Why Aberdeen

Founded in 1495, the University of Aberdeen is the fifth-oldest university in the UK and combines ancient tradition with the best in modern teaching and study facilities. The University has a student population of around 16,000 and a large international community of students drawn from 120 different countries. Ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world, the University has an excellent reputation for teaching quality and research and has had, over the years, five Nobel Prize winners. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), 90% of Aberdeen's research activity was assessed to be of international quality and 55% as world-leading or internationally excellent.

Aberdeen, Scotland’s third-largest city, is a prosperous and attractive city with a population of 250,000. Big enough for the ‘big city’ experience, student-friendly Aberdeen is still small enough to make it easy for students to find their way around and make friends. From the bustling city centre, it is just a short distance to the tranquillity of the nearby hills and countryside of one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.

Aberdeen also caters for all tastes in arts, culture, leisure and entertainment. Communication and travel links are excellent, with an international airport and trains and coaches that connect easily with all parts of the UK and Europe.

About the School

The School of Divinity, History and Philosophy is a leading international provider of excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate education, at the heart of an ancient Scottish research-led University.

We are located in Old Aberdeen, a beautiful and historic area, which provides a distinguished base for learning and research. Our international staff consists of over 70 lecturing and research-active members with world-leading academic credentials.

Key research areas include:
> Divinity and Religious Studies
> History
> History of Art
> Philosophy
> Scandinavian and Viking Studies

The School of Divinity, History and Philosophy has a strong research community and fosters interdisciplinary research. The School is committed to high quality, research-led teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It has a growing student population, with one of the largest postgraduate communities at the University of Aberdeen.
Our Masters Programmes

Taught Masters in Divinity and Religious Studies
The University of Aberdeen offers a wide range of Masters programmes in Theology and Religious Studies. The department boasts of internationally renowned scholars, such as Professor Steve Mason, Professor Joachim Schaper, and Professor John Swinton, just to name a few. We offer programmes in the fields of Biblical Studies, Old Testament Theology, New Testament Theology, Church History, Ministry and Mission, Theological Ethics, Systematic Theology, and Religious Studies, incorporating non-Christian religions.

Our programmes prepare students for academic or vocational careers and provide an excellent track for PhD work. There is opportunity for students to study a variety of ancient and modern languages as well as to develop many skills that will prepare them for a successful future.

Taught Masters in Medieval and Early Modern Studies and Scandinavian Studies
The University of Aberdeen offers an MLitt in Medieval and Early Modern studies as well as the MLitt in Scandinavian Studies. These are delivered by a range of experts in a small-group environment. History at Aberdeen boasts a large number of internationally-recognised scholars — particularly those working under the University's strategic research theme 'The North'. We focus on developing a range of skills to enable future research and employability. In addition, in these programmes you will be able to engage in specialist training in a range of areas unavailable at most other institutions, including ancient languages and palaeography.

Our students gain an in-depth knowledge of their subject areas and in addition gain valuable skills to enable future independent research in their areas of interest.

Taught Masters in Art and Business
The MLitt Art and Business is one of our most successful and innovative programmes. It attracts students from both Art History and Business, with a valuable international outlook. The programme combines 50% of its courses from the MBA run by the University of Aberdeen Business School, addressing finance, marketing and management, with 50% from History of Art, concerning commercial aspects of the art and heritage market. Students meet and interview artists, dealers and auctioneers, experiencing the art market in Edinburgh, London, Paris and beyond. (Travel is additional to fees.) Students have gone on to posts in Tate Britain, Christie's, White Cube, Guggenheim New York, and Doha Islamic Art Museum. It is an excellent course for a change in career direction, enhancing entrepreneurial flair in many fields.

Taught Masters in Philosophy
The University of Aberdeen offers the MLitt in Philosophical Research which is presently unique to the University of Aberdeen and the Northern Institute of Philosophy.

It is principally designed for able graduates with a reasonably broad undergraduate philosophical experience who wish to begin to acquire the specialised skills needed for independent research in philosophy prior to application to PhD programmes and/or without having to commit from the outset to the time and resourcing involved in undertaking a PhD. The programme will include elements of conventional Masters coursework but will involve a much greater explicit emphasis on research skills and practices than is normal in Masters courses in philosophy.
Research in the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy is organised into five broad research areas:

- Divinity and Religious Studies
- History
- History of Art
- Philosophy
- Scandinavian and Viking Studies

Additionally, the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy is home to ten research centres:

- Aberdeen Centre for Russian and Eastern European History
- Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies
- Centre for Cultural History
- Centre for Early Modern Studies
- Centre for Global Security and Governance
- Centre for Scandinavian Studies
- Centre for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine
- Centre for the Study of Myth
- Centre for the Study of Spirituality, Health and Disability
- The Northern Institute of Philosophy

The University of Aberdeen holds an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) block grant and scholarships are available for home and EU students in Divinity & Religious Studies, History, and History of Art. Other sources of funding may also be available. Please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate/funding for more information. Our research quality was recognised in the 2008 RAE, with over 95% of the School’s research deemed to be of international quality.

We endeavour to provide all full-time PhD students with fully networked personal computers and shared office space. They also have access to a variety of databases and research material vital to their studies in the brand new Sir Duncan Rice Library.
### Areas of Supervision

#### Church History
- Medieval Spirituality
- Scottish Episcopalian thought and practice
- Spirituality and lifestyles of religious and secular women (12th-16th centuries)

#### Old Testament
- Comparative semitics
- Deuteronomy and the rise of monotheism
- Hebrew language
- Hebrew language and poetic literature
- Midrash and medieval Jewish exegesis
- Prophecy
- The Hebrew Bible and its ancient Near Eastern context
- The history of ancient Israel
- The Pentateuch: its theology and literary history
- The Septuagint

#### New Testament
- Ancient historiography and rhetoric relevant to the New Testament environment
- Apocalyptic texts
- Catechetical traditions
- Early Christian worship
- Early Jewish-Christian and Christian-Roman relations (to fourth century)
- First century social and cultural background and the Old Testament
- Hellenistic Jewish authors
- Interpretation and theology of New Testament texts
- Johannine texts
- Judaea and Judaean literature and history between the Hasmonean and Bar-Kokhba revolts
- Judaean groups and institutions
- Nag Hammadi texts
- New Testament communities
- Oral and written gospel tradition
- Paul
- Pre-Pauline Christology
- Qumran texts
- Textual criticism of the New Testament
- The Synoptic Gospels
- Wisdom texts
- Works of Flavius Josephus

#### Philosophy
- Contingent ethics
- Epistemology
- Later Wittgenstein and religion
- Metaphysics
- Ontology and metaphysics
- Philosophical logic
- Philosophy of biology
- Philosophy of language
- Philosophy of language and epistemology of testimony
- Philosophy of mathematics
- Philosophy of mind
- Philosophy of physics
- Philosophy of science

#### Systematic Theology
- Christology and soteriology
- Contemporary Christian dogmatics; including post-liberal and public theologies
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Ecclesiology, Pneumatology
- Eschatology, theology and apocalyptic
- Evangelical theologies
- Historical theology; especially Origen and the constructive use of patristic sources
- History of modern Protestant theology; in particular the theologies of Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Søren Kierkegaard
- Karl Barth
- Public and political theology
- Soteriology and eschatology, especially universalism
- The doctrines of justification and election
- The theological bases of Christian ethics and politics
- Theologies of the religions and inter-faith conversation
- Wesley

#### Religious Studies
- East Asian religions: history, culture, doctrine
- Gnosticism: ancient and modern
- New religious movements: history, culture, doctrine
- Non-religion: histories/herstories, cultures, identifications
- Queering religion/s: trans stories, cultures and theories—Islamic sources
- Theories of religion, myth and ritual
- Universal themes in Islam

#### Practical Theology
- Christian Ethics
- Christian Mission
- Disability Theology
- Ministry Studies
- Pastoral Issues
- Political Theology
- Qualitative Research
- Theodicy

#### History of Art
- Architectural history in Scotland—British Romanesque illuminated manuscripts
- British art
- Caravaggio and his followers
- Italian Baroque painting
- Modern and contemporary art in East-Central Europe and Russia
- Painting and Early Modern sculpture in Early Modern Malta
- Performance art in East-Central Europe and Russia
- Pictish art
- Prints and print culture
- Scottish art in the early modern and modern periods
- Seventeenth-century painting in France and the Spanish Netherlands

#### History
- Caribbean and American studies
- Cultural history
- Early Modern Germany
- Emigration within the British
- French history
- Historical sociology, memory and modernity in Scotland
- Later Medieval history
- Medieval Scandinavian and Celtic literature
- Medieval Scandinavian history
- Medieval Scotland
- Modern Chinese history
- Modern Russian and Soviet history, particularly c.1900-1930 transport history
- Old Norse language and literature
- Scottish and Irish enlightenment
- Society and culture of early Scandinavia
- Scottish and English politics and landed society c.1300-c.1600
- Scottish History in the ‘Long Eighteenth Century’, 1688-1832
- 20th-century Europe
Your Future

At Aberdeen, we have a proven track record in helping our graduates to take the first successful steps on the ladder of their chosen career. Of all the traditional universities in Scotland, our graduates have been the most successful in finding the right career path within six months after graduating.

Careers Service
The University maintains a professional Careers Service to support you in developing and fulfilling your career aspirations, throughout your studies and after your graduation. We provide:

- A team of Careers Advisers specialising in specific subject areas who work with academic programmes and offer one-on-one careers guidance interviews
- A Duty Careers Adviser available every day for quick queries and application checks
- Access to careers advice and guidance at any time and from anywhere through our Virtual Adviser Service
- Three Careers Fairs and a programme of presentations and skills sessions run by local, national and multi-national employers who recruit our graduates
- A library with information on a huge range of careers, postgraduate study, application advice and more
- An extensive website, including up-to-date events, vacancies and our Virtual Library of careers resources

Careers Service
The Hub, 2nd Floor
Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen
Tel: +44 (0)1224 273601
Email: careers@abdn.ac.uk
www.abdn.ac.uk/careers
What Do I Need?

Masters Programmes
The requirement for Masters programmes is normally a good first degree (equivalent to a UK upper second class Honours degree) or above in any relevant discipline.

Research Programmes
The requirement for Research programmes is normally a good first degree (equivalent to a UK upper second-class Honours degree) or above in a relevant discipline to the research proposed.

English Requirements
For international students, proof of proficiency in English is required. The accepted certificated and minimum scores are listed as follows:

- IELTS test overall score of 6.5, with a writing and reading score of 6.0 and a listening and speaking score of 5.5
- TOEFL overall score of 90, with a writing and reading score of 21, a listening score of 17 and a speaking score of 20
- PTE Academic Test overall score of 62 with a writing and reading score of 54 and a listening and speaking score of 51

How to Apply

To apply please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply

Alongside your application form, you will require the following supporting documentation:

- Copies of your undergraduate and graduate degree certificates.
- Academic transcripts for your undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- The transcript, which lists all of the classes taken and marks gained, must be requested by the student and sent to us. You should therefore get in touch with the University where you gained your degree, and they will tell you what you need to do and will arrange to produce and send us the transcript.
- References—one academic reference for taught applications and two for research applications. You can either provide the details of your referees on your application form or submit these during the online application process.
- If English is not your first language and you have not studied previously in an English institution, you will need to demonstrate your proficiency in English by taking an IELTS, TOEFL or PTE academic test. For further information, please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/international/english-requirements.php
- Your research proposal (for research application only). For further information, please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/courses/how-to-write-a-research-proposal-122.php

If you have any queries about the application process, please contact dhp-rgs@abdn.ac.uk

Finance and Funding

- Tuition fees will depend on your domiciled status. For up-to-date information on fees visit www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/tuitionfees
- Our Funding Database is the quickest and easiest way to search for any funding sources that may apply to you.
- Graduates of the University of Aberdeen can take advantage of our Alumni Discount Scheme
- Scholarships and bursaries are available from the College of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate School. For full details visit www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/funding

For full information on funding opportunities available at the University visit www.abdn.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding
COME HERE.
GO ANYWHERE.

For more information:
Visit: www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp
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