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UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN

A Parents' Guide

Rachel Sandison

**Director of Marketing, Student
Recruitment & Alumni Relations**

Making the Right Choices

- Range of opportunities in Higher Education is enormous and exciting
- A third of young people now progress from school to university
- 55,000 degree and diploma courses on offer in the UK



First Step to a Rewarding Career

- Provides skills, knowledge and understanding for progression to a variety of careers
- Helps develop transferable skills for a dynamic job market
- Increases earning potential
- Increases maturity and confidence



The University at a Glance

- **Founded in 1495**
- **World-class institution, boasting 5 Nobel Prize winners**
- **Top 1% in the world**
- **Around 16,000 students**
- **120 nationalities**
- **Over 650 degree programmes**
- **Research Intensive – around 90% of research activity of international quality**

The University at a Glance

3 Colleges divided into the following disciplines:

- **Arts & Divinity**
- **Social Sciences & Law**
- **Medicine, Dentistry & Medical Sciences**
- **Science & Engineering**
- **Education**



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500 Years of Excellence





Investing in Our Students' Future



- Curriculum Reform
- £270 Million Investment
- The Hub
- Wireless campus
- Aberdeen Sports Village
- Suttie Centre
- Library



Curriculum Reform

- **Aligned with developments in the world's leading universities**
- **Following research with employers, alumni, teachers, students and parents**
- **More choice; wider opportunities; better support and greater flexibility**
- **Enhanced Study Options – Sixth Century Courses, Sustained Study Programmes, Discipline Breadth Courses and Co-curricular activities**
- **Produce graduates for the 21st century – better informed, more rounded and intellectually flexible**



Choice and Flexibility

First and Second Year

- MA & BSc students study their chosen degree subject e.g. Psychology, and up to four other subjects in each of their first two years
- Try out new subjects and tailor their degree to suit their needs and interests
- Flexible system allows students to change degree intention up to the end of second year, in consultation with their Adviser of Studies
- Professional qualifications e.g. Law, Teaching, do not offer the same flexibility



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Aberdeen Sports Village





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Flagship Library





In the News

- Prof Paul Mealor – Xmas No 1 and Brit Award nominee
- Dr Alan Jamieson – ‘Supergiant’ Amphipods
- Professor Andrew Hurst – awarded the 2012 *Grover E Murray Distinguished Educator Award* by AAPG
- British Science Festival 2012





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Study Abroad





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Employment Prospects





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Admissions Process

Ali Clark
Marketing Officer



Admission Process

Application to UCAS

15th January

**UNIVERSITIES make offers
Conditional & Unconditional**

By End March

**UCAS sends some statements by letter
and other communications to Track**

**STUDENT replies to each offer
Firm Acceptance (F) Insurance (I) Decline (D)**



Medicine Admission Process

www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective-students
www.ukcat.ac.uk (for 2007 applicants onwards)

Application to UCAS

15th October

**UNIVERSITIES Make Offers
Conditional & Unconditional**

**Offers by end
March
2012**

Based on 3 stage scoring system

**(A) Academic Scoring including UKCAT,
(B) UCAS Application, (C) Interview**



Education Admissions Process

Application to UCAS

**15th January
2012**

**UNIVERSITIES Make Offers
Conditional & Unconditional**

Interviews Feb

**Based on 3 stage scoring system
Criminal record check**

**(A) Academic Scoring,
(B) UCAS Application, (C) Interview**



Admission Process

Ways to Accept Offers

- (UF)** Unconditional offer, **F**irmly accepted
- (CF)** **C**onditional offer, **F**irmly accepted
- (CF+CI)** **C**onditional offer, **F**irmly accepted +
Conditional offer as **I**nsurance
- (CF+UI)** **C**onditional offer **F**irmly accepted offer +
Unconditional offer as **I**nsurance



Admissions Process

When to Reply

Last decision from University

31st March 2012

10th May 2012

Reply Date

9th May 2012

7th June 2012

UCAS will issue some SMS
reminder messages



Admissions Process

UCAS Extra

- Possible to make sequential applications
- If all 5 choices used and no offers received/accepted
- Opens 24 February 2012
- Application locked for 21 working days
- Can accept or decline, if decline can apply to next choice
- Live up to and including 30th June 2012, then join Clearing



Admission Process

Confirmation when results come out

Offer confirmed
or alternative offer
made

Clearing



Applicant Portal

- Unique online applicant portal that allows your son or daughter to check the status of their application and receive important information quickly
- Offer letters, applicant guides, accommodation guides will all be sent out electronically through the portal
- Check regularly
- Developed directly in response to requests from applicants to receive information electronically



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Applicant Days & Visits

- BSc – 29th Feb 2012
- MA – 7th March 2012
- Engineering – 29th February 2012
- Law – 16th and 23rd March 2012
- Open Door policy – tour campus and visit departments. Normally require 2 weeks notice





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Finance

Student Finance England

Web: www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Student Loans Company

Web: www.slc.co.uk

Telephone: 0845 073 8891



Fees-Rest of UK

- Variable tuition fees are now charged at all UK institutions. Maximum £9,000 per year, which nearly every institution charges.
- Fees do not have to be paid upfront – fee loans available.



Student Loans

- Support living costs
- £5,500 is the maximum available for a student living away from home (not London)
- 25% means tested – the remaining 75% is not income assessed
- Very low interest (linked to inflation, not for profit)
- Only pay back when earning £21,000+ p.a. gross
- For example if you were earning £21,000 you would pay back approximately £7.50 per month



Student Loans

- Tuition fee payment can be deferred by taking out a separate fee loan
- Maintenance grants of up to £3,250 available for low income households (does not need to be repaid)
- Household income of less than £25,000 – student receives full grant
- Household income between £25,001 - £426000 – student receives partial grant
- Household income of more than £42,600 – student receives no grant



Cost of Study at Aberdeen

- Tuition Fees for students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland beginning studies with us in 2012 will be £9,000 per year
- No student will pay more than £27,000 for a full four-year Honours degree programme (with the exception of Enhanced degrees and Medicine and Dentistry)
- This means students who wish to come and experience the full four-year Honours degree programme in Scotland will not be disadvantaged
- Advanced Entry option for good A-level students will also be possible



Scholarships

- **Access Scholarship – means tested scholarship with 2 bands:**
 - Residual income less than £20k - £3k for 3 years
 - Residual income of between £20k and £30k - £2k a year for 3 years
- **Merit Scholarship – for RUK with AAB at A Level or equivalent**
 - £3k a year for 4 years
- **Scholarships also available on discipline specific level, or for sporting and music excellence**



Finance- Student Funding

- Fee loans and support loans – Repayments taken from source (9% of income over £21,000)
- Parental Contribution
- Grants/Bursaries
- Part-time Work
- Savings



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Student Life

James Wright
Graduate of Aberdeen



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Student Life





Home from Home



Catered

- From £137 per week
- Food £15 per week
- 38 week lease
- Total = £5,776

Self-catered

- From £65 per week
- Food £30 per week
- 38 week lease
- Total = £3,610



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Support from a Caring Community



- Adviser of Studies
- Medical Practice
- Chaplaincy
- Counselling Service
- Careers Service
- Joblink



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AUSA- Students' Association

- Info & Advice Centre
- Niteline
- The Sabbs
- AUSA Council
- Events





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Study and Assessment



- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Private Study
- Library Facilities
- Wireless campus



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Freshers' Week



- Week before term starts
- Move in and make friends
- Meet Adviser
- Find out about clubs and societies



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Sports



- On-campus facilities
- Over 50 Clubs
- Learn new sports
- Teams & Competitions
- Social side of sport



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Clubs and Societies



- Over 150
- Sublime and Ridiculous!
- Gaudie
- ASR
- Meet other people from other Universities
- Charities Campaign



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Social Life

- Student friendly city
- Beach, Theatre, Cinema, Shopping!
- Music venues
- Great outdoors





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Keep in Touch

**Student Recruitment & Admissions will be running
online events for parents on:**

Wednesday 29th February 2012 – 6-8pm

Monday 12th March 2012 – 6-8pm



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FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact:
Student Recruitment and Admissions Service



T: 01224 272090 / 91

E: sras@abdn.ac.uk

W: www.abdn.ac.uk/sras

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