



# SPORT

## **University of Edinburgh Sport & Active Wellbeing**

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Annual Report 2025/2026



## Vision

To unleash the power of sport and active wellbeing, creating people who can positively impact the world.

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**The University of  
Edinburgh** is proud to be  
the Number One University  
for Sport & Active Wellbeing  
in Scotland and one of  
the highest performing  
institutions in Europe.





## Chancellor's Welcome

**As Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, I am pleased to reflect on another exceptional year of sporting achievement and continued excellence in participation in sport at the University of Edinburgh.**

The past year has seen remarkable performances on the international stage, with athletes representing their countries at the highest level. Highlights include appearances at the Women's Six Nations in a historic, record-breaking match at Murrayfield.

In para sport, impressive successes include a world title and a new British record at the World Para Swimming Championships, as well as members of the University community being selected as guides for the 2026 Milano Cortina Paralympic Winter Olympic Games.

The strength of the University's sporting programme continues to grow, with over 400 supported athletes this year. Team success has been particularly notable, seeing the first university's men's hockey team to win the Scottish Premiership Championships.

In addition, another top five finish in the BUCS table reflects consistently high standards across University sport despite the geographical challenges. There are extensive opportunities to participate at every level, including the ever-growing Intramural Programme, which encompasses ten sports and over two hundred teams.

Over 19,000 volunteer hours have been contributed by more than 1,000 volunteers, whose dedication underpins the success of the Sports Union. As you look ahead, I encourage you to continue embracing the values of teamwork, ambition and participation that define sport at the University of Edinburgh.

I wish you every success in your onward sporting journey and hope you will remain part of a sporting community well beyond graduation.

**HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL**



# 1. Introduction: A Year of Progress and Impact



It is a privilege to reflect on what has been an exceptional year for Sport & Active Wellbeing at the University of Edinburgh. 2025/26 has been a year of progress, achievement and impact. Following significant change and development over the past two years, this has been the year where our vision, strategy and collective ambition have truly come together. The dedication, professionalism and passion of our staff, students, coaches, volunteers and partners has enabled us to continue strengthening our contribution to the University community and beyond.

Sport at Edinburgh has never been simply about competition or physical activity. It is about creating opportunities, building connections and enabling people to thrive. It supports student success, strengthens belonging, develops confidence and creates experiences that stay with people long after they leave the University. In an increasingly complex higher education environment, the role of sport and active wellbeing has never been more important.

Our impact is felt across every part of the student journey. Sport & Active Wellbeing provides one of the largest and most consistent weekly touchpoints (43% of all students) with our student community across the University, creating meaningful opportunities for engagement, connection and personal development. Whether through performance sport, student clubs, Active Lives, wellbeing programmes, volunteering, community initiatives or our facilities, we provide environments where people can find their place, build relationships and achieve their potential.

The past year has also reinforced the unique position of the University of Edinburgh within the wider sporting landscape. We are one of the UK’s leading university sporting environments, combining breadth of participation with excellence in performance and academic success. Our students, athletes, coaches and graduates continue to represent Edinburgh with distinction nationally and internationally, enhancing the reputation of the University and contributing to the wider sporting ecosystem. It was particularly pleasing and rewarding to be recognised externally for our work this year, receiving the **UK Education Facility of the Year Award** at the National Fitness Awards as well as placing third in the international **Sports Business Awards**, celebrating our work in women’s sport.

What makes our approach distinctive is the belief that excellence and inclusion go hand in hand. We continue to create pathways that allow everyone to participate, regardless of background, experience or ambition, while also supporting those who strive to perform at the highest level. This balance is central to the Edinburgh model and reflects the values of the University itself.

The achievements highlighted throughout this report demonstrate the significant contribution that Sport & Active Wellbeing makes to the University’s strategic priorities. They also highlight the opportunity ahead. As we look to the future, maintaining a strong focus on sport, physical activity and wellbeing must remain central to our ambition for student experience, health, community and institutional success.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to another outstanding year. The success of Sport & Active Wellbeing is built on the collective effort of a remarkable community, and I am excited about what we can continue to achieve together.

MARK MUNRO, DIRECTOR OF SPORT & ACTIVE HEALTH



# Our Vision

To unleash the power of sport and active wellbeing, creating people who can positively impact the world.

# Our Values

Ambition. Belonging. Belief.

# Our Narrative

Our world – The facilities, opportunities, coaching, teams, support.

Your world – The individuals, students, personal health and wellbeing.

The world – The globe, the planet, international countries, wider society.

## Our Aim

Holistic development through Sport and Wellness:

Cultivate an environment where sport and active wellbeing initiatives contribute comprehensively to the personal, academic, and professional development of students, staff, and the wider community.

Global leadership in Sports Performance, Development, Sustainability and Innovation:

Position the University of Edinburgh as a global leader in sports performance, development, research, social responsibility and sustainability, and innovation, by fostering an ecosystem of excellence, inclusivity, and cutting-edge practices in sport and active wellbeing.





## 2. Why Sport Matters at Edinburgh

Over the past two years, Sport & Active Wellbeing has undergone significant development, creating a clearer, more integrated approach across performance sport, active wellbeing, facilities and community engagement.

2025/26 has been a year of embedding this approach and demonstrating impact. Our teams have continued to improve the student experience, strengthen operational delivery and build sustainable foundations for future growth.

### Strategic Context: Why Sport Matters at Edinburgh

**2.1 Sport is not an ancillary service;** it is a fundamental contributor to the University’s strategic priorities. The University of Edinburgh has already articulated this clearly through its “Why Sport Matters” framework, which evidences the direct and indirect benefits of sport participation across the student lifecycle.

Participation in sport is associated with:

- Higher levels of academic attainment
- Improved student retention and continuation
- Enhanced graduate employability outcomes

### Edinburgh at a glance

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>8%</b></p> <p>more students achieving 1st or 2:1 degree outcomes while participating in sport &amp; active wellbeing</p>                                                                                       | <p><b>Retention / Employability</b></p> <p>– all above ‘normal’ levels</p>                                                                                                                                    | <p>Sport has a regular</p> <p><b>43%</b></p> <p>weekly touch point with all students</p>                                                                                           |
|  <p><b>81% of students</b></p> <p>participating in sport and activities have a stronger connection and belonging to Edinburgh</p> |  <p><b>93% of students</b></p> <p>participating in sport and activities experience higher levels of confidence in life</p> |  <p><b>74% of students</b></p> <p>experience reduced stress levels</p>                        |
|  <p><b>£5.69 return on investment for every £1</b></p> <p>invested in sport by the University</p>                                 |  <p><b>£22.62M Social &amp; Economic value</b></p> <p>of sport annually</p>                                                |  <p>Investment in Sport</p> <p><b>Equates to only 0.19%</b></p> <p>of University turnover</p> |

These outcomes align directly with institutional priorities around student success, widening participation, and global competitiveness. Sport provides structured opportunities for students to develop resilience, leadership, teamwork, and time management, attributes that are strongly linked to both academic success and career readiness.

In this context, Sport & Active Wellbeing should be understood as a strategic academic enabler, rather than a discretionary service.

### Impact and Value Delivered

#### 2.1.1 Academic and Institutional Impact

Students who engage in sport consistently demonstrate stronger academic outcomes (up to 8% points higher) and higher levels of continuation. By providing structure, community, and personal development opportunities, sport contributes directly to improved degree attainment and supports the University’s performance in key metrics.

Additionally, sport contributes positively to institutional benchmarks, including student satisfaction and graduate outcomes, both of which are critical to recruitment positioning and reputation.

#### 2.1.2 Wellbeing, Belonging and Student Experience

Sport plays a vital role in addressing one of the most pressing challenges facing higher education: student mental health and wellbeing.

Evidence from the University of Edinburgh highlights that students who are engaged in sport and active wellbeing activities report:

- Higher levels of confidence (93%)
- A stronger sense of belonging to the University (81%)
- Lower levels of stress (74%)

These outcomes are not incidental, they are central to creating a positive and supportive student experience. Sport provides a preventative, scalable, and cost-effective mechanism for improving wellbeing, reducing pressure on clinical services, and enhancing the overall student environment.

“Sport and active wellbeing are absolutely fundamental to the mental and physical health of our student population. Universities have a unique opportunity and responsibility to create environments where young people can thrive, not only academically, but socially and personally as well. Sport provides that powerful sense of connection, belonging and shared identity that is so important for wellbeing and community cohesion.

The University of Edinburgh continues to demonstrate real leadership in this space through research and practice, providing some of the clearest evidence of the impact of sport and active participation on wider institutional outcomes. As Scotland’s largest multi sport club and one of the most influential university sporting environments in the UK, Edinburgh plays a vital role within both the Scottish and wider UK sporting ecosystem.

It is important that the University leadership recognises the significance of that role, not only within its own community of students and staff, but nationally and internationally. Over recent years we have seen Edinburgh’s sporting reputation continue to evolve and strengthen globally, and there is a real opportunity to build even further on that momentum in the years ahead.”

**WILL ROBERTS, CEO, BRITISH UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES SPORT**





“Moving to Edinburgh from the other side of the world was incredibly exciting, but also quite daunting at first. I arrived not knowing anyone, in a completely new city and culture, and I honestly do not think I would have built the confidence to stay and flourish in Edinburgh without the support of Active Lives and sport.

The Active Lives programme played such an important role in those first few weeks. It gave me a welcoming, inclusive and low pressure environment where I could meet other students, try new activities and start building connections. That initial experience gave me the confidence to then join a sports club, which completely transformed my university experience.

Through club sport I found an incredible support network and friendships that will last a lifetime. Training, travelling and competing together created a real sense of belonging and helped Edinburgh quickly feel like home. Being involved in sport has had such a positive impact on both my physical and mental wellbeing, but it has also given me confidence, community and purpose during my time at university.

Every time I wear the Edinburgh crest on my club shirt, I feel incredibly proud to represent such an amazing university and to be part of something much bigger than myself.”

**CHEN ZHANG**, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



### 2.1.3 Economic and Social Value

The economic case for investment is clear. Analysis demonstrates that Sport & Active Wellbeing delivers £22.62M of social and economic value annually and a return on investment of £5.69 for every £1 invested.

This value is realised through:

- Improved student outcomes
- Reduced attrition
- Enhanced employability
- Health and wellbeing benefits with wider societal impact

At a time of increasing financial pressure across the sector, few areas of University activity can demonstrate such a strong and quantifiable return.

### 2.1.4 Sport as a Recruitment Tool and Institutional Visibility

Sport is also a powerful driver of student recruitment and institutional visibility.

Prospective students increasingly consider the quality of the wider student experience when choosing a university. High-quality sports facilities, inclusive participation opportunities, and visible sporting success all contribute to the attractiveness of the University of Edinburgh as a destination of choice.

Sport enhances the University's profile by:

- Acting as a shop window for campus life and student experience
- Supporting domestic and international recruitment
- Showcasing excellence through performance sport and competition
- Creating a sense of identity and community that resonates with applicants
- Performance athletes and clubs profiling the 'Edinburgh' brand all over the UK and internationally on a regular basis

In a highly competitive global market, sport represents a distinctive and influential component of the University's value proposition.

### 2.1.5 Value for money: high impact, low investment

Current investment in Sport & Active Wellbeing represents approximately 0.19% of the University's annual turnover. When considered alongside the breadth and depth of impact outlined above, this demonstrates that sport is delivering disproportionately high value relative to its cost.

Sport at Edinburgh is therefore not only impactful, but it also represents excellent value for money.

### 2.1.6 Financial discipline and efficiency

Sport & Active Wellbeing has demonstrated a strong commitment to financial responsibility. Over the past two years, the department has delivered significant savings and cost adjustments through a combination of operational efficiencies, cost control, and service optimisation.

This disciplined approach has enabled the department to maintain high levels of participation, performance, and community impact while operating within a challenging financial environment and continuing to improve the quality and sustainability of its services.







### 3. Active Wellbeing and Active Lives

Active Wellbeing continues to be central to our ambition to create a healthier, more connected University community.

Through Active Lives, fitness, wellbeing activity, workshops, classes and inclusive opportunities, we have continued to remove barriers and create opportunities for students and staff to be active in ways that support physical health, mental wellbeing and social connection.

The programme continues to grow in scale and impact, reaching diverse communities across the University and demonstrating the powerful role of movement in enhancing the overall student experience.

Active Lives have continued to remove barriers to participation by providing inclusive and welcoming opportunities. Recognising that workload, confidence, and low motivation are among the greatest barriers to being active within our community, the programme is designed to make physical activity accessible for everyone.

Over the academic year, Active Lives engaged more than **1,700 participants** through its core offer, delivering **210 free and inclusive sessions**. Student engagement has been demonstrably strong across the year, with 84% of participants being students, and staff participation at 16%. Feedback has shown high rates of satisfaction: 95% of participants would attend a session again. The continued development of the **Just Play** programme has strengthened pathways into sustained sport participation. The introduction of beginner women's rugby sessions created meaningful progression beyond initial engagement, with **15 participants** joining Edinburgh University Ladies Rugby Club.

Green Wellbeing continued to connect students and staff with nature, supporting physical health, mental wellbeing and social connection. In partnership with Social Responsibility and Sustainability, we delivered **14 Green Wellbeing events**, engaging more than **212 students and staff** across the University's campuses and creating accessible opportunities to improve wellbeing through time spent outdoors, improving our green spaces.

The annual Colour Run returned for its second year, bringing together **224 students, staff and community members** to celebrate World Mental Health Day through an inclusive, non-competitive event that fostered belonging and connection. Supported by City of Edinburgh Council funding, the event provided **50 free places** for refugees and displaced people, helping to remove barriers to participation and strengthen community integration through partnerships with local organisations.

We continue to deliver a wide-ranging Group Exercise offering, with regular classes including Spin, Yoga and Les Mills. Group Exercise engages an average of **3,000+ participants each month**, including students, staff and community members. Short-term workshops also continue to provide opportunities for participation and this year we have seen positive engagement in Women Only Learn to Lift and HYROX among other regular bootcamps across Pleasance, Easter Bush and other University sites.

Our partnerships with the Student Wellbeing Service, Staff Wellbeing and researchers from the Physical Activity for Health Research Centre ensure that our programmes continue to remain relevant, evidence-based and responsive to the needs of our University community.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate that Active Lives is more than a programme of activities—it provides a pathway into sustained participation, strengthens social connection and delivers measurable wellbeing benefits. As the programme continues to mature, our focus for 2026–27 will be to expand our reach across University campuses, strengthen accessibility for beginners and underrepresented groups, and maximise the positive impact of physical activity on our University community.



“Being active is a fundamental part of good health and wellbeing for everyone, but accessing team sports and new activities can be scary. The Just Play Rugby sessions delivered this year have been a hugely effective segue for female students at Edinburgh to find their way into the welcoming and inclusive environment that EULRFC provides, that otherwise they may not ever have found. I’m delighted that the connection between the club and our Active Lives team at the University continues to grow and can’t wait to build on this next year.”

LOUISE DALGLIESH, HEAD OF WOMEN’S PERFORMANCE RUGBY, EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY

|                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Engaged more than<br><b>1,700 participants</b>                                                                                                                                               | Delivered<br><b>210 free and inclusive sessions</b>                                                                                       |
| Student engagement has been demonstrably strong across the year,<br><b>with 84% of participants being students</b>                                                                           | Staff participation at<br><b>16%</b>                                                                                                      |
| Feedback has shown high rates of satisfaction:<br><b>95% of participants would attend a session again</b>                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                           |
| <br><b>Just Play programme</b><br>15 participants join Edinburgh University Ladies Rugby Club.            | <b>14 Green Wellbeing events</b><br>engaging more than<br><b>200 students and staff</b>                                                   |
| <br>Colour Run -<br><b>224 students, staff and community members to celebrate World Mental Health Day</b> | Colour Run, Supported by City of Edinburgh Council funding, the event provided<br><b>50 free places for refugees and displaced people</b> |



**Your world.**  
The individuals, students, personal health and well-being.



## 4. Community Programmes and Civic Impact

Sport & Active Wellbeing continues to extend beyond our campuses, using sport as a vehicle for positive social change and community development.

2025/26 has been a significant year of growth and progress for our community programmes, further strengthening the role of Sport & Active Wellbeing as a catalyst for positive change beyond the University campus. Sport has the unique ability to bring people together, build confidence, create opportunities and strengthen communities. At the University of Edinburgh, we recognise that our role extends beyond providing opportunities for our own students and staff; we have a responsibility to use our expertise, facilities and people to contribute meaningfully to the communities around us.

Through Edinburgh Sport, we continue to build strong partnerships with local organisations, schools, community groups and governing bodies to use sport and physical activity as a tool for inclusion, connection and development.

The **Integration Through Sport** programme at Peffermill has continued to grow throughout 2025/26, building on the strong foundations established in previous years. Delivered in partnership with organisations including City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council and national governing body partners, the programme provides regular opportunities for children connected to **Mission of Innocents**, a charity supporting children displaced from their homes due to conflict, instability and crisis.

This year has also seen the introduction of **two new community initiatives**, developed and delivered through Edinburgh Sport, which further demonstrate the ambition and reach of our work.

**InspirED** has made an excellent start, connecting our performance student-athletes with local primary and secondary schools to deliver inspirational educational sessions. Through conversations focused on resilience, overcoming barriers, aspiration and the value of hard work, our athletes are helping young people understand the opportunities available to them and encouraging positive ambition for the future.

To date, **12 student-athletes have delivered sessions across 3 schools** within the south and south-east Edinburgh communities. The programme provides a valuable opportunity for young people to

engage with positive role models, while also supporting our athletes to develop valuable communication, leadership and public engagement skills. Following a successful pilot phase, InspirED will expand further from September 2026, with all scholarship athletes now committed to delivering regular sessions throughout the year.

Alongside this, the **Friday Sport** initiative has created a new opportunity for young people across South Edinburgh to access free sport, activity, food and community support in a safe and welcoming environment. Based at Peffermill Playing Fields and developed in partnership with local secondary schools, community organisations, community leaders and Police Scotland, the programme provides a positive Friday afternoon destination (free lunch and free sport) for young people from the **Castlebrae, Holyrood and Liberton** school clusters.

The early impact has been extremely encouraging, with strong engagement from young people (**peaking at 40+ per week**), families and community partners. Delivered by University of Edinburgh Sport staff alongside local volunteers and partners, the programme reflects the power of collaboration and the shared ambition to support young people and strengthen local communities.

The enthusiasm generated through these initiatives has also created new opportunities for wider University engagement, with colleagues from across the institution expressing interest in volunteering and supporting future delivery. This demonstrates the wider value of community sport as a vehicle for connection, partnership and social impact.

Our community programmes represent an important part of the University's civic mission. They demonstrate how Sport & Active Wellbeing can create meaningful social value, strengthen relationships across Edinburgh and provide opportunities for people and communities to thrive.

Looking ahead, we will continue to build on this momentum, expanding partnerships and developing programmes that ensure the University remains an active and positive force within the city it calls home.

### Our world.

The facilities, opportunities, coaching, teams, support.



## 5. Student Sport, Clubs and Volunteering

Student sport remains one of the defining features of the University experience and our student clubs, volunteers, coaches and leaders continue to create opportunities for thousands of students to participate, compete and develop skills beyond the classroom.

This year marked a welcome return to stability for the Sports Union following a summer of a full staff team transition. Building on strong foundations, grounded in **159 years** of high-quality club support Edinburgh University Sports Union (EUSU) continued to serve **10,121 students**, creating opportunities for individuals and teams to pursue their ambitions, develop confidence, and build lasting connections. At the heart of everything EUSU do is the simple goal of helping students feel that they belong and are proud to represent the University of Edinburgh.

Our clubs once again showcased the very best of the University of Edinburgh on the national stage. Students represented the University at **78** sporting events and competed in an incredible **1,167 fixtures** across the UK. UoESport.tv continued to expand our reach, **broadcasting 168 fixtures to audiences in 35 countries** and helping share the stories and successes of our student-athletes around the world.

Competitive success remained a hallmark of the year, as we proudly retained our position as **5th in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) standings and 1st in the Scottish Student Sport (SSS) league tables**. BUCS Big Wednesday proved particularly memorable, with Edinburgh returning from Loughborough with **two National Trophy titles and a National Championship**, after Women’s Lacrosse secured an exciting 10–7 victory over Exeter after a closely contested encounter, Women’s Tennis delivered a strong 4–2 win against Bath, and our Fencing club were crowned National Champions after defeating Nottingham 119–106. The year also delivered a landmark achievement for Edinburgh University Men’s Hockey Club. In April 2026, the team became the first men’s university side in Scotland to win the Scottish Hockey Premiership, earning qualification for Scotland’s EuroHockey place. It marks the first time an Edinburgh Men’s Hockey team has qualified for European outdoor competition since 2007 and is a testament to years of commitment, development, and ambition.

Closer to home, participation continued to flourish. Our intramural sport programme enjoyed another record-breaking year, **with 2,141 students** regularly taking part in competition across ten sports. The successful pilot introduction of Badminton demonstrated the ongoing appetite for new opportunities to get active, compete, and connect with others.

None of this would be possible without our remarkable volunteer workforce. Across the year, **1,309 volunteers** contributed an astonishing **19,306 hours** to support club operations and positive student sporting experiences. To help our volunteers thrive, in partnership the Sports Union delivered hundreds of hours of training, covering topics including active bystander intervention, consent education, concussion awareness, water safety, and the Edinburgh Award programme, culminating in our Learning and Development week **with 20 sessions delivered by 16 facilitators with over 450 students and 65 clubs** engaging with the sessions.

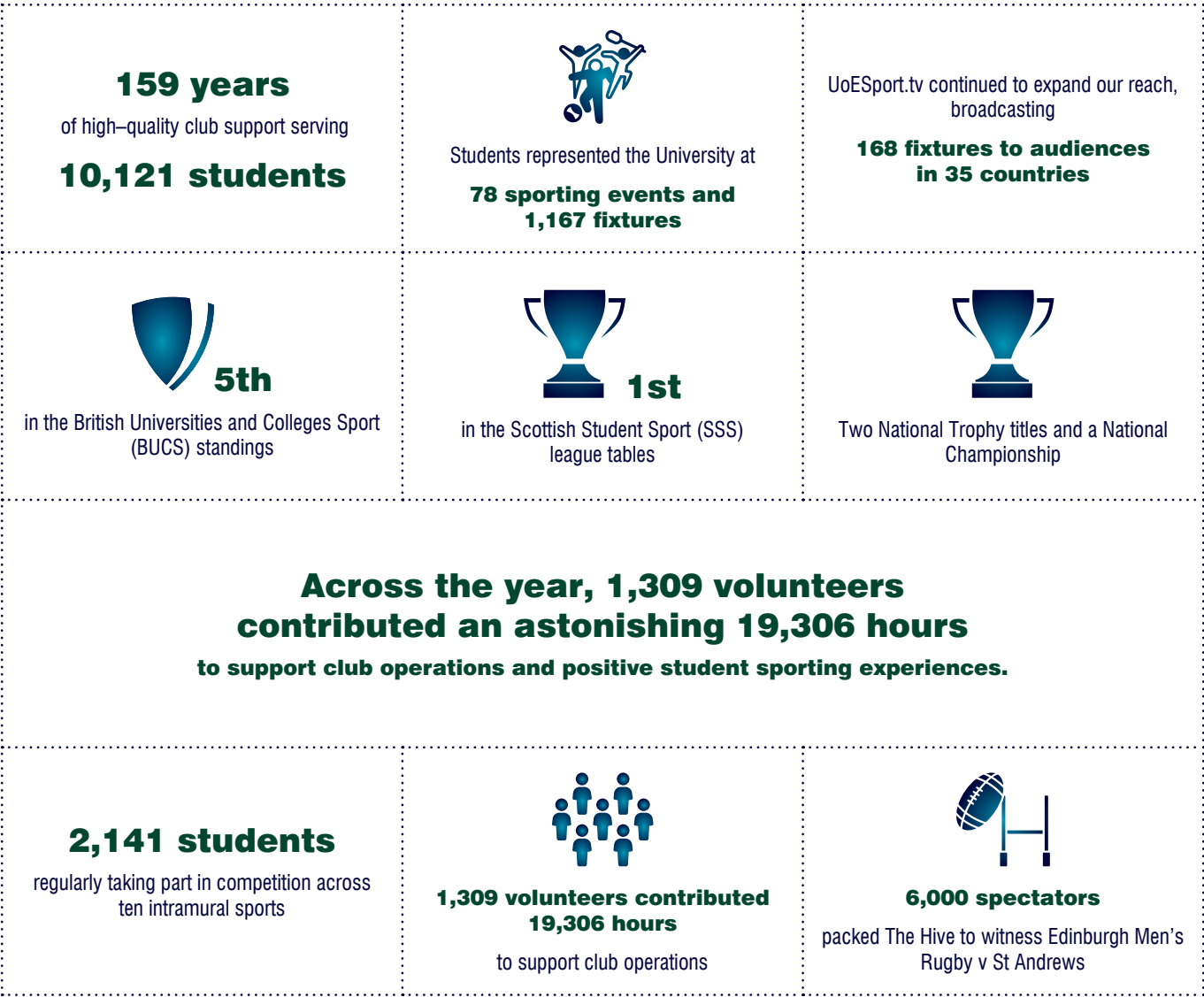
Sport also continued to bring communities together. New events such as Girls’ Night In allowed us to engage with new audiences, whilst our flagship Main Events, created welcoming opportunities for students, staff, alumni, and the wider community to come together and support our teams. One standout moment came in September when nearly **6,000 spectators** packed The Hive to witness Edinburgh Men’s Rugby 1st XV secure a dramatic 26–23 victory over St Andrews in front of a passionate Edinburgh crowd.

Behind the scenes, EUSU strengthened several business processes to support future growth and sustainability, including the introduction of Xero cloud-based accounting software as part of our ongoing commitment to modernising operations and improving efficiency.

Alongside sporting success, our clubs continued to champion wellbeing, mental health awareness, charitable fundraising, and support for the Edinburgh Sport Friday Afternoon Sport Pilot programme, demonstrating the positive impact student sport can have both on and beyond the field of play.

As we look ahead, excitement is already building for a significant milestone: **the 160th anniversary of formalised student sport at Edinburgh through EUSU**. While much has changed over the past century and a half, our focus remains supporting and empowering our students’ leaders, so our clubs and teams to flourish. The future is bright, and we cannot wait to see what comes next.

LIV STEVENS, SPORTS PRESIDENT (2025/26)





## 6. Global Citizenship, Inclusion and Access

Sport & Active Wellbeing continues to play a vital role in creating a welcoming, inclusive and connected University community. In 2025/26, we have continued to strengthen our commitment to ensuring that sport and physical activity are accessible to all students, regardless of background, identity, experience or ability.

Sport has a unique ability to bring people together. It creates shared experiences, builds confidence and provides a sense of belonging that is essential to a positive student experience. Through our programmes, partnerships and community initiatives, we continue to use sport as a vehicle to support inclusion, celebrate diversity and help students feel connected to the University of Edinburgh.

Our partnership with the Mastercard Foundation continues to be an important part of this work, supporting international scholars as they transition into university life and helping to create connections through sport, wellbeing and community activity. These opportunities provide a welcoming environment where students can develop friendships, build confidence and establish a stronger sense of belonging within Edinburgh.

Building on our commitment to widening access, we have continued to work with partners to remove barriers to participation and create opportunities for groups who may traditionally experience challenges engaging in sport. In collaboration with Edinburgh Rugby, we have expanded the opportunities for widening participation and international students to attend matches at Hive Stadium, providing access to Scottish sporting culture and strengthening their connection to the city.

We have also continued to develop inclusive opportunities across our own programmes and services. Working in partnership with EUSA, female-only exercise sessions have supported Muslim women to engage in physical activity within an environment designed around their needs. We have also continued to explore inclusive provision through initiatives such as trans-inclusive swimming sessions, and 'Girl's Night In' helping ensure our facilities and programmes are welcoming spaces for everyone.

A highlight of the year was our continued collaboration with the OSCAR Foundation, a grassroots organisation using football to create social change in India. Through a partnership with Professor Jarvie and the Academy for Sport, we supported a group of OSCAR Young Leaders to experience the University of Edinburgh through a programme combining sport, education, culture and personal development. The visit created opportunities for young leaders to exchange ideas, develop confidence and gain new perspectives on the role sport can play in changing lives.

### Global Citizenship: Volunteer Zambia

Our commitment to global citizenship remains a defining feature of Sport & Active Wellbeing. Through the Volunteer Zambia initiative and our membership of the Wallace Group, we continued to support the sustainable development of sport internationally.

Working alongside leading UK sporting universities and Sport in Action Zambia, we contribute knowledge, expertise and resources to programmes that use sport to empower communities, develop leadership and create lifelong opportunities for young people.

This year, we were delighted to support staff and student participation in Volunteer Zambia, enabling members of our community to contribute directly to international sport development while gaining valuable learning experiences.

As we look ahead, we are exploring how we can broaden international opportunities for our students beyond Volunteer Zambia, creating new ways for them to engage with global communities, develop leadership skills and experience the wider impact of sport.

Through our commitment to inclusion, access and global citizenship, Sport & Active Wellbeing continues to demonstrate how sport can create meaningful connections, strengthen communities and contribute to a more inclusive University experience.



### The world.

The globe, the planet, international countries, wider society.





## 7. Events

### Events

This year marked a significant step forward in building a stronger sporting culture across the University, with a focus on creating memorable events, strengthening our brand, and inspiring more students to support the University sport community.

**The Men's Rugby Varsity Match**, Scotland's largest university sporting event. The 2025 Varsity Match reached new heights, attracting over 6,000 spectators, a 30% increase in attendance compared with the 2024 Varsity fixture. The event was made even more memorable as the University of Edinburgh reclaimed the Varsity Trophy, creating a landmark moment for our student-athletes and supporters alike.

A focus on building a home crowd culture and strengthening engagement on a Wednesday afternoon saw the launch of our **Main Event Fixtures series**, spotlighting a key home fixture each week and encouraging students to come together to support University teams. By creating a regular focal point for spectators, the programme helped build a stronger sense of community and harness the energy of home support. Across the year, the initiative averaged more than 300 spectators across featured fixtures and was supported by a targeted social media campaign. The campaign delivered 44 posts covering 15 BUCS fixtures, generating 993,900 engagements and significantly increasing the visibility of University sport. The programme served as a successful pilot and will evolve into Wildcat Wednesdays, becoming a cornerstone of our future events calendar and helping to establish a recognisable sporting brand both on campus and beyond.

### National Events, International Teams and Major Events

This year saw Peffermill host a number of senior international fixtures for both the Scottish Hockey Men's and Women's teams with India, Malaysia, South Africa, Chile and Wales competing at the University's world-class facilities.

The Edinburgh City 7s returned for a record-breaking year with 118 teams taking part in 4 sports and 1500+ spectators over the weekend.

The Australia Netball Diamonds chose to host their pre-Commonwealth Games camp across our University sports facilities sites.

Professional sports teams continued to choose the University as their preferred host partner with the USA, All Blacks, Argentina, Tonga, Fiji, Vodacom Bulls, Sharks Rugby, Edinburgh Rugby, Scottish Institute of Sport and the Scottish Ballet all utilising our World Class facilities in their preparations.

### Girls' Night In

To reduce barriers to participation in sport and physical activity, this year we introduced Girls' Night In, a new participation event designed to provide a welcoming, social, and inclusive environment for women and girls to try new activities. More than 300 women and girls attended the event, taking part in 20 different activities, including netball, badminton, musical theatre fitness, introductory CrossFit, and many more.

The event successfully reached new audiences, with 48% of attendees not currently engaged in sport at the University. This highlights the event's effectiveness in reducing barriers to participation and engaging students who may not otherwise have considered getting involved. Feedback from participants demonstrated the event's wider impact. Many reported feeling more confident to return to sport or try new activities for the first time, indicating the potential for lasting behaviour change and reinforcing the importance of creating accessible, inclusive entry points into university sport.





**EDINBURGH**  
**WILDCATS**

## 8. Brand

This year we have taken a significant step in the evolution of our sporting identity, developing a new brand architecture that positions us beyond Edinburgh Sport and supports our ambition to become a globally recognised university sports brand.

Launching on 1st September 2026, 'Edinburgh Wildcats' will become the identity for all University performance teams and athletes, creating a brand that students, alumni, staff and the wider community can unite behind. By giving our teams a single, distinctive identity, we aim to grow support, increase visibility and build pride in University sport.

Under the new hierarchy, Edinburgh Sport remains the home of participation, wellbeing and facilities, proudly positioned as the home of the Edinburgh Wildcats.

**At the heart of the new brand is a simple message:**

Over 10,000 student athletes.  
Over 200 teams. One community.

Built on ambition, belonging and belief, the Edinburgh Wildcats brand provides a platform to strengthen our community, enhance the student experience, and elevate Edinburgh's reputation on the national and international sporting stage.



## 9. Digital Engagement & Reach

This year, University of Edinburgh Sport has shown the success of a major transformation of its digital communications, creating a more focused, engaging and impactful approach to connecting with students, staff, alumni, partners and the wider Edinburgh and global sports communities.

A network of 17 separate social media channels was streamlined into two audience-led platforms: Instagram and LinkedIn. This year we've shown it has created a more accessible and effective digital presence, enabling us to better showcase the people, programmes and impact behind Edinburgh Sport.

At the heart of this transformation was a commitment to **authentic, student-led storytelling**. Students became both the creators and the focus of our content, sharing their experiences across participation, club and performance sport. Through our student employment programme, three student content creators gained valuable industry experience while producing content that was relevant, engaging and reflective of the student experience.

New content series brought this approach to life. Day in the Life provided authentic insight into the experiences of student-athletes, generating more than 387,000 views, while The Main Event became a flagship weekly campaign, increasing visibility for student athletes, clubs and BUCS competition through dynamic matchday coverage and storytelling.

LinkedIn was repositioned as a platform for institutional impact and thought leadership, sharing research and insight-led content that demonstrated the wider value of sport and physical activity. This included the promotion of academic attainment research, highlighting the positive relationship between sport participation, academic success, wellbeing and belonging.

The results have been significant. **Instagram engagement increased by 500%**, growing from **1 million to 5 million engagements**, while LinkedIn engagement more than doubled from **323,000 to 770,000 engagements**.

Through strategic transformation, innovation and student-led content creation, Edinburgh Sport has strengthened its digital community, amplified student voices and significantly increased the visibility and impact of sport and physical activity across the University.



Instagram engagement increased by 500%, growing from 1 million to 5 million engagements



LinkedIn engagement more than doubled from 323,000 to 770,000 engagements.

## 10. Performance Sport: Enabling Excellence

The University of Edinburgh continues to be recognised as one of the leading performance sport environments in Europe with 136 student athletes representing their respective country on the international stage this past year across a wide range of sports.

Our world-class athlete and coach recruitment continues to strengthen, supported by close collaboration with academic colleagues and professional services. The continued development of our performance pathways ensures talented students can achieve excellence alongside academic success.

Competitive performance has remained strong, including continued success in BUCS, while internationally our athletes have continued to achieve outstanding results on the world stage. A full list of achievements can be viewed over the following pages.



**PHOEBE GILL**, ATHLETICS, GB ATHLETE, EUROPEAN UNDER-18 RECORD HOLDER FOR 800 METRES



**NOAH PENMAN**, GB DIVER, EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP SILVER MEDALLIST IN THE MEN'S 3M SPRINGBOARD



**CAT NELLI**, SCOTLAND HOCKEY PLAYER, SCOTLAND SENIOR INTERNATIONAL, EARNED HER FIRST SENIOR SCOTLAND CAPS IN 2025





**AMBITION BELONGING BELIEF**



Section 1 – UK and International Honours

| NAME                   | SPORT          | ACHIEVEMENT                                                |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alistair Hall          | Para Snowsport | Paralympic Selection                                       |
| Faye Rogers            | Swimming       | Commonwealth Games 200m IM Gold Medal                      |
|                        |                | British Championships S10 100m Freestyle Gold Medal        |
|                        |                | British Championships S10 400m Freestyle Silver Medal      |
|                        |                | British Championships S10 100m Butterfly Silver Medal      |
|                        |                | British Championships S10 200m IM Gold Medal               |
|                        |                | Swimming World Championships S10 400m Freestyle Gold Medal |
|                        |                | S10 200m IM Silver Medal                                   |
|                        |                | S10 100m Butterfly Silver Medal                            |
|                        |                | S10 100m Freestyle Silver Medal                            |
|                        |                | Mix 4x100m Medley Mixed 34pt relay Silver Medal            |
|                        |                | Mix 4x100m Freestyle Mixed 34pt relay Silver Medal         |
| Stephen Clegg          | Swimming       | Commonwealth Games S12 50m Freestyle Gold Medal            |
|                        |                | Commonwealth Games S12 100m Freestyle Silver Medal         |
|                        |                | British Championships S12 100m Backstroke Silver Medal     |
|                        |                | British Championships S12 100m Freestyle Silver Medal      |
|                        |                |                                                            |
| Melanie Woods (Alumna) | Athletics      | Commonwealth Games T54 1500m Gold Medal                    |
|                        |                | T54 400m Gold Medal                                        |
|                        |                | World Championships T54 1500m Bronze Medal                 |
|                        |                | T54 400m Bronze Medal                                      |
|                        |                | British Championships T54 400m Gold Medal                  |
|                        |                |                                                            |
| Anna Morgan            | Swimming       | Commonwealth Games 4x100m Mixed Medley Relay Silver Medal  |
|                        |                | British Championships 50m Breaststroke Silver Medal        |
|                        |                | British Championships 100m Breaststroke Silver Medal       |
|                        |                | British Championships 200m Breaststroke Bronze Medal       |

Section 1 – UK and International Honours

| NAME                      | SPORT           | ACHIEVEMENT                                                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ciara Schlosshan          | Swimming        | Commonwealth Games 4x100m Mixed Medley Relay Silver Medal  |
|                           |                 | British Championships 50m Butterfly Bronze Medal           |
|                           |                 | British Championships 100m Butterfly Silver Medal          |
|                           |                 | British Championships 200m Butterfly Bronze Medal          |
| Josh Mitchell             | Swimming        | Commonwealth Games 4x100m Medley Relay Bronze Medal        |
| Megan Keith               | Athletics       | Commonwealth Games 5000m Bronze Medal                      |
|                           |                 | European Cross Country Silver Medal                        |
|                           |                 | European 10km Road Record                                  |
| Stephen MacKenzie         | Athletics       | Commonwealth Games Long Jump Bronze Medal                  |
|                           |                 | British Championships Long Jump Gold Medal                 |
| Charlie Aldridge          | Mountain Biking | European Championships XCO Gold Medal                      |
|                           |                 | XCC Gold Medal                                             |
|                           |                 |                                                            |
| Izzy Clements             | Rowing          | World Cup Lightweight Single Sculls Bronze & Silver medals |
| Gabriella DeBues-Stafford | Athletics       | Canadian Championships 5000m Gold Medal                    |
| Joe Gallagher             | Karate          | European U21 Bronze Medal                                  |
| Archie Goodburn           | Swimming        | British Championships 50m Breaststroke Bronze Medal        |
| Sarah Calvert             | Athletics       | British Championships 1500m Gold Medal                     |
| Josh Matthews             | Rowing          | U23 World Championships Gold Medal                         |
| Grace Dawson              | Rowing          | U23 World Championships Silver Medal                       |
| Isla Britton              | Triathlon       | Triathlon World Cup Bronze Medal                           |
| Noah Penman               | Diving          | America Cup Bronze Medal                                   |
|                           |                 | Canada Cup Silver Medal                                    |
|                           |                 | Copa Mexico Silver Medal                                   |



Section 2 – Commonwealth Games Selections 2026

| Athlete                                           | Sport    | Main Event                                                                                                         | Studying                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Faye Rogers                                       | Swimming | 100m Butterfly<br>200m S10 Individual Medley<br>Gold Medal                                                         | Medicine                                                 |
| Stephen Clegg<br>(Performance programme athlete)  | Swimming | S12 50m Freestyle Gold Medal<br>100m Freestyle Silver Medal                                                        | Hall of Fame – Performance programme Athlete             |
| Ciara Schlosshan                                  | Swimming | 4x 100m Mixed Medley Relay Silver Medal<br>50m Butterfly<br>100m Butterfly<br>200m Butterfly<br>4x100 Medley Relay | Politics, Philosophy and Economics Student<br>Graduating |
| Archie Goodburn                                   | Swimming | 50m Breaststroke<br>100m Breaststroke                                                                              | MEng Chemical Engineering<br>Graduating                  |
| Anna Morgan<br>(Performance programme athlete)    | Swimming | 4x 100m Mixed Medley Relay Silver Medal<br>50m Breaststroke 100m Breaststroke<br>4x100m Medley Relay               | Performance programme athlete for 5 years                |
| Scott Gibson (Alumnus)                            | Swimming | 50m Backstroke                                                                                                     | Accounting and Business                                  |
| Lucy Hope (Alumna)                                | Swimming | 4x100m Freestyle Relay<br>4x200m Freestyle Relay                                                                   | Hall of Fame & MA Accounting and Business 2021           |
| Stefan Krawiec<br>(Performance programme athlete) | Swimming | 4x 100m Freestyle Relay<br>4x100m Mixed Freestyle Relay                                                            | Performance programme athlete                            |
| Joshua Mitchell                                   | Swimming | 100m Breaststroke<br>200m Breaststroke<br>4x 100m Medley Relay<br>Bronze Medal                                     | Astrophysics                                             |

Section 2 – Commonwealth Games Selections 2026

| Athlete                                                     | Sport              | Main Event                                        | Studying                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Megan Keith                                                 | Athletics          | 5,000m Bronze Medal<br>10,000m                    | BSc Applied Sport Science<br>Masters in Public Health<br>Graduating        |
| Gabriela Debues Stafford<br>(Performance programme athlete) | Athletics (Canada) | 5,000m                                            | Performance programme athlete – Canada                                     |
| Melanie Woods (Alumna)                                      | Athletics          | T54 1500m<br>Gold Medal<br>T54 400m<br>Gold Medal | 2019 PE Alumni                                                             |
| Alyson Bell                                                 | Athletics          | 200m<br>4x100m Relay                              | Masters in Public Health<br>Graduating                                     |
| Sarah Calvert                                               | Athletics          | 1500m                                             | Medicine                                                                   |
| Stephen Mackenzie                                           | Athletics          | Long Jump Bronze Medal                            | MSc Climate Change<br>Finance and Investment 2025                          |
| Maddie Rosher                                               | Weightlifting      | 69kg categories                                   | Accepted but year out–<br>Incoming first-year student<br>Sports Management |
| Hannah Robb (Alumna)                                        | Basketball         | 3x3 Basketball                                    | Sports Science Alumni                                                      |
| Sarah Adlington (Alumna)                                    | Judo               | Women’s +78kg                                     | 2018 Degree BSC<br>Sport and Recreation<br>Management                      |
| Ollie Short (Alumnus)                                       | Judo               | Men’s –73kg                                       | 2025 Economics                                                             |
| Emily Nicholl (Alumna)                                      | Netball            | Group Stages &<br>Classification Match            | 2022 Law Alumni                                                            |
| Hannah Grant (Alumna)                                       | Netball            | Group Stages &<br>Classification Match            | Bio Medical Sciences<br>Alumni                                             |



Section 3 – Hall of Fame

| NAME                       | STATUS              | COURSE                                                                                             | SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Archie Goodburn (Swimming) | Student             | MSc Chemical Engineering                                                                           | European Medalist, Multiple British Champion and Scottish Record Holder, World and European Junior Medalist                                                                                     |
| Kara Hanlon (Swimming)     | Alumna              | BSc Applied Sport Science (2020)<br>MSc Sport Policy Management & International Development (2024) | European Championship medalist, Multiple British Champion, Scottish Record Holder                                                                                                               |
| Megan Keith (Athletics)    | Student             | BSc Applied Sport Science<br>Masters in Public Health                                              | Olympian, Paris 2024<br>European 10km Record Holder & European Championships Medalist<br>Commonwealth Medalist 2026<br>Olympic and World Championship Finalist                                  |
| Dr Andrew Murray           | Staff (and Alumnus) | PhD Sports Medicine                                                                                | Chief Medical Officer for Ryder Cup Europe, DP World Tour medical and Paris Olympic Games (Golf), International Team Doctor (Various), 140 academic publications in sports science and medicine |
| Melanie Woods (Athletics)  | Alumna              | BA (Hons) Physical Education                                                                       | World Championship T54 1500m & T54 400m Bronze Medalist<br>Commonwealth T54 1500m & T54 400m Gold Medalist<br>Paralympic Games finalist                                                         |



KARA HANLON, ALUMNA



DR ANDREW MURRAY, STAFF (AND ALUMNUS)



MELANIE WOODS, ALUMNA



MEGAN KEITH, STUDENT



ARCHIE GOODBURN, STUDENT



Section 4 – International Selections

| NAME                      | SPORT     | LEVEL  | COUNTRY       |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|---------------|
| Alyson Bell               | Athletics | Senior | Scotland/GB   |
| Gabriella DeBues-Stafford | Athletics | Senior | Canada        |
| Megan Keith               | Athletics | Senior | Scotland/GB   |
| Finlay Ross Davie         | Athletics | Senior | Scotland      |
| Sarah Calvert             | Athletics | Senior | Scotland      |
| Ryan Kitkiat              | Baseball  | Senior | Singapore     |
| Owen Gould                | Cricket   | Senior | Scotland      |
| Charlie Aldridge          | Cycling   | Senior | Great Britain |
| Noah Penman               | Diving    | Senior | Great Britain |
| Georgia Silk              | Fencing   | Senior | Great Britain |
| Holly Thompson            | Fencing   | Senior | Great Britain |
| Jessica Fereday           | Fencing   | Senior | Great Britain |
| Sam Barrass               | Fencing   | Senior | Great Britain |
| Zoë Wagstaff              | Fencing   | Senior | Great Britain |
| Alex Wilson               | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Jamie Croll               | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Jamie Golden              | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Keir Robb                 | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Matthew Taylor            | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Ruth Blaikie              | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Tom Fox                   | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Ollie Wilson              | Hockey    | Senior | Scotland/GB   |
| Eden Heffern              | Judo      | Senior | Scotland      |
| Adam Hamill               | Karate    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Daniel Lyons              | Karate    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Emma Russel               | Karate    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Joe Gallagher             | Karate    | Senior | Scotland      |
| Grace Davison             | Lacrosse  | Senior | South Africa  |
| Sienna Davison            | Lacrosse  | Senior | South Africa  |
| Anna Bole                 | Lacrosse  | Senior | Scotland      |
| Imogen Cochran            | Lacrosse  | Senior | Scotland      |
| Emily Hook                | Lacrosse  | Senior | Wales         |
| Katie Binsted             | Lacrosse  | Senior | Scotland      |

Section 4 – International Selections

| NAME                 | SPORT                  | LEVEL  | COUNTRY       |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Rachel Watson        | Lacrosse               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Alex Wetherill       | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Daisy McNamara       | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Emma Crawford        | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Euan Tryner          | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Imogen Pieters       | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Isobel Howard        | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Sam Griffin          | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Fiona Bunn           | Orienteering           | Senior | Great Britain |
| Beatrix Fooxs        | Rowing                 | Senior | Scotland      |
| Gabe Messner         | Rowing                 | Senior | Scotland      |
| Isla MacCallum       | Rowing                 | Senior | Scotland      |
| Izzy Clements        | Rowing                 | Senior | Ireland       |
| Lucy McLean          | Rowing                 | Senior | Scotland      |
| Madeleine Fatani     | Rowing                 | Senior | Scotland      |
| James Lambol         | Rowing                 | Senior | Bermuda       |
| Isabel Soyinka       | Rowing - Beach Sprints | Senior | Scotland      |
| Alex Stewart         | Rugby                  | Senior | Scotland      |
| Emily Coubrough      | Rugby                  | Senior | Scotland      |
| Harry Paterson       | Rugby                  | Senior | Scotland      |
| Alistair Hall        | Skiing Para Guide      | Senior | Great Britain |
| Ava Hamilton         | Speed Climbing         | Senior | Great Britain |
| Anna Morgan          | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Archie Goodburn      | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Brodie Gordon-Gibson | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Ciara Schlosshan     | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Faye Rogers          | Swimming               | Senior | Great Britain |
| Josh Mitchell        | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Scott Gibson         | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Stefan Krawiec       | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Stephen Clegg        | Swimming               | Senior | Scotland      |
| Faye Leggett         | Table Tennis           | Senior | Scotland      |
| Heather Barlow       | Tennis (singles)       | Senior | Scotland      |



Section 4 – International Selections

| NAME                 | SPORT            | LEVEL  | COUNTRY       |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Kyra Shetty          | Tennis (singles) | Senior | Scotland      |
| Isla Britton         | Triathlon        | Senior | Canada        |
| Anna Campbell        | Water Polo       | Senior | Scotland      |
| James Miller         | Water Polo       | Senior | Great Britain |
| Kayleigh Goldschmidt | Water Polo       | Senior | Scotland      |
| Madeline Brown       | Water Polo       | Senior | Great Britain |
| Molly Meldrum        | Water Polo       | Senior | Scotland      |
| Cindy Cao            | Baseball         | Senior | China         |
| Emily Morris         | Hockey           | Senior | Scotland      |
| Jess Martin          | Hockey           | Senior | Scotland      |
| Zara Kennedy         | Hockey           | Senior | Scotland      |
| James Hammond        | Orienteering     | Senior | Great Britain |

Section 5 – International Selections (Age Group)

| NAME                | SPORT             | AGE GROUP | COUNTRY              |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Niamh Waters        | Rugby             | U18       | Scotland             |
| Lachlan Jack        | American Football | U19       | Scotland             |
| Mark Carolan        | American Football | U19       | Scotland             |
| Hannah Proudfoot    | Netball           | U19       | Scotland             |
| Onomen Ibhanesebhor | Netball           | U19       | Scotland             |
| Emilio Milo         | Softball          | U19       | Hong Kong            |
| Charlotte Burton    | Cross Country     | U20       | Scotland             |
| Innes Wright        | Cross Country     | U20       | Scotland             |
| Zoe Rennie          | Cross Country     | U20       | Scotland             |
| James Harvard       | Fencing           | U20       | Great Britain        |
| Lola Compton        | Lacrosse          | U20       | Wales                |
| Calum Jessop        | Rugby             | U20       | Scotland             |
| Christian Lindsay   | Rugby             | U20       | Scotand              |
| Murray Dickson      | Water Polo        | U20       | Great Britain        |
| Angus Millar        | Hockey            | U21       | Scotland             |
| Chris Hair          | Hockey            | U21       | Scotland Development |
| Drew Lobb           | Hockey            | U21       | Scotland             |
| Emily McLean        | Hockey            | U21       | Scotland             |

Section 5 – International Selections (Age Group)

| NAME                 | SPORT         | AGE GROUP | COUNTRY              |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Henry Porter         | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland Development |
| Jamie Green          | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Jamie Green          | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Johnny Bradley       | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland Development |
| Josh Love            | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Kyle Flockhart       | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Rory Steedman        | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Sam Hunt             | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Sophia Colman        | Hockey        | U21       | Scotland             |
| Heidi Dawson         | Netball       | U21       | Scotland             |
| Holly Turnbull       | Netball       | U21       | Scotland             |
| Aila Ronald          | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Catriona Moody       | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Lisa Brown           | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Lucy MacRae          | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Nicole Flynn         | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Poppy Mellanby       | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Cat Nelli            | Hockey        | U21       | Scotand              |
| Connie Roxburgh      | Hockey        | U21       | Scotand              |
| Katie Brett          | Hockey        | U21       | Scotand              |
| Kirstne Murison      | Hockey        | U21       | Scotand              |
| Lucy Harris          | Hockey        | U21       | Scotand              |
| Hannah Walker        | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Imogen Spence        | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Poppy Fletcher       | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Ellie Moffat         | Rugby         | U21       | Scotland             |
| Anya Maclean         | Cross Country | U23       | Scotland             |
| Ceri Griffiths       | Cross Country | U23       | Wales                |
| Finlay Ross-Davie    | Cross Country | U23       | Scotland             |
| Grace Tindall        | Cross Country | U23       | Scotland             |
| Luca Messenger-Jones | Cross Country | U23       | Wales                |
| Matthew Benson       | Cross Country | U23       | Wales                |
| Sam Griffin          | Cross Country | U23       | Scotland             |



Section 5 – International Selections (Age Group)

| NAME            | SPORT                          | AGE GROUP | COUNTRY       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Angus Wright    | Cross Country and Hill Running | U23       | Scotland      |
| Thomas Hilton   | Hill Running                   | U23       | Scotland/GB   |
| Freddie Foxwell | Rowing                         | U23       | Great Britain |
| Grace Dawson    | Rowing                         | U23       | Great Britain |
| Josh Matthews   | Rowing                         | U23       | Great Britain |
| Alexa Frcek     | Powerlifting                   | U21       | Scotland      |
| Lyra Medlock    | Orienteering                   | Junior    | Great Britain |

Section 6 – World & European University Championships & Games Selections

| NAME             | SPORT        | COUNTRY | EVENT                                            |
|------------------|--------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Penny Irvine     | Rowing       | GB      | FISU World University Rowing Championships       |
| Madeleine Fatani | Rowing       | GB      | FISU World University Rowing Championships       |
| Euan Tryner      | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| James Hammond    | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Jim Bailey       | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Sam Griffin      | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Alex Wetherill   | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Imogen Pieters   | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Isobel Howard    | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Rachel Brown     | Orienteering | GB      | World University Orienteering Championships 2026 |
| Adam Hamill      | Karate       | GB      | EUSA Karate Games                                |
| Joe Gallagher    | Karate       | GB      | EUSA Karate Games                                |
| Daniel Lyons     | Karate       | GB      | EUSA Karate Games                                |

Section 6 – World & European University Championships & Games Selections

| NAME         | SPORT      | COUNTRY | EVENT                                                         |
|--------------|------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Burcu Uslu   | Volleyball | GB      | European University Sports Association Beach Volleyball Games |
| Hannah Clark | Volleyball | GB      | European University Sports Association Beach Volleyball Games |

Section 7 – Coaches, Support Staff and Officials Selections

| NAME              | SPORT            | EVENT                                   | ROLE                                                          |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr Andrew Murray  | Golf             | Ryder Cup & DP World Tour               | Chief Medical Officer                                         |
| Dr Alistair Nicol | Formula 1        | World Championship Series               | Chief Medical Officer – various drivers                       |
| Neil Allan        | Hockey           | Various International                   | Scotland Men’s Head Coach                                     |
| Mathew Trodden    | Swimming         | Commonwealth Games                      | Scotland National Coach                                       |
| Danny Kirkham     | Swimming         | Commonwealth Games                      | Scotland National Coach                                       |
| Matilda Mayne     | Various Sports   | Various International Events            | Lead Psychologist                                             |
| John Higson       | Rowing           | Home Internationals                     | Scotland Team Coach                                           |
| Dale FLockhart    | Rowing           | Home Internationals                     | Scotland Team Coach                                           |
| Louise Dalgliesh  | Rugby            | U20 World Cup / Six Nations             | National U20 Lead Coach                                       |
| Henry Pyrgos      | Rugby            | U20 World Cup / Six Nations             | National Assistant Coach                                      |
| Claire Cruikshank | Rugby            | Six Nations                             | National Assistant Coach                                      |
| Bart Sengers      | Basketball       | Various International Events            | Scotland Women’s U17 Head Coach / Netherlands, U20 Head Coach |
| Mark Rowland      | Athletics        | Various International Events            | Individual Coach / UK U20 Coach                               |
| Tracy McAdam      | Formula 1        | World Championship Series               | Lead Physiotherapist– Mercedes Team                           |
| Eric White        | Golf             | Scottish Open and The Open Championship | Event Physiotherapist                                         |
| Trish Wilcox      | Netball          | Various international Matches           | Assistant National Coach                                      |
| Ollie Cruickshank | Wheelchair Rugby | Various international Events            | International Referee                                         |
| Mike Hughes       | Rowing           | Home Internationals                     | Scotland Team Coach                                           |
| STUDENT OFFICIALS |                  |                                         |                                                               |
| Ben Burton        | Hockey           | EHL U19 & Senior Fixtures               | International Referee                                         |





## 11. Edinburgh Sport Research and International Collaborations

Sport & Active Wellbeing continues to make a significant contribution to world-class research, education and clinical practice through collaboration with leading academic institutions, international sporting organisations, governing bodies and global partners.

This work reflects the University of Edinburgh's commitment to using sport as a platform for innovation, knowledge exchange and real-world impact. Through Edinburgh Sports Clinic, we have continued to develop a focused research and education strategy that identifies emerging areas of opportunity and connects expertise across sport, health and wellbeing.

Led by Dr Andrew Murray, this work brings together clinical expertise, applied research and practical delivery to address some of the most important challenges facing sport, exercise and public health. The strength of this approach lies in collaboration, ensuring that research informs practice and that learning from real-world environments contributes back into education and innovation.

Our work is delivered in close partnership with colleagues across Moray House School of Education & Sport, the Medical School and Global Public Health, creating a truly interdisciplinary approach. These collaborations continue to strengthen Edinburgh's position as a leader in sport, health and wellbeing, while providing opportunities for students, researchers, clinicians and practitioners to contribute to impactful work on a national and international stage.

A summary of contribution across research, education, impact, policy, partnership and enterprise over the past year, led by Dr Andrew Murray includes;

**Research** – Twelve peer-reviewed publications over the year, across the health benefits of sport, and illness and injury prevention, alongside the role of Co-Director of the Edinburgh Sports Medicine Research Centre.

**Education** – Plenary lectures at several international conferences, teaching across a number of International Olympic Committee diploma programmes, and continued support and teaching within the University of Edinburgh.

**Research impact** – Reports delivered over the year have been showcased and shared by global governing bodies, including The R&A, and by international sports leagues, and drawn on by leading players such as Rory McIlroy in their communications. The work has featured extensively on television, on radio, and in the written press.

**Policy engagement** – Meetings with several governments have highlighted the University's work, including, in Scotland, with the Sports Minister, Maree Todd, and the First Minister, John Swinney.

**Department support** – Collaborations have created opportunities for our students and staff at golf and other high-level events, with five physiotherapists offered roles at leading international events.

**IOC Research Centre** – Continued co-running of the IOC Research Centre, with the renewal process now underway and due to conclude in September 2026, at a time when the University of Edinburgh hosts all eleven IOC research centres.

**Business development** – Support for enterprise, marketing and business development activity across the department's work.



As well as Dr Murray’s extensive global work, our clinical and staff expertise was once again at the forefront of various projects and delivery and can be highlighted in the last 12 months via the following contributions;

**Dr Alistair Nicol** – prior to announcing his retirement, Dr Nicol continued to be regarded as one of the best sports medicine doctors globally. Alongside his Scottish Rugby role, Alistair was personal physician to the world’s best F1 drivers including Max Verstappen, Lewis Hamilton, the Mercedes team plus several other drivers, a role he has held for a number of years.

**Mark Munro** – Continued work internationally as a core member of the World Athletics Expert Panel leading on the IOC Developing National Sports Systems project, as well as continued support to Scottish Golf as a member of the Performance Advisory Group.

**Cam Ritchie** – lead role as CUBO Chair of the National Operations Group, as well as various conference presentations nationally and internationally.

**Katherine Duncan** – lead role as Chair of the Scottish Student Sport Development Committee, plus various UK-wide conference presentations.

**Neil Allen** (Head of Hockey) – has led the Scotland men’s hockey programme on the international stage, guiding the team to a strong performance and notable placing in the FIH Nations Cup. His leadership has contributed to Scotland’s continued competitiveness at senior international level.

**Mat Trodden** and **Danny Kirkham** – have both played key roles as Scotland national swimming coaches playing a key role at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games as well as other national team lead roles.

**Trish Wilcox** – various national Scotland netball team roles, including involvement at the Commonwealth Games.

**Louise Dalglish** (Head of Women’s Rugby) – Scotland Under-21s Head Coach at the World Rugby U20 Championships.

**Henry Pyrgos** (Men’s Rugby Coach) – coached Scotland Under-20s while also playing a key role within the Edinburgh Rugby Professional Academy, developing athletes who progress into international rugby environments.

**John Higson** (Assistant Head of Rowing) and **Dale Flockart** (Rowing Coach) – coached the Scottish national team at the Home International Regatta, providing athletes with valuable exposure to international-level competition. John has also coached numerous athletes to GB Under-23 World Rowing Championships, several of whom have gone on to compete at Olympic level.

**Bart Sengers** – Lead coach for Scotland Under-17s and the Netherlands Under-20s basketball teams, demonstrating his ability to develop players across different high-performance systems and international environments.

**Don McKenzie** (Scottish Fencing) – national team roles in development and coaching, preparing athletes for international competition and strengthening Scotland’s fencing pathway.

**Tracey McAdam** – has worked across multiple national governing bodies, including Swimming and Rowing at major events this year, as well as supporting elite sport environments such as the McLaren Formula One team as a physiotherapist. She has also supported hockey and diving, working with Aquatics GB and Scottish Swimming.

**Matilda Mayne** (Head of Sports Psychology) – worked with Scottish Rugby, GB Rowing, Scottish Rowing, and British Fencing. She also presented at the International Conference on Sport Psychology in Barcelona in 2025.

**Eric White** – exceptional leadership in the delivery and development of the Global Endurance Project, providing high-quality physiotherapy support that has contributed to athletes performing successfully at the highest domestic level. He has also made significant contributions through his work at major international golf events, including the Scottish Open and The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.





## 12. Moray House School of Education & Sport

The partnership between Sport & Active Wellbeing and Moray House School of Education and Sport continues to be central to the University of Edinburgh's ambition to be a global leader in sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing.

Together, we bring academic excellence, research expertise and practical experience to create a unique environment where education, innovation and real-world impact come together. This collaboration strengthens the student experience, enhances opportunities for learning and development, and ensures that our work is informed by the latest thinking and evidence.

A key contributor to this partnership is the Institute for Sport, Physical Education and Health Sciences (SPEHS), which plays a leading role in research, teaching, knowledge exchange and consultancy. Through its work, SPEHS continues to position Edinburgh as an international centre of excellence in sport, physical education and health sciences.

SPEHS is a leader in research, impact and teaching in Physical Education, physical activity and Sport – both locally and globally. As an academic department, SPEHS engages in teaching, research, knowledge exchange, and consultancy. In the latest QS World University Rankings (2026), the University of Edinburgh is ranked 1st in Scotland and 20th in the world for Sport-related subjects, plus 9th Globally for Education subjects.

SPEHS' vision is to educate and conduct pertinent research for the benefit of both local and international communities, and to strive for excellence in research and teaching. SPEHS has its own specialist facilities to enable learning and teaching, research and consultancy, and employs over one hundred staff whose teaching and research relates to our degree programmes.

Based in SPEHS we have three undergraduate programmes (MA Physical Education; BSc Sport Management; BSc applied Sport Science), all of which have placement-based learning opportunities to enable students to contextualise their learning in the workplace and develop both professionally and academically. Our postgraduate programmes (MSc Dance Science & Education; MSc Sport and Performance Psychology;

MSc Strength & Conditioning; MSc Sport Policy, Management & International Development; and MSc Physical Activity for Health) are all applied in nature and are taught by experts in their respective fields.

Key considerations for the structure and content of our programmes, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, are to support both the development of subject-specific knowledge, and a range of transferable skills to equip students for the dynamic sport job market when they graduate. Where appropriate, we seek professional accreditation for our teaching programmes, to enhance their quality to the benefit of our students, and to increase their visibility in a competitive global market. We work closely with our research and industry partners to enhance students' learning through shared projects, invited guest speakers and site visits.

Within SPEHS' thriving research environment, we have two research centres (Physical Activity for Health Research Centre [PAHRC]; and the University of Edinburgh Sports Medicine Research Centre). Our success in research and knowledge exchange is based on world-leading collaborations across the sport, health and education sectors which ensure our interdisciplinary research is tackling real world problems. Our particular strength is research impact, where 88% percent is world leading, which puts us 5th in the UK rankings for research impact in our subject area. Our research is disseminated through publications in a range of world-leading journals, conferences and public engagement, with this work involving both staff and students at all levels of learning.

With approaching a thousand students enrolled on our programmes each year, and fifty doctoral candidates, our students and their achievements are a source of pride for staff. We have a high graduate employment rate and a healthy number of students return to study post graduate or doctoral degrees.

If you would like further information regarding our teaching and/or research and knowledge exchange please contact: [Spehs@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Spehs@ed.ac.uk).





### 13. Academy of Sport

As one of the world's dedicated international think tanks, led by Professor Grant Jarvie, we continue to put Edinburgh on the world stage through sport. We bring together top teams from across the world to provide sporting solutions and tackle world problems through sport. Whether it be building collaborations with Morocco as they prepare for the 2030 World Cup; lead the stewardship of The International Sport Ecology Group; provide evidence to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on the use of grass-roots sports to enable communities; or engage with the international sporting community through Sport Matters, we strive to support the communities we work with. Our briefing on Scotland and Morocco reached more than 6 million people. Our policy paper on The Future of the Commonwealth Games responded to the Canadian First Ministers call to make the world a better place and was dedicated to, Academy of Sport member and friend of Edinburgh University, the late Honourable Kirsty Duncan, former Canadian Minister for Sport, Science and People with Disabilities.

Our members, this year, have worked with Embassies and Consulates for Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Australia, Canada and the UK to help countries realise international engagement and co-operation through sport. We have opened doors for students. Our groundbreaking, Football More than a Game continues to open up education opportunities in football stadiums. We value our partnership with Edinburgh Sport. We continue to position Edinburgh in the world of sport through sitting on local, national international committees for sport.





## 14. Our Partnerships

The success of Sport & Active Wellbeing at the University of Edinburgh is built on the strength of our partnerships. We recognise that we cannot deliver the breadth, quality and impact of our work alone. The relationships we have developed across the sporting, health, community and commercial sectors provide essential expertise, support and shared ambition that enables us to create exceptional opportunities for our students, staff and wider communities.

Our partners are fundamental to our continued growth and development. Through collaboration, shared knowledge and a collective commitment to excellence, we are able to deliver opportunities that extend far beyond traditional university sport. These relationships help us support student wellbeing, develop performance pathways, strengthen community connections and enhance the reputation of the University of Edinburgh nationally and internationally.

Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen existing relationships while developing new partnerships aligned with our strategic priorities. The spirit of these partnerships is built on trust, openness and a shared belief in the positive impact of sport and physical activity.

We are particularly grateful for the continued support and collaboration from our sporting partners, including **Scottish Rugby, Scottish Rowing, Aquatics GB, Scottish Swimming, British Rowing, Basketball Scotland, Netball Scotland, Scottish Athletics, Scottish FA, Scottish Hockey and CIMSPA**. These relationships continue to enhance performance pathways, provide expertise and create opportunities for our student athletes and wider sporting community.

Our partnership with Scottish Action for Mental Health has further reinforced our shared ambition to position movement and physical activity as a proactive and preventative approach to supporting mental health and wellbeing. This reflects the growing recognition of sport as a powerful contributor to healthier, more connected communities.

We have also continued to develop innovative partnerships, including our collaboration with OpenPlay (LMS System), which provides valuable support for our members, alongside the continued expansion of our kit partnership with PlayerLayer.

Every partnership we hold plays a role in enabling Sport & Active Wellbeing to achieve its ambitions. We are incredibly grateful for the guidance, expertise and commitment of all our partners and look forward to continuing to work together to create positive impact through sport, wellbeing and community engagement.

# EDINBURGH SPORT



|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>Aquatics GB         | <br>basketballscotland | <br>BRITISH ROWING                             |
| <br>CIMSPA              | <br>EDINBURGH GIANTS   | <br>EDINBURGH<br>EST. 1872                     |
| <br>NETBALL SCOTLAND   | <br>PLAYERLAYER      | <br>SAMH<br>Scottish Action for Mental Health |
| <br>scottishathletics | <br>SCOTTISH FA      | <br>Scottish Hockey                          |
| <br>SCOTTISH ROWING   | <br>SCOTTISH RUGBY   | <br>Scottish Swimming                        |







## 15. Wild Campus: Sport, Nature and Sustainability

Sport & Active Wellbeing continues to play an important role in supporting the University of Edinburgh's ambition to be a global leader in social responsibility and sustainability. Our facilities and programmes provide a unique opportunity to connect people, place and purpose, demonstrating how sport can contribute positively to the environment and the communities we serve.

Over the past year, we have continued to evolve our Wild Campus approach, using our sporting environments as platforms for biodiversity, environmental learning and community engagement. Peffermill Playing Fields remains at the heart of this work, with continued development of Wild Peffermill creating a more diverse, resilient and environmentally sustainable sporting landscape.

Working closely with colleagues across the University, we have continued to enhance natural habitats across the site, creating opportunities for wildlife, improving biodiversity and encouraging greater awareness of the relationship between sport, nature and wellbeing. The continued development of wild spaces across Peffermill demonstrates that high-quality sporting facilities and environmental responsibility can work together.

Our approach extends beyond biodiversity. We continue to review how we operate our facilities, programmes and events to reduce environmental impact, including sustainable procurement, responsible use of resources and working with partners who share our commitment to positive environmental change.

Firbush Outdoor Centre also continues to provide an important connection between sport, outdoor learning and sustainability. Through ongoing engagement with University research groups and environmental partners, Firbush supports opportunities for research, education and knowledge exchange linked to outdoor environments, climate, conservation and the role of nature in health and wellbeing.

As we look ahead, we will continue to develop our Wild Campus ambitions, strengthening partnerships and creating opportunities for students, staff and communities to engage with sustainability through sport. By embedding environmental responsibility into our facilities, programmes and culture, Sport & Active Wellbeing can continue to contribute meaningfully to the University's wider sustainability goals.





## 16. Firbush Outdoor Centre: Connecting People, Place and Purpose

Firbush Outdoor Centre continues to be one of the University of Edinburgh’s most distinctive assets, providing a unique environment where sport, outdoor learning, wellbeing, research and sustainability come together.

Over the past year, the Centre has continued to evolve, building on its rich history while adapting to the changing needs of the University community and the wider outdoor sector. Through the commitment and creativity of the Firbush team, the Centre has strengthened its operational model, diversified its activity and continued to provide exceptional experiences for students, staff, partners and visitors.

This progress has been achieved in a challenging financial environment, with reduced levels of internal University activity and wider pressures across the sector. Despite this, the team has continued to innovate, grow external engagement and maximise opportunities, successfully generating a financial surplus. This is a significant achievement and reflects the dedication, flexibility and entrepreneurial approach of Centre Operations Manager Chris Walker and the wider Firbush team.

A key area of development has been the continued expansion of Firbush’s role as a hub for sustainability, research and knowledge exchange. The Centre provides an exceptional natural environment for learning and collaboration, and throughout 2025/26 we have welcomed engagement from a wide range of University departments, researchers and external organisations.

The Centre has supported visits and activity from partners including the Beaver Trust, recognising the importance of Firbush as a location for biodiversity and environmental work, alongside Mountaineering Scotland, Royal Yachting Association Scotland and the IDCORE – EPSRC Industrial Centre for Doctoral Training in Offshore Renewable Energy. These collaborations demonstrate the growing value of Firbush as a place where outdoor practice, research and environmental innovation intersect.

Investment has also continued in the Centre’s facilities, including new boats and equipment to enhance the quality, safety and accessibility of outdoor activity provision. These improvements support both student experiences and the wider programme of research, learning and partnership activity taking place at Loch Tay.

Looking ahead to Firbush’s 60th anniversary in 2027, the Centre continues to represent the very best of what University sport and outdoor education can offer: a place that develops confidence, builds community, supports wellbeing and connects people to the natural environment. Its continued success is a testament to the vision, commitment and passion of everyone involved in creating the next chapter of Firbush.



2025/26

**5,294** Residential bednights

**Booking.com**

Rating

**9.2/10**



**240hrs**

Community activity hours  
delivered to individuals





## 17. Sports Medicine & Injuries – Edinburgh Sports Clinic

The transformation from FASIC Sports Injury Clinic to Edinburgh Sports Clinic represents a powerful example of how legacy, expertise and innovation can come together to create a modern model for sports medicine. While FASIC held a significant place in Scottish sport for decades, changing expectations across healthcare, elite sport and university services required a new approach that was more agile, sustainable and partnership-driven.

Following a period of significant change, Edinburgh Sports Clinic has emerged as a collaborative, high-quality environment bringing together leading practitioners, clinical expertise and specialist partners. Built around a lean core team and a network of trusted organisations, the clinic now provides a flexible model that supports elite athletes, students and the wider community through integrated performance medicine and rehabilitation.

The success of the Edinburgh Sports Clinic demonstrates the power of embracing change while protecting the values that matter most: clinical excellence, trust and patient-centred care. Through strong leadership, innovation and collaboration, the clinic is establishing itself as a blueprint for the future of university-based sports medicine.

Clinic activity has remained consistent despite significant business model changes, with 5,741 appointments completed attracting 1,736 new clients across the existing physiotherapy and medical services. New partnerships include Sport & Exercise Medicine consultancy with Pure Sports Medicine; Sports Massage with Rebalance; Podiatry with ProActive Podiatry; Functional Gut assessments with The Functional Gut Clinic and Blood testing and health screening with Nuvivo Health. Overall income has increased by 28% following a restructure of personnel and service charges. 70% of bookings are now made by clients online, up from 33% the previous year, as a more systems based approach is embraced, reducing head count in clinic administration. 6 new practitioners have joined our team, delivering a more specialist and data driven approach, elevating our service offering. Attracting positive reviews from client experiences, demonstrated through our consistently improving 4.6 Google rating.

“Best sports clinic I have been to!”

“Very professional, friendly and helpful.”

“Patient engagement, online support and clarity over treatment has been excellent. Reception team, clinicians and consultant follow up first class.”



**5,741 appointments completed**

**attracting 1,736 new clients**



Overall income has

**increased by 28%**



**70% of bookings**

are now made online, up from 33%



**6**

new practitioners



Consistently improving

**4.6 Google rating**



## 18. Facilities and Future Investment

2025/26 has been a year of continued focus on maintaining, improving and protecting our sport and wellbeing facilities during a period of significant financial challenge across the University sector.

Due to the University-wide capital spending freeze, opportunities for major capital investment beyond Sport & Active Wellbeing’s own budget have been limited. This has inevitably resulted in some important developments being paused, including the proposed Cameron Bank synthetic pitch development at Peffermill and planned refurbishment works at our Firlush Outdoor Centre. While these projects remain important priorities for the future, the current financial environment has required careful prioritisation of investment and resources.

Despite these challenges, we have continued to make meaningful improvements across our estate. A major refurbishment and full replacement of equipment within the Vaults Gym at the Pleasance has significantly enhanced the student experience, providing a modern, high-quality training environment. We have also completed the replacement of the roof at the Meggetland Boat Store on the Union Canal, ensuring the continued protection and use of this important facility.

Alongside these immediate improvements, we continue to take a strategic approach to the long-term development of our facilities. Recognising the importance of sustainable investment in creating world-class sport and wellbeing environments, we have submitted a proposal to the University for a dedicated annual capital allocation for Sport & Active Wellbeing facilities. This would provide a planned and sustainable approach to maintenance, refurbishment and future development, aligned with our long-term facilities strategy.

As we look ahead, our ambition remains to ensure that our facilities continue to support excellence, participation, wellbeing and community engagement, creating spaces where students, staff and wider communities can thrive.

## 19. Looking Ahead

The achievements of 2025/26 provide a strong platform for the future of Sport & Active Wellbeing at the University of Edinburgh. They demonstrate what can be achieved when there is a clear purpose, a committed team and a community that believes in the value of sport, physical activity and active wellbeing.

This year’s successes have been achieved during a period of significant change across the higher education sector and within the University itself. The ability of our people, programmes and partnerships to continue delivering exceptional experiences during this period is a testament to the resilience, adaptability and ambition of the Sport & Active Wellbeing community.

Looking ahead, our ambition remains clear: to continue developing one of the world’s leading university sport and active wellbeing environments. However, maintaining this ambition requires us to continually evolve. The expectations, behaviours and needs of our future students are changing, with Gen Z and the emerging Gen Alpha bringing new perspectives on community, wellbeing, flexibility, digital engagement and the role of universities in supporting a fulfilling student experience.

Our challenge and opportunity is to continue adapting how we deliver sport and wellbeing, ensuring we remain relevant, accessible and inspiring for future generations of students. This means continuing to innovate, listening to our community, strengthening partnerships and creating environments where every student can find connection, belonging and the opportunity to thrive.

The future of Sport & Active Wellbeing at Edinburgh is about building on our proud history while continuing to look forward. By combining excellence with inclusion, ambition with accessibility, and tradition with innovation, we will continue to play a central role in shaping the University experience for generations to come.

**Edinburgh Sport**  
The University of Edinburgh  
46 Pleasance  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9TJ

**Credits**  
**ICONS:** NOUN PROJECT.  
  
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**Scotland's** Number One **Sporting University**



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