



UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN

# YOUR GUIDE

APPLICANT INFORMATION





## **Your University** At the University of Aberdeen we place our students first. That is why we are investing £270 million into facilities and resources, and have developed a brand new curriculum to further enhance the student experience.

### **THE DIFFERENCE**

#### **...the route to a top qualification**

Aberdeen is one of the UK's most internationally distinguished universities, with a superb reputation going back many centuries. But we're also very forward-thinking. We're at the forefront in many areas of arts and social sciences, in science, computing, engineering and technology, with courses including ground-breaking disciplines focused firmly on the 21st century.

The latest UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) ranks Aberdeen among the UK's top research universities. Nearly 90% of Aberdeen's research activity was rated as being of 'international quality' and 11 research areas ranked among the top 25% in the UK.

### **THE DIFFERENCE**

#### **...a world of choice and flexibility**

We know from experience that flexibility is very important in preparing our students for a world today in which new graduates need a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills.

What a choice! Over 600 courses, so you can mix, match and switch subjects as you discover new interests en route to your tailor-made degree.

You'll get the opportunity to become a truly well-rounded professional – adding a language, perhaps studying abroad, combining traditional arts with social sciences, and much more.

We encourage you to 'add on' subjects that not only interest you but will be useful and will make you attractive to a future employer. This means you could add a course in science or law to your arts degree. Similarly, you could add a modern language or management studies to your science degree.

Many students studying with us wish to experience the breadth and depth of opportunity offered by the four-year Honours degree programme. However, all students who possess good qualifications will be eligible for advanced entry.

As you work towards your degree, your own personal Adviser of Studies will be on hand to guide you through and give you all the help you need.

### **THE DIFFERENCE**

#### **...the path to a really great career**

Our track record speaks for itself! 91% of Aberdeen students enter into good jobs, research posts or further study within six months of graduating.

Our strong links with industry, major research centres and leading international universities means that our graduates really do have the world at their feet.

Every year top companies headhunt our graduates, knowing that Aberdeen students have the degrees, the subjects and the skills they are seeking to keep ahead in the international marketplace.

Whatever your degree, our Careers Service will use its huge experience to help you plot your strategy and secure that all-important first rung on the ladder to a satisfying and successful career.

### **THE DIFFERENCE** ...a brilliant social life

It's the time of your life! University means much more than study. Being a student means making new friends from many backgrounds and countries. It means opportunities to get involved in new interests and new experiences that you might never have thought about before.

Students describe Aberdeen as offering an unrivalled social scene and Aberdeen has been voted one of the best places to be a student in the UK by an independent poll! When you arrive we'll help you get to know your way around and the special Freshers' Week programme will quickly make you feel at home.

### **THE DIFFERENCE**

#### **...the opportunity to develop your interests**

New opportunities, new interests, new experiences, new friends. We've got them all in abundance at Aberdeen.

If you enjoy sport you couldn't pick a better place to study. We have clubs for over 50 different sports and our indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities are truly first-class with our Olympic standard regional sports facility, Aberdeen Sports Village.

Want to broaden your horizons? Our numerous international connections offer opportunities for many of our students to study abroad for part of their degree. We offer exchange programmes with universities in North America, Hong Kong, Japan and across Europe.

## Your University

The University boasts one of the most beautiful and historic campuses in the UK, with excellent teaching and leisure facilities side-by-side.

### THE DIFFERENCE

#### ...all the support and guidance you need

We'll not only guide you with your course choices, we'll assist you with looking after your health, your finances, your career, your personal and social life, and any other needs you have.

We'll help you settle in when you arrive, will be there when you need us, and will advise you on how to stay safe while you get the most out of student life.

Our network of support includes the Welfare Advice Officer to help with anything from grants and accommodation to employment. The friendly support of our Student Resident Assistants will enable you to optimise your experience of life in our Halls of Residence.

Finances can be a worry, but the Money Advice Service can advise on personal budgeting, and the AUSA Student Advice Centre can help you find part-time and vacation work if you need it, which won't impact on your studies.

Grampian's buoyant local economy means there's no shortage of holiday and part-time work.

The nearby Medical Centre and the Counselling Service are always ready with a listening ear and sensible advice.

The Chaplaincy is accessible to those of all faiths or none, and we have a team of chaplains drawn from a range of denominations and faiths.

We extend a special welcome to students with disabilities and medical conditions. We're happy to show you around the campus so that you can assess how suitable our facilities will be for your individual needs. Our Student Support Officer/Disability Advisers will support you throughout your stay with us and you are encouraged to make contact with them as early as possible.

Tel: +44 (0)1224 273935 or

E-mail: [student.disability@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.disability@abdn.ac.uk)

Over a fifth of our students are over 21 when they begin their degrees and many are considerably more mature. We provide special flexibility, support and encouragement for mature applicants, including a special team of advisers.

Our Rocking Horse Nursery on the campus provides friendly and stimulating childcare for the children of students and staff.

### THE DIFFERENCE

#### ...the city that has it all

Welcome to Scotland's third largest city – a place with a unique combination of historic and contemporary cosmopolitan charm. Bustling by day, lively by night – and a centre for industry, research, learning and life, Aberdeen truly has something for everyone. Big enough for the 'big city' experience, student-friendly Aberdeen is still small enough to make it easy to find your way around and make friends.

From the historic 15th century University campus in Old Aberdeen it's just a short walk to the bustling city centre of Europe's energy capital. It's just half-an-hour from the buzz of Union Street to the tranquillity of the nearby hills and countryside in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.

Where else can you have lectures in the morning and ski in the afternoon, or sail, or windsurf, or hillclimb, or canoe or...? It's all here – and all so close at hand.

At night Aberdeen really lights up with a nightlife second to none, with venues ranging from trendy clubs, to old-world pubs full of atmosphere, and everything in between. Our vibrant local music scene suits all tastes and includes regular major tour gigs by the biggest names around.

Aberdeen also caters for all tastes in arts, culture, leisure and entertainment with our well-known theatre and performing venues, cinema multiplexes, art gallery, maritime museum and first-class sports and leisure facilities.

And shopaholics be warned! Aberdeen has everything from designer boutiques and shopping malls with a distinctly European flavour to great value high street stores and charity shops filled with bargains to put together your own individual look.

#### To find out more you might want to look at the following websites:

Study Aberdeen - Lonely Planet Guide:

[www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/lonely-planet-guide.pdf](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/lonely-planet-guide.pdf)

Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board:

[www.aberdeen-grampian.com](http://www.aberdeen-grampian.com)

Aberdeen City Council: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)

Visit Scotland: [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

Aberdeen City and Shire Portal:

[www.aberdeencityandshire.com](http://www.aberdeencityandshire.com)

## 10 Reasons To Make Aberdeen Your First Choice!

### Choice and flexibility

It's your degree and we believe it should be planned around you, with the freedom to plan your own programme of study from a wide choice of options.

### A proven track record for employment, with the best head-start your career can get

Our experience and connections can help secure that all-important first step on the ladder to a successful career. 91% of our students enter good jobs, research posts or further study within six months of graduating.

### Opportunities to develop yourself and your interests

Not only academic qualifications to rival the best, but also personal, communication and teamwork skills to make you an all-round achiever in whatever you choose to do.

### A buzzing, friendly city that has it all

Aberdeen is historic, international, fashionable and friendly. Home to 250,000 people, it's the perfect place for work, for leisure and for play!

### Cultural hub

The University is committed to supporting a wide range of cultural activities. In 2012 we were proud to host the British Science Festival. Highlights included lectures from Brian Cox and Bill Bryson as well as a T-Rex roaming the campus.

### The academic strength you'd expect from a 500 year old university - yet right at the forefront for careers in the 21st century

A thriving, cosmopolitan academic community with students from 120 countries.

### Multi-million £ investment

£270 million is being invested into new facilities and resources for students, including a flagship new library, student centre and Olympic standard sports village.

### First-class accommodation

All new students are guaranteed a place in student accommodation, either on the campus or close by, with brand new ensuite bedrooms recently opened.

### A supportive community

With student support services that rank among the best in the UK, and a self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city, we'll help you quickly feel at home.

### We're on the map!

Aberdeen is probably closer than you think. Cheap and regular air, rail and bus connections will get you around Scotland, the UK and over to Europe in no time.



## Stop Press!

### THE DIFFERENCE

There has never been a more exciting time to embark on studies with the University of Aberdeen! Our aim is to develop the learning and support services that we provide to ensure that our students have the opportunities to gain the skills to succeed in the global market place. This includes our £57 million flagship library, our Olympic standard sports village, wireless campus, and the implementation of a new curriculum for students.

Following an extensive review process, the University has now taken significant steps to modernise the structure, content, delivery and flexibility of our degree programmes in line with major international universities such as Harvard, Yale, Melbourne and Hong Kong.

This comprehensive review and resulting proposals will help Aberdeen graduates to leave the University academically excellent and intellectually flexible, whilst also being critical thinkers, effective communicators and active citizens. To find out more, please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/thedifference](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/thedifference)

### Come and visit us...

You'll receive your invitation to attend one of our Applicant Days with your offer letter.

If you can't make the Applicant Day, we have an open door policy throughout the year so you can arrange a private visit at a time that suits you.

**Tel: +44 (0)1224 272090/91**

**E-mail: [sras@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sras@abdn.ac.uk)**

**Science and Engineering Applicant Day – 27 February 2013**

**Arts and Social Sciences Applicant Day – 6 March 2013**

**Engineering Applicant Day – 20 March 2013**

**Law Applicant Days – 8 March 2013**

**– 22 March 2013**

**University-wide Open Day – 27 August 2013**



### Scholarships

We recognise that being a student can be costly, so we offer a wide range of scholarships which could help manage your expenses. The scholarships are worth £1,000 for every year of undergraduate study for the length of your degree. Awards are split between merit awards, for students with exceptional academic qualifications, and access awards, for students who might find it difficult to enter higher education without financial support. We also offer accommodation bursaries for students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland to offset some of your living costs. Scholarships are also available for music and sport, and certain academic disciplines have their own scholarships available.

For more information visit our website at

[www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/scholarships](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/scholarships)

or visit our Funding Database at [www.abdn.ac.uk/funding](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/funding)

### Tuition fees

#### Scotland

For Scottish-domiciled students the first step to find out more about, and apply for, financial support is to contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS): Tel: **0300 555 0505** or visit the SAAS website at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

#### England, Wales and Northern Ireland

From 2012 onwards, students from England, Northern Ireland and Wales will pay no more than £27,000 for a four-year degree programme but the rate per year is set at £9,000. Those who wish to take advantage of the breadth of study offered by a four-year degree will only pay for three years of study at a rate of £9,000, meaning that total fees for a four-year degree at Aberdeen will be equivalent to those for a three-year degree in other parts of the UK.

For students studying Medicine and Dentistry, the tuition fees will be £9,000 for every year of study, and for those students taking enhanced degrees, such as our five year undergraduate Engineering (MEng) and Biological Sciences (MSci) programmes, amongst others, the cost will be £9,000 for four years, with no student paying more than £36,000 for the full degree.

Students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland can apply to the Student Loans Company for a tuition

fee loan. This tuition fee loan is paid directly to the University by the Government and students only need to start repaying the loan once earning over £21,000 (£15,795 for students from Northern Ireland) after graduation, with all outstanding debt written off after 30 years. In addition, Government grants are available, and it is estimated that up to a quarter of undergraduate students will benefit from extra financial support from 2012.

Our website has all of the information you'll need about tuition fees, costs of study and scholarships. Visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/sras](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sras) for further details.

You can also find out more about student finance at:

#### Students from England

Student Finance England

Tel: +44 (0)845 300 5090

[www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk)

#### Students from Wales

Student Finance Wales Contact Centre

Tel: +44 (0)845 602 8845

[www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

#### Students from Northern Ireland

Student Finance

Tel: +44 (0)845 600 0662

[www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk)

Our Student Support Office provide a Money Advice Service and can advise on personal budgeting, and our AUSA Student Advice Centre can help you find part-time and vacation work if you need it, which won't impact on your studies. Aberdeen's buoyant local economy means there's no shortage of holiday and part-time work on offer and students find Aberdeen a less expensive city to live in than Edinburgh or Glasgow.

*The information in this guide was correct at the time of going to print, October 2012.*

The University of Aberdeen continues to pursue best practice and high standards of service for all students. If you would like to receive this document in an alternative format, please contact the Student Recruitment and Admissions Service for more information. Tel: +44 (0)1224 272090/91 E-mail: [sras@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sras@abdn.ac.uk)



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Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/sras/applicants](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sras/applicants)



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