



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Biological Sciences

Guide for Chinese students applying for a degree with the School of Biological Sciences through the 2+2 Programme

2017 entry





Table of Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	What can I study at the University of Edinburgh?	3
2.1	Biological Sciences degree programmes	3
2.2	What I should think about prior to choosing a Biological Sciences programme	3
3	Why should I study at the University of Edinburgh?	4
3.1	Reputation of the university	4
3.2	Reputation of the School of Biological Sciences	4
3.3	Prospects after you graduate	4
4	Where is Edinburgh and what is it like there?	5
4.1	Scotland	5
4.2	City of Edinburgh	5
4.3	Accommodation	5
5	How much will it cost?	5
5.1	Accommodation	5
5.2	Living expenses	6
5.3	Fees	6
6	I am thinking of applying. What do I need to do now?	6
6.1	Programmes for which we have 2+2 agreements	6
6.2	Scores needed in 1 st and 2 nd year courses in China	6
6.3	English language requirements	6
6.4	Start planning now	7
7	How do I apply to study at Edinburgh?	7
7.1	Applying for the 2+2 programme	7
7.2	What information do I need to send?	7
7.3	Interviews	8
7.4	After your interview	8
7.5	IELTS score	8
7.6	Receiving an offer	8
8	What do I do after I have been offered a place?	9
8.1	Visa	9
8.2	English language courses	9
8.3	Accommodation during the pre-sessional English language course	9
8.4	Studying	9
8.5	Academic guidance	10
8.6	Accommodation during semester	10
8.7	Fees	10



9	Further Information	11
9.1	Useful websites	11
9.2	Checklist	11
9.3	Contact details	12
9.4	Key staff members	12

1 Introduction

The School of Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh has agreements with several Chinese universities which allows students to study for two years in China and then transfer to the University of Edinburgh to complete a further two years of study.

On successful completion of the 4th year at Edinburgh, students graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree awarded by the University of Edinburgh.

This arrangement is currently in place with the following five universities, but more may be added in due course:

- China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing
- Hangzhou Normal University, Hangzhou
- Ningbo University, Ningbo
- South China University of Technology, Guangzhou
- South University of Science and Technology of China, Shenzhen
- Zhejiang University, Hangzhou





2 What can I study at the University of Edinburgh?

2.1 Biological Sciences degree programmes

Depending on your progress at your Chinese university you may be able to study for the following degrees within our School:

- Biological Sciences (Biochemistry): <http://edin.ac/2dwChIn>
- Biological Sciences (Biotechnology): <http://edin.ac/2cGyySn>
- Biological Sciences (Cell Biology): <http://edin.ac/2dwDOhh>
- Biological Sciences (Development, Regeneration and Stem Cells): <http://edin.ac/2cGAeLw>
- Biological Sciences (Ecology): <http://edin.ac/2dwDoaS>
- Biological Sciences (Evolutionary Biology): <http://edin.ac/2cGyNna>
- Biological Sciences (Genetics): <http://edin.ac/2dwEYJC>
- Biological Sciences (Immunology): <http://edin.ac/2cGAom6>
- Biological Sciences (Molecular Biology): <http://edin.ac/2dwDvTX>
- Biological Sciences (Molecular Genetics): <http://edin.ac/2cGAb2x>
- Biological Sciences (Plant Science): <http://edin.ac/2dwEjbd>
- Biological Sciences (Zoology): <http://edin.ac/2cGySQU>

This information is also available on our China 2+2 web pages:
www.ed.ac.uk/biology/prospective-students/undergraduate/2plus2

2.2 What I should think about prior to choosing a Biological Sciences programme

Before choosing one of our degrees (listed in 2.1), you should find out if the curriculum of study you are taking in China fits with the curriculum for our degrees, to ensure the learning from your current university programme will offer you the background knowledge and understanding that you need to progress forwards with your studies in Edinburgh.

By selecting each link above, you will see the current (at time of going to print) Degree Programme Table (DPT) for the degree. Within the DPT, select the code link next to each of the compulsory courses for year 2 studies to see more information about each course as this will help you decide if you have sufficient background knowledge to proceed with year 3 teaching for a specific degree in Edinburgh. Looking at the compulsory courses for year 3 will help you decide if you wish to progress your studies within this degree path. Please note that details of individual courses within programmes may be subject to change.



If you need any further information about our degree structure or required courses for our Honours programmes, email the School of Biological Sciences' Undergraduate Recruitment Officer at bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk.

3 Why should I study at the University of Edinburgh?

3.1 Reputation of the university

The University of Edinburgh, situated in the capital city of Scotland was founded in 1583 and is one of the world's top universities. It was ranked 21st in the world and 7th in Europe in the 2015/16 QS World University Rankings. It is also one of the largest universities in the UK, with a vibrant student community of about 31,000. Additionally, the University of Edinburgh has a reputation for attracting students from all over the world and currently has in excess of 11,000 international students, including more than 1800 from China.

The University of Edinburgh offers many degree programmes, from arts and humanities, science and engineering, to law and medicine. Academic staff are leaders in their field and their research directly informs their teaching.

3.2 Reputation of the School of Biological Sciences

The School of Biological Sciences is part of the College of Science and Engineering within the University, which is one of the largest science and engineering groupings in the UK. The College has about 8,000 students, over 2700 members of staff, and is situated on its own campus near the city centre.

Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh was ranked 25th in the world and 6th in Europe in the 2016 QS World University Rankings by subject.

3.3 Prospects after you graduate

A degree from the University of Edinburgh is recognised throughout the world and is valued very highly by employers. About half of our graduates go on to do higher degrees, such as an MSc or PhD. Many then enter research careers in universities or industry. Other destinations are varied, and the broad acquisition of analytical and scientific skills gained through our programmes ensures that our graduates are in demand in other fields outside of Biological Sciences research.



4 Where is Edinburgh and what is it like there?

4.1 Scotland

Scotland, together with England, Wales and Northern Ireland, make up the United Kingdom. It is 600 kilometres north of London (approximately 1 hour by plane or 4.5 hours by train). There are easy flight connections to China via London, Frankfurt, Doha and Amsterdam.

Scotland enjoys mild winters and warm summers, and has some of the most unspoiled scenery in Europe. With only 10% of the UK population and 33% of the land, there are plenty of wide open spaces to explore.

4.2 City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, and has a population of around 500,000. It attracts over 2 million tourists every year, thanks to its history and beautiful location. It is situated on the River Forth in the east of Scotland, and it is easy to visit the beaches and mountains for which Scotland is famous.

4.3 Accommodation

The University guarantees a place in university accommodation for all students from outside of the city for the first year of study, provided that you apply by the deadline.

There are many choices of university accommodation, from student self-catering flats to fully catered residences. All of the accommodation is either a short walk or bus ride from the city centre and the University. You will spend most of your two years studying on the Science and Engineering campus, King's Buildings, which is about 10 minutes by bus from the city centre, but there is plenty of student accommodation nearby.

5 How much will it cost?

5.1 Accommodation

Accommodation costs vary depending on whether you require catered or self-catered accommodation.

Information on university accommodation can be found within the following website:

www.accom.ed.ac.uk.



5.2 Living expenses

Information on the cost of living in Edinburgh for a typical academic year can be found on our University website: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance.

Of course, these calculations will vary according to your lifestyle.

5.3 Fees

Tuition fees are published on the University's website and are subject to annual revision:

www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-funding/tuition-fees/undergraduate

All Chinese students who take part in the 2+2 scheme are eligible for a scholarship of £2500 per year of study (approximately £1 = 10 Yuan). It is also important to remember that, compared to other overseas students, you will only have to pay fees for two years rather than for four.

6 I am thinking of applying. What do I need to do now?

6.1 Programmes for which we have 2+2 agreements

You should check that what you are studying in China matches with one of our Biological Sciences degree programmes at the University of Edinburgh.

If you would like more information about the structure of our degrees or required courses for our Honours programmes (listed in 2.1), please contact our Undergraduate Recruitment Officer by emailing: bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk.

6.2 Scores needed in 1st and 2nd year courses in China

We do not have a list of specific courses and required scores. We will make a decision to accept you, based on what you have studied, how well you have performed, how well your programme matches to one of ours, and on your English language ability.

6.3 English language requirements

Before we can accept your application, you need to pass an IELTS test with a total score of at least 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each section.



6.4 Start planning now

- If you are interested in applying for entry in September 2017, you should start planning now. Discuss everything with your parents and family, as well as your course tutors. The earlier you start planning, the easier it is to make all the arrangements in time.
- Ask for any further information you need by emailing bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk.
- Concentrate on improving your English, as staff from the School of Biological Sciences will visit your university in spring (usually March) to interview you.
- Contact your International Office for more information.

7 How do I apply to study at Edinburgh?

7.1 Applying for the 2+2 programme

If you want to apply for our 2+2 programme for September 2017 entry, the application process is different from the normal application to study in the UK.

If you are in 2nd year now, please visit our China 2+2 programme web page and register your interest by completing the candidate registration form:

www.ed.ac.uk/biology/prospective-students/undergraduate/2plus2. The completed form should be emailed to bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk. You should also inform your International Office that you would like to apply.

The closing date for submitting the candidate registration form is Monday, 13th March 2017.

7.2 What information do I need to send?

Your advisers and/or International Office will be able to help you send electronic copies of the items listed directly below. Please send these documents to bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk as soon as possible after submitting the candidate registration form.

- Two Academic references (in English)
- Academic transcripts (in English)
- Language certificates
- Copy of the photo page of your passport
- Personal statement

The personal statement should be written in English and should be no longer than 300 words. You should explain why you want to study your chosen Biological Sciences programme at the University of Edinburgh; and you can also include your current knowledge



of the subject, any relevant skills or experience and any personal qualities (interests or other skills) that you can demonstrate.

If you can't provide your academic transcripts or language certificates by Monday 13th March 2017, but still wish to apply for this programme, then email our Undergraduate Recruitment Officer at bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk with as much of the required information as possible. You may still be selected for interview.

7.3 Interviews

Once you have sent all the required information, the School of Biological Sciences will contact you to inform you if you have been successfully selected for an interview. The interview will be conducted at your university in China and will take place sometime in March or April. This interview will be in English, and will test your Biological Sciences knowledge, as well as your English language comprehension and ability.

7.4 After your interview

If you are successful at interview, have completed all of the information detailed in sections 7.1 and 7.2, and you want to study at the University of Edinburgh, then our College Admissions Officers will send you a "Record of Prior Acceptance" (RPA). This means that we can give you an offer of a place. **Note that if you are applying by this route you cannot apply for any other university in the UK.**

7.5 IELTS score

Remember that you must have achieved an IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 in each section by the time you apply. If you cannot supply your test scores by the 13th March 2017, then please inform the School of Biological Sciences of the earliest date that you can supply this information by emailing bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk

7.6 Receiving an offer

If you meet all these requirements (academic, interview and minimum language), we will make you an **Unconditional Offer**. This means that we are offering you a definite place to study with us, and we will send you a letter to confirm your place. This letter allows you to start applying for a visa, which is mandatory to come to study in the United Kingdom (UK).

You will also be given a UCAS reference number. Normally, all students who want to study in the UK apply through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) directly and are given a UCAS number then. If you apply directly to us instead, you will be given this number from us. This will allow you to see your application on-line, and UCAS will contact you directly to give you a formal offer of a place.



The letter from us contains important information regarding accommodation and paying fees. Please read it carefully and make sure you follow the instructions in plenty of time.

If you do not meet all of these requirements within the timeline specified by the School, we may still make you a **Conditional Offer**. This means that you will be accepted assuming you meet the conditions identified by the School of Biological Sciences.

8 What do I do after I have been offered a place?

8.1 Visa

You must apply for a visa to come and study in the UK. The offer letter from us will enable you to start the application process. Your International Office will be able to advise you on how to do this.

8.2 English language courses

After we have offered you a place, it is a requirement that you arrive in Edinburgh in the middle of August in order to attend the intensive English language course provided by English Language Education at the University of Edinburgh. This course, entitled: *Preparation for Undergraduate Study*, commences about 4 weeks prior to the start of the normal academic teaching semester.

Once you begin your Biological Sciences studies, you may also be expected to study an in-session English course (which may commence before the start of semester). Attendance at this course is dependent on your IELTS score.

We will advise you on how to book and pay for the required course(s) as you proceed through the application process.

8.3 Accommodation during the pre-sessional English language course

As part of our agreement with your home University, we will organise accommodation for you to stay in during your pre-sessional course(s). We are likely to pay for this up front and then deduct the cost from your scholarship.

8.4 Studying

It is important to remember that you will be expected to cope with all the lectures, tutorials and labs as soon as you start studying with us. You will have in-course assignments to submit during semester 1 and you will have degree exams in December, so it is important to start studying hard as soon as you arrive. We do not make any extra allowances for overseas students in exams; you will be treated in exactly the same way as all other students.



8.5 Academic guidance

Every student will be allocated a Personal Tutor through whom personal and academic guidance will be provided.

8.6 Accommodation during semester

For your first year of study with us, you should apply for university student accommodation as soon as you have been given an offer; whether conditional or unconditional. You can apply online through the following website: www.accom.ed.ac.uk. You will be guaranteed a place in accommodation, provided that you apply by the published deadline. Full details, including how to pay, are given on the website.

8.7 Fees

You must be prepared to pay the University fees at the start of semester. Full details of fees are given on the Scholarships and Student Funding Services website: www.registry.ed.ac.uk/fees. All students on our 2+2 programme are given a scholarship of £2500 in each of their two years of study in Edinburgh. This will be provided during semester 1.





9 Further Information

9.1 Useful websites:

- The University of Edinburgh: www.ed.ac.uk
- Information for International Students: www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international
- School of Biological Sciences: www.ed.ac.uk/biology
- Information on fees at the University of Edinburgh: www.registry.ed.ac.uk/fees
- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS): www.ucas.com
- Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA): www.eusa.ed.ac.uk
- The Advice Place: www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace

9.2 Checklist

- If you are thinking of applying, start to plan now
- Work out which degree programme you are interested in studying at Edinburgh
- Email bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk if you require further information on the required courses for our programmes
- Start preparing for and book your IELTS test
- Prepare to send the information required to apply
- Be prepared for an interview in March or April in English
- If successful at interview, apply for a visa as soon as you can
- Register for the English language courses at the University of Edinburgh
- Prepare to pay fees for English language courses and university
- Book accommodation for start of university



9.3 Contact details

Undergraduate Recruitment Officer
Biology Teaching Organisation
School of Biological Sciences
James Clerk Maxwell Building (Room 2105)
Peter Guthrie Tait Road
King's Buildings
Edinburgh EH9 3FD
Email address: bto.recruitment@ed.ac.uk

9.4 Key staff members



Mrs Deborah Rodrigues

Undergraduate Recruitment Officer

International Coordinator



Dr Yuhua (Linda) Hu

International Coordinator

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document before going to print (November 2016). It will not, however, form part of a contract between the University and a student or applicant and must be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of Admissions which are published online.