



THE MAIN LIBRARY SELF-GUIDE TOUR 2019 - 2020



Reception

Staffed by both IS Helpdesk and Library Facilities, if you are visiting the Library, or have lost your University card, this desk will be your first port of call.



Exhibition Room

Featuring bespoke exhibition cases created by Goppion of Italy, the Exhibition Room was funded by the Friends of Edinburgh University Library. Various exhibitions take place throughout the year, open to the University community and to the public.

The High Use Book (HUB) Collection (restricted access)



Located adjacent to the Helpdesk, the HUB supports over 50% of all loans and is heavily used by undergraduates (particularly years 1 and 2). For new students, the HUB makes an easier transition from a school library to the University Library. More advanced undergraduates and postgraduates tend to use the upper floors of the Library.



The Forum

The Main Library was designed by Sir Basil Spence; the building was completed in 1967 and A-listed in 2006.

Major redevelopment has taken place in recent years. The slate floors and timber finishes have been retained and the original 1960's tub chairs refurbished; Sixties-style lighting was installed and the black shelving reused with the addition of coloured Perspex shelf ends. The architects have ensured that the beauty of The Meadows and George Square are visible from both the front and back of the building, in line with the original vision.

The Library is open 24 hours, 7 days a week (outwith the festive season). Swipe access with University card.



Also in the HUB, requested books await pick-up from the Hold Shelf, and there is a self-collection laptop service.

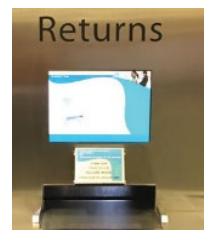
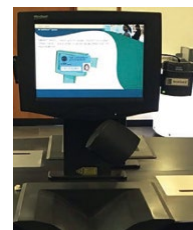


Helpdesk

Staff here assist directly with Library, IT and University card services, or pass enquiries to appropriate teams for more specialist help.

IT Support Desk

For current staff and students, this provides drop-in support for personal mobile devices.



Self-Issue Machines

Users can borrow books using the self-issue machines on the Ground Floor, floors 2, 3 and 4.

Self-Return Machines

Available on the Ground Floor at the entrance to the Library and to the right of the Helpdesk.



Ground Floor study space

Three types of study space are available here: fixed PCs, study pods, and informal seating areas; there are also 20 quick-use computers for students to check emails or print documents. The 30 study pods in the Library allow discussions and group work for up to six people; most pods contain a PC, a large display screen and the facility to connect laptops.



The Signature Room

Designed to look “*Like the inside of a cigar box*”, there is evidence that this was used as a smoking room when the building first opened. Now it is a study space where students can work with “renowned graduates” of the past: the light wall displays signatures of famous students including Charles Darwin, Robert Louis Stevenson, Walter Scott, Robert Adam and Arthur Conan Doyle.

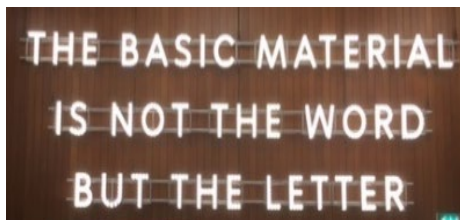


Lower Ground Floor

This floor offers a combination of individual desks and group study areas, with or without PCs.

Floor 1

- Accessible study rooms - for use by individual students who require specialist equipment and technology
- uCreate area - large format posters can be produced here; scanners, specialist software, and recording equipment are also available
- Study space - a mix of single desks and group study pods, with or without PCs
- Training and Tutoring rooms
- Video Conference room
- uCreate Maker Studio - digitally focussed makerspace with a wide range of equipment.



“A sculpture using words – words from the library, words from within the building where the artwork now sits”

Nathan Coley, Turner Prize-nominated artist



Floors 2 and 3

- Main book collection (*Library of Congress classification*)
- East Asian collection
- Music collection.

Floor 3

- Counselling Service
- Careers Service
- Student Disability Service.



In the Main Library there are 778 957 books and 6748 print journal titles; members of the University can access 700 000 e-books, 100 000 e-journals, 700 databases and 66 000 streaming videos.



The Café

Accessible from inside and outside the Library, the Café is open to the public as well as to the University community; PCs are available for staff and students.

Floor 4

- Older book collection (*Dewey classification*)
- Journals and newspapers
- Sergeant, Watt, and Smith Collections.

Floor 5

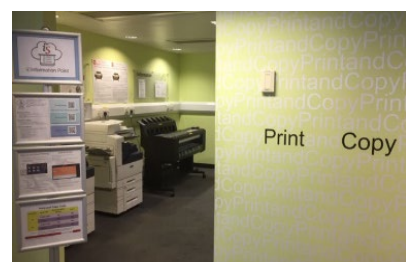
Silent study, with a designated postgraduate area.

Floor 6

Centre for Research Collections containing unique cultural and heritage collections.

DiscoverEd (our catalogue)

Search points, where users check the availability and location of resources, are available on the Ground Floor, floors 2, 3 and 4.



IT and print

Computing (for registered staff and students), copying, printing and scanning are available on floors Lower Ground to 5.

We hope you find this guide useful. Should you have any particular questions regarding the library which are not covered here, or if you require the guide in an alternative format, please email: Irene.Gordon@ed.ac.uk

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