

Optional site visits for conference delegates

The following visits have been arranged to provide additional opportunities to visitors from outwith Scotland to hear more about student engagement and quality processes, whilst they are in Scotland for the sparqs Conference. The visits, spanning the week of the conference, are to a range of universities, and an HE sector agency, given that the majority of international visitors are from an HE background. The visits are all close enough to Edinburgh to allow travel there and back within the day, and will enable visitors to see a bit more of Scotland!

If you are interested in booking a space on any of the visits, **please liaise directly with the contacts noted below, by Friday 10th March at the latest.** Visitors are responsible for booking and paying for their own travel. Links to maps/directions for each site visit are included below, and for travel options see the following website: <http://www.travelinescotland.com/>

| The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen | |
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| Date/times: | Monday 20 th March, 11.30–16.00 |
| Website: | http://www.rgu.ac.uk/ |
| How to get there: | http://www.rgu.ac.uk/contact-us/how-to-find-us |
| Contact details: | Kirsty Campbell - k.campbell-a@rgu.ac.uk |
| Notes: | The following trains will fit in with the visit timings: Depart Edinburgh Waverley 08.28 train. Returning, depart Aberdeen 17.09 train. Tickets on this route will be significantly cheaper if you book in advance – as early as possible. |

| Glasgow Caledonian University | |
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| Date/times: | Tuesday 21 st March, 10.00-13.00 |
| Website: | http://www.gcu.ac.uk/ |
| How to get there: | http://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/opensdaysandtours/traveldirections/ |
| Contact details: | Nicola Andrew - n.andrew@gcu.ac.uk |
| Notes: | Get the train from Edinburgh to Glasgow Queen Street Station and the university is only a 5/10 minute walk from there. The train journey from Edinburgh to Glasgow Queen Street is approximately 45 minutes. |

| Quality Assurance Agency Scotland, Glasgow | |
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| Date/times: | Tuesday 21 st March, 14.30-16.30 |
| Website: | http://www.qaa.ac.uk/about-us/scotland |
| How to get there: | http://www.qaa.ac.uk/contact-us/glasgow-office |
| Contact details: | Rose-Ann Healy - r.healy@qaa.ac.uk |
| Notes: | The QAA offices are just a few minutes' walk from Glasgow Central Station (trains from Edinburgh take between 60-90 minutes). However the offices are only a 10 minute walk from Glasgow Queen Street Station which is a quicker train route from Edinburgh (45 minutes). It is only a 10 minute walk between Glasgow Central and Glasgow Queen Street and there is a regular shuttle bus between the two stations. Train tickets between Edinburgh and Glasgow can be used to/from either Glasgow station, e.g. you can travel to Queen Street, and return from Central (which would be an option if visiting GCU in the morning and QAA in the afternoon). If you are planning to visit GCU in the morning it is easy to walk between there and the QAA offices, and there are plenty of nice places for lunch in between. |

| University of Dundee | |
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| Date/times: | Friday 24 th March, 10.00-12.45 |
| Website: | https://www.dundee.ac.uk/ |
| How to get there: | https://www.dundee.ac.uk/travel/ |
| Contact details: | Stewart Squire – ssquire@dusa.co.uk |
| Notes: | The following trains will fit in with the visit timings: 08.28 train from Edinburgh to Dundee. Train journey takes between 65-80 minutes. If going to The University of Edinburgh in the afternoon, get the 13.17 train back from Dundee to Edinburgh. |

| The University of Edinburgh | |
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| Date/times: | Friday 24 th March, 14.45-16.30 |
| Website: | http://www.ed.ac.uk/ |
| How to get there: | http://www.ed.ac.uk/visit/city/getting-here |
| Contact details: | Tanya Lubicz-Nawrocka - tanya.lubicz-nawrocka@eusa.ed.ac.uk |
| Notes: | If you are visiting University of Dundee in the morning, get the 13.17 train back from Dundee to be in time for this visit. |

Student officers and students' union staff may also be interested in attending the following event as observers:

| National Union Students (NUS) Scotland – National Conference | |
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| Date/times: | Friday 24 th March and/or Saturday 25 th March. |
| Fees: | Please note that there will be a fee for attendance, details of which will be available from Anne McDonald. |
| Website: | http://nusscotlandconference.nusconnect.org.uk/ |
| Event venue: | Apex City Quay Hotel, Dundee |
| How to get there: | https://www.apexhotels.co.uk/apex-city-quay-hotel-spa/directions |
| Contact details: | Anne McDonald – Anne.McDonald@nus-scotland.org.uk |
| Notes: | There will be a separate registration process for this conference and different options in terms of which days you'd like to attend, staying overnight, dinner etc. but if you contact Anne in the first instance she will talk you through it. This event is not suitable for institutional staff. |