School of Psychology

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE
Aberdeen was the first University in the UK to establish a lectureship in Psychology and the subject has now been taught here for over 100 years.
Welcome

From the moment you join our vibrant and friendly community we are committed to ensuring that your experience is excellent. We take pride in the diversity and quality of our teaching and research, which are world renowned.

It is my hope that you will join our inspiring and friendly community, and enable us to help you achieve your aspirations and potential. We pride ourselves in world-leading excellence in both teaching and research. As our teaching is research-led you will be taught by some of the top academics in the UK, delivered in the best possible environment with access to world class facilities.

Our exciting curriculum and the opportunities we provide for you to enhance your transferable skills and employability, mean that when you graduate you will leave this University empowered and with the right skill set for the next stage of your career.

Professor Arash Sahraie
Head of School
Your learning experience

The School of Psychology provides an exciting and vibrant research-led learning environment for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

At Aberdeen, studying Psychology introduces you to state-of-the-art concepts and theories taught by award-winning teachers and world-class researchers.

You will study the core fields of psychology - cognition, lifespan development, sensation & perception, evolution & emotion, biological psychology and social psychology.

In addition to studying cutting-edge research methods through lectures and practicals, you will be taught by practicing clinical, educational, forensic and organisational psychologists, who will give you an insight into exactly what it means to be a 21st century psychologist and help prepare you for your future.

We offer a range of optional support groups to suit your style of learning, from peer-assisted learning where you get help from other students, to a vibrant Psychology Society, to Facebook discussion groups where you can engage with lecturers and students alike.

While studying at Aberdeen, psychology students have access to researchers with international reputations. This is particularly important in the final year where students have the opportunity to do a research project supervised by these researchers. In fact a number of our students’ projects have been published in highly regarded academic journals.
Lectures are very informative and helpful. All lecturers welcome ideas and questions which is helpful for the other students. The slides are uploaded onto My Aberdeen, which is an interactive website for all our courses.
Combining teaching with research excellence

Dr Margaret Jackson
Dr Jackson is a lecturer in the School of Psychology at the University of Aberdeen. She did her Psychology degree at Aberdeen, and then completed a PhD in Cognitive Psychology at Bangor University. The majority of her current research examines the interaction between emotion and cognition. She is currently investigating how emotional expression and eye gaze influence attention to and memory for faces, and how one’s own current mood state and social anxiety influence the perception and understanding of others’ emotions. She teaches courses on Emotion and fMRI Methodology at Level 1 and 2.

Professor Ben Tatler
Ben Tatler is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Aberdeen. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and a PhD from the University of Sussex. Ben’s Active Vision Lab studies how vision is used to provide the information we need to complete our activities of everyday life. Two key questions if we are to understand how vision supports behaviour are where we look and what we encode and retain from the places that we look at. A particular emphasis in his lab is the importance of studying vision in the context of natural behaviour in real environments, rather than exclusively in laboratory settings. In practice this means that he studies people making cups of tea, driving, playing sports and other everyday activities. He teaches courses on Biological Psychology at Level 3.

Any questions? Phone us on 01224 272090 or email study@abdn.ac.uk
Key teaching staff

Dr Paul Bishop
Director of Teaching & Learning

Dr Bishop initially completed his PhD part-time at the University of Aberdeen. While a post-graduate he had a part-time teaching role within Psychology and there he discovered his passion for teaching. He then moved to the University of Glasgow to take up a position focused on teaching. He returned to the University of Aberdeen in 2012 to take up the role of Director of Teaching and is now responsible for the management of teaching and learning within the School of Psychology.

Dr Emily Nordmann
Lecturer (Scholarship)

Dr Nordmann is a Lecturer in the School of Psychology. She did her Psychology degree at the University of Edinburgh, and then completed a PhD in psycholinguistics at the University of Aberdeen. Her current research focuses on words and phrases that have multiple meanings such as idioms and homophones. She teaches courses on methodology at level 1 and language at level 4 but her wider teaching interests lie in the use of technology to enhance learning and teaching. She is particularly interested in integrating the use of Facebook and Twitter throughout higher education and using e-learning tools to deliver courses through online distance learning.
Psychology students are generally considered to be highly employable upon graduation due to the range of transferable skills (such as communication and numeracy) that the degree provides and the wide range of career options post-graduation.

Aberdeen psychology graduates are employed in a wide spread of areas covering traditional roles, such as Clinical and Educational Psychology, but also in industry. To further enhance student employability the School of Psychology has a distinct employability strategy that aims to help our graduates achieve work positions or places in postgraduate study. At all levels of our degrees there are lectures and workshops aimed at improving the students’ employability when they graduate.

93% OF UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN STUDENTS ENTER DIRECTLY INTO GOOD JOBS, RESEARCH POSTS OR FURTHER STUDY WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF GRADUATING.
Each year our students attend our very successful Employability Networking Event which is attended by representatives from a range of different employers across the private, public and education sectors.
Our students

Diana-Maria Marosi
BSc Psychology
I chose to study at the University of Aberdeen because it was the best ranked in this field out of my five choices. The campus also played an important role in my choice as it impressed me with its old-looking buildings and gothic architecture. During my four years at the University, I learnt how to think critically and to evaluate information; I had access to interdisciplinary courses which enabled me to peer through the material of other disciplines and to compare approaches used in different sciences. I was also taught how to run experiments and to report the results to other scientists, working with academics and becoming colleagues with some during this process.

Harry Conway
MA Psychology
The Psychology course at the University of Aberdeen has matched my expectations and continually teaches me something new! I have been involved in the School’s employability Ambassador Programme which led me to being involved in organising the School’s networking event where final year students networked with around 40 employers. Studying at the University of Aberdeen has provided me with numerous part-time job opportunities, access to voluntary work in the surrounding area and a solid degree from a prestigious institution. What more could you ask for?
Louisa Lawrie
MA Psychology

Based on my interest in human behaviour, further fuelled by both my school and college studies, I elected to study Psychology at the University of Aberdeen. During my time at Aberdeen, which was both challenging and immensely rewarding, I gained several transferable skills, most notably the ability to interact with others - plus being able to conduct psychological experiments, factors that further reinforced my passion for the field of Psychology. Via direct contact and support from distinguished academics, I received invaluable support. Consequently, and apart from clear knowledge gains, I have grown in confidence. Attending seminars was both an enjoyable and stimulating experience - the high quality of teaching motivated me to work harder. I am proud that my contact with the University of Aberdeen is continuing, as I am undertaking a PhD project into ageing and emotion. Needless to say... I am looking forward to starting my next adventure!

The University of Aberdeen has matched my expectations and continually teaches me something new.
Where your Psychology degree can take you

**Carlene** graduated in July 2012. Through her degree she developed an interest in Occupational Psychology and after graduating she took up an opportunity to work at Optimus Behavioural Safety consultancy. Optimus helps companies to identify areas of risk in the workplace; they then develop a training programme specific to that company with the aim of improving safety behaviours within the workforce. She now works there as a Project Adviser using the skills and knowledge she developed during her psychology degree. In her role she supports the client partners and client managers in the Oil and Gas industry, writing reports, proposals, and analysing data. She is now also responsible for the work experience positions offered to 4th year psychology students from the University of Aberdeen's School of Psychology.

**Carlene Smith**
Behavioural Safety Adviser

**Victoria** is a 2009 Psychology graduate. During her degree she developed an interest in Educational Psychology; this led to volunteer work directly after graduation to gain relevant experience in working with children and young people. Following this Victoria worked as a pupil support assistant in a local school; she also shadowed a number of Educational Psychologists. Currently Victoria works as an Educational Psychology assistant. This job entails working with children and young people at both an individual level and with families. Victoria also delivers multi agency training and carries out research. Victoria completed the MSc Educational Psychology in September 2014 which resulted in her qualification as an Educational Psychologist.

**Victoria Shepherd**
Assistant Educational Psychologist
**Dr Ceri Trevethan** is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen. Whilst completing her undergraduate degree she worked in various part time jobs as a Support Worker and Care Assistant to gain some experience. After graduating she completed a PhD and worked as a Research Assistant, then Research Fellow at the university on projects exploring changes to vision after brain injury and a rehabilitation programme for these. At this stage she knew she wanted to continue working directly with people affected by brain injury so applied for clinical training. She completed her clinical training at the University of Edinburgh and after qualifying has worked as a Clinical Psychologist specialising in brain injury rehabilitation and adult mental health. Ceri recently returned to the University of Aberdeen where she has taken up the role of Programme Coordinator for our new MSc in Foundations of Clinical Psychology.

**Dr Ceri Trevethan**
Clinical Psychologist

**Lauren** graduated in 2007 and went on to work in retail and recruitment for three years. However, Lauren never intended recruitment to be a long-term career, and so in 2010 she applied for a position with Rossie Secure Accommodation. The position involved working with troubled young people; something Lauren found very rewarding. Over the next two years Lauren studied for a SVQ3 in Health and Social Care for Children and Young People, achieving this in 2012. During this time Lauren was also promoted to the Professional Services Team, where she works currently. This position incorporates appointments with young people, undertaking risk assessments based on their offending/welfare and helping to engage them in a plan of focused work. Lauren also collaborates with a number of other professionals, including social workers, mental health professionals and advocacy workers.

**Lauren Coull**
Professional Services Development Officer
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 120 countries set within a beautiful, historic campus that has seen five Nobel Prizes.

02 Choice and flexibility
It’s your degree and we believe it should be planned around you, with the freedom to plan your own programme of study from a wide range of options.

03 A proven track record for employment, with the best headstart your career can get
Our experience and connections can help secure that all-important first step on the ladder to a successful career. 93% of University of Aberdeen students enter directly into good jobs, research posts or further study within six months of graduating.

04 Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide
Unique programme options with professional accreditation, industrial placements, plus the opportunity to study abroad.

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 our students. Computing and library facilities are geared towards your needs and we are especially proud of our exceptional museums and special collections.
Any questions?
Call us on 01224 272090
or email us at study@abdn.ac.uk

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. Our support services rank with the best in the UK and we aim to make sure, right from the start that you have access to any guidance you might need - academic, personal, medical or financial.

A buzzing, friendly city that has it all
Aberdeen is everything a student city should be and more! Historic, international, fashionable and friendly, Aberdeen is the perfect place to live and study. Aberdeen has also been voted the best place to be a student in the UK by a leading accommodation website.

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!

We're on the map!
Aberdeen is probably closer than you think. Affordable and regular air, rail and bus connections will get you around Scotland, the UK and further afield in no time.