



# International Students' Handbook



UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN

# Welcome to the International Students' Handbook

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## Term Dates

<b>Winter Term</b>
Tuesday 20 September 2011 to Friday 16 December 2011
<b>Spring Term</b>
Monday 9 January 2012 to Friday 23 March 2012
<b>Summer Term</b>
Monday 16 April 2012 to Friday 8 June 2012
<b>First Half-Session Begins</b>
Tuesday 20 September 2011
<b>Second Half-Session Begins</b>
Monday 30 January 2012

Please note these term dates may  
be subject to change.

**The University of Aberdeen** is the fifth oldest University in the UK with an academic reputation spanning more than 500 years. Currently ranked in the top 150 in the world, the University is recognised as an international centre of academic excellence.

The information contained in this booklet will answer many of the questions you may have about studying in the UK, and in particular, at the University of Aberdeen.

However, details are not exhaustive and some issues may be affected by your own individual circumstances. For this reason, you should use the contact details provided throughout this booklet to find the information you require, and be assured that you will be well guided by the University throughout the admissions process.

Aberdeen is the fifth oldest University in the UK with an academic reputation spanning more than 500 years. Currently ranked in the top 150 in the world, the University is recognised as an international centre of academic excellence.

As part of our £270 million investment into infrastructure, our campus has wireless internet access throughout all buildings across the University campus, including accommodation, and 2011 will see the completion of the new library, which will be established as a major intellectual and cultural learning centre for students in the 21st century.

We are always here to offer guidance, support and information to help make your preparations for studying in the UK as straightforward as possible.

We sincerely hope that you will explore the opportunities that are available to you at the University of Aberdeen, and look forward to welcoming you to Aberdeen in the near future.

## Excellence in Teaching and Research Since 1495

Founded in 1495, the University of Aberdeen is one of the oldest universities in the world and the fifth oldest in the UK. Old Aberdeen's King's College - home of the University's original foundation - is now the main university site and sits just one mile from the city centre. Here, the 15th century remains very much alive, bringing a genuine sense of history to the daily life of a university firmly focused on the needs of the new millennium.

Five Nobel Prizes have been awarded for work either completed or initiated at the University of Aberdeen and our international reputation bears testament to a long tradition of excellence and innovation.

As one of our students, you will be welcomed to a varied and thriving community of around 16,000 students, of which approximately 20% are from outside the UK.

We are committed to helping students settle in quickly, achieve their ambitions and develop their talents and interests. Here you'll find study options to suit your academic interests, and social and leisure activities that will contribute to your overall well-being, enjoyment and personal growth.

Learning resources for students on our beautiful campus are first-class. At Aberdeen you will find ancient buildings side by side with modern, newly refurbished laboratories, excellent computing facilities and the latest library technology. Social and sporting amenities are outstanding and there are over 150 sports clubs and societies for students to join.

For more information, visit  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/international](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international)





**Founded in 1495**

**Around 16,000 students**

**46% men, 54% women**

**20% international students**

**13% international staff**

**120 nationalities**

**Ranked in the top 150 in the world**

**5 Nobel prizes have been awarded for work carried out or begun at Aberdeen**

**90% of research activity is of international quality**

**91% of our graduates enter directly into work, further study or training within 6 months**

**Over 600 first degree programmes**

**Over 150 taught masters degrees**

**Largest wireless campus in Europe**

**Libraries with over 1,050,000 volumes**

**Investment in excess of £270 million over next ten years**

For further information about the University, visit  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/about/facts](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/facts)

**Life in Scotland and Aberdeen** to many people around the world, is characterised by tartan, castles, and spectacular scenery. However, Scotland is a vibrant and exciting country that celebrates a rich diversity of cultural experience. From stunning landscapes to cosmopolitan cities, Scotland offers a unique mix of tradition and innovation.

Although Scotland is one of the four nations that make up the United Kingdom, it retains a distinctive cultural identity represented by its own unique legal and educational systems. Scotland's businesses and education institutions are internationally recognised world-leaders in many areas. Scots are famed for their friendliness and zest for life and this can be seen first-hand during the year round programme of events and festivals. Museums and galleries showcase a wide variety of collections, and with plenty to offer in the way of entertainment, Scotland doesn't disappoint.

#### Aberdeen the City

Aberdeen, the city, has taken the student population to its heart and ensures something for every interest and taste. Aberdeen's rich cultural heritage combines with a thriving contemporary community and strong economic pulse, to make the 'Granite City' a lively and rewarding place in which to live and study.

Aberdeen is an attractive, prosperous and welcoming city of about 250,000 people. Big enough for the 'big city' experience, Aberdeen is compact enough to make it easy to find your way around and make friends.

Aberdeen caters for all tastes in arts, culture, leisure and entertainment and regularly attracts national and international artists and companies. Cinema multiplexes, museums, art galleries and first-class leisure and sports facilities means there is always plenty going on, and at night Aberdeen really lights up with a fantastic nightlife that can offer something for everyone. To view our Lonely Planet Guide to Aberdeen City, visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/lonely-planet.pdf](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/lonely-planet.pdf)

Getting around Aberdeen is easy. Distances are short in this well proportioned city and while walking is both pleasant and popular, a regular bus service gives excellent access to all parts of the city and suburbs. Cheap, regular rail, bus and air links will allow easy transport both within Scotland and throughout the UK.

Aberdeen's International Airport offers frequent, cheap connections to destinations throughout the world via London, Paris and Amsterdam - flights to the rest of Europe are readily available too.

With multiple flights per day to London and elsewhere in the UK, you can also visit friends and family throughout the UK cheaply and conveniently. Visit their website at [www.aberdeenaairport.com](http://www.aberdeenaairport.com)

For more information on travelling to Aberdeen, visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/international/travel.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international/travel.php)

For more information on Scotland and Aberdeen, visit:  
[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)  
[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
[www.aberdeencityandshire.com](http://www.aberdeencityandshire.com)

#### You Can Fly Direct from Aberdeen Airport to the Following Locations



**“Aberdeen is a remarkable city offering a broad range of opportunities you can enjoy. Situated in a beautiful coastline area, close to the amazing wildlife and beautiful landscapes while at the same time being the city of entertainment which you can share with welcoming people.”**

**TERESA PYRCZ, POLAND**

**BSc BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**(APPLIED MOLECULAR BIOLOGY)**

#### Fast Facts

- > A 15-minute walk east of the campus leads to the salt-tanged air of Aberdeen's miles and miles of sandy beach
- > Aberdeen is full of great multi-cultural grazing grounds. Restaurants and takeaways include Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek, Indian, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Mexican, Polish and Turkish
- > Aberdeen's harbour mouth is one of the best locations in Scotland for watching dolphins from the shore
- > Three of Scotland's five main ski centres are only two hours from campus. Aviemore, the Cairngorm Mountain, Glenshee and the Lecht provide perfect pistes for board-riders and alpine skiers
- > Fifteen miles south of campus the historic fishing port of Stonehaven has an attractive cliff fringed harbour and the gloriously crumbling Dunnottar Castle. It's so picturesque Franco Zeffirelli filmed Hamlet with Mel Gibson here
- > “Bon Accord”. Knowing what Aberdeen's motto means really helps you feel at home. In case anybody asks it means: 'happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again'. Kind of fitting really

**Your Arrival and Accommodation** A warm welcome awaits you in Aberdeen and numerous activities and orientation events are scheduled during Freshers' Week for new students.

#### Your First Week

Arriving to a new city can be a daunting prospect and at the University of Aberdeen we are keen to help you feel both at ease and welcome in your new home. Welcome staff will be located at Aberdeen airport during peak arrival times and will be available to assist you in making the short journey to your halls of residence. Please note, a taxi-ride will cost you approximately £20.00.

Welcome activities are scheduled during Freshers' Week and will involve a wide range of entertainment and orientation events. Specific programmes for international students are also organised in September and January. Please visit

[www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents) to read about Freshers' Week and welcome activities at the University of Aberdeen.

#### University Accommodation

To ease the worry of finding accommodation in a new city, the University of Aberdeen guarantees accommodation in single study-bedrooms for all international students for at least one year as long as applications are received before the stated deadline.

Bathroom facilities are usually shared, but are allocated on a single sex basis. In some instances, exclusively female accommodation may be available.

We cannot provide married or family accommodation in University Halls.

Students may choose to live in 'catered' accommodation where two meals per day are included in the accommodation fee (breakfast and evening meal are provided Monday-Saturday, and brunch is provided on Sunday), or in 'self-catered' accommodation, where costs do not include food provision (no cutlery, crockery, pots or pans are provided) but students are given kitchen access for food preparation. Access to facilities such as the 24hr

computer rooms with free internet access, and use of on-site laundry facilities is available.

Please visit the Accommodation Office website at [www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation)

Please note that only a mattress protector is provided in all University accommodation, and you will need to provide your own bedding.

#### How Do I Book My Accommodation?

When you have satisfied all the academic and financial conditions of your offer, you will automatically receive information on how to apply for University-owned accommodation. Applications should be submitted online and you must apply for accommodation no later than 26th August 2011 for September courses. While every effort will be made to accommodate late applicants, a place in University-owned accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

#### Accommodation Outside the University

Privately owned accommodation is available in Aberdeen City, but tends to fill quickly.

Such properties are advertised both locally and on the web to students. Further advice may be requested from the Students' Association at [infoadvice@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:infoadvice@abdn.ac.uk) or you can visit [www.libertystudents.com](http://www.libertystudents.com) or [www.unite-students.com](http://www.unite-students.com) International students who are subject to immigration control will have 'no recourse to public funds' stated on their visa or biometric ID card. This means that you are not entitled to low cost housing through Aberdeen City Council.

#### Contracts

All housing contracts, whether University contracts or private contracts, are legally binding documents, and as such, once you sign for accommodation, you will usually have to continue paying rent until the end of your lease or give notice that you intend to leave the property within the required period (subject to terms and conditions of your lease). This can be difficult if you wish to bring your family to live in Aberdeen.

Contact the Accommodation Office for advice if you are bringing your family with you.



**Support When You Need It** is available through a network of student support services - academic, personal, medical - from people who are easy to contact and who can give you friendly and expert guidance.

#### Before Leaving Home

Please see [www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents) for lots of up-to-date advice on the arrangements we have made for your arrival and induction programme.

#### Your First Week

At the University of Aberdeen students joining us from overseas often require a little extra help in finding their way around and settling in. Our aim is to look after the health and well-being of our students in the widest sense. From your arrival onwards you will have access to a network of student support services - academic, personal, medical - from people who are easy to contact and who can give you friendly and expert guidance.

Our **International Student Advisers** are here to provide support regarding non-academic matters to all our international students. In particular, they are professionally trained to provide specific immigration advice and their services are regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner.

In addition, undergraduate students will be allocated their own personal Adviser of Studies, to assist in providing academic guidance and support throughout the duration of your studies at Aberdeen. If you do not receive notification of a scheduled appointment with your Adviser, you should arrange to see him/her soon after your arrival in Aberdeen.

For a full range of support information, please visit: [www.abdn.ac.uk/students](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students)



As part of its English Language Support Programme, the University offers a number of English language courses throughout the academic year. These aim to build up the confidence and skills you need to work successfully in your chosen course of study, and contribute to your future professional development.

The University Language Centre has a wide range of audio and video resources which are open to you and your family.

Visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/languagecentre](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/languagecentre) for more information.

#### Make Friends and Have Fun

University life is about much more than just study. It provides you with an opportunity to engage in new friendships, interests, experiences and will provide you with a unique outlook that can only be gained from a truly international education. The Scottish people have a reputation for hospitality and tolerance and as a student here you will undoubtedly gain a great deal from this study environment.

The Students' Association ([www.ausa.org.uk](http://www.ausa.org.uk)) is the organisation that represents and serves student interests at the University, and works to make your time in Aberdeen as happy and enjoyable as possible. The Association supports a remarkable range of student societies - academic, sporting, social and cultural. Visit their website to find out more about the range of societies you can join.

The International Society is one of more than 150 available societies and organises an active programme of social events throughout the year to give students the opportunity to experience Scottish life and tradition. The programme includes day trips and weekend trips around Scotland. Full information on current activities can be viewed from the International Society web pages at [www.intersoc.co.uk](http://www.intersoc.co.uk)

## Immigration - Before and After Your Arrival

Please note it is your responsibility to check all visa requirements and apply for a visa before travelling as those without the necessary visa will be refused entry to the UK. Any information we provide is for guidance only.

For detailed information on immigration visit:  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/international/visa-information.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international/visa-information.php) and  
[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk)

### Before You Travel to the UK

All international (except European Economic Area and Swiss nationals) students studying in the UK for longer than six months need to apply for a student visa under Tier 4. The regulations for entry into the UK are constantly changing and so it is essential that you check on the UK Visas website at [www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk) and [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk) on a regular basis to ensure you have the most up to date and accurate information.

### Applying for Your Visa

Any international (except European Economic Area and Swiss nationals) student planning to study full-time in the UK for more than six months will need to apply for their visa under Tier 4. The visa application is based on a points based assessment – 40 points are needed to be granted a visa.

#### You score:

- > 30 points for Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), which is a number generated when a licensed immigration sponsor enters your data into the relevant Home Office electronic system; and
- > 10 points if you can show that you have enough finances to cover your course fees for the first 12 months and monthly living expenses for up to 9 months (known as maintenance).

For further information visit [www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/infos/inf29pbsstudent](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/infos/inf29pbsstudent)

### ATAS – Academic Technology Approval Scheme

Postgraduate students studying on some taught Masters degree courses, some Masters by research and some PhD programmes are required to obtain an ATAS certificate before being able to apply for a visa. To check whether you have to do this, you will need the JACS code for your course of study which will be noted on your offer letter. You will also be issued with an ATAS statement by our Postgraduate Admissions Office.

Further details can be found at: [www.fco.gov.uk/atas](http://www.fco.gov.uk/atas)

### Entering the UK from the Republic of Ireland (Eire)

You are strongly advised not to enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland (Eire), for example, by flying direct to Dublin and then flying on from Dublin to Scotland.

### Dependants

For further information on dependants please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/immigration-information.pdf](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/documents/immigration-information.pdf)

### Extending Your Stay in the UK

There are specific requirements under Tier 4 for students wishing to extend their stay in the UK. You should always seek advice from one of our International Student Advisers based in The Hub before submitting a visa extension application in the UK or applying to change status, as this may not always be possible.

### Attendance

You are expected to attend all your classes. If you do not attend you may end up in difficulty academically and ultimately the University may be required to report you to the Immigration Authorities (UKBA). If you require any time off during term time you must request permission to do so from your School Office.

## Working in the UK

### Employment Regulations

Under the new Points Based System, those with a Tier 4 student visa should be able to work up to twenty hours per week during term-time. Our International Student Advisers, based in the Hub, will be able to check your permission to work once you are in the UK.

Please note, that there are a number of key exceptions to this rule which relate to students on short-term courses which are below degree level or short English Language programmes. For further information visit [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/wms-tier-4-student](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/wms-tier-4-student)

### Finding a Part-Time Job

Joblink, which is part of the University's Students' Association, provides information on local, part-time and vacation job vacancies. Please visit [www.ausa.org.uk](http://www.ausa.org.uk) for further information.

The University of Aberdeen Careers Service is there to support you in choosing your career and finding the right job opportunities for you by:

- > providing advice and information on how to search for graduate jobs in the UK and in your home country
- > giving you practical support in making applications and preparing for interviews

“I chose Aberdeen because of its excellent reputation. I was awarded a scholarship for my studies and Aberdeen was recommended as being one of the very best places in the UK to go.”

**ASSIYA KERITBAYEVA, KAZAKHSTAN**  
**BEng MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

- > helping you to identify and find degree-related work experience
- > advertising graduate jobs and work experience on our website at [www.abdn.ac.uk/careers](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers)

### After Your Studies

We're immensely proud of our family of international scholars and alumni, many of whom maintain their links with us long after their formal studies have ended.

International students have the opportunity to remain in the UK for four months following completion of their studies to seek graduate employment. Students who are offered graduate-level positions with an annual salary of £20,000 or more are able to apply for a UK work visa and many businesses sponsor work visa applications. International graduates who wish to start their own business in the UK will also be able to apply for a new student entrepreneur's visa.

Whatever your future career ambitions, our University Careers Service will endeavour to give you all of the help and support you need to take that first step on the ladder to a successful career anywhere in the world, with guaranteed careers guidance for life. The world awaits your graduation!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who Can Answer My Queries?

To save you time and keep you better informed, you should use the contact details at the back of this handbook. Our International Student Advisers are based in the Student Advice and Support Office in the Hub on campus should you have any queries when you arrive in Aberdeen. However, we appreciate that you will have questions about life in Aberdeen before you arrive. In the section below, we have collected information on the most commonly asked questions and hope that you find these useful. You may also contact our team of International Officers by emailing [sras@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sras@abdn.ac.uk) and see the website [www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents)

### How Do I Become a Registered Student?

International Students coming to study at Aberdeen under a Tier 4 visa **must not** complete e-registration until the Tier 4 visa has been awarded. There are two parts to the registration process and to become a registered student you must complete both parts:

1. The first part is known as electronic registration which you can do yourself using our electronic registration facility from anywhere in the world, even before you travel to Aberdeen. Details will be available as part of the Joining Instructions, and through visiting the registration link within the New Students' website [www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents)
2. The second part of registration is the academic part, which activates your academic curriculum on our Student Record system and which you cannot do yourself. During the summer, students will be notified of the details of where and when to meet with their academic undergraduate Adviser of Studies or Postgraduate Programme Co-ordinator. In addition, international students on a Tier 4 visa must provide a copy of their passport pages and bring along the original passport so that it can be checked at registration. The copy will be retained by registration staff.

### When and How Do I Pay My Tuition Fees?

The most up-to-date information will be on the new students' website, and you are advised to read through this carefully. Payment of tuition fees is undertaken through the electronic registration facility, from anywhere in the world. The portal, however, does not take account of any deposit that may have been required in advance. You will be asked to confirm that the amount of tuition fees and the fee payer details are correct. Self-paying students must pay at least 50% of the total tuition fees for the academic year (ending 30 September) and complete an installment plan for the balance, which can be printed from the e-reg facility. Payment can be made in advance of coming to Aberdeen if you so wish. Please retain all receipts and bring them to registration. When you have been fully cleared for admission and wish to make an advanced payment of tuition fees, the following options are available:-

#### Bank Draft/Demand Draft

- > Make an application to your bank for a draft in pound sterling which should be made payable to: **The University of Aberdeen.**
- > It is essential that you write your Student ID number and name on the reverse of the draft before sending it to us.

The draft should then be sent to: The University of Aberdeen Finance Section – Cash Office Kings College, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX, Scotland UK

#### Wire Transfer/Bank Transfer

- > Instruct your bank to make an electronic transfer of funds.

Payments should be made to: Bank of Scotland Queen's Cross Branch

Account No:- 00841800

Sort Code:- 80-05-14

Swift: BOFSGB 21353

IBAN: GB45BOFS80051400841800

Please ensure that you send a copy of your wire/bank transfer receipt to the Cash Office by email to [tuitionfees@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:tuitionfees@abdn.ac.uk)

#### Details required are:

- > Student Name
- > Student ID
- > Date of Birth
- > Full name of person making the transfer
- > Bank account number to which transfer has been made
- > Payment amount (if payment made in currency other than GBP, please state which)
- > Date payment sent

#### On-Line Payment

- > Electronic payments can be made via the University payment website, [www.abdn.ac.uk/internetpayments](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/internetpayments) For payment details and options, please visit: [www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/tuitionfees/payment.shtml](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/tuitionfees/payment.shtml) **E-mail: [tuitionfees@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:tuitionfees@abdn.ac.uk)**

### What is the Weather Like in Scotland?

Contrary to popular belief, it does not always rain in Britain, and especially not in Aberdeen! Summer in Britain lasts from May to September and is generally pleasant and mild. In Aberdeen, January temperatures average at about 2°C (35°F) and approximately 20°C (68°F) in July. The average annual rainfall is about 840mm (33 inches).

### What About Religious Practices?

Whoever you are and wherever you come from, you are welcome in the Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy has contact listings for most of the world's faiths and information on a variety of student faith societies meeting regularly, see [www.abdn.ac.uk/chaplaincy](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/chaplaincy) for further information.

### What About Childcare and School Provision?

Childcare costs should be taken into consideration when budgeting for your stay in Scotland. There is a registered nursery at the University of Aberdeen for children of students and staff, though places are limited. Further information regarding childcare in Aberdeen can be found at: [www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk](http://www.scottishchildcare.gov.uk) and [www.abdn.ac.uk/student-support/childcare](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/student-support/childcare)

Information on local schools in Aberdeen can be found on the Aberdeen City Council website under Education Service at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)

### Is Healthcare Available to International Students?

Students who are studying on full-time courses of any duration in Scotland (and their dependants) are eligible for free medical treatment under the National Health Service (NHS) from their first day of arrival in Scotland. You are advised to register with a local NHS medical practice as soon as possible.

Information on local medical practices can be found at [www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/faqs](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/faqs)

Charges are made for dental treatment. You are also advised to bring with you any relevant medical records and details of existing medical conditions.

### Bringing Money With You

If you are travelling to the UK from a country outside the European Union and are carrying more than 10,000 Euros (or the equivalent in other currencies) with you in cash, cheques or a bankers draft you will need to declare this to customs.

Further information is available at: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/customs/arriving/declaring-cash.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/customs/arriving/declaring-cash.htm)

You should bring enough money in cash (around £250) for your immediate needs (travel, food, etc).

### Bringing Food With You

If you are travelling to the UK from a country outside the European Union, you can check what food you can, and can't bring into the UK at: [www.direct.gov.uk/dontbringmeback](http://www.direct.gov.uk/dontbringmeback)

For personal food imports from certain areas, you can also check: [www.direct.gov.uk/foodimports](http://www.direct.gov.uk/foodimports)

### Opening a Bank Account

You are advised to open a bank account as soon as possible after your arrival. Opening a bank account is not always easy, but the following information should help you. Some banks will not allow you to open a current (student) account until your credit record can be checked. You should be allowed to open a savings account where you can deposit money.

Further information can be found at [www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents/faq/finance/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents/faq/finance/)

Any bank that you apply to for opening an account will require confirmation of your student status from the University. You should ask for a Bank Application Letter Request Form, available from the Student Centre in the Hub. The letter cannot be prepared for you until you have completed your term-time address details via eRegistration and you are a fully registered student.

To open a bank account you will need:

- > **Your passport**
- > **University offer letter or ID card**
- > **Accommodation contract**
- > **Sponsor's letter (if you have an official sponsor - not family members)**
- > **For non-UK students, banks may require a letter from the University to confirm your address and student status (see above) and that you are a fully registered student.**

### What About Computing Services?

The University of Aberdeen is a wireless campus, offering wireless internet access from most University buildings. The service is fast and completely free of charge. For information about how to connect to the wireless networks, see [www.abdn.ac.uk/wireless](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/wireless) or e-mail: [servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk)

### Telephones

For details of how the University telephone service can help you stay in touch with friends and family, visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/dit/student/telephony](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/dit/student/telephony)

### Is There Anything Else I Should Know About?

#### Council Tax

Council Tax applies to all domestic properties whether owned or rented. Generally speaking, full-time students are not liable to pay Council Tax on the property where they are living; however, there are some exceptions. If in doubt, please check with our International Student Advisers in the Hub regarding any Council Tax query.

#### The Law and the Police

In the case of an emergency you should dial 999.

For non-emergency police enquiries in the Grampian area, phone 0845 600 5700. The Police in the UK are classed as public servants and assisting people forms part of their job. If you need guidance or information, do approach a police officer.

**Use this Checklist** as a guide to what you should do before and after your arrival in Aberdeen.

#### Before Arrival

- Check visa requirements and make necessary arrangements  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/international/visa-information.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international/visa-information.php)
- Arrange accommodation –  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation)
- Arrange travel
- Take out travel and personal insurance
- Complete eRegistration –  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents/registration](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents/registration)
- Consider course choices prior to advising meeting (if applicable)
- Visit the UK Council for International Student Affairs – [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

#### Ensure That You Bring

- Valid passport or travel document (with visa if applicable)
- Copy of passport pages (blank pages not needed)
- Certificate of Acceptance from the University of Aberdeen
- Accommodation contract and details
- Passport photo for ID card (if not already uploaded or sent in advance)
- Confirmation of who will be paying your tuition fees if you are not paying them yourself
- Relevant medical records and details of any existing medical conditions

#### After Arrival

- Pay tuition fees (via eRegistration)
- Copy the additional page that has been stamped in your passport when you arrived in the UK
- Attend your advising appointment to activate your academic curriculum
- Collect your ID card
- Attend the International Students' Welcome / ERASMUS welcome sessions (where applicable)
- Register with a medical practice
- Check out the Students' Association's programme of events for Freshers' Week  
[www.ausa.org.uk](http://www.ausa.org.uk)
- Register with the police (if applicable)
- Open a bank account
- Familiarise yourself with the University campus e.g. campus tour

Further details on everything you need to know before arriving in Aberdeen can be found at [www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents)

Maps of the University campus, including the halls of residences, can be found at [www.abdn.ac.uk/maps](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/maps)

#### Note:

On entry to the UK, ensure the Immigration Office stamps your passport at the airport as this activates your visa.

**Useful Contacts** for international students studying at the University of Aberdeen.

The British Council web pages are an excellent resource for any student considering study in the UK, and provide a wide range of advice and support for international students. [www.britishcouncil.org/home](http://www.britishcouncil.org/home)

**UKCISA:** UK Council for International Student Affairs is an independent, national, non-profit organisation providing support to international students.  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

Visa and immigration advice can be found at [www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en) and [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

#### University of Aberdeen Contacts

##### Student Recruitment and Admissions Service

Tel: +44 (0)1224 272090

E-mail: [sras@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sras@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/international](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international)

##### University of Aberdeen Campus Security

Tel: +44 (0)1224 273939 (24 hours)

##### Student Advice and Support Office

E-mail: [student.advice@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.advice@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/student-support](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/student-support)

##### English Language Courses

E-mail: [efl@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:efl@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/languagecentre](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/languagecentre)

##### Student Advice and Support Office

E-mail: [student.advice@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.advice@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/student-support](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/student-support)

##### International Student Advisers and Immigration/Visas

Tel: +44 (0)1224 273935

E-mail: [student.international@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.international@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/students/international](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/international)

or [www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newstudents)

##### ERASMUS

E-mail: [erasmus@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:erasmus@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/erasmus](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/erasmus)

##### International Exchange Programmes

E-mail: [studyabroad@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/international/exchanges](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international/exchanges)

##### Student Learning Service

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/sls](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sls)

#### Disabled Students

If you are a disabled student, or have a specific learning difficulty or long-term medical condition, our Disability Advisers can answer specific queries relating to the accessibility of the University and its courses.

Further information can be found at:

[www.abdn.ac.uk/disability](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/disability)

#### Accommodation

E-mail: [studentaccomm@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:studentaccomm@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation)

#### Part-Time Work

E-mail: [joblink@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:joblink@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.ausa.org.uk/services/joblink](http://www.ausa.org.uk/services/joblink)

#### Careers

E-mail: [careers@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:careers@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/careers](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers)

#### Students' Association

Web: [www.ausa.org.uk](http://www.ausa.org.uk)

#### Graduate School Websites

College of Arts and Social Science

[www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate)

College of Life Sciences and Medicine

[www.abdn.ac.uk/clsm/graduateschool](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/clsm/graduateschool)

College of Physical Sciences

[www.cps.abdn.ac.uk/graduate-studies](http://www.cps.abdn.ac.uk/graduate-studies)

#### The Following Non-University Contacts Will Also Help You:

##### Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)

If your application for a visa in your own country is refused, you can seek help from Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) – [www.iasuk.org](http://www.iasuk.org). The nearest office to Aberdeen is Glasgow.

Current Aberdeen students should contact our International Student Advisers.

##### Other Useful Contacts in Aberdeen

Grampian Police

Tel: 0845 600 5700

##### Tourist Information Centre

Tel: +44 (0)1224 632727



UNIVERSITY ROAD



Office of External Affairs  
Student Recruitment and Admissions Service  
University Office, King's College  
Aberdeen AB24 3FX, Scotland, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1224 272090/91

Fax: +44 (0)1224 272576

Email: [sras@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sras@abdn.ac.uk)

Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/international](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/international)

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