

A GUIDE TO
UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

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UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN





THE UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

- ✿ FOUNDED IN 1495
- ✿ OVER 16,000 STUDENTS
- ✿ 20% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
- ✿ 120 NATIONALITIES
- ✿ RANKED IN THE TOP 150 IN THE WORLD
- ✿ 90% OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY IS OF INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AND 55% IS WORLD-LEADING OR INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT
- ✿ 97% OF GRADUATES ENTER DIRECTLY INTO WORK, FURTHER STUDY OR TRAINING WITHIN 6 MONTHS
- ✿ LARGEST WIRELESS CAMPUS IN EUROPE
- ✿ OVER 600 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES
- ✿ STUDY ABROAD EXCHANGES WORLDWIDE
- ✿ OLYMPIC STANDARD SPORTS VILLAGE
- ✿ LIBRARIES WITH OVER 1,050,000 VOLUMES
- ✿ OVER 150 SPORTS CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
- ✿ £270 MILLION PLANNED INVESTMENT OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT www.abdn.ac.uk/about/facts



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO APPLY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirements are the standards and subjects required for entry into our degree programmes. You will find them alongside each degree in the online prospectus at www.abdn.ac.uk/prospectus/ugrad. If you are applying for a very competitive programme, such as Education, Law or Medicine, simply achieving the entry requirements does not guarantee entry. For these degrees we will pay special attention to your Personal Statement and Referee's Report, as well as looking at your grades.

A Scottish Honours degree normally takes four years to complete. The University also offers a number of undergraduate Master degrees in disciplines including Chemistry, Computing, Engineering, Medical Sciences and Physics; these normally take five years. Some language programmes take five years as they include a year of study or work abroad; there are some programmes which include a year's industrial placement and these also last for five years, as does the MB ChB degree.

ADVANCED ENTRY

If you have very good qualifications you can be admitted to the second year of study in many of our degree programmes, enabling you to complete an Honours degree in three years. In some cases it is even possible to enter the third year of a degree programme – in which case you are an Honours student from the start.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for full-time undergraduate degree programmes at the University of Aberdeen – as to other UK universities – are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The exceptions are for part-time courses, and non-graduating or visiting students, who apply direct to the University (see www.abdn.ac.uk/sras for further details). Medical applicants (A100) and Graduate Dental applicants (A201) must take the UK CAT Admissions Test. More information can be found at www.ukcat.ac.uk

- You apply online to UCAS and schools and colleges can provide advice and guidance. UCAS expects to receive most applications electronically through Apply.
- Your completed application should be submitted (preferably via Apply) to UCAS with the applicant's fee. If you wish to apply for only one course at one institution, a reduced price applies. For all applicants, there are full instructions at www.ucas.com to make it as easy as possible for you to fill in your online application, plus help text where appropriate.
- You may apply to up to five institutions on the full-price UCAS application. You should list your choices in the order in which they appear in UCAS documentation. Applicants for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science should list no more than four such courses in their five choices.

- Although admission at Aberdeen is to a degree and not to a particular Department or subject, you should still enter your preferred degree programme title and UCAS code in your UCAS application. However, in most cases it is easy to change your degree preference after you have begun your course.

Closing Dates

15 October for all Dental, Veterinary Science/Medicine applicants and anyone including the universities of Oxford or Cambridge among their choices.

15 January for all other applicants.

Late applications may be considered at the discretion of the University. Students who live outside the European Union can apply at any time between early September and 30 June, unless they are applying for Oxford or Cambridge or the courses listed above.

However, please remember that most UK students will apply before 15 January, and some popular courses might not have places available after that date. Students should check with universities and colleges if they are applying after 15 January. Students from outside the EU should allow enough time to arrange immigration, travel and accommodation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You will receive an acknowledgement letter from us. Your application will be considered by one of our Admissions Selectors and a decision will be made as soon as possible*. You will hear from UCAS and also from the University. One of four things can happen:

- You will be made an unconditional offer if you already have the qualifications to meet our requirements.
- You will be made a conditional offer if you don't yet have all of the necessary passes that we require.
- You may be invited for interview – this is part of the normal selection process for Medicine, Graduate Dental degree, Education and Music only.
- You may, if it is obvious from your application that you cannot meet our requirements, be advised that we could not make an offer at this stage.

After you have received your offer from the University, you decide whether you wish to accept it. UCAS send you detailed instructions of when and how to reply. We hope that you will make Aberdeen your firm choice.

*In the case of an application to the MB ChB, Graduate Dental degree, a BEd programme or to a BMus programme, applicants may be asked to attend an interview. It is unlikely that any offers will be made until the end of March of the year of entry to allow for completion of these interviews.

Staff in our Student Recruitment and Admissions Service are happy to answer any questions you may have about entry requirements or how to apply to the University. E-mail sras@abdn.ac.uk or visit www.abdn.ac.uk/sras for details.

LIST OF DEGREE PROGRAMMES

We admit you to a degree rather than to a subject, School or Department, so you can usually study any subjects which interest you, and even change direction as your interests and ambitions develop. This means that for most degrees you do not need to worry too much about getting it absolutely right on your UCAS application. A Scottish Honours degree normally takes four years to complete, so you can usually delay your final choice until the end of your second, or sometimes third year.

The MA and BSc degrees are especially flexible, and the LLB and BTh programmes also offer some flexibility. Other degrees like the MEng, the MB ChB or our range of Education degrees – which train you for a specific profession – offer less flexibility, as the content of these courses must satisfy the relevant professional organisation.

In many cases, two subjects can be studied to Honours level, leading to the award of either a Joint Honours, or a Major-Minor Honours degree. For full details of what is available, consult the undergraduate prospectus at www.abdn.ac.uk/prospectus/ugrad

ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

DIVINITY & THEOLOGY

EDUCATION

MUSIC

ENGINEERING

LAW

MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

SCIENCES

- Accountancy
- Animal Ecology
- Anthropology
- Archaeology (BSc)
- Archaeology (MA)
- Artificial Intelligence
- Behavioural Studies (Bsc)
- Behavioural Studies (MA)
- Belgian Law
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biomedical Science
- Biotechnology
- BSc/MA Joint Honours with Education (Primary or Secondary)

- Business Information Systems
- Business Law
- Celtic Civilisation
- Celtic Studies
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Chemistry (MChem)
- Civil Engineering
- Computing (MA)
- Computing & E-Business
- Computing Science (BSc)
- Conservation Biology
- Dentistry (Graduates only)
- Divinity (BD)
- Divinity (MA)
- Ecology
- Economics
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronic Engineering
- English
- English and Scottish Literature
- Entrepreneurship
- Environmental Science
- European Languages and 20th Century Culture
- European Legal Studies
- European Management Studies
- European Studies
- Film and Visual Culture
- Finance
- Forestry
- Forest Sciences
- French Law
- French
- Gaelic Studies
- Genetics
- Geographical Information Systems
- Geography (BSc)
- Geography (MA)
- Geology and Petroleum Geology
- Geoscience
- German
- German Law
- Health Sciences
- Health Studies
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- History of Art
- Human Embryology and Developmental Biology
- Immunology

Information Systems
 Information Systems & Management
 International Relations
 Language & Linguistics
 Languages and Literature of Scotland
 Latin-American Studies/Hispanic Studies
 Law
 Legal Studies
 Literature in a World Context
 Management Studies
 Marine Biology
 Marine and Coastal Resource Management
 Mathematics (BSc)
 Mathematics (MA)
 Mechanical Engineering
 Medical Humanities
 Medical Microbiology
 Medicine
 Microbiology
 Molecular Biology
 Molecular Microbiology
 Music Studies (MA)
 Music (BMus)
 Natural Philosophy
 Neuroscience with Psychology
 Parasitology
 Petroleum Engineering
 Petroleum Geology
 Pharmacology
 Philosophy
 Physical Science
 Physics
 Physics with Complex Systems Modelling (MPhys)
 Physiology
 Plant Biology
 Plant & Soil Science
 Politics
 Politics & International Relations
 Primary Education
 Property
 Property and Spatial Planning
 Psychology (BSc)
 Psychology (MA)
 Religious Studies
 Scottish Studies
 Secondary Education
 Sociology
 Spanish
 Spanish Law

Spatial Planning
 Sports & Exercise Science
 Sports Studies (Exercise and Health)
 Theology
 Wildlife Management
 Zoology

CURRICULUM REFORM: 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 are well supported and have the opportunities to gain the skills to succeed in the global market place. This includes the completion of our Olympic standard sports centre, the development of a flagship library for the 21st century, and the implementation of a new curriculum for students.

Following an extensive review process, which saw engagement with top employers, professional bodies, academics, the Government, and current and prospective students, parents and teachers, 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, visit www.abdn.ac.uk/thedifference

INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT

All students who are studying for a degree within the School of Medical Sciences (apart from Applied Sports Science – Education) are eligible to apply for a year's industrial placement. This gives the student an opportunity to spend the 4th year of their degree in paid employment and graduate after five years with an MSci (an undergraduate Masters degree instead of a BSc). Some of our other degrees also include the option of an industrial placement, visit www.abdn.ac.uk/prospectus/ugrad for details.

STUDY ABROAD

Many Aberdeen students complete part of their degree study in another country. Modern Languages degrees require that you spend time in the country or countries whose languages you are studying, but many other degree programmes also offer opportunities to study abroad. Visit the websites below for further information.

International Exchange Programme

www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/international-exchange

Erasmus Programme

www.abdn.ac.uk/erasmus

STUDENT LIFE

ACCOMMODATION

All single students are guaranteed a room for the first year of study and all accommodation is either on or within close walking distance to the University campus. We offer a mixture of catered and self-catered accommodation. Students can choose from a variety of Residence Halls including Hillhead Halls, our 'student village' which is home to nearly 2,500 students, Elphinstone Road, Crombie-Johnston or University Partnership accommodation, Spring Gardens or King Street Exchange.

Students choosing not to live in a Hall of Residence can choose from a wide range of alternative accommodation throughout the city. There are student lodgings available in all parts of Aberdeen - single or shared rooms, at various levels of luxury, with prices ranging accordingly. The Student Accommodation Office can provide a list of Solicitors and Estate Agents on request. Information regarding alternative accommodation can also be obtained from the Students' Association.

www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation

FINANCE

Our comprehensive website has all of the information you'll need about tuition fees, costs of study and scholarships.

www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance

STUDENT SUPPORT

You'll find student life new and exciting, but you may also find it a bit bewildering at first, especially if you are living away from home for the first time. We aim to make sure right from the start that you have access to any support you might need, from people who are easy to contact and who can give you friendly, expert information and guidance.

www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/support

LEARNING RESOURCES

The University prides itself on offering excellent learning resources for students, including internationally important museums, archive and rare book collections, the latest computing technology and a million-volume library.

www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/facilities

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA) runs over 150 sports clubs and societies. There are sports clubs ranging from football, rugby, karate and underwater hockey to a wide variety of cultural, creative, political, spiritual, theatrical and subject-based societies.

AUSA is also involved in organising events throughout the year, produces *Gaudie*, the University's free, weekly newspaper, and has its own radio station, Aberdeen Student Radio.

www.ausa.org.uk

SPORT FACILITIES

Whether a budding sports star of the future or just an occasional user, it is the most exciting time in the University's history for students interested in sport and exercise, with the opening of a £28 million Olympic standard sports facility in 2009.

www.aberdeensportsvillage.com

CAREERS

Our track record speaks for itself! 97% of Aberdeen students enter into 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.

www.abdn.ac.uk/careers

THE CITY OF ABERDEEN

The City of Aberdeen is an attractive, prosperous and friendly community of about 250,000 people. Big enough for a city experience, student-friendly Aberdeen is compact enough to make it easy to find your way around. From the historic 15th century campus in Old Aberdeen, it's just a short bus ride or walk to the bustling city centre.

Aberdeen caters for all tastes in arts, culture, leisure and entertainment and regularly attracts national and international artists and companies. Cinemas, museums, art galleries and first-class leisure and sports facilities means there is always plenty going on, and at night Aberdeen really lights up with a fantastic nightlife that can offer something for everyone.

www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/lonely-planet.pdf

VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

The University operates an open door policy and you are welcome to visit us at any time. To arrange a visit or to view details of open days visit

www.abdn.ac.uk/undergraduate/open-days





INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you are an international student, and you wish to take a full undergraduate degree course you must, like all UK students, apply for entry through UCAS. Staff in our Student Recruitment and Admissions Service are happy to advise and help you before, during and after applying to study at Aberdeen, including information about costs of study.

www.abdn.ac.uk/international

STUDENT SUPPORT

Our International Student Advisers can provide information on many aspects of student life at Aberdeen and in the UK, and are professionally trained to provide specialist advice on visa and immigration matters.

www.abdn.ac.uk/students/international

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SOCIETY

The International Student Society organises an active programme of social events, day and weekend trips throughout the year to give students the opportunity to experience Scottish life and tradition.

www.intersoc.co.uk

FEES AND LIVING EXPENSES

When you are thinking about studying overseas, it is important that you understand all of the costs involved and budget accordingly. It is essential to budget for your studies prior to leaving your home country, and arrange all your funding for BOTH your tuition fees and your living costs. For further information about fees and funding, visit www.abdn.ac.uk/international/finance

Under the new Points Based System for immigration, international students are required to have funds to cover tuition fees for one year and a specified amount for living expenses which will depend on the length of your course and where you are studying at the time you apply for your visa.

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The University sets minimum entry requirements for your level of English to ensure you have sufficient language skills to cope with your studies; writing ability in particular is important. For full details visit

www.abdn.ac.uk/international/english-requirements

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

The Language Centre offers English courses and workshops throughout the year to support your studies. If you have not quite met the direct entry requirements, there is the possibility to study on a six or twelve-week summer school programme. If you have met the direct entry requirement but feel you would like to come early to further develop your language and study skills, the University offers a four-week intensive course in English for Academic Study in August/September.

www.abdn.ac.uk/languagecentre

WORKING PART-TIME

International Students with a Tier 4 student visa (under the new Points Based System) should be able to work up to 20 hours per week during term-time. Our International Student Advisers will be able to check your permissions to work once you are in the UK. Part-time work cannot be relied upon as a means to fund your studies.

POST-STUDY WORK IN SCOTLAND

International students who graduate from any UK institution can currently apply for a Tier 1 – Post-Study Work visa to stay on in the UK and work. Once you have successfully completed your degree at the University of Aberdeen, you will be eligible to apply for the Scheme which will allow you to remain in the UK for up to two years after your studies to seek and take work.

www.scotlandistheplace.com


www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk

IMMIGRATION

From 31 March 2009 all nationals (except European Economic Area and Swiss nationals) need to apply for a student visa under Tier 4. Please note it is your responsibility to check visa requirements and apply for a visa. Any information we provide is for guidance only. It is important to check all immigration requirements before travelling as those without the necessary visa will be refused entry to the UK. You should make sure you plan well in advance. For the most up-to-date information and guidance please visit

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk

www.abdn.ac.uk/international/visa-information



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