

# The Main Library

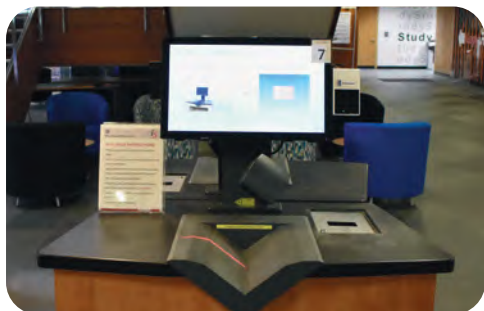


## The Foyer

Designed by Sir Basil Spence, the Main Library was opened in 1967 and A-listed in 2006. The state-of-the-art decor offers a harmonious mix between contemporary architecture and the Library's unique 1960s interior design. Panoramic views of the Meadows and George Square are in line with Sir Spence's original vision.

A highlight of the Main Library Foyer is an oft-photographed centre-piece art installation by Turner Prize-nominated artist, Nathan Coley.

## Self-Issue Machines



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

## Self-Return Machines



Available on the Ground Floor at the entrance of the Main Library and also to the right of the Help Desk.



## The EdHelp Desk

Staff assist with Library, IT, Admin-related queries, Lost and Found, and University Card Services. Queries can also be escalated to appropriate teams for more specialist help.

## The HUB Collection

(Access for staff and students only)



Located to the rear of the Helpdesk, the High Use Book (HUB) Collection is mainly used by undergraduates or new students, and makes for an easier transition from a school to a University Library. Advanced undergraduates and postgraduates tend to use the upper floors of the Library.



Also in the HUB, requested books await collection from the Hold Shelf, and a self-issue Laptop Service is available.

## IT and print

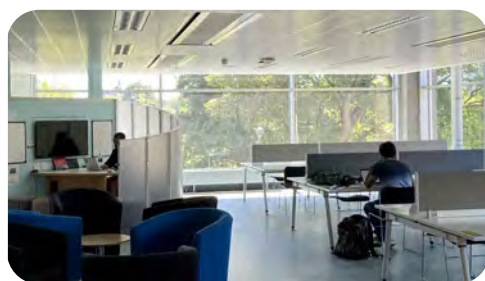
Computing (for staff and students), copying, printing and scanning are available on all floors.

## Reception

Staffed 24/7 by Library Facilities and Estates: if you are visiting the library, or have lost your University card, this desk will be your first port of call.



## Ground Floor Study Spaces



Three types of study spaces are available: fixed PCs, study pods, and informal seating areas. 20 quick-use PCs are available to check emails or for printing. Additional study pods allow for group work and discussion spaces. Most pods include digital display spaces.

## Exhibition Gallery

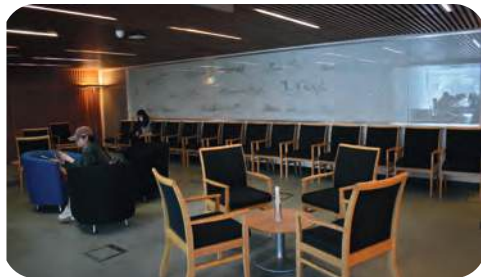
The Main Library Exhibition Gallery hosts a changing programme showcasing the University's historic and contemporary collections. Developed by the Heritage Collections team with University and community partners, exhibitions aim to inspire and challenge. Free and open to all.

**The Main Library is open 24/7, except for the festive season.**  
For access, swipe with your University card.



## The Signature Room

This study space allows students to work in groups and displays the signatures of famous students of the past including Charles Darwin, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur Conan Doyle and Walter Scott.



Designed to look like “the inside of a cigar box” as an homage to the historic use of this space as a smoking room.

## The Library Café

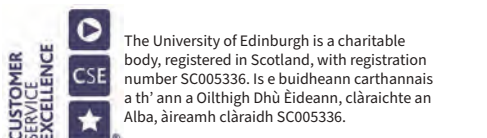


Accessible from inside and outside the Library, the Café is open to the University community as well as the general public. PCs inside are available for staff and students to use.

## Lower Ground Floor



A large study space offers a combination of individual desks and group study rooms, with and without PCs.



We hope you find this guided tour useful. If you have any further questions regarding the library which are not covered here, or if you require the guide in an alternate format, please email: [is.helpline@ed.ac.uk](mailto:is.helpline@ed.ac.uk). For more information, see: [www.library.ed.ac.uk](http://www.library.ed.ac.uk).

## Floor 1

- Accessible study rooms for individual use by students who require specialist equipment and assistive technology
- Study space offering a mix of single desks and group study pods, with or without PCs
- Training and Tutoring rooms

**Wellbeing Collection:** a cosy area with comfortable seating and books on all aspects of wellbeing, complimented by a wide range of electronic resources.



**Carer & Child Room:** a welcoming space for Library users with children, designed to support study and collaboration while children learn and play.



**The uCreate Makerspace** provides equipment, advice, training and support for a wide range of specialist equipment from 3D Printers to VR headsets.



The Multimedia Bays offer high performance computers, specialist software and hardware for multimedia, motion graphics and other creative work.



uCreate offers a loan service that is available to borrow specialist equipment for use on and off-site.

## Floors 2 and 3

- Main book collection (Library of Congress Classification)
- East Asian Collection
- Music Collection
- Careers Service
- Study Spaces

## Floor 4

- Older book collection (Dewey Classification System)
- Journals and Newspapers
- Centre for African Studies (CAS), Sergeant, Watt, and Smith collections

## Floor 5

- Silent study, with a designated postgraduate area.

## Floor 6

The Centre for Research Collections (CRC) is the main access point for the University's Heritage Collections, including rare books, archives, oral histories, scientific collections, musical instruments, and contemporary artworks.

## DiscoverEd (Library Catalogue)

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

The Main Library holds around 1 million print items, plus University access to 2.3 million ebooks, 420,000 ejournals, 1,000 databases, and 200,000 streaming videos.