

## Optional site visits for conference delegates

The following visits have been arranged to provide additional opportunities to visitors from outside 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 institutions, which offer their own unique insight into the different aspects of the Scottish education sector. 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, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 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/>

<b>Heriot-Watt University</b>	
Date/times:	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00 – 12:30</b>
Website:	<a href="https://www.hw.ac.uk/">https://www.hw.ac.uk/</a>
How to get there:	<a href="https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/edinburgh/maps-directions.htm">https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/edinburgh/maps-directions.htm</a>
Contact details:	Ian Glen - <a href="mailto:i.j.glen@hw.ac.uk">i.j.glen@hw.ac.uk</a>
Notes:	Several bus services run to the Edinburgh campus. Service 25 (heading towards Riccarton) is the most frequent, leaving the city centre every 10 minutes. The journey takes about 30–40 minutes from the city centre.
What to expect:	An interesting perspective from an internationalisation and global learning focused university; Heriot-Watt has fully-integrated campuses in Dubai and Malaysia, as well as its Scottish campuses in Edinburgh and the Borders. It is a research-intensive institution, linked closely to business and industry.

<b>University of the West of Scotland (UWS) - Paisley Campus</b>	
Date/times:	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30 – 12:30</b>
Website:	<a href="https://www.uws.ac.uk/">https://www.uws.ac.uk/</a>
How to get there:	<a href="https://www.uws.ac.uk/university-life/campuses/paisley-campus/travelling-to-paisley-campus/">https://www.uws.ac.uk/university-life/campuses/paisley-campus/travelling-to-paisley-campus/</a>
Contact details:	Claire Lumsden - <a href="mailto:Claire.lumsden@uws.ac.uk">Claire.lumsden@uws.ac.uk</a>
Notes:	Take the train from Edinburgh to Glasgow Central (take between 60-90 minutes). From Glasgow Central, take the train to Paisley Gilmour Street; this takes about 10 minutes, and trains run every 10-15 minutes. The campus is a short 5-minute walk from the station.
What to expect:	The chance to learn from a multi-campus university which places an emphasis on career-focused learning. UWS operates at five campuses across Scotland and has a strong background relating to widening participation and lifelong learning with the communities that it operates in.

<b>Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Scotland</b>	
Date/times:	<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 14:00 – 16:00</b>
Website:	<a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/about-us">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/about-us</a>
How to get there:	<a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/about-us/contact-us#">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/scotland/about-us/contact-us#</a>
Contact details:	<a href="mailto:ARCAdmin@qaa.ac.uk">ARCAdmin@qaa.ac.uk</a>
Notes:	If visiting UWS in the morning, take the train back to Glasgow Central. The QAA Scotland office is located across the road from Central Station, on Bothwell Street.
What to expect:	An excellent opportunity to have an overview of Scotland's Quality Enhancement Framework (QEF), including Enhancement-led Institutional Review, the Enhancement Themes, and a Q&A session.

<b>The University of Edinburgh</b>	
Date/times:	<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 10:00 – 12:00</b>
Website:	<a href="https://www.ed.ac.uk/home">https://www.ed.ac.uk/home</a>
How to get there:	<a href="https://www.ed.ac.uk/visit/city/getting-here">https://www.ed.ac.uk/visit/city/getting-here</a>
Contact details:	Megan Brown - <a href="mailto:megan.brown@eusa.ed.ac.uk">megan.brown@eusa.ed.ac.uk</a>
Notes:	The University is located in Edinburgh city centre. Several bus services also link other areas of the city to the university.
What to expect:	A chance to find out more from the biggest university in Scotland, with over 40,000 students. Edinburgh is a large, devolved institution, with a high percentage of international students. It operates a large student representation system, and has insight into working with under-represented student groups and work around mental health and wellbeing.

<b>Perth College UHI (University of the Highlands and Islands)</b>	
Date/times:	<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 14:30 – 16:30</b>
Website:	<a href="https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/">https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/</a>
How to get there:	<a href="https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-find-us/">https://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/how-to-find-us/</a>
Contact details:	Jessica Borley - <a href="mailto:Jessica.borley.perth@uhi.ac.uk">Jessica.borley.perth@uhi.ac.uk</a>
Notes:	If visiting Edinburgh University in the morning, take the 12:36 train direct from Edinburgh Waverley to Perth. The train takes about 1 hour 15 minutes. The campus is a 10-minute taxi ride from the train station.
What to expect:	A unique opportunity to explore a tertiary education provider. Perth College UHI is one of 13 colleges that make up the University of the Highlands and Islands, the only tertiary provider in Scotland, and one of only a handful in Europe, delivering both FE and HE courses.

