



SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE

SENIOR PHASE SCHOOLS
PROSPECTUS
2026

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Welcome | 2 |
| Learning Journey | 3 |
| Veterinary Terminology | 4 |
| The Principles of Animal Care | 6 |
| Investigation of Modern Agriculture | 8 |
| Equine..... | 10 |
| Environmental Awareness..... | 12 |
| Applying and student experience information | 14 |



Scan for
more course
information

SRUC

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is a specialist institution offering school, college and university level courses. We hope you enjoy our senior phase schools prospectus, showcasing our courses designed for learners going into S4, S5 and S6.



SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE

SRUC strives to help grow a natural economy fuelled by the responsible use of the world's natural resources: people, land, energy, water, animals and plants: in this, we are experts. We focus on solving the global challenges facing the planet, including climate change, biodiversity and access to nutritious food and clean water.

By focusing on the sustainability of our natural economy, SRUC will strive to make a world of difference: delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for all. Issues such as environmental impact and sustainability, influence all our lives and are of importance whatever your ambitions.

Our range of senior phase courses give those still at school the opportunity to learn something out of the ordinary. Courses in topics that you may already be passionate about or interested in exploring as you progress through your learning journey; an opportunity to become part of global change while supporting the natural economy. These courses will give you an introduction to our broader subject areas from which you may choose to go on to study in a more specialised way.

We have campuses across Scotland with a network of satellite study centres to service more rural areas. Some of our senior phase courses involve campus visits whilst others are delivered solely on-line.

Whether your passion is for horses, science, plants, animals, sustainability, or just the great outdoors, you will find courses at SRUC to support you and your chosen career path.



Choose your path with Scotland's Rural College

2 NC & MODERN APPRENTICESHIP

Both National Certificate (NC) & Modern Apprenticeship (MA) options at SCQF Level 5–6.

4 DEGREE

Degree level courses, which can also be studied part-time for those in employment or with other commitments.

1 SCHOOL / SENIOR PHASE

National Progression Awards & SRUC Certificates at SCQF Level 5–7 for pupils in S4–S6.

3 HNC / HND & MODERN APPRENTICESHIP

HNC, HND & Modern Apprenticeship options in a range of subjects at SCQF Level 7–8.

5 POSTGRADUATE / MICRO-CREDENTIALS

A range of Postgraduate qualifications at SCQF Level 11+ and short courses in a range of subjects and levels.





VETERINARY TERMINOLOGY

Online SRUC Certificate

Who is the course for: The course is designed to de-mystify some of the terms and jargon used in the field of Veterinary Medicine. This course would be beneficial for anyone wishing to embark on a career in the Animal Care sector, e.g. veterinary receptionist or animal welfare staff. It is strongly recommended to anyone wishing to progress to a veterinary nursing qualification.

Duration: The course is designed to be completed over one academic year, and will be flexible to cater for individual learning styles. Spread over 13 units based on 3–5 hours of self-directed study per week with 3 formal assessments. Successful completion of each unit leads to an SRUC certificate.

Delivery: This distance learning course is delivered through a series of units accessible online and can be completed by anyone, irrespective of circumstances or locality. Each unit will contain reading information, interactive activities and final assessments. There are no formal exams. You will be assigned a personal tutor available by telephone or email to mentor you through the course.

SRUC Certificate comparable to SCQF Level 6



Candidates should have attained Nat 5 English at grade B or above prior to starting this course

Available to:

S5 & S6



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Benefits and progression

The course is a great stepping stone for anyone wanting to progress into studying animal care or veterinary nursing. Example progression opportunities with SRUC are as follows:

Principles of Animal Care
Distance learning

NC Introduction to Animal Care

NC/HNC/HND Animal Care
Full time course

Level 2 Diploma

Veterinary Care Assistant
Full time & distance learning

Level 3 Diploma
Veterinary Nursing

BSc Hons Veterinary Nursing

Modern Apprenticeship

BVSci Veterinary Science

Potential Career Destinations

from full-time SRUC courses:

Veterinary Care Assistant or Technician

Veterinary Nurse

Animal Welfare Officer

Rescue Centre staff

Zoos

Animal Sanctuaries

Local Authority Parks

Administrative support in the Veterinary or Animal Care sector

Which topics are covered

Example units:

How veterinary terms are formed

Terminology relating to specific body systems and organs

Terminology used in medical and surgical procedures

Medical abbreviations used in veterinary practice

Terminology relating to drug classification



SRUC Certificate
comparable to
SCQF Level 5

THE PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL CARE

Online SRUC Certificate

Who is the course for: The Principles of Animal Care course is for anyone wishing to develop their knowledge of all aspects in the Animal Care Sector. As well as the specific vocational focus, this course addresses key transferable skills highly valued by employers, including communication, information processing and health and safety.

Duration: The course is designed to be flexible with most candidates progressing at the rate of one unit every month. Successful completion of each unit leads to an SRUC certificate.

Delivery: This distance learning course is delivered through a series of online activities. There are no formal exams, and you will be assigned a personal tutor available by telephone or email to mentor you through the course.

Available to:

S4, S5 & S6



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Benefits and progression

The course is an excellent introduction to the Animal Care field, and can act as an important first step on a career ladder. Example progression opportunities with SRUC are as follows but by no means limited to these.

Veterinary Terminology

NC Horse Care
Full Time Course

Introduction to Animal Care
Full Time Course

NC Animal Care
Full Time Course

HNC Animal Care
Full time course

HND Animal Care
Full time course

Potential Career Destinations

from full-time
SRUC courses:

Kennel staff
Catteries
Groomers
Dogwalkers
Animal Care Technician
Rescue Centre staff
Animal Charity work
Inspectors
Field based
charity officers
Local Authority Parks
Zoos
Support work in
Veterinary Practices

Which topics are covered

The course covers the theory of a range of practical animal care activities. Example units:

Feeding and watering small animals
Small animal accommodation
Health and safety
Moving and handling animals
Training animals
Working with others
Health care of small animals
Environmental enrichment and exercising animals
Grooming
Record Keeping
Anatomy of Companion Animals

The course is largely geared towards domestic species (cats, dogs, rabbits, mice etc), activities within the units are often open to allow you to focus on a species of your choice. In this way we aim to accommodate individual preferences, and encourage you to develop knowledge of unfamiliar species.



SQA Accredited
National
Progression Award
(NPA) at SCQF
Level 5

INVESTIGATION OF MODERN AGRICULTURE

National Progression Award

Who is the course for: The NPA Investigation of Modern Agriculture is for anyone who wishes to develop their knowledge of and/or embark on a career in the agricultural sector. It is designed for learners who have no prior knowledge or experience of the agricultural sector which makes it an ideal introduction and entry on to an agriculture pathway. The Investigation of Modern Agriculture is designed to provide students with an introduction to modern practices in agriculture and to encourage them to consider the industry as a viable career opportunity.

Duration: Based on 3–5 hours of study per week, this course is delivered from August to April and comprises of three units.

Delivery: This distance learning course is delivered through a series of units accessible online through our digital learning platform, Moodle. Each unit will contain reading information, interactive activities and final assessments. There are no formal exams. The course can be accessed online at any time, allowing you flexibility to fit round other subjects in your timetable.

You will be allocated a personal tutor who will be available via email or telephone to support you through the course.

Available to:

S4, S5 & S6

Pupils must be capable of working at SCQF Level 5 and show a keen interest in the subject area.



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Benefits and progression

Completion of this programme will provide a useful progression route into a full-time agricultural course or apprenticeship. Example course progression at SRUC is shown below.

NC Agriculture

HNC/HND Agriculture

HNC Poultry Production

BSc (Hons) Agriculture

Modern Apprenticeships

HNC/HND Rural Business Management

BA (Hons) Rural Business Management

Potential Career Destinations

from full-time SRUC courses:

General Farm Worker

Agricultural Engineer

Sprayer Operative

Animal Nutritionist

Agronomist

Farm Manager

Estate Worker

Stockperson

Soil Scientist

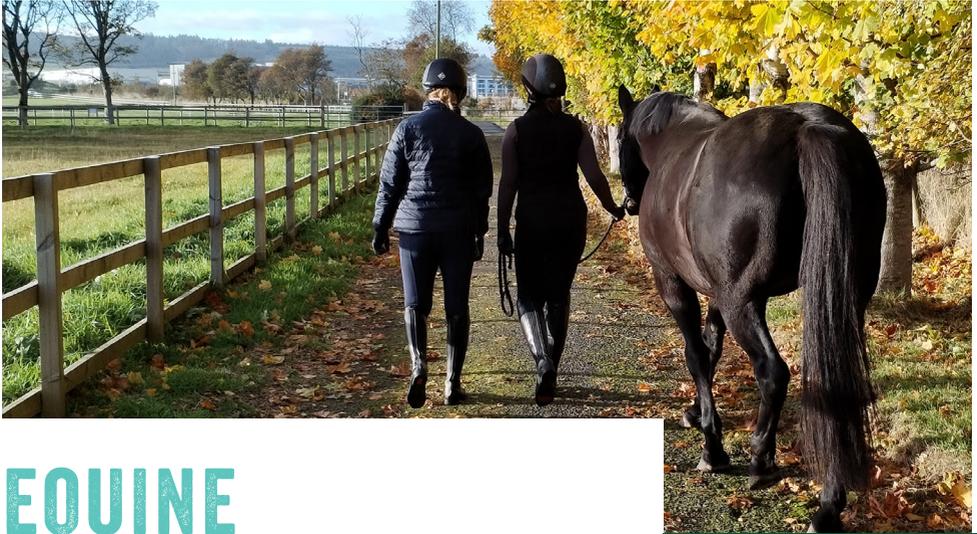
Auctioneer

Rural Surveyor

Farm Secretary

Which topics are covered

The NPA in Investigation of Modern Agriculture looks at the changing face of agriculture today, including the role of technology and precision farming as well as opportunities for agritourism and diversification. Learners will consider what forms of agriculture exist in their local area and how they have come to be (including the influences of factors such as soils, climate, population and infrastructure). They will also identify skills and qualifications required to enter employment within the sector.



EQUINE

National Progression Award (NPA)

Who is the course for: This course offers students in S4, S5 and S6 the opportunity to complete a vocational NPA Rural Skills: Equine. The course combines blended learning with the opportunity for practical sessions as well as self study, voluntary work or personal interest. This is an introductory course and is suitable for those working or expected to be working at SCQF Level 5 with a keen interest in horses or working with animals. It can also be used to gain practical equine experience for other SRUC courses for example veterinary nursing, vet medicine or equine studies.

Duration: August to April

Delivery: The course is delivered predominantly online with the addition of 4 compulsory practical days, currently held at our Sunnybrae equine facility, near our Aberdeen campus, where students will get hands-on with practical activities. The online element can be accessed at any time allowing the school and the pupil the flexibility to fit their studies around existing courses. The course is also run by a dedicated tutor who will be available to support you with the course.

This course has four practical days on campus: one before October break, one in December, one in February and one in March, dates to be confirmed on course start.

Please enquire to check availability in your region. The compulsory practical sessions are currently only held at Sunnybrae, our equine facility near our Aberdeen campus. Students enrolling should ensure they are able to arrange transport to and from this location, Sunnybrae Farm, Walton Rd, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9TS



SQA Accredited
before National
Progression Award
National Progression
Award (NPA) at **SCQF**
Level 5

Available to:

S4, S5 & S6



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Benefits and progression

This qualification can lead on to further study as part of an apprenticeship programme or further and higher education qualifications – or even an additional qualification – in areas such as:

Principles of Animal Care
Veterinary Terminology
NC Animal Care
NC Horse Care
MA Equine Studies
HNC/HND Equine Studies
BSc Equine Science and Management
Modern Apprenticeships

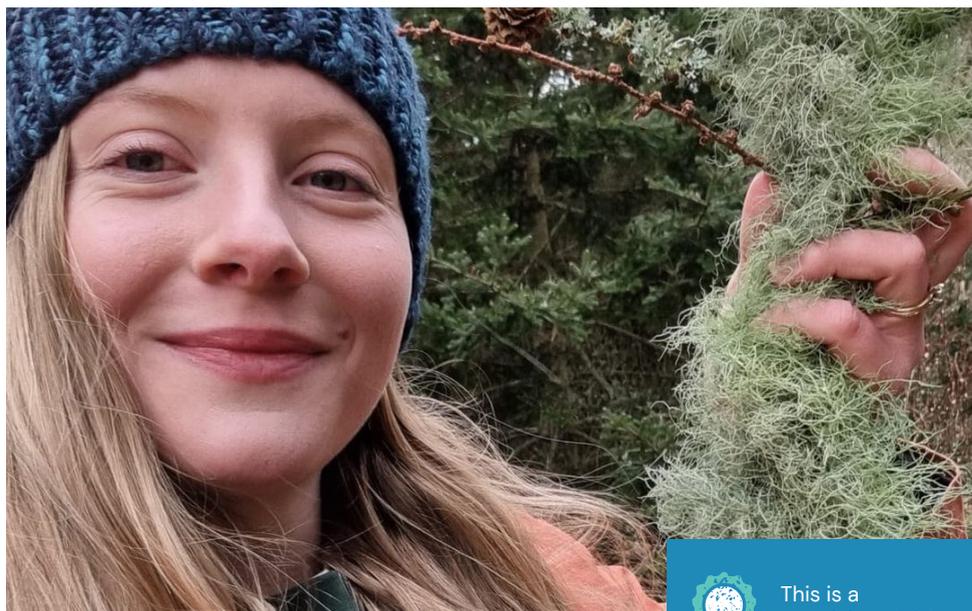
Potential Career Destinations

Riding instructors
Grooms
Stud assistants
Racing Industry
Farriery
Mounted Police Force
Animal Nutritionist
Equine Behavioural Specialist
Veterinary/Vet Nursing

Which topics are covered

The course comprises 3 Units. Example units:

Rural Business Investigation
Equine Housing and Handling
Feeding Horses and Ponies



This is a
standalone SQA
Accredited
HNC Unit at
SCQF level 7

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Higher National Unit

Who is the course for: This unit introduces learners to the main environmental effects of the use of the earth's resources by an increasing human population. Emphasis will be placed on identifying ways in which the sustainable use of resources can be achieved through action plans ranging from the international to individual scale. It will be of particular interest to pupils interested in wildlife, conservation, sustainability, and climate change for further study, and to those who are unable to access an Environmental Science Higher via their school.

Duration: The course is designed to be completed over one academic year, and will be flexible to cater for individual learning styles. Successful completion of this unit is equivalent to one HNC module at SCQF level 7 and 8 SQA Credits.

Delivery: The course is delivered through online learning materials. Every two weeks, you will gain access to a new and exciting module that can be accessed anytime allowing for complete flexibility in how you structure your study around classes. The course is run by a dedicated tutor who will be available to support you through your studies.

Available to:

S6

*S6 pupils who have
attained Maths &
English National 5
(Grade A to C) and
preferably 1 Higher*



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Benefits and progression

This course is ideally suited to those interested in environmental issues, sustainability and climate change and considering working in a related career or applying it to voluntary causes. Potential progression routes include:

HNC/HND Wildlife & Conservation

HNC/HND Environmental Management

BSc (Hons) Wildlife & Conservation

BSc (Hons) Environmental Management

Potential Career Destinations

from full-time SRUC courses:

Ecologist

Wildlife Specialist

Countryside Ranger

Marine Biologist

Wind Turbine Technician

GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Technician

Local & National Govt. Environmental Policy Advisor

Which topics are covered

On successful completion of the unit the learner will be able to:

Explain how the use of the earth's finite resources affects the environment

Describe the interactions between humans and environment

Explain sustainability at the global, national and local level

Explain sustainability at the individual level

Allocation of Places

Places on our schools programmes are allocated on a first come first served basis, and have a minimum and maximum student allocation dependant on subject. If courses are oversubscribed the student's name will be added to a reserve list and they will be notified if a place becomes available.

Application Process

Anyone going into S4 to S6 can apply for a place on most of our courses, although there are some conditions. Students should consider the subject areas and choose those that interest them the most and which will compliment their overall curriculum.

Step 1

If you are a pupil interested in one of our senior phase courses speak to a relevant member of teaching staff at your school, you must have permission from your school to be allocated a place. For more information visit the website or email schools@sruc.ac.uk Applications for all courses open from October onwards (with the exception of Principles of Animal Care which is open throughout the year).

Step 2

When you are happy with your choice you can apply using the QR code, right.

Step 3

Your application will be processed and you will be sent further instructions regarding registration and start date.

Delivery of Courses

Courses run for one academic year, with an induction session held in June for those who have been allocated a place. Most of our courses are delivered using blended learning, meaning some of your studies will be self-directed on-line. You can find information specific to your chosen course on our website using the QR code above.

Assessments

Assessments for each course vary from on-line multiple choice to essays and practical assessments. Further information can be found on the website for your chosen course.

Benefits

Courses are designed to help students progress in their chosen career path by developing skills recognised and associated with the world of work as well as an insight into the subject speciality which can help inform you when making choices for employment and continuing your studies when leaving school. They also help with:

- Problem Solving
- Working with others
- Independent Learning

Skills and Lifelong Learning Journey

The graphic on page 3 shows you the various routes you can follow on completion of your course depending on which stage you are at in school. There are a range of progression routes in relation to each individual course, some can be studied on-line by distance learning and others require you to attend one of our campuses across Scotland. Students from previous years have shown an interest in entering further/higher education or apprenticeship programmes based on the schools course choice they have made.

Attendance

All participants are expected to attend their allocated sessions and complete associated course work. Failure to do so may result in your withdrawal from the course.

Transport

For on-campus or practical sessions, schools are expected to provide transport to and from the school and the relevant SRUC location. This is not relevant to our on-line only courses.

Personal Protective Equipment

A list of ppe requirements relevant to your course will be provided, most specialist equipment will be provided by SRUC but you may for example be required to wear suitable outdoor clothing depending on your chosen course and associated practical sessions.

Code of Conduct

When visiting our campuses and when engaging with staff or other learners on-line, students should be:

- Well-mannered and behave appropriately at all times
- Respectful
- Positive and willing to fully participate in activities
- Aware of the campus health and safety regulations and codes of conduct

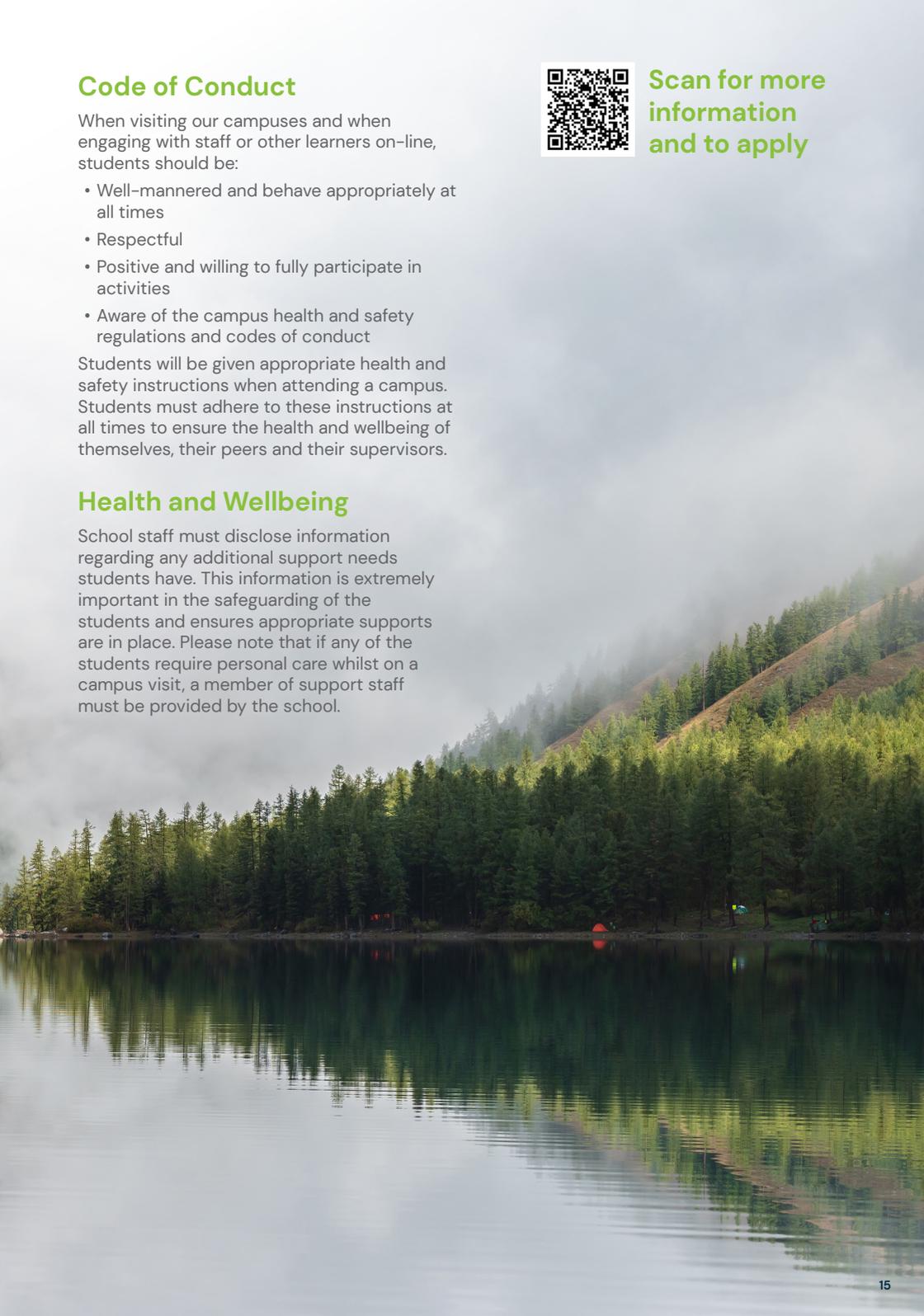
Students will be given appropriate health and safety instructions when attending a campus. Students must adhere to these instructions at all times to ensure the health and wellbeing of themselves, their peers and their supervisors.

Health and Wellbeing

School staff must disclose information regarding any additional support needs students have. This information is extremely important in the safeguarding of the students and ensures appropriate supports are in place. Please note that if any of the students require personal care whilst on a campus visit, a member of support staff must be provided by the school.



Scan for more information and to apply





Campuses



SRUC offers a choice of campus locations. You can read more about each location by visiting our website www.sruc.ac.uk/courses-training/campuses and you can find virtual tours of each location on our Virtual Student Experience site www.sruc.ac.uk/experience

1. **Craibstone**,
Aberdeen
2. **Elmwood**,
Cupar, Fife
3. **King's Buildings**,
Edinburgh
4. **Oatridge**,
West Lothian
5. **Queen's Park**,
Glasgow
6. **Barony**,
near Dumfries

Important information

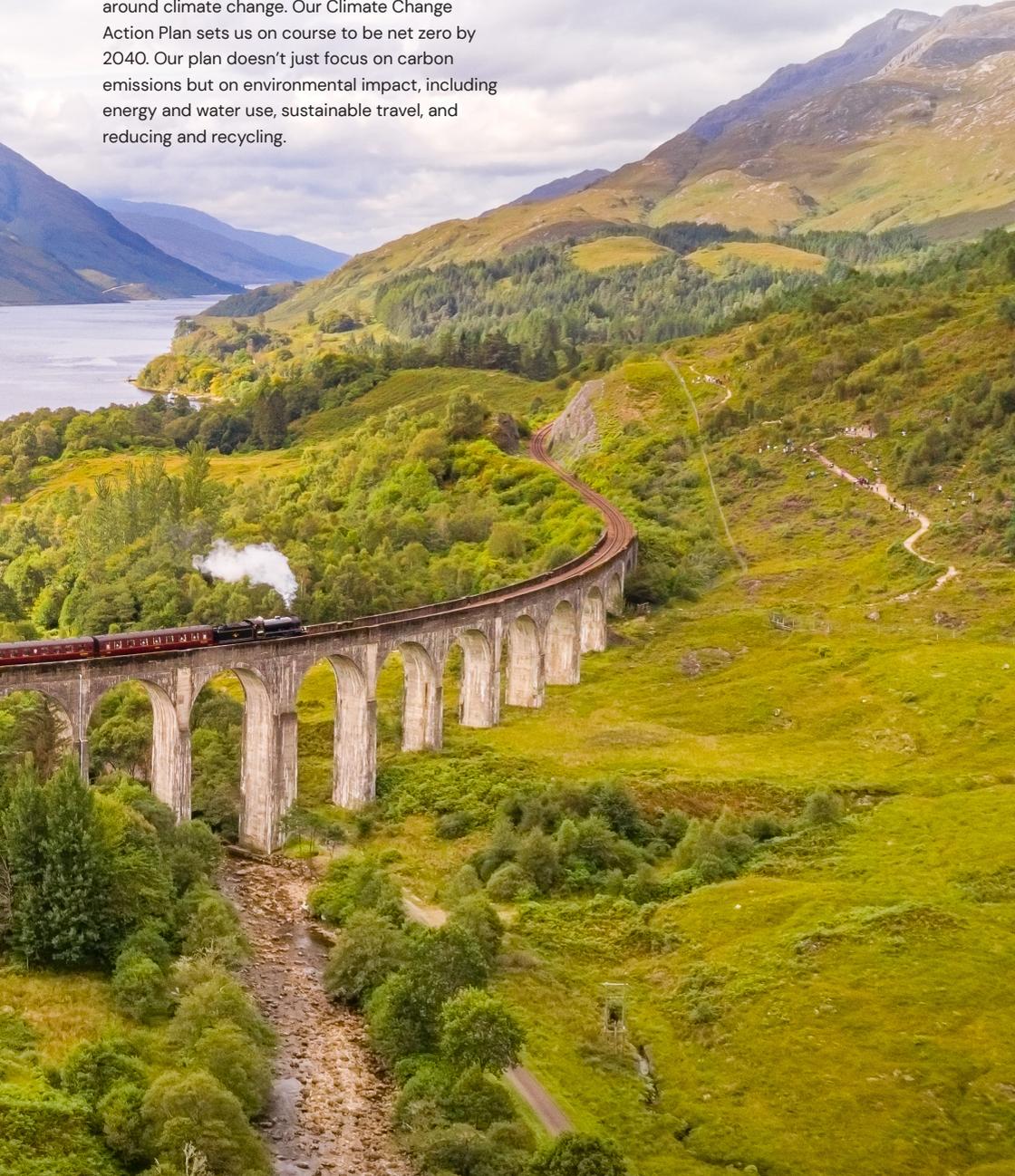
The information contained within this prospectus is correct at the time of writing in August 2024. You should always check our website for the most up-to-date information.

This prospectus is intended as a guide for applicants for courses delivered by SRUC. In compiling it, we have made every effort to be as accurate as possible, however omissions, errors or subsequent changes can occur. We may need to make changes to or discontinue courses or withdraw or replace facilities if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. We will take steps to inform applicants and students at the earliest opportunity of any significant changes to, or suspension/cessation of, a course. Learning activities and example course content included in this prospectus are given as examples and inclusion does not guarantee they will be offered each year. Additional information will be sent to you if you are made an offer of a place on a course – a copy of this can be requested by emailing admissions@sruc.ac.uk



Environmental Impact

SRUC is an institution working hard every day to share knowledge and discover solutions to some of the world's most difficult challenges, particularly around climate change. Our Climate Change Action Plan sets us on course to be net zero by 2040. Our plan doesn't just focus on carbon emissions but on environmental impact, including energy and water use, sustainable travel, and reducing and recycling.





Contact Us

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for schools enquiries

study@sruc.ac.uk –
for other course enquiries

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SRUC is a charitable company limited by guarantee (Company No SC103046, Charity No SC003712). General information about SRUC's research and consultancy work may be obtained from: SRUC, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JG. Telephone: 0131 535 4000 Web: www.sruc.ac.uk

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