

# Unicorns, Universities, and the Pursuit of Knowledge

## The Scottish Higher Education Experience

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Today's session will cover:

Why Study in Scotland

Scottish Degree Structure

Scotland's Universities

Student Life and Support

Costs and Living Expenses

Application Process





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# Why Scotland?

- 18 world-leading universities in a country of 5.4 million (total UK population is 67 million)
  - First university founded in 1413
  - Including QS World Rankings Top 100 institutions
- Typically a 4-year undergraduate degree
- 4,000+ degree combinations including professional and vocational degrees
- Global partnerships and study abroad opportunities
- High levels of graduate employability
  - Over 90% of full-time, first-degree leavers from Scottish universities are in work or further study after graduating
- Over 52,000 international students from 180+ countries

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# Quality of education

- The Scottish Government has devolved responsibility from the UK Government for higher education – reflecting Scotland's historic and distinctive education system
- Institutions range from large, comprehensive universities with around 50,000 students to small, specialist institutions of 2,500 students
- High rate of student satisfaction with the quality of teaching
  - 91% of international graduates are satisfied with their learning experience in Scotland
- Strong focus on independent learning embedded within supportive academic communities



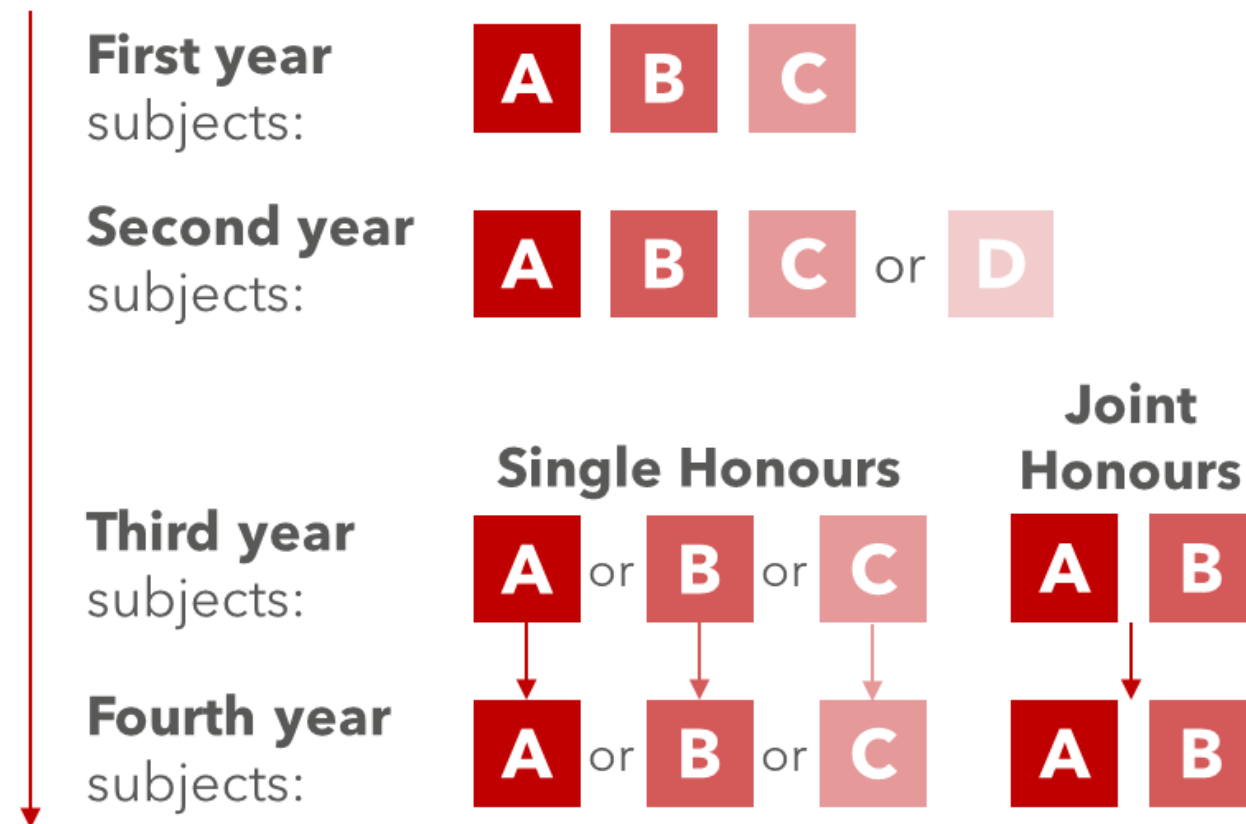


	 <b>Rest of UK</b>	 <b>Scotland</b>	 <b>USA</b>
Application stage	Specific programme	Specific programme	General curriculum
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Only own subject</b>	<b>3-4 subjects</b>	<b>Core curriculum</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Only own subject</b>	<b>3-4 subjects</b> (can still amend degree)	<b>Core curriculum</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Honours year</b> (including dissertation)	<b>Junior Honours year/study abroad</b>	<b>Declare major</b>
<b>Year 4</b>		<b>Senior Honours year</b> (including dissertation)	<b>Major</b>
Master's degree	One year	One year	2 years

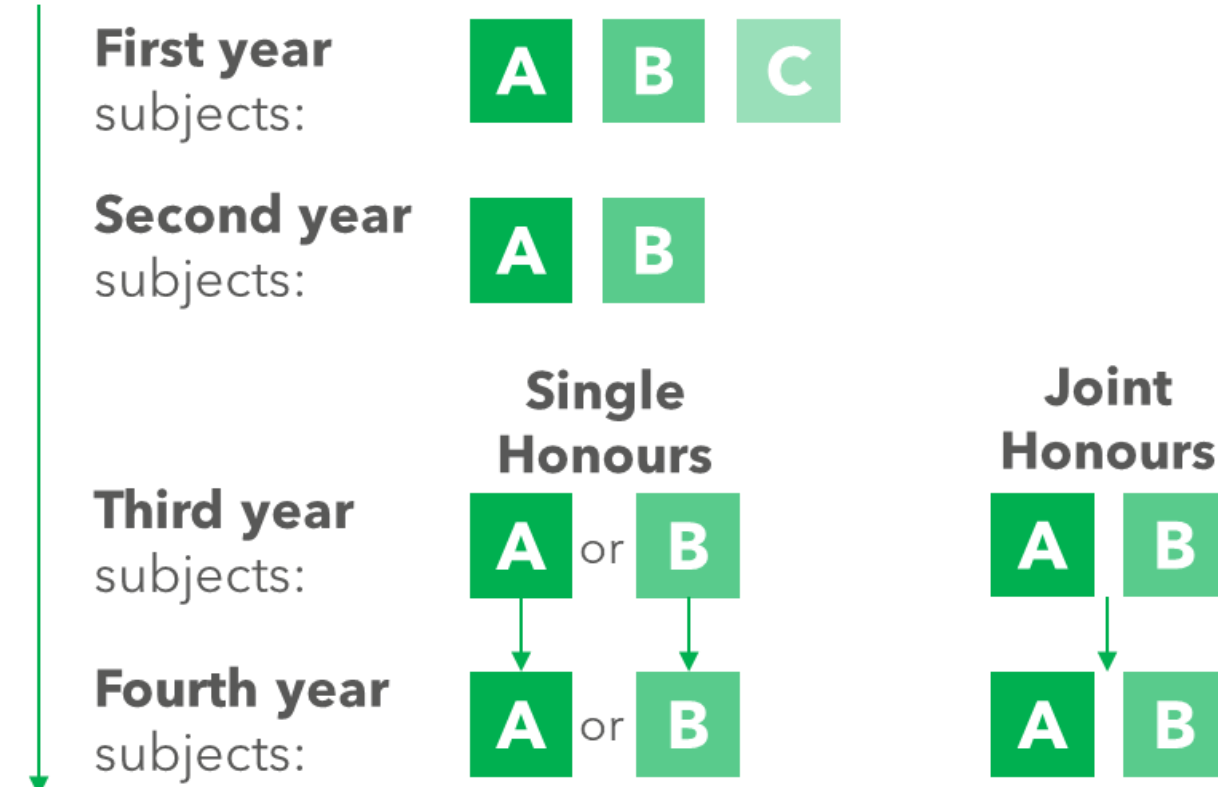
# Degree structure

- 4-year system allows students to explore multiple areas before selecting specialisation
- Some programmes might allow advanced entry into 2<sup>nd</sup> year to applicants with exceptional academic profile

## MA (Master of Arts) Honours



## BSc (Bachelor of Science) Honours



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# Ancient Universities

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Modern Universities



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**City Universities**

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# Campus or Small-Town Universities



# Living in Scotland

- Engage in student societies and sports teams through university Unions
  - Sports at various skills levels, from casual to competing at the international stage
- University events and traditions – ceilidhs, balls, Rabbie Burns supper parties...
- A wealth of weekend activity options – historic towns, modern cities as well as outdoor spaces
- Cultural events – festivals (Edinburgh Fringe), music events, sports tournaments (Commonwealth Games, golf)
- Public transport free for under 22s residing in Scotland







# Student Support

- Advice offered through dedicated Student Support departments and Student Unions
- Information on university services and procedures but also general topics such as paying bills, visas, and disability support

Academic support	Pastoral support	Careers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academic tutors and advisers</li><li>• Additional tutoring</li><li>• Study skills</li><li>• Academic writing</li><li>• English language support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedicated student well-being teams</li><li>• Peer support networks</li><li>• Counselling services</li><li>• Food pantries etc</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Careers service</li><li>• CV writing workshops</li><li>• Mock interviews</li><li>• Job databases</li><li>• Many accessible long after graduation</li></ul>



# Costs and living expenses

- Tuition fees vary widely by institution and specific programme – ranging from £15,000 to £37,000 per year (excluding Medicine)
- An applicant's fee status is determined by each university upon receiving application
  - UK citizens residing in the EU – no post-2028 entry guidance as of now
- Scholarships offered directly by universities – some automatic, some require application
- UK student visa allows 20 hours of work per week during term-time

## Costs to consider

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuition fees</li><li>• Accommodation</li><li>• Food and social events</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visa application</li><li>• Immigration Health Surcharge</li></ul> |
|---|---|







# Professional degrees

- Medicine and healthcare programmes
  - Number of places per fee status often set by government
- Law
  - Scots and Common (English) law
- Veterinary medicine
  - Often more competitive than Medicine
- Engineering
  - Often options for General Engineering if student unsure of specialisation when applying

UCAS provides a complete list of courses offered at each university in the UK

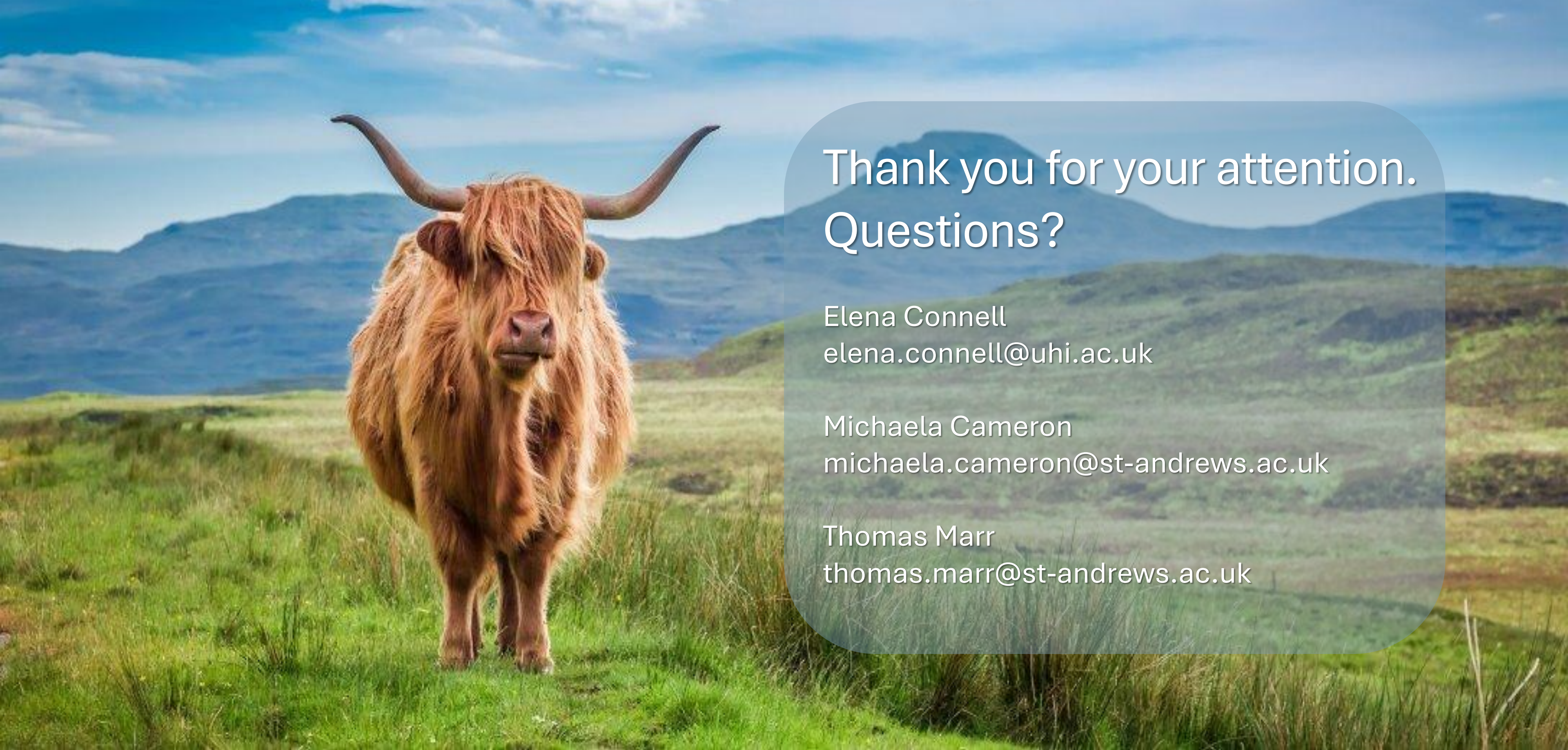


# Application process

- UCAS – application system used for all UK universities
- Many universities also accept CommonApp or even direct applications
  - If used in conjunction with UCAS, a maximum of 5 total applications still applies
- Application deadline for equal consideration – mid-January for September entry
- Interviews for subjects such as medicine, nursing, vet, creative arts – but each university has their own policy and may interview for other subjects







Thank you for your attention.  
Questions?

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