

Alternative Format

CATALYST INDUCTION TOOLKIT:

An introduction to your Catalyst specialist support

Landing Page

Welcome to Edge Hill University and thank you for joining us in your Catalyst Induction Toolkit. This toolkit has been designed to provide an introduction to all the specialist support available to you, whatever your level or location of study.

Click 'START TOOLKIT' to start the toolkit from the beginning or alternatively select the most relevant heading(s), from the contents below.

We recommend completing the sections in the order it is presented, and if it's your first time joining us, working from start to finish can be beneficial, however please feel free to access however suits you best.

Accessibility

Our commitment to accessibility

As an Edge Hill student you are part of an incredibly diverse learning community. As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure an equitable and inclusive learning experience for all students, we have placed accessibility at the heart of UniSkills support, which enables all students to participate.

Alternative Formats

This is an alternative format for the Catalyst Induction Toolkit.

How to get the most out of this toolkit

Welcome to Edge Hill University

Congratulations on joining us at Edge Hill, it's an **incredible achievement** to enrol at university and we hope **you're going to love it here**. This toolkit aims to provide you with an **overview** and **introduction** to all the **specialist support available to you**, whatever your level or location of study.

Navigating this toolkit

To really get the most out of your toolkit we recommend completing it in the order it's presented, however please feel free to access however suits you best. You can select the most **relevant headings** from the **support themes** and even **search for keywords** using the **magnifying glass** in the top left corner of the **navigation menu**.

All the **information**, and **interactive elements**, in this toolkit are an **invitation for you to engage** and you can choose how much you want to explore. There's also no requirement to work through all the information in one go as this **toolkit will always be available for you** to revisit and review any of the support, whenever you need it, at ehu.ac.uk/Catalyst.

Designed by YOU!

This toolkit has been created with **extensive input from your fellow students**, and one of the key takeaways from your feedback was how you wanted to access this information in a **more meaningful order**.

The main content in this toolkit has been **organised into themes**, so you can **learn about support specific to your immediate needs** without needing to know which team delivers that support. Whilst we recognise that everyone's experience at university is unique, the main sections of this toolkit have been themed around that of a **typical student journey**:

- **Your Essentials** - support to help you have a successful start at Edge Hill
- **Your Community** - support to find friends, make meaningful connections and have fun
- **Your Development** - support to develop your skills and confidence
- **Your Future** - support to engage in personal growth and consider your future

However, if you'd prefer a more linear list of all your Catalyst specialist support teams you can access a **quick recap** on who everyone is at the **end of the toolkit** as well as meeting some of our friendly faces.

Further help and support

If you require any **further help and support** to access the information in this toolkit you can get in touch by emailing CatalystEnquiries@edgehill.ac.uk.

What is Catalyst specialist support?

Catalyst specialist support is the collective name for the collaborative support provided by [Library and Learning Services](#), [Student Services](#) and [Careers](#). We are known as Catalyst due to our physical location in the [Catalyst building](#) on the Ormskirk campus.

Catalyst specialist support is **available for all students**, on any programme, level or location of study with both in-person and virtual options available at **Ormskirk** and **Manchester St James'**.

Catalyst mission statement

Catalyst specialist support teams are **dedicated to empowering every student to thrive** by providing exceptional academic support, inclusive services and transformative learning opportunities.

At the heart of Edge Hill University, we foster a **welcoming and supportive environment** where you can **develop, accomplish** and **achieve** your fullest potential. Through innovative digital resources, expert guidance and a strong sense of community, we help **overcome barriers**, ignite potential and shape futures.

Offering holistic support, fostering personal growth and ensuring every student has the tools, resources and encouragement they need to **succeed at university and beyond**.

Catalyst values

The values of Catalyst specialist support are:

- **Support** – Ensuring you have access to the help you need, when you need it.
- **Inclusivity** – Fostering an environment where everyone feels welcomed, safe, included and valued.
- **Growth** – Encouraging both your academic and personal growth.
- **Empowerment** – Helping you take charge of your future and make informed decisions.

- **Community** – Enabling you to build life-long connections and communities, preventing social isolation.
- **Excellence** – Providing you with high-quality services and support to enhance your student success.
- **Innovation** – Adapting to your changing needs and offering modern solutions.

So, now you know a little more about *who* we are it's time to explore *how* we can support you!

Your Essentials

Catalyst is here to help

The most important thing to remember is if you're ever struggling, there's someone in Catalyst who can help. From simple support like **resetting your password**, finding a **space to study** and **making new friends**; to **managing your finances**, securing a **part-time job** or help with your **academic study skills**; right through to more complex issues that can impact your **health and wellbeing**, or even if you're **consider leaving university**, there's support available for you.

You may engage with lots of Catalyst specialist support during your time at Edge Hill, but if you're ever **unsure who to turn to** then the [Catalyst Helpdesk](#) is a **good place to start**. The team will do their best to **answer your questions direct**, but they can also **put you in touch with other support teams** across Catalyst and the wider university.

Catalyst Helpdesk is open weekdays 8pm to 8pm and weekends 10am to 6pm, with both in-person and virtual support options available.

- [Ask Us @ Catalyst](#) – Search the online knowledge base to explore frequently asked questions, live chat or submit your own question.
- **Catalyst Enquiries** – Send an email to CatalystEnquiries@edgehill.ac.uk and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.
- **Telephone** – Give us a call on 01695 650800 during Catalyst Helpdesk opening hours.
- **Visit Catalyst** – Catalyst is open 24/7 during term time and you can drop-in during Helpdesk opening hours to access support.

As well as signposting to other support, your **Catalyst Helpdesk** team can also provide you with **access to IT** and **learning essentials**.

Learn more about your essential **Catalyst Helpdesk** support:

ehu.ac.uk/Catalyst

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- **Access to Wi-Fi** - Access free [eduroam wireless network](#) from your phone, tablet or computer for secure access to the internet and other online services.
- **Account Security** - Get help [changing or resetting your password](#) and setting up your [multi-factor authentication \(MFA\)](#) to ensure your university account is secure.
- **Hardware Support** - Catalyst has [laptops loans](#), networked PCs at Ormskirk and Manchester St James', and provides student IT support and access to [printing and binding facilities](#).
- **Software Support** - Catalyst Helpdesk can also signpost and support you with accessing your [virtual learning environment \(Learning Edge\)](#) and [assistive technologies](#).
- **Library Resources** - You can access a wide range of [print and electronic resources](#) through [Discover More](#) with support available to [develop your research skills](#).
- **Study Spaces** - There are lots of study spaces available throughout Catalyst and Manchester St James', some of which you can [book up to two weeks in advance](#).
- **Additional Support Services** - Your [Accommodation team](#) provide a range of support for students living on campus and offer regular [one-to-one appointments in Catalyst](#).
- **Report an Issue or Repair** - You can report any issues or repairs in your halls of residence, and across campus, using the [Invida app](#) and Catalyst Helpdesk can support you if you need to follow up on any requests.

Helping you settle in

There is lots of support available to help you **settle in and enjoy your time at university**, from a warm welcome right through to celebrating your graduation. Your [Student Life](#) team work closely with your academic departments and [Students' Union](#) to make sure your **induction experience** is coordinated, supportive and FUN!

You'll have plenty of opportunities to **meet other students** on your course, start to build **new friendships** and **support networks** and get to know the department and buildings you'll call 'home' during your time at Edge Hill.

Figuring out your financial support

One of the fundamental aspects you'll need to organise when starting university is your finances. From paying for your **tuition fees** and **accommodation**, to applying for a **student loan** or **financial assistance** your [Money Advice](#) team can offer you guidance on all money related matters.

Learn more about essential financial support available to you:

- [Financial Assistance](#) - Access information on [scholarships](#), **bursaries** and **grants**, including the [Student Support Fund](#), to help you **manage your living expenses** - including food, housing and other essentials.
- [Part Time Jobs](#) - Part time jobs are a fantastic way to **earn extra money** while you study. They're also a great opportunity to **gain work experience**, **develop new skills** and **meet new people**. [Money Advice](#) and [Careers](#) work closely together to help you find part-time employment, **develop your CV** and search for vacancies to help you **earn money** and **feel more financially secure**.
- [Banking and Budgeting](#) – You can access guidance on managing your student bank account, **budgeting effectively** and **saving money** to ensure you have enough **funds to support your basic needs**. From budgeting apps to useful websites and you can even **download your own budget planner**.
- [Keeping Your Money Safe](#) – Criminals and scammers are getting more and more sophisticated so it's important to be **aware of the tactics** fraudsters use and **how you can stop them accessing your personal details**. You are at higher risk of being targeted when your loan payments are due, so it's important to be extra vigilant when dealing with your finances during this period. You can access lots of guidance on how to **avoid financial scams**, such as money mules, romance scams, phone scams and online gambling to help **keep your money safe**.
- [Money Worries](#) – If you're ever worried about money you can access **advice on managing debts** and **reducing financial stress**, which we know can impact your overall wellbeing. Money Advice can provide information and guidance on where to **find the help you need**, from assistance if you're experiencing delays with your student finance to support for any difficulties with utility bills or travel costs.
- [Emergency Funds](#) - If you're ever facing financial difficulties or cash flow issues, your maintenance loan is reduced or student finance is delayed you can also access **emergency financial support**. You will need to make an appointment with the Money Advice team to apply for emergency financial support and can explore further [information on eligibility criteria and the application process](#) to **help you manage** any **unexpected financial difficulties**.

Ensuring you can fully engage

Your Catalyst specialist support teams offer a range of ways for you to access support, giving you **flexibility to choose how you want to engage**. Support is often tailored to your specific needs, building **autonomy** and **resilience** to help you feel more **confident**.

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If you require **additional support to fully engage with university life** then your [Inclusion](#) and [Specific Learning Differences\(SpLD\)](#) teams are here for you. Your **disability support** teams work with you to ensure your learning requirements are **appropriately assessed** and met, **enabling** and **empowering** you to study and live as **independently** as possible.

Learn more about essential disability support available to you:

- **Disability Support**
 - **Students with a disclosed disability** can [access reasonable adjustments](#) such as extra time for completing your coursework, considerations for your classroom settings and [exam modifications](#).
 - [Learn more about support from your Inclusion team.](#)
- **Learning Support**
 - Students with an [SpLD](#) can also access support to **learn more about your strengths**, engage with useful learning technologies and help to **develop strategies for successful study**.
 - [Learn more about support from your Specific Learning Differences \(SpLD\) team.](#)

[Disability support](#) is **confidential**, **personalised** and **led by you** and we can tailor support to your individual requirements. If you've not yet received a diagnosis, or would like to explore an assessment, we can offer you a **safe space to discuss your options**, including applying for [Disabled Students Allowance \(DSA\)](#).

Supporting your health and wellbeing

It's important to take care of your health and wellbeing while studying and your [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#) team can **refer you to GPs** and **local health services** for all your **physical** and **mental health needs**. You'll be encouraged to receive any [recommended vaccines](#) and can drop-in to [Milton House](#) every Monday to access a **sexual health clinic**.

As an Edge Hill student you can also **access immediate and confidential mental health and wellbeing support** and **structured therapy sessions** from qualified professionals through phone, live chat, email and video call via the [Edge Well 24/7](#) app.

Help before hardship

Life can be unpredictable and there may be times when things don't go to plan. By familiarising yourself with support available *before* you need it, you'll feel better prepared and it could help **speed up finding the right solution for you**.

If you ever need **urgent support**, or feel at risk, you can [contact your Campus Support team](#) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can also **anonymously** [Let Us Know](#) if you have any concerns about your own wellbeing or someone else's safety.

Similar to the Catalyst Helpdesk, your [Student Support](#) team can **connect you with lots of other specialist support** and are often who you'll connect with if you require any **specialist guidance**. Student Support is available to all students but may be especially helpful if you identify with any of the **underrepresented groups** listed below, or struggling and thinking about leaving the university.

Learn more about the essential student support available to you:

Care Experienced and Estranged Students (CEES)

- If you are a **care leaver, care experienced, estranged**, have experience of **supported foyer accommodation** or in **kinship care** there's lots of support available to you at Edge Hill.
- Student Support works closely with other specialist teams across Catalyst and the wider university to **case manage your needs** and **help you access appropriate support**.
- [Learn more about support available for CEES students.](#)

Young Adult Carers

- If you have a **caring responsibility** we can work with you to create a **personalised package of support** so you can thrive at Edge Hill.
- [Learn more about support available for Young Adult Carers.](#)

New and expectant parents

- If you or your partner are **pregnant, planning to adopt** a child or have **recently given birth** there's support available to discuss your options and help you navigate your new parental journey.

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- Working closely with your academic departments **we ensure you have the support** you need to successfully navigate this new chapter of your life.
- [Learn more about support for new and expectant parents.](#)

Transgender students

- We **celebrate** and **value** the **diversity** of all at Edge Hill and recognise that every individual brings an invaluable contribution to our collective and **inclusive community**.
- We're also **committed to providing a safe, supportive and welcoming** environment for all, encouraging a culture where **equality is promoted, individuality is valued** and the **rights** and **dignity** of all are **respected**.
- [Learn more about support for transgender students.](#)

Struggling or thinking of leaving

- If you ever get to a point where **things are not going to plan** and you're **thinking of leaving** the university, don't make any rushed decisions - **whatever is going on, we can help**.
- The best thing you can do if you're ever in crisis is to **connect with someone** who can discuss your situation with you and advise on your options, so you can **make an informed decision** that's right for you.
- [Learn more about support for when things don't go to plan.](#)

Hopefully this section has reassured you that **Catalyst is a safe space** for you to access a range of essential specialist support to help you enjoy a **successful start to your studies**.

Your Community

Helping you have fun

Student Life, and their team of dedicated [Campus Connectors](#), are here to help you settle in, make friends and really **get the most out of your time at Edge Hill**.

There's always something happening for you to **get involved** with, whatever your interests and level of social engagement preferences. From Welcome Fairs to days out and a wide range of activities throughout the year, there really is **something for everyone!**

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All your Catalyst specialist support teams offer access via **in-person** and **virtual** options, and many also offer more informal **drop-in** activities too. These are great ways to engage with support as well as **meeting people outside your programme of study**.

Student Life Portal

Your [Student Life portal](#) is a digital events portal linking you to all the activities happening across Ormskirk, Manchester St James' and online.

There's usually around 200 events listed every month, including:

- **Getting Active:** helping you to move more, build your fitness and even compete in sports
- **Going Global:** to experience different cultures
- **Industry Links:** opportunities to enhance your employability
- **Developing You:** opportunities to learn new skills for life
- **Having Fun:** a chance to try something new, meet new friends and do something just for fun
- **Exploring the Arts:** for all things arts and culture, from film nights to exhibitions

Campus Connectors

Your [Campus Connectors](#) deliver a host of regular and bespoke activities, such as:

- **Commuter Breakfasts:** grab a free hot drink and snack and connect with your peers
- **Global Cafes:** your weekly social space to meet new people and cultures
- **Student Life Arch:** say hello, ask us anything and get involved in different events
- **Get Connected:** from quizzes, to board games, to crafts with a side of chat
- **Therapy Dogs:** who doesn't love a cuddle with our furry friends

International Students

If you're joining us from outside the United Kingdom there's also lots of tailored support available to help you have a **smooth transition** and **enrich your university experience**.

[ehu.ac.uk/Catalyst](https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/Catalyst)

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[International student support](#) can help you **prepare for your arrival**, offer support throughout your studies with a range of **social** and **cultural events**, and can even **support you post-graduation**.

Faith and Community

Your [Faith and Community](#) team is dedicated to ensuring everyone feels welcomed, supported and at home at Edge Hill.

Offering you **pastoral** and **faith support** through a **Chaplaincy Service**, providing you with both a listening ear and, if you require it, support in your faith journey.

Your team of **Pastoral Supporters** and **Chaplains** are here for people of all faiths and none, and you're welcome to explore matters of faith and spirituality confidentially and without any judgement or pressure.

Social Prescribing

If you're feeling **lonely**, **isolated** or **anxious** about engaging with any support your [social prescribing service](#) can provide a **holistic approach** to connect you with non-medical support and take your first step, which can often be the most difficult one.

Social prescribing can **connect you** with societies, peer groups, volunteering opportunities and wellbeing activities that align with your interests and **support your sense of belonging**, helping you make the most of your university experience in a way that feels right for you.

UniSkills Campaigns

Explore your year-round [UniSkills campaigns](#) to **enhance your academic journey** at Edge Hill. From **helping you to settle in**, to finding a **healthy** and **happy study life balance** to **acing your assessments**, there's something for everyone!

UniSkills campaigns are **created** and **delivered collaboratively** with other Catalyst specialist support teams, **streamlining your access to support** you need, when you need it.

Transition Days

Prospective students with a **disclosed disability** who feel transitional support might be helpful for them *before* starting at Edge Hill are invited to attend a [transition day](#) on the Ormskirk campus.

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The transition day event aims to give you an opportunity to:

- **Familiarise yourself** with the campus environment
- **Meet other students** who may be starting their studies alongside you
- **Discuss academic, pastoral** and other **support** that may be needed
- **Prepare you for the move** to university, whether planning to live on or off campus
- Opportunity to **ask any questions** or raise any concerns about starting university

The event provides useful tips on how to **build resilience, make friends, meet new people, develop independent living skills** and more. There is also an information session available for parents, guardians and carers.

Catalyst Tours

Drop-in during advertised times and join your Student Advisors for an in-person [student led guided tour of Catalyst](#). Catalyst tours are a great way to **learn more about the building**, its **facilities** and all the **specialist support** available to you.

You can also virtually visit [Catalyst](#) and [Milton House](#) in your own time through their [AccessAble accessibility guides](#).

Manchester St James'

You can learn more about the courses, facilities and even [take a virtual 360 tour of the Manchester St James' campus](#).

Students' Union

Although your [Students' Union](#) is an independent charity, **Catalyst works closely with your Students' Union** to help streamline events, support and how we communicate with you. So, we couldn't miss an opportunity to **signpost you to their support** and in particular highlight the benefits of engaging with [groups and societies](#).

Opportunities to engage

In addition to the activities hosted by your Student Life team, there's also lots of other specialist support initiatives that can help you **meet new people** and **learn new skills**.

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These include:

- **Careers Fairs** - Your [Careers](#) team work with a wide range of external partners to host Careers fairs, workshops and presentations you can join throughout the year.
- **Money Events** - Your [Money Advice](#) team often host events to help boost your financial literacy and budgeting skills and provide you with opportunities to meet and interact with other students who have similar interests and challenges.
- **UniSkills Workshops** - If you are new, or returning to learning at university level, there are regular [UniSkills Workshops](#) you can join to meet other students in the same position.
Returning to Learning is a particularly great way to share any concerns about returning to academic study, learn from others and build your academic resilience all over a free hot drink and biscuit.
- **PGR Coffee Mornings** - If you're studying on a postgraduate research degree (PGR) then your [Open Research](#) team often host PGR coffee mornings, which are a great way to meet other researchers.
- **CEES Community** - If you are care-experienced or estranged the [Student Support](#) team hold regular drop-in sessions to help you build your community.
- **University Archive** - The [University Archive](#) welcomes and supports you to connect with the University's innovative and radical past. Dating back to 1885, you're encouraged to explore the rich history of Edge Hill's community, helping to build a sense of identity, belonging and connection through shared stories and experiences.
- **Careers Corner** - Drop-in to Careers Corner on the ground floor of Catalyst for quick access to careers support. Careers Corner is available weekdays 11am to 3pm during teaching weeks and 11am to 1pm during assessment and vacation periods.

Safe spaces to study

Catalyst is your central University Library and has been purposely designed to provide you with a **range of study spaces** across five floors. Located at the heart of the Ormskirk campus, the building is **open 24 hours** during term time and you simply swipe your UniCard to access out of hours. You also have access to a smaller Library on the Manchester St James' campus.

Catalyst Ground Floor

Catalyst **ground floor** provides space for **social and group study**.

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The ground floor is often a hive of activity with access to the **Catalyst Helpdesk**, **Careers Corner** and **53.3 Degrees coffee shop**, serving a range of hot and cold drinks and snacks.

You'll also find the **University Archive** and your **Reading for Pleasure collection** on the ground floor.

Around the perimeter of this floor there's lots of **huts**, **Pods** and banks of **networked PCs**, **laptop loans**, **book issue** and **returns** machines as well as **bookable group study rooms**.

If you attend any in-person appointments in Catalyst you may meet with one of the teams in the **appointment huts** located behind the Helpdesk, or be asked to wait at the **ground floor waiting area** opposite the Catalyst Helpdesk.

Catalyst specialist support teams sometimes **host drop-in events** on the ground floor for you to **connect with staff** and learn more about support available to you.

Catalyst Mezzanine

Catalyst **mezzanine** floor is accessible by lift or by exiting the stairs when you reach the first small landing point.

The mezzanine is used primarily to deliver **Catalyst specialist support appointments** and there are some **soft seating areas** where you can wait to meet with staff to discuss your support needs.

Catalyst First Floor

Catalyst **first floor** is perfect for **collaboration**, with lots of additional **group** and **individual** study spaces available.

On this floor you'll find banks of **networked PCs** and **bookable study rooms**, as well as a **printing hub** and **self-issue machine**.

As an Edge Hill student you also have **access to thousands of print and electronic resources**, and your physical textbook collection begins on the first floor of Catalyst. All your print resources are **arranged in subject order** and are split across the first and second floors of Catalyst.

The **Willow Training room** is also located on the first floor, directly opposite the lift, where you might attend workshops, meetings and events.

Catalyst Second Floor

Catalyst **second floor** is your dedicated space for **quiet study** to help you focus on your work.

ehu.ac.uk/Catalyst

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On this floor you'll find more study spaces including **networked PCs** and **bookable study rooms**, as well as another **printing hub** and **self-issue machine**.

Your **physical textbooks** continue on this floor and you'll also find a rather unique **spiral staircase** and double height window offering spectacular views of the lake.

Catalyst Third Floor

Catalyst **third floor** is the perfect space for some serious **silent study**.

The top floor of Catalyst has been divided into large, open plan rooms with **individual desks**, **networked PCs** and some of the **most amazing views on campus!**

On this floor you'll also find the **Oak Training room** and **Loft**, a dedicate space for researchers. In the centre of this floor you'll find another **printing hub** as well as **hot drink** and **cold snacks** vending machines.

When the weather allows, you'll also be able to access the **Catalyst roof garden** from the third floor - a great space to **enjoy a study break** and take in the **spectacular views** across campus.

Manchester St James'

[Manchester St James'](#) has a range of **study** and **social spaces**, including a smaller **University Library** with a **dedicated collection of health resources**.

Your St James' Library has spaces suitable for **individual** and **small group study**, provides access to **eduroam Wi-Fi** and power for use of your own devices. There's a bank of **networked PCs** in the main library space and an additional **IT training room** available next door to the library.

You can **loan** and **return** physical resources at St James' via the Manchester St James' Helpdesk and **access Catalyst Helpdesk support** via any of the virtual options.

Manchester St James' is [open weekdays 8:15am to 5pm](#) and you simply **swipe your UniCard** to access the campus whenever you visit.

Hopefully this section has given you a good overview of the **opportunities available for you to engage** and ways to **find your community at Edge Hill**.

Your Development

Helping you have a successful start

However you arrive at Edge Hill, be that direct from a more traditional further education route, via a vocational qualification or having experienced a professional career, you'll soon discover that **university involves more self-directed study and independence** than other forms of education.

You will have been supported by the university as you transitioned in to study at Edge Hill but even once you're enrolled you can still access lots of introductory support, which can be a **useful place to start** especially if you're **new, or returning to study at university** level.

Getting Started with UniSkills

[Getting Started With UniSkills](#) is your pre-arrival package of **online academic skills support** for a **successful transition** into studying at Edge Hill. You can access this support anytime you need, and is a useful place to start if you're **new to studying at university**.

Explore the full offer and learning pathway of interactive toolkits on **introductory topics** including:

- Preparing your academic resilience
- Developing your research skills
- Introduction to academic writing at university level
- Transitioning into taught postgraduate (PGT) study
- Developing your digital skills and an introduction to your key university systems

Preparing to Study

You can access a dedicated [Preparing to Study page](#) full of useful **resources** and **strategies** to help **develop your organisation** and **time-management skills** in support of your academic success.

The information available on your [Preparing to Study page](#) is complimented by a 30-minute Preparing to Study embedded session, which can be booked by your tutors.

#FindYourFeet

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During your first weeks at Edge Hill you can also **join your Student Advisors** for a week of **introductory** exploration and explanation of the specialist support available, with a particular focus on your **academic skills support**.

[#FindYourFeet: An introduction to Library and academic skills \(UniSkills\) support at Edge Hill University](#) is great for new, and returning, students to help you:

- Learn how to find and access your print and digital resources
- Get the most out of your online learning environment
- Discover how UniSkills can help you develop your academic skills
- Understand more about key university terminology and jargon

Together we can help you **take your first steps to academic success!**

Unlocking your academic skills potential

[UniSkills](#) provides a comprehensive programme of **workshops**, **online resources** and **one-to-one support** tailored to **enhance your academic abilities** and **boost your confidence** at university and beyond.

Whether you want to improve your **academic writing**, refine your **referencing** or learn how to find high-quality **academic information** for your assignments UniSkills offers flexible support tailored to your needs.

Study stress and anxiety is normal when transitioning to a new level of learning but we can work with you throughout your degree to help you **recognise your strengths** and provide **strategies for success**.

Some academic skills support available to you include:

- [UniSkills Appointments](#)
- [UniSkills Workshops](#)
- [Additional study skills support](#)
- [UniSkills Online](#)
- [Assistive Technologies](#)

Providing you with high-quality resources

Academic research and **reading** will be a big part of your university studies as you learn more about your subject and write your assignments. As an Edge Hill student you have **access to thousands of high-quality print and digital resources** and there's a lot of support to help develop your research skills.

Discover More

[Discover More](#) is your go-to place for finding all your physical and electronic resources. Providing you with access to **trusted resources** such as **textbooks**, **eBooks** and a wide range of **online academic journals** and **databases**.

Your University Library subscribes to these resources for you and they are carefully curated, often **peer-reviewed**, so you can feel **confident** you're accessing the **high-quality information** you need for your studies.

Online Reading Lists

Your [Online Reading Lists](#) are a great starting point when beginning your research and contain materials **your tutor has identified** as **essential** and/or **recommended reading** for your course.

Specialist Subject Resources

Your [Subject Resources](#) are **curated collections** dedicated to your subject of study and provide you with access to key resources you will need when researching.

You Want It, We Get It

Although the University Library provides you with **access to hundreds of thousands of resources** there may be occasions when you want to access something outside of your core collections.

You can **request additional resources** via the [You Want It, We Get It](#) service and the Collections and Archives team will do their best to source this for you. This service aims to bridge any gaps in your resources, allowing you to request books, eBooks, journal articles or chapters, to **support your learning and research**.

Copyright Support

[Copyright](#) is a part of intellectual property law that legislates control over the use of original works. There are lots of types of work covered by copyright law and it's important to **be aware of what you can and cannot do** when it comes to using someone else's work.

We appreciate **understanding copyright law** can feel complex but you can access further information on [how to appropriately use others work in your studies](#). Part of your good practices will include **citing and referencing accurately**, and [UniSkills can help you](#) understand and develop these skills.

Digitised On Demand

There are lots of [accessibility features](#) available across all your digital resources to help you fully engage with your research but if you have a **disability** that requires an **alternative format** you can also access the Digitisation On Demand service.

Digitisation On Demand provides chapters and extracts from books and journals in accessible formats and works closely with your disability support teams to provide you with access.

Research Support

All **undergraduate** (UG) and **taught postgraduate** (PGT) students can access further help and support to access, navigate and get the most out of your online resources through [UniSkills](#).

Academic staff and **postgraduate researchers** (PGR) can access further support through [Open Research](#).

Developing your digital skills

There will be new **tools** and **technologies** to discover at university but there's also lots of support available to [help you develop your digital skills](#). In addition to your University Library resources you'll be expected to engage with **virtual learning environments** and **digital learning technologies**.

You can access information on the **digital tools** available to you and how to use them through the Catalyst Helpdesk, along with **training** and **guidance** [available online](#). From logging in and getting connected to navigating new systems, software and learning tools, including:

- **Microsoft 365** - for example Outlook, Teams, Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- **Learning Edge (Blackboard)** - your virtual learning environment
- **Online assessment tools** - for example Turnitin and Panopto

Cultivating your careers confidence

It's likely one of your overall goals is to secure employment post-graduation, whether that's advancing in your current field or taking a new career direction all together. Your [Careers](#) team are here to help you **develop your employability** by offering **opportunities to learn, gain transferable skills** and **access relevant work experience**.

You don't need to know *what* you want to do, or what your options are with your degree, Careers are here to help you **set and achieve your goals!**

Extra Edge

[Extra Edge](#) is an **employability award** that improves your chances of career success by helping you **track the skills you're developing** whilst studying at Edge Hill. You can add this unique award to your CV and use it to **demonstrate your transferable skills** at job interviews.

Careers Pathways

You can access a range of support via your [Careers portal](#), including a series of digital pathways that guide you through simple steps to **enhance** your **soft skills** and **improve** your level of **employability**.

Work With Us

There are paid student employee roles within Careers, Student Life and Student Engagement (UniSkills) and all three Services offer student placement opportunities throughout the year. Be sure to explore the [Careers portal](#) to keep informed when we are recruiting.

Careers Appointments

There are different types of Careers appointments available depending on your level of career readiness:

- **Getting Started With** - designed to help you get started with a range of careers topics
- **Get Ahead** - designed to support anyone from a widening participation (WP) background
- **Work-Based Learning** - designed to help you with work-based learning queries and explore available opportunities

LinkedIn Learning

[LinkedIn Learning](#) provides you with full, free, unlimited access to thousands of high quality online courses and video tutorials written by industry experts to help develop your skills and boost your employability. Once you have completed a full course you will also gain a digital certificate which you can display on your LinkedIn profile.

Ask A Question

You can reach out to your Careers team anytime to [Ask A Question](#), **submit your CV or personal statement for review** or make a **general careers enquiry**.

Managing your mental health and wellbeing

Even with all the support available we know that **anxieties** and **self-doubt** can still creep in, and your **mental health can fluctuate**, so be sure to regularly **check in on your [mental health and wellbeing](#)**. There's no shame to **access support when you need it**, we want to **help you believe in yourself** as much as we do!

Confidence and wellbeing support available includes:

- **Wellbeing Appointments** - You can [book an initial appointment](#) to discuss and identify your needs and create a personalised action plan.
- **Counselling** - During your initial appointment it may be identified that you'd benefit from a referral to the [Counselling team](#) for one-to-one talking therapy.
- **Groups and Workshops** - There are a number of [groups and workshops](#) available throughout the year including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), meditation, mindfulness and self-harm support.
- **Active Wellbeing** - Through a wellbeing referral you can take advantage of the [Active Wellbeing Programme](#) aimed at improving your physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Specialist Support** - There's a range of [specialist support services for global ethnic majority students](#) to help make positive changes aligned with your personal values.
- **Self Help Resources** - You can also access a great range of [self help resources](#) to support and manage your wellbeing.

Hopefully this section has demonstrated the support available to you to help develop your **skills, confidence** and **boost your self-esteem**.

Your Future

Supporting your personal interests

Your University Library resources also include a [reading for pleasure collection](#) that has a variety of **fiction** and **non-fiction titles** available to loan. You can access your physical resources on the ground floor of Catalyst as well as a range of **eBooks**, **audiobooks** and **digital magazines** via the Libby app, aimed to **support your health, wellbeing** and **personal growth**.

Additional resources available include:

- **Libby App** - Access all your favourite reading for pleasure titles and more through the [Libby app](#). Explore eBooks, audiobooks and digital magazines in curated themed lists to easily find the most popular reading, or [request new titles to be added](#).
- **Browzine** - View top journals from your field in the [Browzine Scholarly Journal Room](#). Browzine is a browsable digital newsstand full of the Library's top journals, where you can easily discover, read and monitor key journals in your subject area.
- **Box of Broadcasts** - If you're more into films and radio then [Box of Broadcasts \(BoB\)](#) is the place for you. Although this is an educational resource you can access on-demand TV and radio from [over 75 free to air channels](#) and search an extensive archive of broadcasts.
- **Kanopy** - You can also search and stream thousands of movies, documentaries, foreign films, classic cinema and independent videos from [Kanopy](#) and it even has an app that allows you to watch on your favourite device or smart TV.

Preparing for your future

[Careers](#) can support your **personal growth** throughout your journey at Edge Hill, helping you build **employability skills** and **confidence**.

Careers Online

You can access a range of [Careers support online](#), including:

- Ask A Question via the Careers portal
- CV and personal statement reviews
- Apply for additional funding
- Access resources for work-based learning opportunities

Careers Guidance Appointments

You can be referred to an in-depth appointment specifically focused on planning for your future, including degree options and postgraduate study.

Applying for Jobs

When you're ready to start [applying for jobs](#) there's a wealth of support and guidance available for you. You can search for [graduate opportunities](#) through your [Careers portal](#) and access support for the application process, through CV and personal statement checks, as well as practicing mock interviews with a Careers Adviser.

Placements and Sandwich Years

Now, more than ever, it's important to gain experience in your chosen field that aligns with your career aspirations. You can [access a range of dynamic opportunities](#) to kick start your professional journey and help you stand out to prospective employers, all while you continue to study.

Volunteering

[Volunteering](#) can open the door to new opportunities and inspire your future career. You can connect with your communities and enhance your employability whilst gaining valuable work experience. The [University Archive](#) also offers a number of highly popular volunteering opportunities each year.

On Demand Resources

We know that life gets busy, and you won't always have the time to access support during standard office hours, that's why Careers have packaged together a selection of [on demand resources available 24/7](#).

- **CareerSet** - an AI CV improvement tool providing you with instant, personalised feedback
- **Shortlist.ME** - a mock video interview platform allowing you to practice your interview technique and providing individual and assessed feedback
- **Careers Pathways** - portal activities to support your skills and employability
- **Student Circus** - helping international students find skilled worker visa jobs in the UK and, if you plan to return home after graduation, jobs in your home country

- **Graduates First** - to practice psychometric tests often used in recruitment processes
- **Coaching Culture** - self-coaching support videos with activities to boost your confidence, overcome imposter syndrome and avoid procrastination

LinkedIn Learning

[LinkedIn Learning](#) provides you with full, free, unlimited access to thousands of high quality online courses and video tutorials written by industry experts to help develop your skills and boost your employability. Once you have completed a full course you will also gain a digital certificate which you can display on your LinkedIn profile.

Planning for graduation and beyond

The end of your degree may feel a long time off right now, but **establishing your goals** as early as possible can really help you break them down into more **manageable steps**, setting you up for a **successful future**.

Whatever your plans post-graduation there's lots of guidance and support available to help you **make an informed decision**. From scholarships and awards, to navigating your career options or even exploring post-graduate study.

Succession support available to you includes:

- **Alumni Library Membership** - Your love for reading and learning doesn't need to stop when you graduate. You can enjoy free access to the University Library to access a range of academic resources and loan up to five books with an [Alumni membership](#).
- **Graduate Money Matters** - Whether you're planning to continue with your studies, progress into employment or need any advice on saving, borrowing and credits [Money Advice](#) can offer information to help you plan for your future and achieve your long term goals.
- **Scholarships** - There are an array of [scholarships and awards](#) for current students, worth up to £2,000, celebrating student achievement, resilience, inspiring others and success beyond your studies.
- **Postgraduate Study** - If you have enjoyed studying with us for your undergraduate degree, why not explore continuing on in [postgraduate study](#). Recent graduates could also qualify for an [alumni discount](#) on eligible programmes of study.

- **Student Opportunity Fund** - You can apply for financial support via the [Student Opportunity Fund \(SOF\)](#) providing access to career enhancing experiences that may otherwise be unaffordable.
- **Graduate Careers Support** - Navigate a competitive job market with access to [expert careers information and support](#) for up to three years after you have graduated.
- **Care Leaver Bursary** - There is a [package of support available for care experienced and estranged students](#) (CEES) to enable your success and progression from Edge Hill. This includes a care leaver bursary of £1,000 for eligible students and full year accommodation on campus to alleviate any housing concerns over summer.

Hopefully this section has reassured you that there's lots of support available to guide and inform you on all your options, even after you graduated, to help you **reach your full potential** and have a **successful future ahead!**

How you can contact us

Your student portals

You can **access all of your specialist support teams direct** through your **student portals**. Logging into your student portals allows you to **explore support pathways**, browse and book on upcoming **events** and **workshop** and a range of **one-to-one appointments**.

You can access your student support portals online anytime and they are all linked from your [Student Homepage](#).

Contacting Catalyst Helpdesk

Always remember, you don't have to know *who* can support you as you can always contact the Catalyst Helpdesk and they will triage you to the right support.

- **[Ask Us @ Catalyst](#)** – Search the online knowledge base to explore frequently asked questions, live chat or submit your own question.
- **Catalyst Enquiries** – Send an email to CatalystEnquiries@edgehill.ac.uk and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.
- **Telephone** – Give us a call on 01695 650800 during Catalyst Helpdesk opening hours.
- **Visit Catalyst** – Catalyst is open 24/7 during term time and you can drop-in during Helpdesk opening hours to access support.

How we'll communicate with you

Catalyst Communications

We asked for student feedback on what you love (or loath) about how we communicate with you and **over 1,000 of you requested for us to communicate with you by email** - that's why we launched **CatComms emails**.

Every **second to last Wednesday of the month** you'll receive a **Catalyst Catch Up** email providing you with lots of **useful information, opportunities to engage, updates from your specialist support teams** and a handy **what's on table of events** happening the following month.

Catalyst Communications (CatComms) aims to keep you informed on all your essential **news, events** and **support** from your Catalyst specialist support teams via a **monthly email**.

Careers eNewsletters

You will also receive a **monthly Careers eNewsletter** based on your level of **career readiness**.

Follow us on Instagram

If you are more active on social channels then you can also follow all three of your Catalyst specialist support Services on **Instagram**.

Although we regularly work collaboratively with our social content each account has something slightly different to offer you:

- [Library and Learning Services](#) - Follow for news, events and support from academic skills to the archive and all the fun in between.
- [Student Life](#) - Follow to make the most of living and learning at Edge Hill, with loads of great events, competitions and trips.
- [Careers](#) - Follow for job opportunities, upcoming events and useful tips to achieve employability success.

Digital Screens

When you're out and about around **Ormskirk** and **Manchester St James'** campuses be sure to check out the many **digital screens** on display for useful events, support and services available for you.

Inside Catalyst you'll also find your giant **What's On Wall**, listing events and specialist support happening within the building, online and anything useful your specialist support teams are delivering outside of Catalyst in that coming week.

Useful things to do next

What can you do with your new found knowledge of Catalyst specialist support?

That's almost it from your Catalyst Induction Toolkit, we hope you've enjoyed exploring all the information and resources available to you as an Edge Hill student. There's not much left for you to do now except go and enjoy your university experience!

To help you get started you can also explore the checklist below for some **suggested activities** to help you have a successful start:

- [Contact the Catalyst Helpdesk if you have any questions](#)
- [Take a virtual tour of Catalyst](#)
- [Take a virtual tour of Manchester St James'](#)
- [Attend your Welcome \(or Welcome Back\) Fair](#)
- [Explore your Student Life portal and book on an event \(or two!\)](#)
- [Let us know how we could improve your Catalyst Induction Toolkit](#)
- [Remember you can revisit this toolkit 365 days a year, 24 hours a day](#)

Good luck on your **exciting journey** ahead, at **Edge Hill University** and **beyond!**

Your experience matters

Before you go...

Thank you for engaging with your Catalyst Induction Toolkit, we hope you've found it a useful introduction to all the specialist support available to you at Edge Hill University.

As you'll have learned from the toolkit, we **worked in partnership with students** to create this resource and want to keep our collaborative relationship going to **ensure we continue to deliver a great resource for you**.

We'd **love to know what you thought** about your Catalyst Induction Toolkit and invite you to complete a [very short survey](#) to share your feedback.