

Secondary School Programme 2025–26



*“A great learning
experience”*

S5 teacher, Edinburgh

**Explore our
schools offer**



Bookings open 11 Aug



**National
Museums
Scotland**

Spark curiosity, foster critical thinking, and enhance your learning and teaching with the help of our incredible collections.

Scottish history, science and technology, the natural world, sustainability, art and design and world cultures – we cover it all at our four national museums across Scotland, and online.

Our sessions for high schools are co-designed by subject experts from the worlds of industry and academia and align with the Curriculum for Excellence, Sustainable Development Goals and Meta-skills framework.



National Museum of Scotland

Discover the history of Scotland, the wonders of nature and diverse cultures, scientific breakthroughs and exquisite art, design and fashion.

Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF
0131 247 4041
schools@nms.ac.uk

National Museum of Flight

Explore the history and science of aviation from the First World War to the present day at this former airfield.

East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian EH39 5LF
0131 247 4238
schoolsnmof@nms.ac.uk

National War Museum

Learn about the story of Scotland at war, within the walls of Edinburgh Castle.

Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2NG
0131 247 4041
schools@nms.ac.uk

National Museum of Rural Life

Experience life in the countryside and explore learning for sustainability at our museum, farmhouse and historic working farm.

Wester Kitchside, Philipshill Road
East Kilbride G76 9HR
0131 247 4377
schoolsnmorl@nms.ac.uk

We offer free school visits to our four museums

This includes downloadable trail sheets and resources, plus access to a cloakroom* and lunch space* (subject to availability). **excludes National War Museum*

Online resources

We offer a range of resources to enhance your learning before, during and after your visit. Find a selection of free trail sheets, films and games online. nms.ac.uk/resources

Exhibitions and workshops National Museum of Scotland

Our workshops and exhibitions are a great opportunity to add depth and breadth to your curriculum. Enhance your exhibition visit by booking one of our linked study days.

Exhibition

Cold War Scotland

Until 4 Jan 2026

Explore Scotland's critical position on the frontline of the Cold War and hear the stories of the Scots at the centre of this global conflict.

Free, booking required

nms.ac.uk/coldwarscotland

Study Day

Cold War Scotland

Wed 1 & Thu 2 Oct

S2–S6, 5 hrs

Hear from experts and handle real Cold War objects up close. Includes entry to the *Cold War Scotland* exhibition.

£5 per pupil, booking required

nms.ac.uk/coldwarstudy



Exhibition

Monkeys: Our Primate Family

28 Jun–30 Nov 2025

Come face to face with our primate relatives through more than 50 taxidermy specimens, including monkeys, lemurs and apes.

Schools exhibition slots available Mon & Wed, 10:00–12:00.

Free, booking required

nms.ac.uk/monkeys

Exhibition

Giants

31 Jan–14 Sep 2026

Go on a journey through time to discover the giant creatures that lived after the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Schools exhibition slots available Mon & Wed, 10:00–12:00.

£4 per pupil, booking required

nms.ac.uk/giants

Special study days

National Museum of Scotland

Fashion at the Museum

Thu 9 Oct

Senior Phase Art & Design, 5 hrs

Meet professionals from the world of fashion, find inspiration in our *Fashion and Style* gallery and take part in a sustainable fashion design workshop.

£10 per pupil, booking required
nms.ac.uk/fashionmuseum

DNA and the Genome: A Question of Taste

Various dates in Nov

Higher & Adv Higher Biology and Human Biology, 5 hrs

Students will explore their own DNA in this hands-on, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) masterclass. Includes a unique opportunity to meet and work with scientists from the University of Edinburgh.

Please note this workshop is available to Scottish local authority schools only.

Delivered in partnership with the University of Edinburgh

£10 per pupil, booking required
nms.ac.uk/DNA

Buddhism Discovery Day

Thu 11 Jun 2026

Higher & Advanced Higher RME, 5 hrs

Broaden learning about Buddhism in this all day workshop. Pupils will participate in a guided meditation with a Zen Buddhist priest, a Q&A session with a Thai Buddhist monk, lectures from Buddhist Studies scholars, and an object hunt at the National Museum of Scotland.
Delivered in partnership with the Edinburgh Centre for Buddhist Studies

Free, booking required

To book, contact halle.oneal@ed.ac.uk
nms.ac.uk/buddismday

FREE

Workshops

National Museum of Flight

National Museum of Flight workshop prices

£100 UK local authority schools

£150 Independent schools and non-UK schools

Free 20% of these sessions are available free of charge to schools in SIMD 1&2 areas and all special/ASN schools (Scotland only). Free coach travel is also available to support these visits. Offer is subject to availability.

Flying Friction

Wed & Thu during term time

Third level (S1–S3), 60 mins

Study energy loss in aircraft due to friction, explore aerodynamics through simple experiments and investigate the effects of gravity on objects. Workshop bookings include a dedicated staff member or volunteer guiding your visit.

nms.ac.uk/flyingfriction



Connect with us

Sign up to our regular enews to keep up to date with our schools activities throughout the year.

nms.ac.uk/schoolssignup





Don't miss

Maths Week Scotland (22–28 Sep 2025)
A range of fun-filled and inspiring maths activities taking place at our museums and at venues across Scotland. mathsweek.scot

Careers Hive (27–30 Oct 2025)
Our free immersive STEM careers event for S1–S3 pupils at the National Museum of Scotland.
sciencefestival.co.uk/careershive
In partnership with Edinburgh Science