

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES



# School of Law

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE



→ **TOP 15 IN THE UK  
FOR LAW**

Times & Sunday Times Good University  
Guide 2026

# Welcome

We look forward to welcoming you into our intellectually rich and culturally diverse environment here at the School of Law.

At Aberdeen, we've been teaching law since 1495. That history gives us a strong foundation, but it's our forward-thinking approach that truly defines us. We prepare students not just to understand what the law is, but to ask what it should be. Whether you're interested in international relations, commercial practice, family law, criminal justice or the future of AI and law, you'll find space here to explore and specialise.

You'll be taught by academics and practitioners who are shaping law at the highest levels—in Scotland, across the UK, throughout Europe, and around the world. But we also know that your university experience is about more than lectures and reading lists. That's why we offer small group teaching, extensive support systems, and a vibrant community where your development as an individual matters just as much as your academic progress.

You'll find opportunities to build practical skills, take part in mooting and student societies, study abroad through our global partnerships, and engage with industries and legal professionals who work with us to shape the future of legal education. We're proud of our international reputation, but even more proud of the success of our students—graduates of our Law School are known for their academic strength, adaptability, and readiness to contribute meaningfully to society.

I first came to Aberdeen as a postgraduate student myself, expecting to stay a year. That was in 2004. What made me stay are the very same things I hope you'll experience: the strength of our academic community, the warmth of the people here, and the enduring sense of purpose that defines this university.

I look forward to seeing what you will achieve during your time with us—and beyond.

**Professor Justin Borg Barthet**  
Head of the School of Law

# Your learning experience

Our degree programmes provide a wide choice of practical and industry-relevant courses



**“The University of Aberdeen has a great and very well-regarded law school and should be a serious consideration for anyone wanting to study law”**

ZOE BAXTER - LLB

Our degrees are designed to provide a strong foundation in legal knowledge. To help you achieve this, we start by teaching the broad perspectives of how the law works. Once this is established you can then focus your study on areas of law that most interest you.

It's not just what we offer that is important, but how we deliver it. Our approach is student-centred, and we pride ourselves on our collegiate learning environment, with accessible teaching staff who really help to bring the law to life. We recognise that most of our students entering first year will be studying law for the first time. Our personal tutor approach provides individual guidance, to help you acclimatise to this new area of study and ensure that your academic progress is on track. This, coupled with a range of study skills workshops, helps you develop your skills for exams and coursework, and ultimately your future career.

You will be shown how to focus on the right legal sources and principles, so that you can apply them to resolve realistic scenarios or discuss law reform ideas; in doing so you will stretch and test your legal skills and knowledge to the limit. You will learn how to apply these principles in a practical way, building intellectual confidence and focus, all invaluable skills when working, either in legal practice or in any other type of business. That's why, whatever future career path you might follow, your LLB will be a highly marketable qualification and will equip you to succeed in your future endeavours.



# Undergraduate degree programmes

We offer a comprehensive range of law degrees which can be tailored to meet your interests and career aspirations.

## **LLB Law (Hons) (UCAS M114)**

This four year degree programme, provides a broad grounding in law with the option to enter the legal profession should you wish to. The LLB curriculum does not assume that a student necessarily wishes to enter the legal profession. Students are nevertheless given the opportunity to include those courses which will give full exemption from the professional examinations of the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates.

## **LLB Law with English Law (Hons) (UCAS M2M1)**

This degree is taught via a selection of compulsory and optional courses. The LLB Law with English Law will equip you to proceed along the professional qualifying route not only in Scotland but also in England & Wales, and Northern Ireland. In addition, our LLBs can be accepted as qualifying legal degrees for entry to professional practice in other jurisdictions, and many international students come to us with that aim in mind. The specific rules of the regulatory bodies will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and should be checked by the student. The vocational stage of training would then follow.

## **LLB (Hons) International Law and Comparative Law (UCAS M130)**

This innovative degree provides a unique student learning experience through the comparative study of legal cultures, institutional and intellectual expectations of law, and state and international orders. It teaches law at a conceptual level, without focusing on one specific jurisdiction, and can help develop careers across international bodies, non-profit organisations, multinational companies and arbitration, where complex perspectives on law are invaluable.\*\*

### **\*\*Please note:**

Applicants interested in a career as a Scottish solicitor are directed towards our other LLB programmes. For those who are interested in a Scottish and English dual qualifying degree, please review the LLB Law with English Law programme and our Online SQE1 Preparation Course.

## Combined LLB degrees

Whichever LLB programme you choose, you can be sure that it covers the law correctly and thoroughly in every respect. But in today's legal marketplace, there's an increasing advantage to having specialist knowledge in certain areas that can work in tandem with a strong knowledge of law. Our Combined LLB Degrees allow you to combine a thorough LLB or LLB (Honours) curriculum with the study of a language or with a number of other subjects.

### LLB or LLB (Hons)

- with options in French Language (UCAS M125)
- with options in German Language (UCAS M124)
- with options in Spanish Language (UCAS M122)
- with options in Mandarin Language (UCASMT10)
- with options in Gaelic Language (UCASM128)
- with options in Accountancy (UCAS M1N4)
- with options in Economics (UCAS M1L1)
- with options in Music (UCAS M1W3)
- with options in Business Management (UCAS M1N2)
- with Computing Science (UCAS M1G1)

You can also combine your LLB or LLB (Hons) with the study of the law of another country:

- LLB or LLB (Hons) and French Law (UCAS M121)
- LLB or LLB (Hons) and German Law (UCAS M123)
- LLB or LLB (Hons) and Spanish Law (UCAS M126)
- Law and European Legal Studies (M127)
- Law with English Law and European Legal Studies (M117)

With these degree programmes you will spend the whole of your third year studying abroad. Like the other combined programmes, you'll still cover the required content of Scots Law or Scots and English Law to gain the LLB - but you'll also gain insights into the workings of law in another country.

## Customise your degree

Most LLB programmes allow students to take optional courses, either additional law courses or courses from other disciplines, for example anthropology, physics, English literature or forensic medicine. This allows you to broaden your mind and make your studies (and your CV) more varied. In the Honours subjects (part of year 3 and the whole of year 4), you choose all of your subjects from a list of around 40 specialist courses including, for example: Corporate Finance Law, Media Law, Family Law, Criminology, and Use of Force in International Law, to name just a few.

## Accelerated two year LLB for Graduates (UCAS M115)

Graduates of another subject who already have the academic achievement of a good first degree can apply for a place on the two year LLB programme. There is also an Accelerated LLB Law with English Law programme (UCAS M116).

## Part-time LLB

For a variety of reasons, part-time study is a perfect fit for some students. In response, we've created programme options designed to enable you to study for your LLB on a part-time basis. Please contact [lawugenquiries@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:lawugenquiries@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

To find out more about our degree programmes please visit [abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/law](http://abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/law)

# Key teaching staff



**Professor Andrew Simpson** is the School of Law's LLB Coordinator and is a Professor in Scots Private Law. Following completion of his doctoral studies, Professor Simpson taught at Aberdeen University for ten years prior to becoming Professor in Scottish Legal History at the University of Edinburgh. Subsequently, he returned to the University of Aberdeen to take up a Chair in Scots Private Law.

**Professor Anne-Michelle Slater**, the School's Director of Education, is a specialist in terrestrial and marine planning law. She is a previous Head of Aberdeen Law School and until Summer 2024, the University's Dean for Portfolio and Programme Development.



**Dr Alice Krzanich** joined the law school as a Lecturer in Law and Legal History in July 2022, having formerly practiced as a lawyer. She is involved in teaching undergraduate courses such as Contract, Legal System, the Law of Equity & Trusts and English Property Law. Her research interests lie in legal history. Dr Krzanich is also the deputy Law Undergraduate Admissions Officer.

**Dr Douglas Bain** is a University of Aberdeen law graduate. He came to us as a mature student after having previously worked in a major charity. He is the Law Undergraduate Admissions Officer and the LLB Year 1 Coordinator. He teaches a number of Scots Law courses and also English Property Law, and he has honours teaching that reflect his interest in charity law.



**Dr Euan West** has been a member of the School of Law staff since March 2019. His teaching revolves around various aspects of private law, in particular the Scots law of obligations. He teaches on a number of first-year courses in that field, including Foundations of Private Law and Delict & Unjustified Enrichment.



**Luci Carey** joined the law school in August 2022 as a lecturer in commercial law. Prior to joining the law school, Luci was a Teaching Fellow in Commercial Law at Edinburgh University where she is undertaking a PhD examining the legal and liability implications for the introduction of autonomous vessels. Previously she was a Judge's Associate in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Western Australia.

**Scott Styles** has a first class degree in Philosophy-International Relations from University of Aberdeen and a law degree from Edinburgh University. He lectured at Edinburgh and Dundee Universities before returning to Aberdeen in 1994. He is interested in Contract Law, Medical Law and Oil and Gas Law and teaches all of these subjects.



**Dr Thomas Green** has research interests in historical family law, the development of the Scottish legal system, the history of court procedure, European common law in Scots law, testamentary succession and the interaction of law and religion in Scotland. He teaches civil law, family law, succession law and legal history.

# Our school

The School of Law is a vibrant community with a number of societies, projects and events that extend your study beyond the classroom.

We are justifiably proud of our outreach projects which help our students gain valuable hands-on experience whilst actively supporting the local community. In addition to these, our societies provide social and educational opportunities which help develop your CV and prepare you for the working world.

## The Aberdeen Law Project (ALP)

Started in 2009, this initiative gives our students from first year onwards real exposure to the way the law works in the real world. As a law student at Aberdeen, you can gain experience through the ALP by offering free legal advice in the community on issues relating to employment, housing, consumer rights and small businesses. As part of the ALP, students run employability skills workshops for inmates at HMP Aberdeen. Employers recognise the value of this initiative which helps you develop legal knowledge and skills in a hands on manner.

## Mooting Society

Mooting is all about the art of persuading. Our mooting society teaches students to argue a fictitious legal case in front of a judge. Members are also invited to talks, networking events, 'legal-themed' trips and social events.

## Lawyers Without Borders

The University of Aberdeen Student Division carry out pro-bono legal research, fundraising and events in line with the parent organisation.

## Law Society

Our Law Society organises a busy and varied programme of social and educational events. This includes 'family ties' whereby new students are introduced to senior law students who can give advice and information on aspects of university life generally and the study of law particularly.

## The European Law Students' Association - ELSA

The local branch of a pan-European network, ELSA hosts local and international events and competitions which our students can attend.



### The Aberdeen Student Law Review

This is a student led journal which showcases some of the best of our students' work, giving you the opportunity to be published before or shortly after graduation and to work as part of the editorial team.

For a full list of law focused societies, visit: [abdn.ac.uk/law/student-activities/](https://abdn.ac.uk/law/student-activities/)

### Student Input

The Law School is committed to fostering strong staff-student relations, and actively takes into account students' views in the running of the School. There are a number of elected student representatives who participate in Law School meetings and sit on the School Education Committee, Staff Student Liaison Committee, and the Employability, Entrepreneurship & Co-curricular Committee.



# Careers and employability

One of the great advantages of having a law degree from the University of Aberdeen is that it provides you with broad legal knowledge and associated skills to offer prospective employers. Amongst experts in the legal world, our Law School has a reputation for excellence in teaching law and is also renowned for its world-class expertise in legal research.

With student choice being a core component of our LLB, these programmes could take you in a number of exciting directions. The key thing to remember is, at the University of Aberdeen, we have both the choice and guidance to help you get there.

According to the Graduate Outcomes Survey 2025, an impressive 93.8% of our law graduates have secured employment and/or pursued further studies within 15 months of graduation.



**“Career mentoring here is brilliant - in fact invaluable!”**

YVONNE GUTSOHN -  
CAREER MENTORING  
PROGRAMME, 2021.

# Where your law degree can take you

We have very strong links with local and national employers, and we take into account the views of the sector via our Employability, Entrepreneurship & Co-curricular Committee. Members of the legal profession regularly attend and give careers talks to students.

We also have a very active Careers Service, providing advice on matters such as CV drafting, interview skills and summer placements. Each year our dedicated Law Careers Fair is attended by around 30 top employers, including law firms and other organisations, and supports our students to plan their next steps beyond graduation.



# 10 reasons to choose Aberdeen

## 01 **The academic strength you would expect from a 500 year old university – yet right at the forefront for careers in the 21st century**

A thriving, cosmopolitan community with students from 130 countries set within a beautiful, historic campus that has seen five Nobel Prizes.

## 02 **Choice and flexibility**

A wide choice of degree options which you can tailor to your career aspirations and interests, plus the opportunity to study abroad.

## 03 **A proven track record for employment, with the best headstart your career can get**

Our experience and professional links can help secure that all-important first step on the ladder to a successful career. According to the Graduate Outcomes Survey 2025, an impressive 94% of our law graduates have secured employment and/or pursued further studies within 15 months of graduation.

## 04 **Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide**

The School of Law is ranked a Top 15 UK University for Law (Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026). You will be taught by top academics shaping policy, many of whom have 'written the book'.

## 05 **Opportunities to develop yourself and your interests**

Not only academic qualifications to rival the best, but also personal, communication and teamwork skills to make you an all-round achiever in whatever you choose to do. We boast over 150 clubs and societies for students to join and offer excellent on-campus sports facilities.

## 06 **The very best learning resources**

We pride ourselves on providing state of the art learning resources for all our students. Computing and library facilities are geared towards your needs. The School of Law is proud of its very own specialist law library - the Taylor Library is a dedicated resource housed within our building.



**07 A supportive community**  
A self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city; we will do everything we can to help you feel at home quickly. We have excellent support services to ensure you have access to all the support and guidance you might need - academic, personal, medical or financial.

**08 First class accommodation**  
All new students are guaranteed a place in student accommodation, either on the campus or close by - so no need to set the alarm too early!

**09 A buzzing, friendly city that has it all**  
Aberdeen is everything a student city should be and more! Historic, international, fashionable and friendly.

**10 Closer than you think**  
Aberdeen is a well connected city with plenty of affordable and accessible transport links. Regular air, rail and bus connections will get you around Scotland, the UK and further afield in little time.

**Any questions?** Phone us on 01224 272090 or email [study@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:study@abdn.ac.uk)



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