

# Scotland's Education Sector

Internationally innovative  
for over 600 years







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# Scotland's Education Sector

Around 46,000 international students from over 180 countries choose to study in Scotland every year.



University of Aberdeen	<a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk">www.abdn.ac.uk</a>
University of Abertay Dundee	<a href="http://www.abertay.ac.uk">www.abertay.ac.uk</a>
University of Dundee	<a href="http://www.dundee.ac.uk">www.dundee.ac.uk</a>
University of Edinburgh	<a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk">www.ed.ac.uk</a>
Edinburgh Napier University	<a href="http://www.napier.ac.uk">www.napier.ac.uk</a>
University of Glasgow	<a href="http://www.glasgow.ac.uk">www.glasgow.ac.uk</a>
Glasgow Caledonian University	<a href="http://www.gcu.ac.uk">www.gcu.ac.uk</a>
Glasgow School of Art	<a href="http://www.gsa.ac.uk">www.gsa.ac.uk</a>
Heriot-Watt University	<a href="http://www.hw.ac.uk">www.hw.ac.uk</a>
University of the Highlands and Islands	<a href="http://www.uhi.ac.uk">www.uhi.ac.uk</a>
Open University	<a href="http://www.open.ac.uk">www.open.ac.uk</a>
Queen Margaret University	<a href="http://www.qmu.ac.uk">www.qmu.ac.uk</a>
Robert Gordon University	<a href="http://www.rgu.ac.uk">www.rgu.ac.uk</a>
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	<a href="http://www.rcs.ac.uk">www.rcs.ac.uk</a>
Scotland's Rural University College (SRUC)	<a href="http://www.sruc.ac.uk">www.sruc.ac.uk</a>
University of St Andrews	<a href="http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk">www.st-andrews.ac.uk</a>
University of Stirling	<a href="http://www.stir.ac.uk">www.stir.ac.uk</a>
University of Strathclyde	<a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk">www.strath.ac.uk</a>
University of the West of Scotland	<a href="http://www.uws.ac.uk">www.uws.ac.uk</a>



# Introducing our Education Sector

Since Scotland's oldest university was founded in the historic town of St Andrews almost 600 years ago, the country has become an international leader in the provision of higher education.

## KEY FACT

### History of excellence

Scotland's education sector provides industry with world-class expertise year on year.

## KEY FACT

### Graduate employability

Each year over 35,000 students graduate from Scottish Universities 93% move into employment or further study within 6 months of graduating.

Today, circa 214,000 students are enrolled at Scottish higher education institutions, and the sector has become renowned for its world-leading research.

Boasting a total of 19 Higher Education Institutes, Scotland has the highest concentration of universities in Europe, with each undertaking world-class research.

Scotland's leading universities have gained an international reputation for their expertise in areas such as life sciences, medical research, biotechnology, informatics, energy, nanotechnology and environmental science.

Scottish universities offer an extensive range of higher level qualifications ranging from undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to executive education and continuous professional development (CPD) programmes. The CPD options available include bespoke programmes for individual companies in addition to industry recognised and accredited qualifications by professional and statutory bodies.

The wide range of higher education provision available in Scotland attracts considerable overseas interest. At present, around 46,000 international students are studying in Scotland alongside domestic students. The sector also works in partnership with overseas organisations, either through delivery of online teaching and training, in-country provision, or taking a more 'blended' approach.



**KEY FACT**

## Ease of access

Scotland has the highest concentration of Universities in Europe.

**KEY FACT**

## Research centre

Scotland is a magnet for leading researchers with more than 10% of our staff being of non-UK nationality.

**KEY FACT**

## Prospects

Scotland has the number 1 university in the UK for graduate employability.

**KEY FACT**

## Strong partnerships

There are strong ties between academia and industry in Scotland.

**KEY FACT**

## Extensive Research Capabilities

All of Scotland's 15 universities are involved in ground-breaking medical technology research.

**KEY FACT**

## Top in UK

Scotland has the highest educational attainment of any part of the UK which provides a ready resource of quality employees.

[Source: Scotland's International Trade and Investment Strategy 2011-2015]

**KEY FACT**

## Global Reach

Scotland's universities have overseas operations in China, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Brazil, Oman, Angola, United Arab Emirates, the United States and many other countries across the globe.



## Our key strengths

### World's elite

According to the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 5 of the world's top 200 universities are located in Scotland: Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, Aberdeen and Dundee.

(Source: Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2013-14)

### Teaching

The quality of teaching in Scottish higher education institutions is internationally recognised as world-class. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the non-departmental government body that funds higher education has a statutory duty to assure quality and standards, which includes hiring independent agencies to undertake external reviews.

### Research

Scotland is also at the forefront of higher education for its internationally celebrated research activity. Over 50 per cent of Scottish education research is classified as "internationally excellent", according to the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

### Industry

A key strength of the Scottish universities sector is the strong links between academia and industry, with the country's universities significantly boosting the talent pool available to employers. According to a recent report, Scotland has the highest educational attainment of any part of the UK, providing a ready resource of quality employees.

### Revenue Generation

Scottish universities continually win business from overseas governments, charities, leading international research companies and other organisations. The sector achieves turnover of around £2.5 billion, while an additional circa £3.3 billion is generated through its impact on other Scottish industries.

### Technology Transfer

18 research institutions, one collaborative location. Explore Scotland's technology licensing and transfer opportunity.  
[www.university-technology.com](http://www.university-technology.com)





## KEY FACT

## Leading research

More research is conducted in Scotland than any other country, relative to wealth per head of population.

[Source: Scotland's International Trade and Investment Strategy 2011-2015]

## KEY FACT

## Excellence

Every Scottish institution undertakes world-leading research. More than 50 per cent of Scottish research is rated as internationally excellent.

## KEY FACT

## 3rd

Scotland's academics produce one per cent of all research publications in the world – ranking Scotland third in the world for the number of research publications published per head of population.

[Source: Scotland's International Trade and Investment Strategy 2011-2015]

## KEY FACT

## Expertise

Scotland has 10 research pools providing a single entry point to academic expertise in key sectors such as energy, life sciences and computing. The link to the directory of all Scotland's research pools can be found at

[www.sfc.ac.uk/research/researchpools/researchpools.aspx](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/research/researchpools/researchpools.aspx)

## International research excellence

Scotland's universities are internationally renowned for the quality of their research, both blue sky and applied, and also for their knowledge exchange.

They have been responsible for many world-changing discoveries and innovations including the anaesthetic properties of chloroform, pneumatic tyres and the television. They continue to push boundaries in their research today. Every Scottish university undertakes some 'world-leading' research as recently judged by a panel of international experts. The research achievements of Scotland's universities belie the sector's size. With less than 0.1 per cent of the world's population, Scotland's universities produce one per cent of the world's new knowledge and 1.8 per cent of the world's citations.

More research is conducted in Scotland than any other country relative to wealth per head of population.

International studies show that Scotland produces just under 75 research papers for every £billion GDP – more than twice the average for the G8 countries and substantially better than any competitor nation. The country's researchers are also highly productive in terms of citations per researcher, ranking third in the world after Switzerland and the Netherlands, ahead of all the G8 countries.

Collaboration is a defining feature of Scotland's higher education both at home and internationally. In 2004, the sector established 'research pooling' across institutions, sharing resources, facilities and expertise as a means to further develop the critical mass of the country's research base. Scotland has had centuries of experience in developing strong and effective international partnerships and this continues to be the case today; Scotland's universities are actively engaged in networks of partnerships that extend to well over half of all countries in the world.



## Excellence in learning and teaching

At the heart of the sector's activity is learning and teaching. Scotland's universities educate around 214,000 entrants at Scotland's Higher Education Institutions on over 4,500 courses in more than 150 different subject groupings.

All programmes have a strong theoretical underpinning and many also have a strong vocational element. Learning and teaching in every university takes place in close association with advanced research and scholarship activity.

Approaches to learning in Scotland are increasingly diverse, encompassing traditional lectures, tutorials and seminars as well as problem-solving and work-based learning, distance and e-learning as well as blended-learning techniques in state-of-the-art environments. Each institution decides on the content and means of assessment of its programmes within the overall parameters of the academic infrastructure meaning that no two courses are the same. This diversity is one of the great strengths of the Scottish higher education system.

The quality of teaching in Scotland's universities is recognised as world class. The highly renowned quality enhancement framework underpins this and is overseen by the Quality Assurance Agency. A particular feature of Scotland's quality assurance mechanisms are a strong element of student participation in the review process and a national programme of enhancement themes, aimed at developing and sharing good practice; a model which is now being mirrored across Europe.

## Introducing our college sector

### KEY FACT

# 150 years

Scottish colleges have been in existence for almost 150 years; the first college was established in 1865.

### KEY FACT

# £1.2bn

Scottish college students will contribute £1.2bn to the Scottish economy by 2020 – the equivalent to 1% of Scottish GDP.

### KEY FACT

# 3,200

3,200 students left college last year and matriculated directly into a university course.

### KEY FACT

# 80%

Studying an HND course at college can boost an individual's pay by up to 80%.

In addition to the outstanding educational opportunities available within Scotland's university sector, the country's colleges also offer a wide range of further and higher education qualifications.

More than 800 individual courses are available at Scotland's colleges, attracting more than half a million students. While many courses provide direct and accelerated access to degree level study, others are more vocational. Often these courses are being specially designed in conjunction with employers, such as IBM, Amazon, INEOS, Shell and BP, all of whom have already established strong partnerships with the FE sector. Vocational courses can also lead to qualifications including Higher National Certificates and Diplomas.

One of the key advantages of Scotland's colleges is the modular nature of courses, making it easy to create bespoke programmes. Some may prefer the flexibility of colleges compared with a degree course.

The number of international students taking up places at Scottish FE colleges is growing; 6,000 overseas students from 195 different nationalities. Like Scottish universities, our FE colleges are also attracting business from overseas governments, charities, leading international companies and other organisations.



Contact Scotland's Colleges at [www.collegesscotland.ac.uk](http://www.collegesscotland.ac.uk)



## SDI – who are we?

Scottish Development International (SDI) is a partnership between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. It is the specialist trade and investment arm in Scotland, which attracts inward investment to Scotland and assists Scottish based companies to trade overseas.



• SDI overseas offices  
or locations with representation

SDI works in close partnership with Business Gateway and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and is the single point of contact for all international business development needs.

We provide a global marketing and sales resource which can help:

#### Trade –

- Identify market opportunities and provide market intelligence
- International strategy development
- Prepare companies to do business overseas
- Identify business partners and finance support options
- Facilitate connections and business relationships

#### Inward Investment –

- Collaboration and risk reduction
- Identify staff, training, property and academia
- Identify business partners
- Potential financial assistance
- Dedicated aftercare







CASE  
STUDY

## 'Connected Scotland' Mission to Indonesia

The 16th to 20th September 2013, SDI's Education Sector in partnership with Universities Scotland and the British Council brought representatives from 12 of the 15 universities in Scotland on a pioneering mission to the predominantly Muslim country of Indonesia.

*"This was a highly efficiently-organized mission with the opportunity to visit 36 Indonesian universities in four cities and three states in just five days. By participating in a wider delegation representing the whole Scottish higher education sector and alongside SDI, Universities Scotland and British Council, we were able to achieve so much more and with greater impact than if we had done it individually"*

**Professor Nigel Seaton**

Principal and Vice-chancellor of University of Abertay  
and Vice-Convenor of the International Committee  
at Universities Scotland.

This 5-day visit saw the high-level Scottish delegation meet 36 universities in four cities across three states in the world's fourth most populous country, home to 250 million people and emerging middle class.

Hosted by the Indonesian Ministry of Education in the Jakarta capital, and Indonesian-host universities in North Sumatra, West Java and Central Java, the networking sessions proved helpful in facilitating direct introductions to the vast market in a single visit.

To maximise time and presence in country, SDI organised evening receptions including the successful turnout of Indonesian alumni of Scottish universities and individual meetings in advance - before or after the mission.

Identifying international opportunities relevant to the university sector for a collective approach



CASE  
STUDY

# Glasgow Caledonian University's New York Campus



Glasgow Caledonian University  
New York Campus

TransNational Education  
partnerships for delivery of Scottish  
qualifications in an international  
market

On 7th April 2014, Glasgow Caledonian University opened a new campus in New York, and in doing so became the first British university to have a campus in the area. The University became the first Scottish university to open a London campus in 2010, and GCU New York will be a vital hub in its growing global network, which stretches from North and South America through South Africa, the Middle East, Bangladesh and India to various regions of China.

GCU New York will initially offer a range of non-credit and non-degree related executive education programmes and master classes, including in the first instance the business of fashion, luxury brand management, social business and finance and risk management. This will be extended to include a range of full-time and part-time Masters Degree programmes, subject to approval by the education authority NYSED.

GCU NY will also provide a base for alumni activities in the US and for student and academic exchanges between the Glasgow and London campuses and allow GCU to build on its existing New York links.

The new campus was launched with a series of high level events, including the presentation of the inaugural Caledonian Lecture from Scotland's First Minister.

*"The opening of our Wooster Street campus brings together three great cities – Glasgow, London, and New York – which share a history of multi-cultural endeavour and enterprise, coupled with a strong desire for continuous learning, a deep-rooted social conscience and a commitment to the common good. Glasgow Caledonian University, its students and staff and the partners we work with in industry and the public sector will benefit enormously from the New York campus, which represents a key element in our internationalisation strategy."*

*"GCU New York will provide an important opportunity for us to work with new academic and business partners; will significantly raise our international profile; and will offer valuable exchange opportunities to students and staff on both sides of the Atlantic"*

**Professor Pamela Gillies CBE**  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor of GCU

CASE  
STUDY

## Scotland and Hong Kong Framework for Research Pools

In November 2013, SDI (alongside British Council) organised an outward research pool mission to Hong Kong. The mission included several delegates from SULSA (Scottish Universities Life Sciences Association) and ETP (Energy Technology Partnership) research pools.

*“Scotland’s universities are world-class and the impact of our research reaches to every corner of the globe. As a sector, higher education has always been outward looking and keen to collaborate with others; partnering best with best. This is of great economic and cultural value to Scotland. We have as much to learn from others as we have to offer; that is the nature of international research partnerships”*

**Professor Sir Ian Diamond**

Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen

During this mission, the First Minister witnessed the signing of a framework agreement between the Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to bring teams from higher education institutes in both areas together, and explore innovative new ways of working together.

The new framework allows university researchers in Scotland and Hong Kong to share cutting-edge expertise in life sciences and energy,

The research pooling initiative was created by the Scottish Funding Council in 2003 to encourage researchers across Scottish higher education to pool their resources and respond to increasing international competition. The concept behind these research pools is the belief that dynamic collaborations between research departments can provide Scotland’s universities with a competitive advantage which other countries would find difficult to replicate.

### Contract or collaborative research partners





## Contact us

### Please visit our WebPages:

- Visit our website at [www.sdi.co.uk/education](http://www.sdi.co.uk/education)
- Our office locations at [www.sdi.co.uk/locations](http://www.sdi.co.uk/locations)
- Connect to us on LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/company/scottish-development-international](http://www.linkedin.com/company/scottish-development-international)
- Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ScotDevInt](http://www.twitter.com/ScotDevInt)
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/SDItv](http://www.youtube.com/SDItv)

### Or, if you prefer you can contact us by:

- Getting in touch with your nearest office
- Email [investment@scotent.co.uk](mailto:investment@scotent.co.uk)
- Call 0800 917 9534 (calls charged at local rates)
- Call +44 141 228 2828 from mobile phones or if outside Scotland
- Minicom 0800 023 2071 – if you are deaf or hard of hearing (BT helpline 0800 731 1888)

### Other Useful Websites:

Universities Scotland [www.universities-scotland.ac.uk](http://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk)

British Council Scotland [www.britishcouncil.org/scotland.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland.htm)

Scotland's Colleges [www.collegesscotland.ac.uk](http://www.collegesscotland.ac.uk)

SFC (research pools) [www.sfc.ac.uk/research/researchpools/researchpools.aspx](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/research/researchpools/researchpools.aspx)

Connected Scotland [www.connectedscotland.org](http://www.connectedscotland.org)



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