



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

SPORT

Annual Report

#WeAreEdinburgh

Scotland's **Number One** Sporting University

Introduction to the Annual Report for Sport & Active Wellbeing at The University of Edinburgh



The University of Edinburgh is proud to be the Number One University for Sport & Active Wellbeing in Scotland and one of the highest performing institutions in the UK. Located in the heart of Edinburgh, our vision for sport and active wellbeing not only encapsulates the pursuit of excellence and innovation but also embodies a commitment to making a global impact while nurturing local community ties.

Through collaborative partnerships spanning various departments and stakeholders, the University's sporting achievements are multifaceted, emphasising participation, competitive success, and personal development. Aiming to be the leading university for sport and active wellbeing in the UK by 2030 and globally recognised, this vision champions the transformative power of sport and active wellbeing in enhancing physical, mental, and social well-being. Our collaborative and critical work between the Sport & Exercise department within Corporate Services Group and the quasi-independent Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) significantly contributes to the University's broader ambitions set out in Strategy 2030. This work is underpinned by world-leading research and a philosophy that values physical, mental, and social health, along with the joy of belonging, achievement, and pride.

The academic year 2023-24 has been a record year for Sport and Active Wellbeing at the University, much of which will be documented in the pages that follow. While we have tried to capture all of our progress, awards, and performances, it has not been possible to cover everything given the breadth and depth of our activities. However, it is certainly worth noting the record membership within EUSU, the greatest number of sports clubs (71) on record, and the largest ever membership of our wider gym and facilities. Our Active Lives work continues to be sector-leading, with some outstanding and very bespoke programme work that is undoubtedly changing lives. We have also seen exceptional performances from our student-athletes, with UK-winning team performances and numerous international medals and accolades, culminating in Olympic and Paralympic medals in Paris. Not to be outdone, our roll of honour highlights outstanding achievements from our staff members at the Olympics, Paralympics, and within numerous international federations across the globe.

With the largest health and fitness offering in the UK sector, we continue to hold the philosophy that sport and active wellbeing programmes can and do change lives and make the world a better place. Inclusivity is at the heart of all our activities and initiatives.

This year has also seen far greater collaborative work for 'sport' across University departments, with stunning results alongside our partners in Moray House School of Education & Sport achieving International Olympic Committee Research Centre status, and colleagues in Social Responsibility & Sustainability, where Sport & Exercise and EUSU and our people have been recognised with no less than four Changemaker Awards.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the University's senior management team; without their commitment, our continued progress would not be possible. This support has been notable recently, with an £8 million investment into our facility infrastructure over the next 12 months.

Our partnerships within the University, as well as externally with national governing bodies of sport, international federations, UK institutions, and global institutional partners, are key. We are delighted to welcome new partnerships this year with the International Olympic Committee, British Rowing, Aquatics GB, DP World Tour, Formula 1, Scottish Rugby, and Scottish Hockey.

We would also like to thank those who work alongside us to drive, enhance, and support our offer. Our volunteers (hundreds of), innovative staff workforce, and numerous advisors (internal & external to the University) allow us to ensure our continued success across the breadth of our offer.

As we conclude another fantastic year for Sport & Active Wellbeing at the University of Edinburgh, we look forward to delivering our new vision that intertwines the pursuit of excellence in sport and wellbeing with the broader mission of the University. Our vision is not just a roadmap; it is a collective commitment to elevate sport and active wellbeing to new heights. We call upon our entire community - students, staff, and partners - to join hands in this transformative endeavour. Together, let's turn this vision into a living reality, creating a legacy of health, inclusivity, and excellence for generations to come.

Mark Munro
Director of Sport & Active Health

The University of Edinburgh is proud to be the Number One University for Sport & Active Wellbeing in Scotland and one of the highest performing institutions in the UK.

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Active Wellbeing



Developing our University multi-campus experience to support the wellbeing of our student and staff community is a critical part of Edinburgh's strategy and over the past year we have continued to make significant investment and progress within this area.

As we embark on a journey to refine Active Wellbeing at the University of Edinburgh, we are guided by the transformative power of leading an active lifestyle. A way of life, powered by movement. Leaving people more accomplished physically, mentally and socially.

"Our vision is to establish the University as a global leader in Active Wellbeing by 2030. We aim to foster a culture of excellence, inclusivity and innovation, by promoting a holistic approach to physical and mental wellbeing. We will be recognised nationally for our inspiring environments where our community flourish. Together, striving to ensure that every member of our university community has an awareness of and opportunity to participate in active wellbeing programmes and services which are facilitated by the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Sports Union and Edinburgh University Students' Association".

We have created two core strategic aims for Active Wellbeing at the University;

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORTS AND WELLNESS:

Cultivate an environment where active wellbeing initiatives contribute comprehensively to the personal, academic and professional development of students, staff and the wider community.

GET EVERY MEMBER OF OUR UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY MORE ACTIVE, MORE OFTEN: Together we are striving to ensure that every member of our community (staff and student) has an awareness of and opportunity to participate in active wellbeing programmes and services which are facilitated by the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Sports Union and Edinburgh Students' Association.

Over the last 12 months there have been a number of progress areas that include;

- The first ever cross-University Active Wellbeing Summit.
- The launch of the University's inaugural Active Wellbeing Plan.
- Greater collaborative working to support the work of a number of departments, colleges and schools in the area of active wellbeing.
- Commencement of a project to better understand and record the physical activity levels of our staff and students – ie do our community meet Scottish Government and World Health Organisation recommendations for physical activity.

- An excellent collaborative working relationship with the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre at Moray House School for Education and Sport.
- An enhancement in the delivery of activities across our campuses, particularly within Kings Buildings and BioQuarter which have been under-provided for in the past (these remain priority areas for future years as yet lots to develop).
- Active Lives programme engagements up 120% on the same period last year with 4,426 engagements, 5,000 + if you combine EUSU wellbeing initiatives as well.
- Introduction of new Staff Only group exercise sessions.
- 197 free physical activity sessions over the academic year with an additional 30 sessions taking place over the summer period aimed at staff, including the launch of our social cycle and social jog programmes.
- Introduction of the sector-leading 'Take 5' exercise referral programme with 3 cohorts supported this past 12 months.
- Mass participation events delivered during each semester including the Colour Run and Big Dig which complimented SU events such as; Edinburgh Winter Run, Festive Fives and SU Games, with 1,227 university community engagements collectively.
- Successfully delivered Yoga and Mindfulness weekend for students and staff utilising our fantastic Firbush Outdoor Centre.
- Active Lives Programme was shortlisted for a BUCS Active Wellbeing Programme Award 2023-24.



Learn to Run – Attendee - "Being part of an engaging group gives me a sense of belonging that I did not have before. Thank you for providing the free running session for students who are struggling with the cost of living. I feel welcomed, safe and supported in University of Edinburgh because of this Learn to Run programme."

International Student, May 2024



Our Health & Fitness offer

The University of Edinburgh continues to have the highest numbers of sport and gym members in the Higher Education sector – 18,699. Our sector leading gyms and state-of-the-art health and fitness provision ensures that we offer members a package that cannot be matched – within the University sector or within the City of Edinburgh. Over the past 12 months we are grateful for the continued investment with circa £2M into two projects within the Pleasance Sports Complex – a major refurbishment in the Eric Liddell Gym and the complete refurbishment of Old Reception changing rooms.

Our main gym / fitness facilities across Pleasance, St Leonards and Easterbush witnessed over 1 million visits this year – an increase of 7.9 %. The ‘Gym Team’ provided a record 9,147 of student inductions in 2023-24 with our well established personal training service providing 7,586 individual sessions based predominantly at our Pleasance site. The total number of recorded site visits for Sport & Exercise was 1,006,807 recorded visits across our facilities sites with another 350k+ recorded via team/group bookings.

Our Group Exercise programme totalled 46,049 participants across 5,054 classes, remarkable!

The Student Employment Programme remains a critical component of developing our ‘people’, last year the programme employed 28 students and this was expanded to 39 in 2023/24 and accounted for 20% of our workforce. Not only do students involved in the programme receive remuneration for their work but are provided with mentoring, CPD and qualifications that enable them to be even more employable by the end of the programme.

Separately, the provision of education and training qualification courses continued to grow this year with 41 student participants gaining certification across our Gym Instructor (Level 2), Indoor Cycling Instructor (Level 2) and our RLSS Lifeguard Training Courses.

“Being a gym assistant on the Student Employment Programme has given me so many amazing opportunities and lots of experience towards a career in sport. I have been able to complete great courses including level 2 gym instructing and indoor group cycling, which have enabled me to teach classes in the gym. I have also been mentored and supported by various colleagues throughout my time within the programme. My highlight was being given the chance to go to London with the team and gain exciting, future insights and ideas for Sport and Exercise. Everyone at Pleasance is so supportive and friendly, it is an excellent team to be part of.”

Abbie Holl, Applied Sport Science Student



Firbush

"I just wanted to pass on my compliments regarding the team and setup at Firbush. The SRS department spent Monday and Tuesday there on a team building trip and staff have not stopped talking about how much they enjoyed it.

I've experienced a number of these kinds of centres/ trips over the years and was thoroughly impressed with the set up and the team. It was really well organised and slickly executed by an engaging and fun-loving team who also clearly knew their stuff. And of course, what a location!

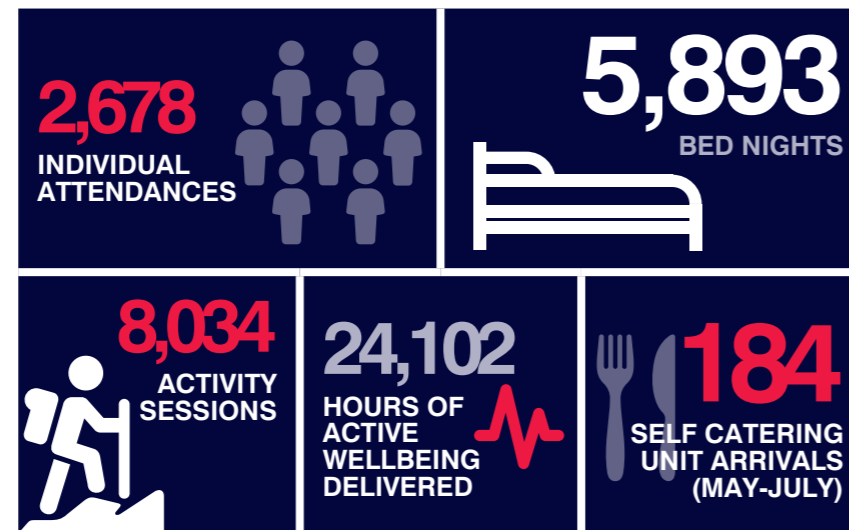
Such was the enjoyment and value to the department I've already asked Matt and the team to set up the same again for next year.

Please pass on our thanks and kudos to the team."

University of Edinburgh SRS Team,
March 2024

Nestled on the banks of Loch Tay in the southern highlands, Firbush Outdoor Centre provides a unique and unrivalled [fully-catered] space for students, staff and community groups to come together. Firbush supports a wide range of academic development and experiential learning opportunities with groups such as the School of Geosciences, Edinburgh University Business School and the Edinburgh Earth Initiative combining course delivery with recreational breaks and active wellbeing programmes - from Kayaking, Sailing and Hillwalking to Yoga & Mindfulness and self-led adventures. These same opportunities extend to other University, colleges, charity and community groups also.

2023/24 has been a particularly busy and productive year with;



2023/24 saw a collaboration between Firbush Outdoor Centre and UOE Accommodation & Catering (ACE) for the first time to, developing a Firbush 'self-catering' offer. ACE have provided expertise to ensure Firbush bookings, promotion and marketing gains maximum target reach with associated income potential. Self-catered uptake for May-July 2024 and since its launch is 57% Occupancy.

The importance of sustainability this past year must not go unmissed. Our engagements with UoE Sustainability & Social Responsibility (SRS), as well as the Edinburgh Earth Initiative saw a large number of their team(s) stay onsite for the very first time, to experience all that Firbush has to offer whilst exploring future collaboration opportunities. These visits generated a huge range of ideas worth exploring, which leaves us eagerly excited at what's to come in 24-25.





FASIC – Sports Injuries and Medicine Centre

Our outstanding FASIC Sport & Exercise Medicine Clinic team provided clinical support including physiotherapy, sports medicine, and pilates to the University and wider community totalling 5,103 contacts (of which 30% are staff and students), alongside a further 1,711 individual contacts and 457group/team sessions delivered through our performance programme. Our clinic partners also deliver massage and podiatry services.

In addition, FASIC staff have been involved with supporting a number of internal and external partnership projects including work with Edinburgh Sports Medicine Research Network and IOC Sports Medicine Research Centre, presenting conferences including Edinburgh Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, and UKCCIIS International Sports Injury & Illness Prevention, global tours and international events including Ryder Cup, DP World Tour golf, Mercedes Formula 1 Motorsport, Olympic Games and various national governing body teams and squads. Much of which is detailed in the pages that follow.

“The service was outstanding, and the physiotherapist was exceptional - friendly, welcoming, and attentive to my concerns. They provided an excellent rehab program over the following month and quickly triaged me to world-class medical advice within the department, allowing me to be seen within days.

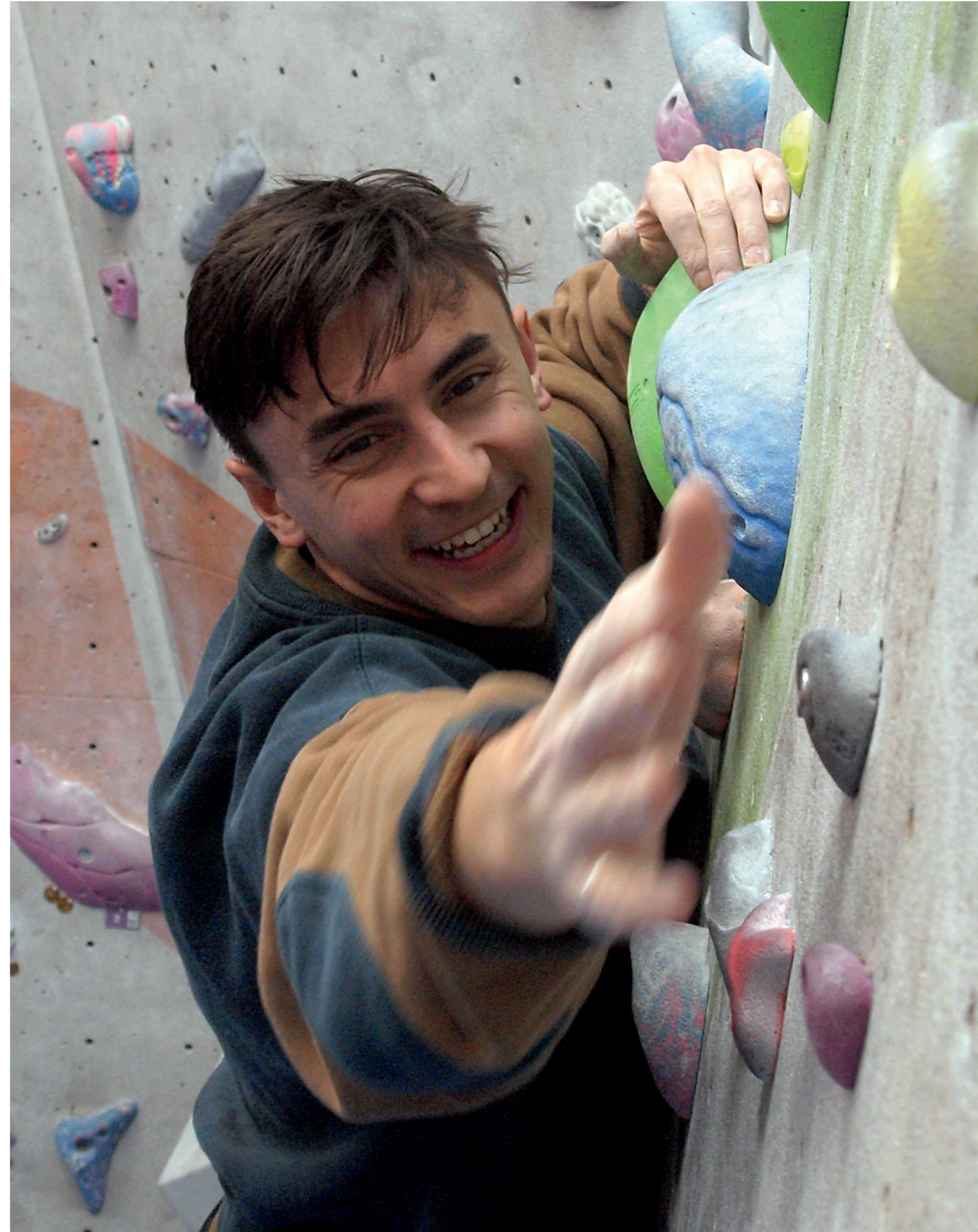
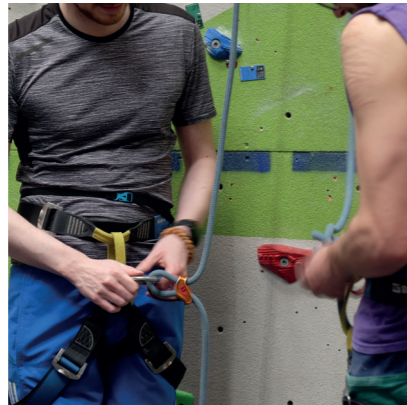
I truly appreciated the care and attention I received and would highly recommend this service to others!”

FASIC patient, May 2024



The Wall, Bouldering and Roped Climbing

The total usage figures for 23/24 were 26,346 visits across the year within the roped climbing, bouldering and course delivery aspects of the wall. The climbing wall enhanced its provision once again with the addition of 3 new auto-belays. This resulted in a 39.5% increase of use from 5,066 visitors in 2022/23 to 7,068 visitors to the facilities in 2023-24.



The student experience – Edinburgh University Sports Union – Club & Recreational sport



At the University of Edinburgh, we take immense pride in offering an exceptional campus sporting experience for our students. Our sports clubs and programmes are fundamental to this commitment supported by our award winning Sports Union, together they are very much the heartbeat of campus life in the City.

Sport at the University of Edinburgh transcends mere recreation; it has been shown to significantly enhance students' sense of belonging, inclusion, health, and wellbeing. Participation in sport also positively impacts academic achievement and employability, supporting our recruitment objectives and community engagement initiatives.

Recent research conducted through BUCS and the British Active Student Survey indicates that students involved in sport and physical activities demonstrate higher retention and academic performance compared to their peers, and further reveals that these students score higher in personal wellbeing and social inclusion.

While we recognise that correlation does not imply causation, an increasing body of evidence supports the positive relationship between sports participation and improved health, wellbeing, retention, and student outcomes.



Club Sport:

Our 71 sports clubs are at the heart of our award-winning sports offerings. Currently, 8,720 students are members of a sports club at Edinburgh, and this year we have proudly introduced 2 new clubs to our diverse range of activities – making us one of the largest multi-sports clubs in the UK.

Memberships:

<p>8,720 SU CLUB MEMBERS THIS YEAR - A RECORD YEAR!</p>	<p>5.4% INCREASE IN INDOOR SPORT MEMBERSHIP COMPARED TO 2023</p> <p>0.5% FOR OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPARED TO 2023</p>
<p>SU OUTDOOR SPORT MADE UP 66.5% (5,796) OF SU CLUB MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR</p>	<p>400 (capacity) STUDENTS UTILISED THE PARTICIPATION GRANT FOR CLUB SPORT ACTIVITY</p>

Competitions:

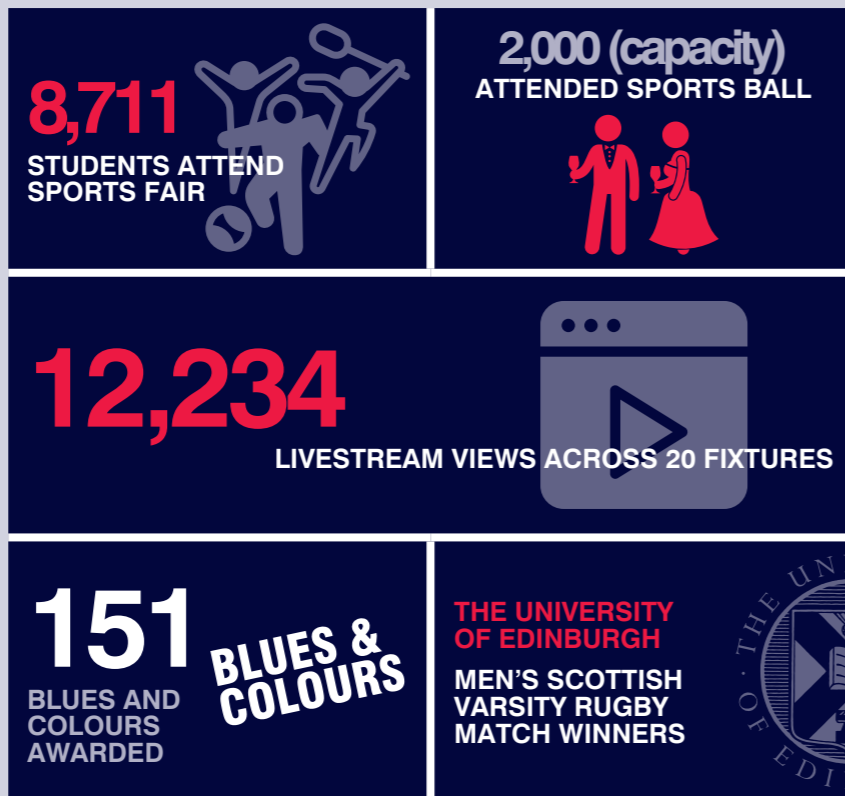
<p>1,292 BUCS FIXTURES</p>	<p>5th IN OVERALL BUCS TABLE WITH A RECORD POINTS SCORE OF 4,821.33</p>
<p>115 BUCS TEAMS, 7 NEW TEAMS COMPARED TO 22/23</p>	<p>16 LEAGUE WINNERS</p> <p>14 CUP FINALS</p>
<p>17 SPORTS IN THE TOP 5 FOR BUCS POINTS IN THEIR SPORT</p>	



"The Edinburgh Award is a great way to meet like-minded ambitious students and develop key transferable skills that will be very useful in the workplace. It has taught me to self-reflect on my goals, what steps I will take to achieve them, and how successful I have been in the end. It is a constant process of self-development that has helped me recognize my strengths and develop my weaknesses to hopefully become an employee that all recruiters seek."

Coaching & Volunteering Academy
Edinburgh Award Participant,
March 2024

Events and Social Media:

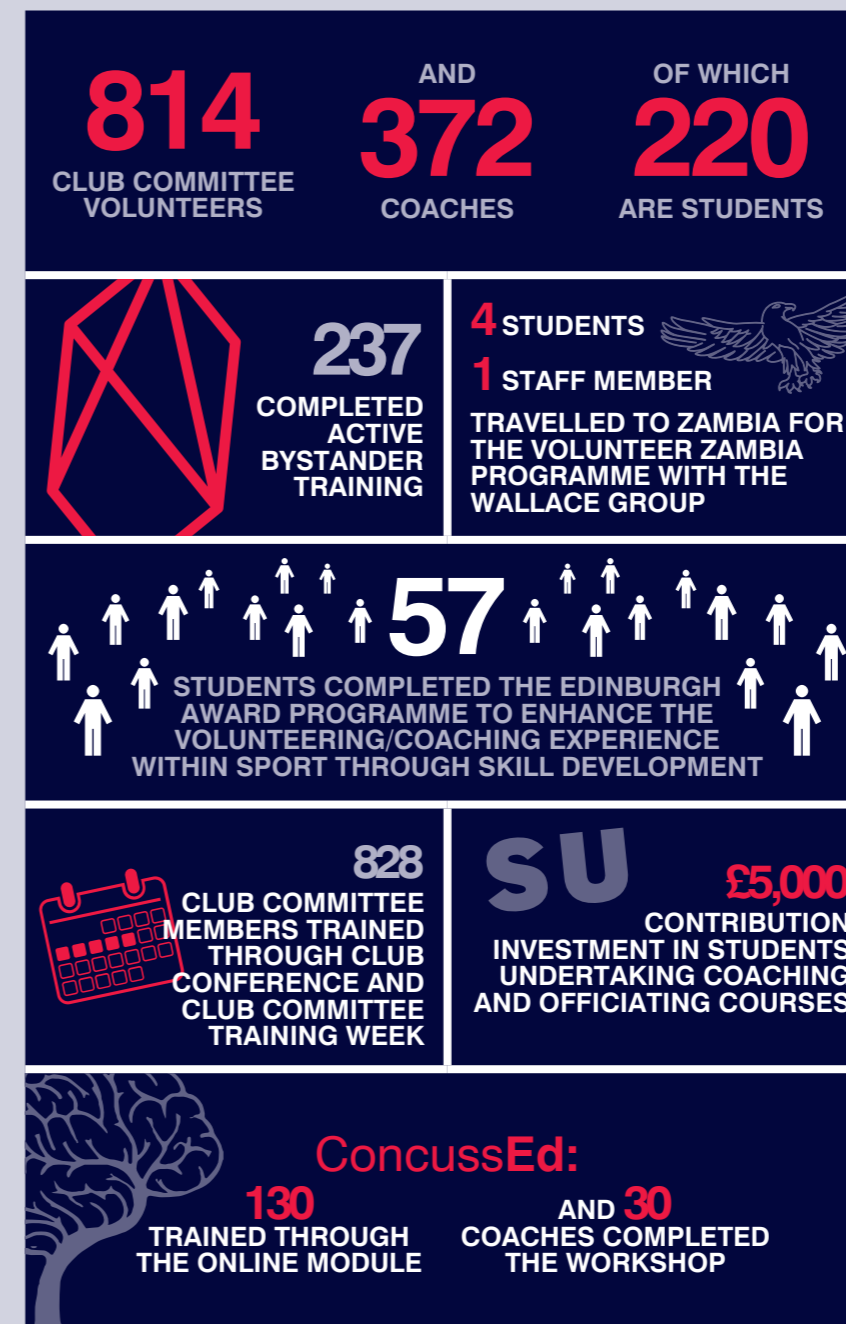




Coach & Volunteer Academy:

The Coaching & Volunteering Academy (CVA) at the University provides valuable sport based coaching, volunteering and leadership opportunities that enhance student experience, coaches' skills and personal development for a vast array of individuals.

From sports club volunteering projects, to one-off individual opportunities, the CVA exists to support our students through every stage of your coaching and volunteering journey. Through the CVA, coaches can gain further qualifications, participate in best practice sharing and access funding to further their skills and knowledge. Club volunteers also receive club training specific to their role, inclusivity training, and access to many more opportunities that allow them to gain valuable experience that will support them in future employment.



Intramural and Recreational Sport:



EUSU currently offers 9 sports as part of the Intramural Sport programme which has grown significantly over the past year with 192 teams participating across those sports. The University is proud to boast the largest Intramural and Recreational Sport programme in the country offering a more relaxed alternative to club sport which is open to anyone - individuals, groups of friends, postgraduates and international students alike. Many Intramural teams are affiliated with academic schools/subjects so you can play alongside people who have similar interests.

Intramural and Recreational Sport:

<p>78% INCREASE IN IM MEMBERSHIP</p>	<p>SU</p>	<p>1,842 IM FIXTURES</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL SPORTS IN IM (VOLLEYBALL AND TABLE TENNIS)</p>	
<p>INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL SPORT COORDINATORS: PARTNERSHIPS FORMED WITH 7 SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY TO ENGAGE STUDENTS NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN SPORT</p>	<p>LED TO 15</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL IM TEAM ENTRIES FROM SCHOOLS COMPARED TO 22/23</p>
<p>150 (capacity for event)</p>	<p>STUDENTS ATTENDED SU GAMES</p>	

<p>INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CLUB: WEEKLY ACTIVITY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED</p>		<p>OVER 200 STUDENTS ENGAGED</p>
	<p>454</p>	
<p>THOUSANDS OF ATTENDANCES THROUGH JUST PLAY, TASTER, STRESSBUSTER, THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CLUB AND SPORTSFEST EVENTS AND SESSIONS</p>		
<p>UOE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE EDINBURGH WINTER RUN</p>		



Inclusivity

“There is substantial research evidence that being physically active is beneficial for our mental health, by helping us feel good and function well. We are more likely to be active if we can find something we enjoy, it fits easily into our lifestyle, and we set ourselves goals to do it.”

Professor Ailsa Niven, Professor of Psychology of Physical Activity, The University of Edinburgh

Inclusivity in sport is a core value at the University of Edinburgh, reflected in our diverse range of initiatives and programmes. Our International Sports Club offers a welcoming environment where students from all backgrounds can come together, fostering cross-cultural connections through shared athletic pursuits. We are dedicated to providing inclusive opportunities for both staff and students, ensuring everyone has the chance to participate in and enjoy sports and wellbeing activities.

Our collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity. This partnership supports scholars from disadvantaged backgrounds, offering them access to education and sports opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. Additionally, our Volunteer Zambia project exemplifies our dedication to global inclusivity, as our students and staff work alongside local communities to develop sustainable sports programmes, promoting health and wellbeing.

Our Active Lives programme work attracts 70.6% participation from international students where they clearly identify social integration and inclusion as importantly and their respective physical and mental wellbeing.

At the University of Edinburgh, inclusivity is at the heart of everything we do. We continually strive to champion inclusivity for everyone, breaking down barriers and creating an environment where all individuals can thrive and succeed through the power of sport and active wellbeing.



Local community impacts

Sport and active wellbeing have a profound impact on the local community of Edinburgh, contributing to a healthier, more connected, and vibrant city. The University of Edinburgh is steadfast in its commitment to delivering positive change through our 32 promises, which we aim to fulfil over the next four years. By leveraging our research, education, staff, and students, we proactively collaborate with local communities to co-create opportunities and projects with measurable and sustainable impacts.

Our 32 commitments are divided into five key categories:

- **SUPPORTING SOCIAL IMPACT:** We focus on initiatives that promote health, inclusion, and community cohesion.
- **SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:** Our programmes are designed to disseminate expertise and foster mutual learning.
- **BUILDING CLOSE CONNECTIONS:** We prioritise strengthening ties between the University and local residents, creating a sense of unity and support.
- **PROVIDING SERVICES TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES:** We offer a range of services that benefit the local population, from facility access to educational programmes.
- **OPENING UP OUR ESTATE:** We ensure that our facilities and resources are accessible to the community, enhancing their utility and reach.

Over the past year, our Sport & Active Wellbeing initiatives have actively engaged with the local community in various impactful ways. We have provided facility access to local schools and clubs, supported local activity projects with volunteers, and engaged schools with our sustainability projects. Our ‘Wild Peffermill’ biodiversity project and tree planting initiatives at Easterbush have fostered environmental stewardship among local students and residents.

Additionally, we have successfully delivered Year 2 of our ‘BroSport’ Potential programme, which targets S1 and S2 pupils from deprived areas, offering leadership opportunities through sports activities outside of school hours. This programme supports positive youth development, providing an essential outlet for young people to develop skills and build confidence. Our swim school has also made a significant impact by offering swimming lessons to local children, promoting safety and physical fitness.

Sport and Active Wellbeing play a vital role in building connections with our local community, and we are proud of the positive influence our student volunteers have on young people. As our delivery continues to grow year on year, we remain committed to fostering a strong, supportive, and active community in Edinburgh.



“The University of Edinburgh’s ‘BroSport’ Potential programme has been a remarkable success, providing our S1 and S2 pupils from deprived areas with invaluable leadership opportunities through engaging sports activities. The dedication and brilliance of the staff make all the difference, creating an environment where our students can truly thrive outside of their usual surroundings. It’s inspiring to see the positive impact this programme has on our young people.”

Mr Wilson, Headteacher at Broughton High School

Global Impact – Volunteer Zambia



Four students and a staff volunteer have been actively engaged in our Volunteer Zambia project this year. The Wallace Group is a partnership, created in 2006 by several leading UK Universities to support sports development for young people in Zambia. The partnership's mission is to make a difference to the lives of young Zambian people by empowering and enriching communities, through the power of sport, leadership and education.

Our students and staff have spent a number of weeks/months over the past year upskilling and educating coaches, rather than teaching the sport. This empowers the local coaches to go out into their communities and deliver higher quality coaching sessions across Lusaka and further afield.

The University of Edinburgh Sport & Wellbeing teams remain committed to this programme for the foreseeable future whilst considering new global impact projects in line with Edinburgh Global.

“Through this experience, I've realised my ability to connect with others and deal with situations that require me to step out of my comfort zone with confidence and empathy. The project has enhanced my skills in teamwork and problem-solving, and has provided me with a clearer vision of the impact I want to make in my future career.”

Volunteer Zambia participant, July 2024



2023/2024 Roll of Honour - Representing Edinburgh on The Global and National Stage

“Throughout my time competing in high performance sport, the support that I have had from The University of Edinburgh has been fantastic. Whether it has been through access to world class facilities or the great support team around the performance programme it has really helped me stay at the top level of Diving.”

Grace Reid, triple Olympian, Olympic Finalist and World Silver Medallist

“The understanding of what it takes to be at the top level of any sport by those involved in the performance programme at The University of Edinburgh has undoubtedly helped me continue to perform at the top level whilst studying. There is a much needed balance to make sure you are progressing on both fronts and the support I get is amazing and I can’t thank the team enough. The access I get to top class facilities and support staff mixed with the Academic side has really helped me achieve the dream of performing at The Olympics in Paris.”

Charlie Aldridge, World U23 Mountain Bike Champion 2023 and 8th Place Paris Olympics

University of Edinburgh student-athletes have once again demonstrated outstanding performance both domestically, and on the international stage over the past year. Our athletes secured 8 major titles, and 113 were selected to represent their countries at junior and senior international level. Following an exceptional team and individual domestic season in the BUCS championships, our student-athletes have continued to excel both domestically at Scottish and UK championship levels as well as internationally. Impressively, 66 athletes have represented Scotland, the UK, or their respective countries globally this year, culminating in 11 Edinburgh athletes competing for Team GB/ Poland, at the Olympics and Paralympics, winning 4 medals. This remarkable achievement highlights the depth of talent at the University of Edinburgh and is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our athletes, coaches, support staff, and the entire performance team.



Olympics Selections, Paris 2024

Name	Result / Role	Sport	Subject
Oli Wilkes	Bronze Medal	Rowing	MSc Sustainable Energy Systems
Aleksandra Kalucka	Bronze Medal	Speed Climbing	MSc Computational Applied Mathematics
Lucy Hope	Olympic Finalist	Swimming	MA Accounting and Business
Megan Keith	Olympic Finalist	Athletics (10,000m)	BSc Applied Sport Science
Grace Reid	Olympic Finalist	Diving (3m Springboard)	BSc Applied Sport Science
Charlie Aldridge	8th Place	Mountain Biking	MEng Mechanical Engineering
Sarah Robertson	Quarter Finalist	Hockey	Law LLB
Lisa Thomson	Quarter Finalist	Rugby Sevens	Applied Sports Science (Past Student)
Amy Costello	Quarter Finalist	Hockey	Associated Athlete
Seonaid McIntosh	Olympic Selection -3 Disciplines	Shooting	MSc Performance Psychology
Lucy Glover	Travelling Reserve	Rowing	MA Psychology
Donald McIntosh	Olympic Selection	Coach	BSc Computer Science MSc Performance Psychology (Alumni)
Sarah Wilson	Officiated Olympic Final	Hockey	BEd Physical Education
Pete Mitchell	Olympic Selection	Physiotherapist	Staff Member

Paralympics Selections, Paris 2024

Name	Results	Sport	Course
Stephen Clegg	2 Paralympic Gold Medals and 1 World Record	Swimming	N/A
Mel Woods	Paralympic finalist	Athletics	MEd Physical Education

Hall of Fame Inductees 2024

Name	Status	Course	Sporting Activities
JJ Chalmers	Alumni	BA Education	Sports Broadcasting & Invictus Games Athlete
Lucy Hope	Alumni	MA(Hons) Accounting and Business	Swimming
Dr Jasmin Paris	Staff Member	Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Science	Ultra-Endurance Racing

International Honours

Name	International Achievements	Sport	Subject
Alyson Bell	Bronze Medal World Athletics Relays	Athletics	BSc Biological Sciences
Megan Keith	Bronze European Championships 10,000m	Athletics	BSc Applied Sport Science
Megan Keith	European U23 Champion 5,000m	Athletics	BSc Applied Sport Science
Megan Keith	European U23 Cross Country Champion	Athletics	BSc Applied Sport Science
Alice Goodall	World University Silver in Cross Country European U23 10,000m Gold	Athletics	BSc Applied Sport Science (Associated athlete)
Alice Goodall	World University Games 10,000m Silver	Athletics	BSc Applied Sport Science (Associated athlete)
Charlie Aldridge	U23 Cross Country World Champion	Cycling	MEng Mechanical Engineering
Grace Reid	World Championship 1m Silver Medallist	Diving	BSc Applied Sport Science
Fiona Bunn	British Orienteering Champion	Orienteering	PhD Biological Sciences
David Bunn	British Orienteering Champion	Orienteering	Msc Data Science for Biology
Fiona Bunn	World University Games Gold Medal Mixed Relay	Orienteering	PhD Biological Sciences
Rachel Brown	World University Games Gold Medal Mixed Relay	Orienteering	BSc Mathematics and Statistics

International Selections

Name	Sport	Country	Subject
Alyson Bell	Athletics	GB	BSc Biological Sciences
Megan Keith	Athletics	GB	BSc Applied Sport Science
Anna McGorum	Cycling	GB	BVM&S Veterinary Medicine
Charlie Aldridge	Cycling	GB	MEng Mechanical Engineering
Angus Menmuir	Diving	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Clara Kerr	Diving	Scotland	MBChB Medicine
Danny Mabbott	Diving	Scotland	MEng Chemical Engineering
Ellen Gillespie	Diving	Scotland	Medicinal & Biological Chemistry
Grace Reid	Diving	GB	BSc Applied Sport Science
Ellen Buckley	Fencing	Scotland	MA Primary Education with Gaelic
Mady Gale	Fencing	Scotland	MA Architecture
Mhairi McLaughlin	Fencing	Scotland	MA Psychology
Zoe Counter	Fencing	Scotland	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
Issac McKerr	Fencing	Scotland	MEng Civil Engineering
Ardeshir Ehteshami	Fencing	Ireland	MA Scandinavian Studies
Quentin Geoffroy	Fencing	Laos	MA Economics with Finance
Dennis Chang	Fencing	Malaysia	MA History
Ellie Russell	Gymnastics	Scotland	BSc Biomedical Sciences
Calum Douglas	Hockey	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Alexander Marsland	Hockey	Scotland	MA Economics
Jamie Croll	Hockey	Scotland	MA Geography & Politics
Iain McFadden	Hockey	Scotland	BSc Geophysics
Keir Robb	Hockey	Scotland	MBChB Medicine
Hamish Imrie	Hockey	Scotland	Performance Staff

Name	Sport	Country	Subject
Alex Wilson	Hockey	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Ava Findlay	Hockey	Scotland	MA Business & Law
Jika Nyirenda	Hockey	Scotland	MBChB Medicine
Sophie Anderson	Hockey	Scotland	BSc Sport Management
Katie Swanson	Hockey	Scotland	MA Geography & Anthropology
Neave Halliday	Hockey	Scotland	MA Business with Enterprise and Innovation
Connie Roxburgh	Hockey	Scotland	BSc Biomedical Sciences
Zara Kennedy	Hockey	Scotland	BSc Sport Management
Ollie Short	Judo	GB	MA Economics
Adam Hamill	Karate	Scotland & GB	BSc Applied Sport Science
Fiona Bunn	Orienteering	GB	PhD Biological Sciences
Rachel Brown	Orienteering	GB	BSc Mathematics & Statistics
Boyan Ivandjиков	Orienteering	Bulgaria	MEng Chemical Engineering
Isabelle Knott	Rowing	Scotland	MA Sociology
Harry Paterson	Rugby	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Matt Currie	Rugby	Scotland	MA Business Management
Alex Stewart	Rugby	Scotland	Law LLB
Luca Musat	Rugby 7s	Romania	MA Economics
Luc McNally-Drew	Rugby 7s	Jamaica	MA Geography
Kara Hanlon	Swimming	GB	Msc Sport Policy Management and International Development
Archie Goodburn	Swimming	GB	MEng Chemical Engineering
Stephen Clegg	Swimming	GB	Associated Athlete
Uiseann Cooke	Swimming	Ireland	MEng Electrical & Mechanical Engineering
Iman Kanoute	Taekwondo	Mali	MBChB Medicine
Isla Britton	Triathlon	Canada	BSc Medical Sciences

Name	Sport	Country	Subject
Isla Hedley	Triathlon	Scotland	MA Landscape Architecture
Lucy Hobman	Water Polo	Scotland	MA Architecture
Grace Dowley	Water Polo	Scotland	LLB International Relations & International Law
Molly Meldrum	Water Polo	Scotland	BSc Geography
Kai Harper	Women's Lacrosse	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Phoebe Thornett	Women's Lacrosse	Scotland	BSc Sport and Recreation Management
Freddy Foxwell	Rowing	Scotland	MEng Electronics and Computer Science
Murray Bone	Rowing	Scotland	MA Economics & Finance
Magnus Heidenreich	Rowing	Scotland	BEng Mechanical Engineering
Alex Dixon	Rowing	Scotland	MA Economics and Politics
James Deardon	Rowing	Scotland	MEng Chemical Engineering
Charley Faint	Rowing	Scotland	MA Linguistics and Social Anthropology
Izzy Clements	Rowing	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Isla MacCallum	Rowing	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Grace Dawson	Rowing	Scotland	MA German and Politics
Clara O'Doherty	Rowing	Scotland	MA History of Art
Alex Delaney	Rowing	Wales	MSc Finance

International Selection - Age Group

Name	Sport	Age Group	Country	Subject
Owen Gould	Cricket	U19	Scotland	BSc Sport Science
Farhan Khan	Cricket	U19	Scotland	MA Economics
Drew Lobb	Hockey	U21	Scotland	MA Business and Economics
Rory Steedman	Hockey	U18	Scotland	BEng Chemical Engineering
Sam Hunt	Hockey	U21	Scotland	MA Human Geography
Arthur Owens	Hockey	U21	Scotland	MA Linguistics
Tom Cahalin	Hockey	U21	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Johnny Bradley	Hockey	U21	Scotland	Architecture
Henry Porter	Hockey	U21	Scotland	BSc Computational Physics
Tom Fox	Hockey	U21	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Katie Binsted	Lacrosse	U20	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Imogen Cochran	Lacrosse	U20	Scotland	MA Geography
Ana Bole	Lacrosse	U20	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Rachel Watson	Lacrosse	U20	Scotland	MA Theology
Grace Davison	Lacrosse	U21	England	MA Social Anthropology
Catalina Burguera	Lacrosse	U21	Spain	MA History
Ava Smith	Hockey	U21	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Kirsten Murison	Hockey	U21	Scotland	BSc Computer Science & Mathematics
Katie Brett	Hockey	U21	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Rory Askew	Rugby	U18/U20	Belgium	MA Biochemistry
Lucy Evans	Shooting	U23	GB	BSc Applied Sport Science
Jim Bailey	Orienteering	Junior	GB	BSc Geography

Name	Sport	Age Group	Country	Subject
Rachel Brown	Orienteering	Junior	GB	BSc Mathematics & Statistics
Johnny Evans	Ultimate	U24	GB	
Holly Turnbull	Netball	U21	Scotland	BSc Sport Management
Felicity Rome	Netball	U21 & Scotland A	Scotland	MA Classical Studies
Becca McKelvie	Netball	U21	Scotland	MA Physical Education
Jessica Mitchell	Netball	U21	Scotland	BSc Neuroscience
Rose Kinsler	Netball	U21	Scotland	Law LLB
Aela Stewart	Netball	U19	Ireland	BSc Environmental Geoscience
Mia Mathewson	Netball	U21 & Scotland A	Scotland	MA Business with Marketing
Poppy Fletcher	Rugby	U20	Scotland	BSc Applied Sport Science
Hannah Walker	Rugby	U20	Scotland	BSc Biological Sciences
Aila Ronald	Rugby	U20	Scotland	BSc Psychology
Natasha Logan	Rugby	U20	Scotland	MA Psychology and Business
Rhea Clarke	Rugby	U20	Scotland	MA Scottish Ethnology
Nicole Flynn	Rugby	U20	Scotland	BSc Biological Sciences
Lucy MacRae	Rugby	U20	Scotland	MEng Mechanical Engineering
Anna Donald	Rowing	Junior	Scotland	BA Film & Television
Meghan Bromham	Rowing	Junior	Scotland	BSc Environmental Geoscience
Erica Watt	Rowing	Junior	Scotland	BSc Environmental Geoscience BSc Sport Management
Hannah Supple	Rowing	U23	GB	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
Josh Matthews	Rowing	U23	GB	BSc Applied Sport Science
Luke Hornsey	Swimming	European Juniors	GB	Associated Athlete

World University Championship Selection

Names	Sport	Country	Subject
Niamh Hunter	Orienteering	GB	MChem Physics
Isobel Howard	Orienteering	GB	BSc Geophysics
Fiona Bunn	Orienteering	GB	PhD Biological Sciences
David Bunn	Orienteering	GB	MSc Data Science for Biology
Rachel Brown	Orienteering	GB	BSc Mathematics And Statistics
James Bailey	Orienteering	GB	BSc Geography
Euan Tryner	Orienteering	GB	MEng Civil Engineering
Eilidh Campbell	Orienteering	GB	BSc Geology and Physical Geography
Boyan Ivandjиков	Orienteering	Bulgaria	MEng Chemical Engineering
Thomas Laraia	Orienteering	USA	PhD Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences
Isla Britton	Triathlon	Canada	BSc Medical Sciences
Cade Wright	Triathlon	Hong Kong	BSc Mathematics
Tallulah Wright	Triathlon	Hong Kong	MA International Relations

Coaches / Team Management & Support Services / Media

Name	Staff Achievements	Sport	Role
Claire Cruikshank	Edinburgh Rugby Scotland U20 Scotland Women	Rugby	Head Coach Skills Coach
Chris Jones	European Juniors GB	Swimming	Coach
Bart Sengers	Dutch Women U20 European Basketball Champions	Basketball	Head Coach
Matilda Mayne	European Juniors Scotland U20 Coastal Rowing/Beach Sprints – Senior Squad	GB Fencing Rugby Rowing	Sports Psychologist
Colin Williamson	Scotland Senior Men	Rowing	Lead Coach
Dale Flockhart	Scotland Senior Men	Rowing	Coach
Eric White	Scotland Senior Men World Indoor Athletics Championships	Hockey Athletics	Physiotherapist
Tracy McAdam	Scotland Senior Men Formula 1 – Mercedes British Open water Team	Hockey Motor Sport Swimming	Physiotherapist
Mat Trodden	European U23 GB Sette Colli Scottish Swimming	Swimming	Coach
Danny Kirkham	Scottish Swimming Geneva International	Swimming	Coach
Trish Wilcox	Scotland A	Netball	Coach
Don McKenzie	Scottish Commonwealth Cadet & Juniors GB Athlete Development	Fencing	Team Manager Coach

BUCS Individual Medallists

BUCS Individual	Name	Sport
Athletics	Alyson Bell	Women's 60m Indoor
Archery	Natasha Homer	Women's Recurve Indoor
Archery	Jake Walsh	Mens Compound Indoor
Archery	Jake Walsh	Mens Compound Outdoor
Archery	Natasha Homer, Grace Goh & Aleksandra Piperkova	Non-Compound Women's Team
Archery	Jake Walsh & Xiang Kun Kong	Compound Team
Cycling	Mieke Kalmijn & Eliza Barrie	Downhill Mountain Bike Women's Team
Jiu Jitsu	Megan Stamp	Women's Individual
Karate	Adam Hamill	Senior Kumite -60kg
Karate	Antoine Pinardin	Senior Kumite +84kg
Karate	Holly Buchanan	Senior Kumite -68kg
Orienteering	Fiona Bunn, Rachel Brown & Isobel Howard	Women's Relay
Orienteering	James Bailey, Euan Tryner & Boyan Ivandjиков	Men's Relay
Orienteering	Fiona Bunn	Women's Individual
Orienteering	David Bunn	Men's Individual
Rowing	Josh Matthews & Murray Bone	Open Double Scull
Rowing	Josh Matthews	Indoor Open Champion
Rifle	Thomas Ralph	Men's Individual - Short Range
Rifle	Thomas Ralph	Men's Individual - Long Range
Rifle	Lauren Hastie	Women's Individual - Long Range
Rifle	Thomas Ralph & Lauren Hastie	Pairs - Long Range
Rifle	Thomas Ralph, Lauren Hastie, Josh Mitchell & Eilidh Scheuerl	Team of Four - Long Range
Rifle	Thomas Ralph, Lauren Hastie, Josh Mitchell, Eilidh Scheuerl, Aleyana Kartal, Floris Hijink, George Wood & Rachel Somerset	Team of Eight - Long Range
Snowsports	Max Hedgecoe	Men's Ski Big Air - BUDS

BUCS Individual	Name	Sport
Rifle	Hannah Gray, Josephine Bondi Grys, Eve Boswood, Thomas Rofe and Ewan Forbes	Ski Duals - Indoor Champs
Swimming	Archie Goodburn	Open 100 IM – Short Course
Swimming	Archie Goodburn	Open 50m Breaststroke - Short Course
Swimming	Archie Goodburn	Open 100m Breaststroke - Short Course
Swimming	Scott Gibson, Archie Goodburn, Tom Carswell & Bruno Kempster	Open 4x50 Medley Relay - Short Course
Swimming	Archie Goodburn	Open 50m Breaststroke - Long Course
Swimming	Tom Carswell, Archie Goodburn, Scott Gibson & David Cumberlidge	Open 4x100m Freestyle Relay - Long Course
Swimming	David Cumberlidge	Open 50m Freestyle Relay - Long Course
Swimming	Kara Hanlon	Women's 200m Breaststroke - Long Course

BUCS Team Results

BUCS League Champions	Women's Fencing	Fencing
BUCS Championship Winners	Women's Fencing	Fencing
BUCS Runners Up	Men's Waterpolo	Waterpolo

National Team & Individual Awards

Women's Orienteering – British Universities & Colleges Sport Team of the Year 2024

Women's Orienteering – Scottish Student Sport Team of the Year 2024

Megan Keith – Scottish Student Sport Female Athlete of the Year

Charlie Aldridge – Scottish Student Sport Male Athlete of the Year



Our External Collaborative Partnerships and Staff Expertise



At the University of Edinburgh, internal cross-departmental partnerships are vital to our success, fostering innovation and cohesion across our diverse academic, professional services and administrative landscape. Collaborations between departments such as Sport & Exercise, EUSU, Moray House School of Education & Sport, and Social Responsibility & Sustainability amplify our impact, driving forward initiatives that benefit our entire community. These internal synergies complement our robust national and international partnerships with organisations like the International Olympic Committee, British Rowing, and Scottish Rugby, enabling us to leverage global expertise and resources. Together, these collaborations ensure we remain at the forefront of sport and active wellbeing, both locally and globally.

Key Partnerships and additional staff impacts that have been instrumental to our collaborative work this academic year include;

- New partnership with Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) supporting mental health initiatives across all Sport & Active Wellbeing activities.
- Awarded National Olympic Training Centre status along with Scottish Rowing and the University of St Andrews for Coastal Rowing.
- Independently, awarded Great Britain Performance Development Centre status for coastal rowing on top of our existing flatwater programme.
- Awarded Aquatics GB National Diving Centre Programme partnership hosts.
- Contributed significantly to the successful award of the International Olympic Committee Research Centre along with MHSES and Bath University.
- Awarded Founding Partner status for UK Anti Doping's Clean Sport HE Partnership.
- New multi-faceted partnership with Edinburgh Rugby.
- Designated as the Centre of Excellence for Scotland's Senior International Hockey Programme.
- Designated as a Regional Performance Training Centre for Basketball Scotland.
- Partnership with Edinburgh Orthopaedics, UKCCIIS, Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) and launched the Biennial Edinburgh Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine Conference.

- Entered into a 5-year partnership with global fitness leaders, Technogym.
- Extended our partnership with global strength & conditioning experts, Eleiko.
- Dr Andrew Murray – appointed SEM Lead Consultant at Ryder Cup, DP World Tour Golf, World Athletics Indoor Championships plus various independent WHO and national research papers.
- Dr Alastair Nicol – appointed Senior SEM Consultant on DP World and European Tour Golf as well as working with the Mercedes Formula 1 team.
- Tracy McAdam – appointed lead physiotherapist with Mercedes Formula 1 team
- Performance Lead Coach for Women's Rugby, Claire Cruikshank, was awarded the Principal's Medal as well as being appointed as Scotland U20 and Edinburgh Rugby women's lead coach.
- Various influencing places on Scottish Student Sport and British Universities and Colleges Sport committees.
- Pete Mitchell – Lead physiotherapist for the Paris Olympics golf programme and a Consultant Physiotherapist for the DP World Golf Tour.
- Director of Sport & Active Health, Mark Munro - appointed to the World Athletics Expert Panel and the Scottish Golf Performance Management Group.

Continued national and international partnerships from previous years include;

- Volunteer Zambia Project
- Scottish Swimming Performance Development Centre
- Scottish Athletics – National Endurance Academy
- YMCA - accredited delivery centre

Academic Integration and Contribution



Whilst predominantly 'delivery' focused, the Sport & Active Wellbeing teams at the University are actively committed and engaged across a number of collaborative academic areas. Alongside our academic colleagues we have supported across each of the student support services team, to educate colleagues on the benefits of leading an active lifestyle and to ensure they have the knowledge to appropriately signpost students to our programmes and services. Since supporting with the first cohort of Wellbeing Advisor inductions, we have had the opportunity to deliver equivalent sessions to 1,933 staff/students through units such as the chaplaincy, counselling service and student advisors, as well as presenting on monthly at the Student Support and Wellbeing meets.



In terms of academic cross-over, some examples of our collaborative approach with Moray House School of Education and Sport can be demonstrated through;

Research Grants

UKCCIIS IOC Research Centre grant. Debbie Palmer Co-Director (MHSES), Keith Stokes Co-Director (UBath), Carly McKay (UBath), Andrew Murray (FASIC), Iain Murray (Edinburgh Orthopaedics)

Research grant. Stelios Psycharakis PI (MHSES), Linda Linton (FASIC). AQUA STEPS: Aquatic exercise therapy for fall prevention in older adults- A feasibility study

Consultancy / Research Projects

PAHRC (Marie Murphy) – ongoing meetings with Sport & Exercise to discuss Physical Activity for Health Strategy across the University – including 'Active Health Summit' 31/10/23 – Peffermill – UoE.

UKCCIIS Defence rehabilitation opportunity with DMRC Stanford Hall - link with Alastair Nicol (FASIC & SportScotland Sports Medic).

UKCCIIS iKOALA app research three strands/pillars - Improving function decreasing pain in current patients to delay surgery; preparation for surgery; and post-surgery recovery – links with Linda Linton FASIC physiotherapy lead, Iain Murray and Andrew Duckworth and Nick Clement (Edinburgh Orthopaedics)

PhD Student Supervision

PhD student 1– supervisors Paul Kelly (MHSES), Andrew Murray (FASIC), Sam Fawkner (MHSES)

PhD student 2 – supervisors Andrew Murray (FASIC), Debbie Palmer (MHSES), Georgios Machtsiras (MHSES)

PhD student 3 – supervisors Andrew Murray (FASIC), Nick Clement (Edinburgh Orthopaedics, Jon Kelly (FASIC), Debbie Palmer (MHSES)

Teaching collaboration

Sport and Exercise Medicine 4 – Linda Linton (FASIC), Debbie Palmer (MHSES). Course leading 100%(MHSES), content and delivery 40%(MHSES staff input)/60%(FASIC staff input), marking 50%(MHSES)/50%(FASIC)

Sport and exercise medicine MSc course at University of Bath, UKCCIIS discussion. Heather Binnington (FASIC), Andrew Murray (FASIC), Carly McKay (UBath)

Student-led projects with S&E: Sport Science (Project) 3; Sport Science (Dissertation) 4; Strength & Conditioning Dissertation (MSc).

Workplace/research attachment optional courses in years 3: Sport Science (Workplace attachment) 3; Sport Science: Research attachment 4

Ongoing placement opportunities for BSc Sports Management Students (Led by Colin Thomson with Cameron Ritchie (Sport & Exercise))

Student experience

A significant number of SPEHS (Moray House) students benefit from employment within Sport & Exercise (39).

A considerable amount of SPEHS students gain valuable practical volunteering experience (coaching, leading, managing, officiating) through EU Sports Union activities on a weekly basis.

In summary, there is a significant ongoing co-operation between research centres in SPEHS, particularly UKCCIIS, and Sport & Exercise. Moreover, there are a number of important initiatives underway – both in terms of RKEI and potentially, consultancy. Moreover, a capstone course in BSc Applied Sport Science (Sports Medicine) is co-staffed by colleagues in both organisations. It is clear that there is an established and ongoing pattern of co-operation and the success that has been realised is of mutual benefit.

University of Edinburgh Curriculum Transformation Project

Sport & Active Wellbeing continue to work to support the University's Curriculum Transformation project and discussions are ongoing in respect of the practical and experiential impact that our programmes can support. In particular, Active Lives staff have been working closely with colleagues from PAHRC & MHSES to deliver a pilot enrichment course as part of the Edinburgh Lead Well component of curriculum transformation, as well as co-producing a university wide campaign which delivers latest research into practice.



Social Responsibility & Sustainability



“Our UoE Sport teams have been exemplary in their proactive approach and unwavering support for environmental responsibilities. Their leadership in this area is commendable and aligns seamlessly with the University’s broader Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) plans, this has been recognised through a number of Changemaker Awards this past year. By integrating sustainable practices into their operations and promoting environmental awareness, they are setting a high standard and making a significant impact within our community, none more so than through the first ‘Wild Campus’ project at Peffermill.”

Dave Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility & Sustainability

Our Sport & Active Wellbeing collaboration is fully committed to the University’s wider targets in the area of social responsibility and sustainability where we plan to establish the University as a global leader in social responsibility and sustainability in sport.

University of Edinburgh Sport are committed to ensuring our student activities are accessible and affordable. We aim to do this by diversifying our income to meet our budgetary obligations and challenges, and reduce our environmental impact wherever possible.

We will maintain the implementation sustainable practices (eg historical removal of plastic water bottles/cups from our sites and extending the use of PlayerLayer’s eco clothing lines amongst students and staff) in all sports and active wellbeing events, facilities and operations. We will also continue to engage with local communities to promote sustainability awareness, and foster student involvement in championing ‘green’ initiatives.

This year we have launched a number of new initiatives, been recognised with four ‘Changemaker’ Awards and have facilitated various bio-diversity projects on our sites at Peffermill, Easterbush and Firbush. As well as the continuation of our sector first and leading annual ‘tree planting’ programme we have also recently launched our ‘Wild Peffermill’ project in partnership with the SRS department. This involves;

- The Wild Peffermill project aims to protect, restore, enhance and create habitats for wildlife across Peffermill Playing Fields
- We will bring non-pitch areas across the site under active management to improve its biodiversity value and connect habitats for wildlife.
- Over 25,000 m² of non-pitch amenity grassland areas are currently being transformed into wildflower meadows and grasslands.
- Woodland areas will be brought under active management to improve their health and develop understorey habitat.
- Hedgerows will be left to grow between cutting cycles and edge habitats will develop where there is space at the site boundary.
- Non-native invasive plant species will be removed along the Braid Burn and trees will be planted to improve the riparian habitat.

Events

High-profile events are important to the University of Edinburgh, significantly enhancing our status and profile on the global stage. These events not only underscore the importance of partnership support but also reinforce our commitment to the local community of Edinburgh. They provide our students with unparalleled opportunities to compete and showcase their talents in the city where they are pursuing their education.

In the 2023/24 academic year, we have partnered with three core events and initiatives: the Edinburgh International Swimming Event, the World Sprint Orienteering Championships, and Scottish Running Week. Additionally, we continue to support the Edinburgh Winter Run and numerous other local community initiatives. These engagements are vital for fostering strong local relationships and creating diverse opportunities within the city of Edinburgh.

The University of Edinburgh Sport team has also hosted a number of external events from international hockey, volleyball, and netball matches along with visiting professional rugby and football teams to large scale multi-day tournaments such as the Edinburgh City 7s (rugby) and the Edinburgh Cup (age group international football club competition).



“The team at Peffermill are a joy to work with, having worked with other venues in the past Peffermill are a level above in terms of professionalism, flexibility, open-mindedness and also share the same passion as we do for participation in sport. The staff are easy to get in contact with and are quick to respond to any communication we have in the lead up to the event, and during the event they are fun, helpful and go above-and-beyond to help the event run smoothly. The facilities are some of the best in the UK and the ground staff always have the pitches looking pristine for our event and are happy to work with us for any adaptations we need to make to our festival.”

Donald Crawford, Edinburgh City Rugby 7s

Investment in Facilities

“The facilities at the University of Edinburgh are truly world-class. The strength and conditioning facilities are top-notch, providing everything we need to train at the highest level. The grass pitches are immaculate, offering the perfect surface for our match preparation. The staff here are outstanding - friendly, helpful, and always going the extra mile to ensure we have what we need. It's always excellent experience all around.”

The All Blacks Rugby Team

Facilities at the University continue to offer fantastic value for money and in many cases, are world class. Working with our wider staff teams within Sport & Exercise along with key stakeholders from SRS & Estates has allowed us to develop a synergy of sustainable infrastructure practices.

However, the ongoing challenge that we face is the increased demand in both outdoor and indoor provision, particularly as the club membership and number of sports continues to grow, this is particularly challenging for our indoor facilities access.

In saying that, we are extremely grateful to the University for the ongoing investment within our sport and active wellbeing facilities. In conjunction with Estates, we have delivered our Sport & Active Wellbeing Facilities plan (Oct 2023) which outlines the required and proposed investments through to 2035. Our plan has provided a clear vision and transparency for all University departments and will ensure we play our role in the next planning round for 2025-2030. Thanks to the support of our colleagues in Estates and Finance we have been successful in securing an investment of £8M from the Policy & Resources Committee across seven facilities projects in 2024/25.

This past year has seen an investment of circa £2M into two projects within the Pleasance Sports Complex – a major refurbishment in the Eric Liddell Gym and the complete refurbishment of Old Reception changing rooms.

Next year should see the delivery of the following projects;

- Peffermill Hockey 2 & MUGA 1-3 re-surface & upgrades
- New Strathclyde Park Boat Store
- New Cameron Bank 3G Rugby pitch and stand at Peffermill
- South Pitch adjustment for Trim Trail Track as part of wider Peffermill trim trail development – circa 700/800m creating a 2500m loop on site.
- Firbush Outdoor Centre x 2 projects - kitchen & wc/shower facility upgrades
- Easter Bush Campus - gym refurbishment





Contact

Sport & Exercise,
The University of Edinburgh,
46 Pleasance,
Edinburgh,
EH8 9TJ

uoesport.ed.ac.uk

Credits

ICONS: ADRIEN COQUET, AMAD RIZAL, CUPUTO, GAN KHOON LAY, GRAVISIO, INYOUNG PARK, LARS MEIERTBERENS, LNHI, LUCKY DAY, MAGICON, MICHAEL THOMPSON, ROHIT ARUN RAO, SAM DESIGNS, SEUNGJUN, SHASHANK SINGH, SITI ZULLYANTI AFIDAH, SUPENI, SURYAMAN, UTINGDDF, USWA KDT, YANDI RS FROM NOUN PROJECT.

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