



Working and Studying in Scotland

This is about working and studying in Scotland and has four parts:

- (1) Some general comments
- (2) Some information on studying in Scotland
- (3) Information for Language Assistants
- (4) Some ideas on how to find holiday jobs

(1) General comments

First, if you have decided that you want to spend some time in Scotland, studying or working: *welcome*, or *fàilte* (in Gaelic, pronounced “faltsche”).

As a Scot I am obviously biased, positively. I think it is a fascinating country. It is small and most of it is sparsely populated – it is about twice the size of Baden-Württemberg and has only half the population. It has layers and layers of history, a high-tech present and lots of ideas for the future.

To help you prepare your stay there are other files you can print out from www.FindYourFeet.de. You will find them in the Scotland section, in the Course Materials section under Area Studies Scotland, and in the Handouts section, so make use of them too.

For studying and working anywhere in the UK the best starting point is The British Council, “the United Kingdom’s international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations.”

www.britishcouncil.org

The German centre is in Berlin

www.britishcouncil.de

The German site will give you information in German and English, some of it geared specifically to people living in Germany, but the sites are linked.

www.scotlandistheplace.com and www.scotland.org

are interesting sites to visit. The aim is not just to attract people to visit Scotland, but to come and stay.

(2) Studying in Scotland

There are fifteen universities in Scotland.

(In Glasgow) The University of Glasgow, The University of Strathclyde, and Glasgow Caledonian.

(In Aberdeen) The University of Aberdeen, The Robert Gordon University.

(In Dundee) Dundee University, the University of Abertay.

(In Edinburgh) The University of Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University, Napier University and Queen Margaret University.

The University of Stirling, The University of St. Andrews, the University of the West of Scotland (Paisley), the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

(There are many other institutions of Higher Education such as a Drama School, Art School, and Colleges. You can find them all at the website below.)

If you want to know where exactly these universities are and what kind of courses they have to offer etc. you can look at HERO, “the official gateway to universities, colleges and research organisations in the UK“

www.hero.ac.uk

If you click on Scotland on the map of the UK you will get a list of the Scottish universities and a sensitive map.

You could try for a DAAD scholarship to get a place at one of these universities, or you could apply via the Auslandsreferat for a place on an Erasmus exchange programme (university to university), at Glasgow University for example. Some Konstanz Faculties/Departments also have inter-departmental exchanges, for example FB Geschichte has an exchange programme with the History Department at Aberdeen, FB Biologie with the UHI at Oban. So, consult all the lists of programmes from the Auslandsreferat and ask in your Department.

Why Study in Scotland? This is a question that the following site gives answers to.

www.educationukscotland.org

You will find information on the history and culture of Scotland, and on the education system.

In general Scottish universities have a very good reputation, for the quality of teaching and research, and for the level of student care. Universities in the whole UK are regularly reviewed by the QAA, Quality Assessment Agency, to make sure that their aims are transparent for the students and that they actually do what they claim to do, and do it well.

Every autumn the newspaper *Scotland on Sunday* includes a brochure on Scotland’s universities, with information on each university, on courses,

accommodation and on student life. You can borrow the 2007 brochure from me. I think it does a good job of presenting the individual character of each university, from the students' point of view.

(2) Assistant Teachers in Scotland

First, I would recommend the following site for tips, advice, help for students going to any part of the UK as assistant teachers:

www.britishcouncil.org

You can go straight to:

www.britishcouncil.org/home/learning/languageassistants

They offer information on:

What to expect/ Where can I go/ How do I apply/ Before I leave home/ Arrival and settling in/ FLAS online.

FLAS Online includes lesson plans and a Virtual Mentor Programme.

Please see also, in the Handouts section of FyF, the handout for Assistant Teachers and the Assistant Teacher Reports. Report 04 is on teaching in Edinburgh.

(3) Holiday jobs in Scotland

After hours and hours of searching I have to admit defeat. I was hoping to find a list of agencies with summer jobs in Scotland, but had no success. The British Council in Germany has a brochure „Ferienjobs, kurzfristige Anstellungen und freiwillige Arbeiten“ but most are for England. If you find something really good, please use the feedback form to let me know and I will put it into the next update. Meantime, some suggestions.

Live in jobs for backpackers in Scotland

www.livein-jobs.co.uk/indexs.html

One student I know has spent two summers working in the Craigenalt Ecology Centre, east coast Scotland

www.cfec.org.uk

So one way of finding a summer job is to do a Web search for the kind of place you want to work in e.g. *ecology centre scotland*, or *adventure camp scotland*. There are many real adventure centres in Scotland, for children, youngsters and adults. If you are studying Sport this could be the kind of place for you to work in.

Another student spent a very happy summer working in an hotel in the far north west of Scotland. He just chose a place he wanted to go to, found an hotel, contacted it, and got the job. Lists of hotels are easy to find. Just use Google to search for the name of the town/village you want to go to.

www.pickingjobs.com

has addresses of farms all over the world, including five in Scotland. In 2004 the Scottish jobs were mainly strawberry picking but include conservation work with tree planting.

A search for *conservation work scotland* found

www.thistlecamps.org.uk

a project of The National Trust for Scotland. They run conservation camps for all ages, showing people how to “put something back”.

I wish you a very happy stay.

October 2004, updated March 2008