Medical Sciences
Molecular Biology and Pharmacology
Top in the UK for overall student satisfaction
(National Student Survey 2017)
Welcome

It is my hope that you will join our dynamic 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 a medical sciences student at the University of Aberdeen you will be part of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition. 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.

We offer a range of degrees, and many choices within these, allowing you to shape your study to suit your career aspirations and interests. 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.

I hope you enjoy reading about the opportunities there are for you in the School.

Professor Steven Heys
Head of School
Your Learning Experience

The diversity of subjects and flexibility of our degrees allows students to explore different subject areas before specialising in their chosen discipline.

Our degree programmes are built to enhance your employability. All our honours disciplines offer the following features highly relevant to your future job prospects:

- a three month full time research project in the final year as standard;
- an optional industrial placement year and graduation with a Masters (MSci), and;
- highly relevant and sought after experience in Bio-business.

All medical sciences BSc Honours degrees follow the traditional Scottish four year structure. Typically, you will take a selection of courses in your first year from a broad range of subject areas, giving you the opportunity to expand your academic experience.

The key advantage to this four year system is that it allows a substantial level of flexibility meaning that you can defer your ultimate degree subject choice because the requirements for first year are largely the same for all degrees (currently 22 different degree options). You are then in a stronger and more informed position to make the correct judgement about which area you will specialise in.

How you are taught

A variety of teaching methods and styles are used to make the teaching engaging, exciting and responsive to the latest research in that subject area. The research we carry out in the School directly informs and guides our teaching, particularly in the final Honours year. During years 1, 2 and 3 students undertake their practical classes in our dedicated teaching laboratories.

As a student, your learning is supported by MyAberdeen, our virtual learning environment from which you can access the lecture Powerpoint slides, on-line practice tests, links to related reading, and tutorial support material.

We make innovative use of ‘educational voting’ handsets in class, remote control ‘clickers’ that allow each and every student to electronically respond in class by anonymous vote to questions posed by the lecturer. Your academic development is supported from year 1 through to year 4 by an assigned personal tutor, who acts as adviser and mentor throughout your University career.

Aberdeen students have the opportunity to spend the 4th year of their degree in paid employment and graduate after five years with an MSci instead of BSc.
Undergraduate degree programmes

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<tr>
<th>Biomedical Science Degrees</th>
<th>Molecular Medical Science Degrees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human physiology, form and function, health and disease, across the span of medical biosciences.</td>
<td>A range of cell and molecular biology subjects taught in the context of human health and disease.</td>
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<td>• Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>• Biochemistry</td>
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<td>• Human Embryology &amp; Developmental Biology</td>
<td>• Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Neuroscience with Psychology</td>
<td>• Genetics, Genetics (Immunology)</td>
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<td>• Immunology &amp; Pharmacology</td>
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<td>• Pharmacology</td>
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<td>• Physiology</td>
<td>• Molecular Biology</td>
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<td>• Sports &amp; Exercise Science</td>
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<td>• Exercise and Health Science</td>
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Visit our online prospectus to learn more about our degrees: [www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate)

**TOP 10**
Anatomy & Physiology and Sports Science are ranked in the UK Top 10
(Complete University Guide League Tables 2018)
Combining teaching with research excellence

Research led teaching ensures that our students are being taught by those at the forefront of scientific research and who are passionate about their subject area.

**Professor Gordon McEwan**
is Director of Teaching and is a Physiologist by trade. He has a wealth of experience in teaching at all levels and is co-organiser of the first year introductory Medical Science course. Gordon is heavily involved in its delivery so you will be seeing a lot of him during the early phase of your educational experience here.

**Dr Steve Tucker**
is a Senior Lecturer and is involved in teaching all levels from 1st year through to Masters level, where he teaches many aspects of Physiology and his beloved Pharmacology. Across your 1st year courses, Steve will teach you about a variety of topics including the pharmacology of drugs such as cannabis, morphine and Viagra!

**Dr John Barrow**
started his scientific career right here in Aberdeen, as an undergraduate Biochemistry student and is now a Senior Lecturer. He is involved in all aspects of undergraduate teaching, which includes being the co-organiser of the first year Medical Science and Cell Biology courses.
Dr Jenny Gregory
is a Lecturer in Physiology and Sports Science. Her main research interests lie in understanding how bone shape and structure changes with exercise, disease and disuse, particularly using biomedical image analysis techniques.

Dr Derryck Shewan
is a Senior Lecturer and a prominent member of our teaching staff. You will see him from day one as he helps oversee student induction and is involved in the teaching of Introduction to Medical Sciences. He coordinates the Skills Courses in 2nd year and Honours projects for Biomedical Science degrees.

Dr Flora Gröning
is a Senior Lecturer in Anatomy and Programme Co-ordinator for our BSc Biomedical Sciences (Anatomy) degree. Her research interests include the application of 3D modelling to biomechanics and musculoskeletal research. Flora also leads the development of digital 3D Anatomy learning tools at the University.

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

Careers and employability

All our medical sciences degree programmes offer students the opportunity to undertake a year’s placement. The range of degrees within the Medical Science disciplines prepare you to follow a broad range of careers relating to medicine and the life sciences.

Preparing you for industry
Employers now expect an impressive list of skills, knowledge and experience in their graduate recruits. They welcome ‘transferable skills’ acquired during a work placement, such as communication, numeracy, use of IT, group work and time management.

Students are placed in an industrial, commercial or research environment where they will obtain a breadth of practical experience to complement their degree programme.

We currently have links with a number of different companies and have recently placed students in companies such as Novartis, GlaxoSmithKlein, AstraZeneca and NIMR as well as a number of smaller companies in the UK and abroad.
Ina Mastalurova  
BSc Immunology and Pharmacology  
“The one thing you would notice at the very beginning of your studies is how easy it is to reach your new lecturers and how much they like explaining everything from the beginning, again and again, if there is something you don’t understand.”

Career pathways
The quality of your training will permit you to take advantage of international career opportunities in research and development. Some pursue these within Universities and Research Institutes, while others find employment in the biomedical research, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Our bio-business courses teach you how biology links directly to commerce which may inspire you to set up your own business.

But not all Medical Scientists are to be found in laboratories. Others choose further study in related areas such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, dietetics and physiotherapy. Some may be found teaching in schools, inspiring the next generation of scientists, or in courts of law, arguing over complex patent cases. An understanding of contemporary biology combined with your wider graduate skills will give you an additional broad choice of potential career options such as bioethics, journalism and health economics. For graduates with a Sport & Exercise Science background there are a number of career options available to them such as coaches, trainers, managers, physiotherapists and other health related professions concerned with fitness and nutrition.

Muzzamil Ali  
Senior Sales Executive and Intravascular Specialist  
“My degree in Biochemistry at Aberdeen helped me gain an understanding of how the body works at a molecular level. This has been hugely advantageous when going into the technicalities of the products and services I promote in my job.”

Jonathon Smith  
BSc Sports and Exercise Science  
“I really enjoyed learning the molecular aspects of nutrition and adaptations to different modes of exercise. The honours project was also a particular highlight.”
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 Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide
Unique programme options with professional accreditation, industrial placements, plus the opportunity to study abroad.

03 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.

04 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.

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 A proven track record for employment and 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.

07 A supportive community
A self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city; we will do everything we can to help you quickly feel at home. 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.
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.

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!