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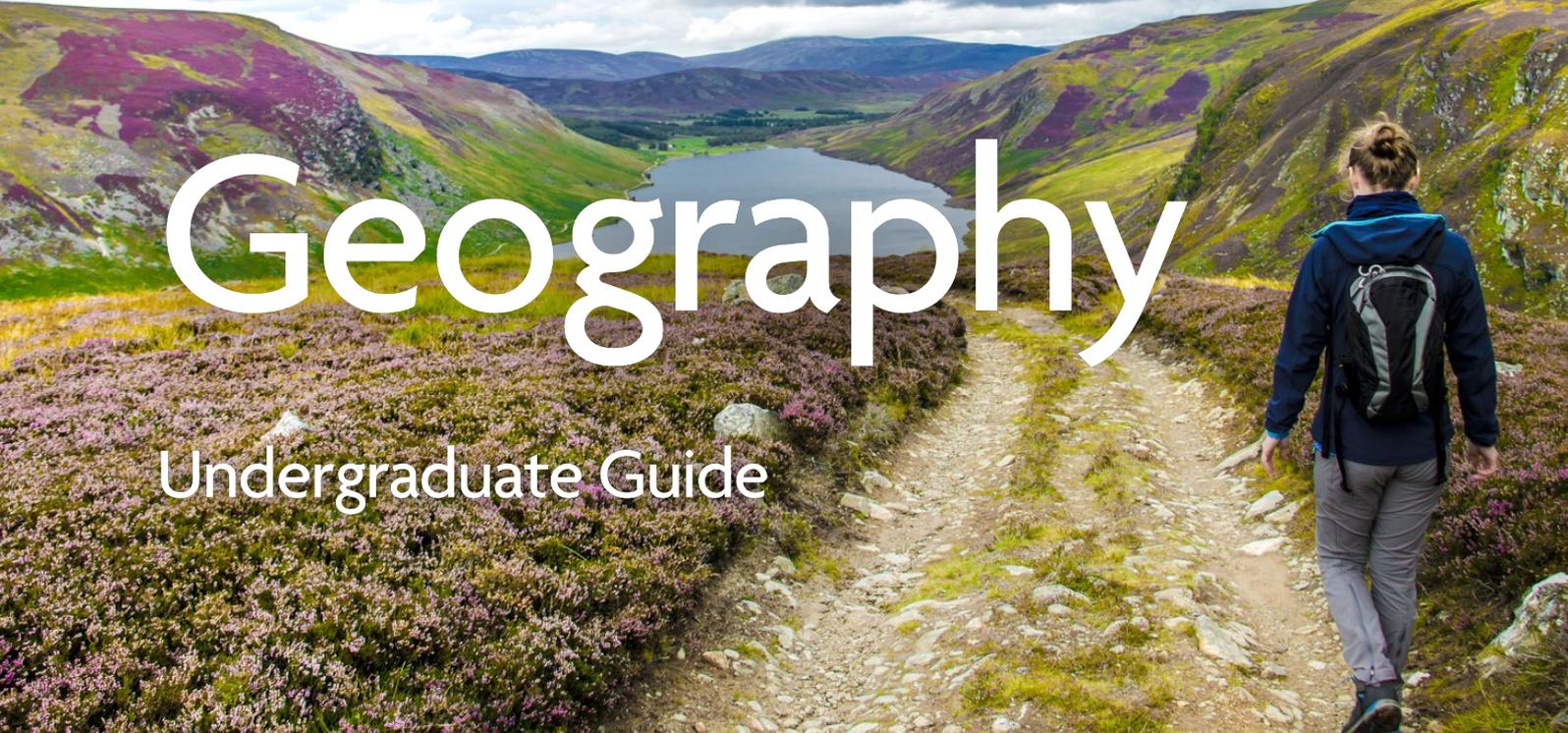


UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN



Geography

Undergraduate Guide



Ranked 1st in
Scotland and
6th in the UK

Complete University Guide
2022

www.abdn.ac.uk/ug/geography

Welcome

Geography is key to understanding and resolving many of the most pressing problems faced by society, including climate change, poverty, energy transitions and environmental conservation. Our degree programmes reflect these modern-day challenges, with core and optional courses aimed at producing highly skilled graduates who can think critically and develop solutions to tackle these problems.

Geography at Aberdeen

At Aberdeen, you can choose between studying geography as either a Bachelor of Science (BSc) or Master of Arts (MA) degree programme. Both can be taken as four-year Honours degrees, or three-year designated degree programmes.

All of our teaching is research-led, and delivered by staff who are actively investigating some of the most important problems facing the world today – problems with social and environmental dimensions, which geographical knowledge can help us understand and resolve. This ensures that our courses are current, exciting and reflect the cutting edge of geographical research.

We run a modular system, so you have the flexibility to follow a single honours degree with plenty of choice and diversity, or to study geography as part of a joint honours degree with another subject. To a large extent you can shape your own degree, to suit your particular interests and career plans.



Degree Programmes

Single Honours Programmes:

- BSc Geography
- MA Geography
- BSc Geoscience

Joint Honours Options with Geography:

- Anthropology
- Business Management
- Economics
- French Studies
- Gaelic Studies
- International Relations
- Real Estate
- Sociology

You can view the structure and content for each degree programme at www.abdn.ac.uk/ug/geography

Accredited Degrees

Our BSc and MA programmes are accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG).

Accredited programmes give students a solid academic foundation in geographical knowledge

and skills while also preparing graduates with the professional and transferable skills needed to address the needs of the world outside of education.



Fieldwork

Fieldwork is integral to geography, and at the same time provides some of the most memorable experiences of your degree. Our fieldwork options also provide core skills for your future career, giving you vital transferable skills and experience of working in teams and independently in some of the world's most dynamic environments.

Careers

72% of Aberdeen geography graduates find employment within 6 months, while a further 22% go on to further study. An Honours degree in geography can also lead on to a higher degree, and a significant proportion of our graduates study for a Masters and PhD degree.

Recent graduates work in a variety of fields, for example, in conservation, transport planning, various government agencies, business and commerce, and some go on to undertake research involving technical skills such as GIS and remote sensing.

Some examples of employers for our graduates include the James Hutton Institute, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Grampian Soil Survey, Scientific Drilling, Aberdeenshire Council, and AECOM.

Geography Society

The Geography Society - "Geogsoc" - is our student-led society run for all those with an interest in geography. Geogsoc is great for meeting like-minded people and for enjoying the company of course mates. It can also serve as a useful forum for students of all year groups, helping to foster interest in Geography beyond the lecture theatre. Find out more at www.facebook.com/geogsocabdn

How to Apply

Applications to this degree programme are made through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). You apply online at www.ucas.com

Why Aberdeen?

- Our degree programmes focus upon the key environmental, economic, societal and technological challenges we currently face in the world.
- Geography at Aberdeen is ranked 1st in Scotland and 6th in the UK by the Complete University Guide, 2022.
- Field classes are a fun and integral part of the learning experience with opportunities for local, national and international field trips for all of our degree programmes.
- The University is located close to some of the most environmentally important and geographically varied landscapes in the whole of the UK, which provide amazing field sites for our teaching.
- Our degree programmes will equip you with a variety of skills including the ability to utilise quantitative and qualitative data and use GIS and remote sensing techniques.
- You will also acquire transferable skills e.g. presentation and report writing, which are important to both vocational and non-vocational careers.
- We have a number of international exchange partnerships with universities in Europe, Australia and the USA.
- Our degrees are accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), which is valued by employers.
- Our graduates are highly sought after and employed across the public and private sectors ranging from local authorities to environmental consultancies and hydrographic surveyors.

Find out more at www.abdn.ac.uk/geography

“



The skills acquired through my undergraduate Geography degree placed me ideally for beginning a career in transportation.

**Joanna Duck, MA Geography
Graduate Consultant-AECOM**

“



The various field trip opportunities offered are fantastic, I was lucky enough to spend these trips with a great group of friends.

**Katie Black, MA Geography
Graduate Development
Programme - Scottish Enterprise**

“



I particularly enjoyed discovering and researching elements within the subject which I did not initially think were geographic.

**Matthew Cook, MA Geography
Graduate Planner - ARUP**

“



I gained a large skill set which has served me well, both gaining my current job, acquiring environmental skills, writing skills the dissemination of large bodies of information.

**Robert Hobkirk, BSc Geography
Head of Sustainability Compliance
& Risk - NHS Grampian**





Geography, BSc/MA

Programme Overview

Geography is key to understanding and resolving many of the most pressing problems faced by society today, including climate change, poverty, energy transitions and environmental conservation.

At Aberdeen, geography is available to study at undergraduate level as a four-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) or Master of Arts (MA) degree programme. Both can be taken as four-year Honours degrees, or three-year Designated degree programmes.

MA Geography

Choosing the MA Geography allows you to specialise in human geography and combine your geography courses with other humanities or social-science courses during your degree.

BSc Geography

Choosing a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Geography allows you to specialise in physical geography and complement your geography courses with other physical or natural science courses.

Please refer to www.abdn.ac.uk/ug/geography for the latest course information.

First Year

The choice of geography first year courses is the same for both BSc and MA students.

In the first year of your geography degree, you will study two courses that provide an introduction to geography in all its diversity. Both courses incorporate a field course and workgroup programme alongside a lecture series covering aspects of human and physical geography.

Creating the Anthropocene

This course reflects upon the role humans have played in creating the anthropocene (the epoch we are now living in), a time period during which human actions have become more significant than natural processes in shaping the world we currently live in.

New Courses

The UN Sustainable Development Goals

How can we address the contemporary global challenges that we are facing today? This course builds on the challenges that have arisen during the anthropocene, and introduces the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a global call for action.

In addition to your core courses, at Aberdeen, you will have a wide range of choices to pick courses for your "free choice".

Second Year

Our Second Year allows you to begin specialising in the areas of geography in which you are most interested. Key geography courses cover core skills in geography, and you have the ability to begin specialising in human or physical geography - or to keep going with both!

To progress into geography honours, you will complete a total of eight courses in second year, at least four of which are drawn from the five geography courses below.

- Physical Environments
- Space, Economy and Society
- Mapping and Monitoring
- Environment and Society
- Skills and Techniques in Geosciences
- Human or Physical Geography Field Trip

Your other three or four courses, as in first year, will be drawn from the wider curriculum offered across the university. For students studying for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree, two of these courses will be in an area of science.

Fieldwork forms an important part of the curriculum, with all students participating in springtime field trips.



Third Year

In the third year of your geography degree, you will receive core skills training in two core courses:

- Approaches to Geography
- Research Design

You also have numerous options to receive training in the geographical skills that will best suit your anticipated fourth year courses and employment beyond university. options on offer include:

- Physical Geography Fieldcourse
- Human Geography Fieldcourse
- Globalisation
- Concepts in Human Geography
- Land and Marine Conservation
- Techniques in Physical Geography
- Remote Sensing & GIS
- Data Analysis

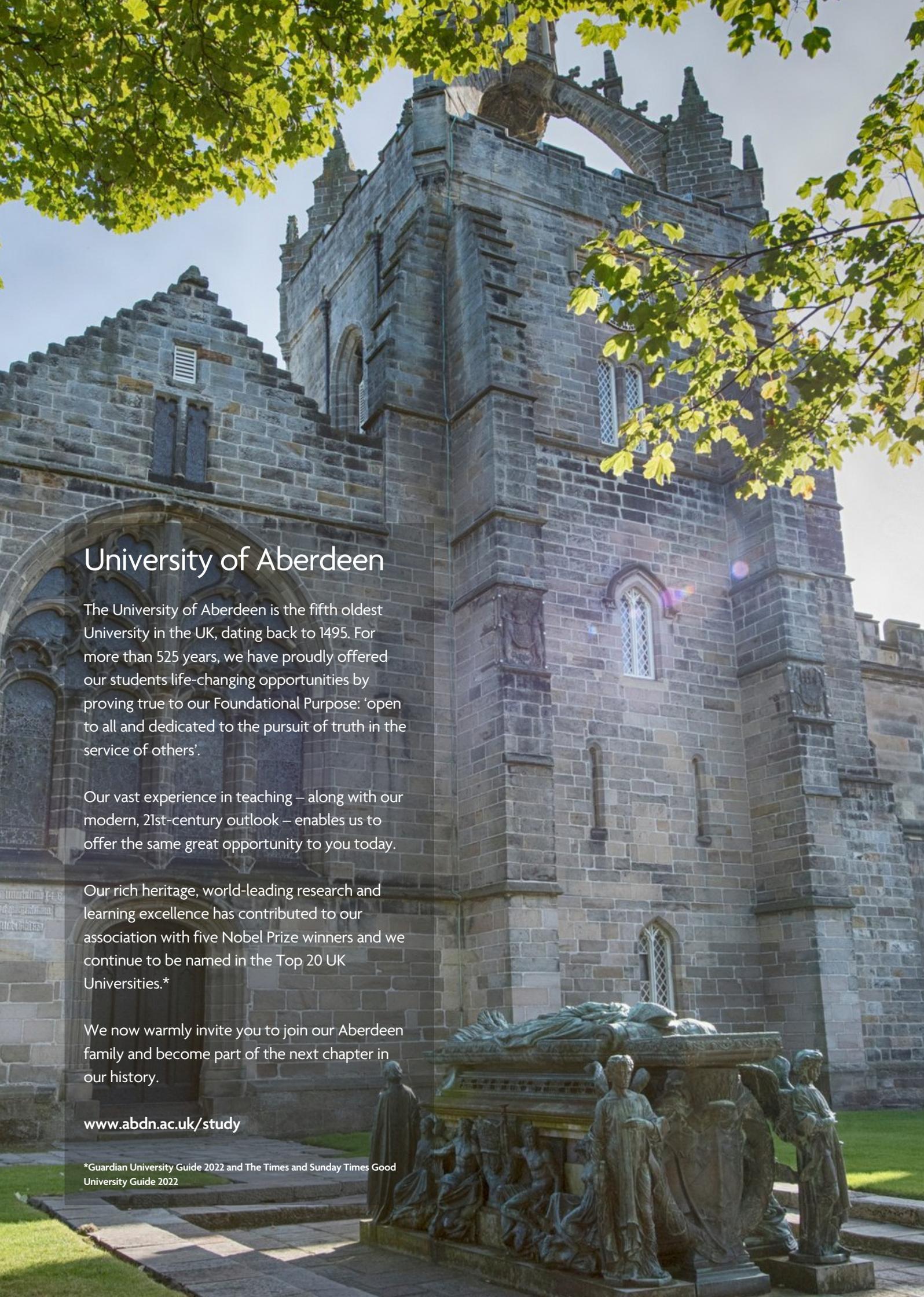
Fourth Year

Your fourth year offers you the opportunity to specialise in areas of geography of your choice, and also to pursue an individual piece of geographical research in your dissertation project.

Many of our students cite their dissertation as the most rewarding experience of their geography degree - not only is it enjoyable to pursue individual research in your favourite area of geography, but a successful dissertation is often one of the most important platforms to a job beyond your degree!

All of the courses that we offer in fourth year reflect the truly cutting-edge research strengths of the Department of Geography and Environment in Aberdeen, and will exploit the training that you have received during the previous three years of your Geography degree.

- Geography Dissertation
- Geographical Issues
- Rural Geographies
- Dead Cities?
- Glaciology
- Environmental change
- Environmental Hydrology
- Hydrography



University of Aberdeen

The University of Aberdeen is the fifth oldest University in the UK, dating back to 1495. For more than 525 years, we have proudly offered our students life-changing opportunities by proving true to our Foundational Purpose: 'open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others'.

Our vast experience in teaching – along with our modern, 21st-century outlook – enables us to offer the same great opportunity to you today.

Our rich heritage, world-leading research and learning excellence has contributed to our association with five Nobel Prize winners and we continue to be named in the Top 20 UK Universities.*

We now warmly invite you to join our Aberdeen family and become part of the next chapter in our history.

www.abdn.ac.uk/study

*Guardian University Guide 2022 and The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022

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ABERDEEN

Top 20 UK University

*Guardian University Guide 2022,
The Times and Sunday Times Good
University Guide 2022

Contact us

If you want to find out more about the Geography Department and its activities, as well as looking into the details of our exciting Geography degrees, visit:



www.abdn.ac.uk/geography



www.twitter.com/AbdnGeography



www.facebook.com/AbdnGeography

If you would like more general information on studying at the University of Aberdeen, visit abdn.ac.uk/study, email: study@abdn.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1224 272090

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained within this guide but it is subject to alteration without notice. The University reserves the right to make variations to the contents or methods of delivery of programmes and courses, to discontinue programmes and courses and to merge or combine programmes and courses. The University is constantly developing new programmes and courses, so please visit our website for the latest information.