

# Edinburgh College Coronavirus Travel Guidance for Students



For the future you want

This document provides guidance for students on how to travel safely to Edinburgh College campuses. It sets out government guidelines on using public transport, and provides advice and information on walking, cycling, and driving. More detailed advice can be found on the Scottish Government website [here](#). If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 you should not travel into campus, and follow government advice on self-isolation.

- **You should only travel to a campus if you are advised to by your lecturer.**
- If you are travelling and live locally, then you should try to walk or cycle if you are able to.
- When using public transport, it is possible that travel may take longer than normal due to reduced capacity and physical distancing measures. You should plan ahead, identify alternative routes, and set off earlier in case of unexpected disruption. Avoid travelling at peak times where possible. The wearing of face coverings is mandatory on public transport unless you have an exemption.
- If you are driving, you should plan ahead. You do not need to display a parking permit as we have limited numbers of people on our campuses. However, illegally parked vehicles may still be ticketed i.e. in a disabled bay, electric charging bays or on hatched/double yellow lines.
- Please be aware that when arriving on campus, each building will have one-way systems and specific entrance and exit points to enable social distancing.

**It is important that you read our [Health and Safety Guidance for Students](#) before entering any Edinburgh College Campus.**

## Planning your journey

A personalised travel planning tool is available on the [college Website](#) and [Students' Association Website](#). It will give you a detailed breakdown of all the travel options available from your home postcode to your campus, based on the date and time you need to arrive by. You'll then be sent an email with the best travel options for you.

# Walking & Cycling

Where possible, we would recommend walking or cycling to campus. Public transport is likely to experience increased disruption and delays due to the need for social distancing. If you live close enough, walking and cycling will likely be the easiest and most reliable way to get to college. Plus, it's cheap and healthy!

## Routes

There are several signposted "quiet routes" for pedestrians and cyclists throughout Edinburgh. These keep you away from busy main roads and pavements. The City Council website has an [interactive map](#) which shows these routes, as well as cycle parking locations. To add to this network, the City Council are also introducing temporary road closures, cycle lanes, and wider pavements to make it easier to walk and cycle whilst following physical distancing. You can see information about all these closures [here](#).

You can also use [Cyclestreets](#). This is a useful journey planner for active travel, as there are options to see quieter routes, set your expected speed, and see a profile of the routes you can take (e.g. how hilly it is; how many traffic lights you'll need to stop at). Don't let the name fool you, you could use this for mapping out a quiet walking route too, the only difference would be the time it would take.

## On-campus facilities

There are a range of facilities at Edinburgh College to help you cycle. If you're using your own bike to get to campus, you can request access to our secure cycle storage areas by speaking to a member of the Security team at reception - you will just need to show your student card - or by contacting them on [security@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:security@edinburghcollege.ac.uk) if you aren't required on campus as frequently. There are also showers and changing areas on all campuses, which you can also enquire about with reception - [reception@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:reception@edinburghcollege.ac.uk). These will be cleaned regularly as part of improved campus cleaning processes put in place across the College.

Puncture repair kits and bike pumps are kept at reception desks for staff and students to use should you have to come onto campus. Some bike storage areas also have a pump.

## Getting a bike

If you don't have your own bike, you can use the City's [Just Eat Cycles](#) to travel to our Sighthill and Milton Road campuses. College students can buy an [annual pass](#) at a discounted rate. It costs just £40 for a year of unlimited one-hour rides. There is also a limited-time "Back to Work" offer currently available, which costs £10 for 4 months access.

If you have an old bike gathering dust at home, you can now get £50 worth of free professional repair and maintenance work to help you make it roadworthy again, thanks to funding from the Scottish Government. For more information, see the [Cycling UK website](#).

There are several second-hand bike shops in the city where you can buy a cheap bike. Here are some suggestions:

- [The Bike Station](#), 250 Causewayside, EH9 1UU
- [Pedal Forth](#), 17 East Cromwell Street, EH6 6HD
- [Soul Cycles](#), 1 Brougham Place, EH3 9HW
- [Eastside Bikes](#), 1 Cadzow Place, EH7 5SN
- [Velow Bikeworks](#), 19 Windsor Place, EH15 2AJ

There are also a few schemes that provide free bikes:

- [Brake The Cycle](#) - free refurbished bikes for people in need.
- [Bikes For Refugees](#)

## Public Transport

Due to current physical distancing advice, there will be significantly reduced capacity on public transport. It is therefore important to note that delays might be expected, and full buses will not stop for further passengers.

**Face coverings are currently a legal requirement when travelling on public transport** (unless you have an exemption), so plan for this.

However, as you will be able to see from the links below, all public transport providers have put significant measures in place to reduce the risk of using their services. To access up to date travel times and routes for Lothian Buses and Trams you can download the *Transport for Edinburgh* app on Apple or Android.

### Buses

The [Lothian Buses website](#) and [First Buses website](#) both have a wide range of information about timetables, journey planning, and ticket pricing. Guidance surrounding safe travel on both services differs slightly, so check out [Lothian Buses](#) and [First Buses](#) information depending on which buses you'll be using.

A Lothian Buses Ridacard can be good value if you use the buses and trams a lot - but do remember that you are likely to be travelling less than usual, so it might be cheaper to just buy tickets for the day you travel, rather than a season ticket.

There may be ongoing roadworks and diversions due to any necessary roadworks. We'd therefore suggest you check the [Council website](#), ahead of travelling to see if there will be any delays on your route.

## Trains

Train timetables are currently subject to change, so Scotrail recommends checking your service 24 hours before you travel. You can book tickets as usual on [their website](#), where they also have [guidance on how to travel safely](#).

There are train stations near almost all of our campuses:

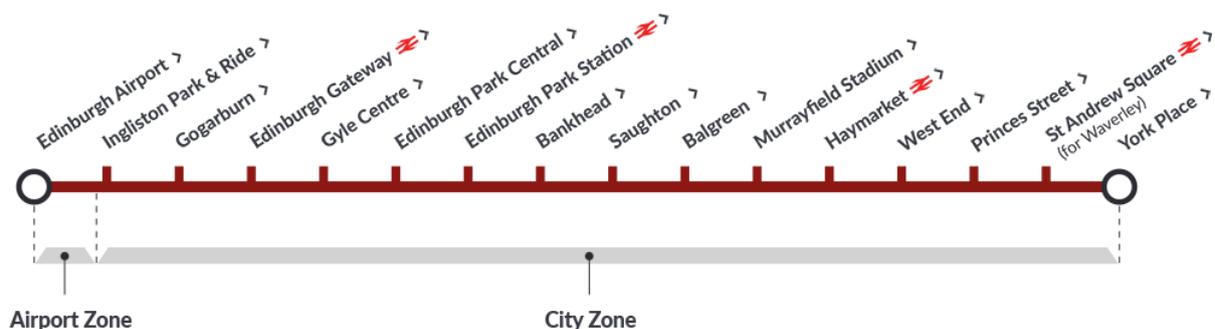
- Brunstane station is approximately a 5-minute walk from Milton Road campus
- Eskbank station is approximately a 5-minute walk from Midlothian campus
- Edinburgh Park station is approximately a 15-minute walk from Sighthill campus

No stations are within easy walking distance of Granton campus, however there are multiple Lothian bus routes (24, X37, 47, 113) that arrive at the campus from near Haymarket and Waverley stations.

## Trams

If you are travelling to **Sighthill** campus, there is also the option of taking the tram (the **Bankhead** stop is a few minutes' walk away). Lothian Bus Ridacards can be used on the trams, as long as you activate your card on the tram platform before you board. You can also buy individual tickets (£1.80 for a single or £3.40 for a return) on the platform before you travel. More information about the trams is available on the Edinburgh Trams [website](#), along with their [Covid-19 guidance](#).

Even if you are travelling to a different campus, the tram line might still be a useful link in your journey. They run from the West of the city to the city centre (as shown in the line map below), where you can then get bus links to all other campuses whilst still using the same day-pass:



# Driving

## Lift sharing

In line with Scottish Government guidance, you should not car share unless it is with a member of your own (or extended) household.

## Parking at Edinburgh College

To be able to park in the college car park, you must have a student parking permit. Returning students can continue to use their 2019/20 permit, and new students can **request a permit from reception** on campus (when you are due to be in) or on [reception@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:reception@edinburghcollege.ac.uk). These must be displayed clearly in your car so they can be viewed by parking enforcement officers. Although anyone can get a permit for free, this does not guarantee you a space in the car park, as they are first-come-first served.

# Travel Funding

To check if you are eligible for travel funding, you can use the college's [funding tool](#). For other courses, or if you're not sure, you can contact the student funding team on [studentfunding@edinburghcollege.ac.uk](mailto:studentfunding@edinburghcollege.ac.uk).