



Things you need to know about studying in Scotland



Meeting new people, becoming acquainted with a new culture and a new lifestyle and learning something new at a place not known as home: These days studying abroad sounds fascinating for many school graduates not only because it's a completely new experience but also a chance to escape their old life and a new opportunity to grow as a person in many different aspects. Studying specifically in Scotland is intriguing for many students because of their highly advanced study program. Scotland is one of the four countries making up the UK. In Scotland live 5.4 million people, which makes about 8.5% of the total UK population. Having friends that went to study in the UK, we already knew the basics but to give this blog more concrete context, we visited the University of Edinburgh and had a chat with the student recruitment officer and some students who showed us the university and told us about the perks and difficulties of studying in Scotland. Here are some important things you need to know if you consider studying in the UK and particularly in Scotland.

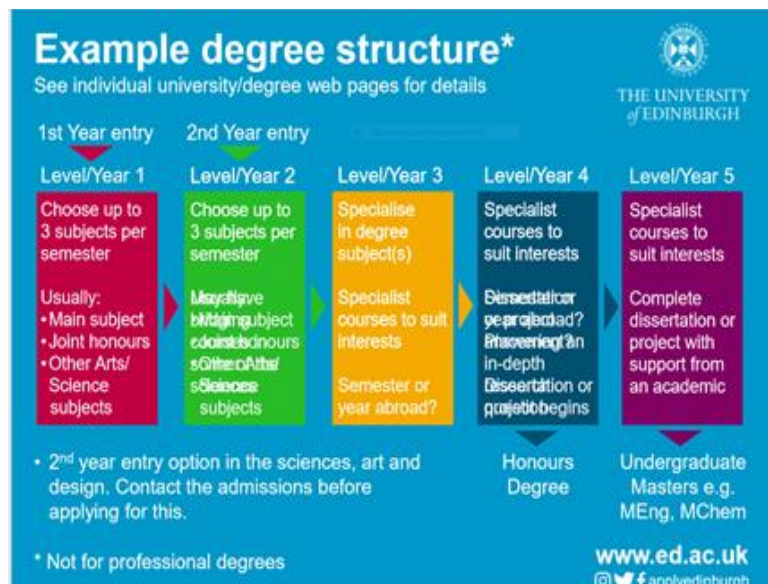
How to apply

In the UK there are two different types of courses in Universities. The undergraduate courses and the postgraduate courses. An undergraduate is a student who joins the university for the first time and studies for his first degree, most likely to be a bachelor. A postgraduate is a student who has already completed his first degree and continues to study for another degree, like a diploma or plans on accomplishing a phd.

If you plan on applying for an undergraduate course in Scotland, you will need to apply through the so-called UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Centre. This is an online program that requires you to provide them with personal information, your current employment and also your stand of education and a reference to why you would like to study in the UK. This admission program costs a small amount of money.

But if you plan to apply for a postgraduate degree, you need to make sure that you meet the entry requirements for the degree you have chosen. This time you will need to apply directly to the university of your choice because every university has different entry requirements for postgraduates.

Because English is not your first language, most universities require you to take an English language test, which generally consists of advanced writing, reading and talking. But if you already have some kind of English language qualification, you won't need to take another test.





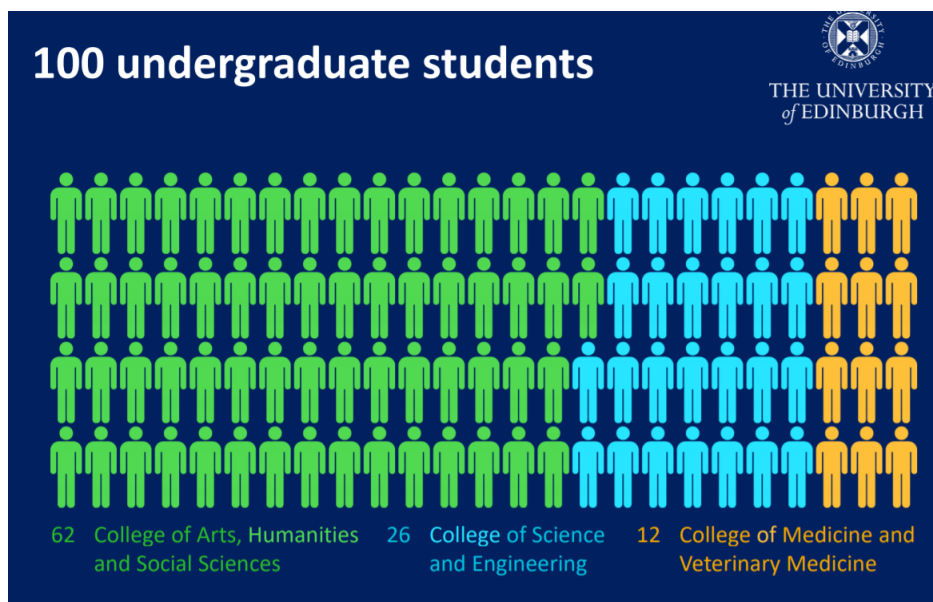
Applying after Brexit

The right for EU residents to live, work and study in the UK won't change until 31 December 2020. After 2020 you will need to apply for a visa yourself and also the cost of the course can vary. Before Brexit UK and EU students were in the same category but after Brexit you will be one of the many international students in the UK. The international students consisted of any students outside of the UK and EU, for example the US or China.

Studying at Edinburgh University

Subjects

As you can see in the chart below, there are three different types of subjects at the University of Edinburgh. The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science. The College of Science and Engineering and the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. Among 100 undergraduate students, the college of arts, humanities and social science is the most common with over 62 students in 100. Following is the College of Science and Engineering with 26 in a 100 and lastly 12 of the 100 students are from the college of medicine and veterinary medicine. Medicine is most likely to be the subject with the least students because it mostly requires any type of school degree with a final grade of at least 1,8.



Accommodation

At the University of Edinburgh over 5000 first-year students live in accommodations. These dorms are most likely to be on campus or near any university building. Normally rents include all heating and water expenses and internet access as well as a personal contents insurance. The different buildings are always staffed by a flat manager, wardens and resident managers to keep the buildings in check. Normally accommodations in Scotland are paid in weekly expenses and cost about 100-250 pounds a week depending on if you cook for yourself or eat at the cafeteria, or if you want a single bedroom or a twin room. UoE has 4 different kinds of dorms located at 4 different parts of their university.

Farida and Nina

Sources: University of Edinburgh presentation from Student recruitment officer and studyingintheuk.com



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Student life

Studying at the University of Edinburgh comes with many interesting things. Such as many different student societies you can join or also sports teams you can join. UoE, in particular, has over 200 different societies you can join. These societies are a great place to meet new friends

Selected Student Societies

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

- African Drumming Society
- Amnesty International Society
- Anarchist Society
- Anime and Animation Society
- Archaeology Society
- Baking Society
- Ballroom Dancing Society
- Beer and Brewing Society
- Brass Band
- Capoeira Society
- Chamber Orchestra
- Chess Society
- Children's Holiday Venture
- Chinese Students' Association
- Christian Union
- Game Development Society
- Debates Union
- Dirty Weekenders
- Doctor Who Society
- Feminist Society
- FilmSoc
- Footlights
- Formula Student
- Fresh Air Student Radio
- Harry Potter Society
- History Society
- Jazz Orchestra
- Juggling Society
- Knit Soc
- Model United Nations
- Modern Dance Society
- Murder Mystery Society
- New Scotland Country Dance
- Officers' Training Corps
- People & Planet
- Photography Society
- Physics & Astronomy Society
- Pole Dancing Society
- Sign Language Society
- SocieTEA
- String Orchestra
- Student Newspaper
- Swing Dance Society
- Tai Chi Society
- Tango Society
- TEDx
- Theatre Company (Bedlam)
- Theatre Paradok
- Trading and Investment
- UNICEF on Campus Society
- Untapped Talent
- Vegetarian and Vegan Society
- Wargames Society
- Water of Life Society
- West African Dance Society
- Wilderness Medicine Society
- Wind Band
- Wine Society
- Yoga Society
- Zoological Society

outside of your subject. UoE also has a program designed for their exchange students, where they hold an event specifically for students from one country, so that they can also meet up and get to know each other. Besides this, UoE also has about a hundred different sports club you can join from American Football to Weightlifting. To sum up, there are many different ways of meeting new people and becoming friends with students from a different country. It makes meeting new people easy. As we walked

through the many cafes the UoE had accompanied in its building, we were able to ask two male students aged 20 to 24 about their experience at UoE and Scotland in particular so far. They came from south of England, so they told us that in general, student life in England and Scotland aren't that different from England but Scotland, to be more precise, Edinburgh, being a more comfortable experience than London, for example. This comes from the fact that Edinburgh is a really small city compared to London or any other big university city. They said that UoE gives a very family-like feeling and makes you feel super welcomed instead of making you feel lost and nervous on your first day. Also, they told us about other opportunities to meet new people in Edinburgh at so-called comedy or jazz clubs. These clubs are everywhere in Edinburgh and are a great experience for new students.

Conclusion

To sum up, our stated most important things you need to know if you consider studying in the UK particularly in Edinburgh, studying in the UK will be a challenge depending on where you plan on studying. Studying at UoE, for example, seems difficult because in general, you will need an overall grade 2.0 for any kind of subject. But apart from this entry requirement, we believe that UoE is the most welcoming and hospitable University we have ever been to and we can only recommend you to check out their site if you consider studying in Scotland. We hope you could learn a thing or two from our post and good luck to all students with an upcoming entrance exam.

Farida and Nina

Sources: University of Edinburgh presentation from Student recruitment officer and studyingintheuk.com

The Scottish Industrial Revolution: Shipbuilding and the people behind it.

Hello dear readers, did you know that Scotland was the land of the engineers and inventors. During the Scottish industrial revolution there were multiple advancements in technology and science, which made shipbuilding and seafaring a lot easier and safer and thus made the trade of resources like textiles easier. Before coming to Scotland my partner **Luan** and me, **Ozan**, did not have a lot of knowledge about this topic. Now, after having visited the National Museum of Scotland and doing online research, we are confident in informing you about shipbuilding in Scotland and the people, who helped refine this process.

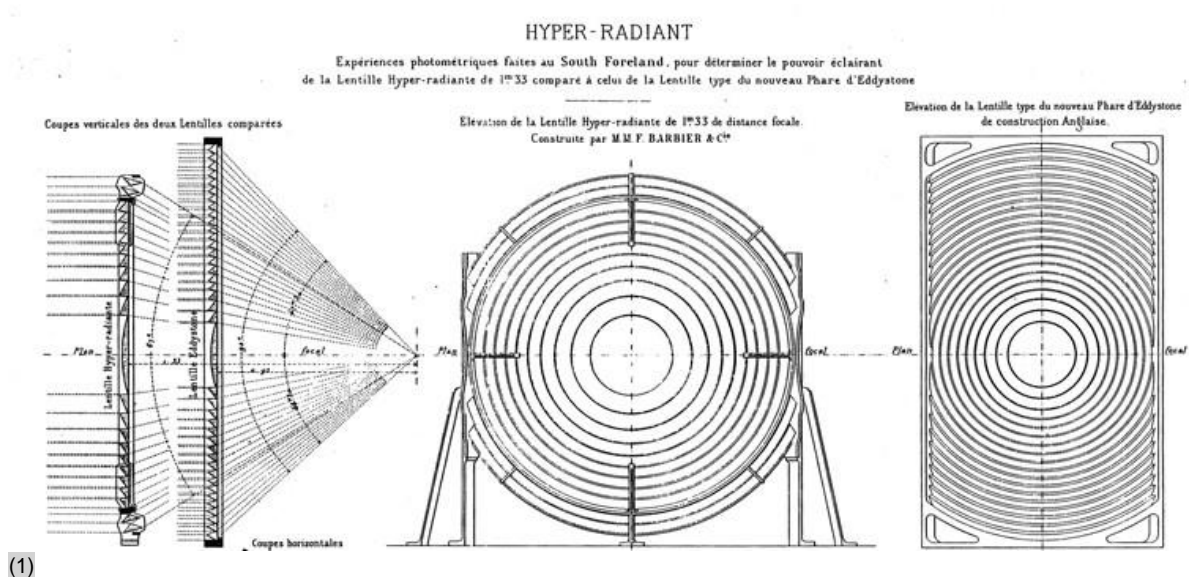
One person, who was important for the progress in Scotland's industry, was the chemist Joseph Black. He found an easier way to bleach linen and a way to protect the hull of ships by painting tar on them.

Another person was the Hydrographer Alexander Dalrymple. He was the first hydrographer of the Admiralty and the inventor of the science of recording and charting the oceans. Dalrymple is credited with being a leading factor for the growth of the British Empire, since his development in admiral charts caused the Royal Navy to have the most accurate sea charts in the world

However, the most important engineers for shipbuilding and seafaring are the Stevensons, who were a whole family of lighthouse engineers. The Stevensons build plenty lighthouses in Scotland and helped with others in India New Zealand and Japan.

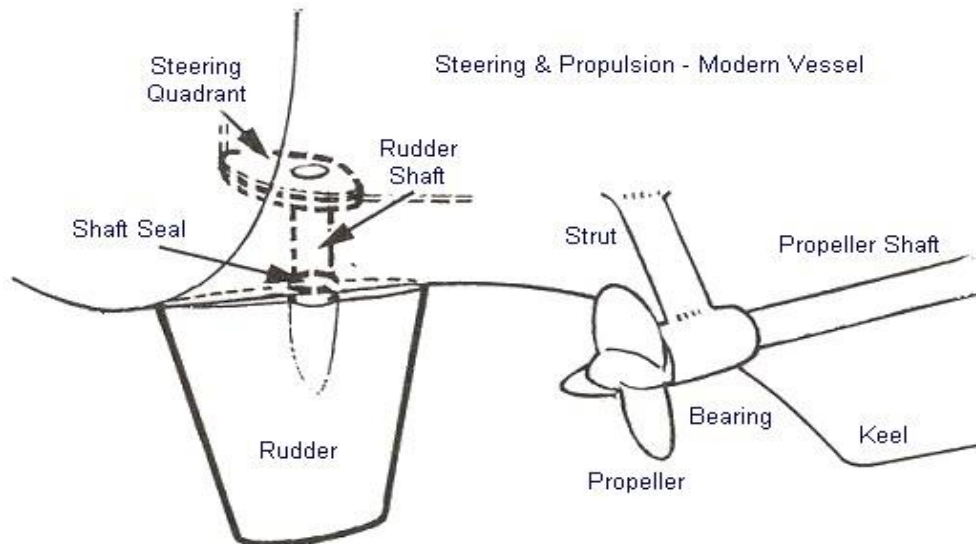
To give you guys some insight to their motivation, I'll have the inventor Thomas Stevenson speak for himself : "Among the many works of man, which prove the truth of the saying that 'knowledge is power', we must not omit those solitary towers, often half-buried in the surge, that convert hidden dangers into the source of safety, so that the sailor now steers for those very rocks which he formerly dreaded.". It sounds like the Stevenson's were really devoted to their work. Would you not agree?

Nevertheless, their help in the development of the hyper Fresnel lens can be classified as their most important contribution to the development of Great Britain's seafaring.



This picture is a blueprint of a hyper Fresnel lens, or hyper radial lens, which was drawn by the French company BBT after the Stevenson's requested a change in the size of a lens. I slightly edited the picture to match the one that was used by the National Museum of Scotland. The idea for the lens was mentioned by Thomas Stevenson to the Northern lighthouse board, a General Lighthouse Authority responsible for the waters surrounding Scotland and the Isle of Man in 1869, and again proposed as an idea in 1885. The French Commission for Lighthouses, namely Francois Arago, Claude Mathieu and Augustin Fresnel, started to design prototypes of this lens.

Something else we learned during our trip to Scotland is just how important shipbuilding was for Scotland, especially Clydebank in Glasgow. With the invention of the steam engine it allowed the construction of ships, which could always go against the winds and reach their destination and with that the era of steamships had begun. However, since Scotland primarily had wooden sail ships, they experimented with patrol and diesel engines as it was far easier to convert a sail ship into one of those two than into a steam powered version. Since the steam engine itself and the necessary size of the coal storage compartment was often too large for the small sail ship's body. The main reason why the steamship was even able to go against the wind was the propeller and rudder used to steer and propel the ship.



(2)

The newly added rudder allowed for smooth steering of the ship without the spinning direction of the propeller, creating a natural steer that the captain would need to counteract. As the ships were getting increasingly bigger the propeller was mostly being used for propulsion which allowed for easier navigation of the ship.

As Clydebank's shipyards grew, they were home to 38 Shipyards employing over 100,000 workers at one point. A ship being built in Clyde was like a quality seal, as some of the world's most famous steamships were built here. The Queen Mary for example, began its construction on the 1st. Of December 1930 and featured a length of 310 m, a width of 36 m and a draft of 12 m. The draft of the ship describes the distance from the waterline to the deepest point of the ship. Back then the only way to transport goods and people was by ship. As of 1913, Britain built 61% of ships in use with Clydebank in Glasgow being one of the biggest contributors. And the people of Scotland take pride in that fact.

Now, dear reader the biggest problem we had while researching was the information gathering for Luan. The National Museum had mostly only relevant information for me. So, my partner wanted to conduct his research in Glasgow. However, while traveling to Glasgow the train had technical difficulties and the conductor told me just return, since a replacement train would take too long.

Now we had a problem. The national museum of Scotland had not enough information on his topic, so we had to supplement the missing information with online research

In conclusion it can be said that Scotland was the nation that laid the bedrock for today's marine industry. Without people like the Stevensons who devoted their entire life to the marine industry, mainly the safety of ships and the security of sailors, or the newer engines that were invented in Glasgow. Our life would not have been the same as it is today and for that we will be forever grateful.

Now, dear readers We hope you our blog was informative for you and feel free to comment to your heart's content.

Sources: personal research in the Scottish National Museum

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The artist of the week

Sir Walter Scott - the age of enlightenment



Sir Walter Scott(1)

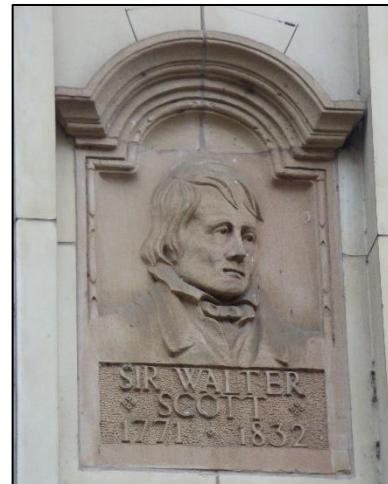
Rob Roy, Ivanhoe, The Lady of the Lake and the Waverly romans were all written by him. He not only shaped his country but also literature of the 18th century worldwide. For some he is considered to be one of the most crucial writers of the age of enlightenment: Sir Walter Scott. For me as a literature enthusiast, I have heard of him, but I have never had the chance to read one of his works. During my research I found some interesting facts about his way of living which I will present in my newest edition of “artist of the week”. Sir Walter Scott.

Personal life

He was born in Edinburgh on the 15th of August in 1771 and he died aged 61 in Abbotsford in September 1832. Walter was the ninth of twelve children. When he was two, he was infected with polio, causing one of his legs to be permanently paralysed. This didn't stop him from studying law at the University of Edinburgh. As some of you may not know, although his successful career as a writer, he never dropped being a judge. Furthermore, he got married in 1797 with Charlotte Charpentier.

The Age of Enlightenment

Walter Scott was part of the age of enlightenment, a movement dominating Europe's intellectual and philosophical ideas during the 17th and 19th century. The Scottish enlightenment was driven by a vast variety of intellectual of scientific accomplishments which appeal. I would like to dive straight in to his career, as you've been waiting for.



Monument of Sir Walter Scott (2)

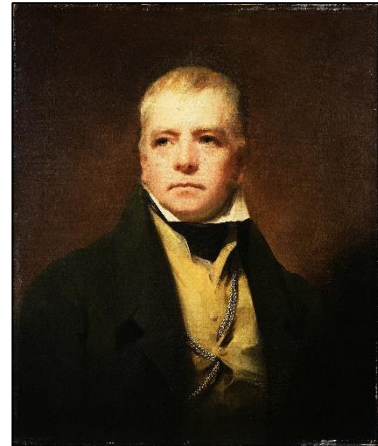
His career in and works

Aged 25, Walter Scott took his first steps in literature by translating German ballads like Gottfried August Bürgers “Der wilde Jäger”, which translates to “The wild hunter”. Moreover, he collected folk ballads due to his huge interest in Scottish traditions. In 1802 he published “The Minstrelsy of the Scottish border”, split up into three parts including overworked and original ballads of Scott. Humble beginnings, considering where his creativity would take him, because first success came due to his epic verse stories beginning with “The Lay of the last minstrel”. 1805 followed by the “Marmion” and “The Lady of the Lake” but it wasn't until 1814 that he releases his first novel “Waverly”. The novel was published anonymously, probably because he wasn't sure if he could write novels and how their public perception might be. His novel caused conversations in the country because it was about the last resistance of the Jacobites against the House of Hannover, who reigned in London. Their goal way to reinstate the House of Stuart, who were in charge before.

This novel paved the way for historical novels in the English speaking community, another example of his influence on literature in general. Even Goethe acknowledged his accomplishments. He called Scott one of the greatest of their time but Walter Scott didn't just write about the public life he was heavily engaged with. He was involved with political and social projects. In 1818, he led the successful search for the Scottish crown jewels that had been almost forgotten for decades.

The best artist of the week

So why did I choose Sir Walter Scott to be the best artist of the week? He gathered the disparate strands of contemporary novel-writing techniques into his own hands and harnessed them to his deep interest in Scottish history. The technique of the omniscient narrator and the use of regional speech, localized settings, sophisticated character delineation, and romantic themes treated in a realistic manner were all combined by him into virtually a new literary form, the historical novel. His influence on other novelists from all over the world, was immediate and profound, and though interest in some of his books declined somewhat in the 20th century, his reputation remains secure.



Sir Walter Scott (3)

After my researches about Scott, my interest in reading one of his books increased. I am looking forward to buy one of them. How about you? How do you feel about Sir Walter Scott? Leave a comment down below and stay tuned for next week.

Valentin and Paul

sources:

1: <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/photos/tokens/28839-original.jpg>

2: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/Sir_Walter_Scott_1771_-_1832_-_Cannon_Street%2C_Birmingham_%2823976861024%29.jpg/3456px-Sir_Walter_Scott_1771_-_1832_-_Cannon_Street%2C_Birmingham_%2823976861024%29.jpg

3: <https://www.ecosia.org/images?q=sir+walter+scott&size=wallpaper#id=21555E754E86CDD4D83A2AE26123DE04236D7C75>

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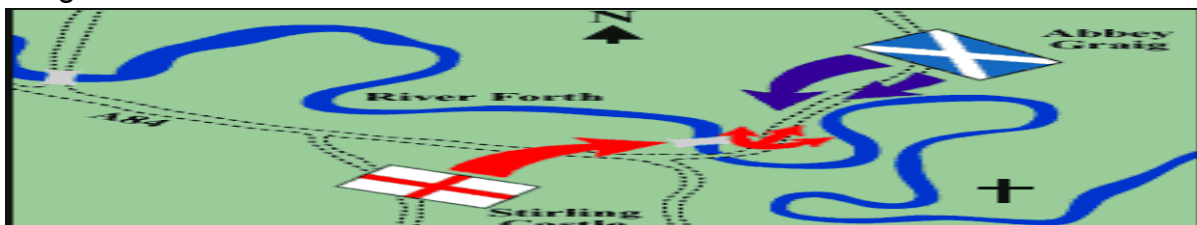
The Scottish Wars of Independence

We all know Scotland. Northern part of the United Kingdom. However, there were several attempts at resisting English occupation. Bloody battles were waged in order to stay Scottish. About a week ago I was in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, and investigated this aspect of Scottish history in Edinburgh Castle itself. Of course everybody, including myself, is at least a bit familiar with conflicts between Scotland and England. Nevertheless, it is always fascinating to explore deeper into history. This is achieved through my blog post where we take a look at two significant battles, namely the Battle of Stirling Bridge as well as the Battle of Culloden. My information come from my visit of Edinburgh Castle and several websites which you can find at the end.

The Battle at Stirling Bridge – a Decisive Victory

Our story starts in 1286 when Scottish king Alexander III died, leading to a conflict about who was his rightful heir. In 1292, a court decided that John Balliol shall be the next king of Scotland. Three years later, a rebellion against John Balliol occurred in Scotland which was used by Edward I of England for an invasion. This Second War of Independence began in 1296 and it seemed terrible for the Scots due to their defeat in the Battle of Dunbar and even king John needed to abdicate. Nonetheless, the Scots were able to celebrate a striking victory on 11 September 1297 in the Battle of Stirling Bridge which you might remember I already mentioned. 2300 Scottish soldiers battled 9000 to 12000 Englishmen. The Scots were commanded by Andrew de Moray and William Wallace while the English were led by John de Warenne. De Moray's and Wallace's troops were able to attack the English from the front and the rear while they were unprepared and split, making them flee from the battlefield. Although the Battle of Stirling Bridge constitutes a decisive victory for Scottish independence, Andrew de Moray died after the fight from his wounds. Therefore, William Wallace received command of the entire army. This battle was a shocking defeat for the English while William Wallace achieved the title of Guardian of the Realm of Scotland. Only one year, however, Edward I attempted another invasion and managed to beat William Wallace in the Battle of Falkirk.

This map illustrates the Battle of Stirling Bridge. You can clearly observe how the English rushed over the bridge in order to crush the seemingly weak outnumbered Scots. The three small red arrows indicate that there were only a few English troops on the other side of the bridge when the Scots, portrayed through the blue arrows, attacked this split group of Englishmen.



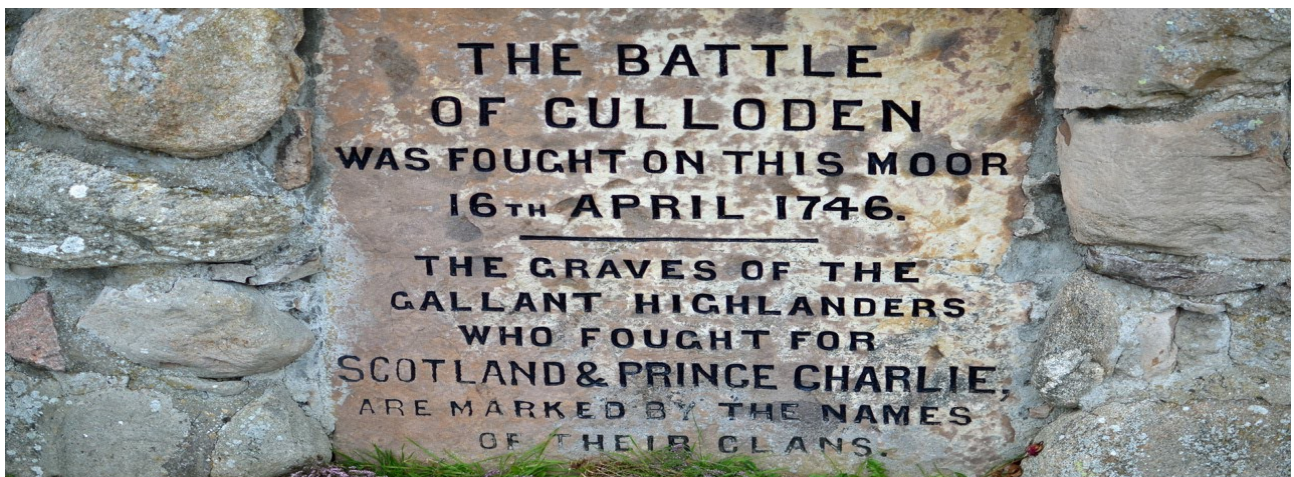
In 1305, William Wallace was caught by the English. He was sentenced for treason against England which he replied with the famous statement: "To Edward, I cannot be a traitor, for I owe him no allegiance; he is not my sovereign; he never received my homage; and whilst life is in this persecuted body, he shall never receive it.". Therefore, it becomes obvious that William Wallace was an enemy of England and especially king Edward I until his end.



The Wallace Monument in Stirling reminds us to this day of the Battle of Stirling Bridge and the famous Scottish freedom fighter it is named after.

The Battle of Culloden – a tremendous setback

You might ask: “What is with the other battle you mentioned?” and I answer: We will take a look at it right now. The Battle of Culloden. About 450 years after the Battle of Stirling Bridge, in 1745, the supporters of the English Stuart dynasty known as Jacobites rebelled when Charles Edward Stuart of the exiled family returned to Scotland to retake his family's throne. Scottish Jacobites joined “Bonnie Prince Charlie”, as he was called, and fought for the rebirth of the House of Stuart in the Jacobite rising of 1745. Charles Edward Stuart achieved successes when he took Edinburgh and won the Battle of Prestonpans. Still, he could not besiege London because his followers were not ready to attack England. He returned to the Scottish Highlands when the Battle of Culloden began on 16 April 1745. Charles Edward Stuart's Jacobite troops fought against the English army of Prince William, Duke of Cumberland. The Jacobites were about 5400 men strong while the English force consisted of 9000 men. The superior English artillery started the battle by battering the Jacobites which the Stuarts' followers answered by charging Cumberland's army. Still, the English numerical advantage and artillery support managed to break the Jacobites who then ran for their lives. “Bonnie Prince Charlie”, the “Handsome Prince Charlie”, was defeated and escaped the battle.



This memorial stone remembers the Scots' sacrifice so that we might understand their struggle.

Scottish victories, defeats and role in today's United Kingdom

As you perceive now, there were ups and downs for the Scots in the Scottish Wars for Independence. It is decisive to fathom that battles like the victorious one at Stirling Bridge or the humiliating one at Culloden were significant milestones in Scottish history. However, all the struggles, all the conflicts, the entire course of history led to Scotland now being part of the United Kingdom which is still debated and criticized by several political parties in Scotland although the land and its people are integrated rather well into Great Britain and share a large part of their history with England.

Do you want to add or comment on my blog? If so, feel free to share your thoughts and experiences about Scottish independence!

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Blog entry

The Edinburgh Castle – A collection of old buildings full of history

On our recent trip to Scotland we visited Edinburgh Castle. It is really amazing. Have you ever been there? We were never there before so we decided that we want to share our information with you which we gained while walking through the castle and listening to our tourguide.

Edinburgh Castle is an iconic national landmark and represents a huge part of Scottish history. There are some facts that really surprised us.

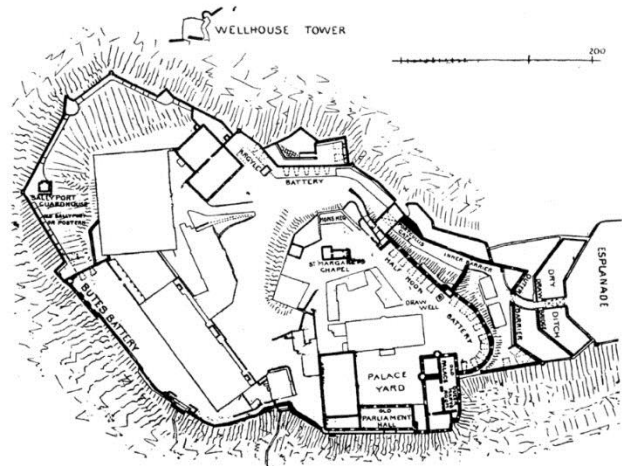
It was built on an extinct volcano. Did you know that? I think that is really impressive.

It is also a collection of buildings. They weren't built all at the same time, which causes an interesting mix of designs and architecture from the Renaissance and the Mid Victorian period. It also includes parts from ancient Greek and Roman architecture.

A lot of original buildings were destroyed through bombardment during centuries of wars.



St. Margaret`s chapel



Edinburgh Castle map

As presented above one can see the St. Margaret`s chapel, which is the oldest building in the castle. It was built in 1130 for princess Margaret as a place of worship. As seen in the picture the inner space of the chapel is quite small with some benches and a small table in the back part of the chapel. Small windows around the chapel allows the light to pass through them. However, even if it was the most important building in the castle, in the 15th century its original meaning got forgotten and it was used as a gunpowder storage. That is quite sad to imagine.

In the far future the heritage was rediscovered and it is used for ceremonial purposes nowadays.

That the buildings of the Edinburgh Castle were all built in different decades, becomes evident at the Scottish national war memorial.

It was built in 1927 by Sir Robert Lorimer and is the newest building in the castle. It was evolved in the honour of those who were serving the Scottish regiment.

The exterior of the memorial is decorated with gargoyles and several sculptures. The interior contains many wall monuments and decorations. A sealed casket upon the altar contains all names of over 200.000 people who were killed in the wars. Symbolic letterings and figures of saints protect them and let them rest in peace.

Further interesting monuments which we discovered during our trip are the great hall and the prisons.

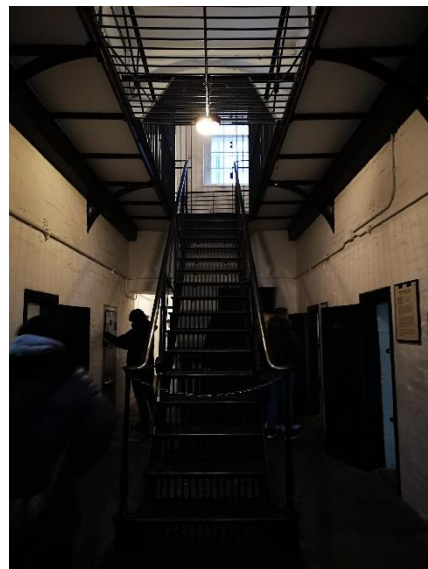
There are two different prisons in the castle. The first one is the military prison, which was built a bit later than the prison of war, in 1845.

The military prison was designed for the castle soldiers as a punishment for drunkenness, fighting or being absent without permission.

The aim with this prison was it to find more human ways to maintain discipline. On the picture below the military prison is depicted.



a cell in
the
prison



prison
view
from the
entrance

The interior was structured very simple. It consists of a wooden bed, a small window, a wooden bench and a small bucket-like toilet. The prisoners were under surveillance all the time.

During their stay they had no chance to communicate with other occupants. That is why they had started graffiti carving on the walls and doors. You can still see the graffiti on the walls today. Isn't that creepy?

The other prison is the prison of war. It was built in the 18th and 19th century and was used to imprison the prisoners of war. 1756 the first prisoners were caught. They were captured by the British and came mainly from Spain, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and other countries. The inmates mainly were pirates, religious rebels or enemies.



prison of war

Because of so many prisoners they had just little space and it was not comfortable at all. As presented in the picture above, the prison was quite similar to a cave, because the prisons were directly located under the great hall. Thus they slept in hammocks and wooden beds and had barely any lights. The lamp and the fireplace in the back of the hall were their only light source. The room you can see on the picture is just reconstructed, that means the real prison lies below those rooms we visited. The conditions were very bad but they created ware from the straw of their pillows and sold or exchanged it to gain clothes, food or other items. Just imagine you were captured there. That would be horrible wouldn't it?

The most stunning discovery for us was the great hall. It was designed for King Charles the 4th and was completed in 1513. It was used as a place for ceremonial events like dinners and king meetings. The hall stands for Charles's wealth and was built to impress his guests.

In 1649 Oliver Cromwell captured the castle with his army. He converted the great hall into barracks for his soldiers. The building was then divided into 3 leveled dormitories.

The hall thus provided space for over 300 soldiers who slept and ate there.



great hall



fireplace great hall

In the pictures above you can see the great hall with all its features. Even if the great hall looks quite big, you have to remember that it was split into three levels which means the space was quite small and cramped to walk in. That is pretty inconvenient for 300 men, don't you think? Nowadays there are several weapons exhibited from the earlier time, with beautiful chandeliers and red walls.

In 1790 the hall was converted again. This time into a military hospital. There were 9000 woman volunteers that cared for injured soldiers. The great hall was at last in military hands for over two decades.

The great hall is the only building in the castle which has its original roof. It is popular for the hammerbeam roof with timber, which was imported from Norway in 1509. 100 years after the hall was used as the military hospital, it was converted again, back into its original usage as the great hall. During this time Hipp Blonk added the fireplace in the back part of the great hall. Today the great hall is just used for political occasions and touristic attractions.

Finally we can say that our trip to the Edinburgh castle brought us some new and interesting knowledge about ancient times and especially about Edinburgh's history. We had to make a break and sat down in a little café, because we were overwhelmed by all the information. There are so much more information we haven't brought in. You should try to visit the castle in your lifetime since it is really worth it. You will gain a lot of new impressions and after you will imagine things differently. Furthermore we would really like you to comment down below your experiences about your trip to the castle and what your favourite attraction is.

Black: Both

Blue: Katharina

Yellow: Michelle

1167 words

Map: <https://www.thecastlesofscotland.co.uk/the-best-castles/grand-castles/edinburgh-castle/>

All other photos are our own!

Adopt a Scot

Mackintosh- the revolutionary artist in Glasgow

'Art is the flower...life is the green leaf' once said a man that you are going to get to know better in today's blog post. The man we are talking about is Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a Scottish architect and designer who was based in Glasgow and who influenced the history of art with his unique style and design, especially on design movements such as 'Art Nouveau'. We are writing this entry to give you a little insight on our trip and the culture of Scottish art.

We tried to access our information about him with a trip to Glasgow while being in Edinburgh. While already having the day planned out, train services sadly thwarted our plans so we used the internet to gain some knowledge about him. Mackintosh was not known to us prior the visit to Scotland but our interest in art made us want to take a deeper look on that topic.

Mackintosh's Life

Since most of you are also interested in arts as we are, this artist might become relevant to you in the future, so take as much as you can from this blog post. Charles Rennie Mackintosh was born on the 7th June of 1868. He grew up in Glasgow, together with his ten siblings and his parents, William McIntosh and Margaret Rennie. He discovered his passion for art and architecture fairly quick and also kept it his whole life.

Mackintosh's buildings and designs are still relevant in the present time and especially when visiting the city of Glasgow, there's a lot to discover, such as 'the School of Art', 'the Hill House', 'the Lighthouse' and many more.

His art stood out because it differed a lot from others. He was an artist of the modern time and that clearly shows in his designs. Although he is now a well-known artist, his art was not appreciated until long after his death on the 10th of December in 1928. Mackintosh probably couldn't have imagined how big his success would become one day.

His modern taste of style can be seen in his own living room, despite it being around a hundred years old.



Salon in Mackintosh's residence

To give an idea of his design and way of living, the picture above shows one of the rooms of the house that he lived in. This is just to give you a quick overview, a full analysis of one of his designed buildings will give you a way more detailed knowledge, later on.

What makes his designs unique?

The brightness of the rooms really stands out. Colours were held in white and beige tones and lines were kept simple and straight, which was typical for Mackintosh's design. He did not like over-decorated rooms or designs that were too ornate but still, the room has a welcoming and comfortable feeling to it. With that, he was also part of the so called 'Glasgow Style'.

Mackintosh did not only design whole buildings, also objects like lamps and chairs, furniture is general, are part of his creative work. Additionally, he mostly drew during the end of his life since World War II made his work in architecture pretty unwanted, which consequented in making him fairly poor.

Taking a walk through Glasgow will give the opportunity to visit a couple of his most inspired buildings, shown on this map:



Map of Glasgow

The School of Art in Glasgow was built and designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh from 1897 to 1907. The art school was established as The Glasgow Government School of Design in 1845 but changed its name to The Glasgow School of Art in 1853.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh won the competition to design the school, because of the support of his friend Francis Newbery, the school's director then.

The building is located on a mountain in Glasgow, which also means it is on a steep slope. It was the only area where the building could stand. Not only that it is on a mountain but also the fact that it was a small area to build a school of art, has been a challenge for Mackintosh. The area is 75 meters long and 30 meters wide.

Additionally, Mackintosh had no other choice but to put the facade on its back to the city, since the sponsors wanted to have the facade north facing to avoid direct light.

The School of Art has been damaged by a fire twice. The first time in May 2014 and a second time in July 2018.



The main facade

The main facade looks like a facade of a factory. It is simple and decoration is out of focus, even though Mackintosh's only tension to decorate counts, so he put small details on the facade that could look like if they were needed for the building. For instance, the elements on the windows.

These elements look like they were needed to hold the windows, since the windows were unusually big, but the elements resembling roses have no function at all.

Not only the big windows, which were that big to lighten up studios for the artists, were atypical for that time but also the tower above the balcony was atypical because it has no reason to be there, like the elements on the windows.

Mackintosh also decorated smaller windows with roses in the glass to include the look of nature and fantasy of life into the building. His obsession to detail becomes also clear when you see the finely decorated front door, at the main entrance.

Mackintosh created a new approach by grafting elements on to this truncated manor house.

For instance, the tower above a pointless balcony. But this tower creates a disproportion. Mackintosh had not only an obsession for detail but also a taste for disorders.

The entrance intensifies the disorders as well because it is not placed in the middle of the block. The facade on the right side has three window ranks and on the left side four window ranks, which means the entrance block is not in the middle. But to place the door in the middle of the facade, Mackintosh built the door on the right side of the entrance block. So, only the door is in the centre.



Elements resembling roses

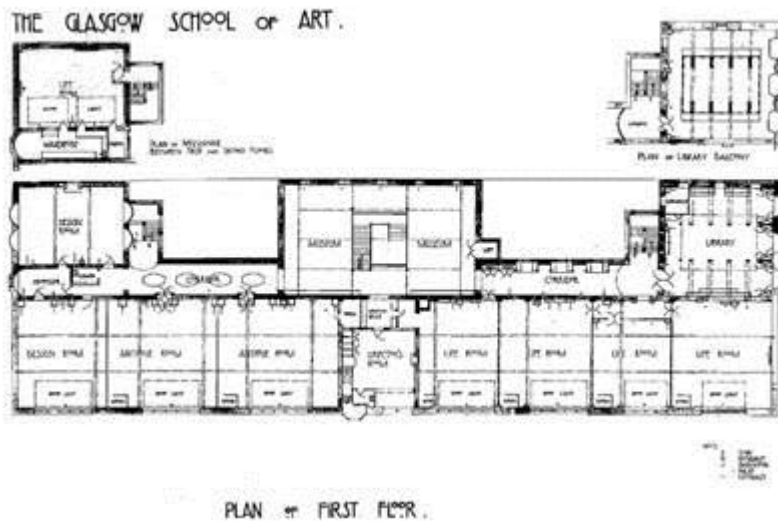


Windows from the inside



Front door

The building is planned in an E-shape. Behind the facade are the studios of the artists and a corridor. In the central block is a stairway where you can reach all the three levels of the school. On the left external wing are the offices and in the right external wing is a library.



Inside the building you can also see the inspiration by Japanese houses from the Japonism. The Japonism is about natural materials, simplicity, light and quality of space, which is also been used in the building of The School of Art in Glasgow.

In the inside of the building are lots of statues. It is simply white and bright with almost no decoration to give the students the ability to be creative. The big windows therefore give the students the light they need, avoiding direct sunlight.

All in all, Mackintosh was a special architect and designer since he created styles that were atypical and new for that time of the Historicism and the Edwardian era. There are also a lot of places in Glasgow you can visit, to see his artwork. For instance, The Lighthouse, Glasgow School of Art or the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Statue.

It was challenging for us to get a picture of Mackintosh and his work without seeing it in real. Nevertheless, we could still handle it. Luckily, we found a lot about Mackintosh online. It is fascinating to see; how unique Mackintosh was and still is. Obviously, Mackintosh is a well-known architect and designer, since he did atypical designs.

Mackintosh established as one of the most important artists in Scottish history and his art is definitely worth taking a look at in our opinion. So make sure you get a glimpse of it, if you're ever walking around in Glasgow. You can see on our added map, that many of his most famous works are pretty close together, which makes it easy to discover a lot within a day.

Do you like his unique style that was ahead of its time? And would you plan a day trip to Glasgow to take a look at his designs? Let us know in the comments down below.

(1.445 words)

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Edinburgh's New Town; Why Is It Worth A Visit?

Hi everyone!

As you might already know, recently I visited Edinburgh and it was beautiful.

However, as I walked through the streets of Edinburgh's New Town I came to wonder; What makes this part of town so distinct from the rest? Before starting, have you ever been to Edinburgh? Feel free to comment your experiences.



House in New Town, →

Alright, firstly, what even is the New Town?

Despite being called “New”, the New Town is fairly old.

It's one of the seven districts Edinburgh consists of.

Located in the center, facing the old town, it is known for its stunning georgian architecture, amongst other things. Nowadays it's part of the UNESCO world heritage site.

The idea for this new district was put forward in the late 17th century by the then Duke of Albany and York who would go on to become King James VII.

It became more and more clear that new space was needed, as the Old Town was crowded with people, which led to wealthy people fleeing the city.

To prevent them from doing so, adequate housing had to be built.

Hence a design competition was held in 1766 to find a suitable layout, a 26-year old James Craig won.

He proposed a simple grid, with a main street (George Street) in between two parks (St. Andrew's Square and Charlotte Square) and two other main roads (Queen Street and Princes Street).

Construction began, crossing points were built, like the North Bridge in 1772, after draining the Nor Loch in its eastern end.

The first buildings to be built were Thistle Court in 1776.

In 1820 the first New Town was mainly completed.

The success of the first New Town led to bigger plans for the city and the Northern New Town or Second New Town originated.

Basically, New Town was expanded towards the Water of Leith.

An Eastern- or Third New Town was built later on, again a contest was held but ended fruitless, so multiple famous architects were asked for their ideas.

Furthermore, the Regent Bridge for easier access to Calton Hill and several terraces were build.

“The New Town arose, growing from day to day until Edinburgh became one of the most handsome and picturesque cities in Europe.”~James Nasmyth

This quote reflects the subjective opinion of James Nasmyth, a Scottish engineer, inventor and philosopher, famous for his development of the steam hammer.

Whether you agree with him or not, he is right in a way.

The City definitely grew a lot over a long time, whether it actually is one of the most handsome and picturesque cities in Europe is up for debate.

However, I would argue that even if not the most beautiful city, it definitely comes pretty close.

It is pleasing to the eye to look at and also offers a lot.

Like, today's New Town is the city's main shopping precinct and most of the tourists find lodgings here.

It presents attractions like the Scott Monument, dedicated to Sir Walter Scott, Calton Hill or Princes Street Gardens.

On top of that the National Museum of Scotland is located here.

At this time of year you can also pay a visit to Edinburgh's Christmas, a christmas marked in East Princes Street Gardens.

After all that history I would like to talk about architecture.

I already referred to the fact that most old buildings are built in a Georgian style but what does that mean?

The Georgian style is a style that was popular from around 1714 to 1830.

It is named after the four British kings of that time, all called George

It can be recognized by its symmetry and orientation from ancient Greece or Rome Often times in cities this style applies to identical terraced houses, sometimes even provided with a square garden for wealthier people-

In addition, the architectural profession saw an increase in trained professionals in this era ,compared to before when nearly anyone could adopt the title.

In the New Town most buildings from that era are made of sandstone.

Examples for the style would include:

The Georgian House, a restored Georgian house in the centre of New Town.

Bute House, nowadays official residence of the First Minister of Scotland.

Or the Royal Society of Physicians building in Queen Street.

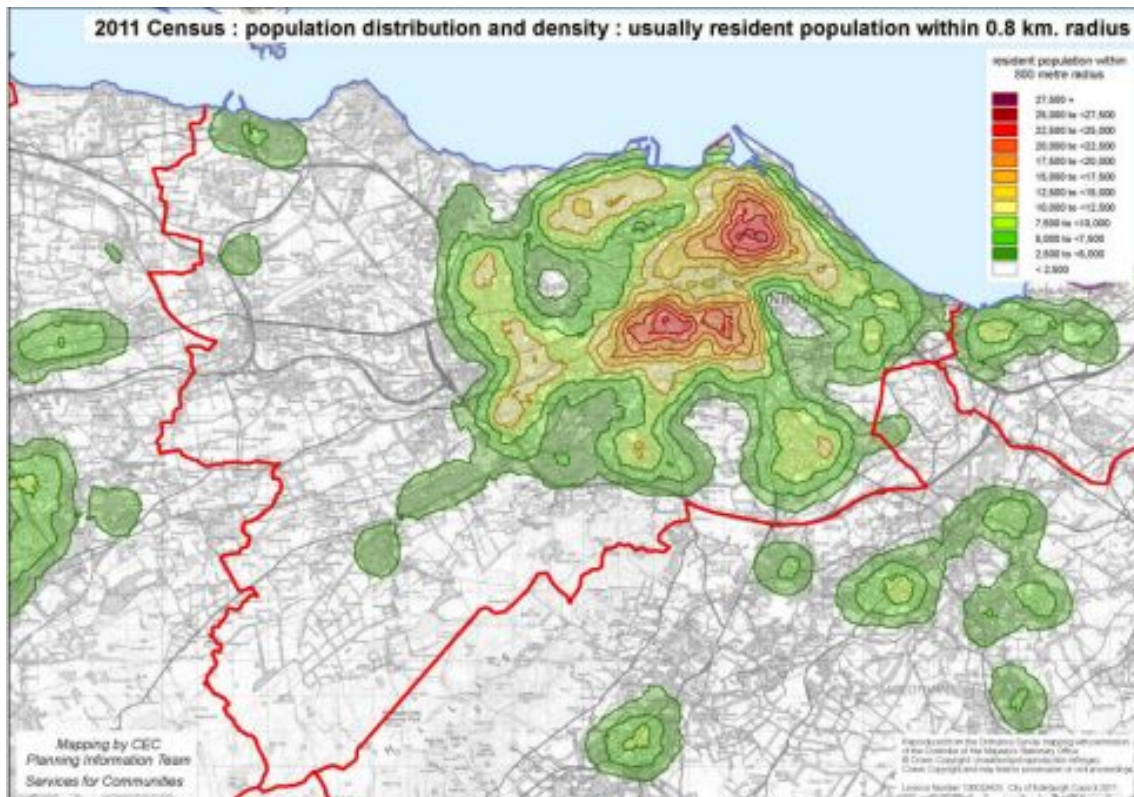
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Crown Office, across the National Museum.An example of georgian architecture-



Scott Memorial, one of the many famous sight located in the New Town-.





To round it off I thought I would show you a map showing the resident population published by the CEC in 2011.

Different areas of the map are colored in different colors from white, which means less than 2500 people to light red which means about 22500 to 25000 people reside there.

It is obvious that the areas in the exurban fringe are the least populated and therefore white.

However, there seem to be two red areas located in the north of the map.

The lower one is in South Edinburgh and is less interesting to us.

The other one, though, is roughly located at the city core, so Old- and New Town. This signifies that most people who live in Edinburgh, live in this area or in South Edinburgh.

So, to come back to my original question: what makes the New Town so special? In my eyes there is a whole bunch of reasons.

Of course the georgian architecture provides a whole lot of inspiration and is pleasing to look at.

Surely not only in my opinion but for many people throughout history.

Its location and composition make it ideal for tourists to pass through to admire its structure or simply shop in one of the many stores.

The New Town works in harmony with the old town by forming its counterpart in the areas of design, outlay, purpose and history.

Therefore and keeping this in mind, visiting the New Town is a delightful experience you should not miss out on if you ever have the chance to.

I hope you liked this post, if so feel free to leave your feedback in the comments.

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