Wheelchair access to 16-20 George Square is only recommend with assistance

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

16-20 George Square

Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

A GUIDE TO ACCESS AND FACILITIES

16-20 George Square

University Of Edinburgh
George Square
Edinburgh
EH8 9LD

0131 650 4182

http://www.ed.ac.uk/maps?building=16-27-george-square
If you require this document in an alternative format (e.g. large print) please contact the Estates and Buildings Department or email david.casey@ed.ac.uk, telephone 0131 650 2470 or write to:

**Estates and Buildings**  
The University of Edinburgh  
Design Group Office  
11 Infirmary Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1NP
Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan

A Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) is required for all staff and students unable to self-evacuate in an emergency. Provision for staff/students/visitors who are unable to self-evacuate is the responsibility of the organiser of the class/lecture/event/meeting. While the School is responsible for preparing this, staff and students requiring assistance should confirm the evacuation arrangements."
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Disabled Access Guide for 16-20 George Square

Introduction

Numbers 16-20 George Square were built in 1771 and currently house IMES. IMES is recognised in the UK and internationally as a leading institution for research and undergraduate and postgraduate study. It offers a wide range of undergraduate degree programmes in Arabic, Persian and Middle Eastern Studies, as well as non-degree training in Turkish.

Location

Numbers 16-20 George Square are located on George Square in central Edinburgh. These buildings are located within the city centre and are within two miles of the main halls of residence at Pollock Halls.

The nearest railway line is at Waverley Station in the city Centre.

The nearest bus stops are located on Teviot Place approximately 350 metres from Numbers 16-20 George Square. Numerous bus services stop on Buccleuch Street. Details of timetables are available from Lothian Buses, from their offices within the city and online from www.mybustracker.co.uk.

Persons with mobility difficulties arriving by vehicle can access 16-20 George Square from George Square and George Square lane.
16-20 George Square Location Map

- 16-20 George Square
- George Square Library
- Hugh Robson
- University Shuttle Bus Stop
- Public Transport Bus Stop
- Vehicle Access Routes Local to 16-20 George Square

- P University Parking (Permit)
- DP Disabled Parking Bays (Permit)
- Main Entrance Access Point (Steps)
- Secondary Entrance Access Point (Steps)
- Secondary Entrance Access Point (Ramp/Level)
Parking

There are numerous parking bays located around George Square but no free parking; all parking bays being permit or pay and display.

Pay and Display Parking

City of Edinburgh Council pay and display parking is available around George Square. Please note that there are limited dropped kerbs around George Square. See Location Map

Please note that all pay and display parking is situated on a cobbled surface and is not recommended for wheelchair users without assistance.

Disabled Parking Bays

There are four disabled parking bays located to the front of the George Square Library and one to the rear of Number 16 George Square. The four disabled parking bays to the front of the library are on a level paved surface and can only be accessed from the West side of George Square via a dropped kerb and a cobbled footpath. The disabled parking bay to the rear of Number 16 is located on a tarmac surface with a shallow gradient.

Please note that access routes to the building from these disabled parking bays are not recommended for wheelchair users without assistance.

University Parking

The closest University car park is located to the rear of the George Square Library. This car park has a level tarmac surface and a limited number of parking bays. There are additional University car parks located around George Square and Buccleuch Place. See Location Map

If you do not hold a valid permit and require use of a University parking bay, it is recommended that contact is made with your host or the Transport & Parking Office prior to making your journey.
Access Routes

This access route leads to Entrance 3 from the footpath at the front of the building. Please note that this access route is not recommended for wheelchair users without assistance.

The access route starts by negotiating a narrow paved footpath to the side of Number 16. This footpath leads to the rear of the building and a secure single width door within the perimeter wall. This door provides access to the garden at the rear of the building.

Within the garden there is a paved footpath with a moderate gradient which leads to the rear of the building. Please note that this footpath does not incorporate handrails. The footpath levels out at the rear of the building and leads to the side of Number 16.

At the side of Number 16 there is a secure single width door which opens inward and leads to Entrance 3. All doors along this access route will permit the passage of a wheelchair and remain locked at all times.
Outside Access

There are three entrances to 16-20 George Square. Level access to the building is via Entrance 3.

Entrance 1

This entrance is located to the front of Number 19 and is the main entrance to this group of buildings. The entrance can be accessed from the adjacent footpath via a flight of stone steps which incorporate handrails to both sides. Please note that these steps do not incorporate contrasting nosings or tactile coverings.

Entrance 1 consists of a single step and a single width manual timber door. This door opens inward, incorporates door handles at an accessible height and leads to the Ground Floor lobby.

Entrance 2

This entrance is located to the front of Number 16 and is for staff use only. The entrance can be accessed from the adjacent footpath via a flight of stone steps which incorporate handrails to both sides. Please note that these steps do not incorporate contrasting nosings or tactile coverings.

Entrance 1 consists of a single step and a secure single width manual timber door. This door opens inward, incorporates door handles at an accessible height and provides access to the Ground Floor.
Entrance 3

If you require access to Entrance 3 please make contact with your host or the IMES office prior to making your visit. See Contact Information for more details.

This entrance is located to the side of Number 16 on a level concrete surface and is the recommended wheelchair access point. Entrance 3 provides access to the Basement Floor of the building. Please note that the access route to Entrance 3 is only recommended with assistance. See Access Routes for more details.

Entrance 3 consists of a secure single width manual timber door. This door opens inward, incorporates a raised threshold and door handles at an accessible height.

Internal Access

There is currently no level access above the Ground Floor. All corridors within the building are narrow and incorporate doors with door handles at a wheelchair accessible height.

There is internal access between Numbers 16-20 George Square on the following floors:

- There is internal access between Numbers 16-18 on the Basement Floor. Level access is only possible between Numbers 16-17.
- There is internal access between Numbers 16-20 on the Ground Floor. Level access is only possible between Numbers 16-18.
- There is internal access between Numbers 16-20 on the First Floor.
- There is internal access between Numbers 16-20 on the Second Floor.

The Islamic Library

The library is located on the First Floor of Number 19. This library is generally for the use of postgraduate students and staff.
Enquiries Office

The Enquires (IMES) Office is located on the First Floor of Number 19 George Square. There is currently no level access to the First Floor. The IMES office can provide information on departments within the building and answer general enquiries. This office does not incorporate an induction loop system.

Lifts

There are no lifts within Numbers 16-20 George Square.

Chairlift

There is a chairlift located within Number 16.

The chairlift provides access between the Basement and Ground Floors and is located adjacent to Entrance 3. The chairlift can be operated from controls on the Ground Floor, Basement Floor and on the chairlift. The lift can be activated via a key which remains on the chair at all times.

Persons requiring the use of the chairlift should contact the IMES office prior to making your Journey. There are two call/alarm strips located on the walls adjacent to the chairlift.
There are six staircases within 16-20 George Square and several short flights of steps.

The six staircases are listed below:

**Staircase 1**  
This is the main staircase within Number 16 George Square. This staircase provides access between the Basement and Ground Floors. This staircase incorporates a stair lift.

**Staircase 2**  
This is the main staircase within Number 17 George Square. This staircase provides access between the Ground and Second Floors.

**Staircase 3**  
This staircase is located within Number 17 George Square. This staircase provides access between the Basement and Ground Floors.

**Staircase 4**  
This is the main staircase within Number 19 George Square. This staircase provides access between the Ground and Second Floors.

**Staircase 5**  
This is the main staircase within Number 19 George Square. This staircase provides access between the Basement and Ground Floors.

**Staircase 6**  
This is the main staircase within Number 20 George Square. This staircase provides access between the Ground and Second Floors.

All of these staircases incorporate contrasting nosings on steps and a handrail to one or both sides.  
**See the Ground Floor Plan for Locations**
Toilets

Toilets are available on floors as follows:

- Standard Male toilets are located on the Basement and Ground Floors.
- Unisex toilets are located on the Basement, Ground, First and Second Floors. Please note there is a flight of narrow steps which lead to the Unisex toilet on the Second Floor.
- An accessible toilet is located on the Basement Floor.

The accessible toilet incorporates the following:

- There is left and right hand lateral transfer space.
- There is an emergency pull chord.
- The door opens inwards.
- The width of the accessible toilet door is suitable for wheelchairs.
- There are suitable dropdown and support rails for transfer.
- The tap type is lever operation.
- There is not a coat hook.
- The contrast between the grab rails and wall is poor.
- The contrast between the walls and floor is good.
- Lighting levels are good.
## Department Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Facilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Floor</strong></td>
<td>Seminar Room 2.28</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Floor</strong></td>
<td>IMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ground Floor</strong></td>
<td>Alwaleed Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basement Floor</strong></td>
<td>IT Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cinema Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toilets</td>
</tr>
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Floor Plans

The following four pages contain building Floor Plans. This page contains the Basement Floor Plan.

Basement Floor Plan – 16-20 George Square

- Entrances
- Assisted Wheelchair Access Route
- Fire Exits
- Internal Access between Buildings

M - Male Toilets
Standard Toilets
Accessible Toilets
Chairlift
Ground Floor Plan – 16-20 George Square

- Entrances
- Assisted Wheelchair Access Route
- Fire Exits
- Stairs
- M - Male Toilets
- Standard Toilets

Internal Access between Buildings
Second Floor Plan – 16-20 George Square

Standard Toilets
### Opening Hours

**16-20 George Square**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>07:30am - 06:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>07:30am - 06:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>07:30am - 06:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>07:30am - 06:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>07:30am - 06:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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**The Islamic Library**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00am - 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact Information

Enquiries IMES Office:
0131 650 4182
imes@ed.ac.uk

Transport & Parking:
0131 650 9101
transport@ed.ac.uk

University Switchboard:
0131 650 1000
Links

University Homepage

Campus Maps

Transport & Parking

City of Edinburgh Council Parking

Bookable Rooms Guides

Student Disability Service

IMES Home Page