The University

An ancient university, founded in 1583
One of the largest universities in the UK
Over 30,000 students, more than 20,000 undergraduates, 10,000+ postgraduates
Over 11,500 international students from more than 140 countries
Academic to student ratio 1:5
3 Colleges, 20 Schools
Located in the heart of Scotland’s capital city
Numerous networks and global partnerships

Influencing the world since 1583
The City of Edinburgh

Europe's Leading Destination in 2012 (World Travel Awards 2012)

Population around 500,000, students make up over one tenth

Historic, cosmopolitan, safe, cultured city

One of the most vibrant cities in Europe and most desirable places to live in the world

World’s first UNESCO City of Literature

UNESCO World Heritage Site

12 annual festivals

Financial centre
James Clerk Maxwell – you might have thought he worked here, no!

Charles Barkla – won the Nobel prize for X-ray Spectroscopy

Sir Edward Appleton – won the Nobel prize for his studies of the Ionosphere

Max Born – won the Nobel Prize for his work on Quantum Mechanics

Charles Piazzi Smyth – won infamy for his work on pyramidology
The School is located...
in the James Clerk Maxwell Building
... on the King’s Buildings Campus
... and the Royal Observatory on Blackford Hill
Personal Tutor

- PTs ensure you receive appropriate advice and guidance

- Discussions might cover:
  - courses
  - future plans / opportunities
  - where to find help etc
Teaching and learning

- Teaching: through lectures, workshops, online materials, tutorials, lab work, demonstrations

- Course team (course organiser, lecturers, teaching assistants, course secretary)
Teaching and learning

Assessment through:

- Exams
- Problem sheets
- Online assessments
- Presentations
- Written coursework

Typically 20% coursework, 80% exam
Teaching and learning

Getting the most from your studies:

- prepare (read handouts, attempt problems)
- participate (in lectures, workshops etc)
- ask questions (ask staff, peers)
Peer Support

- Students supporting each other to get the most out of university
- Mentoring and group support

http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/activities/peer-support/
Your voice – student representation

- School and Year Reps
- Elected by students
- Student-Staff Liaison Committee

https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/your_school/physicsastronomy/
Communication & information

- Email – the method of communication. Check it every day.
- MyEd Portal
- Learn

School of Physics and Astronomy New Students web pages:

http://www.ph.ed.ac.uk/new-students/your-studies-getting-started/getting-started
Support structure

- Information Services – computing, library, study labs
- Student Administration – funding, documents/letters
- Health and Wellbeing – study support, disability, sport and exercise
- International Support - International Student Centre
Thank you