Arriving in Aberdeen

Transport

If you are arriving during Welcome Weekend, please check [abdn.ac.uk/new-students/when-you-arrive](http://abdn.ac.uk/new-students/when-you-arrive) for parking and traffic information.

The bus and train stations are located within Union Square. The taxi rank is by the train station, with fares to King’s College Campus costing about £15 and fares to Hillhead around £25. You can also check [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com) and [firstgroup.com](http://firstgroup.com) for the various bus services to University campus and accommodation.

The airport taxi rank and bus stop are located outside the terminal building. Taxi fares to University Accommodation will range from £25-30. The Jet Bus 727 takes 35 minutes to reach the City Centre. Check [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com) for details.

Accommodation

You can collect your keys from the date your contract begins. You cannot move into your accommodation before this date. If you are arriving early please ensure you have made alternative accommodation arrangements.

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

Private Accommodation

Students looking for private accommodation are strongly advised to organise this before arriving in Aberdeen. The Students’ Association holds information on private letting opportunities.

Visit [ausa.org.uk/accommodation](http://ausa.org.uk/accommodation)
How to Register

All students are required to register online and should ensure they complete the steps below prior to arrival at the University. If you have any issues, contact infohub@abdn.ac.uk

For all Students

1. Registration (Before You Arrive)
   eRegistration is designed to confirm your personal, financial and academic details, and enable you to set up your University computer and email account. It must be completed before you pick your courses. You should ensure you take a note of your username and password, as this is used to access your IT account and the wireless network. For more information, visit abdn.ac.uk/infohub/new-students/registration

2. Photo Upload
   In order to collect your ID card upon arrival, please upload a photo as soon as possible, and no later than 2 weeks before arriving at the University. Remember to check back to see if it has been approved. abdn.ac.uk/photoupload

3. Choose Your Courses
   After completing eRegistration, please visit abdn.ac.uk/mycurriculum for information about how to choose your courses (note that there is a short processing delay between completing eRegistration and accessing MyCurriculum). Most students will choose their courses online in advance of the start of term; refer to your joining letter for further information.

4. Upon Arrival: ID Card, Fees and Visa Checks for International Students*
   The University is legally required to check and take copies of visa documents of International students to confirm your status to study in the UK. International students should bring the following documents to the registration venue:
   - Your passport and biometric card and a photocopy of each, including all non-blank passport pages and the page stamped upon entering the UK
   - Original educational qualifications (not a photocopy)
   - Original English language certificate (if appropriate, not a photocopy). Students holding a Tier 4 Visa will be asked to report to a venue several times per year for a visa check.

4a. *You need to do a visa check if you:
   - need a visa or residence permit to live in the UK
   - have a Tier 4 visa that we sponsor or
   - your offer letter shows you as paying overseas fees.

5. Academic Induction and Course Information
   All students should attend their school induction session, if applicable. Information on where these induction sessions take place can be found online at abdn.ac.uk/newstudents or by visiting your school notice board. Here you will get information about courses. Information can also be found on MyAberdeen, the University Virtual Learning Environment.
Choosing your Courses

As a new undergraduate* student based on campus you are normally required to study 8 courses (each worth 15 credit points) during your first year – 4 in your first half-session (September to December) and 4 in your second half-session (January to May).

Depending on your degree programme, some of your courses will be required for your degree (prescribed) and you may be able to choose some yourself (optional). Before you choose your optional courses, spend some time thinking about your degree programme and the courses you might like to take. Try to keep open as many degree pathways as possible by choosing groups of courses rather than picking single courses at random.

The courses you can take will depend on your entry qualifications, any course entry conditions (pre-requisites), and your timetable. You will use MyCurriculum to make your course choices. MyCurriculum will guide you through the course selection process step-by-step.

You will select Prescribed Courses first followed by any optional courses. Optional courses fall into two categories: Enhanced Study and Other. All Joint Honours and Major-Minor degrees have Enhanced Study already built into them. Single Honours degrees do not and Single Honours students, except those studying Medicine or Dentistry, must choose Enhanced Study Courses.

1. Prescribed Courses
   (ie compulsory for your degree)
   The University’s Calendar (abdn.ac.uk/registry/calendar) gives details of the courses you must study as part of your degree. The example to the right shows the courses a full-time Single Honours student in Year 1 of the MA Business Management programme must study. Each course has a code which starts with two letters. These represent the course discipline, eg EC stands for Economics. The letters are followed by 2 digits representing the programme year (eg 1) and then the half-session in which the course is taught (0 means first half-session and 5 second half-session). In the example a student must register for the prescribed courses EC1006 and MS1009 in the first half-session and AC1515 and MS1009 in the second, totalling 60 credit points.

   This leaves space for 60 credit points of optional courses to be chosen.

2. Enhanced Study Courses
   Enhanced Study Courses are those which are not compulsory for your degree and are normally from another discipline.

   Enhanced Study allows you to develop an appreciation of disciplines other than your own and broadens your experiences. Single Honours students normally take one Enhanced Study Course each half-session for their first two years of study and 30 credits across years three and four.

   There are three types:
   1. **Sixth Century Courses** invite you to consider different approaches to knowledge and enquiry as you look at issues affecting the world in which we live today. They are designed to help you develop a deeper critical understanding of your chosen area of study by setting the subject in a wider context.
   2. **Sustained Study** allows you to focus on an area of study that is not your core subject for the duration of your first two years. Choosing this will cover your Enhanced Study requirements for both years.
   3. **Discipline Breadth Courses** allow you to choose courses outwith your core subject. They might be related to your core subject or entirely unrelated - the choice is yours. You have the whole Catalogue of Courses to choose from.

3. Other Courses
   Having chosen your Prescribed and, where applicable, Enhanced Study Courses, you should make up your remaining credits from courses of your choice. You should be aware that MA students must take no more than 30 credits from “science” courses, and BSc students no more than 30 credits from “arts” courses. More information on courses can be found in the University’s Catalogue of Courses abdn.ac.uk/registry/courses

   *Taught Postgraduate Students
   Taught postgraduates follow a similar process to select their courses and should consult the Taught Postgraduate Guide available from the MyCurriculum website.

   Key services and resources include:
   • Over a million books, more than 500,000 e-books and over 25,000 e-journals
   • Hundreds of study places in silent, quiet and group study areas
   • Primo, a tool that searches across our catalogues, online databases and past exam papers
   • Free optional lunchtime workshops
   • Full IT services throughout the building, from PCs to wireless access
   • An excellent support network of staff and resources including subject help, instructional talks, online information guides, vodcast demos on using databases, QR barcodes and social media
   • Tours will be running Monday to Friday, from Wednesday 6th September to Friday 15th September at 10am and 2pm, starting from the Ground Floor near The Sir Duncan Rice Library Welcome Desk.
   For more information on Library Services please go to abdn.ac.uk/library
Aberdeen University Students’ Association

AUSA welcomes you to the University of Aberdeen with a celebration of new places, exciting events, new activities and new faces - Freshers’ Week.

Class Reps
AUSA provides support and training to Class Reps, who function as a vital link between staff and students, fostering and maintaining open dialogue to improve students’ learning experience. Class Reps are elected at the beginning of an academic year or semester and they represent your views and concerns, ensuring your courses and programmes are the best they can be.

Nightline
Nightline is a confidential, anonymous, non-judgemental overnight listening and information service. Run during term time, 7 days a week, 8pm-8am.
T: +44 (0)1224 272829
E: listening@aberdeen.nightline.ac.uk
aberdeen.nightline.ac.uk

Student Advice Centre
AUSA Student Advice Centre has a comprehensive resource of private accommodation and advice on living on your own for the first time; has services to help you find part-time work; and represents you in academic appeals.
T: +44 (0)1224 274200
E: ausaadvice@abdn.ac.uk
ausa.org.uk/supportingyou

Sports
Do you want to try a totally new sport or are you a budding Olympian? At AUSA there are many different ways you can stay active and get involved in sport. You will find a host of dedicated staff and full-time volunteers creating opportunities for you to stay on top of your game. AUSA boasts one of the biggest Sports Unions in any Scottish university, and with nearly 55 different sports clubs there is a sport for everyone.
See the Sports Union website for full details:
ausa.org.uk/sport

Volunteering and RAG
AUSA has a great volunteering support service to help you find the opportunities and charities you are looking to work with to expand your skills and meet new people. Looking to lead on some fundraising of your own? Get involved with our Raising and Giving Committee (RAG) to raise funds for your new local area.
ausa.org.uk/volunteer

SOCIETIES
With over 50 clubs and societies, AUSA and the University of Aberdeen has a vibrant community spirit. Whether you are looking to learn salsa, paintball or just appreciate a fine whisky, we will have a society for you. You are encouraged to attend the Societies Fayre that is put on during Freshers’ week to find out where you can join. Joining a club or society is a great way to meet new people and have new experiences. To view a list of current clubs and societies visit ausa.org.uk/societies.

BOOKENDS
Bookends is a second hand bookshop where you can buy and sell textbooks, fiction, DVDs and more and also help raise money for RAG.
E: bookshop@abdn.ac.uk
ausa.org.uk/eatdrinkshop/bookends/
International and European Students

For our International students we have dedicated support, services and facilities, including the International Centre, that can help you adapt, meet new friends, and settle in to your new home.

Our Website
The New Students’ website is full of information including:
- What to pack checklists
- What not to bring!
- Pre-departure in your country
- Health, Medication, Vaccinations and Health Checks
- Social Media - connect with other students and find out news, events and information on the University’s facebook, twitter and instagram feeds.

abdn.ac.uk/newstudents

Events and Activities
There are plenty of activities to get involved with when you are here in Aberdeen.
Check out the International Centre’s website:
abdn.ac.uk/infohub/life/international-centre

New Student Orientation
There will be specific sessions tailored to the needs of an international student.
Remember to register before attending a session on 4th and 5th September providing invaluable information about adapting to life in Aberdeen, so come and visit us behind Subway in the Students’ Union!
Visit our website for more details and up to date information on everything on offer.
E: internationalcentre@abdn.ac.uk
abdn.ac.uk/international-centre

January Jumpstart
The International Centre offers a variety of events and activities for students joining in January. These include: Treasure Hunts around Aberdeen, Trips to Local Museums, Movie nights/afternoons, Bowling and Trips around Scotland.
Visit our website for more details:
abdn.ac.uk/infohub/life/international-centre

Support for Students

Our student support services continually rank with the best in the UK and we are here to help you with any aspect of your academic, personal or social life.

Infohub
The Infohub is a one-stop shop for all student queries, and can help you by:
- Taking payments for tuition fees and accommodation
- Preparing letters, including bank letters and council tax exemption letters
- Providing proof of study and student record cards
- Issuing student ID cards
- Providing directions
- IT support
- Accommodation information
- Information on Personal Tutors and Peer Mentoring
- Access to Registry Officers.

Visit the Infohub Helpdesks on the ground floor of the Students’ Union, all year round.

Contact the Infohub
Opening hours:
Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm
Friday: 10am-5pm
E: infohub@abdn.ac.uk
abdn.ac.uk/infohub
@studentlifeuoa
@studentsupport

Student Advice and Support
You may need support and guidance for a variety of different academic and non-academic issues during your time at University. Located on the top floor of the Students’ Union Building the Student Advice and Support Office provides a wide range of support and information services across three main areas: disability, international and general advice and guidance.

International Centre
The International Centre offers a variety of activities, language groups, events and volunteering opportunities to meet new people and get involved with student life at the University. It is your Centre on Campus, so come and visit us behind Subway in the Students’ Union!
Visit our website for more details and up to date information on everything on offer.
E: internationalcentre@abdn.ac.uk
abdn.ac.uk/international-centre

January Jumpstart
The International Centre is offering a variety of events and activities for students joining in January. These include: Treasure Hunts around Aberdeen, Trips to Local Museums, Movie nights/afternoons, Bowling and Trips around Scotland.
Visit our website for more details:
abdn.ac.uk/infohub/life/international-centre

Check page 3 for information on arrival, including transportation to accommodation, where to collect your keys and more!

> 14,500 Students
> 120 Nationalities
> Students from every continent [except Antarctica]

Check page 11 for details of the International Student Advisers.
Careers Service
The Careers Service offers a wide range of services and support to students at all stages of their degree programme. This includes:
- Help with individual career planning
- Advice on creating successful CVs and application forms
- Paid work placement opportunities
- Advice on preparing for interviews, psychometric tests and assessment centres
- Employer presentations and recruitment events
- The co-curricular STAR Award & BP Student Tutoring Scheme
- A comprehensive website with extensive career planning resources
- Credit-bearing careers education courses
- A career mentoring programme
- Enterprise & entrepreneurship events
- Online Professional Skills courses within MyAberdeen
- An innovative Leadership Academy.

The Careers Service is easy to find on the 2nd Floor of the Students’ Union Building, please call in, visit our website: abdn.ac.uk/careers or email careers@abdn.ac.uk

Personal Tutors
All undergraduate students will be assigned a Personal Tutor when they register. Students in Medicine and Dentistry will be assigned a Regent. Your Personal Tutor will:
- provide you with support
- signpost personal support services and academic skills support across the University, as necessary
- be an academic member of staff
- provide pastoral support and meet with you during your studies to encourage you to reflect on your progress
- welcome you to the University community
- meet with you at key points in the year, either one-to-one or as part of a group, to discuss your experiences as a student. These meetings will focus on topics such as employability and the Graduate Attributes scheme, and provide an opportunity for you to discuss, for example, feedback you have received in your studies.

> facilitate; providing a point of contact should you wish to speak to someone.

Details of your Personal Tutor can be found via your Student Portal. You will receive a meeting invite from your tutor before the end of October, for more information on your Tutor-Tutee meeting, please visit abdn.ac.uk/infohub/support/personal-tutor-meeting-schedule

If you have any concerns or queries please visit the Infohub or email infohub@abdn.ac.uk

Computing (IT) Services
IT Services provides computing facilities for the University. Key services for students include:
- Wireless campus: free internet access in all buildings, including University Halls of Residence
- Learners’ Toolkit: full of useful apps, software guides, study techniques - see abdn.ac.uk/toolkit
- Service desk: your first point of contact for IT support at the University; find desks in G84 Edward Wright Building, or 1122 Polwarth Building (Foresterhill)
- Email: a university email account, including 50GB mail storage, online address book and calendaring.
- Personal file storage: up to 10GB network file space, backed up nightly.
- PCs: over 1600 high spec computers in classrooms, study areas and lecture theatres across campus.

For details of all IT services see abdn.ac.uk/it/student

Student Learning Services (SLS)
The SLS can help you to develop your academic skills throughout your time at university. SLS offers workshops, which run during term-time, and individual study advice sessions, which are available all year. Individual academic skills advice is also available for students with dyslexia and other learning differences. Places for workshops and study advice sessions can be booked online. Workshop topics will include: studying in the UK, note-taking, critical thinking, academic writing, presentation skills and time management. In addition, online learning resources are available in Achieve (for undergraduates) and Achieve+ (for taught postgraduates) on MyAberdeen. Full details of workshop schedules and all SLS services can be found at abdn.ac.uk/sls

Multi-faith Chaplaincy Centre
The Multi-faith Chaplaincy Centre is here to help and support you. Whether or not you have a faith, our team of chaplains will assist you with any problems or crises that come your way. Drop in for a chat, a mug of tea or coffee or to sit and read in our Quiet Room. The Interfaith Centre also has rooms available for students to use for meetings, prayer and meditation.

There are also a number of honorary denominational chaplains available for students wishing to contact someone specifically of their own tradition or faith. Furthermore, we are responsible for weekly ecumenical services of worship in King’s College Chapel every Wednesday during term-time at 5:15pm. All are welcome.

For more information about the work of the Interfaith Centre please visit abdn.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Gaelic at the University of Aberdeen
Are you a Gaelic-speaker or interested in learning more about the language and culture? There are many exciting Gaelic initiatives underway to enhance the student experience at the University, including a number of Gaelic activities and events. To learn more, visit abdn.ac.uk/gaelicplan

Students 4 Students
Students 4 Students (S4S) is here to help you settle into University life with advice and support from a fellow student. Transition to life at university is a very exciting one, but it can also be challenging and demanding at times. Whatever background you arrive from, we want you to make the most of your time at the University. New students will be assigned a S4S Mentor, who is there to:
- Answer your questions about student life or direct you to the most appropriate source of advice.
- Help you get to know the campus and University processes and procedures.
- Encourage you to make the most of opportunities to meet fellow students, become involved in campus life and develop your own support networks.
- Maintain contact with you during the first year of your studies.

Our S4S Mentors are all fully trained, and are current students who will normally be studying in the same discipline as you. You will be contacted by your S4S Mentor during Welcome Week, but you can always get in touch beforehand if you have any questions.

For more information visit abdn.ac.uk/s4s

Healthcare
Tier 4 students who have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of their visa application will be able to access National Health Service (NHS) treatment when they arrive in Scotland. Payment will be required for dental treatment. Additional visa applications will require a further payment for the period of the extension. Students coming for short-term study must ensure that they obtain medical insurance before travelling to the UK. European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals should obtain a European Health Insurance card (EHIC) from their country of residence prior to coming to the UK. If this is not possible they should obtain private medical insurance.

You should register with a local NHS doctor as soon as possible. The doctor’s surgery you register with depends on where you live in Aberdeen. An advice sheet on which surgery you should register with will be available from the Student Advice and Support Office, the Infohub and the New Students’ Helpdesk in Welcome Week. The nearest surgeries to the University’s King’s College Campus are Old Aberdeen Medical Practice and Old Macarthur Medical Practice. For more information visit abdn.ac.uk/newstudents/healthcare

If you are already registered with a doctor based in Aberdeen, then there is no need to register with another GP. For information about registering with a local NHS dentist, please visit nhs24.com/findlocal

Sports and Exercise Team
University Sports and Exercise offer a number of services such as exercise sessions, club coaching, high performance, sport delivery and sports bursaries. abdn.ac.uk/sportandexercise/ 

Aberdeen Sports Village
Aberdeen Sports Village is the premier sport and exercise facility in Scotland and provides world class opportunities for everyone in the community. aberdeensportsvillage.com

SafeZone
The University is providing SafeZone, a free new smartphone app that connects you to our security team if you ever need urgent help, first aid or if you have an emergency while on campus. You can download the SafeZone app from your app store and sign up using your University email address. To find out more visit abdn.ac.uk/infohub/safezone
Checklist

- **Arrange accommodation**
  - If you are staying in University accommodation, you should complete the online induction at abdn.ac.uk/eacommmodation/login.php
  - Review the accommodation FAQs at abdn.ac.uk/accommodation

- **Complete Registration (see page 4)**
  - Check your email for ezines which will guide you through some of the key registration points
  - Complete eRegistration
  - Choose your courses and tutorials/labs etc. online
  - Upload a photo for your ID card and check that it has been approved

- **Take out travel/personal insurance**
  - Take this out for yourself as an individual

- **Ensure that you bring**
  - Confirmation of who will be paying your tuition fees, if you are not paying them yourself
  - Certificate of Acceptance from the University
  - Relevant medical records and details of existing medical conditions
  - Accommodation contract and/or details of where you will be staying

**For International Students**
- Check visa requirements and make necessary arrangements
- Bring a valid passport or travel document with visa if applicable
- Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) from the Post Office named in your visa letter
- Make a copy of passport, including page that was stamped by immigration on arrival to the UK, and biometric card and bring to registration
- Register with UK police (if applicable)

**After Arrival**
- Pay tuition fees (via eRegistration - if you have not already done so)
- Collect your Student ID card
- Attend your School/Discipline’s induction and welcome events
- Check out the Students’ Association’s programme of events for Welcome Week at ausa.org.uk
- Join a campus tour
- Connect your smartphone/laptop to the University’s Wi-Fi abdn.ac.uk/it/student
- Register with a doctor
- Open a bank account

Complete Registration (see page 4)
- Check your email for ezines which will guide you through some of the key registration points
- Complete eRegistration
- Choose your courses and tutorials/labs etc. online
- Upload a photo for your ID card and check that it has been approved

- **Check out the Students’ Association’s programme of events for Welcome Week at ausa.org.uk**
- **Join a campus tour**
- **Connect your smartphone/laptop to the University’s Wi-Fi abdn.ac.uk/it/student**
- **Register with a doctor**
- **Open a bank account**

All set? Now it’s time to make friends, get involved and have fun!

Connect with Us

Join the University Community on Facebook and Twitter

- @studentlifeuoa
- uniофaberdeen
- aberdeenuni
- @studentlifeuoa
- uniофaberdeen
- aberdeenuni

Other Useful Contacts

**University of Aberdeen**
- E: infohub@abdn.ac.uk
- W: abdn.ac.uk

**Erasmus Unit**
- T: +44 (0) 1224 273664
- E: erasmus@abdn.ac.uk
- W: abdn.ac.uk/erasmus

**Library, Special Collections & Museums**
- T: +44 (0) 1224 273330
- E: library@abdn.ac.uk
- W: abdn.ac.uk/library

**Language Centre**
- T: +44 (0) 1224 272538
- E: langcen@abdn.ac.uk
- W: abdn.ac.uk/languagecentre

**Aberdeen Sports Village**
- E: info@aberdeensportsvillage.com
- W: aberdeensportsvillage.com

**UG & PG Student Services**
- E: undergraduate@abdn.ac.uk
- postgraduate@abdn.ac.uk

**International Exchange Programme**
- T: +44 (0) 1224 272026
- E: studyabroad@abdn.ac.uk
- W: abdn.ac.uk/iep

Download our King’s College Campus Map by scanning the code

Download our Foresterhill Campus Map by scanning the code
Infohub
Students’ Union (Ground Floor)
Elphinstone Road
King’s College
Aberdeen AB24 3TU
Scotland
E: infohub@abdn.ac.uk
W: abdn.ac.uk/newstudents

@studentlifeuoa
@studentlifeuoa

The information in this guide was correct at the time of going to print, May 2017 and relates to academic year 2017/2018 only. It does not apply to 2018/2019 or beyond.

The University of Aberdeen is a charity registered in Scotland, No SC013683