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UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN

# School of Biological Sciences Research Degrees

Enriching your research experience

[abdn.ac.uk/sbs/phd](http://abdn.ac.uk/sbs/phd)





## Research Degrees

A PhD involves independent and original research, undertaken by the candidate over the duration of their studies resulting in the production of a thesis, which is examined by a viva (oral examination).

A PhD is for those who wish to contribute new knowledge to their field and are passionate about research.

### Structure and Duration

Students studying for a PhD may register for either full-time or part-time study. Each student is assigned at least one supervisor who is a member of the University's academic staff. Progress is monitored regularly through formal assessments and routine progress reports.

### Research Themes and Facilities

The School of Biological Sciences (SBS) has a world-leading reputation for pure and applied research across the biological sciences, with a broad cross cutting theme of understanding the fundamental biological consequences of environmental change. Activity is organised around our four traditional pillars of research excellence – ecology, evolution, environmental science and ecophysiology – and spans from gene to global scales, from the poles to the tropics, mountains to deep sea and across a broad taxonomic spectrum of plants, animals and microbes.

SBS boasts state-of-the-art laboratory, analytical and research facilities, including major recent investment in greenhouse facilities, the multi-omics Centre for Genome Enabled Biology and Medicine, and a high-performance computing cluster.



### Training and Development

We are passionate about your development – academic and personal – and equipping you with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to stand out in your field. Through the Postgraduate Research School (PGRS) you will have access to a range of training creating a personal roadmap for your PhD journey.

Based in Crombie House on the King's Campus, the PGRS is a vibrant hub for independent, collaborative working and social activities. It provides high-quality personal and professional development programmes designed to add value to your PhD.

In addition to the training and workshops provided by the PGRS, you will also receive training opportunities within the School of Biological Sciences. Each year we hold a Postgraduate Research Conference where you will have the opportunity to present your work. In addition to this, we host postgraduate retreats giving you the opportunity to build a cohort with your peers, whilst honing your graduate skills profile.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak to someone further about pursuing a research degree within the School of Biological Sciences please email [sbspadmin@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sbspadmin@abdn.ac.uk)

### Entrance requirements and how to apply

You must hold either a Masters degree, a first or upper second-class Honours degree in an appropriate discipline from an approved university, or an equivalent qualification. Those with lower qualifications may be asked to register initially for a Masters degree.

To apply for our research degrees, follow these five simple steps:

- 1 Define your research area
- 2 Consider a pre-defined PhD project
- 3 Contact potential supervisors
- 4 Write your research proposal
- 5 Submit your online application

[abdn.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply](http://abdn.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply)

### Fees and Funding

Our fixed fee structure means that postgraduate research students are charged the same tuition fee each year, for the duration of the programme of study. Details of our current tuition fee rates are available at our [website](#).

To assist with financing your studies please visit our [funding database](#) which gives details of all types of funding sources including any scholarships available.

External sources of funding are also available; these are best approached once you identify a supervisor for the project you wish to carry out. The School of Biological Sciences participates in several Doctoral Training Programmes offering funded PhD programmes, these are advertised annually. More information on these DTP's can be found via [QUADRAT](#), [EASTBIO](#) and [SUPER](#).

The University of Aberdeen operates an [Alumni Discount Scheme](#), offering a 20% discount on postgraduate tuition fees for all alumni who have spent time at the University. This discount scheme applies to both home and overseas students and applies to the self-funding element of the postgraduate tuition fee.



## Why did you choose to study at the University of Aberdeen?

Because it is one of the top-ranking universities in the United Kingdom and globally. Also, the University's state-of-the-art research facilities and world recognised experts in my research area strongly support my career progression and personal development. In addition, I chose to study at the University of Aberdeen because of the enviable record of international students' participation and acceptance in the University. Friends and colleagues from Nigeria who studied at the University of Aberdeen at different times expressed satisfaction with every component of the University, so it was easy for me to make a decision coming to Aberdeen.

Furthermore, the career prospects and high employability of University of Aberdeen graduates was another deciding factor. University of Aberdeen graduates are generally accepted for job opportunities around the world both in top establishments and institutions. So for me, it was an easy decision to study at the University and enjoy such glowing career prospects and employability.

Finally, I read and heard a lot about Aberdeen as a beautiful place to live and study. I was passionate about experiencing this and it helped in deciding to study at the University.



Vince Anyim Chukwu  
**PhD School of  
Biological Sciences**



## Why did you choose to study at the University of Aberdeen and what have you enjoyed most so far?

I came across the University of Aberdeen when I was looking for a PhD project that suited my passion and skills. Apart from the great fit of the project and supervisor, the University impressed me with its history and internationality. This made me feel confident in moving to Scotland and studying at the University of Aberdeen.

The proximity to the beach makes a massive difference to me, as there is nothing more recharging than a walk along the ocean. I enjoy the many cafés, eateries with vegetarian/vegan options as well as green spaces that can be found in this city.

I highly appreciate studying within the School of Biological Sciences as our community is not only supportive in our work but also actively striving to improve the experience of PhD students.

I can whole-heartily recommend studying at the University of Aberdeen.



Tanja Schwanck  
**PhD School of  
Biological Sciences**

## Find out more

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