A history of excellence in Teacher Education and Research

Enhanced Professional Development Opportunities for teaching professionals

Initial Teacher Training degrees
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% 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 tranquility 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, and 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.

The work of the School of Education is centred on initial teacher education and the continuing development of teachers and related professionals. The School offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees in education, music and music education, and is one of the leading providers of Gaelic Education programmes. The School is also home to the Elphinstone Institute, a University initiative to study human traditions, especially traditions in the North and North-east of Scotland. There is a strong emphasis on research both for publication and to inform course development and delivery. The School seeks to contribute to the development of a world class education system in Scotland through excellence in teaching, and innovative research which influences policy and informs practice.

Key research areas include:

> Pedagogies and Innovation;
> Professional Learning and Teacher Education
> Communities and Partnerships

With a history of teacher education which can be traced back to 1873 the School of Education has an impressive pedigree in the initial professional training of teachers and long standing, wide ranging partnerships with local authorities and schools to provide continuing professional development for teachers.

This professional capability is supported with a commitment to research led teaching in the context of 21st century needs. As such the School has a portfolio of externally funded major research projects of national and international significance including the Scottish Teachers for a New Era initiative and the Inclusive Practice Project.

The facilities on campus are state of the art as a result of a recent £9m refurbishment of the MacRobert Building. The portfolio of programmes and research activity within the School is enhanced substantially through the provision of postgraduate degrees at MEd, MPhil and PhD levels, degrees in Music and through other extremely active research centres which focus on music, human traditions, the well-being and development of children, and the development of integrated provision of children, young people and their families.
MEd Adult Literacies Development
MEd 18 months PT
This programme is aimed at experienced educational practitioners in a range of settings, such as Community Learning and Development, Adult Learning and Further Education, who wish to advance their knowledge of Adult Literacies, enhance their professional practice, and extend their capacity to lead and shape change. It provides experienced practitioners with the opportunity and support to critically analyse new theoretical perspectives, examine existing practice and make informed contributions to debates and discussions within Adult Literacies and Adult Learning.
www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/underdev
email: adultliteracies@abdn.ac.uk

MEd/PG Dip/PG Cert in Advanced Professional Studies
MEd 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
Our Advanced Professional Studies (APS) programme aims to meet the needs of fully qualified educationalists who want to advance their pedagogical skills and knowledge, enhance their own professional practice, lead and shape change through innovation and make an extended contribution to the development of enhanced practice.
www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/aps

MEd/PG Dip/PG Cert in Autism & Learning
MEd 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
The programme aims to give practitioners an in-depth understanding of the condition and the working of the autistic mind. It will equip participants with a range of practical approaches and interventions that will enable children and young people on the spectrum to access learning, participate actively, experience success, gain independence, and fulfil their potential. Establishing a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach is a central feature of all courses. The programme is designed for parents, teachers, therapists, care workers and other practitioners involved in supporting individuals on the autism spectrum across key services including Education, Health, Social Work, Social Care and the Voluntary Sector. Entry is open to participants with a relevant degree (or equivalent), an ability to study at postgraduate level, and relevant experience.
www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/autism

MEd in Teaching and Learning for Enterprise and Education
MEd 12 months FT
The MEd in Teaching and Learning for Enterprise and Employability degree aims to help you as a practitioner to develop the advanced knowledge, capacities and qualities associated with professional excellence and advanced professional practice whilst studying to gain a Masters degree. The aims of the programme are associated with different components of advanced professional practice and postgraduate study.
www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes
MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert in Counselling
MSc 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
Our professionally validated (Cosca) Masters programme aims to meet the needs of those intending to make counselling a primary focus in their work setting. It may also interest people wishing to enhance their career prospects through in-depth study of counselling at postgraduate diploma level. This professional counselling training programme is designed to run over two years. On completion, the successful participant will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling. Successful participants at Postgraduate Diploma level will then be in a position to progress on to the MSc. At Masters level, trainees will be able to develop an area of special interest for either academic or action-based research. This qualification has been designed to meet the professional training requirements of both BACP and COSCA.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/counselling

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert Enhanced Professional Practice
MSc 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
This programme is designed for early career teachers and aims to extend their professional knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes with a view to increasing effectiveness in classroom practice and the achievement and attainment of children and young people. It provides an opportunity for new teachers to continue to develop an open and questioning mindset through an enquiry and workplace practice-based approach enabling them to embrace change, challenge and opportunity. Participants will further develop their skills in being a reflective and enquiring practitioner and working as a member of teacher learning groups. Programme content includes enhanced self evaluation and critical reflection; small scale classroom based action research and evaluation of impact; enhanced learning and teaching; cross curricular themes of literacy/numeracy/health and well-being; inclusive pedagogy; early leadership.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/EPP

MSc/PG Dip in Community Learning & Development
MSc 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
This programme offers a workbased route to a professional qualification in Community Learning and Development (CLD), approved by the CLD Standards Council for Scotland. Participants will study at the same time as being employed or working on a voluntary basis. A collaboration between the University of Aberdeen and CLD Managers, the programme blends the expertise of highly experienced practitioners with the academic expertise from within the University to ensure it is practice focussed, relevant and up to date. The programme integrates theory and practice at the leading edge of the discipline and provides opportunities for participants to contribute to the knowledge and practice base of the profession.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/clad/CLAD

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert in Leadership in Professional Settings
MSc 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
The Leadership in Professional Contexts Masters Programme provides a comprehensive menu of modules covering all aspects of leadership theory and application, particularly as they relate to organizations such as education, social work, the police and the medical professions. The programme offers many opportunities for personal development in the company of colleagues who share your aspirations and can contribute to discussion from their experience in a wide variety of professional areas.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/leadership

MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert in Mindfulness
MSc 18 months PT, PGDip 12 months PT, PGCert 12 months PT
Mindfulness is an innate capacity of the mind to be aware of the present moment in a non-judgemental way. It promotes a way of being that helps us to take better care of ourselves and lead healthier lives. It also enables us to access inner resources for coping effectively with stress, difficulty and illness. This training in mindfulness is entirely secular and is available as a blended learning opportunity, combining e-learning and face to face teaching. Participants study part-time at a distance while staying in post in their own professional setting. An important part of the programme is that participants develop a daily mindfulness practice. The programme seeks to meet the needs of experienced practitioners from a variety of settings who aim to enhance their practice and extend their professionalism.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/mindfulness/index

PG Cert in Early Years Education
PGCert 12 months PT
This programme aims to provide a response to the continuing professional development needs of fully qualified educationalists who wish to advance their skills and knowledge, enhance their professional practice and extend their capacity to lead and shape change in a range of educational settings (0-8) through part-time study by e-learning. The distinctive feature of the programme is its strong focus on Early Years Education through transformative professionalism.
– an enhanced and extended professionalism which has at its core the need for practitioners to take evidence-based action to generate professional knowledge and move practice forward. This form of professionalism, in contrast with older formulations, is characterised not by self-interest and external regulation, but rather by the motivation to contribute to the collaborative development of practice and make informed contributions to professional debate.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/pgcerts/PCCertEarlyYearsEducation

PG Cert in Effective Teaching of Numeracy
PGCert 12 months PT
The programme aims to provide a response to the continuing professional development needs of fully qualified teachers, particularly those with numeracy coordinator roles within the primary and secondary sectors, who wish to advance their skills and knowledge, enhance their professional practice and extend their capacity to lead and shape change. The aims of the programme are to enhance and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding of the participants in relation to effective teaching of numeracy. It endeavours to give experienced practitioners the time, opportunity and support to critically analyse evidence and arguments in complex and ambiguous situations; examine existing practice and make informed contributions to debates and discussions within numeracy and mathematics.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/etn/etn

PG Cert in Enhanced Practice in Science Education
PGCert 12 months PT
The Enhanced Professional Practice in Science Education Masters Programme aims to meet the needs of teachers and other professionals engaged in science education in Scotland. It provides a structured response to the continuing professional development needs of fully qualified and experienced teachers and science educators who are ready to gain recognition for their subject-related expertise. Specifically, the programme aims to help practitioners develop the advanced knowledge, capacities and qualities associated with professional excellence and advanced professional practice while studying at a level consistent with the award of PG Certificate, PG Diploma and Masters degree.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/underdev
email: scienceeducation@abdn.ac.uk

PG Cert in Gaelic Medium Education (blended)
PGCert 12 months PT
Our STREAP programme aims to meet the needs of fully qualified educationalists who want to enhance and extend professional practice in the teaching of subject/stage through the medium of Gaelic. The programme covers a range of theoretical, historical and policy perspectives – interpretive, social, creative – relating to immersion and bilingual teaching and the promotion of Gaelic Medium Education. It develops participants’ personal Gaelic language skills, competence and confidence in classroom practice and critical reflection in the Gaelic medium context.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/aps/LanguageDevelopmentandCriticalReflectionforTeachinginGaelicMedium

PG Cert in Plurilingual
PGCert 12 months PT
This programme is designed for teachers, lecturers and professionals working in educational settings where the medium of instruction is not that of the first language of the learner. It addresses diverse learning contexts such as migrating workers, linguistic shifts and an increasing need to use several languages in the global economy and how these impact on curricula across the world. Formal settings for plurilingual learning include schools at all levels, colleges and universities which offer for example bilingual education, CLIL (content and language integrated learning), EAL (English as an additional language) and foreign languages.

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/MEd-PG

PG Cert in Professional Learning & Development (Primary) (blended)
PGCert 12 months PT
The programme provides a response to the continuing professional development needs of fully registered, qualified secondary school teachers who wish to be recognised to become primary teachers and in so doing advance their skills and knowledge and enhance professional practice, through part-time distance learning. The programme responds to the flexible arrangements for recognition and registration of primary and secondary teachers introduced by the GTCS in 2007-08 in keeping with A Curriculum for Excellence. It will meet the CPD requirements set out by GTCS for fully registered secondary teachers wishing to convert their registration to allow them to teach in primary schools (see pages 20 to 24 of the Framework for Professional Recognition/Registration: GTCS August 2007).

www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/pgcerts/PGCertinLearningandDevelopmentPrimary
MRes Social and Educational Research
The MRes programme is designed to prepare students to become independent researchers. It is aimed at professionals from educational settings, children’s services and community education settings. It is available through blended learning both full and part time and also provides the formal research training that can lead to a taught doctorate (EdD) or the equivalent of the first year of a PhD programme.
www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/MRes

PG Cert in TQ(FE)
PGCert 12 months PT
TQFE is designed for in-service lecturers in Scotland’s Colleges. The programme aims to help practitioners review their own practice, extend their skills and knowledge and enhance the experience of all learners in further education. TQFE is approved by the Scottish Government. Successful completion provides eligibility for voluntary registration with the GTCS. The programme consists of four courses at SCQF level 9 (degree route) or level 11 (masters route) delivered On-Campus or On-Line.
www.abdn.ac.uk/tqfe/about_us

PGDE Primary / Secondary Education
12 Months FT
The Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme is a route to becoming a Primary or Secondary teacher. The programme is aimed at graduates who have an interest in working with children in an educational context.

The University of Aberdeen has a proven record in developing innovative approaches to Initial Teacher Education and our PGDE programme is no exception. We were the first university in Scotland to bring the training of Primary and Secondary teachers together in one combined programme. This pioneering approach is founded on the move towards greater collaboration and understanding between sectors alongside the establishment of a new Scottish 3-18 Curriculum for Excellence.
www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/graduate

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-to-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

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

Research Degrees
For details of our MPhil, PhD and EdD Research degrees visit www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/research-degrees
What Do I Need?

Masters Programmes
The minimum requirement for Masters Programmes is a good first degree (equivalent to a UK second-class Honours degree) or above in any discipline. For further details on entry requirements, please contact pgtedu@abdn.ac.uk.

Research Programmes
The minimum requirement for Research Programmes is a good first degree (normally equivalent to a UK Honours degree at 2:1) or above in any discipline. For further details on entry requirements, please contact pgtedu@abdn.ac.uk.

The English Language Requirement for all College of Arts and Social Sciences Programmes is an IELTS of 6.5 with 6.0 in the writing and reading (or equivalent TOEFL iBT or PTE). For more information see www.abdn.ac.uk/international/english-requirements

How to Apply

To apply please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/education/programmes/postgraduate.shtml

Complete Application forms must consist of:
> A completed Postgraduate Application Form
> Academic transcripts and/or degree certificate(s) to date
> For international applicants, proof of proficiency in English (English Language Requirements)
> Academic References. Applicants to research programmes must provide two academic references from their most recent academic institution. For taught programmes, please refer to the School of Education website for details of reference requirements.

Applications for PhD and Masters by Research programmes require a Research Proposal to be submitted with the application. Some departments require an extended Research Profile and applicants should refer to School websites for details before submitting an application.

Applications to the PGDE Primary and Secondary programmes is through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry. For more information visit www.gttr.ac.uk

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact:
Postgraduate Admissions Office
University Office,
University of Aberdeen,
King’s College,
Aberdeen, AB24 3FX
Tel: +44 (0)1224-273506 Fax: +44 (0)1224-272041
Email: pgadmissions@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