



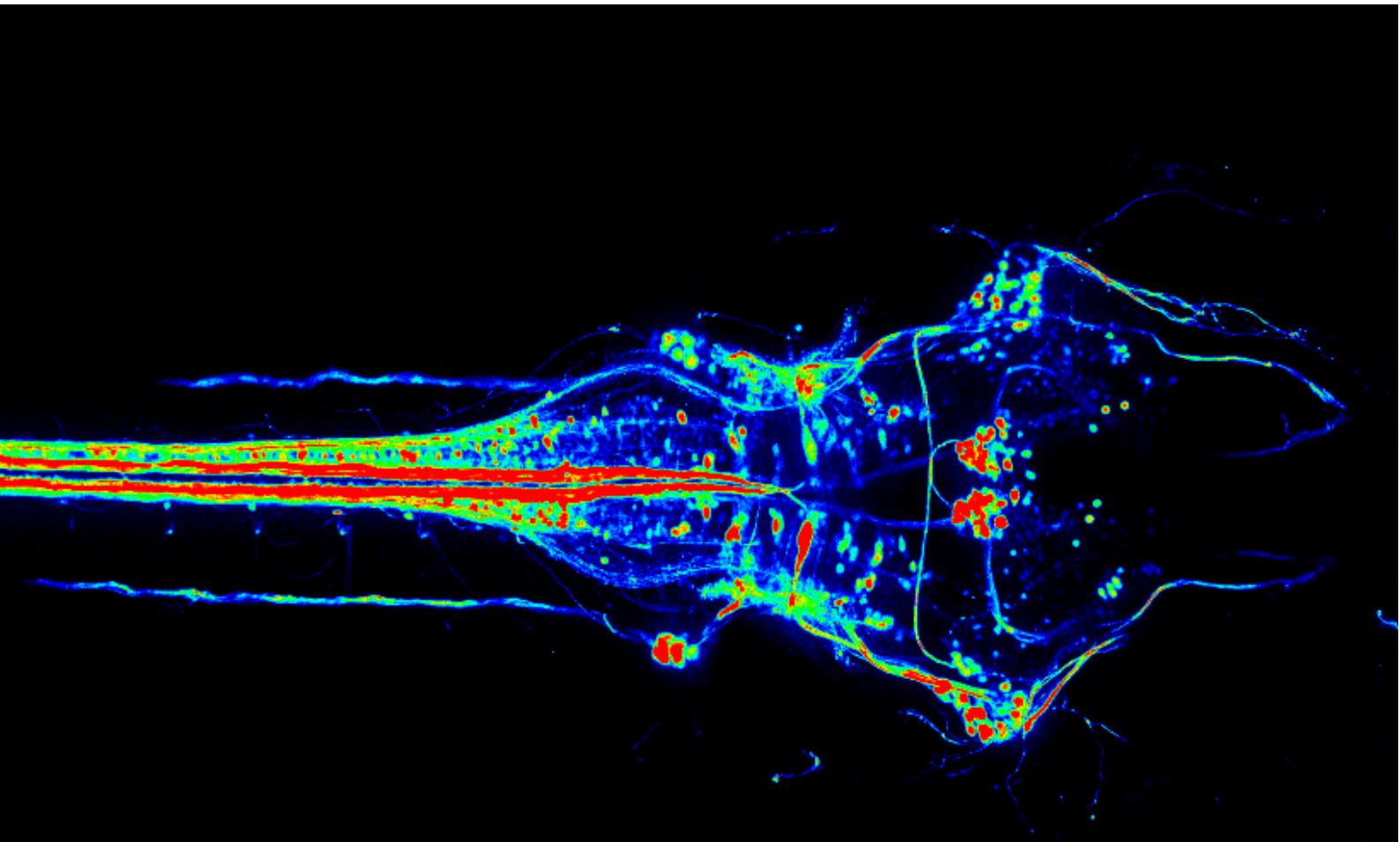
THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

**WittKieffer**

# HEAD OF SCHOOL AND DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE AND CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE





# CONTENTS

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE	3
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH	4
THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE	5
THE SCHOOL & INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE AND CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH	7
THE POSITION	8
THE PERSON	10
THE LOCATION	11
APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY	13



# WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

I'm delighted that you have shown an interest in the role Head of School and Director of the Institute for Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research at the University of Edinburgh and look forward to engaging with you to explore the opportunity.

The Institute for Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research brings together the University of Edinburgh's world-leading neuroscience, metabolic and cardiovascular researchers enabling critical mass, fostering pre-existing and strategic new collaborations that will harness interdisciplinarity and opportunities under a unified mission to address major cardiovascular, metabolic and neurological health challenges. The Institute will foster an integrated whole-body life-course approach to the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases and disorders that represent the commonest and most important causes of morbidity and mortality which we face across the world today. These include heart, circulatory and metabolic diseases, stroke, serious mental illness, neurodevelopmental disorders, dementia and other neurodegenerative disease, and neuroinflammatory disorders such as multiple sclerosis.

The University is looking for an exceptional individual to work with our Principal Investigators, professional services staff and technical support teams to deliver a clear and exciting vision for the future of the Institute which is in direct alignment with the College and the University of Edinburgh's research strategy. Along with outstanding leadership and strategic skills, the successful candidate will demonstrate an inclusive approach to enhancing a productive research culture and the ability to forge new partnerships nationally and internationally. Building synergy across the Institute and the wider College, the successful candidate will accelerate the Institute's discovery and translational research and provide leadership on teaching.

The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM) is also home to the schools of Genetics and Cancer, Population Health, Regeneration and Repair, and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and Roslin Institute. The teams in the 6 CMVM schools/Institutes will work together to build outstanding discovery and translational research programmes designed to answer the major challenges facing humanity, animal and planetary health, now and in the future. The Institute Directors are all members of the College Senior Management Team and Executive Group and report directly to the Head of College.

You will join us at an exciting time in the College's history as we put plans in place to complete our pre-eminent medical and life sciences innovation district at the Edinburgh BioQuarter campus.



Working across the College, you will have the opportunity to shape the next phase of the College's development. You will also receive strong support from the University Principal, Provost, Head of College and the wider College and University management teams in taking your plans forward. If you join us, you will become part of an exceptional cadre of academics and professional services staff who have tremendous expertise and commitment.

I look forward to discussing the post with you further.

**Professor David J. Argyle FRSE FRSA FRCP (Edin) FRCVS**  
Vice-Principal and Head of College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine



## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At the University of Edinburgh, we've been influencing the world for more than 400 years. Each year we take on tomorrow's greatest challenges. Whatever excites you, whatever your ambition, whatever makes you 'you', we know one thing: nothing ordinary comes from this extraordinary place. At Edinburgh, you'll be in good company, doing good things, for the good of the environment and the world.

Driven by this passion, we've affected and empowered every member of our community. We believe this is possible because of a unique mix of three factors:

- Place: the city of Edinburgh is famous for changing the way the world is understood. Its history and reputation rub off on us, every day. It inspires and lifts our expectations of what is possible.
- People: our staff, students, leaders and partners are talented, courageous, engaging and brilliant – and down-to-earth. They value wisdom, laughter, character – and each other.
- Practice: we're an encouraging space to explore but, at the same time, our research and teaching are ambitious. We, and our global business partners, inspire you to aim high, push frontiers, deliver economic impact and drive sustainability. We're bold and our results change the world.

Where our place, people and practice meet, this is the University of Edinburgh; we are one of the finest centres of learning in the world. Our vision is to recruit and develop the world's most promising students and most outstanding staff and be a truly global university that benefits society. Founded in 1583 by the Town Council of Edinburgh, the University of Edinburgh was the first civic university in Britain. For more than four centuries, our people and their achievements have rewritten history time and again. They've explored space, revolutionised surgery, published era-defining books, paved the way for life-saving medical breakthroughs and introduced to the world many inventions, discoveries and ideas from penicillin to the first cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep. 18 Nobel Prize winners were educated at, or worked in, Edinburgh including, most recently, Professor Sir Peter Higgs (Physics; 2013).

The University has an annual turnover of more than £1.1 billion, of which more than £300 million is competitive research grant funding. It has over 15,000 staff and 40,000 students and is a founder member of the UK's Russell group of leading research universities in the UK and a member of the League of European Research Universities.



## THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

The University of Edinburgh's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine is a thriving community united by a shared ambition to turn ideas into impactful health outcomes for humans and animals.

The College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine brings people together from all over the world to learn to become scientists, doctors, vets, dental professionals or to simply explore new ways of learning. It is a place where scientists have the facilities they need to explore the most challenging research questions, where clinical trials explore new treatment options and new ideas get tested every day. We pride ourselves on being a place where ideas can grow, and people are given opportunities to flourish.

Our staff of over 3,330 delivers and supports research and teaching that earned a strong return in the 2022 Research Excellence Framework. Almost 8,500 people are studying with us right now across post and undergraduate programmes in our medical school, vet school and biomedical teaching organisation. More than 3,000 are upskilling on postgraduate taught degrees, a further 1,300 are leading their own postgraduate research and 3,800 fill our lecture theatres and teaching labs as undergraduates.

We are innovative in our approach to teaching at all levels. We are home to the first PhD programme to fully integrate engagement with research. We also have plans for a new health teaching facility that is sustainable in design and enables us to deliver a curriculum that will prepare doctors and scientists to deliver the healthcare of the future. Our vet school intertwines teaching and research in an outstanding setting. The strongest possible measure of success is how our people are doing.

Our strength is created by our people. Our success in research and teaching is enabled by their skill and our outstanding facilities. Together, we are tackling some of the biggest health and wellbeing challenges of our people and planet. Our plans for the future include an innovation estate unrivalled in the UK.

## Edinburgh University Strategy 2030

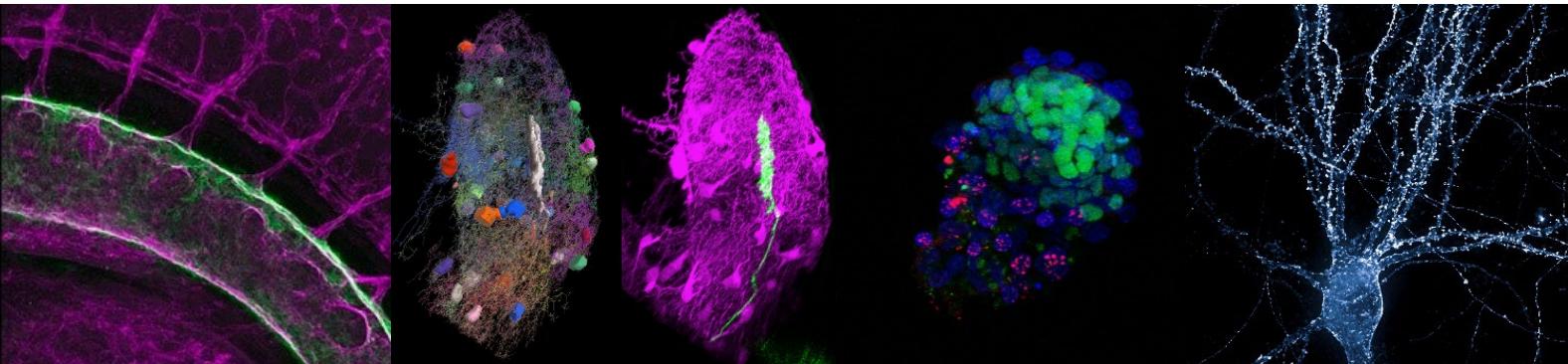
The University of Edinburgh Strategy 2030 is rooted in our values, and led by a distinctive, honest and realistic set of guiding principles to deliver excellence in 2030.

We strive to:

- be a place of transformation and of self-improvement, driven to achieve benefit for individuals, communities, societies and our world;
- be diverse, inclusive and accessible to all;
- be ambitious, bold and act with integrity, always being willing to listen;
- have a strong sense of community, fostering a sustainable environment in which staff, students, alumni and friends are proud to be part of our University;
- attract the world's best minds to come to study and work with us, while building innovative global partnerships for research, teaching and impact;
- celebrate and strengthen our deep-rooted and distinctive internationalism; and
- sustain a deep allegiance and commitment to the interests of the city and region in which we are based, alongside our national and international efforts.

Creating new opportunities for partners, friends, neighbours and supporters to co-create, engage with the world and amplify our impacts is at the forefront of our thinking and activity.





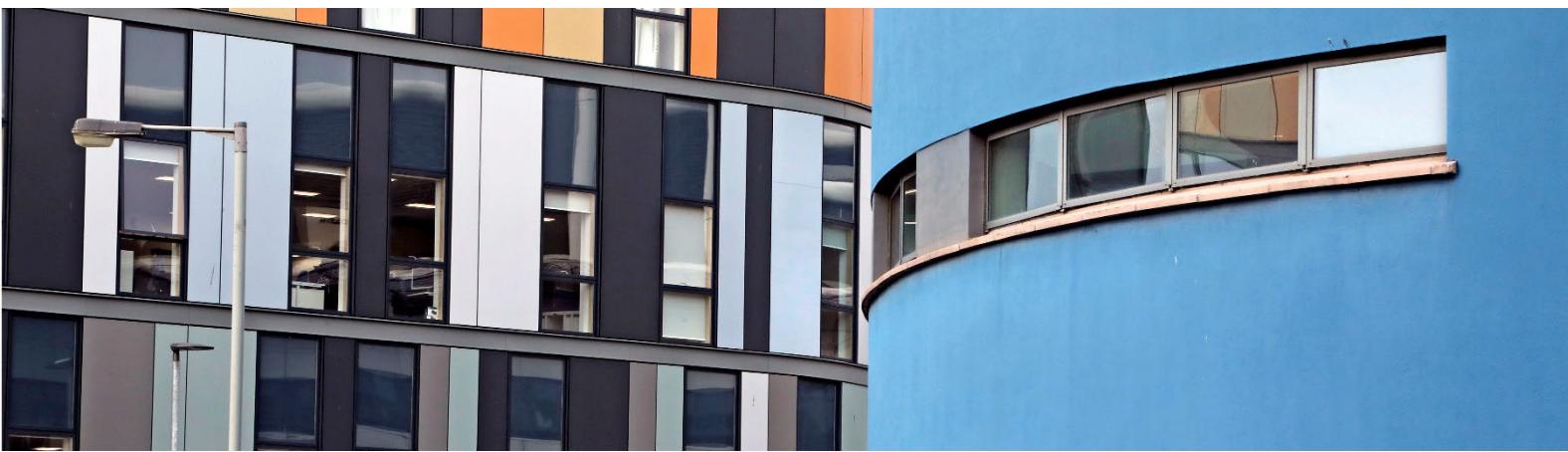
# THE SCHOOL AND INSTITUTE FOR NEUROSCIENCE AND CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

The creation of this world-leading Institute brings together non-clinical and clinical researchers to address the leading causes of disability, ill-health and mortality, through a combination of both discovery and clinical research that utilise emerging technologies such as advanced physiology, genetics, imaging and 'omics, cutting-edge cellular and animal models, cohort-led discovery science, population data, artificial intelligence, and clinical trials. The Institute is committed to translating our research towards clinical impact both within the University of Edinburgh and through external partnerships with colleagues in academia, industry and healthcare.

The research groups that are coming together to form the Institute for Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research have an established world-leading track record of excellence in discovery, translational and clinical science as evidenced by their contributions to the outstanding Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 outcomes in the research areas that are the focus of Institute's vision to lead in integrated thematic programmes in neuroscience and cardiovascular sciences. This is emphasised by the richness of our environment (75-100% classified as 4\* and world-leading), health and wealth impacts (80-100% classified as 4\* and world-leading) and research papers ( $\geq 90\%$  classified as 3 and 4\* and world-leading). In total, this flagship Institute attracts £50 million annually in external peer reviewed funding, has 400 members of research staff incorporating 190 principal investigators, and teaches 360 PhD and post-graduate students. Staff in this Institute are the leading contributors to undergraduate biomedical sciences programmes and lead on early years (pre-clinical) and clinical teaching for the MBChB programme.

Bringing the very best non-clinical and clinical scientists under a single institute inevitably creates an environment to facilitate and to enhance science and innovation. The magnitude, complementarity and breadth of neuroscience and cardiovascular research provide an unparalleled opportunity to bring together a critical mass of scientists to establish a unique world-leading institute with few other comparable institutes existing nationally or internationally. Research in the Institute encompasses the lifespan, from early development to old age, and is exemplified by our world-leading research centres including the Simons Initiative for the Developing Brain, the UK Dementia Research Institute at Edinburgh, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Centre of Research Excellence, the UKRI Hub for Metabolic Psychiatry and The Row Fogo Centre for Research into Ageing and the Brain. The Institute will capitalise on and develop further these synergistic links and will promote wider visibility when establishing new collaborations with laboratories including those at the forefront of the recently announced British Heart Foundation and UK Dementia Research Institute Centre for Vascular Dementia Research.

The Institute for Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research, and wider College, facilitate cutting edge research through excellent facilities, and they foster a collegial, collaborative and inclusive research culture. Training and development of the talent and skills that underpin this research, is a key focus and strength of the Institute.



## THE POSITION

We are looking for a research leader with an international reputation who will continue to foster and grow an environment where people thrive; someone who is collegial and ambitious for growing the Institute's research and teaching and who is well-equipped to lead during a forthcoming period of change. Institute Directors are central to the success of the wider College and University. They will be motivated to work collaboratively with the talented academic, professional services staff and student body of the College to shape the next phase of the Institute's development and success.

The Institute has a devolved budget for which the Director will have overall responsibility. This budget depends upon a strong external funding strategy, which the Director will be expected to shape together with PIs. The Director will report to the Head of College (currently Professor David Argyle). They will sit on the College Senior Management Team and Executive Group chaired by the Head of College and will also be a member of the College Research Committee, chaired by the College Dean of Research.

The Director will lead in maintaining and developing the strategic relationship with charities and funding councils and will also:

- provide strategic leadership of the Institute to maximize high-quality scientific outputs, including advising on funding strategy and promoting a translational agenda;
- establish an internationally competitive personal research group with a focus that is consistent with the Institute's strategy;
- enhance and lead opportunities for collaborative research grant generation through developing strategic proposals, collaborative programmes and challenge-led grants;
- champion the development and delivery of excellent research-led learning and teaching, including through contribution to Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Programmes, and through student supervision;
- exemplify and foster an outstanding culture founded on principles of equity, diversity and inclusion, transparency and collegiality;
- support effective career development and mentoring of staff at all levels within the Institute, consistent with Athena SWAN priorities and the University HR framework;
- ensure the that the Institute infrastructure, including through its support services and facilities, meets the current and emerging needs of researchers in the Institute;
- oversee the planning and control of the Institute's recurrent and capital budgets, ensuring long-term financial sustainability and seeking support for major infrastructure investments to support the mission of the Institute;
- promote knowledge exchange and public / patient involvement in the Institute research;
- contribute to the broader strategy and activities in the University of Edinburgh, including the coordination of future Research Excellence Framework assessment exercises.



As a valued member of our team, you can expect:

An outstanding research environment fostering creativity, innovation, and collaboration. You will have access to world class technologies via our state-of-the-art local facilities, support for public and patient engagement and involvement and tightly networked expertise across Edinburgh and our partner centres to complement and help drive your research.

An exciting, positive, creative, challenging and rewarding place to work. We give you support, nurture your talent and reward success. You will benefit from a competitive reward package and a wide range of staff benefits, which include a generous holiday entitlement, a defined benefits pension scheme, staff discounts, family-friendly initiatives, flexible working and much more. Click to access our [staff benefits page](#) for further information and use our reward calculator to find out the total value of pay and benefits provided.

The University of Edinburgh holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance gender equality in higher education. We are members of the Race Equality Charter and we are also Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champions, actively promoting LGBT equality.

This is a senior appointment by the University of Edinburgh and, as such, a competitive salary will be offered and will be negotiable depending on experience. The successful applicant will be employed as a University Professor on University terms and conditions. Relocation assistance will be provided where appropriate.

### Related Links

- [Research Excellence \(REF\) 2021 case studies](#)
- [College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine - rankings](#)
- [History of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine](#)
- [Edinburgh Innovations](#)
- [Edinburgh Impact website](#)
- [Shared Research Facilities website](#)





## THE PERSON

Leadership comes in many forms. We are looking for someone who upholds our values and who will work to enable the people around them to deliver as best they can, while contributing to research and teaching that can change the world.

### Standing and Reputation

- An outstanding research track record in neuroscience or cardiovascular sciences;
- Experience of building successful collaborative partnerships and networks;
- Ability to represent the Institute and University nationally and internationally with a range of different stakeholders.

### Strategy

- Demonstrate vision and experience in the leadership of a science-driven organization, including the ability to develop and execute strategy in an Institute of 500 scientists;
- Demonstrate a commitment to look across disciplines and translational research.

### Leadership

- A motivating, inclusive and effective leader, able to work with and enthuse a diverse range of staff across the breadth of the Institute and University, contributing to the further development of the Institute;
- Ability to act decisively and lead during periods of significant development and change.

### Management

- Manage and direct a sustainable, diverse research operation with a large number of staff;
- Manage conflict and negotiate successful outcomes;
- Work with the Chief Operating Officer and senior professional services staff to deliver the necessary operational, people and financial planning (including capital development).

### Impact

- Promote an environment in which the Institute delivers excellent research, teaching and learning;
- Demonstrate a commitment to knowledge transfer with an ability to spot and seize opportunities to translate research at the Institute for societal impact or clinical benefit for patients;
- Excellent influencing and communication skills with the motivation to debate difficult issues



## THE LOCATION

Edinburgh is a beautiful city that has something to offer everyone. Whether you prefer a quiet restaurant, a lively night out or something in between, you are bound to find it in Edinburgh. Regularly ranked as the “Best Place to Live in the UK”, Edinburgh has many strings to its bow.

### Culture and Entertainment

Home to the largest arts festival in the world, The Edinburgh International Festival brings the month of August alive in the city where residents are spoilt with first class theatre, music, performance art and comedy all on their doorstep. The abundance of galleries and museums such as The Museum of Scotland, Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery to name but a few, means that there is always opportunity to soak up some culture all year round.

For those who wish to feed their bellies as well as their minds, Edinburgh boasts the highest number of Michelin starred restaurants in the Scotland and has more restaurants per head of population than any other UK city outside of London. The historic appeal of the Athens of the North has led it to become renowned for its monuments and attractions including the Scott Monument, National Monument on Calton Hill and of course the Edinburgh Castle itself; which dominates the city skyline, no more so than on Hogmanay with the world’s biggest street party and fireworks extravaganza to match!

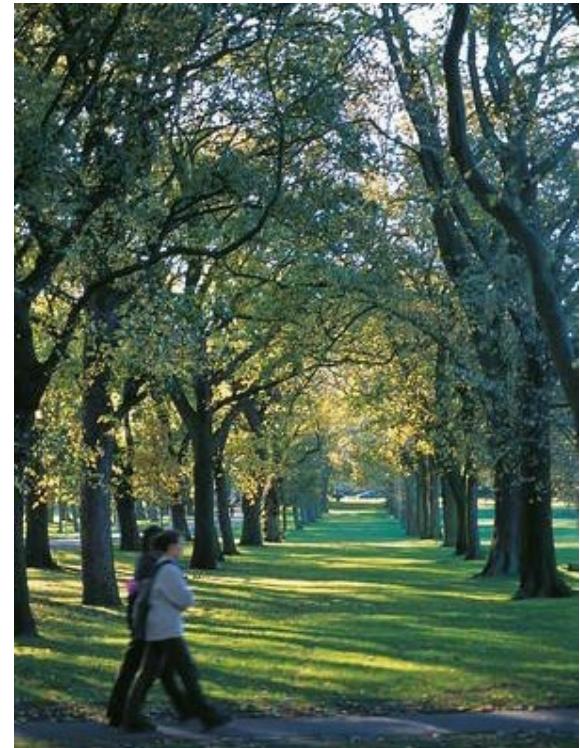
### Transport

Air Links - Several airlines fly to the Edinburgh from the principal European cities, and there are very frequent services from London. If booked well in advance, travel to Edinburgh by air can be cheap, particularly from London. For more information check the Edinburgh Airport website. Bus and tram connections operate 24/7 and with an average journey time of 25-30mins from the city centre. Rail Links - Travelling to Edinburgh from other parts of the UK is generally easy by train and both Waverly and Haymarket train stations are centrally located with support routes provided by the bus and tram networks. Transport Around Edinburgh – Edinburgh has an excellent level of public transport provision compared to many cities in the UK. We have our own Transport and Parking Department here in the University of Edinburgh and they can provide lots of advice on getting around the city plus details on staff parking facilities on campus.



### Edinburgh Districts

Edinburgh is a highly sought after place to live. Its beautiful city centre covers the Georgian splendour of the New Town, with its grand terraces, crescents, gardens, and upmarket shopping boutiques and bars, and the narrow closes, winding stairways, and historic charms of the Old Town. Nearby communities such as Morningside, Bruntsfield, Stockbridge and Newington remain in easy reach of the city centre as well provide a local community feel. Explore all of Edinburgh's districts on our [website](#).



### Nurseries and Schools

Based at King's Buildings, The University's Arcadia Nursery, designed around the concept of 'free play' by award winning architect Malcolm Fraser and provides the perfect environment for children to blossom. There is however, no obligation to place your child in the University's nursery. There are many other childcare options in Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Council website provides information about childcare across the City. There are two main types of school in the UK, state and independent schools. State Schools make up the majority of schools and are funded by the government. There is no fee for your children to attend these schools. Independent schools require a fee for your child to study there, although there are bursaries available.

The school your child can attend is usually dictated by the area in which you live. You cannot apply for a school place until you have an address in the area (this is not the case for fee paying / independent schools). The council has 'catchment areas' for each school and have a duty to provide schooling for your child, but if your first-choice school has no places left, they may have to recommend a school further away. As Edinburgh is our capital city, many of the schools fill up quickly. Some families consider living a commutable distance from the city in order to have a larger choice of schools. East Lothian and West Lothian Councils cover school areas a commutable distance from Edinburgh.





# APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries or applications can be made, in confidence, to **Natalie Derry** or **Sarah Sayer** at WittKieffer.

Applications should include the following:

- a full academic CV, including your contributions to supporting the wider research system; and
- a covering letter (of no more than two A4 pages) outlining your interest in, and vision for, the role.

Completed applications should be submitted electronically to [nderry@wittkieffer.com](mailto:nderry@wittkieffer.com) or [ssayer@wittkieffer.com](mailto:ssayer@wittkieffer.com)

The closing date for applications is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026** at 12 noon.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to formal panel interviews **Monday 8th June 2026**, which will be held in Edinburgh.

Applications are welcomed from everyone, irrespective of gender or ethnic group. As women and members of ethnic minorities are currently under-represented in posts at this level, applications from members of these groups are particularly encouraged.

