Heriot-Watt University Exchange Fact Sheet 2026-2027

Edinburgh Campus, Riccarton

Edinburgh, EH14 4AS United Kingdom www.hw.ac.uk

Main contact details:

Sarah McGuire - Global Student Advisor

Steven Ross - Global Student Assistant

hwuexchange@hw.ac.uk

Inter-institutional Agreements contact:

Sarah McGuire - Global Student Advisor

hwuexchange@hw.ac.uk

Accommodation Office advice (on and off campus)**:**

Accommodation Team

halls@hw.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 131 451 3385/8019

Academic Calendar

Academic calendar:

Welcome sessions will differ per School

School of Social Sciences (SOSS) specific info: SOSS Exchange Students - Languages and IBM/L

Academic calendar 2026/2027

- *7–11 September 2026: Welcome Week*
- *14 September – 4 December 2026: Semester 1 Teaching*
- *19 October – 23 October 2026: Semester 1 Consolidation Week*
- *7–18 December 2026: Semester 1 Exam and Assessment Diet*
- *21 December 2026 – 15 January 2027: Semester 1 Break*
- *11-15 January 2027: Welcome Week*
- *18 January 2027 – 9 April 2027: Semester 2 Teaching*
- *22 February 2027 – 26 February 2027: Semester 2 Consolidation Week*
- *12–23 April 2027: Semester 2 Break*
- *26 April – 7 May 2027: Semester 2 Exam and Assessment Diet*

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES:

Nominations (from a Partner University) and Applications (from a Student) deadlines for Incoming exchange students:

Semester 1 and full academic year:

Nominations: 15 May 2026

Applications: 15 June 2026

Semester 2

Nominations: 15 September 2026

Applications: 15 October 2026

Application process:

Once nominated by your University, the students will be sent an Application Form link with instructions on how to apply. We will also require **a copy of their passport**, **proof of English language** and **the latest transcript of records.**

- Your Certificate of Arrival and Departure will be signed by hwuexchange@hw.ac.uk
- Your Learning Agreement (course choices) will be signed by your School Exchange Coordinator.

• **Proof of English** should be either an approved test English language requirements - Heriot-Watt University (hw.ac.uk) **(for full academic year placements)** OR a letter from the Home University confirming the student meets the required minimum B2 level by studying and being examined in English (just passing an English course will not suffice) **(for single semester placements)**. Native speakers do not need to prove their English.

Visa and Immigration Information



In a nutshell……

Staying in the UK for less than 6 months = Standard Visitor Visa.

Staying in the UK for more than 6 months = Student Route Visa (CAS letter required - issued by the Global Student Office).

Gov.uk website - check what kind of visa you need **Browse: Study in the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)** *and calculate the total cost (including the healthcare surcharge)*

You can also check the visa information here **UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Student immigration: the basics**

If you need more information on applying for a visa for your exchange programme then please contact us on hwuexchange@hw.ac.uk.

Course catalogue (all Schools)



School of Social Sciences only : the most up-to-date version of the special course catalogue for exchange students in LINCS (Languages) is available here

For specific information on course selection, programme specifics, academic related issues please contact an academic Exchange Coordinator per School

Credits required per semester:

The workload of a full time student is 60 Heriot-Watt credits (or 30 ECTS) per semester, which is normally achieved by taking 4 courses per semester (each course is worth 15 Heriot-Watt credits or 7.5 ECTS).

English Language Courses



The primary language of instruction at Heriot-Watt is English and students can access the link below to enquire about preparatory/additional English courses available.

Academic English **(English courses available for international students)**

Pre-arrival Info Sessions

Individual schools will host their own information sessions prior to arrival and also during Welcome Week. You will be notified by email of when these sessions will take place.

Living in Edinburgh



- Maps and directions to our Edinburgh campus

How to find a room in Edinburgh ?

Living on our beautiful Edinburgh campus or off-campus:

- **Facebook -** search 'Find a flatmate'—Heriot-Watt Edinburgh' and join the group.
- **Search on the following websites:**
- www.studentpad.co.uk
- www.accommodationforstudents.com
- www.athomeinedinburgh.co.uk
- www.easyroommate.com

Adjusting to life in the UK

Information for International Students



Living in the UK

Managing Your Money

UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Opening a bank account

Entitlement to healthcare including insurance information and medical services available. The University Health Service on Campus is available to students living within the Edinburgh city boundary or students can register with a General Practitioner in their area.

Student Portal

Student Portal (myHWU) - download our app myHWU - Heriot-Watt University

New student checklist

Student support contact

Advice on: settling into university life, money, accommodation, disability, personal safety, counselling.

Careers Advice

Your career – How can we help ?

Internships/jobs available:

Please see Careers Advisory Service for information on jobs and internships – Careers Advisory Service Careers@hw.ac.uk

***We hope that you find this Guide useful! If you have any additional questions, please contact us at* hwuexchange@hw.ac.uk**