled graduates.

- 22,000 students and around 3,500 staff from more than 100 countries
- Named UK Entrepreneurial University of the Year 2013, and UK University of the Year 2012, by the Times Higher Education
- Number one rated Physics department in the UK for research
- Strathclyde Business School rated number one for research in Scotland
- Home to the first UK hub of Fraunhofer – Europe's largest contract research organisation

