

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES



Gaelic at the University of Aberdeen

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE





Failte - Welcome

In this brochure you will find out how you can study Gaelic with us either as your main degree or as a part of it.

We will introduce you in detail to the courses on offer at first year and give you a taste of the types of courses which follow.

We will tell you why it's a good idea to study Gaelic.

We will tell you about using Gaelic in Aberdeen:

- Gaelic is the oldest extant native language in Scotland.
- Many of Scotland's symbols and cultural structures are Gaelic in origin.
- Over the past couple of decades there has been rapidly increasing employment opportunities with more and more jobs for Gaelic graduates.
- Gaelic has one of the oldest vernacular literatures in Europe and has an especially rich song tradition.
- Gaelic has been part of the Scottish land- and sound-scape for 1500 years.

Courses and Programmes

The University offers a range of courses and programmes which provide opportunities to study Gaelic, an official language of Scotland. We teach courses in Gaelic language, culture, literature and education, and our programmes cater for all levels of fluency.

In addition to joint honours programmes in Gaelic Studies, Sustained Study allows you to study Gaelic alongside your core degree discipline. All undergraduate single honours students, except those studying Medicine and Dentistry, enrol in an additional subject but even those studying Medicine have the opportunity to take a 6-week Gaelic course.

Joint Honours in Gaelic Studies

In first year you will study Gaelic language (at the appropriate level) all year alongside a cultural course. You will also study a number of other subjects in first year. In second year, half of your time will be spent studying Gaelic language and courses in Gaelic folklore and literature and half your time will be spent on either your other joint honours subject or other subjects of your choice. In third and fourth year, you continue to study language and have a range of other Gaelic related topics you can choose from.

Sustained Study in Gaelic

Students join the Gaelic language course appropriate to their level of Gaelic language skills (including complete beginner level), and if they complete our Level 1 courses successfully, students continue into Level 2. Studying Gaelic for two years is likely to enhance your employability in Scotland.

Discipline Breadth in Gaelic

Students can also study Gaelic courses alongside their core degree discipline during their first two years of study as part of their Discipline Breadth study.

Cùrsaichean agus Prògraman

Tha an t-Oilthigh a' tabhainn mheasgachadh de chùrsaichean is prògraman a bheir seachad cothroman gus Gàidhlig ionnsachadh agus i na cànan oifigeil ann an Alba. Tha sinn a' teagasg chùrsaichean ann an cànan, cultar, litreachas agus foghlam, is tha ar cùrsaichean airson gach ìre fileantachd.

A bharrachd air prògraman le urram dùbailte, bheir Sgrùdadh Leantaileach dhut cothrom Gàidhlig ionnsachadh ri taobh a' phrìomh chuspair ceuma agad. Feumaidh a h-uile oileanach le ceum urramach singilte, ach an fheadhainn ann an Leigheas is Fiaclaireachd, cùrsa eile a dhèanamh ach fiù oileanaich a tha a' dèanamh Leigheis tha cothrom aca cùrsa 6-seachdainean a ghabhail ann an Gàidhlig.

Ceum Dùbailte ann an Gàidhlig

Ma nì thu ceum dùbailte ann an Gàidhlig, air a' chiad bhliadhna cùrsa cànan agad (aig ìre iomchaidh dhut) fad na bliadhna agus cùrsa air cultar nan Gàidheal. Bidh cuspairean eile agad ri dhèanamh cuideachd air a' chiad bhliadhna. San dàrna bliadhna, bidh leth de na cùrsaichean agad ann an Gàidhlig le cùrsaichean cànan, beul-aithris agus litreachas agus bidh an dàrna leth air cuspairean eile. San treas agus ceathramh bliadhna, bidh thu a' cumail ort le clas cànan agus taghadh farsaing de chuspairean eile.

Sgrùdadh Leantaileach anns a' Ghàidhlig

Tòisichidh oileanaich sa chùrsa fhreagarrach airson an sgìlean Gàidhlig (fiù ìre tòiseachaidh), is ma choileanas iad na cùrsaichean Ìre 1 gu soirbheachail, thèid iad air adhart gu Ìre 2. Ma dh'ionnsaicheas tu Gàidhlig fad dà bhliadhna, tha e coltach gum bi na cothroman cosnaidh agad air am meudachadh ann an Alba.

Foghlam Farsaingeach anns a' Ghàidhlig

Faodaidh oileanaich cuideachd cùrsaichean Gàidhlig a dhèanamh ri taobh a' phrìomh-chuspair den cheum aca rè a' chiad dà bhliadhna mar phàirt den ionnsachadh foghlaim farsaingeach aca.

First year courses

In your first year you will study Gaelic language for the whole year at a level appropriate to your skills on arrival at the University; we have courses for complete beginners and for those who have existing SQA qualifications. If you are studying for the degree in Gaelic, you will also take the background to Gaelic culture (Gaelic Scotland) course in the first half session.

Gaelic Scotland

This is a course on Gaelic Culture which is compulsory for all students taking a degree in Gaelic; it is also a good option for people just interested in learning about Gaelic culture or the history of Scotland.

Course Description

Gaelic is Scotland's oldest living language. In this introductory course you will learn about the Gaels, their history and their role in the shaping of modern Scotland. You will also learn about how the language and culture of the Gaels became minoritised in their own country. Students will learn about various contemporary initiatives that are aimed at saving and promoting this indigenous language and culture and this will be compared to minority languages and cultures elsewhere in the world.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completing this course, you will have acquired an understanding of Gaelic's role in Scotland, historically and contemporaneously. You will understand the geography of the Gaelic speaking-community; be able to identify key language planning interventions to maintain the Gaelic community; and be familiar with aspects of Gaelic literature, music, traditions and festivals. You will demonstrate experience of using different sources for your study and will have developed your skills in independent learning.

There are two streams of Gaelic language course: one for beginners and one for people who have previously studied Gaelic.

Gaelic For Beginners

Course Description

There are two 11-week courses (one before Christmas and one after) in Scottish Gaelic language for students who have little or no prior experience of the language, or for students with no formal qualifications in Gaelic. There are four classes per week: three language classes and one oral/aural class. In the language classes, students will learn the structures, vocabulary, sounds and writing system of Gaelic. In the oral/aural class, they will have an opportunity to practise speaking, develop their vocabulary further, and listen to a native speaker.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to speak, read, write and understand Gaelic at a basic level. Students will be expected to have mastered a large working vocabulary and to be competent in understanding and using most of the major structures of the language.

Course Programme

The course follows a structured programme of language classes, following a custom-written textbook. The main points in each lesson are contained in the textbook. One lesson each week will be given over to working from a custom-written workbook or else to specific lectures on the sounds and spelling of the language. The fourth lesson will be the oral/aural class.

Set Books

You will need a copy of the course book, Watson (2012) Progressive Gaelic 1 and Gaelic Workbook 1, available to order from Amazon.

Gaelic Language 1

Course Description

There are two 11-week language courses (one before Christmas and one after) for students who have a pass in the Gaelic / Gàidhlig Higher or equivalent. There are three classes per week: a formal grammar class, a language extension class, and a seminar class on Gaelic studies designed to get students talking about different subjects through the medium of Gaelic.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will have an enhanced knowledge and understanding of the Gaelic language. Students will have a better and more confident grasp of fundamental language structures and spelling and will be able to communicate effectively in a wider range of scenarios. Students will be prepared to take GH1513 by the end of this course.

Course Programme

The course follows a structured programme of grammar and writing exercises, designed to consolidate students' knowledge of the language; the language extension class covers a wide range of topics, with a view to increasing students' vocabulary and range of expression.

Second year courses

You continue to study Gaelic language at the appropriate level and we also offer courses in Gaelic Folklore, looking at traditional Gaelic song, stories and culture and Introduction to Gaelic Literature, a survey course looking at examples of Gaelic literature and society from the 16th century to the modern day.

Honours (3rd & 4th Year)

In addition to more language study you will have the option of choosing courses from a range of topics, including: Gaelic dialects; Irish language, Gaelic poetry, the Gaelic short story, Minority Language Planning, The Medieval Learned Classes, Gaelic in Scottish Society, Translation etc – these courses are all research areas of current staff.

You can take Gaelic for a degree subject even if you have never studied Gaelic before.

Gaelic in Aberdeen

The University has a Gaelic Policy and a Gaelic Plan – it actively supports the learning and use of Gaelic and there are now a number of Gaelic signs around campus showing the status the language enjoys at the University.

The University hosts a number of Gaelic events throughout the year, including: presentations by writers and musicians and career-related talks.

The Gaelic department hosts a conversation circle for students to get to know each other and a Gaelic singing circle on alternate weeks. Gaelic students have access to a dedicated time in the languages room for socialising or working.

Many Gaelic students join **The Celtic Society** www.facebook.com/AUCelticsociety: a social social student society whose main aim is to promote all six Celtic Nations through Celtic themed evenings, castle trips, ceilidhs and more.

There are a number of Gaelic related activities in the city. Students are also always very welcome at the **Gaelic choir** www.facebook.com/AberdeenGaelicChoir and many also take part in the local **Gaelic club Club Gàidhlig Obar Dheathain | Facebook**



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