Study some of the most relevant and pertinent subjects with real world impact

Contribute to an active and diverse postgraduate community

Work with internationally renowned scholars leading the field of social science
Situated on the King’s College campus at the heart of Aberdeen’s ancient research-led University, the School of Social Science provides cutting edge expertise and teaching to a diverse body of UK and international students. Home to the departments of Anthropology, Politics & International Relations and Sociology, the School also has three affiliated research centres: the Centre for Gender Studies, the New Europe Centre and the Centre for Global Security and Governance.

Each year, we welcome students from across the UK, Europe and the world to join our thriving postgraduate community. Staff throughout the School are highly research active, with most of our research output deemed either world-leading or internationally-significant, and with many senior staff being internationally-recognised leaders in their fields. Our research encompasses the full horizon of the social sciences’ ambitions for advancing knowledge, from rich theoretical speculation on the nature of human society, thought and practice to highly pragmatic and policy-oriented studies.

Student supervision and teaching engages deeply with this research background while giving each student the opportunity to explore their own unique learning interests and research goals. Through programmes such as the Scottish Doctoral Training Centre and the STAR programme (see Our Research), students are also linked to the wider horizons of research and training throughout Scotland. With over forty teaching staff and thirty affiliated research fellows in total, the School provides a rich intellectual environment for postgraduate studies, whether within the taught or research Masters programmes, or at the level of full doctoral and postdoctoral research. As part of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, the School also seeks to provide both internal and external funding for all promising research candidates.

We hope that you find what follows helpful in deciding on your future plans. Please contact us if you have any further questions, and we look forward to seeing you at Aberdeen!

**For Further Information, Contact:**
Postgraduate Secretary
School of Social Science
Tel.: +44 (0) 1224 272762
Email: socscipg@abdn.ac.uk
Our Masters Programmes

MSc/MRes Degrees are 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time.

ANTHROPOLOGY
MRes in Social Anthropology
Founded in 2000, this is the University of Aberdeen’s flagship programme for those embarking on anthropological research or seeking to improve their anthropological research credentials. The programme combines a broad introduction to anthropological theory with a rigorous programme of social science research methods. Students will complete an independently-researched dissertation with individual supervision. This programme is open to all with good degrees in anthropology, cultural history, ethnology and related disciplines such as sociology.

MSc in People and the Environment
Aberdeen has a growing international reputation for its innovative research in environmental anthropology, particularly in fields such as perception, landscape, conservation and human-animal relations. This expertise is the basis for a new and distinctive MSc programme exploring the complex relations between people and their environment and the issues and problems that emerge from these. The course will be of great interest both to anthropology graduates and to students who have studied other environmental disciplines and now wish to develop a social dimension to their thinking and approach. A flexible curriculum means that students can tailor the course to their own requirements, whilst still gaining a solid grounding in the subject.

MSc in Anthropology of Religion
How can we understand political violence where at least some of the parties make appeal to divine truths, or to ideals and logics which transcend humanly created social formations? How do individuals, groups and institutions that live by such ideals do so within a world of secular states? How do we understand the very categories of ‘religion’, ‘the secular’, ‘belief’ and ‘the political’ in the diversity of beliefs, cultures and clashes thrown up by world events? This programme balances an examination of core anthropological and sociological approaches to these questions with a choice of courses dealing with specific regional and religious themes.

MLitt in Museum Studies
Museums have become an important field of study over the past, with a wide range of research focusing on their history, collections, practices and social roles. The new MLitt in Museum Studies will use the University’s own internationally important collections and museums to explore these issues and to give practical experience of working in a museum, working closely with professional as well as academic staff. In the first half-session a core course ‘The Museum Idea’ focuses on the history and theory of collecting and museums, alongside a course selected from a range of options. The second half-session course ‘Curating an Exhibition’ includes a wide range of practical experiences as students play the key role in creating the King’s Museum’s summer exhibition, alongside a second elective course. During the summer those students with a research interest are able to complete a dissertation, while those with a more vocational interest produce a project based on a 20 day placement in a museum.

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
MSc in International Relations
The MSc in International Relations provides a sustained engagement with key issues in contemporary International Relations including development and political economy, critical and human security, globalisation, gender, identity, human rights, and governance. Building on a foundational course on the conceptual/theoretical underpinnings of IR, the programme offers a range of courses that enable individualized programmes of specialized study on a particular theme or region, allowing for a balance between a nuanced understanding of key concepts and paradigms and analytical tools, and the development of thematic and regional specialisation. MScIR students also complete an in-depth extended research project.

MSc in Strategic Studies
This is a long-established programme of high reputation. It delivers a thorough understanding of two central themes: First, the theory and practice of the uses of power, force and related instruments by states to achieve national and international security objectives; and second, the characteristics, strains and complex nature of security challenges and responses at regional and global level in the modern era. This programme is particularly appropriate for those graduates of International Relations, Politics, and cognate disciplines such as History, Law, Geography and Economics who are seeking a concentrated and highly focussed appreciation of security policies and conflict in the modern era, and for those with relevant professional experience, e.g. past or present officials from governments or international organisations, and members of the UK or other armed forces.
**MSc in Latin American Studies**
A truly interdisciplinary degree, the Latin American Studies programme draws on expertise from both Hispanic Studies in the School of Language & Literature and the Department of Politics and International Relations. Students will study Latin American culture, development and the politics and international relations of the region. The degree consists of both core courses and a variety of electives, which will allow students to tailor their own degree to their specific interests. In addition, students will write a dissertation on a topic of their own choice. The University of Aberdeen MLitt in Latin American Studies is not only unique to a Scottish university but is also one of only very few in the United Kingdom to have such an interdisciplinary nature.

**MSc in Strategic Studies and International Law**
This is a new programme designed to analyse and explain how the modern uses of force and power interface with the requirements and expectations of that body of international law which addresses the conduct of conflict at international and sub-national levels. It combines an understanding of the theory and practice of the uses of power and force by states to achieve national and international security objectives with an appreciation of the development and implementation of international law as it attempts to control coercion and to limit violence in the international arena. This programme is particularly appropriate for those graduates of Law, International Relations, Politics, and cognate disciplines such as History, Geography and Economics, and for those with relevant professional experience, e.g. past or present officials from governments or international organisations, and members of the UK or other armed forces, who are seeking a concentrated and highly focussed appreciation of the interaction of strategy and international law and how that relationship impacts upon security policies and conflict in the modern era.

**MSc in Cultural Sociology**
This MSc familiarises students with all the main theories and methods in contemporary cultural sociology, exhibiting the field’s rich diversity. Ideal for students wishing to develop their understandings of the sociology of culture, including for future PhD research.

**MSc in Sociology**
The joint programme in International Relations and Law at Aberdeen is an innovative course – one of only three across the UK - that offers students seeking careers in governmental institutions, international organisations and international non-governmental organisations the opportunity to advance their understanding of law and politics in the international arena. Combining courses in the theory and practice of international relations, security, human rights, and the use of force in International Law taught by a globally distinguished faculty, the course offers a unique perspective on a range of contemporary issues related to the transformed nature of global governance in the context of international politics and law.

**MRes in Political Research**
This programme serves both as preparation for PhD research - by enhancing relevant general social science skills - and as a free standing programme in research methods training. Drawing on teaching skills available both within Politics and International Relations and from throughout the School of Social Science, the programme includes courses on: Qualitative Research Methodologies; Theories and Issues in Political Science and IR; Research Design and Data Collection, and; Quantitative Research Methodologies.

**MSc in International Relations and International Law**
The joint programme in International Relations and Law at Aberdeen is an innovative course – one of only three across the UK - that offers students seeking careers in governmental institutions, international organisations and international non-governmental organisations the opportunity to advance their understanding of law and politics in the international arena. Combining courses in the theory and practice of international relations, security, human rights, and the use of force in International Law taught by a globally distinguished faculty, the course offers a unique perspective on a range of contemporary issues related to the transformed nature of global governance in the context of international politics and law.

**MSc in Sex, Gender & Violence: Critical Approaches**
This course studies the body in the 21st century, and the proliferation of recent technologies that have profoundly challenged our understanding of what bodies are and do, and even what counts as a human body. The transgender body, the queer body, the masculine female body, ‘differently sexed’ bodies - all pose serious challenges to established patterns of living valued embodied lives. This new programme offers students the opportunity to critically investigate these challenges from both a theoretical and empirical perspective. The programme will be based in the Centre for Gender Studies and Department of Sociology, and is open to students with a previous degree in the social sciences and cognate fields.
**MSc in Religion & Society**
The University of Aberdeen MSc in Religion and Society provides a unique opportunity for postgraduate study in the sociology of religion. Taught by well-known leaders in the field, the programme provides students with study in both the sociological study of religion and training in advanced sociological methods. This programme is ideally suited for anyone considering the pursuit of doctoral studies in sociology of religion, and also provides a broad-base of social-scientific skills that are both marketable and useful for those pursuing careers either in government or in the third-sector.

**MRes in Social Research**
This programme provides advanced training in social research. It equips students with the skills they need to undertake independent research, using a range of methodologies, and through the dissertation, students are able to develop practical, intellectual and critical skills in their specific areas of interest. For students who wish to undertake a PhD in Sociology, the programme is also designed to provide the support and training required to complete the first stages of doctoral research.

**MSc in Globalization**
The globalization of trade relations, political engagement and personal connectivity that has emerged since the 1980s is arguably the most important shift in human society in recent centuries, and has become a major concern of policy-makers and citizens alike. The MSc programme in Globalization will examine the nature and dimensions of this transformation from a social scientific perspective, and the impact it is having on our ways of life. It will appeal to students and professionals seeking a deeper understanding of global processes and international affairs, and those pursuing research in the social sciences to the doctoral level.

**MSc in Sociology of Peace Processes**
The degree is designed for those wishing to develop an advanced knowledge of the sociology of peace processes in particular that distinguish it from approaches within human rights law, political science and international relations. It familiarises students with the central theoretical, conceptual, and empirical dimensions of the sociology of peace processes. It then considers three areas which are emblematic of sociology’s innovative contribution to the study of peace processes - gender, religion and civil society. It analyses three instances of international peace processes in which these themes are explored empirically - Northern Ireland, South Africa and Sri Lanka. The degree works both as a stand-alone programme for people wishing to enhance their knowledge of this area to an advanced level, as well as providing the necessary bases for students wishing to pursue PhD and related studies in sociology.

**MSc in Transitional Justice and Reconciliation**
The degree is designed for those wishing to develop an advanced knowledge of transitional justice studies and its contribution to reconciliation after communal conflict. It familiarises students with the central theoretical, conceptual, and empirical dimensions of transitional justice, such as memory, truth recovery, forgiveness and reparations. It subjects these processes to critical reflection by considering the boundaries of forgiveness after conflict, the burden of memory and the boundaries of forgetting, the problems surrounding truth and truth recovery, and the limits of shame apologies and reparations. The degree works both as a stand-alone programme for people wishing to enhance their knowledge of this area to an advanced level, as well as providing the necessary bases for students wishing to pursue PhD and related studies in transitional justice studies, peace and reconciliation studies and in the social sciences more widely.

**MSc in European Politics and Society**
This degree programme will examine the increased integration of Europe and its rise as a world power, and the ways in which European societies have been shaped and changed by migration, social policy, citizenship, work and family. It will provide participants with an up-to-date knowledge of these developments, the tools and concepts for analysing them and introduce them to the new frontiers of knowledge in these developments. The course is based on research projects and consultancies for the European Commission and other bodies carried out by the teaching team, and is linked to the New Europe Research Centre at Aberdeen. The degree will appeal to those who need the relevant resources to pursue a career at a European or national level and be informed of European developments and debates, whether it is in the NGO sector, business, academia or the public sector.
The School of Social Sciences is comprised of three units: Anthropology, Sociology and Politics/International Relations. Staff across the units are active in both research and postgraduate supervision.

Our specialisms include:

**Anthropology:** Anthropology of the North; Histories of Material Culture; Creativity of Practice; Religion, Belief and Practice

**Sociology:** Political Sociology; Religion and Secularisation; Cultural Sociology and Socio-Economic Inequality

**Politics/International Relations:** Political Organisation; Conflict and Security Studies; Comparative Politics

Additionally, the School of Social Sciences is home to the following research centres:

- Centre for Global Security and Governance
- New Europe Centre
- European Centre for Survey Research.
- Centre for Gender Studies

Over the next decade, the School will also establish the Aberdeen Institute for Northern Studies. The Institute will have its own building, the Museum of the North, which will replace the University’s Marischal Museum.

The University of Aberdeen is a member institution of the ESRC Scottish Graduate School of Social Science Doctoral Training Centre (DTC). ESRC 1+3 and +3 doctoral studentships are available in Anthropology and Sociology under the Scottish ESRC DTC. Anthropology also participates in the Scottish Training in Anthropological Research (STAR) programme, a research training consortium involving all the universities in Scotland with postgraduate courses in Anthropology. Funding may also be available through the College of Arts and Social Sciences Research Project Award Scheme (RPAS) or other internal and external sources. Please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate/funding](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate/funding) for more information.

Our international faculty (totalling 41 members across the three units) includes numerous world-recognised leaders in their fields. Staff retention and new recruitment provide for a thriving research environment, as evinced in activities such as research away days, postgraduate summer schools, weekly seminars and informal presentations, and various programmes for knowledge transfer and community engagement. In the RAE2008, most of our work was judged to be international in quality, and we expect strong performances in the upcoming REF2014.

Postgraduates have access to funding for conference presentations and high quality library and IT systems. We endeavour to provide every research student with desk space and a computer in dedicated accommodation co-located in the School. We also benefit from the University’s special collections, and the ethnographic collections in the Marischal Museum. The School has established a multimedia workstation for digitising diverse media for analysis and editing, and for producing analogue and digital media from paper print-outs to cassette tapes, DVDs and web media. Video- and audio-recording equipment is available for use in fieldwork.

**PhD Supervision**

The University of Aberdeen School of Social School offers PhD supervision in:

- **Social Anthropology:** [www.abdn.ac.uk/anthropology/postgrad/index.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/anthropology/postgrad/index.php)
- **Politics and International Relations:** [www.abdn.ac.uk/pir/postgraduate/research_prog.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/pir/postgraduate/research_prog.php)
- **Sociology:** [www.abdn.ac.uk/socsci/research](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/socsci/research)
What Do I Need?

Masters Programmes
The minimum requirement for Masters programmes is a good first degree (equivalent to a UK 2:1 degree for all programmes except Strategic Studies, which will accept a 2:2) in a related discipline. For further details on entry requirements, please contact socscipg@abdn.ac.uk.

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

The English Language Requirement for all College of Arts and Social Sciences Masters 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