



By:



Heriot-Watt Malaysian Society

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1.0 ACCOMMODATION

1.1 On-campus

1.1.1 Undergraduate Accommodation

There are three types available:

Type (includes bathroom & shared kitchen)	Traditional En Suite Rooms (recommended)	Contemporary En Suite Standard Room	Contemporary En Suite Room in Flat
Bed	Single	Sharing 3/4 beds	Sharing 3/4 beds
Size (square metres)	12	16	12
Common space	Kitchen shared with 4/5 students	Large kitchen shared with 10/12 students	Large kitchen shared with 4 other students
Contract length	40 weeks		
Cost: - per week - per month - per tenancy	£154 £616 £6,160	£179 £716 £7,160	£185 £740 £7400

All rent costs includes:

- Internet connection (100Mbps)
- Heating
- Power
- Water
- Weekly cleaning of communal spaces (kitchen)

Note for **communal spaces**: Students should keep decent cleanliness and trash to be emptied before the weekly cleaning or there will be a penalty.

Bed linen, duvet and pillows are **not provided** but can be purchased as a “bedding pack” from the main reception on arrival for £30.

Laundry facilities are included using the Circuit Laundry Plus app (The app can be downloaded on the App Store or Play Store).

Additional info on undergraduate accommodation can be found [here](#).

1.1.2 One Semester Accommodation

- One-semester accommodation is available but slots are limited.
- Fees must be paid in full to secure the accommodation.

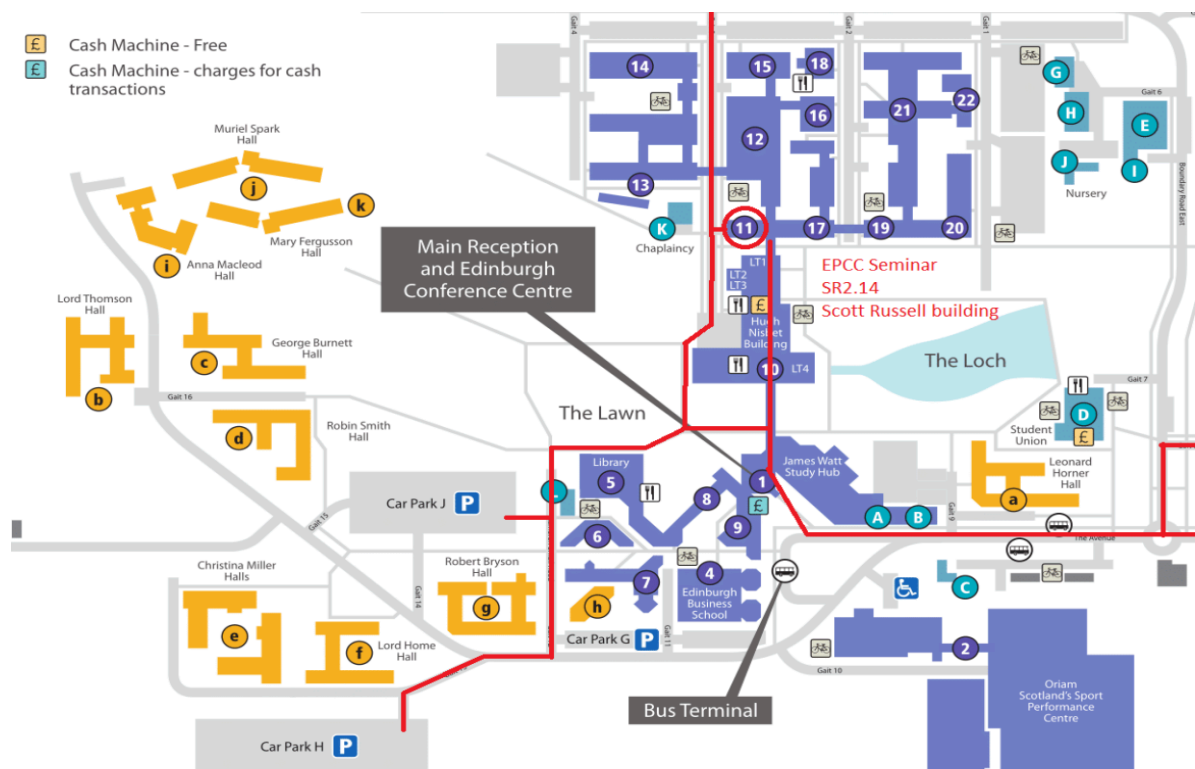
1.1.3 Accommodation Location

Based on experience, students do not have the choice of choosing specific halls.

Depending on which room type:

1. Traditional En Suite Rooms
 - Robert Bryson
 - Lord Home
 - Robin Smith
 - George Burnett
 - Lord Thomson
2. Contemporary En Suite Standard Room & Contemporary En Suite Room in Flat
 - Christina Miller
 - Anna Macleod
 - Mary Fergusson
 - Muriel Spark
3. One Semester Accommodation
 - Leonard Horner

Mapping of halls locations:



1.1.4 Accommodation Application

Application is done [online](#) between **12:00 midday (GMT) on 7 March 2022** till **12:00 midday (BST) on 22 August 2022** for guaranteed accommodation.

Any specific preference is made in the online application e.g. same gender/mixed gender or group with a friend (include their name and H00xxxxxx number).

1.2 Off-campus

1.2.1 Looking for a place

While searching for off-campus accommodations, please take note of the following areas:

Keywords	Distance	Duration to reach uni (by bus)
<i>Sighthill / The Calders (Calder View, Calder Gardens, Calder Drive, Calder Place)</i>	Closest to the university	5 - 15 mins
<i>Broomhouse / Parkhead / Saughton / Stenhouse</i>	Quite close to the university	15 - 25mins
<i>Chesser / Slateford / Gorgie / Shandon</i>	In between the university and town	20 - 35 mins
<i>Dalry</i>	Near Town but easily accessible to university	20 - 40 mins
<i>Fountainbridge / Haymarket</i>	Closest to town	20 - 40 mins

**HMO licence for the property is required if more than two of you are living together.*

Useful websites for finding off-campus accommodation:

Website name	Link
Rightmove	https://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-to-rent
Placebuzz	https://www.placebuzz.com/property-for-rent/edinburgh
Zoopla	https://www.zoopla.co.uk/to-rent/property
Citylets	https://www.citylets.co.uk/flats-rent-edinburgh
Onthemarket	https://www.onthemarket.com/to-rent
Gumtree	https://www.gumtree.com/

Websites for shared accommodations (e.g. a room in a shared flat):

Website name	Link
Spareroom	https://www.spareroom.co.uk/flatshare/midlothian/edinburgh
EdinRoom (Facebook)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/edinroom/
Edinburgh flat share (Facebook)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/466062016878511/
Edinburgh Housing, Room & Flat Share (Facebook)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/889034457806994/

1.2.2 Locations

Google Maps:



Heriot-Watt is located in the postcode 'EH14 4'. When searching for accommodation, students are advised to search with the **postcode EH11** which covers the areas circled in black in the Google Maps above.

The nearest postcode to the university would be 'EH 11 4' (Sighthill). Most bus routes going to the Heriot-Watt campus and Edinburgh city go through **Calder Road**, **Georgie Road** and **Slateford Road**. Therefore, keep an eye out for houses that are near these major roads.

1.2.3 House Viewings & Checklist

Before securing a tenancy agreement, it is important to complete the following:

1. Check if the advert shows the **landlord/agent registration number**.
 - Use [this website](#) to check if the number is registered with the Scottish Government.
2. Is the property equipped with a **proper HMO licence** if needed?
 - Properties with an HMO licence adhere to additional safety requirements and rental payments can usually be made per room to the landlord itself.
(instead of paying for the whole house and your flatmates paying their shares to you)
3. Is the location **accessible to bus stops** that serve the buses to campus without taking 2 different buses?
 - Bus numbers **25, 34 and 35** are the best which will take you to the campus and to the city centre.
4. Does the rent **include bills**?
 - If not, you'll have to consider getting your own broadband service (ask the landlord for a recommendation of fibre/cable service)
 - Electricity and gas usually use a prepaid system where you can top up the electric or gas card at the nearest convenient store.
5. Always **go for a viewing of the place if possible** before securing the place. Things to look out for:
 - ★ Is furniture included and if so is it sufficient and in good condition?
 - ★ What type of heating and if the windows are double glazed?
 - ★ General condition of the property (look out for damp signs or mould)
 - ★ If there is a lawn, who is responsible for maintaining the lawn?
 - ★ Will the landlord replace the locks when you move in?

Request for a full virtual tour (preferably via video call) of the place if you are unable to attend a physical tour. If viewing is not possible, you can always ask the landlord for additional pictures or if you have friends here in Edinburgh, they could attend your viewings on your behalf.

More detailed checklists are on pages 12 & 13 of the [Accommodation Guide Edinburgh](#).

1.2.4 Securing a Place

Now, these would be the standard steps taken while in the process of the tenancy agreement:

1. Deposit

Deposits are **usually paid together with advance rent payments** (refer to the part about UK-based guarantors below). Deposits are paid to the landlord, however, the landlord will have to transfer the money to a licensed Tenancy Deposit Scheme by law (example: My Deposits Scotland) to ensure the money is securely held.

2. UK-based guarantor

Usually tenants are required to have a UK-based guarantor. A guarantor is a person, usually a family member you assign, who agrees to pay rent to the landlord in an event where you are MIA (not paying rent to landlord and cannot be reached). This is an issue for foreign students as we have no family members in the UK as our guarantors. There are firms which can be your guarantor but from experience, it is more of a hassle.

If you do not have a guarantor, the landlord will typically ask you to pay an advance on your rental (usually 3-6 months advance rental) before you move in as a replacement for the lack of a guarantor. This is **a separate payment for the deposit** for the accommodation. Some may ask you to pay advance rent for the whole academic year which is very expensive upfront, so having negotiation skills may be beneficial in reducing the number of months to pay in advance.

3. Contract

Contracts may vary with landlords. Some contracts have fixed duration and some are open-ended, meaning they will last until the tenant wishes to leave the property. **Always read the contract**, and discuss with the landlord if there are any terms that you don't understand or wish to negotiate. **Never just sign!!!**

4. Council Tax Exemption

For all off-campus accommodation excluding student accommodation (such as Nido Haymarket, IQ, etc), tenancies are required to pay council tax. **You can apply for the student council tax exemption from the [Edinburgh Council's website](#)** and to learn more on this matter. **Council tax exemption will also account for your water and sewerage charges** so you do not have to pay for them once you have applied for the exemption.

1.2.5 Wifi Providers

Here in Edinburgh, there are many different Wifi providers which you can choose from.

Here is the list of top providers in Edinburgh:

<i>Top Edinburgh Broadband Providers</i>	
Provider	Link
Virgin Media	https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/broadband-only
BT	https://www.bt.com/products/broadband/deals?ffsc=true
Vodafone	https://www.vodafone.co.uk/broadband
Hyperoptic	https://www.hyperoptic.com/offer/
TalkTalk	https://new.talktalk.co.uk/broadband/compare-deals
Sky	https://www.sky.com/broadband
EE	https://shop.ee.co.uk/broadband
Plusnet	https://www.plus.net/broadband/
NOW broadband	https://www.nowtv.com/broadband
Three	https://www.three.co.uk/store/broadband/home-broadband

Tips on choosing the best provider:

1. Most broadband providers require you to sign a contract of 12 to 18 months. It is advisable to get a shorter contract if you were to stay in your accommodation for a year as an early termination fee (ETF) needs to be paid for the remaining months in the contract when one wants to terminate the contract early.
2. Not all providers are available in your location so it is best to check with each provider whether there is coverage in your neighbourhood.
3. <https://www.uswitch.com/broadband/> allows you to compare and find the best broadband deals that are available in your area.
4. For more info and tips and guides on looking for the best broadband provider do visit : <https://www.uswitch.com/broadband/guides/how-to-choose-broadband/>

2.0 FLIGHTS

2.1 Booking a Flight

You can use [Skyscanner](#) or [Google Flights](#) to search for different flights and comparisons. For your information, Scotland's travel rules for people arriving from abroad have ended and all COVID rules and restrictions have been lifted in Scotland. More information can be found on this [website](#).

However, it would be best if you could get your vaccine when offered to ensure you are fully protected. Please note that free Rapid Lateral Flow Tests are only offered to people who are eligible for COVID-19 treatments, visiting care homes or hospitals and unpaid carers.

2.2 Qatar Student Club and Benefits

We would encourage you to sign up for Qatar's Student Club as they offer a range of benefits that are beneficial for your travel. This includes:

- 10% off your first booking
- Additional baggage allowance of 10 kgs
- Flexible booking options with one complimentary date change

Use this [link](#) to sign up for the Student Club.

2.3 Upon Arrival

Once you arrive, you should book a slot at the earliest possible time to collect your BRP and Student ID card from the Student Service Centre on the Edinburgh Campus from the myHWU website under Appointments (Student Service Centre).

Additional Information:

- Your BRP card is your most important identity card as an international student.

3.0 TRANSPORTATION

3.1 Travelling

If arriving at the Edinburgh airport, you can take a bus, taxi or uber to your accommodation/place.

3.1.1 From airport to campus

Type	Route	Price	Duration	Notes
Bus	300/400 Skylink (Cogarstone Road) → 65 (Uni)	Airport bus: Single - £4.5 Return - £7.5	40 mins	Fastest bus route
	100 Airlink (Haymarket) → 25 (Uni)	Lothian bus (to uni) - £1.8	1 hr	Cheapest. Takes longer but allows you to look at some scenery :)
Uber	Direct	£11 - £15	10 mins	Shortest but potentially most expensive
Private transport *	Direct	£25 - £35	10 mins	For large groups. May have other potential services

3.1.2 From airport to private accommodation

- It really depends where you stay and Google Maps is the best tool to help you out
- Type of transport is as above but the route, price and duration really depend
- If you are still unsure, contact us and we will gladly help you. It is usually very simple

3.1.3 From anywhere to anywhere (including campus)

Campus:

When you are looking for accommodation, one important factor is to check whether the bus stop is easily accessible and if the bus travelling to the university is available.

The buses whose route ends at the uni are **25, 34, 35** and **63** (not frequent). Watch out for these buses, hop on and you will reach the uni at the last stop.

Anywhere:

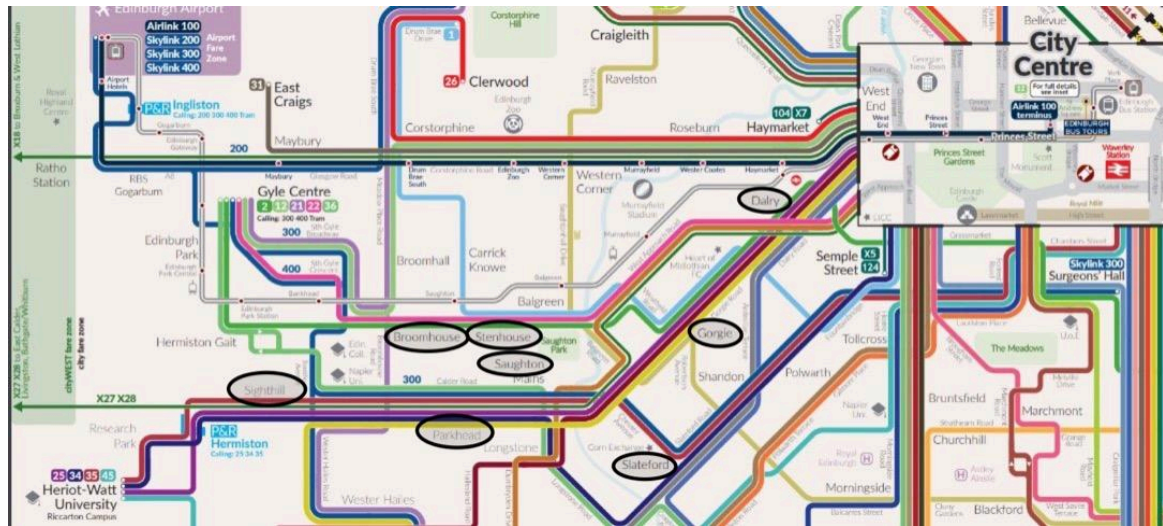
As mentioned before, Google maps will be your best friend! It is really easy and simple to use.

3.2 Transport

3.2.1 Lothian bus

The Lothian bus is the main source of transport for university students. If you are rich, have rich/local friends or need to travel outside the Lothian network, you can use a car.

Network map:



Skylink Airport Buses from Airport

→ 300 (passes by Sighthill, Broomhouse, Stenhouse, Slateford)

Lothian City Buses to Heriot-Watt

→ 25, 34, 35, 45

Lothian Country Services Bus to Heriot-Watt

→ X27, X28 (stops at Hermiston Walk)

3.2.2 Lothian ticket prices

Link: <https://www.lothianbuses.com/tickets>







	Lothian	Airport	
		Airlink (100)	Skylink (200/300/400)
Single	£1.80	£4.50	
Return	-	£7.50	
Day	£4.50 5x bundle in the app = £20	-	
Network day	£10.00		

3.2.3 Payment

1. TapTapCap

Use your credit/debit card to tap like TouchnGo. But if you don't have a card yet, you can use cash but it must be the exact amount because the driver will not refund you.

How to pay for tickets?

 **TapTapCap**  Travel as much as you want on our buses with the same card or device and we'll work out the cheapest daily adult fare for you. Where you see the  symbol below, this means that fares for applicable adult journeys will be automatically capped at the price stated.  **Contactless** All of our fares can be paid with contactless, including child and family tickets. You can also pay for groups – just tell the driver which tickets you need before presenting your card or device when prompted.  **m-tickets** Our adult and family tickets can be bought in advance on our m-tickets app. Some discounted ticket bundles are also available.  **Cash (exact fare)** Please be aware that the exact fare is needed when paying with cash on our buses because our drivers cannot give change.

2. App



Download the m-tickets app to buy tickets for the city buses, trams, airport buses, and country buses. This is recommended for those who live on-campus and do not really travel often (i.e. only on weekends to hang out or for groceries). It is advisable to buy the 5x day bundle.

- It is recommended to purchase upon arrival as this will save you some time by buying the ticket before flying over, if you don't have a card and want contactless.

3. Rida student card

This is recommended to those who live off-campus and travel a lot. It allows you to use different public transport like Lothian, Airport ones, trams, etc no matter the time of day.

Link: <https://www.lothianbuses.com/ridacard/>

How to buy a Ridacard?

- Visit a [TravelHub](#) where the sales assistant will assist you or [download and complete an application form](#) in advance.
- For new Advance Purchase Ridacards, loaded with a minimum of one week's travel, please visit a TravelHub or email your name, date of birth, telephone number, postal address and a passport size photograph to contactless@lothianbuses.co.uk.

Ticket prices:

	ADULT	STUDENT*	JUNIOR (5-15 YEARS)
1-week Advance Purchase	£20	£17	£10
4-week Advance Purchase	£60	£51	£30
Annual Advance Purchase	£600	£510	£300
Direct Debit Monthly	£56	£45	£26

For more information on the ticket options, visit the [Tickets](#) page.

Advice for using public transport

- ❖ Check on Google maps before you arrive in Edinburgh.
- ❖ Purchase the necessary tickets on the app in Malaysia
OR prepare the exact cash or just use a debit/credit card.
- ❖ Make sure you get on the correct bus (look at bus number).
- ❖ Open Google map and check so you don't miss your stop.
- ❖ Say 'thank you' or 'cheers' to the bus driver!

3.3 Young Scot National Entitlement Card (NEC)

In Scotland, the government recently introduced the Young Persons' (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel Scheme which allows anyone under the age of 22 to ride the buses for free around Scotland. In order to benefit from this scheme, you would need to apply for a Young Scot NEC. As long as you are aged between 5 - 21 years old, you should be eligible to apply.

How to Apply?

The best way to apply is online through their website: <https://getyournec.scot/nec/>. Simply follow the instructions on the website in order to obtain your NEC. There is also a good video to watch before applying: <https://youtu.be/CLWDKSzfCqA>

Important Documents:

- **Proof of Identity:** Biometric Residence Permit*, National Passport, British Driving License.
- **Proof of Address:** Bank Letter from Student Services*, Bank Statement.
- **Clear Photo:** Passport Sized, White background.

**Best to Use*

Tips when applying for a Young Scot NEC:

- You can only apply for it once you've arrived in Scotland as you would need to have your address in Edinburgh.
- Make sure that you have scanned all your documents beforehand in order for a smooth application process. You can use any document scanning app!
- The photo must be clear and have a white background, as many students before have had their applications rejected due to their photos not being clear enough.
- In order to obtain a bank letter, simply head to the student services centre on campus and ask for a bank letter.

3.4 Private Malaysian Transport Hire



For those that desire it, a private transport hire service provided by a small local Malaysian family-run business is available. They do airport transfers to accommodations for large groups of 5-7 people but can also cater to individuals or smaller groups of people. Their services are exclusively for Malaysians/students and are not open to the public, so if you have concerns about using public transport, worry not.

General pricing for their service for groups of 5-7 people is £27 per person but for exact pricing, you will have to get in touch with the company themselves. They also provide other services such as moving stuff from storage to new flats/houses and many more.

For any queries on services or requests you would like to make, please get in touch with them and they would be more than happy to provide additional information.

Contact details:

WhatsApp: Owner's Number, Name - Uncle Faisal	+44 776 7417775
Instagram	@bespocketnt
Facebook	Bespoke Travels & Transport

4.0 REGISTERING WITH A GENERAL PRACTITIONER (GP)

The Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) that you paid while applying for the visa has entitled you to access most National Health Services (NHS) *i.e. free treatments/prescriptions*.

Vaccination is NOT a must to enter the UK. International students will be able to get their first or second dose of Covid-19 vaccination in Scotland.

To register with a GP / local doctor, you will have to bring your necessary documents to the [clinic nearest](#) to you:

- ❖ Proof of identity with photo:
 - Passport
 - University student card
- ❖ Printed original proof of address in the UK:
 - Tenancy agreement
 - Utility bill
 - University contract
 - University arrival pass
 - etc
- ❖ Biometric Residence Permit (as additional identification document)
- ❖ Photograph

Print in advance, if possible (not strictly necessary):

1. New Patient Questionnaire (NPQ) - helps your GP offer you the best advice and treatment
2. Registration form (GPR) - completes your registration with a new GP practice
3. Past vaccination history - it would be great to ask a parent about your vaccination history!

If you have an **ongoing medical condition**, it would be useful if you could ask your current GP for a patient summary to bring with you to your new practice – especially if certain drugs used to manage your condition (e.g. amphetamine for ADHD) are on the list of controlled substances.

You are required to bring your NHS card (obtained after successful registration) to any of your appointments and you should also consider getting additional insurance if required.

5.0 BANK ACCOUNT

5.1 Application for UK Bank Account from Malaysia

There seems to be only one bank that has a current partnership with a UK branch that allows an easier application process and money transfer: HSBC. (Note: This is only applicable for HSBC Premier Members)

Fill in a call-back form with the link: <https://internationalservices.hsbc.com/call-back/>

At the end of the form, there is a blank for the preferred branch.

It is recommended that you use this address:

76 Hanover St, Edinburgh EH2 1EL, United Kingdom

The branch is located in the middle of town so it will be easily accessible and spotted.

An appointment in the branch will be booked for you when you complete your account application with the agent in charge. You will need to bring forth some documents such as proof of ID and proof of address to finish the bank account opening process.

For further information on opening an account with HSBC from Malaysia, you can use this link: <https://internationalservices.hsbc.com/overseas-account-opening/>

Further information on general openings of bank accounts in the UK, please refer to the following websites:

Website	Link
UKCISA	https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Opening-a-bank-account
HWU	https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/students/international/uk/living/banking-budgeting.htm

5.2 Application for UK Bank Account in the UK

5.2.1 Bank of Scotland

To register for a BoS (Bank of Scotland) account, you have to be at least 17 years old and live in the UK, with the right to reside here.

You'll also be required to have your BRP (Biometric Residence Permit) and a verified letter from the University.

Step 1: Print your studies confirmation letter from the University

The letter must be provided by the University when you have confirmed your campus transfer process.. The letter should include your term address (the address you are staying at during your studies, be it campus accommodations or off-campus stays).

Step 2: Book a slot with the SSC (Students Support Centre) through your HWU app/web

You will then get a stamp from the SSC that is located in the academic building. This will be considered a 'bank letter' upon arrival at the bank later on.

Step 3: Head to a BoS branch with your BRP and confirmation letter

There are numerous branches in Edinburgh, but we suggest you head down to St. James Quarter's branch for convenience

Step 4: Inform the worker that you are an international student signing up for a students account

The workers will then bring you in and ask for your BRP and the bank letter, then they will ask for your details like name, birth date and phone number. You will then be given a short informational clip to watch in regards to BoS terms and conditions.

Step 5: Wait for your card to arrive at your address within a couple of days.

You can apply for a BoS account as soon as you have sorted out your accommodation. Therefore, this should be done once you have arrived in Scotland.

5.2.2 Monzo Account

To open a Monzo account, you need to be at least 16 years old and live in the UK full time, with the right to reside here.

You'll also need your mobile phone and a valid ID such as

- Passport
- Driving licence (your provisional is fine)
- National ID card
- Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

and a residential address in the UK to send your card.

STEP 1: Download the Monzo app

STEP 2: Key in your details

Information like your home address, email and phone number you want to use with your account.

Since Monzo is a regulated bank, they will also ask some questions about things like what you do for a living, and how you want to use your new account.

STEP 3: Confirm your identity

To confirm that you are who you say you are, a picture of your ID and then a selfie video are required.

STEP 4: Finish choosing what you want from Monzo

There are a few different account options to choose from. Pick the account that seems the best for you!

STEP 5: Activate your card once it arrives

It will be delivered to you in a couple of days.

When it arrives, activate it by following the instructions in your Monzo app.

You can apply for a Monzo account as soon as you have sorted out your accommodation and visa. Therefore, this should be able to be done before flying to the UK (depending on whether the phone number needs to be a UK number).

5.2.3 Revolut Account

To register for a Revolut account, you need to be 18 and over, as well as the right to reside in the UK. Nevertheless, Revolut also allows registration from legal residents of the European Economic Area, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland, Japan, and the United States. With that, you are allowed to withdraw cash from 150 different currencies

You'll also need your mobile phone and a valid ID such as:

- Passport
- Driving licence (your provisional is fine)
- National ID card
- Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

and a residential address in the UK to send your card.

Step 1: Download the Revolut app

Step 2: Key in your phone number

The app will then ask you to set up a password, and a 6-digit code will be sent to your phone to verify your account.

Step 3: Key in your details

Information such as your name, birth date, address and email.

Step 4: Provide a selfie and a picture of your ID of choice for verification

Step 5: Select your choice of account type

Revolut offers various account types such as standard, premium, and metal accounts. You may need only a standard account.

Step 6: Decide if you want to hold a physical card, or you can choose to stay digital.

To hold a physical card, you may click on the card button on the app, choose your card design and follow the instructions given. Your card may take a couple of days to arrive.

To stay digital, you won't have to do anything else beyond this step. However, it is advisable for you to add your digital card to your apple pay system (if you own an iphone) for convenience.

You can apply for a Revolut account as soon as you have sorted out your accommodation and visa.

Therefore, this can be done before flying to the UK (depending on whether the phone number needs to be a UK number).

5.2.4 Other UK bank options

There are a few options to go for here: (e.g. Wise)

1. There are accounts dedicated to international students which have better international transfer fees with some being able to be opened before arriving in the UK.

Other options:

<https://www.ukuni.net/articles/opening-bank-account-international-student-uk>

<https://www.savethestudent.org/international-students/top-international-bank-accounts-uk.html>

6.0 INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER

For those that will find this useful, there are many ways you can go about transferring money to the UK. Normal bank transfer through your Malaysian bank would be the conventional way but this can sometimes take time to be processed and the exchange rates, plus additional bank charges mean your money doesn't always go as far as you would like.

The alternative to this is by using international money transfer services. These kind of services have their pros and cons of course and they vary by the service provider but the main upsides to using them are that typically you can get much better exchange rates with them and they aren't even that difficult to use. Some of these service providers are **Wise** (formerly known as TransferWise), **Remitly**, **OFX**, and **Moneygram** just to name a few. We would highly recommend Wise!

These services allow you to send money directly to a bank account without all those extra bank charges and with better exchange rates, cater to cash pickups (although due to the pandemic, this is not encouraged) and even directly to mobile money accounts. Do be aware, however, that these services have varying caps for minimum transfer so it is best that you shop around to find the best service provider for your use case.

We highly encourage you to explore this option if your parents/guardians are wanting to send you money, be it a large sum or not. To get you started in your research, we have provided you with links below to these services and articles highlighting their pros & cons. This is not exhaustive so be sure to do further research on this to ensure you get the best deal possible.

Relevant articles/website links:

<https://www.techradar.com/uk/best/best-money-transfer-apps>

<https://www.exiap.com/guides/alternative-money-transfer-companies-like-transferwise>

<https://www.exiap.com/reviews/transferwise>

7.0 SIM CARD

A UK bank account is needed for rolling contracts requiring monthly debit card payments but not for prepaid SIM plans. It is recommended that you get a prepaid SIM plan for the first month upon arrival. You can get a 12-month mobile contract with any network of your choosing once you have a UK bank account.

List of cell phone networks in the UK:

TOP 10	
Provider	Link
EE	https://shop.ee.co.uk/sim-only/pay-as-you-go-phones (Sim only no Contract) https://shop.ee.co.uk/campaigns/student-deals
VOXI	https://www.voxi.co.uk/plans (Sim only no Contract)
Vodafone	https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/best-sim-only-deals?icmp=uk~1_consumer~to_pnav~1_shop~2_sim_only~1_pay_monthly_sim&linkpos=topnav~1~1~2~1 (Contract plans)
O2	https://www.o2.co.uk/shop/sim-cards/sim-only-deals#deviceType=phone&contractLength=Featured (Contract plans)
Three	http://www.three.co.uk/Store/SIM/Plans_for_phones (Contract plans)
GiffGaff	https://www.giffgaff.com/sim-only-deals (Sim only no Contract)
Sky Mobile	https://www.sky.com/shop/mobile/plans/data (Sim only no Contract)
Tesco Mobile	https://www.tescomobile.com/shop/sim-only-deals/sim-only-contracts (Sim only no Contract)
BT Mobile	https://www.bt.com/products/mobile/sim-only-deals (Sim only no Contract)
Virgin Mobile	https://www.virginmedia.com/mobile/sim-only/pay-monthly-sim?contractDuration=12&tariffID=774527714 (Sim only no Contract)
Talk Talk	https://talkmobile.co.uk/sim-only (Sim only no Contract)
Others:	
Lebara	https://mobile.lebara.com/gb/en/best-sim-only-deals/c/simo-contract (Sim only no Contract)
Smarty	https://smarty.co.uk/sim-only (Sim only no Contract)

For further information:

<https://www.studying-in-uk.org/united-kingdom-cell-phones-carriers-and-networks-guide/>

Commonly used SIM card provider:

Giffgaff - Join before you arrive: Once your SIM arrives, you can set up your account with most international debit/credit cards. <https://www.giffgaff.com/freesim-international>

Voxi - Join as soon or a few days before arrival. Free sim comes in 2-4 business days.

Comparison:

Provider	Price	Student discount	Delivery	Airport outlet	Best Package (in our opinion)
<i>GiffGaff</i>	£6 - £35	N/A	next working day delivery for free of charge, on orders placed before 10 pm Monday to Saturday and 7 pm on Sundays	NO	£10 Golden Goody for 15 GB of Data (Unlimited calls and text + EU Roaming)
<i>EE</i>	£10 - £41	20% EE student discount and 500MB free data, every month	dispatched within 24 hours with courier DPD	YES	£20 for 30GB data. Unlimited calls and texts
<i>Three</i>	£5 - £26	12 months 100GB SIM for just £16	delivered to your home address within 3-5 working days by Royal Mail	YES	£14 for 30GB of data (24 months contract)
<i>Vodafone</i>	£15 - £44	10% discount on selected airtime plans, pay monthly tablets and SIM only plans	free on weekdays, extra charges on weekends	NO	N/A
<i>O2</i>	£15 - £33	N/A	before midnight Sunday - Thursday, you could get your device delivered to your home the next working day	NO	N/A
<i>Lebara</i>	£5 - £30	50% off for first 3 months	delivery in 3-5 working days	YES	N/A
<i>Voxi</i>	£10 - £30	N/A	delivery in 2-4 business days	NO	£10 for 15GB of data with unlimited use of social media without eating your data

8.0 CHECKLIST

Make sure to include these in your **hand carry**:

- ☐ Passport (include some photocopies) and passport sized photos
- ☐ Visa letter
- ☐ CAS letter / offer letter
- ☐ TB Certificate / medical reports and insurance
- ☐ Malaysian IC (include some photocopies) and driving licence (if applicable)
- ☐ Accommodation confirmation and destination address
- ☐ Airport pick-up (Uber will need phone & credit card verification) and university contact details
- ☐ Traveller's cheque or bank draft for tuition fees (optional)
- ☐ **Cash** in HAND (recommendation of at least £300 - £500 to cover your first 2 weeks)

Other items to bring in your **luggage bag**:

- ☐ Important documents i.e. academic transcripts or certificates
- ☐ Clothes / accessories (for winter season)
 - A waterproof / windproof coat or thick jacket or winter coat
 - Uniqlo heat tech or something similar
 - Sweater
 - Shirts for layering
 - Jeans and long pants
 - Scarf
 - Gloves
 - Winter earmuffs
 - Thick socks
 - Winter boots
 - Business attire, formal attire, traditional costume
- ☐ Lotion as your skin will feel very dry
- ☐ Lip balm
- ☐ Mini portable rice cooker (optional - check the electricity compatibility)
- ☐ Stationeries
- ☐ Glasses and contact lenses
- ☐ Pendrive / hard disk
- ☐ Spare phone or camera (if applicable)
- ☐ Malaysian food - milo, maggi, herbs & spices, etc (meat is prohibited)
- ☐ Vitamin C / medications
- ☐ **Face masks & hand sanitizers**

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/bringing-goods-into-uk-personal-use/banned-and-restricted-goods> for a list of banned and restricted items into the UK.

9.0 FOOD & GROCERIES

FOOD

There are a number of Malaysian food options in Edinburgh:

1. Kampong Ah Lee

- Located at Clerk Street
- Price around £10 for dishes

2. Nanyang Malaysian Restaurant

- Located at Simpson Loan near the University of Edinburgh
- Open Sunday to Monday from 1200-1430 & 1700-2230 and for Saturday 1200-1430 & 1700-2200
- Price around £8 to £12 for a dish

Halal restaurants include:

1. Fast food:

- Chicken Crew
- Chicken Club
- Nando's (Ocean Terminal)
- Palmyra Pizza
- The Mosque Kitchen
- Zuhus
- Pepe's Piri Piri
- Black Rooster
- Bburger

2. Thai restaurants:

- Noodle n Rice
- Soi 38
- Thai2go

3. Japanese restaurant:

- Maki & Ramen (chicken only, some dishes contain alcohol)

4. Korean restaurant:

- Ong Gie (chicken only)
- On Bap (chicken only)

5. Buffet

- Mr Basrai's

6. Others

- Berger and Stak
- Vapiano (chicken only)
- Chaskaa
- Dishoom

- Butta Burger (chicken burgers only, not chicken wings)

GROCERY

Supermarkets / grocery / convenience stores in Edinburgh:

Supermarket / Grocery	Description
Asda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Chesser - Online service available - Halal meat (chicken & beef) - Western spices
Aldi & Lidl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple locations - Cheapest grocery store - Lidl's pastries are delicious
Sainsbury's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Inglis Green Road - Online service available
Tesco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A few locations - Online service available - Fresh fruits
Spice of Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Gorgie Road - Halal meat (chicken & beef) - Asian spices (jintan putih, jintan manis, ketumbar, daun pandan etc)
Starlight Asian Supermarket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Clerk Street - Cheapest Asian store - Maggi (Malaysian ver) - Other instant noodles like Shin Ramyeon, halal Samyang, Indomie - Habhal's soy sauce, oyster sauce
Poundland, Poundsavers & Edinburgh Bargain Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr DIY vibe - Cheap food and necessities
Matthew's Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Inglis Green Road - Asian food (Chinese, Thai, Malaysian, etc) - Online service available - Pastes, sauces, snacks, drinks
Rahman's Supermarket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located at Nicolson Street - Halal meat (chicken & beef) - Asian spices and ingredients

Large supermarkets like Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury's offer grocery services. You would need to check for the nearest supermarket and whether they deliver to your area, with charges ranging from £1 to £3. You can download the app or Deliveroo and being a member may allow you to enjoy more perks.

For further information, you can check out [📍 Edinburgh POI](#) and also add any information you know

to share with everyone else.

10.0 STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Name	Offer
Pepe's	10%
Starlight	5%
Boots	10%
Superdrug	10%
Mr Basrai	15% (Excluding Saturdays)
UniDays	Multiple brands
StudentBeans	Multiple brands
YO! Sushi (UniDays)	20%
Stack and Still	25% (3 pm onwards, Saturdays: 5 pm onwards)
Soi38	10%

11.0 IMPORTANT CONTACTS

The following are some of the essential contact details for us Malaysian international students when facing an emergency:

1. Malaysian High Commission and Malaysian Student Department

Address: 45-46 Belgrave Square, Belgravia, London SW1X 8QT, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7235 8033

Website: www.educationmalaysia.co.uk

2. Immigration Department

Address: 52, Bedford Row, WC1R 4LR, London

Tel: +442039316199

3. MARA London Office

Address: 2nd Floor, Malaysian Student Department 30-34, Queensborough Terrace,
London W2 3ST, United Kingdom

Tel: +00 44 20 72433478

Fax: + 00 44 20 7792 8657

Website: www.maralondon.gov.my

4. Go Global Heriot-Watt University

E-mail: goglobal@hw.ac.uk

Have any questions? Check out our [Pre-Departure Briefing FAQs](#)

For further information or enquiries, please contact the Heriot-Watt Malaysian Society through

E-mail: hwmysoc@gmail.com

Instagram: [@hwmysoc](#)

Facebook: Heriot-Watt Malaysian Society

and drop us a follow on our social media accounts to keep updated with recent news and events.

We hope to see you in Edinburgh!