

## **The University of Edinburgh**

### **Admissions to the College of Science and Engineering: September 2008**

#### **MA Geography Degree Programmes**

The University of Edinburgh is committed to encouraging applications from talented students who are enthusiastic and keen to develop their academic potential whatever their personal, social and educational background. When assessing academic potential we therefore consider the wider context of each applicant's achievements on an individual basis.

We have set a standard minimum entry requirement for our degree programmes. The MA Geography degrees are 'high demand' programmes. We receive more than 15 applications for every place on the MA Geography single honours programme and in excess of 25 applications for each place on the MA Geography joint honours programmes. So, only applicants who have achieved, or are predicted to achieve, the minimum entry requirement or better are considered for admission to the MA Geography degree programmes. And as the number of applications far exceeds the number of places available, the majority of offers, though not all, will be made to students who achieve grades well above the minimum entry requirement.

#### **1. What is the minimum entry requirement for the MA Geography degree programmes?**

##### **Qualifications**

- The standard minimum is BBBB (SQA Highers, and Irish Leaving Certificate) and BBB (GCE A-level) at one sitting; BBBB/ABBB (SQA Highers) and ABB (GCE A-level) on more than one sitting.
- Pass at Standard Grade (3) or GCSE (C) in English and, for MA Geography and Economics, at Standard Grade (1) or GCSE (A) in Maths.
- General Studies (AS and A2) A-level is not accepted for entry to the University of Edinburgh.
- We require a minimum of at least 30 points in the IB Diploma, with at least three Higher level passes at '5'.

Please check the University of Edinburgh undergraduate prospectus for more details, or contact the undergraduate admissions office (contact details at the end of this leaflet) if you hold or are studying towards other qualifications.

##### **In addition**

To be successful in your application you must demonstrate your interest in, and aptitude for, your chosen degree programme in your personal statement; and to have a positive reference from a teacher or academic tutor.

#### **2. What other factors will be taken into account?**

We aim to get as full a picture as possible of all our applicants' attainment and potential to achieve, seeking to place academic grades in the context in which they are achieved. This means that we consider the following factors in combination.

- a. If you have achieved or are predicted to achieve academic grades above our published entry requirements.
- b. If you attend a school where a relatively small proportion of the students progress to university.
- c. If you attend a school in the local area (defined as City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, Scottish Borders, Fife, Falkirk and district, Clackmannanshire); or a school in our wider locality (defined as the rest of Scotland, Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Teesside, Tyne and Wear).
- d. If your parents or carers have not studied at university. You must state this on your UCAS application form for us to be able to take account of this factor.

### **3. What about difficult personal circumstances?**

In considering applications, admissions staff will continue to take account of any special factors that may have caused you educational disadvantage, such as serious disruption to your studies at school, for example due to your ill-health, particular family circumstances or for reasons associated with disability.

### **4. Will I get an offer?**

Demand for places on degree programmes varies from degree to degree, and from year to year. The MA Geography degrees are 'high demand' programmes. We receive more than 10 applications for every place on the MA Geography single honours programme and in excess of 20 applications for each place on the MA Geography joint honours programmes. So, achieving the minimum requirement alone will not be enough for us to offer you a place on one of these degree programmes. You will have to achieve grades considerably above the minimum requirement and/or fulfil one or more of the criteria under 2 b) – d) above.

We are happy to provide advice to potential applicants so please do contact the admissions office if you wish to discuss your application in advance.

### **5. How many offers will you make?**

We will make each applicant a maximum of two offers for the MA Geography degree programmes.

### **6. Do you conduct interviews?**

No.

### **7. Do you accept deferred entry?**

The College recognises that applicants taking a gap year often gain valuable life experience, either through work or travel, prior to commencing their studies. If you are considering taking a gap year please contact the admissions office directly for further advice, as we are only able to make a very limited number of offers to deferred applicants for the MA Geography degree programmes.

### **8. What about international school leavers?**

We welcome international students from a wide range of backgrounds. For further information regarding entrance requirements for students applying from outside the UK, please visit our website, or email the admissions office directly with full details of your academic background.

## **9. When will I hear about my application?**

We process applications from November through to March each year. However in order to be fair to all applicants we may not make a decision on an application until the entire cohort submitted by the UCAS deadline, 15 January, has been assessed. It may therefore take some time before you receive our decision, but you can find out the status of your application by contacting the admissions office at any time.

## **10. How do I get in touch with you?**

If you would like any further information about any aspect of this, or would like advice on your own circumstances, please contact us in the undergraduate admissions office:

College of Science and Engineering  
Undergraduate Admissions Office  
The University of Edinburgh  
Weir Building  
Kings Buildings  
Edinburgh  
EH9 3JY

Tel: 0131 650 5737

Fax: 0131 650 5738

Email: [sciengra@ed.ac.uk](mailto:sciengra@ed.ac.uk)

[www.scieng.ed.ac.uk/Undergraduate/](http://www.scieng.ed.ac.uk/Undergraduate/)

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