Professor James Smith was appointed Vice Principal International in November 2014, having held a personal chair of African and Development Studies since 2010. James has previously served as a director of the Centre of African Studies, the Innogen Centre and the Global Development Academy (where he was also Assistant Principal between 2011-14). James has previously held academic appointments at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (1997-2002) and worked with Oxfam Southern Africa (2001-03). He holds visiting professorships in Development Policy and Practice at the Open University and in the Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies at the University of Johannesburg.

James has held several advisory positions – he has been an advisor on DfID's Research Into Use programme and is currently a senior advisor to the ESRC-DfID Joint Scheme for Research on International Development and a trustee at the international NGO, Practical Action and of their publishing arm, Practical Action Publishing. James has experience working with donors, development agencies and NGOs including DfID, IDRC, CIDA, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Oxfam and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

UncoverED

https://global.ed.ac.uk/features/uncovered

The project, UncoverED, headed by PhD student Henry Mitchell and teaching fellow Tom Cunningham, is currently exploring the University’s global alumni between 1780s-1980s.

The pair originally started working together two years ago at the Centre for African Studies, looking at the University’s African alumni. Connections these alumni made with students from the Caribbean and Asia created the inspiration to expand on their findings and uncover the stories of more University of Edinburgh graduates from around the world.
Henry’s PhD research focuses on the work of Clements Kadalie, South Africa’s first major black trade union leader. Referring to his PhD research he said:

With the help of eight students, from various degree backgrounds, the UncoverED project has found numerous notable BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) alumni who have not been celebrated or recognised by the University. The intention is for these alumni whose stories have been rediscovered to be publicised in an exhibition, a website and added to the list of notable alumni online, which currently includes only three graduates of colour.