NEW STUDENT GUIDE

Everything you need to know to get your student experience off to a great start!

January 2020
Welcome to the University of Aberdeen community. We know there is lots to do and think about before you arrive but don’t worry, we are here to help. This guide will help you settle into your student life for the coming weeks, and beyond.

Campus comes to life on 7th January with loads of activities and information sessions to help you get the most of your time in Aberdeen. Teaching commences on 14th January 2020.
**Driving & Parking**
Will you be moving into University accommodation and bringing your car? Read the parking FAQs on the accommodation website [abdn.ac.uk/accommodation/faq](http://abdn.ac.uk/accommodation/faq).

**Coach/Train**
If you are arriving by coach or train, these stations are both within Union Square Shopping Centre. It’s recommended you take a taxi to your accommodation via the taxi rank (approx: £20).

**Airport**
During Welcome Weekend our friendly team will meet you at the airport and help get you on your way.

Remember to register for our Meet & Greet service and airport shuttle bus.

If you arrive outside of Welcome Weekend, you can either take the Jet 727 bus to town or a taxi direct to your accommodation.

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**TOP TIP**

- Register for Meet & Greet Service
- Keep important information to hand
- Note your destination postcode: Student Accommodation postcodes
- Download the First Bus and Stagecoach mobile apps to purchase tickets.
LIVING in university accommodation

Hillhead reception is open 24 hours, meaning you can collect your keys at any time from the date your contract begins. If you arrive early, please ensure you’ve made alternative accommodation arrangements.

If you haven’t booked your accommodation yet, please contact the Accommodation Office. You will also be able to find lots of information on the accommodation website.

Email: studentaccomm@abdn.ac.uk
Web: abdn.ac.uk/accommodation

Meet your Flatmates

When you have been allocated a room, you will be able to join your student accommodation Facebook Group. You can chat to your flatmates before you arrive, organise buying shared kitchen items, and plan the events you are attending during Welcome Week.

TOP TIP

- WiFi set up - Do you like to play video games online? We have a specific WiFi network just for that!
- Set up a payment plan
- Get a TV Licence
- Remember to buy bedding; duvet, pillow, and bed linen
To complete your student registration, complete these steps before your arrival in Aberdeen.

- **Activate your IT account, email and password**
  
  *This can only be done 30 days before course start date. Remember your password as it’s used to access everything, including WiFi.*

- **Choose your Courses through MyCurriculum.** Complete this step once you’ve completed Step 1.
  - Select your courses using [MyCurriculum](#).
  - Complete [MyTimetable](#); pick your class times and create an electronic timetable to download.

  **There is a delay of up to 3 hours between completing MyCurriculum and accessing MyTimetable.**

- **Complete Online Registration**
  - Check & update your personal details
  - Upload your photo: make sure you do this so your ID card is ready for when you arrive. Please make sure you upload your photo prior to arrival
  - *Confirm your financial details. You (or your sponsor) must pay at least 50% of your tuition fees
  - Sponsored students must send a copy of your sponsorship award letter to [tuitionfees@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:tuitionfees@abdn.ac.uk)
Once you arrive in Aberdeen you can **collect your ID card** and collect King’s Cups points.

International students must bring:
- Your passport
- BRP Card (if applicable)
- ATAS certificate (if applicable)

You need a visa check if...
- You’re here on a Tier 4 Visa
- You pay fees as an overseas student

**Orientation, Induction and Welcome Week.**

- During **Welcome Week** it is important to attend the different presentations and get involved with activities
- Register for **New Student Orientation Sessions**
- Attend your Academic Induction: **Undergraduate** or **Postgraduate**
- Attend your Personal Tutoring meeting (UG only)

**Get connected!**
Join the Student Life **Facebook** or **Twitter** feeds. They are an invaluable source of news, information, deals and promotions
A full week of different activities and events allowing you the opportunity to meet people, and make new friends.

Welcome Weekend Arrivals
Welcome Weekend is the first weekend in September. University representatives are at the airport from 8am-11.30pm Saturday and Sunday. Make sure you register in advance to let us know you’ll be arriving.

New Students’ Orientation
A two day, conference style, event with variety of sessions designed aimed at new students (Monday & Tuesday). Register after you’ve completed eRegistration.

• Create your own schedule with the sessions you like most
• 30-50 min sessions on topics including: MyUniversity, Library & IT Essentials, Studying for University, Explore Scotland, Banking in the UK, Simply Living, Safety First, AUSA, and much more

Academic Induction
• Specific session(s) where you get a chance to meet fellow students, key academics and other staff in your department/school
• Undergraduate or Postgraduate

AUSA Freshers’ Week
A weeks’ worth of activities to get you excited and geared up for the rest of the year! It’s a chance for you to visit the Freshers’ Fairs where you can find out about over 200 societies and sports groups. And make sure you go to Party on the Pitches - a must see event!

Stay connected!
studentlifeuoa
uniofabdn
International Centre
The International Centre is an activity and community centre for all students to have an international experience.

Language groups, local excursions, and volunteering opportunities with which to involve yourself.

Go Abroad
Many of our programmes at the University offer the possibility of a semester or year abroad. If this would interest you, come to the International Centre.

Want a more international experience? There are dedicated service, facilities and support to help you meet people from around the world, learn new languages and potentially study internationally!

TOP TIP
- Visit the International Centre
- Collect an International Welcome Pack from the International Centre
- Broaden your experience and get involved with language groups
Collect points, get discounts and rewards with the University’s loyalty and secure mobile payment app.

We are lucky enough to have 14 cafes or food outlets across campus, each with its own style, vibe and food selection - so you're never too far away from a hot meal, refreshment or a quick snack. Whatever your budget, we've got you covered!

Loyalty & Rewards
Get automatically rewarded for buying food and drinks on campus; no more paper stamp cards! Collect points and rewards for every purchase.

Discounts
Constantly updated range of discounts on your favourite products.

Payment
Pay using Yoyo’s secure payment feature. Everything paid for by Yoyo earns you points that you can spend on whatever you want from the reward store!

Buy in Bulk
Pay upfront on things like coffee or snacks, and save money.
RESOURCES

Enhance your academic or social life by using these amazing University services.

**Infohub**

The one-stop shop to help you with anything you need including:
- Payment of fees and accommodation (cash not accepted)
- Bank letters, council tax exemptions
- Proof of study and student record cards
- ID cards
- Accommodation information
- Personal tutors and peer mentoring
- Access to Registry Officers

**Aberdeen Sports Village**

Scotland's premier sports and exercise facility supporting high performance student athletes and university sports clubs through the Sport & Exercise Team. There are gym memberships to suit all budgets. Pop in past to find out more or visit their website.

**Careers Service**

Browse jobs and internship opportunities, book appointments with careers staff, and sign up for our workshops and employer events through the website.

**Multi-faith Chaplaincy Centre**

Whether you have a faith or not, you're welcome to come and speak to our team of chaplains who will assist you with any problems.

**Libraries**

Get access to books, journals, and information workshops to support your learning and studies. Library staff in any of our three libraries will help you get the best out of our facilities, collections, and services.

**Doctor/Dentist Registration**

Register as soon as you arrive as you don’t want to wait until you get sick
- Where you can register depends on where you live in Aberdeen
- Once you are registered with a doctor, you can register with an NHS Dentist

Tier 4 students will have been required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) and will have access to National Health Service (NHS) treatment when they arrive.
- Payment is required for dental treatment
- If you extend your visa, you must make an additional payment
- Short Term (Go Abroad) students must ensure they have their medical insurance before arriving
- EEA & Swiss Nationals should have their EHIC from their country of residence
Support services are here to help you with any aspect of your academic, personal or social life.

### Student Advice & Support Office
Support on a range of issues including support for:
- Financial issues
- Disabilities
- Specific learning differences
- Mental health
- Visas and Immigration
- Personal issues

Staff are based in the Students’ Union Building on King’s Campus.

### Welfare Support in Halls
A Community Liaison Officer and a team of Student Resident Assistants are on hand to help you during your time staying with us in University Accommodation. We can help with:
- Homesickness
- Exam worries
- Relationship/family issues
- Flatmate tensions
- Social events and community building

### Counselling Service
Our counselling service are available to meet with you to talk confidentially about issues causing you concern. They also have a host of self-help guides on a range of issues available on their website

### Digital Services
As a University of Aberdeen student you can benefit from a wealth of digital technology and expertise. The IT Service Desk is your first point of contact for IT support. Drop in to Sir Duncan Rice Library or 1:122 Polwarth.

### Students 4 Students
Created to help you settle into university life with advice and support from a fellow student. You will be contacted in Welcome Week by your Mentor. ALL new Undergraduate students will be assigned a S4S mentor.

### SLS (Student Learning Service)
The SLS offers a range of workshops, online resources and 1-2-1 sessions on various academic skills, e.g. maths, critical thinking, academic writing, study strategies and time-management.

### Personal Tutoring (UG only)
Your Personal Tutor will provide general pastoral support and will also meet with you during your studies to encourage you to reflect on your progress.
AUSA

AUSA is a student-led organisation, here to support, empower, represent you and enhance your University experience.

Class Reps
Class reps are elected at the beginning of an academic year or semester, and represent your views and concerns about courses or degree programmes, ensuring they are the best they can be.

AUSA Advice
AUSA Advice offers free and impartial advice to students. You can visit us for support with anything from academic advice, health & wellbeing, part-time employment and housing.

Union Brew
AUSA’s bar and café on the ground floor of the Students’ Union Building. Open during the day and often home to evening events such as pub quizzes, open mics and student-run events.

Sports and Societies
With 55+ sports clubs and 150+ societies – we have something for everyone! Joining a club or society is a great way to meet new people and experience new things.

Raising & Giving
RAG is a student run committee that raises thousands of pounds for projects in the Aberdeen area through events, fundraising activities and partnerships with other students.

AberGreen
AberGreen is a community-led sustainability education project that aims to help the university community reduce its carbon footprint through fun and interactive events.

More information
Facebook: abdnunisa
Twitter: ausatweet
Instagram: aberdeenunisa
Website: ausa.org.uk