Becoming a learning destination

with Children’s University Scotland

*Thank you for taking the time to find out more about becoming a public learning destination for Children’s University Scotland. This guide will explain what we do and guide you through the information we require to recognise you as a learning destination.*

# What we do

We are a charity that recognises and celebrates learning outside school hours. We do this by enabling children aged 5 to 14 to collect Children’s University credits for taking part in exciting educational opportunities after school, at home and in the local community. The learning journey is about developing practical and personal skills, building confidence, discovering new interests, and experiencing fun new ways to learn. Our aim is to raise aspirations, broaden horizons and promote family learning. For more information, see [www.childrensuniversityscotland.com](http://www.childrensuniversityscotland.com).

# How it works

When children join Children’s University through their school they receive a Passport to Learning which is used to record their wider achievement. Children can collect credits for taking part in a reading challenge, playing in a school sports team or visiting an art gallery, castle, science centre or nature reserve — the opportunities are almost endless. We celebrate learning through awards and certificates, presented at Children’s University graduations.

### **What is a learning destination?**

* A learning destination is anywhere child members of Children’s University can visit with family and friends to collect credits in their Passport.
* Small local clubs, large learning venues, regular activities, one-off events and even online activities – *anywhere* can be considered a learning destination, as long as they provide high-quality, accessible, enjoyable learning activities outside school lesson hours
* There are over 1,000 learning destinations across Scotland, and the list is growing all the time.
* Learning destinations provide an invaluable link between schools, families, and local communities.

*“Becoming a learning destination has been a great boost for us. Pupils love getting their Passports stamped each week for their lessons… CU is a truly unique widening participation project that we are proud to support and be a part of.”*

***Learning destination, East Lothian***

**1**

Fill out some details about your organisation and the activities you offer, using the form at the end of this guide

**4**

Once agreed, we’ll add you to our online list of destinations and get back to you to confirm. Now our members can view your opportunities and you can provide Passport credits if children ask you to.

**2**

Send this back to us by email or post

**3**

We’ll ensure your activities match our guidelines for validation (see below). We can discuss this with you by email/phone or during a visit.

**5**

You’re all set! You can request our logo as well as posters and stickers to promote your involvement and let families know they can collect credits with you.

**5 steps to becoming a learning destination**



# Guidelines and Responsibilities

This page sets out the conditions of involvement for new learning destinations.

Please read this carefully before completing the form to register with us.

## Criteria for validation

All prospective learning destinations are approved by a trained Children’s University validator. The validator will ensure that learning destinations meet the following criteria:

### Offer activities to children aged between 5-14 on a voluntary basis, outside school hours

### Host activities with clear learning outcomes, allowing for different styles of learning

### Offer exciting, inspirational, enjoyable learning activities that allow children to interact and collaborate

### Provide a safe, secure environment for learning with properly trained staff

### Be low cost or free, so there is no barrier for children to take part

## Responsibilities of the Public Learning Destination

* To have an identified individual for Children’s University within your organisation who will act as the main contact for all aspects of implementation, delivery, monitoring and evaluation and will be responsible for child protection and health and safety within the organisation, including ensuring all employees and activity leaders have the appropriate checks and training
* To comply with all relevant health and safety legislation and relevant child safety protection legislation

## Responsibilities of Children’s University Scotland

* To provide a main point of contact for the scheme
* To work with you to help identify and validate appropriate activities
* To receive confirmation from all learning providers that they comply with all relevant health and safety procedures and all relevant safeguarding policies; activities will not be listed on the member’s system or public website until this confirmation has been received

# Next steps:

1. Please complete the following Record of Validation form and return it to us by email or post
2. We’ll review the information provided in the form by email, phone call or visit

Once approved, we will upload the information to our website and send you confirmation

As a learning destination, you will then be able to award credits and can request our posters and logos for display at your venue.

For further information, contact **Children’s University Scotland:**

2nd Floor, 21 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DN

**e:** [contactus@childrensuniversityscotland.com](mailto:contactus@childrensuniversityscotland.com) **w:** [www.childrensuniversityscotland.com](http://www.childrensuniversityscotland.com)

***Thank you for helping children to aspire, achieve and celebrate learning.***

Children’s University Scotland (also known as CU Trust Scotland) is a registered Scottish charity no. SC043974.