

Edinburgh Napier University International College (ENUIC)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Contents

What is an International College?.....	1
Why is the University doing this now?.....	2
How will the college make sure our students succeed and progress to their studies at the University?	3
How will this college be different from the former association with Edinburgh International College with Navitas?.....	3
Who is our partner Oxford International?	4
What expertise does OIEG bring to the partnership?.....	4
What courses will be offering?.....	4
Where will the students be taught?.....	6
Who will teach the students?	6
Will the College impact the pre-sessional and in-sessional English Language support currently provided to international students at ENU?	6
Will the students be Oxford International students or Edinburgh Napier students?	7
Will students have access to ENU student accommodation?	7
When will the first students arrive at ENU?.....	7
Do other Scottish universities offer this sort of college?	7
How does this proposal align with the University's sustainability objectives?.....	7

What is an International College?

A college that provides pathway programmes to support international students gain access to university and prepare them for their undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Pathway programmes are typically provided by a third party co-located on a university campus - as an embedded pathway college (EPC) - who bring their own recruitment networks to the partnership.

Edinburgh Napier University International College (ENUIC) will be an embedded pathway college. This means we have entered into a partnership agreement with a specialist provider to help us access a diverse range of students who otherwise would not be eligible for direct entry into ENU and set them up for successful progression into core ENU degree programmes. Students may not be eligible for direct entry because they lack the English language level, academic background or have school qualifications that do not map to our standard entry criteria. The partner will provide a supportive programme to raise attainment to an agreed standard for transition. The embedded nature of the college means the teaching will take place within our campuses, students will be ENU students from the outset, and college staff will have associate staff status and work closely with ENU colleagues, helping integration into the ENU community, in turn supporting successful transitions.

Why is the University doing this now?

We made an Annual Plan commitment in 2022/23 to explore the feasibility of establishing a pathway college to increase supply and access to our undergraduate portfolio for international students.

There are a number of factors that are behind this priority and the subsequent decision to establish an embedded pathway college now, however financial sustainability and resilience is key. With real term cuts in public funding, the University needs other sources of income to continue investing in staff and campuses. A key potential source of that funding is through international student recruitment.

International undergraduate recruitment at ENU has fallen in the past few years, primarily due to Covid-19. The majority of ENU undergraduate recruitment over the past decade has come from partnership arrangements in China, where students articulate into the final one or two years of an Edinburgh Napier University degree. This model has been severely disrupted during the pandemic as students' home institutions have implemented policies that restricted student travel overseas to comply with Chinese government regulations. We therefore need to diversify our recruitment so that we are not reliant on a particular market.

Our desire to attract international students is not only to bring financial benefit to the University, but to culturally enrich our student community. The College is a way to continue this (particularly after Brexit).

Overall, the EPC will help:

- To facilitate international growth, particularly at the undergraduate level, where capacity and opportunity exists within key subject areas;
- To enable greater access to our provision - particularly from territories where standard academic qualifications are not considered for direct entry (including the Middle East region), which enables growth as well as enhancing the diversity of our international community, resilience and additional cultural enrichment;
- To support international student success, through a supported pathway with an integrated focus on language, academic skills and acculturation, readying students to progress and integrate, with higher levels of retention and success than direct entry students;
- To enable us to benefit from recent growth in demand for UK education, fuelled by changes in immigration legislation;
- To enhance our financial resilience to changing policy/markets/geopolitics, by building a sustainable recruitment pipeline and diversifying University income - helping to protect against future losses should external market conditions change;
- To ensure we are well-placed against direct competitors in Scotland and Rest of UK (RUK) to attract students in competitive markets; and
- To ultimately generate significant additional income for ENU.

The proposal to establish the college is aligned to our top-level University Strategy objective to Grow Networks - Connect Communities, our Transformational Action to Grow and Diversify our Income and has been included as a top 10 Priority in the 23/24 Annual Plan as a route to delivering our core Internationalisation Strategy commitment to 'Grow our international student community on campus and enhance the international student experience, ensuring our international students are well supported to succeed in their studies.'

How will the college make sure our students succeed and progress to their studies at the University?

The college provides a supported pathway that focuses on language, academic skills, and acculturation. This approach prepares students to progress and integrate, leading to higher levels of retention and success compared to direct entry students.

The embedded pathway college (EPC) helps widen opportunities for overseas students to engage in undergraduate and postgraduate degree studies in the UK but who are not eligible for direct entry onto ENU degrees because they lack either the English language level or the academic background or both. The EPC provides preparatory programmes which address students' shortfalls in these areas as well as providing an introduction to the expectations, requirements and particular environment of Higher Education in Scotland. The college environment is both supportive and challenging for the students.

The three key elements provided are: enhancement of language skills so that the students are able to engage more completely in degree study through the medium of English, tuition in academic study skills relevant to the level at which students have chosen to study, and the academic culture of Scottish HE. In many ways, the most important is the development of students' appreciation of academic culture. While the focus on language and skills development is of great importance, students are also enabled to deploy these skills in the study of subject matter relevant to their choice of degree programme.

Many students will have come from a very different learning environment than the one encountered at ENU. They have often been used to tuition in classes too large to allow for individual attention, where rote learning has been a major educational tool and where the challenging of received opinion is discouraged. In adapting to study at ENU, the students acquire an understanding of what constitutes good academic practice, learn to correctly reference material drawn down from the work of authorities and to avoid collusion and the submission of work that is not their own.

The emphasis within the EPC is on small-class tuition, allowing for a focus to be made on the needs of individual students and support be provided not only to bring weaker students across the pass/fail line but also to extend the capabilities of stronger students, so that both are provided with strategies for improvement. In summary, the EPC provides students with a 'soft landing' into Higher Education and ENU, gives them an environment where they can grow in confidence and in which they are able to make their mistakes and learn from them in a supportive environment. Within a grouping of overseas students, after completion of their preparatory programme, they are able to join the mainstream ENU degree programmes with often large majority of domestic students with an increased confidence in their ability to cope and prosper.

How will this college be different from the former association with Edinburgh International College with Navitas?

ENU worked with Navitas from 2010. However, the college was closed in 2018 by mutual consent as it didn't achieve the student recruitment targets set by both organisations. Since then, external market conditions have changed significantly, and effort has been made to learn from the things that worked well under the previous model, including some processes, and adjust things that didn't, including location, approach to engagement, aspects of admissions and a focus on student experience. Some examples include, simplifying admissions processes and embedding the college within our campuses from the start of the partnership, and engaging academic and professional

service colleagues much earlier to support the development of the partnership, approach and pathways.

Who is our partner Oxford International?

Oxford International Education Group (OIEG) is a private education company committed to creating life-enhancing experiences for students worldwide. Since 1991, the company has grown to help more than 50,000 students every year.

They are currently the fastest growing pathway provider in terms of student recruitment in the UK, with centres based at institutions where there have been historical challenges related to ranking and location (e.g. Bradford/Bangor/De Montfort). Importantly, they have experience of operating in Scotland, and tailoring provision to support the four-year degree, with their college at the University of Dundee, growing to the second largest centre in Scotland just three years after launch.

More information about OIEG can be found through the portal for our college partnership here: [Edinburgh Napier University - University Partnership Portal \(oxfordinternational.com\)](http://Edinburgh Napier University - University Partnership Portal (oxfordinternational.com))

What expertise does OIEG bring to the partnership?

In terms of student recruitment, OIEG's senior management team includes individuals with considerable experience in successful student recruitment, drawn from Coventry University, which has led market positions in various parts of the world over the past decade. OIEG is able to leverage its global reach through its 250 recruitment and conversion specialists, strategically located in over 50 countries worldwide and an established network of agents.

OIEG also have a track record of successfully running embedded colleges in the UK, including Scotland, and North America and successfully transitioning students from the college into university and setting them up for success with high continuation rates.

What courses will be offering?

The college will deliver three pathway routes in the first instance: International Stage 1 and International Stage 2 at undergraduate level, and a Pre-Masters allowing progression into Taught Post-Graduate (TPG) programmes. Please see [International College \(napier.ac.uk\)](http://International College (napier.ac.uk)) for detailed information.

International Stage One (IS1) – is a pathway programme designed to support students who do not have the minimum entry requirements for entry into ENU Year 1, with a progression route for successful students into ENU Year 2.

International Stage Two (IS2) – a pathway programme designed to support students who achieve a higher standard school qualification (than IS1) to undertake a compressed and highly structured curriculum, with a progression route for successful students into ENU Year 3.

International Integrated Masters (IIM) – is a pre-Masters pathway programme designed to support students who do not have the minimum entry requirements for entry into an ENU TPG degree, with a progression route for successful students into the appropriate ENU Masters degree.

For the first year, ENUIC will focus on two Schools only: the School of Computing, Engineering & the Built Environment and The Business School. The remaining Schools will follow in Year 2. The pathway routes being offered are as follows, along with their relevant ENU progression programmes:

Pathway Delivered by ENU IC	ENU Degree course available for progression
-----------------------------	---

International Stage One (IS1)	<i>For progression into Year 2 of degree programme</i>
IS1 - Business Programmes	BA (Hons) Business Management BA (Hons) Marketing Management BA (Hons) International Festival & Event Management BA (Hons) International Hospitality Management BA (Hons) International Tourism & Airline Management BA (Hons) International Tourism Management BA (Hons) Accounting BA (Hons) Accounting with Corporate Finance BA (Hons) Financial Services
IS1 - Computing	BEng (Hons) Computer Systems & Networks BEng (Hons) Computing BEng (Hons) Cybersecurity & Forensics BSc (Hons) Computer Science BSc (Hons) Computer Science (AI) BEng (Hons) Software Engineering BSc (Hons) Games Development
IS1 Computing (Digital Media)	BSc (Hons) Web Design & Development BSc (Hons) Digital Media & Interaction Design BSc (Hons) User Experience (UX) Design
IS1 Engineering	BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering BEng (Hons) Energy & Environmental Engineering BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering BEng (Hons) Civil & Transportation Engineering
International Stage Two (IS2)	<i>For progression into Year 3 of degree programme</i>
IS2 Business Management	BA (Hons) Business Management
IS2 Computing	BEng (Hons) Computer Systems & Networks BEng (Hons) Computing BEng (Hons) Cybersecurity & Forensics BSc (Hons) Computer Science BSc (Hons) Computer Science (AI) BEng (Hons) Software Engineering BSc (Hons) Games Development
International Incorporated Masters (IIM)	<i>For progression into full Masters programme</i>
IIM Business	MSc International Business Management MSc International Human Resource Management

	MSc Accounting MSc International Finance MSc Global Hospitality Management MSc International Tourism Destination Management MSc International Heritage & Cultural Tourism Management MSc International Festival& Event Management MSc Intercultural Business Communication MSc Global Logistics & Supply Chain Analytics
IIM Computing	MSc Computing MSc Computing (Web Development)

Where will the students be taught?

Learning from experience and based on insight from OIEG, the College will be embedded within our current campuses through a hub and spoke model, with access to general classrooms in Merchiston and Craiglockhart in the launch year. New dedicated classrooms are being developed in Merchiston – alongside a small hub to house the front-facing college services – this is seen as critical to the successful launch of the college. Dedicated teaching space is also being made available within Craiglockhart. In addition, as college provision will be timetabled through our central system, access to wider general teaching spaces and specialist teaching spaces will be accommodated around core ENU provision. This will make the best use of the estate and help to integrate the students into our wider campus environments.

The College has been included in the future size and shape proposals for ENU as part of Project Vision. The requirements for additional general/specialist teaching space to support the planned growth of the college and progression into our programmes will form part of short-term space planning and longer-term master planning.

Who will teach the students?

The students will be taught by teaching staff employed by OIEG, but who will have ENU associate staff status and access to ENU staff services. However, the course materials will be created in collaboration with ENU colleagues, and all pathways will be mapped and approved through the new curriculum management environment with adherence to our quality framework. Each school will also appoint at least one Link Tutor to work closely with the College particularly regarding curriculum development opportunities and student performance/transitions.

Will the College impact the pre-sessional and in-session English Language support currently provided to international students at ENU?

No – the English for Academic Purposes Team will continue to deliver the pre-sessional English Language programmes for students entering the University directly and the programme of in-session English Language support offered to international students when they enter the University. There is English Language content embedded within the curriculum of the pathway programmes which will be delivered by OIEG to the students enrolled on the pathway programmes.

Will the students be Oxford International students or Edinburgh Napier students?

ENUIC students will be issued with an ENU CAS and register (matriculate) as ENU students. They will have access to all our support services as well as key college services and be just like any other ENU student, using our systems and benefitting from opportunities. This was an important factor in our decision to establish an embedded pathway college, helping support student integration, and to have them part of the ENU student community from Day 1.

Will students have access to ENU student accommodation?

Yes - as the college students will be registered (matriculated) as ENU students they will be subject to our First Year Guarantee. To ensure we can meet potential demand, and in recognition of the shortage of student accommodation in the city, we have entered into a nomination agreement with a Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) provider – details of the accommodation available to ENUIC students is highlighted here [International College \(napier.ac.uk\)](https://www.napier.ac.uk/international-college). The planned growth of the pathway college will also be factored into the student accommodation strategy, which is a top priority in the 2023/24 Annual Plan.

When will the first students arrive at ENU?

The first programmes will run from January 2024, as the partnership has now had successful approval from the United Kingdom Visas and Immigration office and the QAA.

Do other Scottish universities offer this sort of college?

Yes, there are currently seven pathway colleges in Scotland operated by a range of providers. These are at: University of Glasgow, University of Aberdeen, University of Dundee, University of Stirling, Strathclyde University, Robert Gordon University, and Heriot Watt University. The fastest growing is the University of Dundee partnership with Oxford International Education Group (OIEG), our chosen partner.

How does this proposal align with the University's sustainability objectives?

Growing International student recruitment in line with our University Strategy will no doubt have an impact on our wider carbon emissions. However, we recognise the significant value that international students bring to the cultural diversity and vibrancy of our campuses and our local community in Edinburgh and believe that we can also play a role in terms of promoting the importance of the sustainability agenda to our students through our curriculum and operations.