An ancient university
Here for you

Experience our campus
Our commitment to you
The University of Aberdeen is open and ready to welcome students in September 2020.
Physical distancing measures and enhanced hygiene procedures will be in place to help protect our community. Sanitiser will be provided at entrances to buildings and key locations. There will also be additional cleaning schedules particularly of communal areas and touch points. We all have a collective responsibility to keep ourselves and the community around us safe. Read our Campus Pledge to see what we expect from our community.

We understand how important on campus learning is to you. We will ensure you receive the same high quality Aberdeen student experience, albeit delivered differently. We will be open and ready to welcome you to campus in September offering blended learning - a mix of face-to-face teaching on campus, wherever possible and safe, as well as online learning where teaching cannot yet be in person. If you can’t join us on campus straight away, don’t worry we have measures in place to allow you to study fully online, and arrive when you can during the semester.

All of our student support services will be available to you. Our community is compassionate and will always work to foster a positive environment in which you can thrive. We know that the University experience reaches far beyond that of academic study. We have a broad co-curricular offering centred around student interest and supporting a sense of belonging. Lots of useful information can be found on our new and returning student webpages.

Watch our accommodation video here to see the measures we have taken to keep our space as safe as possible.

The University of Aberdeen continues to monitor Scottish Government advice regarding the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. The advice is changing rapidly, the most up to date Scottish Government information can be found here and the latest University FAQs here.
Your safety is our primary concern. As we continue to follow Scottish Government guidelines, the University and the city of Aberdeen are putting a variety of measures in place to ensure your welfare.

**ON CAMPUS SAFETY**
One-way systems will be used where appropriate to ensure physical distancing. Signage across campus will remind people of the need to keep their distance and wash their hands regularly. Appropriate adaptations will be made to teaching spaces to ensure as safe a learning experience as possible. Cafes, dining areas and shops will have physical distancing measures in place, allowing them to open and provide a safe and friendly service.

You can also download the SafeZone app, which connects you to the University security team, if you need urgent help or first aid.

We also recommend that you download the Protect Scotland app. This app will alert you if you have been in close contact with another app user who tests positive for coronavirus whilst keeping information private and anonymous.

**HYGIENE**
Regular cleaning will be in place across all University buildings. Hand sanitising gel will be available upon entry to all buildings and within each of the cafe and dining areas. We will also provide forehead strip thermometers, so that you can easily check your own temperature. During the first few weeks of term, compostable utensils will be used almost exclusively for the service of food and drink. If guidelines change as term progresses, the option of using reusable glasses, cups, plates, bowls and cutlery will be re-introduced.

**PERSONAL HYGIENE**
It is also important that good personal hygiene is maintained
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
Safe Environment

OFF CAMPUS SAFETY
Aberdeen city has adapted to ensure that everyone can still access the resources they need in a safe way. The Aberdeen City Council website offers up to date advice and support as well as a 24-hour crisis line.

Retailers and restaurants are working to national guidelines and the city centre has been temporarily pedestrianised to allow space for physical distancing.

OUTSIDE SPACE/ACTIVITIES
Aberdeen is the perfect place to enjoy the great outdoors. Within the city you can find numerous parks all with something different to offer. Duthie Park is loved by visitors due to its open space, fountains and boating ponds or if you prefer woodland walks you can take a wander through Hazlehead Park. Closer to home, you can enjoy a walk along the sand or dip your toes in the water at Aberdeen beach or investigate Seaton Park, 27 hectares of riverside walks, formal gardens and playing fields right next door to King’s College Campus.

The North-East of Scotland is known for its miles of spectacular coastline with craggy clifftops and wide beaches perfect for a walk or bike ride. Our expansive forests and inviting hills are ideal for spotting wildlife and enjoying a breath of fresh air while you explore the outdoors.

The Visit Aberdeenshire website has lots more information on things to enjoy in the City and the Shire.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
Everything you need is available within walking distance. However, should you wish to use public transport, there are plenty of options available. Travel providers across Scotland are adhering to Scottish Government advice to ensure that passengers can travel safely. First Aberdeen have implemented several safety measures on all buses in Aberdeen City including mandatory face coverings and reduced capacity to ensure correct distancing. The First Bus App has also been updated so you can check when the next bus is, and how many seats are available. Bus and taxi services in Aberdeen also offer card payment options to minimise contact.

FACE COVERINGS
We are following Scottish Government guidelines on face coverings. The University will be providing all students and staff with two, 3-ply face coverings and students and staff will be expected to wear these. At the time of publication face coverings are a requirement in shops and on public transport.
WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE?
The academic year 2020-21 will commence with Welcome Week on 21 September with teaching starting on 28 September. It would be great if you can join us on 21 September, but if you can’t don’t worry. Our blended learning approach means you can begin your studies online and join us when you can.

Students arriving from outside of the UK, current Scottish Government guidelines require a 14-day quarantine period for many countries. You can see a full list of exempt countries here. You are also required to complete a passenger locator form, information on this can be found here. Our University accommodation will be open two weeks before the start of term to allow for quarantining. You can read more on the Scottish Government advice for self-isolation on arrival in Scotland here.

VISA REQUIREMENTS
If you are an international student, you are likely to require a visa to study in the UK. Guidance for Tier 4 visas is different during the Covid-19 pandemic but our immigration web pages will be updated regularly with any guidance. Remember that because of our blended learning approach, you can arrive when you can, so if you can’t get your visa appointment before the start of term don’t worry we will support you. Get in touch with our International Student advisers who will gladly guide you through the process.

PRE-DEPARTURE
Please see our Pre-Departure Guide (insert link) for all you need to know before leaving for Aberdeen. We will continue to run online events with regional partners and don’t hesitate to get in touch with our International Office direct if you have any questions.
GETTING HERE
If you are arriving at Aberdeen Airport, our friendly student ambassadors will be providing a meet and greet service from the 3rd – 25th September. You can book this service here. Don’t worry if you arrive after this date. You can find an express bus service, Jet 727, to the city centre at a cost of approximately £3. There are also taxi services available to take you directly to your accommodation which will cost £15–£25. Remember if you are using public transport you will require a face covering. Keep an eye on our new student website for more information on getting to campus.

Once you arrive at your accommodation, most facilities including shops and cafes are within walking distance, meaning you won’t have to take public transport if you don’t want to.

ACCOMMODATION
You must ensure that you have accommodation booked before arriving in Aberdeen.

Our accommodation is open now for anyone who has to quarantine. We are introducing a phased arrival programme from Monday 14 September for students who don’t require to quarantine. If you are residing with a third-party accommodation provider you should contact them to familiarise yourself with their quarantine procedures. Keep an eye on our Coronavirus FAQ page as we release more information on how we can support you through quarantine.

ORIENTATION AND RETURNING TO CAMPUS
Through the digital orientation programme we will introduce you to the University and all the different services and departments available to help you settle in and access the support you need. There will also be an orientation programme for returning students to welcome you back to campus.

We have social media pages dedicated to our new students providing you with the opportunity to connect with peers. Both new and returning students can find specific school orientation details and information including orientation dates, reading lists and assessment dates here. Don’t forget to check out our various social media channels to keep you informed and make sure you download UoA Student Guide from the app store.

Keep an eye on your emails for a series of informative communications taking you through the process and steps to getting started at the University of Aberdeen.
Home from Home

YOUR ACCOMMODATION
From the moment you arrive in University accommodation we will be there to provide support and to create a safe and comfortable living environment, to the best of our ability.

There will be staggered move in dates and times to allow the creation of households and to ensure minimum contact when checking in. Information and campus maps will be sent out prior to arrival along with sanitised keys if appropriate. There will be check-in points around the site to ensure physical distancing with staff available to give advice.

If you have accepted your offer of accommodation, you can join the Accommodation Facebook Group where you can meet your flatmates in advance of arrival. For more information visit our accommodation pages.

BEDROOM
In your room upon arrival you will find a welcome pack from us containing a face mask, mini hand sanitiser, thermometer and gloves. All bedrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned for your arrival and extra cleaning materials will be provided.

KITCHEN
For those who choose the catered accommodation packages, the onsite Accommodation Village venues open at 12 noon on Saturday 19 September.

Otherwise you will have access to your shared kitchen which will be thoroughly cleaned before your arrival so you can cook as normal and get to know your flatmates. The cafe bar, The Works, will open on Saturday 19 September operating throughout term, offering a great selection of food and drink to buy and enjoy.

STUDENT RESIDENT ASSISTANTS
Our team of Student Resident Assistants (SRAs) are on duty 6pm - 6am, 7 nights a week. They are based in the Hillhead Student Village to look after the welfare of students. The team will also plan a range of online social events for you to meet your peers.

WIFI
Free unlimited WiFi is available in all accommodation. Stay connected via the Eduroam and UoA-Gaming networks.
**Home from Home**

**QUARANTINE**

Quarantine accommodation will be provided **free of charge** for 2 weeks prior to your contract start date, which is 19 September 2020, if you are residing in University accommodation during the academic year.

If you are staying in private accommodation or in third party student accommodation, you should ensure you speak to your accommodation provider directly to plan for any quarantine measures which may be required on arrival in the UK. If you have any questions around quarantining in private accommodation you can contact us at coronavirus@abdn.ac.uk and read the Scottish Government’s advice here.

We will provide you with a set of bed linen and the option of a kitchen pack comprising pots, pans, plates, bowls, glasses and cutlery (charge for kitchen pack applies). We will also give you additional cleaning materials to keep your space clean.

**EATING WHILE IN QUARANTINE**

Upon arrival we will provide you with a box containing enough food and drink items for meals and snacks during the first 24 hours of arrival. This will be free of charge.

For the remainder of your quarantine you have several options for eating and drinking. You can:

- Book exclusive access to the shop on site between agreed times
- Consider online grocery shopping
- Arrange a payment facility with the onsite shop and you will be invoiced at a later date.

- For those in catered accommodation, you can have food boxes delivered to your accommodation, every 3 days.

It is also good to know that the cold water tap in your kitchen is clean and safe to drink.

Even though you may need to complete 14 days of quarantine, this is your room; we want it to be as safe and comfortable as possible. It has been thoroughly cleaned, including all touchpoints and surfaces, so you can get on with life as near-to-normal as possible.

*Charges apply
World Class Education

We will be open and ready to welcome you in September and will be offering a blended learning experience until we are able to return to full on campus delivery.
BLENDED LEARNING
Blended learning will provide a mix of on campus teaching alongside online delivery of teaching and activities with support from our expert academics.

Face to face delivery will focus on small group sessions such as tutorials and seminars together with the opportunity to gain some practical experience, where relevant, in labs or clinical teaching, subject to physical distancing requirements.

All lecture materials will be delivered online in a flexible way allowing you to engage with the material when it works for you.

If you have concerns about being able to make it on to campus in September, please get in touch and we will be glad to discuss your options with you or you can let us know if you intend to study the first semester online through the student hub.

We recognise the importance of engagement and interaction with both your peers and your lecturers. Your learning, both online and on campus, will provide opportunities for you to interact with your classmates and ask questions of your lecturers.

ACCESSING YOUR LEARNING
Learning will be underpinned by a high quality, virtual learning environment where you will be able to access course materials, undertake assessments, ask questions and engage with your peers in a flexible way that fits with your particular circumstances. Lecture materials will be available to access when it best suits you and your lecturer will guide you through the time-frames for completion.

Your learning environment (MyAberdeen) will be used to facilitate wider engagement, for example, online tutorials and group work.

FINDING THE BALANCE
While we expect to welcome the majority of students to Aberdeen in September, we recognise that some students may not be able to come to campus (e.g. due to travel restrictions or shielding). If this is the case for you, you will be able to study fully online until such time that you can join us on campus.

Get in touch with us and we will be glad to chat through your options or you can let us know by completing the form on the student hub. The balance of online and on campus activities may vary depending on physical distancing restrictions and the particular needs of each course.

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Here for you
STUDENT SUPPORT
Our support teams are available to help you at every step of your Aberdeen journey. All of our support services are currently operating, offering impartial and confidential advice on a range of issues, including personal, academic, money matters, disabilities and specific learning difficulties, visas and immigration matters, mental health and wellbeing, and more. We are currently offering meetings online and by telephone.

DISABILITY SERVICE
The Disability Service provides advice, information and practical study-related support to prospective and current students online and by telephone.

INFOHUB
Infohub is your one-stop-shop for all enquiries. If you don’t know the answer or aren’t sure who to ask, email the team and they will be happy to help. Some of the services they offer are ID card support, paying your fees, production of documents to support your student status, council tax exemption forms, bank account letters and help with your Personal Tutor.

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
The International Centre is a virtual and on campus hub for anyone interested in the ‘international experience’ aspect of attending University. We offer a range of events (in line with Scottish Government guidelines), language classes, celebrations and a chance to meet people from all over the world.

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION (AUSA)
AUSA will continue to run face to face social events within physical distancing guidelines. There will also be the opportunity to join one of the many student clubs and societies. AUSA Advice offers free and impartial advice to students on anything including academic advice, health and wellbeing, part-time employment and housing.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE
The Careers and Employability Service is available to inspire and support your career choices and provides opportunities to develop skills through a range of co-curricular programmes. The CareerConnect portal links you with employers and their opportunities including events, fairs and extensive vacancy listings.

IT SERVICE DESK
Have a look at our IT for Students web pages to find out about all the digital and technical services we offer.

Our award winning Toolkit is your essential guide to our services and technologies and is full of useful guidance, advice and training.

Still got problems? Our IT Service Desk team is available to help ensure that you are able to get the best from your studies. If you have any issues using or accessing our digital learning environment, you can quickly and easily log a ticket and our team of experts will be happy to help.

STUDENT LEARNING SERVICE
The Student Learning Service (SLS) is here to work with you to enhance your academic skills. The SLS is a free, non-judgmental, and confidential service. You can book on-line appointments with an academic skills adviser to focus on specific issues related to your academic skills, or attend workshops on: academic writing, study skills and maths. The SLS also offers specialist advice on academic and study skills for students with Dyslexia and other Specific Learning Differences. You can find out more about their service, and access their online booking system, at www.abdn.ac.uk/sls
State of the art facilities
OUR LIBRARIES
Our libraries, including the award-winning Sir Duncan Rice Library, will be open with a reduced capacity and physical distancing in place. Many of our library resources will be available to you in digital form whether you’re studying on campus or from home. Print materials and open study spaces will become available in keeping with national safety and physical distancing guidelines. Face coverings required to be worn in the library unless you are exempt from wearing one.

SPORTS FACILITIES
Aberdeen Sports Village, our world class sports facility, is open. Use of the facilities will be adapted to reflect the prevailing guidelines from The Scottish Government and sporting governing bodies, with team and contact sports likely to resume according to slightly different timetables. Group exercise and the gym are now open with appropriate adaptations in place to reassure users that their gym experience will be a safe and enjoyable one. Visit the ASV website for more information.

FOOD AND DRINK
Reflecting Scottish Government guidelines in place at the start of term, appropriate adaptations will have been made to ensure all of the cafes, coffee venues, restaurants and retail shops will be open, providing a safe and friendly service and real social campus experience, from Monday 21 September.

STUDY SPACES
Study spaces, including PC Labs, will be available with physical distancing measures in place. Our PC classrooms, teaching spaces and study spaces will be redesigned to allow for safe and effective usage. Any spaces where it is not possible to operate within the national safety guidelines will not be used.

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Inspirational City

All year round, and in all circumstances, there will always be something in Aberdeen for you.
SCOTLAND
We are lucky enough to be located in one of most beautiful corners of the UK. Scotland is famous throughout the world for its incredible warmth and unbeatable hospitality. Whether it’s the many thousands who choose to live here permanently or the more than 2.5 million visitors who travel to Scotland every year, everyone speaks of the genuine friendliness of the Scottish people.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scottish community and the Scottish Government have been proactive in protecting its communities, coming together to support each other and resulting in a relatively low number of Covid-19 cases.

Click here to watch a video from Scotland’s First Minister, reassuring students from across the globe that Scotland is a safe place to study.

ABERDEEN CITY AND SHIRE
Surrounded by majestic landscapes and miles of stunning coastlines, Aberdeen City and Shire offer endless opportunities to safely enjoy the great outdoors.

Voted the Safest City in Scotland*, Aberdeen continues to adapt to ensure it remains vibrant and exciting, but in a way that’s safe for you to enjoy. The City has retained its Purple Flag status, a national award for city-centre safety, for seven consecutive years.

You can explore Aberdeen’s shops, cafes and venues in a safe environment. The main shopping street has been pedestrianised to allow shoppers space for physical distancing and all retailers are operating within government guidelines.

COMPACT AND ACCESSIBLE
Due to Aberdeen’s compact size you can find most things you need within walking distance. Our Accommodation Village at Hillhead is a 15 minute walk to King’s College Campus, which is only a 30 minute walk to the city centre. Road layouts have also been changed to accommodate increased bike use, so you can cycle in safety. Both the city centre and beach areas offer free access to Eduroam WiFi services, connecting the city with the campus. A seamless experience for learning in and enjoying the city.

EXPLORE FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME
Restaurant chains and local independently owned eateries have adapted to the Covid-19 crisis to offer takeaway and delivery services, so you can still enjoy the wide range of cuisines that Aberdeen has to offer.

Although some of our venues may not be immediately available, there are still plenty of opportunities to explore the city from the comfort of your own home with virtual tours of castles, museums including our own University museums, art collections and live entertainment streams.

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*Source: Unbroken Britain Survey, Provident Financial 2018
For more information please visit our dedicated Coronavirus website.

If you would like more information on studying at the University of Aberdeen, visit abdn.ac.uk/study or email: study@abdn.ac.uk

@aberdeenuni
@universityofaberdeen
uniofaberdeen
@uniofaberdeen
@uniofaberdeen

Download our student app at
App store
Google Play

The information within this document was correct at time of publication 9th September 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic is fast moving and circumstances may have changed since. For the most up to date guidelines please refer to Scottish Government advice.