

History and Heritage

Founded in 1495 by William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen and Chancellor of Scotland, Aberdeen is Scotland's third oldest university, and the fifth most ancient in the whole United Kingdom.

Much of the original King's College still stands today, a famous historic landmark beloved of generations of students, academics, and local people who are, inspired by the finest examples of medieval and Renaissance craftwork remaining anywhere in Scotland.



Over the centuries our graduates and scholars have changed the world in many fields of human endeavour. Their legacy and inspiration lives on today in our wide-ranging museum collections, and in our uniquely-rich historic collections and archives, soon to be available to a wide audience in our new University library.

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