Pioneering Education with Global Impact since 1821

Heriot-Watt University is a product of the Scottish Enlightenment. A pioneer in bringing education to working people in 1821 and founder of a global movement through the creation of the world’s first Mechanics Institute. Today we have five campus locations worldwide nurturing scholars who are creating transformational solutions to global problems. This is our story.

WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY
Heriot-Watt is an integrated global university with strong links across Europe and the rest of the world. Since our foundation as the School of Arts, the world’s first Mechanics Institute, we have been outward-looking pioneers of education, in pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of society and the world.

Our campuses across the globe and international community create a distinct university experience and a springboard for an international career. Specialist, creative and expert, our people set the gold standard and are sought by the best organisations in the world. We build inventive, entrepreneurial and resilient minds within a nurturing environment of leaders in ideas and solutions.

ORIGINS OF OUR NAME
In 1852 the Edinburgh School of Arts changed its name to become the Watt Institution and School of Arts, in honour of the great Scottish inventor, mechanical engineer and chemist, James Watt. A pioneer of the steam engine, he was widely acknowledged as the father of the industrial revolution. James Watt’s name is retained in the School of Engineering.

In 1885 the School was renamed Heriot-Watt College and in 1966 Heriot-Watt University was established by Royal Charter.

Both Heriot and Watt were two successful, pioneering professionals of their time, whose skills and attitudes in finance and technology are still reflected in the ethos of the University today.

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The Heriot-Watt community is driving a spirit of ambition to be at the forefront of new ideas and solutions to meet society’s need for innovation.

Professor Richard A Williams OBE,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Heriot-Watt University
Pioneering the Future

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The Story of Heriot-Watt

Since our foundation in 1821, we have been outward looking pioneers of education, in pursuit of knowledge to the benefit of society and the world.

1821—1837—1851—1852
Edinburgh School of Arts, the world’s first Mechanics Institute, founded by Leonard Horner and Robert Bryson in Niddry Street.
Edinburgh School of Arts moves to new larger leased premises in Adam Square, Edinburgh.
Wall Subscription Fund creates funding for School as Edinburgh’s monument to James Watt.
Edinburgh School of Arts becomes Wolf Institution and School of Arts.

1874—1885—1902
Mary Burton becomes the first woman on the School’s Board of Directors and the first Governor of Heriot-Watt College.
George Heriot’s Trust’s investments support the Watt Institution and School of Arts, and so create Heriot-Watt College.
The College becomes a Central Institution, teaching to degree standard with the Associates of Heriot-Watt College award.

1885—1949
Christina Miller becomes the first woman elected as fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.
Heriot-Watt becomes one of the first universities in the UK to be awarded University status, granted by Queen Elizabeth II.

1934—1966
Heriot-Watt became the home of acclaimed novelist Dame Muriel Spark.
Mary Burton becomes the first woman on the School’s Board of Directors and a Life Governor of Heriot-Watt College.

The College becomes a Central Institution, teaching to degree standard with the Associates of Heriot-Watt College award.
Heriot-Watt University’s central Edinburgh activities are relocated to Riccarton.
Mergers with Scottish Colleges to create Scottish Borders Campus.

2005—2014—2015
The Stirling Campus and St Andrews Campus are opened.
Heriot-Watt University opens its 10th Campus in Putrajaya, Malaysia, only 25 km from Kuala Lumpur.

2014—2016
Heriot-Watt awarded its third prestigious Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Partner and Higher Education.
ORIAM Scotland’s Sports Performance Centre opens at Edinburgh Campus.

2016
20th/21st Century

SCOTTISH ROOTS, GLOBAL COMMUNITY
From humble beginnings serving an Edinburgh community, Heriot-Watt has grown into a global institution, helping to prepare students from across the world for the challenges of the 21st century. through a combination of research and education excellence, we deliver creative and entrepreneurial skills and have a global impact in the physical, social and life sciences.

THE WATT CLUB
It is this rich history and heritage that led to the establishment of one of the oldest alumni associations in the UK: the Watt Club. Founded in 1854 and with over 116,000 members in 116 countries, the Watt Club provides a unique professional network and a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas. A community of global leaders in ideas and innovation, Heriot-Watt University provides unique benefits that combined deliver The Watt Advantage.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH
The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 ranked Heriot-Watt 9th university in the UK for impact with 82% of research ranked world-class.

THE WATT CLUB

9th/82%
Since our foundation in 1821, we have been outward looking pioneers of education, in pursuit of knowledge to the benefit of society and the world.

1821—Edinburgh School of Arts, the world’s first Mechanics Institute, founded by Leonard Horner and Robert Bryson in Niddry Street.

1837—Edinburgh School of Arts moves to new larger leased premises in Adam Square Edinburgh.

1851—Wa...
1854
Formation of the Watt Club – The UK’s oldest higher education institution alumni association.

1869
Pioneering campaigner Mary Burton led a successful campaign to admit women.

1872
Watt Institution and School of Arts obtained a new site in Chambers Street and the foundation stone was laid.

1971
Heriot-Watt’s links with industry enters a new era as it establishes the first University Research Park in Europe.

1989
The International Centre for Island Technology at the Orkney Campus opens in Stromness.

1990
Edinburgh Business School launches first online MBA.

2017
Heriot-Watt recognised by the Times and Sunday Times as a truly global institution, the first ever to be awarded International University of the Year.

2018
Edinburgh Business School opens Panmure House, the former home of father of economics, Adam Smith.

2021
University celebrates its 200th anniversary.
Enlightened Thinking

It all began with a conversation... a conversation between two Edinburgh businessmen that would pioneer education for working people.

PIONEERING EDUCATION
In 1821 Edinburgh was the centre of the Scottish Enlightenment led by radical thinkers such as Adam Smith and David Hume. Education was regarded as the vehicle for moral and material self improvement and a way of addressing the challenges of the industrial revolution.

Leonard Horner, a linen merchant and social reformer met his friend Robert Bryson, one of Scotland’s finest clock makers, in his shop on Edinburgh’s South Bridge. Bryson complained that his apprentices needed a mathematical education. But the only classes available were too expensive and held while they were at work.

Horner came up with the idea to provide evening classes at fees that working men could afford. With financial backing from influential Edinburgh citizens; author, Sir Walter Scott, judge and conservationist Lord Cockburn, and the Craig family of Riccarton, Edinburgh School of Arts, the world’s first Mechanics Institute, was born.

A revolution in education has begun.

LEADING A REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION
In October 1821 the School held its first lecture at St Cecilia’s Concert Hall in Niddry Street, Edinburgh. The subject: chemistry. Over 300 people packed the venue. Several hundred were turned away. Within a month over 450 students had enrolled. Thirty years later over 700 Mechanics Institutes had been established across Britain. Emigrants took the movement as far as Australia and America.

Education becomes a right not a privilege.

For the instruction of mechanics in such branches of physical science as are of practical application in their several trades.

The Edinburgh School of Arts ethos
The early days

In the beginning the School taught only chemistry, mechanics or natural philosophy, architecture and farriery. Two of the most able students gave informal lessons in mathematics. Working men travelled from far and wide eager for knowledge and self-improvement. One student walked 10 miles to attend evening classes at the end of a hard day’s work. This revolution in education was creating a bridge between the cultural classes with plumbers, printers and smiths attending lectures alongside students from wealthier backgrounds including the son of eminent artist Alexander Nasmyth. He was James Nasmyth, the inventor of the steam hammer.

To survive the economic depression of the period, the School halved its fees and expanded its syllabus introducing taught classes in mathematics, English, French, drawing and ornamental modelling. By 1837 it had outgrown its first home and leased a larger property in Edinburgh’s Adam Square. Despite its success the School relied on donations from wealthy subscribers. This income had dwindled over the years and it now found itself in financial trouble.

The great Scottish engineer, James Watt, hailed as the father of the industrial revolution, had long been an inspiration to both students and staff. Now a fund established in his memory was to come to the School’s financial rescue. An appeal launched by Henry Cockburn, to commemorate the great inventor, saw the building of a handsome new property for the Edinburgh School of Arts, which it was able to buy outright through the generosity of the Watt Subscription Fund in 1851. To acknowledge this, the School changed its name in 1852 to the Watt Institution and School of Arts.

The first people’s college

The change in name reflected the evolution of the Watt Institution. Teachers, architects, artists and dentists were now studying alongside mechanics and artisans. Widely respected as the first true People’s College, it was entirely a male preserve.

Another revolution was in the air.

Profile: James Watt

James Watt (1736–1819) was the father of the industrial revolution. His crucial role was to transform the world from one based on agriculture to one based on engineering and technology, recognised in the unit of power: the Watt.

Born in Greenock, Scotland, he went on to become an inventor, engineer and scientist. In 1769 he patented an improvement to the efficiency of the existing Newcomen steam engine by adding a separate condenser and valves. This helped accelerate the speed at which Britain industrialised.
The great Scottish engineer, James Watt, hailed as the father of the industrial revolution, had long been an inspiration to both students and staff.
The Heriot Connection

THE NEXT ERA

The Heriot connection came much later. The next 20 years saw the Watt Institution flourish with students able to choose from a broad range of science, social science and humanities subjects. The city of Edinburgh was also flourishing, embarking on ambitious plans to redevelop the Old Town and Cowgate areas. This saw the Watt Institution move from Adam Square to temporary premises whilst securing a prestigious site for a new building on what is today’s Chambers Street.

By 1873 the ‘Watt’s’ new home opened for business. For the first time there was a purpose built chemistry laboratory as well as a lecture hall, classrooms and library facilities. By 1874 the Institution was expanding further with an extension which, on the ground floor housed the Henderson Trust’s Phrenologcial Museum and the upper floors formed part of the Institution.

This fast paced expansion, however, saw the Institution over extend itself financially. The following year the Directors turned to an educational endowment funded by the bequest of 17th century Scottish goldsmith and philanthropist, George Heriot for help. Parliament subsequently approved a scheme to merge the endowment of the Watt Institution with that of the George Heriot’s Trust.

Profile: George Heriot

George Heriot (1563–1624) was an Edinburgh goldsmith who became jeweller to King James VI (James 1 of England) and his wife, Queen Anne. So lucrative was his business that he acquired the name ‘Jingling Geordie’ and even loaned money to his Royal patrons who pledged their jewels as security.

Whilst his fame and fortune were made in London, he paid tribute to his native city through the creation of a hospital for the education of orphan sons of the freemen of Edinburgh. Over the centuries the George Heriot’s Trust’s investments grew until by 1885 the Governors could afford to use surplus funds to support the Watt Institution and School of Arts and so created Heriot-Watt College, the forerunner to Heriot-Watt University.

On 12 August 1885 the Institution entered a new era as Heriot-Watt College with over 2,000 students – 15% were women.
In 1869, 20 years ahead of government legislation to allow women to go to university, Heriot-Watt opened its doors to women.
Pioneering Women’s Education

PIONEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Twenty years before legislation forced Scottish universities to open their doors to women in 1889, Mary Burton\(^1\) (1819–1909), a pioneering campaigner for educational and social reform, led a successful campaign to persuade the Directors of the Watt Institution to admit women students – a truly radical step at the time.

She was one of the first women elected to serve on Parochial and School Boards and a tireless advocate for women’s suffrage. Mary believed that boys as well as girls should be taught to sew, knit and cook for themselves. She went on to become the first woman on the School’s Board of Directors and later a Life Governor of Heriot-Watt College. She also took an active interest in the cultural life of the college as Honorary President of the Watt Literary Association.

Today one of the University’s school buildings is named after Mary Burton and her influence remains strong with thousands of female Heriot-Watt graduates pioneering research that is making a global impact in the world today.

INSPIRING CAREERS

Mary Burton inspired many women of her time and beyond to break into and excel in roles previously only held by men. Among them, pioneering geologist Dame Marie Ogilvie Gordon\(^2\) (1864–1939) and Christina Miller (1899–2001).

Originally from Aberdeen, Marie Ogilvie Gordon began her scientific career at Heriot-Watt College in 1887 where she studied towards a degree by distance learning. In 1890, she gained a BSc from the University of London specialising in geology, botany and zoology. Three years later she became the first woman to receive a Doctor of Science from University College London with her thesis on the geology of the southern Tyrol. In the 1900s she was the first female to gain a PhD from Munich University. In 1919 she was elected one of the first women Fellows of the Geological Society. Following the publication of her seminal study of the geology of the Tyrol Dolomites in 1927, she went on to win the Society’s Lyell medal for her pioneering research on plate tectonics in 1932.

Dr Christina (Chrissie) Miller overcame deafness to pursue a distinguished career as a research chemist and an inspirational teacher and mentor to generations of students. She worked as a laboratory demonstrator while a student at Heriot-Watt College in 1920. Dr Miller was the first women chemist to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

SPIRIT OF MARY BURTON LIVES ON

Today, the spirit of Mary Burton lives on at Heriot-Watt with women continuing to play an important role in teaching, learning and research. Here is a quick snapshot of the nature of major research led by female academics at Heriot-Watt:

- Tackling global issues in housing and poverty.
- Heriot-Watt is one of the UK’s top social and urban policy centres creating solutions that are making a difference in the world.
- Innovating possibilities for new product development in conductive textiles leading to worldwide solutions and practical applications in the medical, defence and sportswear industries.
- Leading research with global industry partners across the entire carbon capture and storage chain. Providing innovative solutions to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions and meet global energy demands.

Commitment to initiatives supporting gender equality more broadly, such as the Athena SWAN Charter, are embraced across all global campuses. They embrace the University’s original philosophy of providing education and support for all who want to learn, advance and make a contribution to solving global challenges.
Transforming Education

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION
The College’s first Principal, physicist Francis Grant Ogilvie, transformed the curriculum introducing new day and evening classes in a wider range of subjects. 1887 saw the appointment of the College’s first Professors in Chemistry, Physics and Mechanics and Engineering. At the time only two other non-university institutions in the UK enjoyed this privilege. By 1900 student numbers had risen to 3,900. The Chambers Street building was now an imposing city landmark symbolising the College’s rising status and its repositioning from a voluntary body to a dynamic technical college.

Growing demand for advanced courses in science, technology, art, design and commerce prompted the government to reorganise education throughout Scotland. Some colleges were designated ‘Central Institutions’ and became known as ‘technical universities’ offering courses up to degree and diploma level.

Heriot-Watt College became the Central Institution for south east Scotland in 1902 bringing with it higher academic standing and more money from central and local government. By 1904 students who successfully completed three or four years of full-time study became Associates of Heriot-Watt College – an award soon recognised as university degree standard.

On the outbreak of World War I, the College threw itself into the war effort. The Engineering laboratory became a munitions factory. The College Principal turned from the forensic analysis of medieval art to chair a government committee on chemical weapons. Other professors researched breathing apparatus for trench warfare, mine, submarine detectors and the treatment of dysentery.

AMBITION EXPANSION
By 1928, when Heriot-Watt College became independent of the George Heriot’s Trust, the impact of the worldwide economic recession was taking its toll. To address budget cuts and falling student numbers, a new Principal, alumnus James Cameron Smail, launched an ambitious expansion programme which funded new buildings for teaching and research. These opened in 1935 and 1938 providing new lecture rooms, laboratories and a library. In addition, a new dining hall, separate common rooms for men and women and a new gymnasium which doubled as a venue for dances, saw the College become a social hub. It was during this period that, for the first time, students had a voice in college governance through the Student Representative Council.

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 saw further expansion plans go on hold. Staff built bomb shelters in the basement and blacked out windows so that day and evening classes could continue. RAF personnel took intensive classes in wireless and radar systems, many of whom returned to the College after the war to continue their studies.
A world-first – Heriot-Watt launched the first global MBA in 1990.
International Outlook

FROM COLLEGE TO UNIVERSITY

In 1963 the government announced ambitious proposals for the expansion of higher education. The following year Heriot-Watt was appointed one of the first of ‘a new breed of technological universities’. Leading up to this the College had reinforced strong links with business and industry and had seen growth in new specialist departments in Pharmacy, Brewing, Physics and Civil Engineering. Running out of space in Chambers Street saw the creation of the Department of Mining in the Grassmarket, with the opening of a mine rescue station teaching life saving skills to engineers and collieries across south east Scotland.

The College also forged academic partnerships with Edinburgh University to teach mining, electrical and chemical engineering and trained architects in building science at the Edinburgh College of Art. The College gradually shed its Elementary and National Certificate classes to focus on degree level and postgraduate studies.

Receiving its university charter in 1966, Heriot-Watt University was running out of space. A new campus community was needed to combine academic buildings with sports and social facilities and student accommodation. The new university needed a new home.

A NEW EDINBURGH CAMPUS WITH INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Heriot-Watt was gifted a new home in 1969. Midlothian Council bought a 248 acre parkland estate at Riccarton, six miles south west of the city and gifted it to the University. By 1974 the first phase of academic buildings had opened along with student residences and sports facilities. It took the next 20 years for all the University departments to relocate to the Heriot-Watt Edinburgh Campus.

The University’s links with business and industry entered a new era in 1971 when it established the first University Research Park in Europe as an integral part of the campus. Companies came from near and far to build their own research and development laboratories and harness the commercial potential of academic research.

FIRST GLOBAL ONLINE BUSINESS SCHOOL

Heriot-Watt’s Edinburgh Business School pioneered the first global online education in business. The distance learning MBA was launched in 1990, created by Professor Keith Lumsden, and was the first globally available MBA that could be completed solely through self-contained course materials and without attendance at classes on campus.

Through the collaborative acquisition of Panmure House, the former home of the father of modern economics, Adam Smith on Edinburgh’s Royal Mile, the Edinburgh Business School will use the venue as a place of continued research in economics and debate in the years to come.
From a pioneering institute born out of the Scottish Enlightenment, today we are shaping the world, a global university, a leader in transnational education. Echoing our founding principles of tailoring our curriculum to the needs of modern society, we are a powerful driver of the economy wherever we are in the world. In all of our communities we create a distinct university experience, a springboard for an international career.
Edinburgh

A CAPITAL CITY THAT WELCOMES THE WORLD

Not only Scotland’s capital city, Edinburgh is also the leading festival city in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site, characterised by stunning buildings and beautiful green spaces. It is a magnet for tourism and stages some of the world’s most famous festivals, devoted to theatre, film, literature, music, science and politics. Our Edinburgh community of over 10,500 staff and students, a third of whom come from outside the UK, are based on a 380 acre parkland on the edge of the city, a green and peaceful space to think, play and enjoy. Exceptional teaching facilities and close links with business and industry make Heriot-Watt Edinburgh a fulfilling and stimulating environment.

73% / 36%

GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

73% of Heriot-Watt students and 36% of staff globally are international.

WELCOMING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IS PART OF OUR DNA AT HERIOT-WATT

“Scotland is a magnet for education. Fifty thousand European and international students from over 185 countries study here. Working and studying in Scotland is more than just coming to an overseas country; it is about coming to a place that is a global exemplar of excellence in education. Testimony to Scotland’s attraction, over 7,500 academic staff have chosen to make their career in Scottish universities and call Scotland their home. The contribution they make is invaluable and goes far beyond the reaches of their chosen institution.”

Professor Richard A Williams OBE, FREng, FRSE, FTSE, Principal and Vice Chancellor, Heriot-Watt.

Edinburgh is a UNESCO World Heritage site, characterised by stunning buildings and beautiful green spaces. It stages some of the world’s most famous festivals, devoted to theatre, film, literature, music, science and politics. Former submariner, Camden Winklestein spent seven years on active service with the US Navy before graduating with an MSc in Brewing and Distilling with distinction at Heriot-Watt Edinburgh. He is Head Distiller at a farm distillery in Sourland Mountain, New Jersey. Studying on the other side of the Atlantic ticked all of his boxes.

“...I was looking for a new career that was a mix of engineering, process development, and manufacturing. It was very difficult to find open positions at existing companies where I could learn the required skills so I researched academic avenues and found the Heriot-Watt MSc in Brewing and Distilling.”

Within two months of graduating in 2016 Camden was offered the position of Head Distiller with a start-up company in the US called Sourland Mountain Spirits overseeing the installation of their distilling equipment and the first batches of their original gin and vodka.

“I’ve been helping the company get up and running,” says Camden. “I truly enjoy business planning, process development and new product roll out. I’m still on track to start my own company too. There is really nothing better than seeing a distillery that you helped build turn out a great product that people really enjoy.”

Camden Winklestein, MSc Brewing and Distilling

Graduate Profile: Camden Winklestein

FROM SUBMARINER TO HEAD DISTILLER

Heriot-Watt Edinburgh generates over £400 million a year for the UK and European economies.

Keddie Consulting, Independent economics advisor
Scottish Borders

A WORLD-LEADING CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY
With a rich history stretching back to 1883 Heriot-Watt’s School of Textiles and Design is one of the oldest teaching schools in the world. It began with classes in weaving, dyeing and chemistry to support the needs of the local textile industry. Today it is a world leading centre for creativity, delivering the best design and production facilities for textiles and fashion students in the UK. Textiles and Design is a gateway to an exciting world of fashion and design, with strong industry partnerships and links to the worldwide textile industry, it is an inspiring learning environment and centre for excellence.

Graduate Profile: Hayley Gee
TEXTILE GRADUATE’S DREAM JOB
Hayley Gee studied for a BA (Hons) degree in Fashion Marketing and Retailing. She landed her ‘dream job’ as a Senior Merchandise Admin Assistant for Topshop working at their Head Office in London. She works in the Buying and Merchandising team which is responsible for the full life-cycle of a product from initial design concept to production and retailing in stores. One of the best things about the course, according to Hayley, is how it equipped her for ‘getting her foot in the door’ with industry.

“Every day is different. Working on the Merchandising team, I’m responsible for planning intake into the business, which means dealing with suppliers on a daily basis. I’m also responsible for allocating the stock to stores and ensuring it gets to the right place at the right time. I love a challenge, which is perfect for this job, as it’s fast-paced and often involves thinking on your feet. It also comes with perks such as sample sales and discounts.”

Hayley Gee, BA (Hons) Fashion Marketing and Retailing

Textiles and Design is a gateway to an exciting world of fashion and design, with strong industry partnerships and links to the worldwide textile industry.
Orkney

A ‘LIVING LABORATORY’ SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL MARINE INDUSTRY

Stromness on the North West coast of Orkney’s mainland boasts a maritime history stretching back hundreds of years. So it is fitting that today it is home to Heriot-Watt’s International Centre for Island Technology, a truly global enterprise supporting the worldwide marine industry with strong international links and collaborations. Established in 1989 it has put the island of Orkney firmly on the map attracting investment and human capital from around the world. Located in the sheltered harbour of Hannaveo, an inlet of Scapa Flow, and with a 550 mile diverse coastal habitat, it acts as a ‘living laboratory’ supporting a wide range of research, teaching and consultancy. Our graduates fill the skills gap in the emerging renewable energy and marine and coastal management sectors. We have a strong research and consultancy portfolio, enjoying mutually productive links with industry, government and other academic bodies at local, national and international levels.

Graduate Profile: 

Mathilde Henri

ORKNEY’S UNIQUE ENERGY

Mathilde Henri from just outside Paris studied for an MSc in Renewable Energy Development in Orkney. The experience was so good she decided to stay! She works as a Consultant in Renewable Energies at Aquatera Ltd in Stromness developing numerical tools, writing feasibility studies, energy roadmaps and environmental impact assessments for global clients.

“My experience on the course was amazing. Living in Orkney was very interesting. Even though the weather could sometimes be harsh, I loved the islands which is why I stayed on after graduating. It is a truly unique place where you end up knowing most people and can be in direct contact with both local and international renewable energy companies, as there are several developers coming from all over the world to test their devices at the European Marine Energy Centre in Stromness.”

Mathilde Henri, MSc Renewable Energy Development
Dubai

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION TAILORED TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Home to the world’s tallest building, biggest shopping mall and largest ever fireworks display – to name but three of Dubai’s record breaking claims to fame – the city exudes a restless energy. As one of the Middle East’s most dynamic cities, Dubai is a hub for economic innovation and diversification. At the invitation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government, Heriot-Watt opened the first overseas university in Dubai Academic City in 2005, offering top quality British education to students and executives in the Gulf and further afield. It is a modern, contemporary environment for around 4,000 students offering a wide range of programmes tailored to meet the evolving needs of the UAE, the wider Middle East and African economies and employment markets.

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES ‘DUBAI-STYLE’

In a colourful clash of ‘east meets west’ The Scottish Highland Games are now an annual event in Dubai. Organised by local students, the Highland Games are held over five days with 15 universities taking part ensuring Scottish heritage is alive and well through activities ranging from tug-o-war to highland dancing.

Graduate Profile: Fadi Alshakhshir

ENERGISING DUBAI’S PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

Fadi Alshakhshir, originally from Jordan, studied for an MSc Energy in Dubai. Today, he is Director of Strategic Planning in corporate facilities with Emaar Properties PJSC, one of the city’s leading property developers. His team are responsible for a property portfolio including The Dubai Mall, the world’s largest retail outlet, and the Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building. He explains what drew him to Heriot-Watt Dubai.

“I was looking for a university with excellent engineering programmes and a good reputation. I selected Heriot-Watt because it offered me applied teaching and relevant projects with practical implementations that connected with something on the ground, and provided useful interaction with market experts. The advantages of the Heriot-Watt teaching style expanded my knowledge and experience. I became more exposed to the market, more oriented at work, and more determined in life, and I had the opportunity to implement some of the science I learnt in my role with Emaar.”

Fadi put the style of disciplined, academic writing he learnt at Heriot-Watt to good use writing his first book: Energy Centred Maintenance – A Green Maintenance System. The book aims to help organisations reduce energy consumption and the resulting environmental impact and offers practical process on how to do so.

Fadi Alshakhshir, MSc Energy

Heriot-Watt Dubai delivers benefits worth AED 520 million (£94 million), a year to the local economy.

Biggar Economics, Independent economic consultancy
Malaysia

A PARTNER IN THE REGION’S TRANSFORMATION
Citing education as one of the most critical drivers for Malaysia’s transformation to a high-income nation, with its impact on productivity and human capital development, Heriot-Watt was chosen by the Malaysian Government to create a new university in Putrajaya in 2011. Up to 4,000 students can now study a range of professionally relevant degrees tailored to the needs of the Malaysian and Asian economies and their vision for economic growth. Heriot-Watt connections with Malaysia go back as far as 1967 when we had three Academic Partners delivering our degrees. Set on a stunning lakeside location, our state-of-the-art flagship campus in Putrajaya opened in 2014.

Modern accommodation and sports facilities are provided on campus and at Cyberjaya.

STUDENTS SUPPORT LOCAL VILLAGE LIBRARY
Children from a Malaysian village have been supported by Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM) to help design their own village library. Forty five children from Dengkil, Selangor, came to the University’s Malaysia Campus for a one day ‘camp’, commissioned under the Hope for Reading project by Malaysia’s Ministry of Higher Education and jointly organised by the Ariston and Rotaract clubs of HWUM. Activities included games that incorporated English vocabulary and mathematics, water games and a mini competition for them to design their own library. Their design ideas were taken into consideration when setting up a community library in the children’s village of Bukit Bangkong. A major fundraising and government lobbying campaign was driven by Malaysian students who also committed time to tutor children in the local village of Dengkil, Selangor.

Graduate Profile:
Joanne Yeoh
THE POWER OF MUSIC
Malaysian graduate and virtuoso violinist, Joanne Yeoh did a PhD in Applied Psychology analysing the effects music has on consumer decision making. She took a year out from her globe-trotting star status as a performer, seeking a deeper understanding of the power of music to influence.

“Both my first and second degrees were music performance based, and hence, when I started my PhD at Heriot-Watt, I wanted a different experience. Heriot-Watt gave me the opportunity to explore other aspects of music, in particular, music psychology. The experience allowed me to understand exactly what research meant, how it ought to be conducted, and how to publish excellent academic papers in journals. This was crucial knowledge, as my current workplace – Universiti Putra Malaysia – demands a research background. My experience at Heriot-Watt helped me to become a better-rounded musician in an academic setting.”

Joanne Yeoh, PhD Applied Psychology

Heriot-Watt Malaysia already delivers benefits worth 9,948,000 Malaysian Ringgits (£1.8 million) a year to the local economy.

Keddie Consulting, Independent economics advisor
Leaders in Ideas and Solutions

Throughout the journey, Heriot-Watt has built its reputation on adapting and evolving its teaching, learning and research to meet the changing needs of industry and society.

PIONEERING EDUCATION ‘FIRSTS’

From starting out as the world’s first Mechanics Institute opening up education for working people in 1821, to launching the world’s first global MBA through distance learning in 1990, the journey has included some notable achievements in educational leadership and innovation. Among them, we can claim a number of pioneering education ‘firsts’ on a world, British and Scottish platform.

We introduced the world’s first Interpreting and Language degree, a world and sector-leading move at the time. At a British level we launched the UK’s first Actuarial Science Honours degree. In Scotland we were the first university to introduce degrees in Computer Science, Building, and British Sign Language as well as providing the first online teaching and learning support across Scotland through the Scholar Programme. In addition we opened Scotland’s first Institute of Offshore Engineering to support the evolution of the oil industry, known today as the Institute of Petroleum Engineering. A first in sport, Scotland’s National Sports Performance Centre, Oriam, opened on our Edinburgh Campus in 2016 supporting Scotland’s national football and rugby squads, professional athletes, as well as the local community, students and staff.

Global Campuses

Campuses in Edinburgh, Dubai, Malaysia, Scottish Borders and Orkney and over 100 Learning Partners worldwide.

Find out more: www.hw.ac.uk/virtualtours
SCOTTISH ROOTS, GLOBAL COMMUNITY
From humble beginnings serving an Edinburgh community, Heriot-Watt has grown into a global institution. A family of scholars from across the world, we deliver creative and educational excellence in business, engineering, science and technology.

Working with leading academics, our students learn and thrive in a friendly community of campuses, with our partners and online. Our graduates are specialists, creative, professional and globally minded. With their research-informed education underpinned by the Heriot-Watt values, they develop character, leadership skills and social mobility, becoming professionally educated, globally employable, citizens of the world.

THE watt club
It is this rich history and heritage that led to the establishment of one of the oldest alumni associations in the UK, the Watt Club. Founded in 1854 and with over 116,000 members worldwide, it provides a unique professional network. The Watt Club provides a support network and a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas. A community of global leaders in ideas and innovation, the Watt Club provides unique benefits that combine deliver The Watt Advantage.

WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH
The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 ranked Heriot-Watt 9th university in the UK for impact with 82% of research ranked world-class.

Our Heritage Guide is partly based on Heriot-Watt University: an illustrated history by Patrick N. O'Farrell. Copies are available in the Heriot-Watt University Library.
Pioneering the Future

Heriot-Watt University is a product of the Scottish Enlightenment. A pioneer in bringing education to working people in 1821 and founder of a global movement through the creation of the world’s first Mechanics Institute. Today we have five campus locations worldwide nurturing scholars who are creating transformational solutions to global problems. This is our story.

World-Class University
Heriot-Watt is an integrated global university with strong links across Europe and the rest of the world. Since our foundation as the School of Arts, the world’s first Mechanics Institute, we have been outward-thinking pioneers of education, in pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of society and the world. Our campuses across the globe and international community create a distinctive university experience and a springboard for an international career. Specialist, creative and expert, our people set the gold standard and are sought by the best organisations in the world. We build inventive, entrepreneurial and resilient minds within a nurturing environment of leaders in ideas and solutions.

Origins of our Name
In 1852 the Edinburgh School of Arts changed its name to become the Watt Institution and School of Arts, in honour of the great Scottish inventor, mechanical engineer and chemist, James Watt. A pioneer of the steam engine, he was widely acknowledged as the father of the industrial revolution. George Heriot was a 17th century philanthropist and financier to King James IV. In 1885 the School was renamed Heriot-Watt College and in 1966 Heriot-Watt University was established by Royal Charter.

Both Heriot and Watt were two successful, pioneering professionals of their time, whose ideas and attitudes in finance and technology are still reflected in the ethos of the University today.

Our Heritage
Pioneering Education with Global Impact since 1821

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