School of Psychology
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

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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.
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.

The British Psychological Society
Accredited Undergraduate Psychology

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. Margaret Jackson is a senior 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.

Key teaching staff

Dr Jason Bohan
Director of Teaching
Dr. Bohan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Psychology. He completed his PhD at Glasgow University utilising eye tracking and ERP methodologies to investigate shallow processing in reading. He has a broad range of research interests including factors that enhance student learning, such as blended learning and development of graduate attributes. He was excited to join the University of Aberdeen in 2018 to take up the role of Director of Teaching where he is currently responsible for the management of all teaching and learning within the School of Psychology.

Dr Mirjam
Lecturer (Scholarship)
Dr. Mirjam Brady-Van den Bos (“Dr. Mirjam”) is a Lecturer in the School of Psychology. She did her Psychology degree in The Netherlands at the University of Groningen, and completed her PhD in Cognitive Psychology at Keele University, UK. Her research is mainly qualitative in nature and focuses on aspects of identity development (how do athletes cope with severe injury? when do beginning teachers really feel they are teachers?), as well as student learning (what do students do when they revise? does group work really work?). She is course coordinator of the Level 1 methodology courses and keenly uses interactive and innovative ways of teaching throughout the degree.

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

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.

*A degree in Psychology can be applied to any career which involves people, opening up a wealth of potential job opportunities.

Our psychology students have the opportunity to study abroad in the second year of their studies (one or both semesters).

Many Aberdeen students undertake part of their degree study in another country. We have two major schemes available to help students looking to spend part of their time studying abroad.

**Erasmus**
Our Erasmus exchange partners include universities in Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Spain. It is also possible to do an Erasmus exchange at a University that is not listed as a partner for Psychology but that we do have a partnership with in another department, for example Economics.

**International Exchange**
We support international exchange with seven of the most distinguished state universities and private colleges in North America and two universities in Hong Kong. Exchange with these universities present a great opportunity to grow personally and academically.

Our Erasmus and international exchange partners allow study abroad while still satisfying the requirements of BPS accreditation for undergraduate psychology degrees. Exchange is only possible in Year 2 of study.

95.5% OF UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN STUDENTS ENTER DIRECTLY INTO GOOD JOBS, RESEARCH POSTS OR FURTHER STUDY WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF GRADUATING.*

*Based on sample available to work - DHLE Survey, HESA 2017
Our students

Phoebe Somervail
MA (Hons) Psychology

I chose Aberdeen because it was a completely new place out of my comfort zone. I attended the UG open day and loved the campus, on top of this I felt that the psychology course had a lot to offer and focused more on my specific interests. I really enjoyed the freedom to choose multiple different subjects in first and second year, I did a lot of philosophy courses and some linguistics ones too. It helped me a lot in the long run as my thesis ended up being focused on psycholinguistics. The great thing about psychology is that it can apply to so many different career paths so, although it can make it hard to decide what you want to do, it means you'll never be stuck doing one thing. I came to the university having no idea what I wanted to do but I'm more directed and better equipped to do anything I set my mind to now.

Shannon Kopinski
MA Psychology

I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and go somewhere that would change me as a person. I went as far from London as I could to Aberdeen. It's a great place with lovely people. The academics are lovely too once you get to know them. Aberdeen campus is beautiful, and Seaton park which you can walk to from halls. I appreciate that scenery every day as now I've just graduated. I have worked as an ABA tutor for almost two years throughout my degree, so I'm going to keep on working this job. The next steps would be to receive more training and become a supervisor possibly, but there is the chance I might take a masters to do something else working with children.

Jasmina Paneva
MA Psychology

I chose to study at Aberdeen because it is on the coast. I come from a coastal city back home in Bulgaria, so I thought I would feel more at home in Aberdeen. Plus, my mum thought that the history of the School of Psychology at Aberdeen was more impressive! I enjoyed being given the opportunity and the space to discover my inner scientist. When I was applying to university, I thought I was bad at math and that I wanted to work in an applied setting. However, the staff here are so inspiring. Their passion and enthusiasm for psychology as a science showed me that I was not necessarily allowing myself access to my full potential. The girl who hated math found that her most favourite subject through the years was statistical methods. I loved being shown by my lecturers how things which may seem complicated and scary at first, are the most interesting and worth doing. Next, I am going on to do a Research Master in Cognitive Neuroscience. After that I hope to do a PhD to pursue my goal of becoming a neuroscientist.

Darja Wischerath
MA Psychology

The Psychology course is very student oriented and offers a variety of perspectives on psychology which are taught by some of the leading experts in the field. Everyone is very welcoming and the academics and administrative staff have always made sure that my needs as an international student are met by making a great support system available to me. One of my favourite things about Aberdeen is that the city is just big enough and it is very welcoming and friendly for students. There is always lots of stuff to do on the weekend and thanks to all the societies there are a lot of interesting talks and panel discussions to attend. After graduation I plan to do a masters degree and a then a PhD. My dream is to be lecturer and researcher in the field of social and cultural psychology.
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**
Lecturer (Scholarship) and 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
At Aberdeen, Psychology can be studied with many other subjects and is offered as single, joint and combined BSc and MA degrees.

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. We offer student workplace internships and the opportunity to attend our annual Employability Networking Event.

04 Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide
All of our psychology degrees are accredited by The British Psychological Society.

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 130 clubs and societies for students to join, including a dedicated Psychology Society and offer excellent on-campus sports facilities.

06 The very best learning resources
Peer assisted learning is used within the School of Psychology to enhance the formal teaching you get from lectures, tutorials and practicals.

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. 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.

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. Aberdeen is ranked 8th in the UK in the QS Best Student Cities 2018 rankings.

10 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.