



Working and Studying in Scotland

The information here was originally compiled for students at Konstanz University. Some took part in my Area Studies Scotland class, others were planning a stay in Scotland.

- (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 also other files you can print out from FindYourFeet.de e.g.

[FyF_ha_stayabroad.pdf](#)

[FyF_ha_assistantteacher.pdf](#)

They have more general information on working and studying anywhere abroad, including working as an assistant teacher (foreign language assistant).

For Scotland in particular there are two really good sites to start with as they provide all the information you need about Scotland for living, working and studying there, from health care and leisure activities to the cost of living and how to choose a university:

scotland.org

talentscotland.com

(For visiting see: visitscotland.com)

(2) Studying in Scotland

There are fifteen universities in Scotland.

Glasgow: The University of Glasgow, The University of Strathclyde, and Glasgow Caledonian

Aberdeen: The University of Aberdeen, The Robert Gordon University.

Dundee: Dundee University, the University of Abertay.

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 (Inverness and other sites)

(Apart from these universities there are of course many other institutions of Higher Education such as The Royal Conservatoire of music, dance and drama, The Glasgow School of Art, and also many Colleges.)

Why study in Scotland? For an answer to this question and lots more information: scotland.org

and

studyinScotland.org/find-a-university

These have everything from Scotland's people, culture and history to finding a university.

The university websites are themselves very informative and very welcoming.

You could try for a DAAD scholarship to get a place at one of these universities, or you could apply via the Auslandsreferat at Konstanz University for a place on an Erasmus students exchange programme with a Scottish university.

Some Konstanz Departments have inter-departmental exchanges, for example FB Geschichte has an exchange programme with the History Department at Aberdeen, Biologie with the UHI at Oban, Politik with the School of Government and Public Policy at Strathclyde, Life Sciences with Glasgow.

So, consult all the lists of programmes from the Auslandsreferat and ask in your Department for up-to-date information. This is important as partnership and exchange programmes can change, some programmes may be discontinued, some added.

Another option is to do your complete course of studies in Scotland. As an EU student you would pay NO tuition fees for your entire course.

In general Scottish universities have a very good reputation, for the quality of teaching and research, and for the level of student care. In 2012 Strathclyde University was the Times Higher Education UK University of the Year.

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* (on the newspaper rack in the library) includes a brochure on Scotland's universities, with information on each university, on courses, accommodation and on student life. I think it does a good job of presenting the individual character of each university, from the students' point of view.

For a report by a Konstanz student at Glasgow University see:
FyF_ha_studyreport 01

(3) Assistant Teachers in Scotland

Currently (2014) I would recommend the following site for tips, advice, help for students going to any part of the UK as assistant teachers (also called 'foreign language assistants):

britishcouncil.org/languageassistants

and for Scotland in particular:

britishcouncil.org/Scotland-education-fla

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.

As websites are continually changing their structure, you might get frustrated with the links above, but if you search for 'foreign language assistant scotland' you will find the right site or sites in the end.

For a report by a Konstanz student who spent a year teaching German in an Edinburgh school:

FyF_ha_assistantteacherreport04.pdf

(4) Holiday jobs in Scotland

Again in 2014, after hours of searching I have to admit 'defeat'. I was still hoping to find one single website for summer jobs in Scotland, but had only limited success. As you will see below I think there are other ways of finding a satisfying holiday job. If you find any good addresses, please use the feedback form to let me know and I will put it into the next update.

Meantime, some suggestions.

For general information, though I did not see anything concrete for actually finding a job in Scotland, but try it yourselves as websites change:

auslandsjob.de/work-and-travel

You could also try:

arbeitsagentur.de/zav

rausvonzuhause.de

seasonworkers.com/summerjobs

One interesting website, interesting because you can refine the search for 'seasonal jobs' 'Scotland', was:

gumtree.com/jobs

The rest of the information here is based on the experience of students from Konstanz:

One student spent two very happy summers working in the Craigencaht Ecology Centre, at Kinghorn, in Fife (east coast Scotland):

cfec.org.uk

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 (in the middle of nowhere), found an hotel, contacted it, and got the job. Just choose a region, then a place, and look for an hotel or restaurant.

Another student did this on Iona. Like the Reichenau it has UNESCO world heritage status. It is a tiny island, and apart from the beautiful little abbey, there are only a few homes and farms, a hostel, a hotel, a cafe, a shop.

So: a good way of finding a holiday job is to do a web search for the *kind of place* you want to work in or the *kind of work* you would like to do 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. Try:

Broomhillcamps.com

They are happy to have coaches or camp leaders.

A search for *conservation work scotland* found:

thistlecamps.org.uk

“Thistle Camps are residential working holidays based at National Trust for Scotland properties that help the NTS, Scotland's leading conservation charity, to conserve and manage the historic locations under its care. Campers will live and work in some of Scotland's most remarkable and remote places over a week or so of exciting and rewarding experiences. No prior experience is required for most of our camps, as work is always fully explained and techniques always demonstrated.” Tasks include surveying wildlife, footpath work, and archaeological digs. There is a brochure every year with information on the Scottish residential working holidays to download.

Try the website of the National Trust Scotland itself as it has lots of other interesting opportunities for volunteers:
nts.org.uk/volunteering

You could also try:
trees.for.life.org.uk

and

The Conservation Volunteers reclaiming Green Places since 1959:
tcv.org.uk
with options in Scotland. However, April 2014, this seems to be only mini-project work on a daily basis.

Finally, a suggestion for doing something really interesting, perhaps even for a whole year. “The Camphill School Aberdeen has 70 years' experience offering education, care and therapy to a wide variety of children and young people with special needs. (...) Every year volunteers join our community to share and experience our life and work”:
camphillschools.org.uk

Just be independent, take the initiative, contact people, and go.
I wish you a very happy stay.

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