



INTRODUCTION

Why Scotland?

Studying overseas has many advantages. It adds depth to education, helps develop language skills and introduces students to different people, cultures and styles of learning.

Every year, more than 30,000 students from all over the world choose to study in Scotland. We combine high quality learning developed over centuries with a globally respected reputation for innovation and invention.

We have a strong, growing economy, recently winning the titles UK and European Region of the Future. Our top industries include finance, life sciences, oil and gas, medical technology, tourism and the creative industries.

Scotland is consistently rated as a friendly, safe place to be. We are a country with a strong sense of national identity and a multicultural spirit, with lively cosmopolitan cities and spectacular landscapes.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Putting Scotland on the map

LOCATION
Scotland is one of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom, together with England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The most northerly part of the UK, it makes up about one third of its total landmass.

POPULATION
5.1 million.

LANGUAGE
English (99%), Gaelic (1%).

CURRENCY
£ British pound (Sterling).

GOVERNMENT
Devolved parliamentary democracy.

CAPITAL CITY
Edinburgh.

MAJOR CITIES
Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Inverness, Stirling.

HEALTHCARE
The National Health Service provides free healthcare for international students. There is a small charge for prescribed medicines.

AIRPORTS
Scotland has four major international airports at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Prestwick and a number of smaller airports including Dundee and Inverness.

Edinburgh and Glasgow are only an hour's flight from London.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE
Summer: 15-22°C (60-70°F).
Winter: 5-7°C (41-45°F).

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Over 30,000 from more than 180 countries.



FLEXIBLE EXCELLENCE

Education built around you

Scotland has a unique tradition in education and over 700 years experience in bringing out the best in people. There has been compulsory education in Scotland since the late 15th century – and the education systems of the US, Canada and France were modelled on those developed here.

Scotland's independent schools and English-language providers have a world-wide reputation for excellence and offer a warm welcome to overseas students. Our colleges are renowned for their flexible approach to education and their vocational focus. Scotland is home to some of the oldest universities in the UK, many of which have a world-class reputation for research.

Scottish education encourages students to question and explore the information they are taught, and inspirational teachers

provide the confidence and support students need to put their ideas into practice. What's more, all Scottish education is independently assessed and quality assured, guaranteeing high standards.



WELL BALANCED EDUCATION

How our system works

Scotland's education system combines vocational and academic subjects, giving students a wide choice. The flexibility of the system also means that students can easily transfer from one course to another, allowing them to choose a well-balanced education. For example, some institutions allow students to take two years of a HND at college, and then move

to a university for two more years and gain a degree.

Fresh Talent Initiative

This initiative allows international students to work for up to two years without a work permit on completion of a HND, degree or post-graduate qualification.

See www.scotlandistheplace.com for more information.

Age	Secondary/High School Courses and Awards	Fresh Talent Initiative	Fresh Talent Initiative
		College	University
18+		HND Higher National Diploma	PhD (minimum three years)
			Masters (one year)
			Degree Year 4 Honours Degree
			Degree Year 3 Ordinary Degree
16-18	Advanced Higher Higher	HNC Higher National Certificate Advanced Higher Higher	Degree Year 2
			Degree Year 1
14-16	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 2	
	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 1	
	Standard Grades	Standard Grades	

USEFUL CONTACTS AND SOURCES

For further information about Scottish education and applying to live and study here, you may find the following links useful.

General information

Education UK Scotland
www.educationuk.org/scotland

British Council Scotland
www.britishcouncil.org/scotland

Universities Scotland
www.universities-scotland.ac.uk

UCAS
www.ucas.com

National Union of Students Scotland
www.nusonline.co.uk/scotland

Scotland's Colleges International
www.scotlandscolleges.com

Scottish Further Education Unit
www.sfeu.ac.uk

Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS)
www.scis.org.uk

Scottish English Languages in Consortium
www.seltic.org

UK Council for International Student Affairs
www.ukcisa.org.uk

Working in the UK

The Home Office
www.workingintheuk.gov.uk

Scottish Networks International
www.scottishni.org

Fresh Talent Initiative
www.scotlandistheplace.com

UK Visas
www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Quality and assurance

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education
www.hmie.gov.uk

Research Assessment Exercise
www.rae.ac.uk

Quality Assurance Agency
www.qaa.ac.uk

Department for Children, Schools and Family
www.dfes.gov.uk/qualifications

Scottish Qualifications Authority
www.sqa.org.uk

About Scotland

VisitScotland
www.visitscotland.com

Scottish Government
www.scotland.gov.uk

Your local British Council office can also offer support and advice on studying in the UK. Details can be found at www.britishcouncil.org.



The UK means the United Kingdom and consists of England, Scotland, Wales (Great Britain) and Northern Ireland.

Education UK Scotland is managed by



in partnership with the education sector in Scotland.

British Council Scotland
The Tun (3rd floor)
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8PJ
Scotland, UK

T +44 131 524 5730
F +44 131 524 5701

educationukscotland@britishcouncil.org
www.educationuk.org/scotland



UNIVERSITIES

Developing potential at the highest level

Scotland's 14 universities have a world-class reputation for the quality of both their teaching and research.

As in the US and China, most Scottish undergraduate honours degree programmes take four years to complete, with postgraduate masters courses available from one year upwards.

In most undergraduate courses, during the first two years, students have the opportunity to try a wide range of subjects – even across faculties. This broadens their general education and helps them make a more informed decision on what they'll specialise in at honours level in their final years of study.

At university, students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, with the support and guidance of academic staff. Courses are

generally taught through lectures and small group tutorials or laboratory sessions, with assessment through a combination of unseen exams and prepared assignments.

Taking a degree is not solely an academic exercise: university courses are designed in partnership with industry. This ensures that Scottish graduates have the right mix of skills, knowledge and experience to succeed in the world of business and commerce.

For more information see www.universities-scotland.ac.uk.

COLLEGES

A famously flexible system

There are 43 colleges in Scotland, delivering 25% of the country's higher education.

A college education gives students the opportunity to study at a very advanced level within a small and friendly environment. Tutors are highly skilled and have first-hand industry experience.

College courses are known for being well-rounded and for helping develop relevant, practical skills that employers demand. Work-focused and flexible enough to meet the needs of an individual, they allow students to combine specialist technical skills with a broader business education.

Our colleges provide a full range of qualifications from foundation programmes, combining school level qualifications with English language training, to degree-level

training in combination with universities. They are best known for Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) qualifications. These are recognised qualifications to do a specific job which focus on 'learning by doing' and can lead straight to a career.

See www.scotlandscolleges.com for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

A distinctive accent on learning

Scotland is a country famous both for the quality of its spoken English and the expert quality of its education. Coming to Scotland to learn or improve English language skills offers you a huge range of opportunities.

There are 17 British Council accredited English Language Teaching providers in Scotland. Some are private schools, while others are departments within universities or colleges.

The schools vary in size: some offer a wide range of courses and others specialise in particular age ranges, types of teaching or areas of English. Between them, they offer a comprehensive choice of programmes to meet all the needs – and budgets – of juniors, students, adults, professionals, travellers and tourists.

All of the English Language schools are members of the Scottish English Language Teaching in Consortium (SELTIC).

For more information please visit www.seltic.org.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

A proud tradition

Scotland's national school system goes back to the 16th century, when elementary schools were established in every parish and grammar schools in every major town in Scotland.

Today, independent schools – most of which operate as boarding schools – make an important contribution to Scotland's education provision. Responsible for their own direction and able to innovate as they choose, their academic success rates are high, with over 90% of pupils going on to higher education. Many are also located in some of the finest surroundings in Scotland.

From the age of seven to 13, children can attend preparatory boarding school, before moving on to a senior school between the ages of 11 and 13.

A wide range of academic qualifications are available – from GCSE or Scottish Standard Grades through to Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers, AS and A-levels or the International Baccalaureate.

For more information about independent schools, please visit www.scis.org.uk.

Your guide to Scottish education
Discover the difference