Study Abroad

Studying at University of Aberdeen as a visiting student
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University of Aberdeen

Founded in 1495, the University of Aberdeen is the 5th oldest university in the English speaking world. Over five centuries, we’ve built a reputation for leading scholarship and driving innovation.

Today we’re known as a global centre of excellence across many disciplines, consistently attracting national and international accolades. With this proud tradition of teaching and research, we’ve often led the way, and our alumni have left an indelible mark on the world, both at home and abroad.

Scholars associated with the university include five Nobel Prize winners, and the inventor of the modern MRI machine.

University alumni founded the College of William and Mary in the US, and the University of Hong Kong.

We established the first Chair of Medicine in the English speaking world in 1497.

Our School of Psychology is the oldest in the UK, founded more than 100 years ago.

Our Research Institute for Irish and Scottish studies is the first of its kind in the world for graduate study.

The Rowett Institute for Nutrition and Health is a world leading centre of excellence in human nutrition.
14,500 students from more than 120 countries – making up 30% of the total student population

In the top 1% of universities (QS world university rankings 2015)

• One of the seven ancient universities of Great Britain and Ireland

• One of the top 10 Beautiful Historic Universities (QS Top Universities website)

• Medical school ranked 1st in Scotland, 5th in UK (Complete University Guide 2015)

• Law School ranked 12th in the UK out of more than 90 law schools (Times Good University Guide, 2015)
Contrasting stunning architecture and historical charm with landmark building design, our campus epitomises both the University’s impressive heritage and its modern outlook.

The campus is home to a wide and diverse range of world-class teaching and research facilities, as well as sporting and recreational amenities, all in close proximity.

Proud history and heritage

- **King’s College** with its crown tower and chapel: the symbolic centre of our growing campus
- **Medieval St Machar’s Cathedral** – completed in 1530, there has been a place of worship in the area since around 580 A.D.
- **The Brig o’ Balgownie** – one of Scotland’s oldest bridges
- **Old Townhouse** – The 18th century building houses one of the university’s numerous museum collections

Bright future

Complementing and contrasting the historic campus is the £57million Danish-designed **Sir Duncan Rice library**, opened in 2012 by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. It houses the largest of the University’s modern collections, as well as historic collections of rare books, manuscripts and archives.

Another recent addition is the **Aberdeen Sports Village** and our new **Aquatics Centre**, featuring an Olympic standard swimming pool and diving facilities.

Other campus attractions

- **Cruickshank Botanic Garden** – with a rose garden, arboretum, lawns and ponds stretching over 11 acres
- **The University’s Zoology Museum** is a Recognised Collection of National Significance to Scotland, featuring displays from microscopic organisms to great whales
Aberdeen ranked as the safest university city in the UK*

*Source: Mercer Quality of Living Study 2016
**Source: Samsung survey, 2014
**Location guide**

In recent years, the city has been ranked as:

- The **safest university city** in the UK*  
- The **sunniest** city in Scotland**  
- The **happiest** city in the UK***

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**Culture and entertainment**

With a number of art galleries and historic theatres, to museums and libraries, Aberdeen is steeped in culture.

The city’s venues host hundreds of theatrical productions a year including ballet, opera and drama, as well as the popular Aberdeen Student Show, which raises significant sums for charity.

The Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre holds more than 600 events annually, consistently attracting world-famous bands, singers and comedians.

**Eating and drinking**

From serving great local produce such as beef, fish and shellfish, to experiencing the best of international cuisine in established chains and independent eateries, the city has a huge variety of restaurants and cafes to choose from.

It also has more than 100 bars and clubs ranging from popular student hang-outs on campus and cosy traditional pubs, to wine and cocktail venues and clubs with DJs and live music.

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**Shopping**

Whether in the city’s shopping malls, numerous retail parks, or in the bustling city centre itself, shoppers can explore well-known high street and designer stores, as well as browse quirky independent shops and international street markets.

**Scottish history and culture**

Whether you want to trace ancestors or just find out more about Scottish culture, Aberdeen is close to a number of Scotland’s stunning stately homes. There, alongside breath-taking architecture, views and beautiful grounds, you’ll hear tales of the spirits of spurned wives, and ghostly footsteps in the dead of night.

Also within easy driving distance from the city are impressive stone circles, standing stones and burial cairns, some dating back as far as the Bronze Age.

Every spring and summer the length and breadth of Scotland, visitors enjoy Highland Games that celebrate the diversity of Scottish culture. These popular events focus on competitive music, dancing and heavy athletics such as caber tossing.
Star Trek's Scotty called himself an 'old Aberdeen pub crawler' in the original series.
Scotland’s third largest city, with a population of over 220,000 people.
The Great Outdoors

The area around Aberdeen offers a great selection of outdoor pursuits including surfing and kiteboarding at the beach, as well as hillwalking, skiing, snowboarding and equestrian pursuits.

With around 52 golf courses in Scotland’s castle and whisky country, there’s one to play every week of the year.

Whether you’re a quarterback, wide receiver, or just like cheering your team on from the bleachers, the city’s American Football team, the Aberdeen Roughnecks, compete in the BAFA National Leagues.

Malt Whisky Trail

Scotland is known for its whisky, no surprise then that the country is home to the world’s only malt whisky trail. Take a trip round some of our finest distilleries, many within a short drive from Aberdeen, and sample a dram or two. The city is also home to the first BrewDog pub, close to Marischal College.

Find out more: www.visitabdn.com

Location guide

Inspiring Castles

There are more castles per acre here than anywhere else in the UK:

- **Balmoral Castle** in nearby Royal Deeside, was bought by Queen Victoria in 1852, and is a summer retreat for the British Royal Family
- **Craigievar Castle** near Alford was the inspiration for Walt Disney’s fairytale castle
- **Slains Castle** at Cruden Bay is said to have inspired Bram Stoker’s Dracula
- The spectacular ruins of **Dunnottar Castle** south of the city were the stunning backdrop for Franco Zeffirelli’s Hamlet, starring Mel Gibson

Studying abroad at the University of Aberdeen is a great chance to experience the culture and heritage of a city spanning thousands of years.

Aberdeen is steeped in history, yet has a reputation as a contemporary and dynamic place to live, study and work. In a matter of minutes, you can travel from the bustling city centre of **Europe’s Energy Capital** out of town to experience some of the most stunning attractions, countryside and wildlife that Scotland has to offer.

The Granite City is a great base from where to explore Scotland and the rest of the UK thanks to its great road and rail links; mainland Europe is only a short flight away from Aberdeen’s International Airport.

The Malt Whisky Trail

Scotland is known for its whisky, no surprise then that the country is home to the world’s only malt whisky trail. Take a trip round some of our finest distilleries, many within a short drive from Aberdeen, and sample a dram or two. The city is also home to the first BrewDog pub, close to Marischal College.

Find out more: www.visitabdn.com
As my story here in Aberdeen comes to a close, I can’t help but reflect on all the great memories, adventures and all the life lessons I’ve learned.
I am so grateful for my time spent studying at the University of Aberdeen and for the chance to call this great place my home for the past semester.

One of the many things that I really enjoyed about my time studying here at the University of Aberdeen would have to be how diverse the campus is. I met students from all around the globe and from so many different backgrounds. The University of Aberdeen is a wonderful place to not only get to know other students from across the world, but also a place to really help you get to know yourself as well.

**By getting to learn about so many different cultures, you are able to reflect on and gain a better understanding of your own background.**

Another thing that I enjoyed during my time here are the many different selections of class courses students can take. Since I am double majoring in English and History I was able to easily choose from a variety of really fascinating classes. I especially enjoyed the professors I had who were passionate and very knowledgeable about their areas of studies.

I really loved the location of the university which is settled in the great city of Aberdeen. There is always much to do from shopping and the movies to museums and the beach. Aberdeen is a nice size because it’s small enough to be able to walk everywhere, but there’s also plenty of things to do. In my free time, I really enjoyed walking along the beach.

I am so thankful for every moment spent here in Aberdeen and all the wonderful people I’ve met. Overall, my time here at the University of Aberdeen has been full of excellent classes, amazing friends, wonderful memories and a place that I could call home.

**Melissa Thompson**  
Study Abroad Student, USA
Undergraduates enrolled at a recognised international college or university can spend spring or fall semester, or a full academic year, at the University of Aberdeen.

With more than 70 subjects on offer across three colleges, there’s a great choice of classes.

We’ve been welcoming students from around the world for four decades, and make sure the process is as easy as possible, from the initial application, through to registering for classes and orientation.

You’ll receive a transcript of your classes for your home university. From Anthropology to Zoology, most of our undergraduate courses are available to visiting students including the cross-disciplinary Sixth Century courses.

Study Abroad students are assessed alongside full time degree students. This usually comprises a combination of continuous assessment, mid-term assignments, and an end of semester examination.

Find online course listing at: abdn.ac.uk/registry/courses
Find course selection guidance and information on prerequisites and restricted courses at: abdn.ac.uk/studyabroad

Entry Requirements
- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 or equivalent (on a 4.0 scale)
- An academic letter of reference from your home institution
- An academic transcript
- A personal statement explaining why you would like to study at the University of Aberdeen
- An English Language test if English is not your first language. Please see our website for details.

Tuition and Costs 2016/17
Semester £6,900 / Full year £13,800

Additional spend
In addition to tuition fees, you will need £1,015 a month to cover additional costs including housing, food, utilities, books, transport and recreation.

Application
The application should be returned by email or mail along with the supporting documents. Both information on how to apply, and the application form itself, are available at abdn.ac.uk/studyabroad

Application deadlines are:
First Semester: (September - December) 1 July
Second Semester: (January - May) 1 November
Academic Year: (September - May) 1 July

More than 70 subjects available
Most semester courses are 15 credits, equating to 3-4 US credit hours
Normal course load is 60 credits per semester, or around 15 US credit hours
Academic Structure

Teaching is organised across 12 schools, covering a broad range of disciplines:

- Business School
- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Divinity, History and Philosophy
- School of Education
- School of Engineering
- School of Geosciences
- School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture
- School of Law
- School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
- School of Natural and Computing Sciences
- School of Psychology
- School of Social Sciences
Pre-Med Programme for Study Abroad Students

This programme, devised together with US partner universities, gives Pre-Med and Biological Sciences students the opportunity to learn in one of Scotland’s top-ranked medical schools, gaining valuable insight and experience, while staying on track with their Pre-Med requirements.

Options include:

**Human Anatomy A and Human Anatomy B (BM2009 and BM2509)**

Practical courses that use human cadaveric specimens and clinical imagery to develop your understanding of regional anatomy, and why it is important to understanding human health and disease.

- Human Anatomy A runs in the first (fall) semester and focuses on the back, upper/lower limb, thoracic and abdominal anatomy.
- Human Anatomy B runs in the second (spring) semester and focuses on the pelvis, head, neck and brain.


Drawing heavily on clinical case studies together with laboratory and problem solving sessions, these introductory level courses provide a thorough grounding in human cell and organ physiology.

**Integrative Physiology (PY3002)**

This advanced course integrates physiological knowledge of the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal and alimentary systems to explain how they interact in health and disease. It uses clinical examples, diagnostic test data and practical classes to develop a knowledge-based understanding of diagnosis and treatment.

**Research Skills for Medical Sciences (SM2501)**

This course cultivates literature research, team working and communication skills and allows you to work in a group with a tutor to investigate in greater depth a topic of your choice relating to human health or disease. You will learn to search for and appraise primary research articles, and you will produce a written report as well as give an oral presentation to your peers and tutors.

From introductory courses in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics covering most of the standard pre-requisites of US medical schools, or more specialist courses particularly relevant to medicine, there are plenty of options available.

You should consult your Pre-Med advisor to check your intended medical schools accept pre-requisites taken abroad.

Please refer to abdn.ac.uk/studyabroad for further details.

From introductory courses in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics covering most of the standard pre-requisites of US medical schools, or more specialist courses particularly relevant to medicine, there are plenty of options available.

You should consult your Pre-Med advisor to check your intended medical schools accept pre-requisites taken abroad.

Please refer to abdn.ac.uk/studyabroad for further details.
55th out of 750 world universities (top university in Scotland) for research performance
Library in top 10 for ‘spell-binding university libraries in the world’
The Pre-Law Study Abroad programme, specifically for US students studying majors such as Politics, Philosophy, History and Business, is a great way to enhance your Law School resume by gaining necessary analytical and argumentation skills, while studying alongside undergraduate law students.

Course options

It offers a variety of courses covering a range of topics, many at an introductory level and all focusing on the international perspective.

This includes:

• Contracts
• Torts
• Criminal Law
• Constitutional Law
• Legal Method
• Advanced legal courses such as Jurisdiction and Forensic Medicine.

Sample classes with guaranteed availability for programme students include:

First Semester

• LS1020 Criminal Law
• LS1022 Foundations of Private Law
• LS1025 Legal System
• FM2001 Forensic Medicine 1
• LS2028 Scottish Legal History
• LS2032 Public International Law

Second Semester

• LS1521 Public Law and Human Rights
• LS1523 Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution
• LS1528 Intro to English Legal System
• FM2502 Forensic Medicine 2
• LS2527 Intro to Legal Theory
• LS3527 Jurisprudence

The University of Aberdeen’s School of Law dates back to our founding in 1495 and is widely regarded as a centre of excellence around the world.
“The library is gorgeous, and I have felt very fortunate to have such a great resource for researching for my classes.”
Meet Olivia

My time abroad at the University of Aberdeen has been amazing. Aberdeen is a great place to be to see a lot of Scotland.

It is a main hub for transport on the trains and buses, and also has an airport. This has been a blessing when traveling around Scotland and some of my favorite memories from being here have come from meeting people on the trains.

People are extremely friendly here, and I felt welcome from the start.

Being farther north made it easier to venture into the highlands some, and Aberdeenshire is a beautiful place.

I have really enjoyed being able to explore the wonderful natural attractions that Scotland has to offer. I am from California, so I have grown up going to the beach, and it’s one of my favorite places to visit. Being so close to the beach here has been fantastic. My friends and I will go for walks here, and one friend even had a bonfire on the beach for her birthday a few weeks ago.

Being from Northern California, the Redwoods have a place in my heart as well. My friends and I found it very easy to be able to go venture into the woods for hikes around different places in Aberdeenshire. Nature here is the kind that captures your soul and makes you never want to leave. The rolling green hills and ocean-side cliffs are captivating, and I will miss having them at my fingertips.

The University of Aberdeen has been a nice home away from home while I have been here.

I enjoyed all of my classes. I loved my English Literature professors, and the students in my classes were friendly and welcoming.

I only wished I had had more time to get to know them better, because they were all very intelligent, thoughtful people.

The campus itself is great, and the oldest buildings especially have so much character.

The library is gorgeous, and I have felt very fortunate to have such a great resource for researching for my classes.

All of the different events going on around campus, or put on by the different societies have kept me busy, and have given me a good taste for what it’s like to be a student at the University.

During my time in Aberdeen I have become a more self-reliant person and now know that I can travel anywhere I want to and have a great time.

Aberdeen has been a fantastic place to be for my abroad experience, and I will always hold the memories I made here close to my heart.

Olivia Mill
Study Abroad Student, USA
Scottish, Irish and Scandinavian Studies

Along with the largest concentration of UK-based experts in early Scandinavia, the University of Aberdeen is renowned for its research and teaching expertise in all areas of the history of Scottish and Irish culture and society.

World-leading experts come together to offer a range of courses from the Dark Ages and the Vikings in the British Isles, to the contemporary Irish and Scottish context.

Students can sample a wide range of courses, or build a more focused curriculum, for example in History or Literature.

Our extensive curriculum in Irish and Scottish Society and Culture includes:
- EL30IH: States of Mind: Contemporary Irish and Scottish Writing
- GH2006: Gaelic Folklore
- EL3507: Union, Enlightenment and Modernity: Scottish Literature 1750-1850
- CE2531 Love, Loss and Revival: Gaelic Ireland, 1700 To The Present
- LS2028: Scottish Legal History
- AY3009: Scottish Archaeology
- HI1526: Vikings!
- AY4013: Viking Archaeology
- HIS2Q: Nations and Unions: Writing Irish and Scottish History
- GH1007 and GH1507: Gaelic for Beginners (1A and 1B)

Independent Research Opportunities

Many departments offer an independent research option course, where students can work with staff to devise a research project in the areas of Irish and Scottish society and culture, and use extensive research facilities at the university or elsewhere in the city.
In recognition of world-class teaching and learning at Aberdeen for over five hundred years, we have developed a series of cross-disciplinary courses. These are designed to reflect the University’s particular research strengths and to set students’ majors within a wider context.

**An Appetite for Food and Health**
This course highlights the physiological, societal, geographical, historical and cultural impacts of food and diet in our society.

**Africa: Sustainable Development for All**
The course begins with an historical perspective and looks at how development has been portrayed in academic texts as well as in novels, films and music. It concludes with a focus on the need for information, systems, community participation, empowerment and political commitment for the realisation of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Bioethics**
This course provides an introduction to ethical thinking in relation to biological topics. Teaching by staff from across the University gives a diverse range of topics and viewpoints and discussion sessions allow exchange of thoughts and opinions with both staff and peers.

**Fearsome Engines**
From siege engines to the steam engine and the printing press, the course covers how technological changes of the past have influenced subsequent social development and how social attitudes of the past have provided drivers and inhibitors of technological advance. The student will apply this knowledge to the analysis of modern society, identifying and addressing threats and opportunities presented by technological change.

**The Digital Society**
This course provides a multi-disciplinary understanding of:
- The impact of the digital society on individuals
- The main issues and challenges of this society

Region boasts the highest concentration of health and life scientists in Europe
Science and the Media
This course considers the often complex and conflicting relationship between science and the media from a variety of perspectives. Themes explored, using critical analysis of contemporary case studies, include genetically modified foods, vaccination, global warming and fracking.

Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities
The course explores the meaning, challenges and opportunities of sustainability, through a multi-disciplinary approach.
We explore:
- Competing definitions of sustainability
- The impact of personal, technological and economic actions and decisions on the environment
- Political strategies designed to improve sustainability
- The emergence of international co-operation
- The roles and responsibilities of world citizens

Oceans and Society
Field trips and lectures provide the framework for considering ocean ecology, seafaring and ocean governance. Supervised workshops provide a diverse set of learning experiences with feedback from teaching staff and peers.

Worlds of Food: Biological, Social, Cultural
This course enables students to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of food, in the context of science, geography and history. The course focuses on food security, comprising production, availability and access: one of today’s key global policy and resource issues.

A full list of Sixth Century courses is available at www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/courses/undergraduate
37th in the Times Higher global rankings for ‘international outlook’, second highest in Scotland
North east Scotland consistently rated ideal environment in which to live and work
Student Life

The Aberdeen University Student Association (AUSA) runs more than 120 departmental, cultural, creative arts and general interest societies.

Study Abroad students are welcome to join these student clubs, with sign-up days held at the beginning of each semester.

Find out more at: www.ausa.org.uk/societies

Student Sports

Students can also choose from 58 clubs covering indoor and outdoor sports, including volleyball, basketball, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, snow sports club, sailing club, hillwalking and climbing club.

AUSA also organises a wide range of non-competitive clubs, intra-mural leagues and one-off sporting events.

Find out more at: ausa.org.uk/sports

The University campus is close to Aberdeen Sports Village: one of the top sport and exercise facilities in the UK. It caters for everyone from those taking part in recreational activities to elite athletes.

Student Volunteering

Even if you only have a little time to spare, it’s easy to join the hundreds of other volunteers helping with activities, charities and fundraising activities. It’s a great way to widen your experience and gain professional skills.

One of the most well-known is RAG (Raising And Giving) Week, featuring fundraising right across campus. Find out more at: ausa.org.uk/volunteering

International Student Support

The Study Abroad and Exchange team provides a range of support services for incoming study abroad students, including a comprehensive orientation session at the beginning of each semester. Each visiting student is appointed a Go Abroad Tutor: a faculty member you can meet with and discuss course selection.

Visiting students can also access the normal student support services provided by the University, including:
- International Student Advisers (Immigration)
- International Centre
- Counselling Service
- Chaplaincies
- Resident Assistants (RAs)
- AUSA Student Advice Centre

International Centre

The International Centre, a focal point for the international student community, serves as a drop-in centre, helping you make the best use of your time at the University
- Simply Living (International Orientation)
- International celebrations including Thanksgiving, Chinese New Year and St Patrick’s Day
- Day and overnight trips to Loch Ness, Isle of Skye and the Highlands
- Language groups
Study Abroad students live alongside regular degree-seeking students.

Accommodation mainly consists of apartment (suite) style living, with each student having his or her own single room. Some Halls also have private en-suite bathrooms.

The majority of students opt for self-catered accommodation; however, the University also offers a number of catered Halls, but please note that a typical catered plan would not generally be as extensive as a meal plan at a North American university.

New students are guaranteed a place in accommodation, either University-owned or with one of our preferred partners, provided the application reaches us by the deadline.

The University’s housing options are split between the Old Aberdeen Campus and the Hillhead site.

Hillhead Student Village
- Located beside Seaton Park, a 20 minute walk or a five minute bus ride to King’s campus
- All utility bills and Wi-Fi are included in the cost
- Site is covered by CCTV
- Self catered accommodation, across nine different properties with the majority of apartments being single sex
- 24/7 on-site assistance

Campus Accommodation
- Close to King’s Campus facilities
- 24/7 on-site assistance
- All utility bills and Wi-Fi included in cost
- Site covered by CCTV
- Blocks are secure with 24 hour reception

Please refer to abdn.ac.uk/accommodation
Student Visa and Immigration Regulations

Short Term Study Visa
• If you are a non-visa national staying for less than six months you can apply for ‘short-term student’ entry clearance
• You can’t extend your stay or work part-time
• It is your responsibility to ensure you have adequate health insurance

Tier 4 Visa
• All full time international (except European Economic Area and Swiss nationals) students staying for more than six months will need to apply for a Tier 4 visa
• The mandatory immigration health surcharge entitles you to use the National Health Service (NHS)

EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals
• You can travel to the UK using your EU/EEA/Swiss passport or national identity card and do not need immigration permission to study in the UK.

Find out more at:
www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas
Today we’re known as a global centre of excellence consistently attracting national and international accolades.
Located in North east Scotland, Aberdeen is easily reached from all major cities within Europe and throughout the world.
We make every effort to ensure that the information provided to you is fair and accurate at the time of publication, however, as it is prepared well in advance of the academic session to which it applies, changes to the information presented may have occurred.

For more information visit: [www.abdn.ac.uk/amendments](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/amendments)