



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 Mealar – 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



# Admissions Process

**James Wright**  
**Recruitment & Admissions Officer**

# Admission Process

**Application to UCAS**

**15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/medicine/prospective-students)  
[www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk) (for 2007 applicants onwards)

**Application to UCAS**

**15<sup>th</sup> 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**

**15<sup>th</sup> 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 +  
**C**onditional offer as **I**nsurance
- (CF+UI)** **C**onditional offer **F**irmly accepted offer +  
**U**nconditional offer as **I**nsurance

# Admissions Process

## When to Reply

**Last decision from University**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Reply Date**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

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



# Finance

## SAAS - Student Awards Agency for Scotland

**W: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)**

**T: 0300 555 0505**

## Fees-Rest of UK

- Variable tuition fees are charged at UK institutions outside of Scotland. Maximum £9,000 per year, which nearly every institution charges. Scottish students can take a fee loan out from SAAS to pay for this.
- Scottish students studying in Scotland can apply to SAAS to have their tuition fees paid

# Finance Student Support

- SAAS pay tuition fees for Scottish domiciled students
- Student Loan - max £5,570, min £940 (this level if non income assessed)
- You can apply for the amount you are entitled to or less
- Additional loan up to £810 if parental income is £22,789 or less a year
- Young Students' Bursary - maximum £2,640. Means tested, nil if parental income above £34,195
- Independent Students' Bursary – maximum £1,000 for those who are over 25 and who have self supported for a minimum of three years. Limits as YSB apply.

# Finance-Additional Support

- Discretionary Funds
- Dependent Grants-Means Tested
- Lone Parents Grants- Means Tested
- Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) - not means tested

# Finance- Student Funding

- Student Loan – Repayments taken from source (9% of income over £15,795)
- Parental Contribution
- Grants/Bursaries
- Part-time Work
- Savings

# Student Life

**Adam Downie**  
**President for Sport**





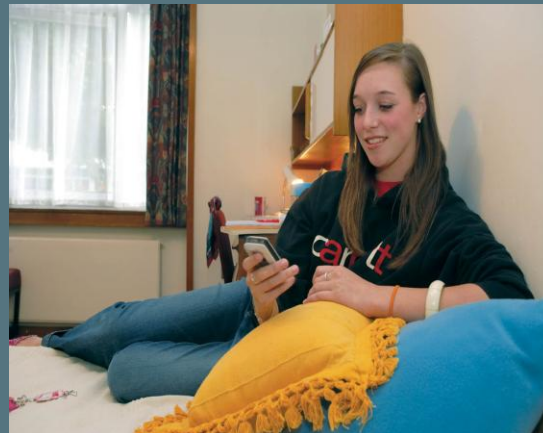
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# Student Life





# Home from Home



## Catered

- From £129.56 per week
- Food £15 per week
- 38 week lease
- Total = £5,493.28

## Self-catered

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

# Support from a Caring Community



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

# AUSA- Students' Association

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





# Study and Assessment



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

# Freshers' Week



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



# Sports



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

# Clubs and Societies



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



# Social Life



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

# Keep in Touch

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

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 – 6-8pm**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – 6-8pm**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact:  
Student Recruitment and Admissions Service



T: 01224 272090 / 91

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

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

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase font on a dark blue rectangular background.