Founded in 1495, the University of Aberdeen is respected the world over for its high quality teaching and research. We are the UK’s fifth oldest university, with a student population of around 14,500 and a large international community of students drawn from 120 different countries.

We are delighted that you have chosen University of Aberdeen for your Erasmus exchange and can’t wait to welcome you and share all Aberdeen and the University has to offer! From a wide range of study options to suit your academic interests, as well as a huge variety of social and leisure pursuits for you to take part in, one thing is for sure, your exchange at Aberdeen will pass in a flash of activity, enjoyment and adventure!

This Guide is intended to take you through the steps of applying to the University of Aberdeen as an Erasmus student. Further information on studying here will be made available to you once you have been accepted.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to the University of Aberdeen!

Your Erasmus Team

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So you’ve decided on University of Aberdeen – hooray! This section will guide those interested in coming to Aberdeen on Erasmus study exchange through each stage of our application process. Students coming to Aberdeen on exchange from one of our Swiss partner institutions, under the Swiss-European Mobility Programme, should apply in the same way as Erasmus study exchange students. Don’t worry, it’s not complicated and of course, we’re here to help at every stage!

**Inter-institutional Agreements**

In order to participate in an Erasmus exchange at the University of Aberdeen, an Inter-institutional Agreement for student exchange in a relevant subject area must exist between your home institution and the University of Aberdeen. You should check with your home institution whether a valid agreement exists. We cannot establish a new Inter-institutional agreement at the request of an individual student. If you are interested in studying at the University of Aberdeen outside of the Erasmus+ programme, please contact studyabroad@abdn.ac.uk for more information.

**Nominations**

We can only accept applications from students who have been officially nominated by their home institution. A nomination email should be sent to erasmus@abdn.ac.uk detailing the student’s name, email address, proposed length of stay and subject area.

**Exchange Duration**

You may come to Aberdeen on study exchange for either one semester (first semester or second semester) or the full academic year. This information should be included in the official nomination email from your host institution.

**HOW TO...APPLY ONLINE**

Nominated students will be emailed directly with a link to our online application in April (for first semester and full year exchange students) or September (for second semester exchange students).

The online application is very straightforward but you will need to prepare the following documents in advance:

- **Academic Transcript** – your home institution should be able to provide you with a copy of your Academic Transcript, detailing the courses, credits and grades you’ve achieved to date. This should be in English, preferably.
- **Provisional Course Selection** - this form will be emailed to you when the application opens and should be completed with your provisional course choices for your semester/(s) in Aberdeen.
- **Statement of Language Level** - for single semester exchange students, our template document needs to be signed by the home university to attest to your English language level. For full year exchange students, the list of accepted official English language certificates can be found here.

These documents will need to be uploaded as part of the online application. We do not require any documents by post.

You must complete the online application by the stated deadline:

- **First semester or full year exchange students: 15 May**
- **Second semester exchange students: 15 October**

Your submitted application will be processed by the Go Abroad Team and the relevant academic department at University of Aberdeen.

**Letter of Acceptance**

Successful applicants will receive an official Letter of Acceptance from the Go Abroad team via email, within four weeks of the relevant application deadline. The Letter of Acceptance will detail your University of Aberdeen student ID number along with information about applying for accommodation and pre-arrival steps.
HOW TO...CHOOSE COURSES

ECTS Credits

You will probably be familiar with the ECTS credit system used by institutions across Europe to compare study attainment and performance.

The University of Aberdeen uses a credit system which is double the ECTS system as illustrated in this table:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Aberdeen Credit Points</th>
<th>Corresponding ECTS Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
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</table>

60 University of Aberdeen credits (30 ECTS) per semester, is the normal workload for Aberdeen students. Exchange students are expected to register for, and undertake, the same workload as an Aberdeen student.

One University of Aberdeen credit represents what you are expected to achieve in 10 'notional hours' of learning time. Notional hours refers to the time that you will spend both in the classroom and in private study. You may find that the number of contact teaching hours in Aberdeen is less than you are used to as UK universities tend to place larger importance on self-study.

Choosing Courses

The academic year at University of Aberdeen is divided into two semesters. Most courses last for one semester ie. 12 teaching weeks followed by an examination diet. A small number of courses run for six weeks only, or for the full academic year.

You can access the full Course Catalogue [here](#).

As an incoming exchange student you must select at least 50% of your curriculum from the hosting School of the Inter-Institutional Agreement between your home institution and University of Aberdeen.

Incoming exchange students would generally be guided to courses offered at Levels 2 and 3 and, exceptionally, Level 4.

Our exciting Sixth Century courses are cross-disciplinary and unique to Aberdeen. Open to all students, why not learn more about a subject area that you wouldn’t be able to study at your home institution? Find these courses in our [Course Catalogue](#).

Course Restrictions

While we can accept Master and Postgraduate-level students for exchange, we do not permit students to take Master-level (ie Level 5) courses. Courses in Medicine are also not available to exchange students.

Students wishing to take Level 3 courses in English Language and Literature will need to pass a Diagnostic Test on arrival in Aberdeen. Incoming exchange students are not permitted to take Level 4 English Language and Literature courses.

Please note that all Level 4 courses from the School of Medical Sciences are assessed in May, and so only full year or semester 2 exchange students may be eligible to take these.

Go Abroad Tutor and Online Learning Agreement (OLA)

Each subject area at University of Aberdeen has a dedicated Go Abroad Tutor. They will be your academic contact for the duration of your exchange and the responsible person for signing your Online Learning Agreement. Their details, along with feedback on your provisional course choices, will be included in your Letter of Acceptance. Information about how to submit your OLA will also be included in the Letter of Acceptance. Please do not try to submit this any earlier.

On arrival in Aberdeen you will meet with your Go Abroad Tutor to finalise your course choices and enrol accordingly.
The University of Aberdeen guarantees to provide all incoming students on Erasmus study exchange with accommodation, subject to the application being completed by the published deadline. There is a wide range of accommodation options which you can view on the Accommodation website.

Accommodation contracts for one semester or the full academic year are available to incoming Erasmus students.

You will not be able to apply for accommodation until you receive your Letter of Acceptance with your University of Aberdeen student ID number.

Of course, you may prefer to stay in private accommodation in Aberdeen but please be aware that we cannot support you in securing accommodation in the private sector. University of Aberdeen’s Student Association (AUSA) have produced a useful guide about renting in the private sector which is available on their website.
ERASMUS TRAINEESHIP

If you are in receipt of Erasmus+ funding for a traineeship opportunity from your home institution - congratulations!

To find out whether a relevant traineeship project or supervising academic is available at the University of Aberdeen, you will need to make contact with the appropriate department. We suggest sending a cover letter and CV in the first instance.

HOW TO...APPLY AS A VISITNG STUDENT

Incoming students undertaking an Erasmus traineeship are given ‘Visiting Student’ status at University of Aberdeen. Visiting Students are administered centrally and not by the Go Abroad team.

You should forward the completed application to your host supervisor who will organise for it to be signed off by the relevant Head of School. Once fully signed, the form should be submitted to studentrecords@abdn.ac.uk at least 10 days prior to the start date of your Erasmus Traineeship.

Training Agreement

If you are receiving Erasmus funding for your Traineeship, you will most likely have to return a completed Training Agreement and perhaps additional Erasmus paperwork to your home institution. This paperwork can be signed and stamped by your host supervisor at the University of Aberdeen and does not need to be submitted to the Go Abroad Team.

HOW TO...ORGANISE ACCOMMODATION

Visiting students to the University of Aberdeen are not guaranteed university-managed accommodation. However, if we have available rooms, visiting students are more than welcome to apply. Email studentaccomm@abdn.ac.uk to enquire.

Some academic departments prefer you to organise your Erasmus Traineeship for the summer period when there is no undergraduate teaching and it will be easier for you to secure accommodation in the city. You will find more information about summer accommodation offered by the University on the Accommodation website.

HOW TO...APPLY FOR A CLINICAL ELECTIVE

For undergraduate medical students from other universities, the School of Medicine at University of Aberdeen offers Clinical Electives programmes in Aberdeen or Inverness for up to 8 weeks over the summer.

This programme is organised by the School of Medicine, more information can be found on their website.
**Student Support**

The University of Aberdeen welcomes applications from students with disabilities and has a dedicated Student Support service. Further information about the support available can be found on their [website](#).

**Academic Calendar 2021/22**

Incoming Erasmus students are expected to attend the University of Aberdeen for the full semester/academic year they have been nominated for. Please make a note of our semester dates and ensure these don’t overlap with those at your home institution.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Term Opens</td>
<td>20 September 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Commences</td>
<td>27 September 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term closes</td>
<td>17 December 2021</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2 (Summer semester)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Opens</td>
<td>10 January 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Commences</td>
<td>17 January 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring break commences</td>
<td>1 April 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring break ends</td>
<td>25 April 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term closes</td>
<td>20 May 2022</td>
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On the first day of each semester the Go Abroad Team holds a compulsory Orientation which all new exchange students must attend. For Semester 1 and full year students, this will take place on **Monday 20 September 2021**. For Semester 2 students this will take place on **Monday 10 January 2022**.

If Covid restrictions do not permit large student gatherings indoors in September then Orientation will take place virtually.