Welcome to the University of Edinburgh, School of Veterinary Studies

Choosing the right University is an important decision in any student’s life. We understand that you want your son or daughter to make the right choice and while encouraging their new-found independence, you also want to help them optimise their chances for success.

We recognise the important role you play in advising and supporting your son or daughter when making the life-changing choice of which University to join. To help you we have produced this guide. It summarises some of the key information that you will want to know, from key deadlines to choosing accommodation.

At Edinburgh we have a commitment to offering our students an outstanding higher educational experience; one which we believe provides an opportunity to shape their future beyond measure. We have a responsibility to our students to provide the very best. As a scholar, our students will be part of an academic community that encourages independent enquiry and thought. They will be studying and working alongside academics who are global experts in their field. To ease our students through this transitional phase, we have an outstanding, responsive support services team who work hard to ensure a smooth journey every step of the way.

As a future graduate, they can access a range of excellent careers and employability services. From dedicated careers support delivered at a local level, to a broad range of internship opportunities and masterclasses from alumni, we will equip and prepare them for a global employment market.

Professor David Argyle
Head of School
Our veterinary medicine degree is accredited by the RCVS, the AVMA and the EAEVE, allowing our graduates to practice in the UK, Europe, North America, Australasia, South Africa and beyond.

Our notable vet alumni are founders of veterinary schools in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia.

1583
The year the University of Edinburgh was founded

11,000+
International students from 140 countries

31,000+
Students

20,000+
Undergraduate students

Top sporting university in Scotland with world class facilities

£100 million+
Has been invested in the Easter Bush campus

5
Libraries
30
Galleries
250+
Museums & student societies

Our veterinary medicine degree is accredited by the RCVS, the AVMA and the EAEVE, allowing our graduates to practice in the UK, Europe, North America, Australasia, South Africa and beyond.
Choose Edinburgh

The City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan and cultured city, which offers a unique living and learning experience. One of the most vibrant cities in Europe, the city of Edinburgh is regularly voted as one of the most desirable places to live in the world and has been rated the ‘friendliest city in the UK’. This cosmopolitan, safe and welcoming atmosphere encourages all students to feel at home very quickly.

Edinburgh is rich in social, cultural, learning and sports facilities. The city of Edinburgh hosts 12 annual festivals each year including the world’s largest arts festival in August and one of the world’s largest winter festivals.

Research and Reputation

The School, along with The Roslin Institute, aims to make a real difference to animal and human health and our partnership with the Medical School is summed up in the ethos - One Health.

The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh is a world class research centre and undertakes top-class basic and translational science to tackle some of the most pressing issues in animal health and welfare, their implications for human health and for the role of animals in the food chain.

We place a major emphasis on conducting high quality research and attracting world-class talent. Agricultural and veterinary research at the University of Edinburgh and Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) was ranked as, most powerful in the UK in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Three quarters of the research and related activity submitted was judged to be in the highest categories - 4* or 3* - which are classified as “world leading” or “internationally excellent”.

Learn more: www.easterbush.mvm.ed.ac.uk

Academic Excellence and Awards

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, was founded in 1823 by William Dick. The School is recognised a world leader in veterinary education, research and practice. The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is consistently ranked as one of the top schools in the UK, delivering internationally excellent teaching and research.

The Easter Bush Campus houses the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, The Roslin Institute, Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education and The Veterinary Oncology and Imaging Centre.

The campus is also home to the new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security. The Academy draws on expertise from the Schools of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Biological Sciences, Geosciences, and Informatics. It provides a hub for teaching and research into issues that affect global food and environmental security, sustainable rural development, and the wellbeing of animals and people.

By Autumn 2017 the Easter Bush Campus will also house the Roslin Innovation Centre that will bring together clinical teaching, research and enterprise activities, and the new Equine Diagnostic Surgical and Critical Care Unit which will provide state of the art care and emergency facilities as well as the racehorse rehabilitation centre.

The Roslin Institute is an animal sciences research institute, which is sponsored by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. The Institute won international fame in 1996, when Ian Wilmut, Keith Campbell and their colleagues created Dolly the sheep, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell.

The School is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), allowing our graduates to practice veterinary medicine throughout the UK, Europe, North America, Australasia and beyond.

“a world capital for livestock health and genetics."

Bill Gates, commenting on University of Edinburgh at House of Lords, November 2014
Programme Structure

The 5 Year BVM&S Programme
The five year, BVM&S programme prepares our students for entering many different aspects of the veterinary profession. The long-standing involvement of Edinburgh with veterinary education, where tradition is mixed with cutting-edge veterinary teaching, benefits from a close-knit collegial community of ‘Dick Vet’ students.

YEAR
1

The Animal Body 1 and 2: integrating anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, introductory pathology and infection and immunity. You also study Animal Life and Food Safety 1 and begin courses in professional and clinical skills.

YEAR
2

Continued integrated anatomy, physiology and pathology in The Animal Body 3 and will have the opportunity to integrate materials learnt in The Animal Body 1, 2 and 3 during The Animal Body 4 at the end of the year. Animal Life and Food Safety 2 and professional and clinical skills courses continue. You will also work on a group-based, student selected component.

YEAR
3

Clinical foundation course (Applied Pharmacology, Anaesthesia, Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine, Introduction to Surgery, Introduction to Clinical Oncology, Diagnostic Imaging), veterinary pathology and the ring and cat integrated clinical course. Professional and clinical skills courses continue. You also select a research project to work on over the next two years as your second student selected component.

YEAR
4

Species-based clinical studies continue with the farm animal, equine and exotics integrated clinical courses. You will continue to plan and then carry out your small research project in your chosen area of veterinary medicine. The professional and clinical skills course focuses on preparation for the final clinical year.

YEAR
5

Your final year is lecture-free, with the emphasis on practical experience. Clinical rotations are carried out in our hospitals and support services to gain wide-ranging practical experience and develop professional skills. The final year is longer than the previous years and incorporates externship and elective periods to allow you to focus on areas of individual interest. You will bring together your personal and professional development portfolio.
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Money Matters

Tuition Fees
The annual tuition fee for the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS) degree is fixed for the full duration of the course. All graduate and overseas candidates are considered on a full-fee basis only.

For up to date tuition fee information, refer to the following website: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/tuition-fees/

Payment of Fees
At Edinburgh we recognise that students need flexibility when paying fees. We provide a range of payment options to suit everyone. The fee can either be paid in full, or spread over manageable instalments by Direct Debit.

For more information refer to the Payment Options website: www.ed.ac.uk/finance/students-fees

Scholarships
The University offers a number of scholarships for students who are nationals of countries outwith the EU.

Further details are available on the Scholarships and Student Funding Service website: www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/5-year-programme/fees-and-funding

Also, stay tuned for further updates on the launch of vet scholarships for international students starting in 2017.

Living Costs
We have estimated that students need approximately £700 per month for living costs, including room and board. In addition to these expenses, you will also need to consider initial, annual and miscellaneous costs (deposits, bedding, textbooks, insurance, travel, etc). The most up-to-date information on estimated living costs is available on the University website: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/undergraduate/cost-of-living

- Living costs in the UK are comparable to many major cities in the world.
- The International Office can offer advice about how to budget.
- Consider the cost of accommodation and daily living expenses as well as the cost of tuition fees.
- Planning a budget will depend on the type of accommodation selected and spending habits.
- Food costs will vary, but will account for a significant part of the budget.

Additional Costs
In addition to any tuition fees charged, additional costs include specialised equipment and lab coats (estimated at £150), locker deposits (£15) and transportation costs to Easter Bush Campus. If using public transport from the city centre, this will be approximately £468 per year, which will be subsidised by the School proportionally in line with year of study.

In addition, extramural study (externships) of 38 weeks undertaken on both programmes will incur additional costs for travel and accommodation. Some limited grant funding may be available from the University, but is unlikely to cover the full costs of extramural study. International students may need to pay a healthcare surcharge of approximately £150 per year.

Federal Loans
The University of Edinburgh is eligible to originate loans under the Direct Loan Program. Our School Code is 006839, which sometimes appears as 006839. You can also visit our website for more information: www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/financial-support/student-loans/usa

For further information on US Loans or if your son or daughter wishes to be considered for a loan, they should contact staff within Student Funding Services. Email them at: financial.aid@ed.ac.uk

Or visit our website: www.ed.ac.uk/international-office/immigration

Or alternatively email the immigration team at the University: immigration@ed.ac.uk

Canadian Student Loans
The University of Edinburgh is a recognised institution for the purpose of certifying Canadian Student Loan applications.

The Canada Student Loans Program allows students to borrow money from the Government of Canada to pursue higher education.

Our Student Funding Services team will be able to help students complete their loan applications by certifying and confirming their student status on the relevant documentation provided by the Canadian Government. Please note that the University of Edinburgh’s Institutional Code is PUAR.

For details on eligibility and how to apply for a loan, please visit the Canada Student Loans Program website: www.canlearn.ca/eng/index.shtml

Bank Accounts
It is very useful to open a bank account once students arrive in Edinburgh, but this process is not normally available prior to arrival in Edinburgh, unless the bank branch at home has a relationship with a UK bank. Normally they can only start this process once they have moved into their accommodation. To assist them in opening an account, by providing proof of their accommodation in Edinburgh, the University can provide you with a Bank Introduction letter.

If they are staying in University accommodation, then once they have fully checked into their University accommodation they can download and print a copy of the letter from MyEd. They need to look on MyEd for the ‘Print Letter’ facility. Once they have a copy of the letter they can take it to one of the bank branches listed in the letter with the additional documentation requested. Only certain banks and branches have agreed to accept this letter, so they must open the account at one of these branches.

If they are in private accommodation then they will need to apply online for a bank introduction letter.

For more information please visit the website: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance/banking
Student Support and Services

We have a dedicated Student Support Officer on campus, who is available to our students for any support issue and can offer help, guidance and someone to listen when needed.

Our staff and students are sorted into ten Houses, named after the Pentland Hills. Each House meets on a regular basis to discuss issues, offer support and organise events. This enables students to receive support and advice from students in different years and to open the student body up to friendships being formed across the year groups.

The School also hosts a number of events throughout the year where students and staff come together to celebrate. These range from the annual Pre-Burns night event to the Hallowe’en event. These events are just one of the many ways the School includes all of its students and makes them feel more like a family.

To help our students succeed, we also have a study skills team who offer dedicated advice and run workshops throughout the year. Often students will find that a small change will make a big difference.

Health Care

Once students have arrived, it is important to find a family doctor (General Practitioner or GP) as soon as possible. Once they have found a GP, they should contact the doctor’s practice to make an appointment to register as an NHS patient.

The University Health Centre provides comprehensive medical care for those who wish to register as patients of the practice, and who live within the practice area. The practice is located at the Richard Verney Health Centre at 6 Bristo Square. For more information: www.ed.ac.uk/international-office/student-advisory-service/welfare/healthcare. They are, however, able to register at any practice accepting NHS patients. Please contact the practice for information.

International students may need to pay a healthcare surcharge (called the ‘immigration health surcharge’ or IHS) as part of the immigration application. If applying online or through the premium service centre, students can pay the surcharge as part of the application or when they book an appointment.

If applying by post, they must pay the healthcare surcharge online before they send their application – they will need to include the IHS reference number on their application form. The IHS is £150 per year as a student, for more information refer to the following website www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/overview.

95% of our students said that they were satisfied with the overall quality of the course.

National Student data by HEFCE, 2016

Health Care

Once students have arrived, it is important to find a family doctor (General Practitioner or GP) as soon as possible. Once they have found a GP, they should contact the doctor’s practice to make an appointment to register as an NHS patient.

The University Health Centre provides comprehensive medical care for those who wish to register as patients of the practice, and who live within the practice area. The practice is located at the Richard Verney Health Centre at 6 Bristo Square. For more information: www.ed.ac.uk/international-office/student-advisory-service/welfare/healthcare. They are, however, able to register at any practice accepting NHS patients. Please contact the practice for information.

International students may need to pay a healthcare surcharge (called the ‘immigration health surcharge’ or IHS) as part of the immigration application. If applying online or through the premium service centre, students can pay the surcharge as part of the application or when they book an appointment.

If applying by post, they must pay the healthcare surcharge online before they send their application – they will need to include the IHS reference number on their application form. The IHS is £150 per year as a student, for more information refer to the following website www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/overview.

95% of our students said that they were satisfied with the overall quality of the course.

National Student data by HEFCE, 2016
Coming to the University may be your son or daughter’s first experience of living away from home, all of our first year students are guaranteed a place in a hall of residence. Our student accommodation allows students to be independent in safe, secure and sociable surroundings.

Our student accommodation is located in the city centre, which allows our students to experience living in the city and enables them to make friends outside of their subject area. Transport links to Easter Bush campus are excellent and the bus pass expenses are subsidised.

We understand that it is difficult for students to arrange accommodation in a city before they have moved there and so we offer a range of accommodation packages to meet their needs.

**Graduate Entry Programme (August Start)**

As the GEP has an earlier start date to the rest of the University, accommodation has been allocated specifically for students commencing the GEP. Available from early August and covering the whole academic year, self-catered accommodation is available with shared kitchen facilities in each flat – East Newington Place. This is located approximately 15 minutes walk from central University facilities. More information can be found on the accommodation website: [www.accom.ed.ac.uk/property-details/15/east-newington-place-east-newington-place-edinburgh/](http://www.accom.ed.ac.uk/property-details/15/east-newington-place-east-newington-place-edinburgh/)

Alternatively, students can also make use of 5 weeks of catered accommodation in Pollock Halls of Residence from early August until the start of Welcome Week in September.

**5 Year BVM&S Programme (September Start)**

The University has a range of accommodation which is available, both catered and self-catered depending on what your son or daughter would prefer.

- Only £250 deposit required
- Contents Insurance included in the rent
- Data and telephony services included in the rent in the majority of flats
- Both catered and self-catered accommodation available
- Support network is available to you, at all times
- A wide choice of ensuite rooms and studios, so you can share with your friends or live independently
- No hidden extras or upfront charges
- No charge for carrying out any credit checks
- Parents do not need to act as a guarantor and we will not ask for any references

For more information on accommodation visit: [www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/](http://www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/)

**Private Accommodation**

Some of our students prefer to find their own accommodation and we do our best to help them find the ideal place for them. Edinburgh has a large student population and lots of rented accommodation on offer.

- Both catered and self-catered accommodation available
- Support network is available to you, at all times
- A wide choice of ensuite rooms and studios, so you can share with your friends or live independently
- No hidden extras or upfront charges
- No charge for carrying out any credit checks
- Parents do not need to act as a guarantor and we will not ask for any references

For more information on private accommodation visit: [www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/private-housing](http://www.accom.ed.ac.uk/for-students/private-housing)
Immigration and What Happens Next?

• Once we have received all applications by the given deadline, we invite successful applicants to attend a mini multiple interview. The interview will be a series of seven 10 minute stations with an interviewer at five of the seven stations. Two of the stations will be unstaffed. All international applicant interviews take place between January and February. For more information on the interview process please refer to the following website www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/5-year-programme/edvetinterviews
• Successful international applicants will receive an offer to study by March. Please note that if their offer includes “recommend” or “advise” to gain additional work experience this is not a condition of the offer, but simply a recommendation in order to prepare them fully for starting the degree.
• If the applicant holds a conditional offer based on results in other examinations they must send official transcripts or certified copies by mail or email, as soon as the results become available.
• By March all successful applicants will be allocated a student mentor.
• All successful international and Graduate Entry Programme applicants will need to accept the offer to study and pay a deposit of £1,500 by 1st May.

Immigration
A Tier 4 Student Visa is required to enter the UK to study at the University of Edinburgh. Students are issued with a Confirmation Of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) once they have met the conditions of the offer they can then apply for a visa.

They can apply 3 months prior to the start date of the course. They should apply for a visa as soon as they receive the CAS as it is a busy time of the year at UK Border Agency. A visa costs around £320.

Paid work - Veterinary Medicine is a very demanding programme but some students do work at the same time. The Tier 4 visa will allow students to work up to 20 hours per week.

For more information visit: www.ed.ac.uk/international-office/immigration/

Travelling to Edinburgh
We recommend that all students should avoid travelling to Edinburgh via the Republic of Ireland.

Students coming via the Republic of Ireland cannot have their visa validated on arrival in Edinburgh. This is because the Republic of Ireland is not part of the UK, and by international agreement there is no immigration control between the UK and Dublin (Republic of Ireland).

You will not pass through UK immigration control at Dublin Airport.

“We have a very large international student and staff population, which is really significant in terms of diversity and cultural interest on the campus.”

Vice Principal International, Professor James Smith
Admissions Process

You

15 September
(VMCAS) application deadline

October

15 September
(VMCAS) application deadline

November

Admissions Committee evaluate applications:
• Academic background
• Academic reference (including predictions)
• Relevant work experience
• Extra-curricular activities
• Personal Statement

December

Admissions Committee decide on candidates to be called for interview
• Interview candidates either in Edinburgh or another overseas location depending on accessibility
• Decide on offers
• Send out details of our electronic offer pack to all successful candidates

January

Submit Work Experience Summary by 22 October (UCAS only)

February

Admissions Committee evaluate applications:
• Academic background
• Academic reference (including predictions)
• Relevant work experience
• Extra-curricular activities
• Personal Statement

March

Informed

All candidates
• Informed of your decision

May

Prepare

Overseas and Graduate candidates only
• Meet all the conditions of your offer
• Ensure you complete and return your Confidential Health Questionnaire directly to the Occupational Health Unit
• Join the Facebook groups for August or September starts
• Regularly check email for information and updates from the School
• Prepare to start the programme (August or September)

June

Confirm

All candidates
• Make arrangements to pay the £1,500 deposit to secure your place
• Complete and return your financial guarantee form by 1 May

Increase

Send out details of our electronic offer pack to all successful candidates

Welcome

August/September
Welcome new students!
Travelling to Easter Bush

The Easter Bush Campus is located seven miles to the south of the centre of Edinburgh. Students can apply for a subsidised bus pass to help offset the cost of travel. The main methods that students use to come to the campus are:

- **Bus** - Lothian buses runs regular services several times an hour.
- **Bike** - we have a secure bike shed, showers and changing facilities and the University supports a number of schemes to help people cycle to and from the campus.
- **Car** - some students choose to drive and are able to apply for a free student car park pass.

![Map of Easter Bush Campus]
The unique offering of Excellence in Teaching, Research and Clinical Care make up the three pillars of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.