



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Our global engagement plan

A map to deliver our strategic goals

2017 - 2020



Edinburgh is one of the world's leading universities.

Edinburgh has always been an international university, drawing academics and students from all over the world, working with institutions internationally, and leading research that has had a global impact.

Our global ambition

Our ambition is to deliver impact for society, where it is most needed. As a truly global university, rooted in Scotland's capital city, we make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to the world, often through partnerships and exchange and always through engagement.

People, partnerships and places

Our global community of staff, students, alumni and supporters is key to our future success and is our greatest asset. We need to celebrate our global community in all its forms. We will develop greater engagement with these communities in and beyond Edinburgh, building on our tradition of attracting and working with the world's best talent. We must attract the best students, regardless of where they are from, by removing barriers to access, and delivering outstanding teaching and learning on campus, digitally and around the world. We will create an environment to support and nurture our staff to deliver world-class and world-changing research.

We will continue to work collaboratively with partners around the world. Who we will partner with is changing. We will continue to work with key strategic university partners, but we will also forge transformative partnerships with governments,

the private sector, civil society, countries and communities.

We recognise that how we must work and who we must work with is different in different places around the world. Our global engagement will be shaped by local priorities, partnerships and opportunities and we will articulate our strategy and support our activity regionally.

Ways of working

The next five years will be characterised by an accelerating pace of change, new geo-political dynamics, complex global challenges and rising expectations in an increasingly connected and digital environment. This creates challenges and opportunities and will require a new, shared way of working.

We will share knowledge and best practice, and work collaboratively to realise our ambitions together. We must work collectively across our global offices, our

colleges, schools, institutes, academies and services across the university.

Three themes

Our global objectives are grouped into three key areas. These themes align with the University's Strategic Plan and Vision 2025 ambition, aiming to ensure a positive impact on the world.

Global **Community**

Global **Exchange**

Global **Partnerships**

*Professor James Smith
Vice Principal International*



Theme One

Global **Community**

Our aims

- Deliver new scholarships and financial assistance to support greater access
- Attract the world's most talented students and staff, regardless of where they are from
- Support and celebrate strong and vibrant communities within and beyond Edinburgh
- Develop services that support staff, students, learning and teaching in an increasingly digital environment
- Enhance our engagement and partnership with our global alumni community

How we will achieve them

Our community of students and staff is our greatest asset. We are one of the most international universities in the United Kingdom. We welcome over 16,000 international students, and 29% of our staff are from outside the UK (3,900). There are over 170,000 Edinburgh alumni across the world.

We will focus our effort in supporting greater access to the University through the removal of barriers to entry - whether financial, cultural, practical or linguistic - and through external engagement with a more diverse range of nations.

We will attract the world's best talent, irrespective of background or location, to produce the next generation of leaders, innovators, academics and researchers, and work to deliver enhanced services for students and staff joining our community from overseas. We will work with key internal partners to support our community of

digital learners and educators from across the world, by enhancing the services we provide to them.

We will seek to support strong and vibrant communities within and beyond the University. We will focus on the journeys our communities take, from applicant to alumnus, as they make the most of our unique offer of world-leading research and learning. We will work in partnership to support a larger, more international community of staff who feel valued and supported in a University that is an exciting and collegial place to work, develop and progress.

We have Edinburgh alumni in almost every nation of the world and our global community overseas continues to be a vital part of our success, serving as ambassadors for Edinburgh. We will work to strengthen support for global alumni groups, to embed them as a core element of the University, and enable these groups to deliver comprehensive alumni networks across the world.

Theme Two

Global **Exchange**

Our aims

- Strengthen our understanding and dialogue with the world
- Advance our partnership and engagement with key regions of the world
- Increase opportunities for our students to work, study and volunteer overseas
- Support 'Internationalisation at Home' to promote engagement on campus
- Offer services that underpin rewarding and enriching student experiences

How we will achieve them

To advance our exchange of ideas and dialogue with key regions of the world, we will position Edinburgh as a partner of choice and strengthen our profile internationally.

We will become a leader in providing opportunities for global exchange for staff and students. We aim to deliver the widest range of opportunities for work, study and volunteering internationally.

We are committed to significantly increasing opportunities for exchange as we prepare our graduates and staff to thrive in and contribute to an interconnected world. We will provide the service and support to enable all students who wish to gain experience of work, study and volunteering overseas to do so.

Working with champions across the University, we'll promote the merit of international experiences and address institutional and financial barriers to student participation.

We will work to deliver an engaging and inspiring programme of high impact University activities overseas to showcase our excellence.

We will utilise our standing as a UK hub for academic research and expertise on languages, cultures and area studies to extend our understanding and exchange with nations across the world.

The University's overseas operations in Latin America, South East Asia, South Asia, North America and China are strategically important hubs for our exchange with fast emerging nations across the world. We will seek new opportunities in other regions of the world to further the University's presence overseas while strengthening our exchange with key regions.

We will progress 'internationalisation at home' initiatives to ensure that we can further internationalise our living and learning environment for all of our community. We will strengthen international and intercultural competencies on our campus, within and outside of our curriculum.

Theme Three

Global **Partnerships**

Our aims

- Enhance support for creating and delivering impactful global partnerships
- Drive greater engagement through increased internal partnership, to help us deliver our aims together
- Build capacity with and for all of our global partners
- Deliver new transformational partnerships with business, civil society and academia
- Build global communities of learners through digital and transnational education

How we will achieve them

We will increase our focus on innovative ways to create and support a portfolio of diverse partnerships that unlock creativity, build capacity and are truly transformational in the knowledge they generate. These partnerships will ensure that we are strongly positioned to contribute to, and engage with, emerging opportunities across key regions of the world.

We will work to improve internal connections and communications across the University. This is so that we can support the creation and delivery of new sustainable global partnerships that protect and augment our reputation for excellence. Edinburgh Global and its regional groups will deliver improved services to ensure that new international opportunities can be fully leveraged in relation to recruitment, research funding, industry engagement, scholarships, philanthropy and student mobility.

We are committed to advancing the development of transformational global partnerships with universities, governments, business and civil society. We will continue to support strategic university partnerships with a focused group of institutions that share our agenda and vision. To support greater partnership and engagement with regions across the world, we have appointed a network of International Deans. They will lead and champion our work across the world.

We will work to support partnerships that enable more students to benefit from the Edinburgh experience, via transnational education, supported by deep partnerships and world leading online distance education.

The University's Global Academies will continue to foster the collaborative communities that will drive research and teaching partnerships across the world. The research work these communities carry out aim to confront issues that affect the whole world, making a difference where it matters most.

Edinburgh Global

Vice Principal International

Professor James Smith

Deputy Vice Principal International
Director, Edinburgh Global

Alan Mackay

College International Deans

Three College International Deans assist in leading delivery of the global plan within their Colleges and work with the Vice Principal International.

Regional Deans

The Vice Principal International is supported by a team of Regional Deans who work in specific global regions to advance the aims of the global plan.

Regional teams

There are a range of regional teams to support delivery of the plan and operational support for partnership, recruitment and engagement. Edinburgh Global has offices in Santiago, Singapore, Mumbai, New York City and Beijing.

Edinburgh Global Forum

Staff, students and Deans from across the University are represented on the Edinburgh Global Forum, chaired by the Vice Principal International, and working groups connected to delivering the University's global ambition and vision.

Edinburgh Global teams

Staff within Edinburgh Global work to support, deliver and implement strategic projects and professional services. These services and projects relate to support and promotion of: global partnership; international experiences; student recruitment; applicant support; on-campus student support; visa advice and welfare.

Contact Edinburgh Global staff:
www.global.ed.ac.uk

Produced by Edinburgh Global, The University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland,
with registration number SC005336.
