



Cycling Scotland

Cycling Scotland is the nation's cycling organisation. Working with others, we get more people cycling, more safely and easily in a better environment. Our vision is a sustainable, inclusive and healthy Scotland where anyone, anywhere, can enjoy all the benefits of cycling.

Cycling Scotland is a Scottish Charity, SC029760, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Cycling Friendly Campus programme

The Cycling Friendly Campus programme offers support to help all colleges and universities across Scotland encourage cycling as a healthy, sustainable and accessible way for students and staff to travel. In supporting your campus to become Cycling Friendly, you can help us create a more welcoming, sustainable and active environment for all.

Why become a Cycling Friendly Campus?

The Cycling Friendly Campus award is a nationally recognised award that is awarded to colleges and universities in recognition of their clear commitment to increase the number of bike journeys made by students, staff and visitors.

There are many ways that encouraging cycling can benefit both students and staff:

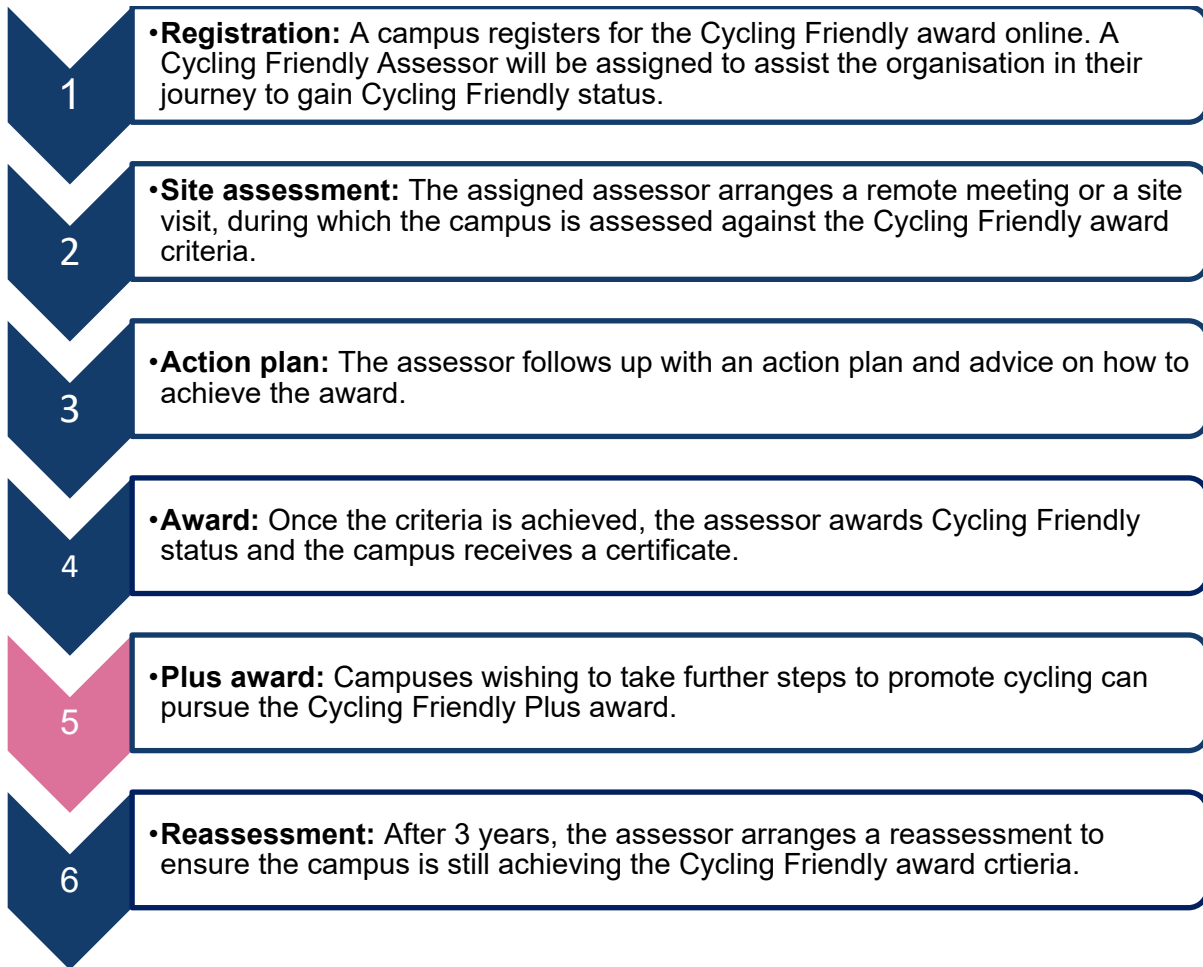
- Studies have shown that those who regularly cycle to work typically take fewer sick days than less active commuters.
- Regular exercise not only reduces stress and improves wellbeing, but can also increase energy and concentration levels, leading to happier, more productive students and staff.
- Cycling can cut travel expenses, ease congestion, improve the local environment and enhance institutional social responsibility by reducing the carbon footprint.
- Finally, working towards Cycling Friendly Campus status can support criteria for other campus awards.

Cycling Friendly Campus award

The Cycling Friendly Campus award provides a guiding framework, various resources and one-to-one support to equip higher and further education institutions with the tools to make cycling mainstream amongst the students and staff community. The Cycling Friendly Campus Plus award is designed for campuses who go the extra mile to promote cycling.

Campuses are assessed and awarded on a site-by-site basis. A designated Cycling Friendly Assessor will provide lead support throughout the process. Successful organisations will receive a Cycling Friendly comms pack with guidance on how to communicate their achievement.

A review of the award criteria was undertaken in 2026 with input from University and College stakeholders.



How to register

You can register for the Cycling Friendly Campus award [here](#). The Cycling Friendly site will be a platform to interact with your assessor, a go-to place for resources with a tailored action plan, information about funding, and details on renewing your award. You'll also be able to access your Award Communications pack to spread the news that you're a Cycling Friendly Campus.

For further information, or to view all of Cycling Scotland's projects, visit www.cycling.scot or contact us on CyclingFriendly@cycling.scot

Cycling Friendly Campus award criteria

The criteria of the Cycling Friendly Campus award fall into three categories: cycle facilities and access to bike; organizational policies and commitments that incentivise cycling; and promotion and monitoring. Not all criteria apply equally to every campus, and this is considered during the assessment process. The Cycling Friendly Campus Plus award lays out further actions that campuses can take to create an even more Cycling Friendly environment for their students and staff.

Facilities and Access to Bikes				
Criterion	Cycling Friendly requirements	Cycling Friendly Plus requirements	Example Evidence	Resources
Cycle parking and storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle parking is available for students and staff and fit for use • Cycle parking is in suitable and accessible location that students/staff are aware of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle parking is secure and sheltered • There is a fair and clearly communicated allocation process in place for staff/students to access secure cycle parking • Additional cycle parking is available for visitors (if applicable) • Maintenance or repair kit are available • Awareness of cycle parking in student/staff induction, intranet, and site maps • Accessible and secure charging points for e-bikes • Adequate signage is in place in and around the campus to direct stakeholders to the facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling Friendly assessment of facilities • Photos of facilities • Map and description of facilities on site • Awareness raising through staff/student induction, handbook and intranet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle storage and parking guidance
Changing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic changing area available and fit for use • Suitable and accessible location that students/staff are aware of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated changing area with seating and clothes hangers are available to both staff and students • Shower facilities are fit for purposes and available to both staff and students • Clothes and gear storage facilities/ lockers • There is a fair allocation process in place for staff/students to access lockers • Drying facilities are available and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling Friendly assessment of facilities • Photos of facilities • Map and description of facilities on site • Awareness raising through staff/student induction, handbook and intranet 	

		<p>promoted to staff/students, e.g., drying locker, heated clothes horse, drying room/cupboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing facilities are available for visitors • Adequate signage is in place in and around the campus to direct stakeholders to the facilities 		
Safe cycle routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable cycling routes to and from the campus have been identified and are promoted through adequate online and physical channels, e.g., intranet, posters on bike shelters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route mapping tools are promoted via adequate channels • Students and staff are offered one-to-one route planning sessions • The campus takes an active role in the development of local active travel infrastructure, e.g., through involvement in local consultations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and/or maps available via online and physical channels • Route planning sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Cycle Network Map • Cycling UK Journey Planner • CycleStreets • Ride with GPS
Access to bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are offered discounted or free access to bikes either through a pool bike scheme or via a corporate membership to a public bike hire scheme, e.g., VOI Bikes, Santander, etc. • Use of hire bikes refunded through expense claims for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool bike/s are well promoted through adequate channels • Easy and convenient booking systems with adequate induction • Fleet of various sizes and types of bikes available, e.g. hybrid bikes, e-bikes, folding bike, etc. • Accessories provided, e.g. panniers, waterproofs, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement with bike hire scheme providers • Awareness raising through staff/student induction, handbook and intranet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool Bike Guidance

Organisational Policies

Criterion	Cycling Friendly requirements	Cycling Friendly Plus requirements	Example Evidence	Resources
Cycle to Work scheme / Access to free or discounted bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Cycle to Work scheme is available to staff at least once a year Alternatively, discount with a local bike shop negotiated, pay-up scheme or long-term loan offered Staff are aware of scheme and process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle to Work scheme is available all year round/on request Cycle to Work scheme spending limit allows the purchase of e-bike and non-standard cycles e.g., cargo bikes, adapted bikes. Levels of uptake are monitored Cycle to Work Scheme provider offers opportunities for student discounts and/or staff ineligible to salary sacrifice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle to Work scheme agreement Awareness raising through staff induction, handbook and intranet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle to Work scheme implementation guidance Cyclescheme IntoCyclescheme Cycle Solutions Bike 2 Work Scheme Cycle 2 Work Halfords DASH Green Commute Initiative Transport to Work Toolkit Transport Scotland
Bicycle mileage allowance (staff only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable if staff do not travel for business HMRC recommended bike mileage rate paid (20p/mile) for staff Information included in expenses policy, claim form and staff handbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable if staff do not travel for business Well-promoted offer with demonstrable staff awareness HMRC recommended bike mileage rate exceeded Employer liability insurance covers use of own bikes for business journeys No requirement for employee insurance when claiming bike mileage in line with UK legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising through staff induction, handbook and intranet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel — mileage and fuel rates and allowances - GOV.UK
Sustainable travel hierarchy and strategic direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel hierarchy prioritises active and sustainable travel Incentives are offered for reducing car journeys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycling or active travel is part of a travel plan and/or strategy that sets out the organisation's commitment and strategy to encourage active and sustainable travel Measurable aims and objectives are embedded within the strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active travel plan Strategy document Commitment of resources and budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TravelKnowHow Scotland Templates and Advice. Sustainable Travel Hierarchy

<p>Other relevant initiatives to improve health, wellbeing and increase environmental awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment and action towards improving health and wellbeing, promoting physical activity and increasing environmental awareness • Dedicated platform/group to discuss climate and environmental staff initiatives, including cycling-related topics • Cycling is used to evidence criteria in other awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling is integrated into wider health, wellbeing and environmental activities • Senior management encourage cycling as travel choice, support environmental/sustainability/health & wellbeing groups or a Bicycle User Group, attend meetings and/or address flagged issues • Active engagement e.g. climate awareness and environmental programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, wellbeing and physical activity promotion and activities • Active environmental or similar group, which is accessible on intranet, emails, social media, etc. • Climate literacy programmes • Other awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Up a Green Team • Walking Workplaces • EAUC Communities • Mental Health Awareness Week
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Promotion and Monitoring				
Criterion	Cycling Friendly requirements	Cycling Friendly Plus requirements	Example Evidence	Resources
Cycling information and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to cycling information and resources shared with students and staff digitally and/or physically, e.g. through social media, intranet, noticeboards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated area for cycling information and resources in both print and online format • Cycling information part of new student and staff induction • Cycling information available on website for visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intranet, email or social media • Noticeboard and posters • Cycling freebies/gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling Friendly Comms pack and digital assets (for renewals only)
Cycling Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named cycling champion(s) leads on the promotion of cycling for everyday journeys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised support from senior management and/or agreed governance structure • Agreed responsibilities and protected time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment of staff time • Mission statement • Strategy document • Active travel plan 	
Partnerships and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership opportunities have been identified with local/national delivery organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional partnerships (local authorities or other active travel delivery partners) • Internal or external funding sources have been identified • Joint projects, promotion and events • Joint investment and sharing of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership agreement • Joint projects, promotion and events • Proposals and applications 	

Cycling events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional hosting of cycling events (min 1x year) Promotion of local/national dates, events, activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular hosting of cycling events (min 3x year) Bike maintenance events, such as Dr. Bike, are held during term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photos Records of attendance Awareness raising through posters, noticeboards, newsletter, social media, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle to Work Day
Cycle training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of cycle training resources to students, particularly around cycling on-road. New students should receive information including, but not limited to, blind spots, Highway Code and other elements to keep them safe Other adult cycle training resources are shared with students and staff Local cycle training opportunities are advertised/promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle training sessions and/or led rides offered on campus Instructor training opportunities for staff and students Bike maintenance training is offered at regular intervals throughout the academic year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photos Records of attendance Awareness raising through posters, noticeboards, newsletter, social media, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycling Scotland Training Page Road User Awareness Training Cycling Scotland's Essential Cycling Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online tutor PDF guide
Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional travel survey or other form of monitoring, e.g. bike counts, through HESA or related reporting requirements The views of students/staff have been requested in the travel survey and/or informally at engagement events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working towards an agreed target cycling rate Regular travel surveys or other forms of monitoring, e.g. bike counts Year-on-year comparative data is available and highlights trends in cycling rates Data acquired through monitoring is used to evaluate the success and overall impact of new cycling measures There is an active environmental/sustainability/health & wellbeing group, or a Bicycle User Group, where staff and students can request stakeholder input reactively and/or staff and students are represented on steering/working groups addressing active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel survey results Bike count data Bicycle User Group Monitoring and evaluation plan Lessons learned log Performance indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Survey Guidance