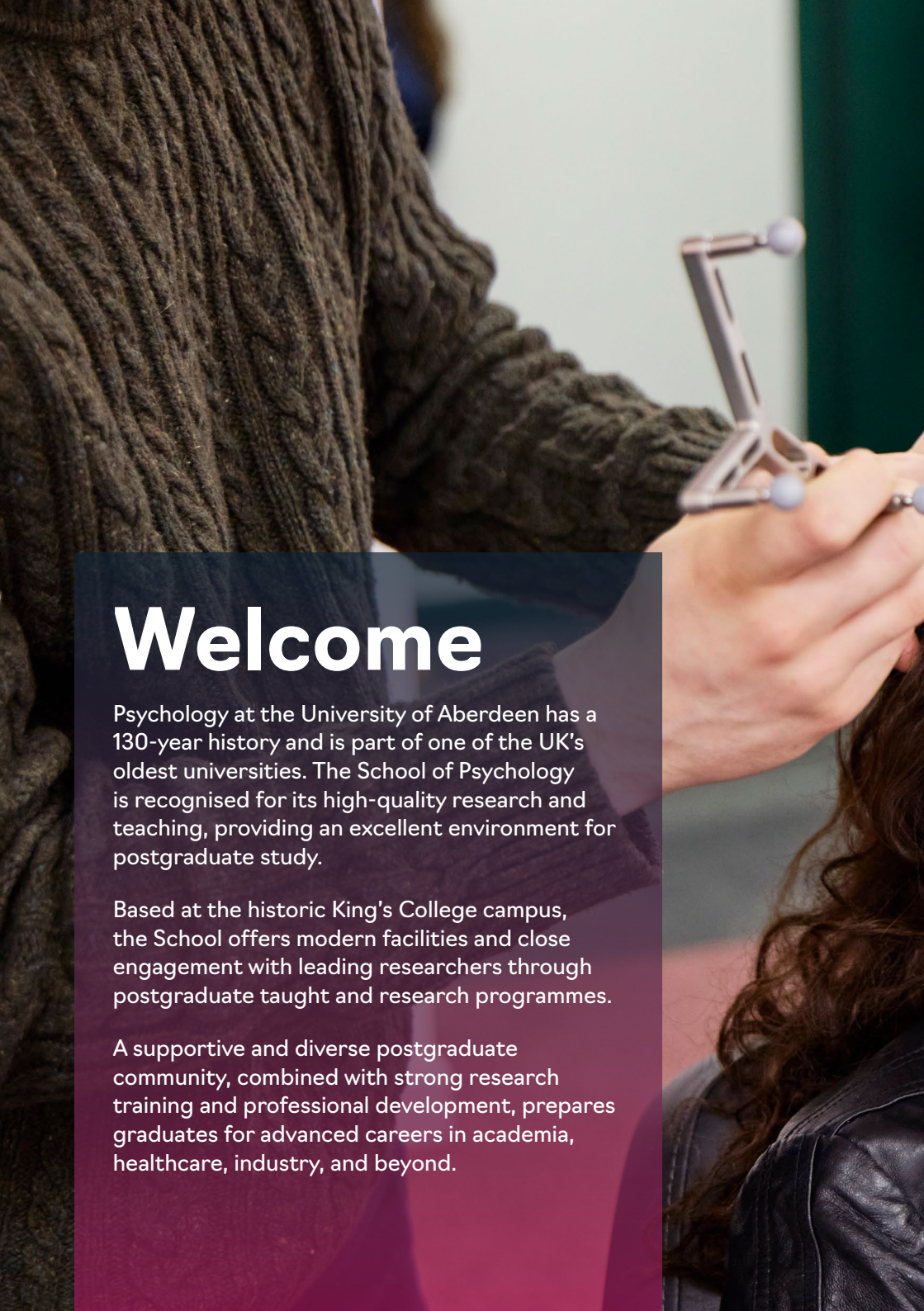
1495 UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN



POSTGRADUATE STUDY

School of **Psychology**



Welcome

Psychology at the University of Aberdeen has a 130-year history and is part of one of the UK's oldest universities. The School of Psychology is recognised for its high-quality research and teaching, providing an excellent environment for postgraduate study.

Based at the historic King's College campus, the School offers modern facilities and close engagement with leading researchers through postgraduate taught and research programmes.

A supportive and diverse postgraduate community, combined with strong research training and professional development, prepares graduates for advanced careers in academia, healthcare, industry, and beyond.



What can I study?

Postgraduate Taught
(On Campus Programmes)

MSc Psychology of Mental Health

The MSc Psychology of Mental Health provides an in-depth study of the psychological principles underlying mental health and wellbeing.

Students will be provided comprehensive training in mental health and illness, behavioural and clinical assessment, research methods, and professional skills. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods will be studied and students will explore a range of topics in psychological health and complete a thesis project.

The programme has established partnerships with key organisations including NHS Grampian and VSA, offering potential opportunities for practical experience.

MSc Psychological Studies

Our MSc Psychological Studies is a conversion programme designed for graduates from any discipline who wish to take the first step towards a career in psychology. It is accredited by the British Psychological Society.

The programme provides the core knowledge and skills needed for careers in psychology or related areas where a scientific understanding of human behaviour is valuable.

Students can tailor studies to interests and career goals through a range of elective courses, including options such as mental health and organisational psychology.

Completion of this programme can lead to further study in a range of applied psychology pathways, research experience such as an MRes or PhD, or careers in fields that benefit from psychological insight.

Postgraduate Taught (Online Programmes)

Visit our Online Learning website where you can:

Study our new BPS accredited MSc Psychology Studies programme (online)

This online conversion programme designed for graduates from any discipline who wish to take the first step towards a career in psychology. It is accredited by the British Psychological Society.

Or

Study a Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)

PgDip Human Factors and Safety

Learn to make workplaces safer, whatever your sector. Study flexibly online with expert psychologists and human factors researchers.

PgDip Psychology in the Workplace

Earn a graduate qualification in workplace psychology. Tailor your PgDip to your interests and career aspirations with the guidance of expert psychologists and researchers.

Short Course Route

Our online short courses provide an alternative entry route to our Postgraduate Diplomas (PgDip) and degrees. Perhaps you want to get your studies started without committing to a full programme or you've missed the deadline to apply. You might not meet the formal entry requirements – if so, our short course route is for you.

Scan to find out more about our online programmes and short courses.



Postgraduate Research

The School of Psychology provides a highly collaborative research environment to deliver innovative research that can make a real difference to people's lives.

Our experimental research is organised around three research groups, each focusing on a different aspect of human behaviour: cognition, perception, and social cognition.

These all link to an applied psychology strand, focusing on the impact of our research on society, health, and industry. Across all these themes we support interdisciplinary research in an international context, linked to our relationships with local, national, and international stakeholders.

Central to all our research is open science and maintaining best practice in research integrity.

Research Study Options

MRes Psychology

The Masters of Research (MRes) course is a combination of taught modules and research project modules, lasting either one year (full time) or two years (part time). The taught courses develop core skills required for research, including reviewing literature, managing projects, preparing funding applications, disseminating your research through presentations and papers, and communicating with non-academic audiences.

You will attend lectures and participate in hands-on workshops, and complete a research project supervised one-on-one by an academic from the School. There will be training in IT skills, advanced statistics, and sessions on both quantitative and qualitative research design.

This training is taught using a combination of lectures and workshops, and uses frequent assessment and feedback to ensure you develop a deep understanding of the skills and knowledge needed for a successful research career.

PhD

The academic staff at the School conducts research in diverse areas of psychology, broadly organised around four research themes, Cognition, Perception and Attention, Social Cognition and Applied Research.

Students interested in pursuing projects in any of these areas are encouraged to contact the specific staff member for further details about the research topic.

For general enquiries about PhD study, please contact **Professor Patric Bach**, Postgraduate Research Coordinator **patric.bach@abdn.ac.uk**

Applications and Funding

How to Apply

Our postgraduate programmes can be applied for and managed online through the University's Applicant Portal: **abdn.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-taught/apply**

Scan to access the Applicant Portal

Once cleared for admission, you will receive a pack of joining instructions which includes a Certificate of Acceptance, information on accommodation, registration, and tuition fees etc.

International students who declare they require a Student visa to enter the UK will receive a CAS number so that they may apply.

Aberdeen Global Scholarship

The University of Aberdeen is delighted to offer new scholarship for international self-funded students who are looking to study an on campus postgraduate Masters degree. This is a £8,000 tuition fee waiver and is automatically applied when students submit their application.



DR MATT JOHNSON

MSC (2017–18), MRES (2019–20), PHD (2020–25)

Coming to Aberdeen from a Fine Art background, I was looking for a new direction and found it in the MSc Psychological Studies programme. The teaching was engaging, supportive, and genuinely inspiring, and I quickly discovered a passion for research, statistics, and coding.

My studies pushed me further than I ever expected, offering hands-on research, advanced training, and opportunities to tutor. What made the biggest difference, though, was the people. The School of Psychology's collaborative, encouraging culture kept me going through every challenge.

Aberdeen became home — a beautiful campus, a welcoming community, and a place that shaped my academic and personal journey. After nearly a decade of study, I'm now a Teaching Fellow in the School of Psychology. For anyone considering studying here: take the leap and embrace every opportunity.





Your Future Career

At Aberdeen, we offer several initiatives to help our graduates to take the first steps on the ladder of their chosen career.

Careers Service

The University maintains a professional Careers Service to support you in developing and fulfilling your career aspirations, throughout your studies and after your graduation.

Psychology careers information is available in the Careers Service and virtual libraries.

Advice and guidance is delivered through appointments with specialist Psychology Careers Advisers, online interactions via the Virtual Adviser Service and talks to students at key times in the academic calendar.

Internships

ABDN INTERNSHIPS
PAID INTERNSHIPS EXCLUSIVE TO UOA STUDENTS

Our innovative ABDN Internship programme offers flexible, paid part-time internship opportunities. Open to students of all subjects and years of study, students complete a reflective development plan, develop their skills, and boost their confidence whilst working with a local, national, or international organisation.

Students can also take a work-based learning course as part of their programme. In one course, available to all students, teams of students work on real employer projects, aligned to the inclusive, sustainable, and/or international themes. Some programmes also offer a range of subject related work-based learning opportunities.



Explore

Explore our online resources and connect with the careers team to make informed career choices and gain insights into your job options.



Develop

Develop your skills and experience through a range of employability programmes, mentoring and work experience initiatives that you can undertake alongside your studies.



Connect

Connect with our regional, national, and international employer partners and alumni networks through a wide range of fairs and networking events.



TOP 20 UNIVERSITY
Ranked 18th in the UK in the
Guardian University Guide 2026

Find out more
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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 courses, to discontinue programmes and courses and to merge and combine them. The University is constantly developing new programmes, so please visit our website for new programmes developed for entry in 2026.

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