Postgraduate Research Induction

Welcome

Prof. Judith Masthoff
Dean of the Postgraduate Research School
About us

University Facts & Figures:

• Founded 1495
• 5th oldest university in the UK
• Over 14,500 students
• 120 nationalities
• 550+ first degree programmes
• 110+ taught postgraduate programmes

Organised into three Colleges:

• Physical Sciences
• Life Sciences & Medicine
• Arts & Social Sciences
• Business School

+ PG Research School (Being established, merging College Graduate Schools)
College of Physical Sciences

• Head of College
  • Professor Jeremy Kilburn

• Academic Schools
  • Engineering
  • Natural & Computing Sciences
    • Chemistry, Computing Science, Mathematical Sciences, Physics
  • Geosciences
    • Geography & Environment, Archaeology, Geology & Petroleum Geology

• Graduate School (to be merged in the university one)
College of Life Sciences and Medicine

- Head of College
  - Professor Phil Hannaford

- Academic Schools
  - Psychology
  - Biological Sciences
  - Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

- Graduate School (being merged into the University one)
College of Arts and Social Sciences

• Head of College
  • Professor Margaret Ross

• Academic Schools
  • Education
  • Divinity, History and Philosophy
  • Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture
  • Law
  • Social Sciences

• Graduate School (being merged into the University one)
History of Excellence in Research

- James Clerk Maxwell held his first professorial appointment at Aberdeen.

- Frederick Soddy was appointed Professor of Chemistry at Aberdeen in 1914 and awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on the origin and nature of isotopes in 1921.

- G. P. Thomson was appointed a Professor in 1922. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work on the diffraction of electrons in 1937.

- John Macleod (with Frederick Banting) was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1923 for research which led to development of insulin as a treatment for diabetes.
History of Excellence in Research

• Lord Boyd Orr, Director of the Rowett Institute and Prof of Agriculture was awarded the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to the worldwide fight against hunger.

• Richard Synge, a biochemist with the Rowett Institute, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1952 for the invention of partition chromatography.

• Development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

• The “Aberdeen doctors” in Divinity (17th century)

• Philosopher Thomas Reid founded the Scottish School of Common Sense and he and James Beattie played an integral role in the Scottish Enlightenment (18th century)
Graduate School

- Research student admissions
- Research student supervision
- Research student training (with Researcher Development unit)
- Research student monitoring
- Quality control
Scottish Graduate schools Aberdeen participates in

- Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities
  www.sgsah.ac.uk

- Scottish Graduate School of Social Science
  www.socsciscotland.ac.uk

These offer many training opportunities

Other collaborations exist, e.g. SICSA, SUPA, NERC Centre for Doctoral training in Oil and Gas, ...
Registry – What do they do?
Student Support

- Support for international students (visas)
- Support for special needs
- Free counselling
- Support with personal problems (e.g. financial)
- abdn.ac.uk/infohub/support/
  (look under Advice and Assistance)

Also look at:
- abdn.ac.uk/infohub/new-students
- Nightline: overnight (8pm-8am) support service run by AUSA, the number is 01224 27 2829
Where are they?

INFOHUB & Student Support
Your Health

• Please register with a local family doctor (GP) if you are not registered already
• Most healthcare will be free, but you need to be registered first (see info for Tier4 students on healthcare surcharge)
• Information on the website of which GP to register with See the link to Health and Sport under the Student Life tab of the new student website: abdn.ac.uk/infohub/life/health-and-sport-1031.php

• Also look at abdn.ac.uk/cluedup
Your Safety

• Schools tend to have safety instructions on website
• Also look at: abdn.ac.uk/cluedup

Make sure you do:
• Ethics training (on-line)
• Equality and Diversity training (2x on-line)
Some Advice

• Regard the PhD /MSc as a job
• Arrange a regular appointment with your supervisors
• Always turn up, even if you have made no progress
• If you are stuck, ask for help. And help each other.
• Take initiative: it’s YOUR PhD, not your supervisor’s
• Go to international research events and network
• Start writing now
• Aim to finish the PhD in 3 years

Never give up