What’s it like at Scottish College?

- A creative, energising and committed community, exploring our faith in innovative ways
- Learning that draws on a wide range of disciplines and integrates different ways of thinking about big questions
- Fostering the growth of the individual and the community for ministry and for life
- A holistic space in which the whole of ministry and our lives are brought together
- Learning alongside elders, members, other ministers
- A safe space where deep trust is built to house significant conversations
- A flexible and spontaneous learning community in which we are not tied to pre-determined outcomes but can explore where the Spirit takes us
- A community in which all are learners and all are teachers
- People who know that fun is part of the joy of the Gospel
- Lots of eating together, of sharing conversation and of being open to epiphanies, large and small
- A framework that allows us to use a suitable university or learning partner near the student for the more ‘formal’ part of ministerial formation
- Going to a variety of settings - wherever we find there is an opportunity to experience and learn something new together
- Sharing in the life of the national synod of Scotland and beyond.

How did the Scottish College come to be what it is?

In the early days of Scottish Congregationalism, a clear priority emerged that the churches should have an educated ministry and a ‘theological hall’ was founded, in fact a little before the Union of churches came together.

Though constitutionally independent of the Union, the College has in many ways mirrored many of the values of those Congregationalists
- the importance of learning within discipleship
- an affirmation of the gifts of all and of mutual learning
- freedom of thought and openness to ideas from different sources
- an interaction between the academy and the church
- a rootedness of learning within the congregation and the community
- a readiness to partnering
- a strong ecumenical commitment.

In 2000, when the Congregational Union of Scotland and the United Reformed Church united, the College became recognised by the latter’s General Assembly as a ministerial training provider (and later as a resource centre for learning). It remains open to students from a continuing Congregationalist background should their sending church so determine.

The College has a particular relationship with the URC in Scotland and with Scottish ecumenical partners and celebrates its Scottish context, but it is enriched by students from other places and by an openness.

Staff of the College have often served in roles within the then Congregational Union of Scotland and subsequently the United Reformed Church.

From 2000, the Principal of the College has concurrently served ex officio the national Synod of Scotland of the URC as its training officer.
**Governance**

As a distinct educational institution, the College is self-governing. The key governing body is the College Management Committee, elected by annual meeting, consisting of four officers (of whom the Principal is one) and members on a rota basis. The officers act as trustees of the College and of various funds.

The College is recognised as a Scottish charity, registered number SCO4318

**Staffing**

The Principal is the academic head of the College, manages its day-to-day operations, is the main member of teaching and learning staff and represents the College professionally.

There are two part-time tutors who also participate in the teaching and learning.

Members of administrative staff who also serve the URC synod provide organisational and financial management support.

Others – ministers, elders, ecumenical colleagues – also contribute to the educational life of the College, in input to sessions and placement supervision.