

Information for international students relocating to Edinburgh with their family

You will find below information about:

- Netmums
- Childcare
- School information
- English as Additional Language (EAL)
- English classes for adults
- Healthcare
- Accommodation
- Useful websites

Netmums

Netmums is a unique local network for mums and dads offering parenting information, activity ideas as well as local boards to network in your local area:

www.netmums.com

For Edinburgh: www.netmums.com/local//edinburgh/

You will find on Netmums the following information:

Advice and Support

- meet parents in your area (local meet ups etc)
- parenting advice
- advice to single parents
- advice to parents with children who have special needs
- advice on work and money etc

Things to do

- Indoor and outdoor activities in your area (soft-play areas, kids and adults classes, parents & toddler groups etc)
- Children Friendly Libraries
- Cinemas with “Cinebabies Showings”

But also

- Childcare (nurseries, crèche, babysitters etc)
- School (listing, term dates etc)
- Healthcare (drop-in clinic, health visitors etc)

Childcare

For information and advice on Childcare you can contact the **Edinburgh Childcare Information Service**.

Address: 4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

Tel: 0800 032 0323 (Freephone), 0131 529 2110

Fax: 0131 529 6214

E-mail: childcareinformation@edinburgh.gov.uk

Website: www.edinburgh.gov.uk

School information

School system in Scotland:

- **Pre-school/Nursery** (3 to 4/5 year-old)
- **Primary School** (4/5 to 10/11 year-old). Goes from Primary one (P1) to primary seven (P7).
- **Secondary School** (11 to 17/18 year-old). Goes from first year (S1) to sixth year (S6).

Term dates:

- A school year starts around the middle of August and finishes towards the end of June.
- 3 terms (Autumn, Spring and Summer)
- Mid-term breaks
- Summer break

For information on term breaks in and around Edinburgh please check the Council website: www.edinburgh.gov.uk

3 easy steps:

- Find schools in your catchment area
- Chose one school
- Make contact with the school directly to check if they have space for your child and find out about registration.

To find out about schools in your area and how to register your kids in your local school, please contact the city of Edinburgh Council
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/878/schools

Every school has a catchment area around it. Children living in this area are given priority for places in this school (usually 2 catchment schools per address).

To find out about your catchment schools you can email
school.catchments@edinburgh.gov.uk

School is free and is compulsory until the age of 16.

English as Additional Language (EAL) service

What does EAL do?

- provide language support through the curriculum
- advise schools on teaching bilingual pupils
- support schools to create a culturally inclusive ethos and to promote equality of opportunity

How can EAL help you?

EAL Teachers are qualified teachers who are experienced in working with bilingual children and their families

Bilingual Support Assistants/ Bilingual Nursery Nurse provide support for pupils in the home language and English (Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Mandarin, Polish, Urdu) and can help with home-school communication and cultural matters

When you make contact with the school you can ask for an interpreter (if you need one) or ask if you and your child can meet the EAL Teacher.

The school and EAL Teacher can:

- give you more detailed information about the education system, the curriculum and practicalities, e.g. arrangements for eating, school uniform etc.
- answer any questions you have
- explain how to communicate with your child's teachers

You can help the school and EAL Teacher by:

- sharing information about your child's previous education and learning
- keeping in good contact with the school

For more information about EAL service please check www.ealedinburgh.org.uk

English Classes for adults

English for Speakers of Other Languages ESOL

ESOL classes are available in different colleges around Edinburgh.

If your partner needs to improve their English they should contact one of the institutions offering ESOL classes in order to check if they have spaces left.

ESOL classes are really popular so your partner may be put on a waiting list.

For more information: www.esolcourses.com

Healthcare

Student and their family need to register with their local GP (General Practitioner or doctor).

For information on GP registration and how to find a GP in your area, please visit our website: www.hw.ac.uk/support/isao/healthcare.htm

Most students and their dependants will qualify for free UK National Health Service (NHS) medical treatment.

For more information visit our Health Centre web pages
www.hw.ac.uk/health

Healthcare for students with young children

Students with young children may be interested in the Health Visitors service and Drop-in Clinic.

Health Visitors

Every family with children under five has a named health visitor.

Health visitors offer support to pregnant women and families with young kids.

Their work is a work of prevention, helping people to stay healthy and avoid illness. For more information please check www.healthvisitors.com

Drop-in Clinic

No appointment needed service.

Each GP surgery will have their own drop-in clinic times.

Please contact your GP reception for further information about health visitors attached to your GP practice and drop-in clinic times.

Useful info and websites

- International Student Advisors' Office (ISAO) www.hw.ac.uk/support/isao
- International Wives Group at the Chaplaincy every Friday afternoon
www.hw.ac.uk/chaplaincy
- <http://home.scotland.gov.uk> Scottish Government website for further information on Scottish Education, healthcare and Childcare
- www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk for family days out idea and things to do with the kids in your area