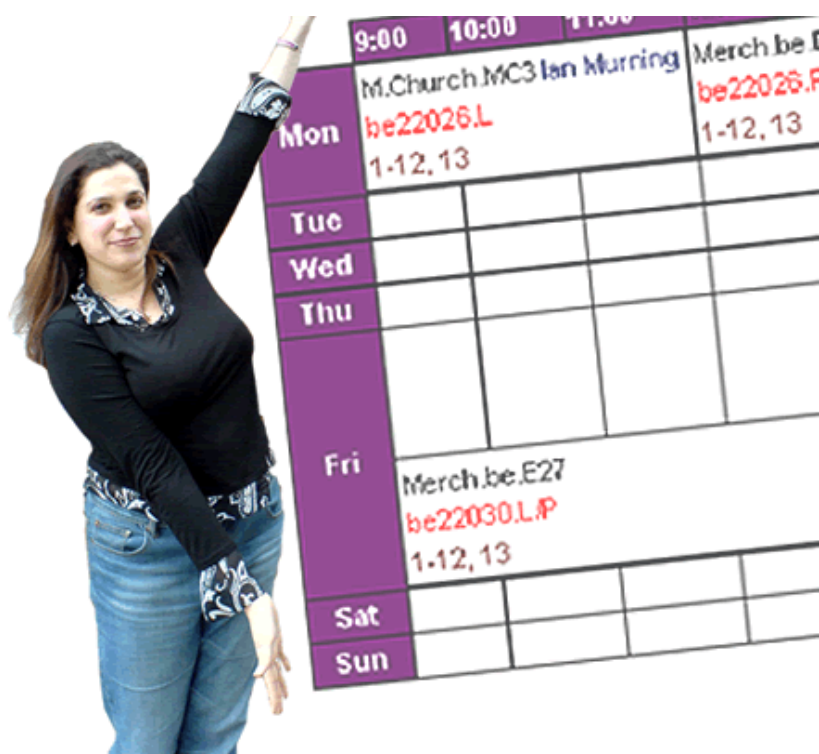


What's a typical uni week?

How do I spend my time at uni? What's a module? How many hours should I spend studying? What's expected of me?

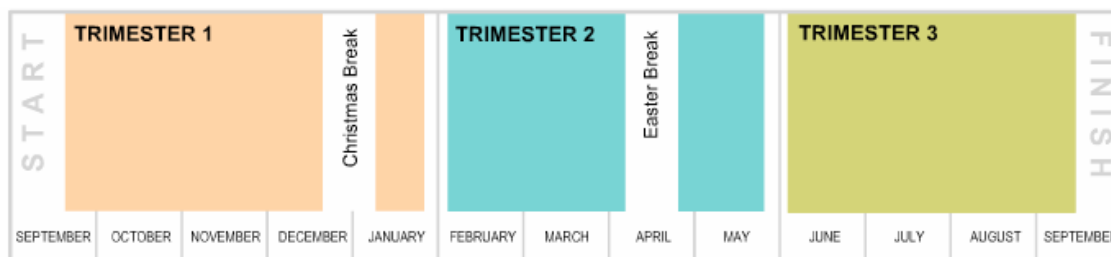
To help get you started, we'll take a look at the academic calendar and the way programmes are structured at university. We'll also look at some of the different types of teaching you'll experience at uni.

At the end, you can try out an interactive timetable, to see how it might all fit in to one typical uni week.



What is the academic calendar?

The academic calendar at Edinburgh Napier University



The academic year at Edinburgh Napier University runs from late September until mid September the following year, with the year split into three 15 week teaching blocks, or trimesters. Most students attend only the first two trimesters. The main exam weeks are in January, May and August.

Not every student follows the university calendar. You will probably know how your programme is structured, but if you're unsure, look in your programme handbook. You can see the current academic calendar in more detail in your student diary, or on the University website.

How do I learn it all?

Programmes, modules and teaching

Your programme consists of a number of modules, each worth a certain number of credits - most are worth 20 credits. Modules are taught in a variety of different ways depending on the subject and stage in a programme, most including lectures, seminars, tutorials and online learning. Some include practical sessions, others have work placements.

Attending scheduled classes is only part of university study however. Your lecturer will give advice and point out key resources for your subject area, but after that, managing your studies is up to you. Students need good time management skills!

How do I learn it all?

What's this?

- **Lecture** In a lecture, information is presented by the lecturer often to a very large group of students. Students listen, take notes, and have the opportunity to ask questions, usually at the end, although some lectures are more interactive.
 - **Tutorials and seminars** Tutorials and seminars are smaller group sessions led by a tutor, in which students participate in group discussion, or practice material covered in lectures. In a seminar, students are usually asked to prepare something in advance and may be asked to give a short presentation.
 - **Workshops and practicals** A workshop is an interactive session led by a tutor or facilitator, where students explore a topic or skill. Students may work on tasks in small groups. Practical sessions give students the opportunity for hands-on practice and experimentation.
 - **WebCT** stands for Web Course Tools, and is used to support teaching and learning online. You'll find out more about this from your module leaders and in your programme handbook.
-

Where do I learn it all and when?

What's expected of me in a typical 20 credit module?

- About **60 / 100 / 140** hours of self-directed study?
- About **60 / 100 / 140** hours of scheduled classes?

Choose an answer for each, then turn to the next page for our feedback.

Feedback

At university, there is an emphasis on independent learning. A **20 credit module** is allocated a notional **200** hours of study. Approximately **60** of these may be attendance, but the rest – at least **140** hours – is self-directed study.

You'll need to keep track of all the details of your timetable, your lectures, seminars, workshops and coursework deadlines. You'll need to make your own decisions about when to study, where to study, how long to study, and what to study when.

There's a lot to fit in, but it gets easier with time!

Fitting it all in!

First, what does a uni timetable look like?

Student Group: be.AD/S.2 - BSC (HONS) ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & SURVEYING F/T Weeks: 1-12, 13-15 (26)

	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00
Mon	M.Church.MC3 Ian Murning be22026.L 1-12, 13		Merch.be.D54 Ian Murning be22026.PT 1-12, 13									
Tue												
Wed												
Thu												
Fri					Merch.F27 Jeremy Strang be22024.La 1-9, 12		Merch.F27 William Goodall be22024.Tb 10-11					
	Merch.be.E27 be22030.L.P 1-12, 13				John Wood		Merch.F27 William Goodall be22024.Lb 10-11		Merch.F27 Jeremy Strang be22024.Ta 1-9, 12		Merch.be.D60 William Goodall be22024.PT 1-12, 13	
Sat												
Sun												

This example is from a real University timetable. As you can see there are comparatively few scheduled classes, which is fairly typical for an undergraduate programme.

How might you plan the rest of the week?

How might I plan a uni week?

How do you think you might use your time each week?

	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00
Mon												
Tue												
Wed												
Thur												
Fri												
Sat												
Sun												

Scheduled classes
Travel
.....
.....

Keeping on track

So, how did you do? Remember, it's a good idea to allocate self-directed study each week. If you work steadily during term, you'll avoid panic later, and get better results.

Taking part in timetabled classes is only part of uni study - students are expected to put in many more hours independently. Whether you're studying a campus-based programme or entirely online, make sure you plan ahead.

Take some time to make sure you know what's expected of you on your programme. If in doubt, ask!

Ria says

"Don't feel daft about asking for help. Nine out of ten lecturers will get back to you to arrange a time within 24 hours if you email them. If you need help using library facilities, ask the library staff. They may organise a time for later, but more than likely they will help you there and then."