

Edinburgh

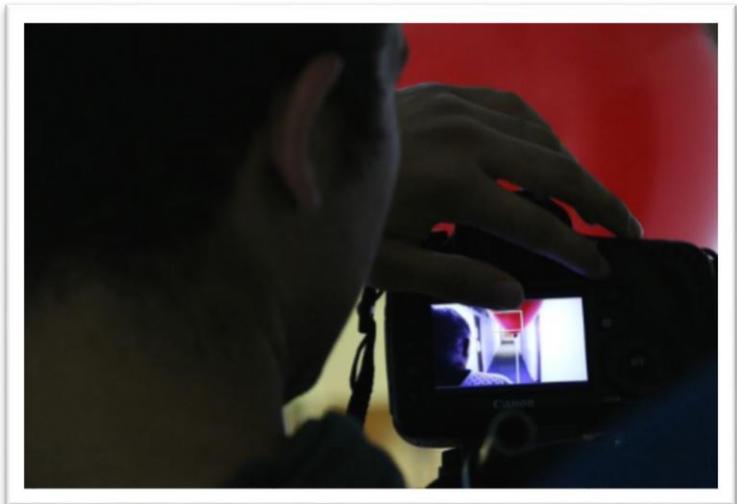




A Guide to the **EDINBURGH FILM FSP**

**Advisor: Professor Mary Flanagan
Edinburgh, Scotland
Summer 2014**

Originally by Alex Stockton '15,
Revised by Professor Flanagan
and Olivia Powell '17



2012 FSP



2014 FSP



Dear FSP-ers,

You are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime. The Edinburgh Film FSP promises a summer full of so many movies you'll never want to see another one again, fascinating discussions with real-life directors and artists, and endless opportunities to get out and practice with professional cameras. That is, of course, in addition to the untold hours you'll spend touring castles, conquering festivals, calling hairy coos, experiencing haggis, buying Scottish keychains for all of your second cousins, and chasing faeries on the Isle of Skye. You'll get to travel so much that you'll see all of the European Union, several whiskey breweries, and the beautiful Scottish Highlands, but you might forget to do something like visit the Edinburgh Castle. And you'll come back home speaking with a wee Scottish accent.

Okay, so maybe you won't do exactly all of that, but trust me – this will be one of the greatest, most formative and fun experiences that you'll have. You'll figure things out as you go along, but this guide – a compilation of things we learned on the 2012 and 2014 FSPs – will hopefully get you started thinking about the great summer ahead! You might have a different daily schedule, and you might be living in a different flat, but we've included a few tips and tricks on how to be safe, learn a lot, and have so much fun you'll never want to leave.

As Merida says in Brave, “If you had a chance to change your fate, would you?” So I ask you – are you ready to take the first steps towards achieving your goals and changing your fate? Read on!

Cheers and best of luck in all of your film endeavors!

**Alex Stockton '15 and Olivia Powell '17
Edinburgh Film FSP
Assistants to the Film & Media Studies Department
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Screen Academy Scotland

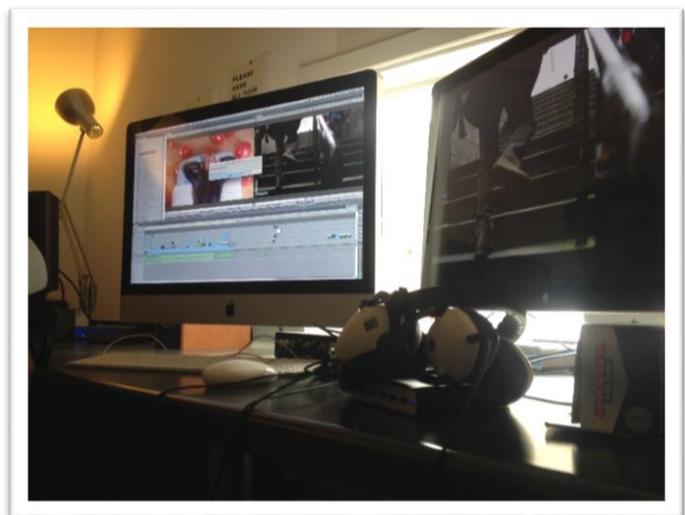
A Creative Skillset
Film Academy

SCREEN
ACADEMY
SCOTLAND

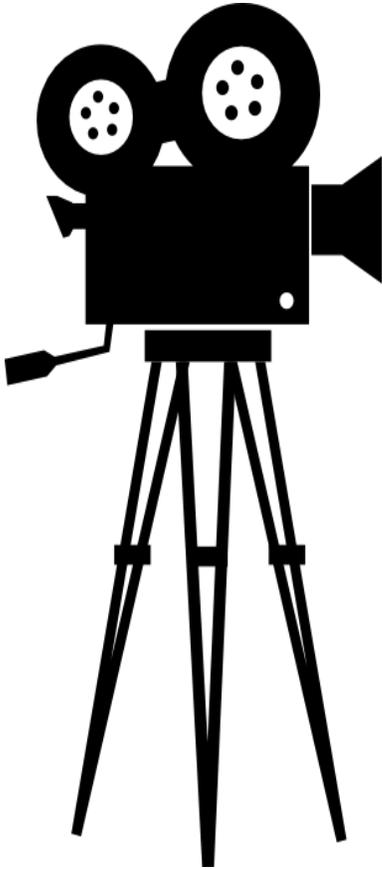
Classes will be held at the Screen Academy Scotland located at 2A Merchiston Avenue in Edinburgh. The Screen Academy is a famous Scottish film school within Edinburgh Napier University. Lynne Ramsay is a Napier alum, Tilda Swinton has an honorary degree, and Sean Connery, Brian Cox, and Judi Dench are patrons of the Screen Academy. Students from the Screen Academy are from all around the world and many have gone on to win BAFTAs.

The Screen Academy has several studios, editing rooms equipped with FCP and AVID and optimized for color correction, a sound mixing and Foley studio, and a huge equipment room. While your classes will not require you to use all of this, the faculty members at the Screen Academy are very willing to show you anything that interests you. And I highly recommend taking advantage of their expertise! In 2014, we had a BAFTA-nominated editor as our mentor for all of our projects at the Screen Academy. His advice was invaluable!

In your small classes of only Dartmouth students, you will learn the entire professional workflow, from conception of an idea to public screenings. The Screen Academy offers the best facilities, professionals, and equipment to help you do so.



Classes



The three classes you will be taking are:

- 1) FS48: Media Festivals – taught by Professor Mary Flanagan, Dartmouth College
- 2) FS39: Digital Cinematography – in 2014 taught by Paul Gavin, Screen Academy of Scotland (<http://www.extraveg.com/#/paul-gavin/4551013241>)
- 3) FS36: Music Video Production – in 2014 taught by Blair Young and Beth Allen, Forest of Black (<https://vimeo.com/theforestofblack/videos>)

Daily Schedule (pronounced shed-yule)

Your week will be scheduled to maximize the amount of time available in class to discuss readings or techniques, watch films, speak with visitors, and have time to practice with cameras or editing programs.

In 2014, each class met once a week for 4 hours at a time (see below for more detail). The Screen Academy is open from 9am to 5pm (or 17:00!), and any time while not in class during these hours, you can ask to borrow some of the cameras to practice filming in nearby streets.

Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays: Usually free to allow time for practice and travel

Mondays: Film festival class meets 1pm-5pm; Salon dinners for discussion and reflection on various other weeknights

Tuesdays: Cinematography meets 12:30pm-4:30pm

Thursdays: Music Video Production meets 12:30pm-4:30pm

FS48: Media Festivals

How might we better understand world cinema and the festivals in which emerging films appear? What are film's influences on culture, and how are films influenced by global events? Film festivals have recently become what one Toronto festival programmer calls "an alternative distribution network." Invented in Europe in the 1930s, film festivals are a worldwide phenomenon encompassing tourism, cultural nationalism, art, and commerce. The course is centered on the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the world's oldest continually operating film festival. Students will attend many films during the festival during the first two weeks of the term and will continue to explore the impact of films and festivals on culture in writing assignments throughout the remainder of the term. Dist: ART.

This will be one of the greatest film studies class you take at Dartmouth. Almost every week, you will have a guest lecturer (critics, academics, filmmakers, festival programmers). You will have classes at coffee shops and restaurants, in movie theaters, at new media art galleries, and in film studios. You will be reading about film festivals and festival theory, and will have the chance to write four op-ed style pieces about media-related topics of your choice. The emphasis of this class is to understand fundamental film and film festival theory and then apply that theory in a practical and interesting way.

Selection of Films Screened and Guest Speakers 2014:

Stations of the Cross (Brüggemann, 2014)

Allison Gardner (co-director of Glasgow Film Festival)

Finsterworld (Finsterwalder, 2013)

Iain Gardner (animation programmer)

#Chicago Girl (Piscatella, 2013)

Matt Lloyd (director of Glasgow Short Film Festival)

Ai WeiWei: The Fake Case (Johnsen, 2013)

Martin Smith and Sarah Drummond (director and producer of short film *Seagulls* (2014))

Culloden (Watkins, 1964)

Ian Waugh (director of short film *As He Lay Falling* (2014))

Is the Man Who is Tall Happy? (Gondry, 2013)

Mark Daniels (New Media Scotland)

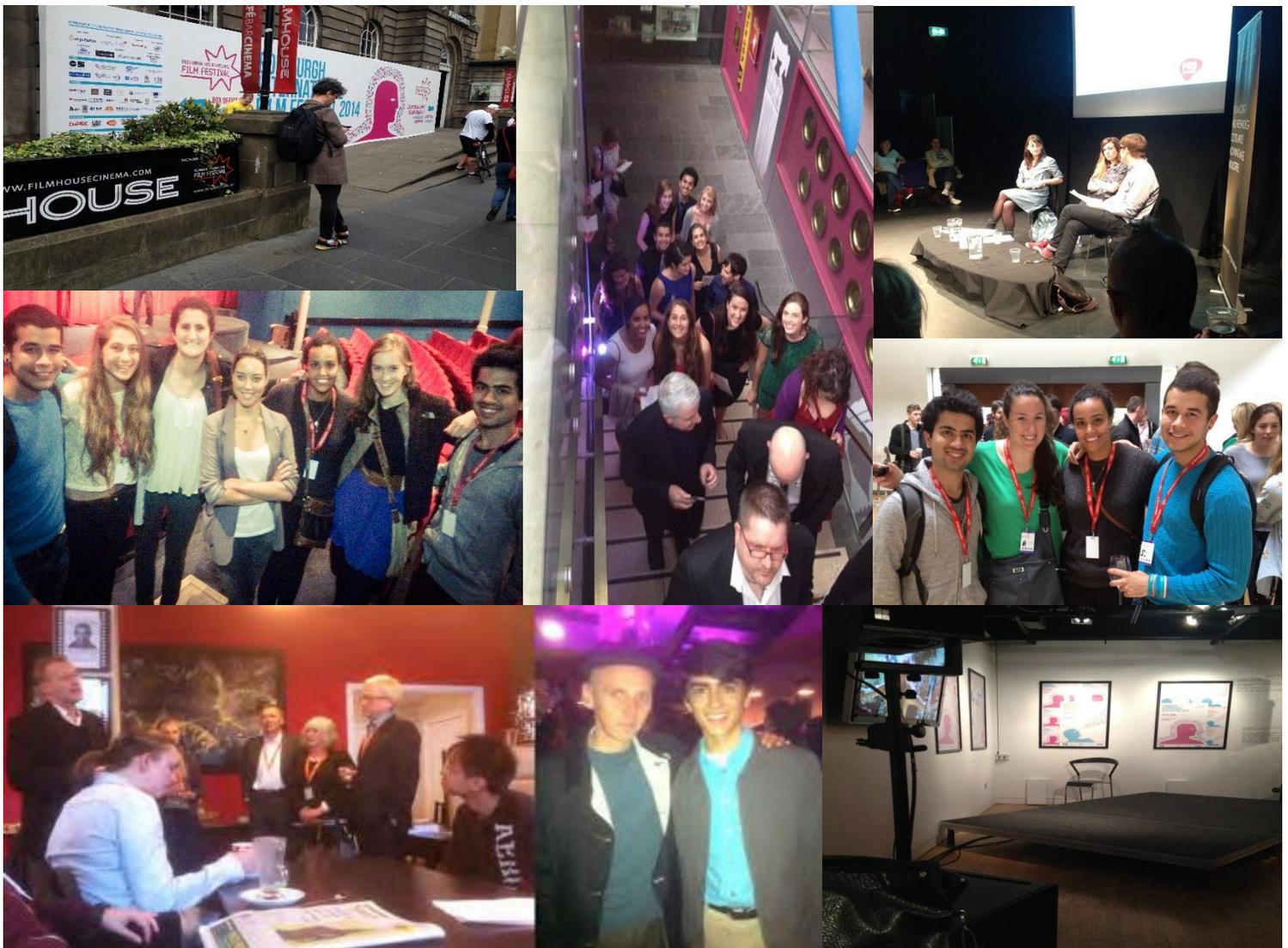
Snowpiercer (Joon-ho, 2013)

plus... EIFF panels with head programmers including **Black Box Live!**, **Marketplace Live!**, and **Meet the Programmers** events



Edinburgh International Film Festival

As part of your Media Festivals course, you will be attending the EIFF 2016 (see: <http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk>). The festival in 2014 was said by critics to place EIFF back on top as a “festival of discovery”. At the EIFF, you will navigate your way through guidebooks, attend galas and mixers, meet famous people and walk down the red carpet, wake up early to catch industry screenings, stay up late for midnight movies, and walk into some films that you know absolutely nothing about. Get ready for the biggest immersion in movies you’ve ever had in your life! (P.S. The festival is also a great way to get to know your way around Edinburgh!)



FS39: Digital Cinematography

Cinematography derives from Greek roots meaning “writing with motion.” This is the essence of filmmaking and encompasses the job of both the director and the cinematographer who share the same basic task: storytelling with the camera. The goal of this class is to teach students the practice of cinematography in the digital medium. It will offer a hands-on intensive investigation of the aesthetics and techniques of digital imaging, using a variety of different cameras and formats. Working in groups and individually, students will explore controlling the look of a project by selection of aspect ratios, lens sizes, focus, exposure, filters, lighting and composition as well as gaining a foundation in lighting techniques for filming.

A deep technical understanding of an area of study is often lost at a liberal arts schools. This course will bridge that gap. A lighting assignment will have you recreate a scenario using lighting equipment to replicate the appropriate mood and story. A theoretical assignment will have you analyze a scene from a film in extreme detail. And a final assignment will put all you have learned together into one two-minute sequence that you will storyboard, compose, shoot, and edit on your own. In the class workshops, you will develop a technical understanding of the equipment, have time to practice with cameras on location in the city, and through analyzing clips of beautiful films, the professor (an amazing BAFTA-nominated cinematographer) will show you how to make art with all the equipment.

Sample of topics covered:

- Role of the cinematographer
- Composition and framing
- Camera movements and grip equipment
- Exposure, focus, depth of field, focal length
- ND, color grading, polarizers
- Lighting: lamps and style, three point lighting
- Documentary vs. narrative filming
- Sequence shots, workflow

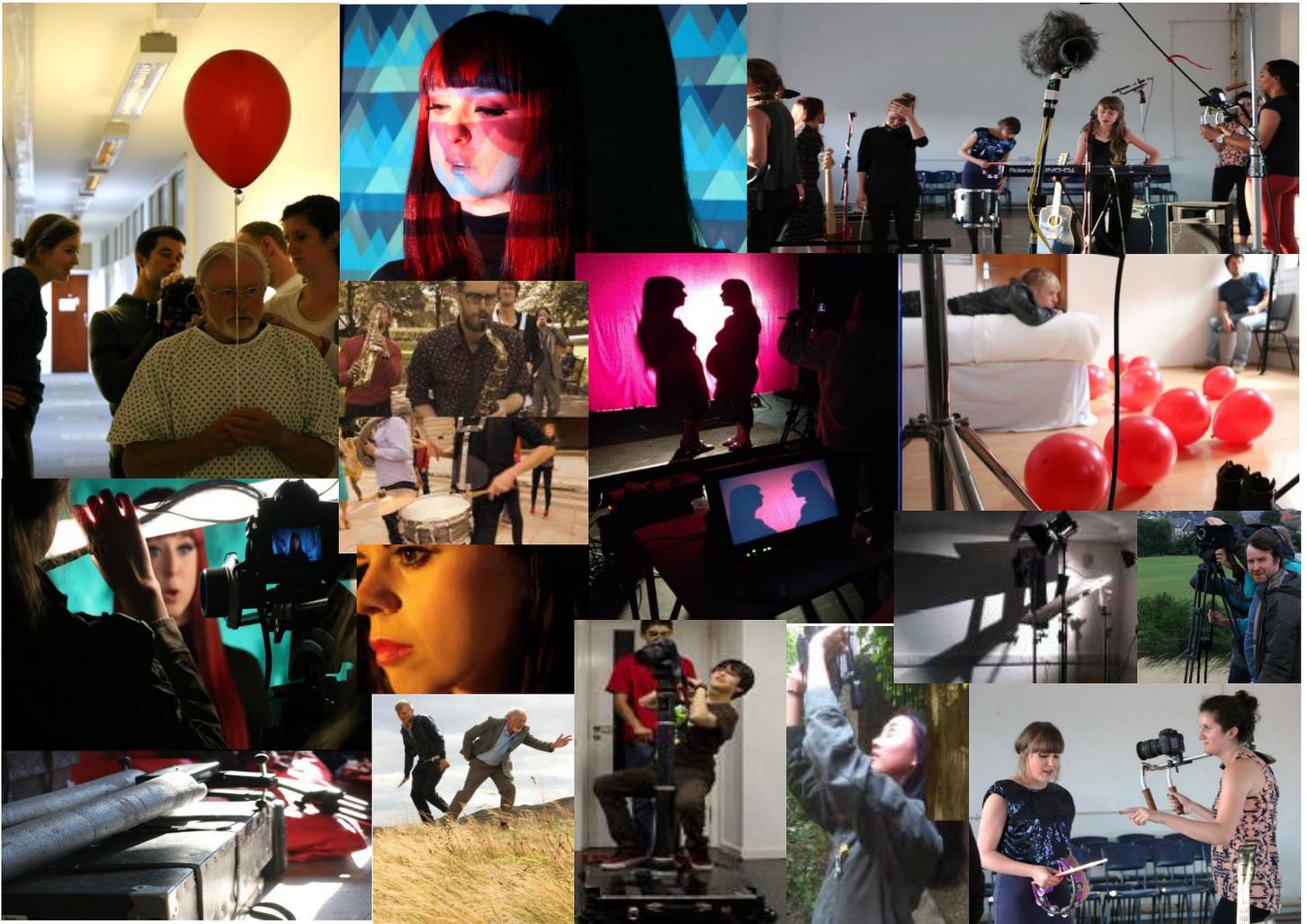


FS36: Music Video Production

Students will gain an insight into the history and practice of music video production, whilst developing and producing music videos in cooperation with Edinburgh-based bands. Working in groups, students will carry out music video scripting, creative storyboarding, shot breakdown, practical pre-production, on-location shooting, and post-production. At the end of the course, there will be a screening of the music videos which will subsequently be released by the bands. In this course, students will take on the regular schedule and work conditions/layout of professional music video production.

2012 Videos: “Join the Club” (Stanley Odd): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtYsNLaY0XM>, “Praise You (Fatboy Slim)” (Horndog Brass Band): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ofvebxHh_0, and “Milk” (The Last September): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VXnjTzK2vQ>

2014 Videos: “King Fabulous” (Insect Heroes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vACFIwRP9w>, “Vagabond (Live)” (TeenCanteen): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qM99szZ0HM>, and “I.D.L.U.” (Bdy_Prts)



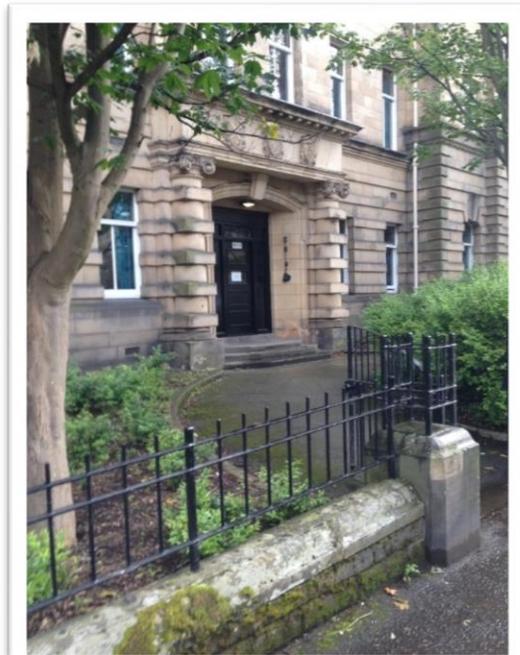
Living in Edinburgh

In 2014, students had the chance to explore two neighborhoods in the city. For the first half of the program we stayed at Hermits Croft (near the University of Edinburgh and King Arthur's Seat), and for the second half, we lived at Warrender Park Road (near the Meadows and closer to the Screen Academy).

Both are flats, or apartment-style houses, with four to five people per flat, one person per bedroom, and one kitchen and bathroom per flat. Both accommodations have free WiFi, laundry rooms, and weekly maintenance.



1 Hermits Croft



102 Warrender Park Road

Food

You can find groceries all around town. There is a Sainsbury's Local a block down the road from Hermit's Croft, a Margiotta's corner store almost directly across from your Warrender Park flat, and a Tesco groceries pretty much right next to the Screen Academy.



There are also tons of great restaurants, just make sure to ask for a student discount!

Money

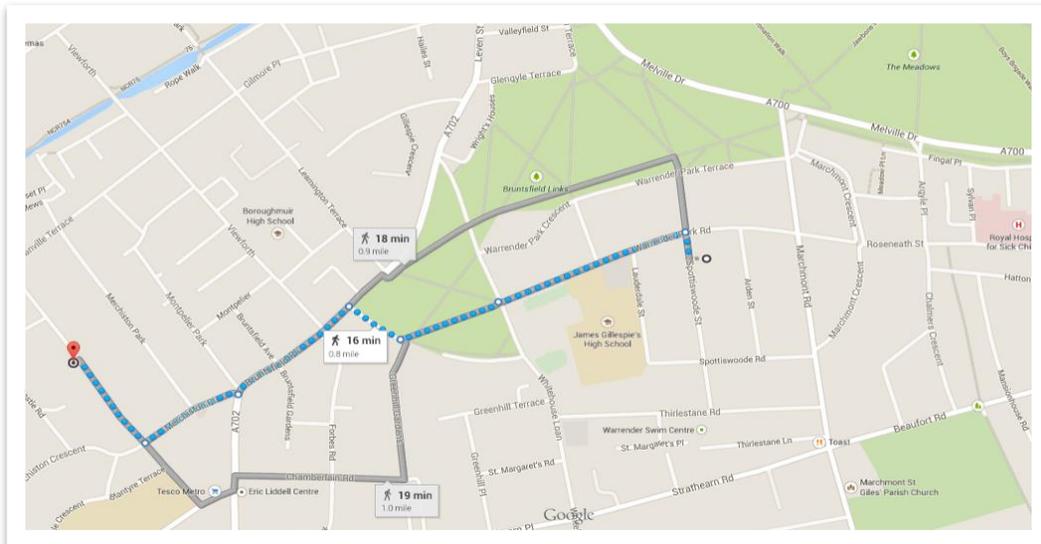
Money can be a tricky thing when traveling abroad. The general recommendation is about \$4,000 or about £2500. If you are like me and are super frugal but want to still be able to pay for a few tourist attractions, my advice would be to plan on having at least \$2,000 available. Otherwise, if you just want to be conscious of your money but not always worrying about it, \$4,000 is a generally safe amount to bring.

Either way, make a budget and only withdraw that amount from your bank account every week. But beware of international transaction fees! If you plan on using a credit card, make sure you have one with a chip, but again, be careful of international user fees. Also make sure to alert your bank of your travel dates and destinations so they don't cancel your cards!

**** One last thing: when you clear customs to enter the UK, you will need a bank statement from no more than 28 days prior to your arrival proving that you have enough money to support yourself while there. Make sure to check with the Off Campus Programs office about this requirement before you leave.**

Getting Around

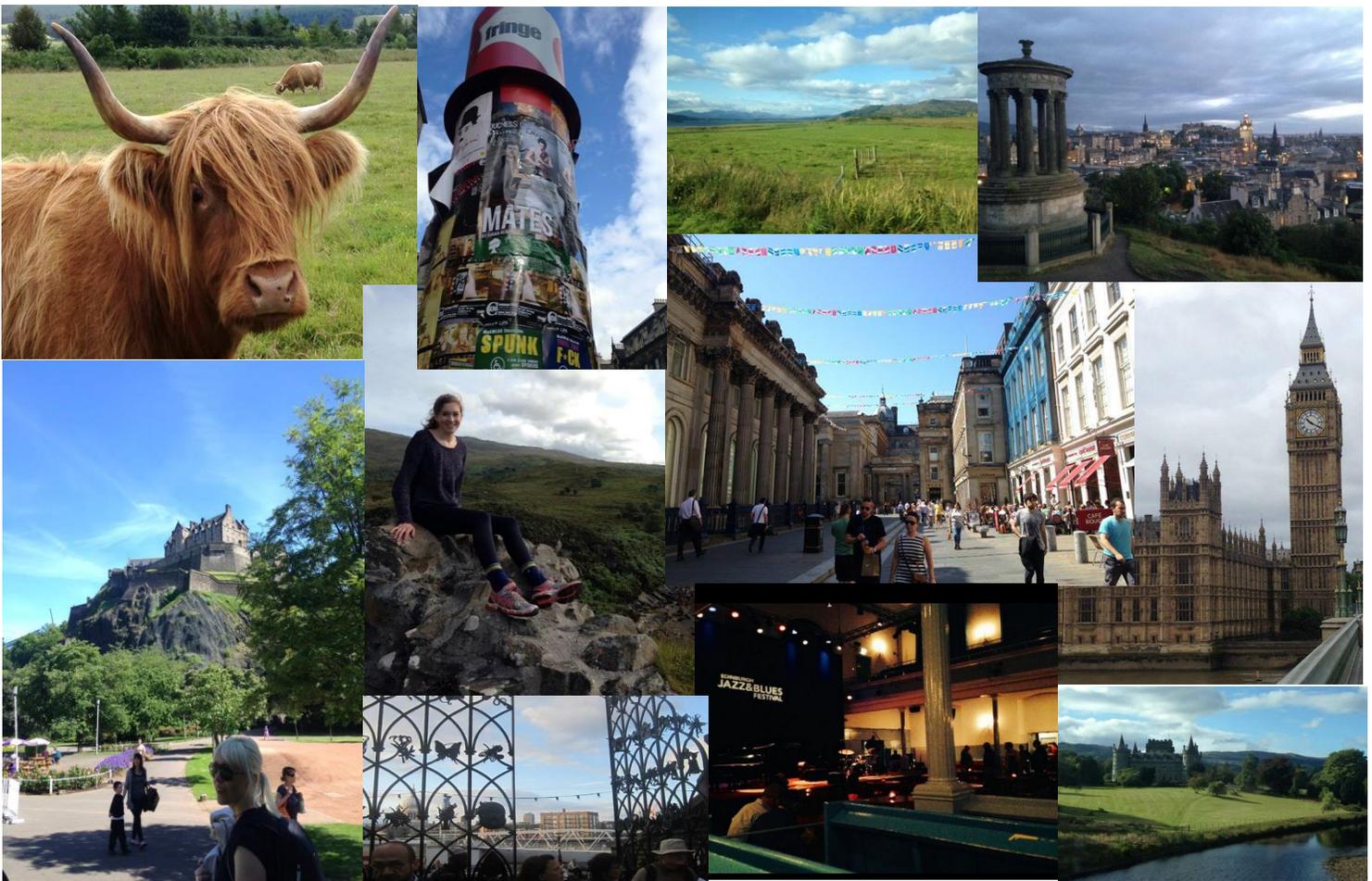
Edinburgh is a very walkable city. They also have a pretty decent public transportation and bus system. If you plan on using the buses, be sure to download the free Edinburgh City Bus app which has easy to use maps and bus arrival times. The map below shows the walking route from 102 Warrender Park Road to the Screen Academy.



Adventures

Another great part of being on an FSP is that you get to travel! Take a day trip to Glasgow, go on a tour of the Highlands, see a concert at St. Andrews, or spend a weekend in London, the English countryside, or Europe. But don't forget the amazing city you will be living in: Edinburgh has enough sites to keep you busy. Use your weekends to see the Edinburgh Castle, shop on Prince's Street, take a walk along the Water of Leith, visit the Royal Botanical Gardens, hike up King Arthur's Seat, explore old mysteries at Rosslyn Chapel, listen to music at the Jazz Bar, or see a movie at the Cameo or Filmhouse.

One of the greatest parts of being in Edinburgh in the summer is the endless cycle of festivals. In July, the city hosts a popular jazz festival, and in August, the city turns into a giant party for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The population of the city doubles, streets turn into theater stages, parks turn into bars, and an already lively city becomes a huge celebration of culture and the arts. Catch one of the 2000 plays, see a comedy show, go to the Book Festival, or see a concert. Scotland, Great Britain, and Europe are sure to provide you with many adventures.







GOOD LUCK FSP 2016 Students!

I hope you have an AMAZING trip!

Don't forget a raincoat!

And don't forget to call your parents!



Edinburgh

