A reputation of excellence in the arts and humanities

Home to some of the world’s leading scholars in language, linguistics and literary studies

Unique opportunities for postgraduate study, both taught and research
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% 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.

About the School

The School of Language & Literature is a strong research community which provides excellent learning and teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Our reputation in the arts and humanities attracts some of the best students from around the world.

An integral part of a research-led university, our faculty contributes to a number of research centres across the arts and humanities, including the Centre for the Novel, the Centre for Early Modern Studies, the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies and the Walter Scott Research Centre.

Our faculty is truly international and consists of over 55 academics, the majority of whom are active researchers and apply their research to their undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. They possess world-leading academic credentials and some are considered leaders in their respective fields.

Key research areas include:
> Celtic
> English
> Film & Visual Culture
> French
> German
> Hispanic Studies
> Language and Linguistics

The School of Language & Literature has a solid research reputation in the arts and humanities and also contributes to interdisciplinary research with the social sciences and beyond. Our students are our highest priority and we are committed to attracting the brightest and the best and to growing their potential through high quality, research-led teaching. Students at all levels form an important part of our research community and we strive to integrate them into the academic life of the School as effortlessly as possible.
Our Masters Programmes

Celtic Studies
Celtic Studies will appeal to students interested in the history, language and culture of the Celtic-speaking peoples, and provides students with an interdisciplinary insight to this field of research. It can be a route to a wide range of future careers in the media, Scottish Government, language planning, research and teaching. Students taking a broader curriculum can find suitable careers in translation work, heritage management, tourism, archives, teaching and research.

Creative Writing
Creative Writing is designed to allow students to develop their creativity and literary skills in a highly supportive, constructive learning environment. It also introduces students to, and prepares them thoroughly for, the processes and challenges involved in publishing creative written work, whether poetry or prose. It is likely to appeal to those who wish to develop their own knowledge and practical skill in imaginative writing, those who wish to create a solid foundation on which to build a PhD research proposal in Creative Writing and those who wish to teach Creative Writing.

English Literary Studies
English Literary Studies is primarily intended to provide a basis for undertaking research in English literature including the literature of Scotland and Ireland. Research 'training' involves the acquisition of practical skills and knowledge, and of specialised knowledge and understanding of literary periods and literary issues which will be directly relevant to each candidate's proposed field of research. The programme also offers valuable experience for those wishing to work in a range of careers such as teaching, media and heritage, and for all those who have an interest in literature.

Professional Communication
The MLitt in Professional Communication aims to introduce a variety of different approaches to communication theory and analysis in a range of professional contexts, focusing variously on communication in business, administration, law and law enforcement, health care, politics and the media, and the energy industries. Students will investigate the ways in which communication works (or does not work) in specific institutional, interpersonal and intercultural interaction and will conduct their own research into a communication issue in a particular professional context. The course is designed to accommodate both full-time and part-time students, i.e., those preparing to enter the workplace and those pursuing professional careers.

Visual Culture
Visual Culture aims to induct postgraduate students into the study of visuality in relation to various subject areas, equipping them for further postgraduate study in the wide variety of subject areas to which the visual sphere is central or important. It will acquaint students with the major traditions and key issues in visual culture and a variety of types of visual forms, both the more traditional ones - architecture, art, photography, film - and virtual and digital ones. It will impart a knowledge of relevant terminology and techniques, and will incorporate instruction on the documentation and presentation of research findings and the use of information technology to this end.
Our Research

Research in the School of Language & Literature is organised across four broad research areas:

- English
- Film and Visual Culture
- Language and Linguistics
- Modern Languages

Additionally, we are home to four research centres:

- Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law
- Centre for Modern Thought
- Centre for the Novel
- Walter Scott Research Centre

We also contribute significantly to the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, possibly the most respected research institute dedicated to Irish and Scottish studies in the world.

Our research quality was recognised in the 2008 RAE, with all four research areas submitted at that time deemed to have research outputs of international quality. English, French and Hispanic Studies showed to be particularly strong with research outputs that were deemed as world-leading, with English and French ranked among the top 25% in the United Kingdom (11th and 5th respectively).

Additionally, the University of Aberdeen holds a block grant partnership award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and scholarships are available in English and Hispanic Studies for 2013/14. Other sources of funding may also be available. Please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate/funding for more information.

PhD Supervision

The School of Language & Literature offers PhD supervision in:

**Celtic**
Modern Gaelic literature; The concept of Gaelic identity; The modern Gaelic community; Gaelic drama; Language teaching; Language planning.

**English**
American Literature; Early Modern Literature; Enlightenment and Romantic Literature; Irish Literature; Modernist Literature; Post-War and Contemporary Literature; Scottish Literature; Victorian Literature; Women's Writing.

**German**
German Literature from 1600 to the present day; Exile Studies; Cultural History; Architecture / Space / Critical Theory in German-speaking contexts; Berlin and Urban History; Travel and Tourism; Visual Culture; Modern European Thought.

**Film and Visual Culture**
Documentary and Experimental Visual Arts Movements; Early and Silent-Era Cinemas; Film History, Historiography, and Theory; Orphan, Handmade, and “Minor” Films and Archives; Practice-as-research in Documentary Film; Representations of the City in Film and Visual Culture; Visual Culture and the Environment; Visual Ethnography.

**French**
Literature and medicine; The literary representation of music and dance; Contemporary women’s writing in French; Migration; Transnationalism; Citizenship; New social movements; Political discourse; Cultural/visual arts policy; Post-colonial cultural production in France; Medieval language and literature; The history of the French language; Intersections between film and philosophy; French and Francophone cinema.

**Hispanic Studies**
Modern Spanish culture; Literature of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century; Art, literature and politics in the Basque context; Citizenship and related topics in Latin America or the United States.

**Language and Linguistics**
Critical Discourse Analysis; Language and Communication in Society; National, Regional and Ethnic Varieties of Language; Sociolinguistic History of English and other Germanic languages; Sociolinguistics; Syntax, Language and Identity, English Applied Linguistics.
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 tradition 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-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

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. For further details on entry requirements, please contact langlit.school@abdn.ac.uk.

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 as well as an appropriate Masters degree. For further details on entry requirements, please contact langlit.school@abdn.ac.uk.

The English Language Requirement for all College of Arts and Social Sciences postgraduate programmes is an IELTS of 6.5 with 6.0 in the writing and reading elements (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/postgraduate/apply

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)
> Applicants to research programmes must provide two academic references from their most recent academic institution. For taught programmes, please refer to the School 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.

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