New Student Guide

PGR 2020

Everything you need to know to get started with your research degree
About your university

- Founded in 1495
- Over 220 sports clubs and societies
- Associated with five Nobel Prizes
- 75% of research classified as world leading
- Ranked in the top 30 universities in the UK
- Scottish University of the Year
- 130+ nationalities
- Aberdeen Sports Village
- 15,000 students
Hello and welcome

By joining us at the University of Aberdeen you will become part of our global student community and our vibrant research environment. Here we will help guide you with all the information you need for a smooth transition to joining our Aberdeen Family.

The University of Aberdeen has a long heritage and excellent reputation for producing ground-breaking research with international societal impact. The importance of this is reflected in five Nobel prize winners associated with the University and our research today continues to make major contributions to global issues. You will become an integral member of our PGR community, an essential and highly-valued part of this vibrant research environment.

Through our research programmes you have the opportunity to make a significant contribution of original knowledge to your field. This will fundamentally change the way you view the world and allow you to understand fully the value of your role within it. In addition, by engaging with our comprehensive training programme, we will help you develop the skills, knowledge and attributes you need to navigate your PhD journey and provide you with the opportunity to communicate the importance of your PhD to a wide-ranging audience.

We appreciate that you are investing your future in our hands. By working together with your supervisors, we aim to ensure that you achieve your goals.

We look forward to welcoming you to the University of Aberdeen.
Discover your place in Aberdeen

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YouTube: Discover your place in Aberdeen
Your safety is our primary concern. As we continue to follow Scottish Government guidelines, the University and the city of Aberdeen are putting a variety of measures in place to ensure your welfare.

As part of your PGR mandatory training, the Health and Safety module will provide you with all the information you need to ensure your safety and that of others on campus.

We want to assure you that we are committed to create a safe and enjoyable experience for you for when you join us on campus.

A Safe Campus

Physical distancing measures and enhanced hygiene procedures will be in place to help protect our community. Sanitiser will be provided at entrances to buildings and key locations. There will also be additional cleaning schedules particularly of communal areas and touch points.

One-way systems will be used where appropriate to ensure physical distancing. Signage across campus will remind people of the need to keep their distance and wash their hands regularly. Appropriate adaptations will be made to teaching spaces to ensure a safe learning experience as possible. Cafes, dining areas and shops will have physical distancing measures in place, allowing them to open and provide a safe and friendly service.

Hygiene

Regular cleaning will be in place across all University buildings. Hand sanitising gel will be available upon entry to all buildings and within each of the cafe and dining areas. We will also provide forehead strip thermometers so that you can easily check your own temperature. During the first few weeks of term, compostable utensils will be used almost exclusively for the service of food and drink. If guidelines change as term progresses, the option of using reusable glasses, cups, plates, bowls and cutlery will be reintroduced.

Personal Hygiene

It is important that good personal hygiene is maintained.

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) you should self-isolate and arrange a test as soon as possible. You can do this through contacting the NHS. We can help you with this, just contact student support.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin, and wash your hands.

Off-Campus Safety

Aberdeen city has adapted to ensure that everyone can still access the resources they need in a safe way. The Aberdeen City Council website offers up to date advice and support as well as a 24-hour crisis line.

Retailers and restaurants are working to national guidelines and the city centre has been temporarily pedestrianised to allow space for physical distancing.

Face Coverings

We are following Scottish Government guidelines on face coverings. The University will be providing all students and staff with two, 3-ply face coverings which students and staff will be expected to wear these. At the time of publication face coverings are a requirement in shops and on public transport.

The University of Aberdeen continues to monitor Scottish Government advice regarding the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.

The advice is changing rapidly, the most up to date Scottish Government information can be found [here](http://www.gov.scot) and the latest University FAQ's can be found [here](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/).
Everything you need to know

**Getting here**

More information can be found on our Travel information pages with this guide.

Remember if you are using public transport you will require a face covering. Once you arrive at your on-campus accommodation, most facilities including shops and cafes are within walking distance, meaning you won't have to take public transport if you don't want to.

For students arriving from outside of the UK, current Scottish Government guidelines require a 14-day quarantine period for many countries. You can see a full list of exempt countries here.

**A Caring Community**

Our students, staff and community are our main priority. We’re adapting our teaching spaces, libraries, student spaces, cafes and sports centre in line with physical distancing guidelines, so you can still enjoy campus life and the sense of community that is part of being a member of the Aberdeen Family. We are committed to creating a supportive environment which students feel part of.

**Visa Requirements**

If you are an international student, you are likely to require a visa to study in the UK. Guidance for Tier 4 visas is different during the Covid-19 pandemic but our immigration web pages will be updated regularly with any guidance. Get in touch with our International Student advisers who will gladly guide you through the process.

**A Nurturing Environment**

All of our student support services will be available to you. Our community is compassionate and will always work to foster a positive environment in which you can thrive. We know that the University experience reaches far beyond that of academic study. We have a broad co-curricular offering, centered around student interest and supporting a sense of belonging.

**Visa Requirements**

If you are an international student, you are likely to require a visa to study in the UK. Guidance for Tier 4 visas is different during the Covid-19 pandemic but our immigration web pages will be updated regularly with any guidance. Get in touch with our International Student advisers who will gladly guide you through the process.

**The Student Experience**

The Aberdeen University Student Association (AUSA) and the University are working in partnership to deliver on campus activities, that are in line with Scottish Government physical distancing and ‘stay safe’ guidelines. Society and club membership will be possible though some activities may be delayed until later in the academic year.

The advice is changing rapidly, the most up to date Scottish Government information can be found here and the latest University FAQs here.

**Blended Learning**

We understand how important on-campus learning is to you. We will ensure you receive the same high-quality Aberdeen student experience, albeit delivered differently. We will be open and ready to welcome you to campus very soon. If you have applied for an on-campus research degree, when you join us on-campus your programme will, in the first instance, be a blended programme of research-related training activities involving time spent in research facilities on campus and working online where face-to-face contact may not possible.

Your experience will be individual to you and you will receive more details of access to building and facilities in due course. There will be some access to study spaces where physical distancing measures can be observed, and most importantly, you will be able meet with your supervisor(s) to discuss your PhD.
Your steps to Registration

**Step 1**
- Complete your student registration by completing 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.
- Complete Online Registration (For PGR students, step 1 only)
- Check & update your personal details.
- Upload your photo: make sure you do this so your ID card is ready for when you arrive.
- Complete Online Registration
- If you are not in receipt of a studentship or are being sponsored, you must pay at least 50% of your tuition fees for the academic year.

**Step 2**
- Get in touch with your School PGR administrator and supervisor to let them know you’ve arrived in Aberdeen. Key contacts can be found here.
- Once you have met with your supervisor, you can collect your ID card from Infohub.
- If you stay in University Accommodation, your card will be there for you to collect on arrival (if you have uploaded your picture in time.) If not, then the card can be collected from Infohub.
- International students should consult the Tier 4 and Immigration pages for any additional registration instructions.

**Step 3**
Through the PGR digital orientation programme, we will introduce you to the University and the different services and departments available to help you settle in and access the support you need.

We have social media pages dedicated to our new students providing you with the opportunity to connect with peers.

Also make sure you download our UoA Student Guide from the app store.
Your guide to Accommodation

**University Accommodation**

Our University accommodation will be open to allow for quarantining. You can read more on the Scottish Government advice for self-isolation on arrival in Scotland [here](#). Physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measures will mean our shared living, study and social spaces will also remain open.

You must ensure that you have accommodation booked before arriving in Aberdeen. We are introducing a phased arrival programme from Monday 14 September for students who don’t require to quarantine. If you are residing with a third-party accommodation provider you should contact them to familiarise yourself with their quarantine procedures. Keep an eye on our Coronavirus FAQ page as we release more information on how we can support you through quarantine.

More information on/about accommodation options can be found on the [Accommodation website](#).

**Other Accommodation**

Domestic style properties are available in the Old Aberdeen campus. The Housing Office can offer a range of sizes and types of accommodation - bedroom within a shared property, one-bedroom flats through to larger family housing (furnished and unfurnished). Various types of tenancy agreements may be offered for longer term periods or, if appropriate and available, for fixed term and shorter periods of stay.

Further information can be found on the [website](#) or by contacting the Housing Office on: [housing@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:housing@abdn.ac.uk).

[Check out our Hillhead Accommodation video](#).
Explore our Facilities

**Libraries**
Our libraries, including the award-winning Sir Duncan Rice Library, will be open with a reduced capacity and physical distancing in place. Many of our library resources will be available to you in digital form whether you’re studying on campus or from home. Print materials and open study spaces will become available in keeping with national safety and physical distancing guidelines.

**Study Spaces**
Study spaces, including PC Labs, will be available with physical distancing measures in place. Our PC classrooms, teaching spaces and study spaces will be redesigned to allow for safe and effective usage. Any spaces where it is not possible to operate within the national safety guidelines will not be used.

**Aberdeen Sports Village**
Scotland’s premier sports and exercise facility supporting high performance student athletes and University sports clubs through the Sport & Exercise Team.

We are working with our partners at Aberdeen Sports Village to ensure that our world-class sports facilities will be open and available for you as soon as possible. Use of the facilities will be adapted to reflect the prevailing guidelines from The Scottish Government and sporting governing bodies, with team and contact sports likely to resume according to slightly different timetables.

There are gym memberships to suit all budgets.

**Top tip**
Complete the Induction Module to find out more about our libraries.
Arriving by Air

Getting to and from the Airport

Aberdeen’s International Airport is served by a number of major carriers, providing an extensive network of routes throughout the UK, direct to Europe and worldwide through major hubs. There is a frequent bus link to the city centre, and taxis from the airport to the University cost around £17-£21.

Jet 727 Airport Bus

Stagecoach Jet Service 727 - operates from Aberdeen Airport to Aberdeen city centre 24 hours a day with services up to every 10 minutes Monday to Friday and every 30 minutes Saturday/Sunday.

A bus journey from the airport to the center of Aberdeen takes about 30 minutes in average traffic, longer at peak times.

The buses are fitted with USB charging points and free WiFi.

Don’t worry about buying your tickets in advance, you can get them from the bus driver on the day, prices from £3.50.

By Taxi

Official Aberdeen Airport taxis are available directly outside the front of the terminal. Turn left for the taxi rank where our Forecourt Co-ordinator will assist you with your onward journey.

All taxi fares are metered in accordance with Aberdeen City Council. All vehicles will accept both cash and credit card payments.

Depending on traffic, a journey to the city centre takes about 25 minutes and costs between £15 - £20, while a journey to the nearest rail station, Dyce, costs £8 and takes five to ten minutes. Fares and journey times will be greater when traffic is heavy. Please refer to the ‘approximate charges’ board within the taxi shelter for more information.

- Rainbow City Taxis - 01224 878787
- Comcabs - 01224 353535
- Central Taxis - 01224 898989

By Train

The nearest rail station to the airport is Dyce, which is about two miles from the terminal and easily reached by taxi.

For more information, please contact the 24 hour National Rail Enquiry line on 08457 484950 or look at train times using thetrainline.com.

Car Hire

If you’re looking to hire a car, there are several car rental companies located just outside the main terminal. They all offer a range of vehicle sizes, from small compact cars and family-sized saloons to larger SUVs. These include National, Sixt, Europcar, Hertz, Budget, Enterprise Rent-a-car, Avis and Alamo.

Getting Here

Arriving in Aberdeen

Easy to get to, easy to get around, but hard to want to leave; our campuses are located within the heart of a diverse and thriving city.

With extensive air, rail and road connections, Aberdeen is easily reachable from anywhere within the UK, and arriving from further afield is easy thanks to the city’s global travel connections.

Once you’re here, getting around is simple – the city has an excellent public transport system which runs day and night, stretching throughout Aberdeen and beyond.

Top Tips

- Keep important information to hand.
- Note your destination postcode.
- Download the First and Stagecoach mobile apps to purchase tickets for a discounted price.

Arriving from the Airport

Rainbow City Taxis - 01224 878787
Comcabs - 01224 353535
Central Taxis - 01224 898989
By Train

Aberdeen Railway Station is located within Union Square Shopping Centre. Rail services connect Aberdeen both north and south. There are regular direct trains to London, and services from Edinburgh and Glasgow link with other mainline routes. Inverness, the scenic West Coast and Highlands are reached northwards.

For more information, please contact the 24-hour National Rail Enquiry line on 08457 484950, visit their website, or look at train times using thetrainline.com.

By Coach

First-class roads south to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and onwards, carry fast coach services linking Aberdeen with the UK’s major cities. Competitive return fares, using Travelcard schemes, make coach travel popular with students. The earlier you book your travel, the cheaper the prices.

Aberdeen Bus Station is located within Union Square Shopping Centre (as is Aberdeen Railway Station).

You can find bus and coach information at:

- www.megabus.com
- www.stagecoachbus.com
- www.nationalexpress.com

Once you arrive in Aberdeen, you’ll discover it is easy to find your way around. There are plenty of quick and direct bus routes all over the city.

Aberdeen City Buses

Grasshopper Bus Pass - for any bus!
www.grasshopperpass.com

A zone 1 Grasshopper bus pass covers travel on all First and Stagecoach buses between Aberdeen and the Airport.

Payment methods - Tickets can be purchased on the bus (if it’s for a day you can get a paper ticket from the driver on the bus, or if it’s for a week you can ask them to put it onto a smart card. Once you have a smartcard you can re-use it again and again, so don’t throw it away when your ticket expires. Stagecoach charge £1 for their cards) or buy tickets from the Stagecoach travel shop at Union Square or the First Travel shop on Union Street.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Company</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Connects</th>
<th>Departs from</th>
<th>Arrives at</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Bus</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>City Centre to Old Aberdeen</td>
<td>Aberdeen bus station at Union Square</td>
<td>King Street, next to the University Playing Fields (east of King's College)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Bus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Marischal College to King's College and Hillhead Halls of Residence</td>
<td>Littlejohn Street (next to Marischal College)</td>
<td>King's College (High Street) and Hillhead Halls of Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Bus</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Marischal College to Sir Duncan Rice Library (Bedford Road)</td>
<td>Littlejohn Street (next to Marischal College)</td>
<td>Sir Duncan Rice Library, Bedford Road (west of King's College)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Bus**

Fares vary depending on which route and service you take. The 'Tap and Cap' service will work out the best fare for you if using the same contactless card payment for each journey. Ticket prices may be cheaper when purchased via the mTicket app or via online than compared to being purchased on the bus.

For more information on ticket prices visit their website.

Payment methods:

- Tap and Cap
- mTicket app (available on both App Store and Google Play)
- Contactless card payments
- Cash (only accept exact change, no change given)

**Stagecoach**

Fares vary depending on which route and service you take.

For more information on ticket prices visit their website.

Payment methods:

- Stagecoach travel app (available on both App Store and Google Play)
- Contactless card payments
- Cash (change is given)

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**PGR Information**

We work in partnership with Schools and Professional Services colleagues to connect you with other students across disciplines, and support your professional and career development.

We love hearing from you so feel free to get in touch with us at pgrs@abdn.ac.uk.

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*in line with Scottish Government Guidance.
Let’s Meet the Team

Admissions & Recruitment

Kim Paterson
PGR School Administrator

Lynn Quick
PGR School Administrator

Cheryl Croydon
PGR School Adviser
(Admissions & Recruitment Team)

The Admissions & Recruitment team provides advice and guidance to prospective research students from enquiry to registration for the Schools of Natural and Computing Science, Engineering and Geosciences (Kim Paterson) and the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition (Lynn Quick). Cheryl Croydon provides strategic oversight of admission policies and processes, working with PGR School coordinators across the University.

e: pgrs-admissions@abdn.ac.uk

Ann Marie Johnston
PGR School Adviser
(PGR Studentships)

Ann Marie looks after the administration and coordination of scholarships and studentships in the PGR School. This entails providing advice and guidance regarding scholarship applications and studentship agreements for individual national collaborative partnerships to students and staff.

e: pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk

Masha Shaw
PGR School Adviser
(Training & Development)

Masha designs and delivers the annual programme of training and development for PGR students to advance their professional and transferable skills. Your tailored programme ranges from research ethics and integrity to project management, leadership, communication, public engagement, enterprise and impact from research. Our sector-leading strategy aligns with major national and international programmes such as the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, UKRI Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research and the Manifesto for Engaging the Public with Research.

e: pgrs-training@abdn.ac.uk

Michael Tuckwell
Administrative Assistant

Michael provides administrative support for the PGR School teams. He also assists with the organisation and promotion of PGR events and activities across the University, as well as supporting the Politico Doctoral Training Centre.

Studentships & Training

Engagement

Nic Stokes
PGR School Administrative Coordinator

Lorna Muir
PGR School Adviser

The Engagement team oversees your six-monthly reviews and is involved with your annual progression to make sure you’re on track with your research and fully supported throughout. We also deal with change of study requests (extensions, suspensions, mode of study and degree title), as well as general queries about registered students. We’re passionate about your experience and wellbeing, as well as academic development, and run a number of workshops to encourage you in your research. Lorna is also involved in aspects of supervisor training and Nic is one of the University’s wellbeing coordinators as part of The Workplace Dignity Network.

e: pgrs-engagement@abdn.ac.uk

e: pgrs-training@abdn.ac.uk
### Student Resources

**Top tip**
Complete the Induction Module for more information about these services.

#### Careers & Employability
It is never too soon to think about your career planning. You can make appointments or submit online queries to our dedicated professional team of Careers Advisers. The Service also runs several co-curriculum programmes which can help to maximise your employability. We offer specialist workshops on CVs, applications and interviews which are available to book through the [course booking system](#). In addition, we recommend that you update your Profile on CareerConnect to receive targeted notifications about job vacancies and events.

Find out more by visiting the Careers and Employability Service website or send an email to careers@abdn.ac.uk.

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#### 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

Find out more by visiting the [Infohub web page](#) or send an email to infohub@abdn.ac.uk.

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#### Registry Student Services
Registry Student Services provide advice and guidance for all students in relation to registration and progress through their academic study. We are able to guide students through the online registration process, including any issues related to tuition fees.

Once students have completed [Online Registration](#), we can then assist on matters relating to changes to terms of study, such as changing between full time and part time, changing degree intention, and, if required, taking time out from study. We are also able to assist research students through the examination process, including the requirements for submission of a thesis.

Your main contact points in Registry will be your Registry Officer or postgraduate@abdn.ac.uk.

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#### Student Learning Service
The Student Learning Service offers workshops as part of the PGR School’s Researcher Development Programme. SLS also provides individual advice to students on: Academic Writing, Academic Skills, and Maths Skills, as well as specialist advice for students with dyslexia and other specific learning differences.

Find out more by visiting the [SLS website](#) or to make an appointment with one of our Advisers, email sls@abdn.ac.uk (PGRs must obtain the written consent of their supervisor/s before making an appointment with SLS).
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, you can log a call at myit.abdn.ac.uk.

Toolkit

The Toolkit is a multi-award winning platform designed to help students and staff at the University of Aberdeen learn new digital skills, understand how to use University software, discover useful apps and explore University services. Your digital companion includes walkthroughs, tutorials, course overviews, introductions, software and much more.

Watch our overview video on Toolkit

You can also book on IT training courses, or sign up for our free online learning resource. Find out more by visiting the IT Training website.

Centre for Academic Development (CAD)

The Centre for Academic Development provides a high quality, reflexive service to enhance continuously the academic practice of all students and staff across the University.

Where appropriate, the Centre for Academic Development will provide training to support the teaching skills development of PGRs to provide you with the key skills to enhance your research career.

As a PGR student you may be involved in teaching activities. The Centre for Academic Development will provide you with the necessary skills. In addition the CAD can help you to develop key skills to enhance your research career.

Find out more by visiting the CAD website or send an email to cad@abdn.ac.uk.

International Centre

The International Centre (or the IC) is a community centre for all things international. If you are international or want to have an international experience you can come to us. We host events, activities, language groups, socials, and provide general information to help enhance your experience while you’re here in Aberdeen and studying at the University.

Find out more by visiting the International Centre website, or Facebook page, or send an email to internationalcentre@abdn.ac.uk.
Supporting your Research

Public Engagement with Research Unit (PERU)

The Public Engagement with Research Unit (PERU) is available to help you generate ideas and provide advice for your public engagement activities. Get in touch with us if you would like to find out more about engaging the public with your research.

We are a small team based centrally in the University Office but with responsibilities across all academic disciplines. The team comprises Dr Chris Croly, Public Engagement with Research Manager and Dr Barbara Gorgoni, Biomedical Engagement and Training Officer.

We offer a range of services from bespoke engagement plans to help with setting up your activity. We run a series of events annually from large scale events such as Explorathon, to the Festival of Social Science and our Café series of talks, which is currently running in an online format. We will also offer advice on audience, funding and all aspects of engagement as well as run regular training events for specific events.

We also offer small grants of up to £500 to help you establish your engagement activity.

For more information visit the PERU website or send an email to peru@abdn.ac.uk.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD Services sit within Research & Innovation at the University of Aberdeen and is responsible for all CPD enquiry including promotion and delivery of CPD events, and collation of CPD returns to the funding council.

CPD Services can support you in organising your next conference or event and can help you with all aspects of event management, for both virtual and physical events. We work with internal colleagues and external clients and no event is too big or small.

Our services can be tailored to suit your needs and requirements; we work with you from day one of the planning stages right through until the end of your event, as well as offering post-event support.

Our services include but are not limited to:

- Budget and Financial management
- Delegate registrations
- Abstract/paper submissions
- Website development and management
- Social programme management
- Marketing and Social Media
- Travel & Accommodation
- Speaker Liaison
- Sponsors and Exhibitor management
- On-the-day support
- Post-event evaluations

By using our services, we ensure that your event is compliant with University of Aberdeen policies and UK Government legislation, such as GDPR, VAT and institutional CPD funding council returns.

Our team has a long-standing relationship with the academic community and has access to the vast range of expertise available here at the University of Aberdeen. We have built strong industry links, having worked with a diverse range of SMEs, multinational organisations and key local organisations such as Aberdeen Convention & Events Bureau, P&J Live and RGU.

Find out more by visiting the website, or send an email to cpdservices@abdn.ac.uk.

Top tip

Complete the Induction Module to find out more about the support services available to you.
Ideas Preparation
Opportunities to participate in events to encourage the development of ideas to underpin future research applications.

Identification of Funding Opportunities
Including fellowships, exchange opportunities, internships and travel grants.

Sandpits/Grant Writing Workshops
Led by experienced grant holders to develop the content of grant applications.

Library of Successful Applications
These can be shared with prospective applicants.

Fellowship Application Support
Advice on criteria for success as well as a managed process for supporting candidates who wish to apply.

Interview Preparation/Mock Panels
Skills training and mentoring from experienced colleagues who sit on external funding or interview panels.

Rebuttal Preparation
To assist with preparing responses to external reviewers’ comments.

Impact/PERU Support
Training in social media and support the delivery of impact activities including events targeted at the general public; the delivery of impact activities including events targeted at the general public.

Networking and Training
To support interdisciplinary working – e.g. the Conversations on … series, ResearchBites & career development training opportunities.

Check out the course booking system for upcoming courses.

Grants Academy
The Grants Academy provides support and guidance to academic colleagues throughout the life cycle of a research project from idea conception through to study delivery and on to dissemination and realising the impact of the research.

Funder’s rules can be complex and as a postgraduate student you might not be able to lead on a research grant proposal. There might still be opportunities to get involved in grants led by academic colleagues. We would always recommend that you discuss your funding needs with your academic supervisor in the first instance.

Our webpage contain a wealth of information on forthcoming events, funding calls, research governance and application support. We are here to help you develop and deliver competitive research proposals and are always happy to answer your queries.

Email: grantsacademy@abdn.ac.uk
Contacts by Team and School.

UoAResInnov
Impact and Knowledge Exchange

The Impact and Knowledge Exchange team works with students and staff to develop impact from their research. Research impact can take many forms such as influencing policy or practice, societal or economic impact, working with industry to develop new products or services or starting a new social enterprise or business.

Research impact has become an integral part of the academic experience, and for those starting a career in academia an early understanding of the importance of impact is essential to ensure you are prepared for job applications, funding bids, and understand the how university research quality is assessed and why that is important.

Our team works collaboratively with academic Schools, research groups and other departments to support researchers as they develop impact portfolios. We can help you to think in new ways about your own research, and give them tools/vocabulary/insight into how to develop your own impact activities in future. We offer practical examples of how engaging with non-academic audiences can help your research and career and we can also help you develop your ‘roadmap’ for creating impact and provide you with helpful online tools to help you get there. For more information or to discuss your business idea email impact@abdn.ac.uk

Entrepreneurship and Starting a Business

ABVentures is the University of Aberdeen’s dedicated service for students who are enterprising, entrepreneurial and innovative, or who are simply inquisitive and want to think about starting their own business or social enterprise. ABVentures is your first point of contact to help you develop your ideas, signpost to funding, support you through start-up competitions and ensure you are in contact with the right people and organisations.

For more information or to discuss your business idea email abventures@abdn.ac.uk

Inventions and Intellectual Property

The impact and knowledge exchange team provide tailored advice for postgraduate students and staff who develop inventions or want to commercialise their research.

Contact Ann Lewendon (a.lewendon@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) are one of the world’s leading knowledge transfer mechanisms, providing:

- Businesses and not for profit organisations with access to the UK’s world class academic expertise, helping them innovate for growth and embed knowledge for lasting, positive impact.
- Graduates with one of the biggest recruitment platforms in the UK (around 300 jobs every year) - a unique career springboard, leading change on a strategic innovation project.
- Academics with a valuable opportunity to apply the outcomes of their research to real world business challenges.

For qualified Graduates looking to:

- Fast track your career?
- Own your own project, delivering positive change?
- Take on a role that bridges academia and business?
- Apply your academic knowledge to a real life challenge?
- Gain a further professional qualification?
- Manage your own substantial training and development budget (you can also use this to attend conferences, cover membership of professional bodies etc)?

A KTP could be the perfect launchpad, helping enhance your career by managing a challenging project central to a business’s strategic development and long term growth.

Applying academic knowledge to a real world challenge is an exciting chance to deliver impact, put your skills into practice and shape your career.

KTPs are designed to deliver an innovation project and bring about lasting, transformative change. As a KTP Associate, you lead the project with full support and input from the organisation and the Knowledge Base teams.

KTP projects last between 12 months and three years.

For more information www.ktp-uk.org/graduates
AUSA is an independent charity, funded by the University and led by students. The organisation exists to support, empower and represent students during their University experience.

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

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

**Union Brew**
This is 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, it’s always got something going on.

*As per Government guidelines.

**Sports and Societies**
With over 55 sports clubs and over 180 societies, AUSA and the University have a vibrant community spirit. Joining a club or society is a great way to meet new people and experience new things. Learn to develop your skills, hobbies and passions.

**Forums**
AUSA has 5 liberation forums and 4 section forums as part of its structure. They exist to promote the interests of, and organise events for students who are part of or identify with certain groups.

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

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Get to know your Students’ Association
PGR AUSA Reps

PGRs have representation with Aberdeen University Students’ Association. Your rep for this academic term is Christopher Lewis, who says:

“As the Postgraduate Research School representative to the Student Council and Senate, I am here to serve as your voice to the rest of our University.

It is our goal that every PGR student who comes to Aberdeen has an enjoyable and inspiring experience and is given the support that allows them to achieve to their full potential. Together we are always looking to improve this experience in any way possible.

Despite all the changes that have occurred this year, it remains our objective to ensure that your time at the University of Aberdeen PGR School remains as fulfilling and exciting as ever.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at pgrs-ausarep@abdn.ac.uk, or any of the School-based PGR representatives, and we will strive to ensure that your comments and suggestions are heard.

I wish you all the very best during your time here in Aberdeen.”

Christopher Lewis,
G. Lewis, PGR AUSA Rep,
Final Year PhD Student, Institute of Medical Sciences

School reps

As well as your official AUSA rep, each School has a PGR rep, recruited by the School, to sit on the PGR Committee on a rotational basis.

In the 2020-21 academic year, School Reps are scheduled as follows:

• Business School: Isaac Adebiyi
• School of Biological Sciences: Tanja Schwanck
• School of Divinity, History and Philosophy: Benjamin Whitlock, Joel Pierce.
• School of Education: Vacant
• School of Engineering: Aliya Temirkhan
• School of Geosciences: Vacant
• School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture: Clarisa Novello
• School of Law: Chike Emedosi
• School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition: Ajay Iyer and Inga Schmidt
• School of Natural and Computing Sciences: Federica Casolari
• School of Psychology: Ana Rozman
• School of Social Science: Vacant
PUTTING YOUR WELLBEING FIRST

Your Health and Wellbeing is important, to you and to us! Our BeWell programme has been designed to help and support your wellbeing at university.

abdn.ac.uk/bewell
Student Advice & Support

Support on a range of issues including support for:
• Financial issues
• Disabilities
• Specific learning differences
• Mental health
• Visas and Immigration
• Personal issues

The Student Advice & Support Team can be contacted via email student.support@abdn.ac.uk.

Visa and Immigration queries should be directed to student.international@abdn.ac.uk.

Multi-Faith Chaplaincy

Currently chaplains are available to meet with you virtually and are running various virtual cafes. You can find out more about the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy and their events on their webpages.

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.

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 in University Accommodation. For more information visit the accommodation website.

Counselling Service

Our team of experienced counsellors are available for you to talk to confidentiality about issues causing you concern. There are loads of support resources and self-help guides on their website.

Look After Your Mate

Undertaking a research project can be a rewarding experience but it can also be challenging at times. The Postgraduate Research School runs Look After Your Mate sessions throughout the year.

These sessions help to give you the tools to talk about health and wellbeing in your postgraduate research community.

You can sign up for the workshop via the course booking site at www.abdn.ac.uk/coursebooking.

Doctor/Dentist

Register as soon as you arrive and don’t wait until you get sick. Visit the NHS website for more information.

Handy tips:
• 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 then 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
• EEA & Swiss Nationals should have their EHIC from their country of residence.
SHARE YOUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS

The

STUDENT CHANNEL

Read blogs, watch vlogs and listen to podcasts created by University of Aberdeen students!

Inform

We care about what you think, and always want to be engaging in a two-sided conversation with students. We are open to feedback about the entire spectrum of student experience, from teaching and assessment, to student accommodation, campus facilities and the support services on offer. We then use this data to improve continuously the student experience. Please explore the Inform pages to find out more about the different ways you can provide and receive feedback and shape real change at your University.

Take a leading role in creating a better university experience for everyone.

Student feedback leads to positive changes. Find out how to share your views with us by visiting the Inform website.

abdn.ac.uk/inform
There are three museums on campus. The Gallery in the Sir Duncan Rice Library, King’s Museum and the Zoology Museum. Our collections are internationally renowned with over 300,000 items across a wide range of Human Culture, Medicine and Health, and Natural History. In both The Gallery and King’s Museum, you’ll find new exhibitions throughout the year. The must-see Zoology Museum is the only large, international exhibition of zoological specimens in the north of Scotland. If that’s not enough, in our Special Collections Centre you’ll find our impressive historic collections of books, manuscripts, archives and photographs, with material dating as far back as the 3rd century BC.

Facebook - UoAmuseums
Twitter - UoAcollections
Blog - AberdeenUniLib.wordpress.com
email: museums@abdn.ac.uk
website: abdn.ac.uk/museums

The Crown Tower remains one of the most historic and beautiful emblems and icons of our University. The Chapel which sits beneath the Tower is also a space of beauty, with rare decorations made of canvas and wooden scaffolding dating back to the 16th and 17th century.

The Confucius Institute provides a great opportunity to expand your knowledge through a programme of cultural events, Chinese language teaching and culture classes.

Tucked away on King’s Campus you’ll find our beautiful botanic gardens boasting more than 2500 stunning plants. This is an ideal spot to take some time out to relax or study.
Embrace Aberdeen

Arts and Culture

Whether you love a bit of stand-up comedy, live music, opera or theatre, Aberdeen is the city of the north that provides it all. From historical venues such as His Majesty’s Theatre and the Music Hall, to smaller intimate spaces for live entertainment such as The Lemon Tree or the Blue Lamp, Aberdeen has something to offer everyone. In 2019, the P&J Live arena opened its doors and to date has welcomed many events and acts such as Jack Whitehall, Catfish and the Bottlemen and The BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards.

If you enjoy a bit of history – then be sure to check out our museums such as The Tolbooth Museum or Aberdeen Maritime Muesum, and if inspirational, thought provoking art is your thing then be sure to visit Aberdeen Art Gallery, and the region’s two annual art festivals: NEOS and NUART.

Festivals

Festivals are part of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire’s old Doric culture. The locals love to celebrate their music, food, Scottish tradition and contemporary art. There is so much to discover, from the annual Jazz festival and The Highland Games, to SPECTRA, Aberdeen’s winter Festival of Light.

- Aberdeen Festivals

- Visit Aberdeenshire
- Visit Scotland
- Aberdeen Performing Arts
- P&J Live
- North East Open Studios
Aberdeen provides many opportunities to take part in and watch sport. The city and surrounding area boast over 50 golf courses, five ski centres and several sports courts and pitches. Pittodrie Football Stadium welcomes both local, national and international games and the Linx Ice Arena hosts National ice hockey games.

Food and Drink

Foodies beware! You'll be spoilt for choice. The city offers a fantastic mix of both well-known restaurant chains and quirky independently-owned bistros and eateries offering the best local produce. You will find vegan, gluten-free and internationally themed outlets and plenty of places offering traditional comfort food.

Don’t forget, one of Aberdeenshire’s claims to fame is being the birthplace of Brewdog and Mackie’s Ice cream. Both Brewdog and Mackie’s original eating and drinking establishments can be found in the city centre as well as Brewdog’s main brewery in Ellon, Aberdeenshire.
Get Wild
The city and surrounding shire are famously known for many different types of wildlife. Spot dolphins in the North Sea, or see hundreds of seals at the Sands of Forvie National Nature Reserve – less than 20 miles from the city centre. To catch a glimpse of rare animal and plant species, visit the Cairngorms National Park, which is home to 25% of the UK’s threatened birds, animal and plant species.

Walk and Trek
Sometimes the best way to discover the Shire is on foot, where you can experience the impressive landscape up close. Aberdeenshire is home to four of the five highest mountains in Britain and we have 208km of unspoilt coastline and incredible beaches to enjoy. Our coastline was named one of the 20 most iconic landscapes in the world by National Geographic.

Proud of our History
Evidence of Aberdeenshire’s past is still very prominent today, with historical attractions ranging from the Neolithic age to World War II. Stone circles, castles, ruins and other buildings can be found all over the city and shire.
One of our most well-known castles is Dunnottar Castle, which was part of the inspiration for Disney Pixar’s animation Brave.

Adventure Seeking
Keen skier, cyclist or horse rider? Fancy surfing, quad biking or golfing? Whatever interests you, there are endless opportunities to explore things you already love and are yet to discover. For all of our skiers and snowboarders, a visit to Glenshee Ski Centre is a must. Cyclists and horse riders can explore the various trails made with them in mind, and water sports fans have miles of coastline and numerous lochs to explore.
Life's a beach

Whether it’s surfing, walking or swimming, there are an abundance of activities to discover with 150 miles of coastline at your disposal. Or just take a stroll from our campus to the beach, a walk of only about 20 minutes – definitely something to impress visitors with.

Try a wee dram

Whisky production has defined Scotland’s heritage and reputation for many centuries and still does today. Aberdeenshire has plenty of whisky distilleries where you can discover how the spirit is made. Tourists from across the world come to Scotland to visit our distilleries, with many of them located in beauty spots around the country. Make the most of your new city and plan your itinerary on Visitabdn.com.

Northern Lights

A once-in-a-lifetime experience, the Aurora Borealis is a stunning example of natural beauty that can only be seen from certain spots in the world (we’re thrilled to say we’re one of them). For hundreds of years Aberdeenshire has been a famous hot spot for this magical light show, attracting visitors from across the world. Look out for Aurora forecasts online, which help you pinpoint the best time and place to see the show.