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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

School of Law



UNDERGRADUATE
GUIDE



We are ranked
5th in the UK
of 105 Law Schools
for Overall Student
Satisfaction
(National Student
Survey 2022)

Welcome

We look forward to welcoming you into our intellectually rich and culturally diverse environment here at the School of Law. If you choose to study with us you will join a supportive and dynamic academic community well versed in preparing its graduates for their future legal careers.

Our expansive curriculum is designed to provide a broad knowledge of legal practice areas, coupled with unrivalled choice to match your interests and career ambitions. Having covered the main areas of law, such as family, criminal, contract, property, constitutional and EU Law you can then deepen your knowledge of specialist legal subjects or combine your study of Law with a wide range of subjects from other disciplines.

We pride ourselves on providing a high quality legal education delivered by staff who are dedicated, hardworking and approachable. Our teaching and assessment are designed to challenge you with realistic legal scenarios as well as to enable you to develop a sound understanding of the law. In addition, our wide range of extra-curricular activities and societies will help you hone these skills further. These factors contribute to our high graduate employability and earning statistics.

I very much hope you enjoy meeting the staff and students in this brochure and learn more about what we have to offer. Studying law is challenging – as with all things in life that are worthwhile. If you think you would enjoy such a challenge, join us. As a former graduate of our Law School, I can assure you, you will not regret it.

Professor Greg Gordon
Head of School

Your Learning Experience

Our degree programmes offer a wide range of professionally relevant options.



Our degrees are designed to provide a strong foundation in legal knowledge. To help you achieve this, we start by teaching the broad perspectives of how the law works. Once this is established you can then focus your study on areas of law that most interest you.

It's not just what we offer that is important, but how we deliver it. Our approach is student-centred, and we pride ourselves on our collegiate learning environment, with accessible teaching staff who really help to bring the law to life. We recognise that most of our students entering first year will be studying law for the first time. Our personal tutor approach provides individual guidance, to help you acclimatise to this new area of study and help ensure that your academic progress is on track. This, coupled with a range of study skills workshops, helps you develop your skills for exams and coursework, and ultimately your future career.

You will be shown how to focus on the right legal sources and principles, so that you can apply them to resolve realistic scenarios or discuss law reform ideas; in doing so you will stretch and test your legal skills and knowledge to the limit. You will learn how to apply these principles in a practical way, building intellectual confidence and focus, all invaluable skills when working, either in legal practice or in any other type of business. That's why, whatever future career path you might follow, your LLB will be a highly marketable qualification and will equip you to succeed in your future endeavours.

93%

of our LLB (Hons) Law
students agreed they
were satisfied with the
quality of the course

(www.discoveruni.gov.uk
July 2022)



Undergraduate degree programmes

We offer a comprehensive range of law degrees which can be tailored to meet your interests and career aspirations.

LLB (UCAS M114)

A three year degree programme, providing a broad grounding in law with the option to enter the legal profession should you wish to. The LLB curriculum does not assume that a student necessarily wishes to enter the legal profession. Students are nevertheless given the opportunity to include in their course of study those courses which will give full exemption from the professional examinations of the Law Society of Scotland and the Faculty of Advocates.

LB (Hons) (UCAS M114)

Towards the end of the second year of the LLB you can decide whether you want to aim for the four-year degree with honours. If so, you'd need to take six Honours subjects plus write a 10,000 word dissertation - this workload would be spread across the remaining two years.

LLB Law with English Law (Hons) (UCAS M2M1)

This degree is taught via a selection of compulsory and optional courses. The LLB Law with English Law will equip you to proceed along the professional qualifying route not only in Scotland but also in England & Wales, and Northern Ireland. In addition, our LLBs can be accepted as qualifying legal degrees for entry to professional practice in other jurisdictions, and many international students come to us with that aim in mind. The specific rules of the regulatory bodies will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and should be checked by the student. The vocational stage of training would then follow.

Combined LLB degrees

Whichever LLB programme you choose, you can be sure that it covers the law correctly and thoroughly in every respect. But in today's legal marketplace, there's an increasing advantage to having specialist knowledge in certain areas that can work in tandem with a strong knowledge of law. Our Combined LLB Degrees allow you to combine a thorough LLB or LLB (Honours) curriculum with the study of a language or with a number of other subjects:

LB or LLB (Hons)

with options in French Language (UCAS M125)
with options in German Language (UCAS M124)
with options in Spanish Language (UCAS M122)
with options in Mandarin Language (UCAS MT10)
with options in Gaelic Language (UCAS M128)
with options in Accountancy (UCAS MIN4)
with options in Economics (UCAS M1L1)
with options in Music (UCAS MIW3)
with options in Business Management (UCAS MIN2)
with Computing Science (UCAS MIG1)

You can also combine your LLB or LLB (Hons) with the study of the law of another country:

- LLB or LLB (Hons) and French Law (UCAS M121)
- LLB or LLB (Hons) and German Law (UCAS M123)
- LLB or LLB (Hons) and Spanish Law (UCAS M126)
- Law and European Legal Studies (M127)
- Law with English Law and European Legal Studies (M117)

With these degree programmes you will spend the whole of your third year studying abroad. Like the other combined programmes, you'll still cover the required content of Scots Law or Scots and English Law to gain the LLB - but you'll also gain insights into the workings of law in another country.

Customise your degree

Most LLB programmes allow students to take optional courses, either additional law courses or courses from other disciplines, for example anthropology, physics, English literature or forensic medicine.

This allows you to broaden your mind and make your studies (and your CV) more varied. In the Honours subjects (part of year 3 and the whole of year 4), you choose all of your subjects from a list of around 40 specialist courses including, for example: Corporate Finance Law, Media Law, Family Law, Criminology, and Use of Force in International Law, to name just a few.

Accelerated two year LLB for Graduates (UCAS M115)

Graduates of another subject who already have the academic achievement of a good first degree can apply for a place on the two year LLB programme. There is also an Accelerated LLB Law With English Law programme (UCAS M116).

Part-time LLB

For a variety of reasons, part-time study is a perfect fit for some students. In response, we've created programme options designed to enable you to study for your LLB on a part-time basis. Please contact lawenquiries@abdn.ac.uk for further information.

To find out more about these degree programmes visit our online prospectus at:
abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/law

Key teaching staff

The School of Law has a reputation for teaching and legal research excellence. Many of our staff have been practising lawyers, bringing a 'real world' practical context to their teaching. Meet some of the staff who are involved in teaching the first year courses on our undergraduate programmes.



“The University of Aberdeen has a great and very well-regarded law school and should be a serious consideration for anyone wanting to study law”

Zoë Baxter, LLB, 2021

Professor Susan Stokeld is the School's Director of Education. She is both a Justice of the Peace and Honorary Sheriff for Grampian, Highlands & Islands. Her research interests lie in Criminal Justice Reform in Scotland and issues of domestic abuse. Susan also has an interest in negotiation and its role as an essential skill for the legal practitioner. She is the Scottish representative and a judge for the International Negotiation for Law Students organisation. Susan teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Evidence and Family Law.



Dr Douglas Bain is a University of Aberdeen law graduate. He came to us as a mature student after having previously worked in a major charity. He is the Law Undergraduate Admissions Officer and the LLB Year 1 Coordinator. He teaches a number of Scots Law courses and also English Property Law, and he has honours teaching that reflect his interest in housing rights.

Dr Thomas Green has research interests in historical family law, the development of the Scottish legal system, the history of court procedure, European common law in Scots law, and the interaction of law and religion in Scotland. His first two books concerned the development of Scots marriage law out of European common law and a legal history of the Scottish Reformation. He teaches Foundations of Private Law, Family Law, Succession and Legal History.



Dr Robert Taylor is a Senior Lecturer in Public Law. He joined the School in 2014 after completing his PhD at Durham University. He is an active researcher in the field of UK Public Law and has published work in the *Modern Law Review*, *Public Law*, and the *Edinburgh Law Review*. He is the Course Coordinator for the first year course UK Constitutional Law, as well as the second year course Administrative Law and Civil Liberties.

Scott Styles has a first class degree in Philosophy-International Relations from Aberdeen University and a law degree from Edinburgh University. He lectured at Edinburgh and Dundee Universities before returning to Aberdeen in 1994. He is interested in Contract Law, Medical Law and Oil and Gas Law and teaches all of these subjects.



Luci Carey joined the law school in August 2022 as a lecturer in commercial law. Prior to joining the law school, Luci was a Teaching Fellow in Commercial Law at Edinburgh University where she is undertaking a PhD examining the legal and liability implications for the introduction of autonomous vessels. Luci's research interests are predominantly commercial law, and shipping and maritime law. She spent 5 years as a Research Associate at the Centre for Maritime Law, National University of Singapore where she remains an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow.

Dr Euan West has been a member of the School of Law staff since March 2019. His teaching revolves around various aspects of private law, in particular the Scots law of obligations. He teaches on a number of first-year courses in that field, including Foundations of Private Law and Delict & Unjustified Enrichment.



Our school

The School of Law is a vibrant community with a number of societies, projects and events that extend your study beyond the classroom.

We are justifiably proud of our outreach projects which help our students gain valuable hands-on experience whilst actively supporting the local community. In addition to these, our societies provide social and educational opportunities which help develop your CV and prepare you for the working world.

The Aberdeen Law Project (ALP)

Started in 2009, this initiative gives our students from first year onwards real exposure to the way the law works in the real world. As a law student at Aberdeen, you can gain experience through the ALP by offering free legal advice in the community on issues relating to employment, housing, consumer rights and small businesses. As part of the ALP, students run employability skills workshops for inmates at HMP Aberdeen. Employers recognise the value of this initiative which helps you develop legal knowledge and skills in a hands on manner.

Mooting Society

Mooting is all about the art of persuading. Our mooting society teaches students to argue a fictitious legal case in front of a judge. Members are also invited to talks, networking events, 'legal-themed' trips and social events.

Lawyers Without Borders

The University of Aberdeen Student Division carry out pro-bono legal research, fundraising and events in line with the parent organisation.

Law Society

Our Law Society organises a busy and varied programme of social and educational events. This includes 'family ties' whereby new students are introduced to senior law students who can give advice and information on aspects of university life generally and the study of law particularly.

The European Law Students' Association - ELSA

The local branch of a pan-European network, ELSA hosts local and international events and competitions which our students can attend.



*Join one of
our many*

STUDENT LED SOCIETIES
FOCUSING ON DIFFERENT
ASPECTS OF LAW

The Aberdeen Student Law Review

This is a student led journal which showcases some of the best of our students' work, giving you the opportunity to be published before or shortly after graduation and to work as part of the editorial team.

For a full list of law focused societies, visit:
<http://abdn.ac.uk/law/student-activities/>

Student Input

The Law School is committed to fostering strong staff-student relations, and actively takes into account students' views in the running of the School. There are a number of elected student representatives who participate in Law School meetings and sit on the School Education Committee, Staff Student Liaison Committee, and the Employability, Entrepreneurship & Co-curricular Committee.

Careers and employability

One of the great advantages of having a law degree from the University of Aberdeen is that it provides you with a broad legal knowledge and associated skills to offer employers. Amongst experts in the legal world, our Law School has a reputation for excellence in teaching law and is also renowned for its world-class expertise in legal research.

With student choice being a core component of our LLB offering, these programmes could take you in a number of exciting directions. The key thing to remember is, at the University of Aberdeen, we have both the choice and guidance to help you get there.

Our credentials speak for themselves - 90% of our LLB (Hons) Law students go on to work and/or study within 15 months after the course www.discoveruni.gov.uk, July 2022.



“Career mentoring here is brilliant - in fact invaluable!”

Yvonne Gutsohn,
Career Mentoring
Programme, 2021.

Where your Law degree can take you

We have very strong links with local and national employers, and we take into account the views of the sector via our Employability, Entrepreneurship & Co-curricular Committee. Members of the legal profession regularly attend and give careers talks to students. We also have a very active Careers Service, providing advice on matters such as CV drafting, interview skills and summer placements. Each year our dedicated Law Careers Fair is attended by around 30 top employers, including law firms and other organisations, and supports our students to plan their next steps beyond graduation.



10 reasons to choose Aberdeen

01 The academic strength you would expect from a 500 year old university - yet right at the forefront of careers in the 21st century

A thriving cosmopolitan university community with students from 120 countries, 40 different nationalities within the Law School alone. All set within a beautiful, historic campus.

02 Choice and flexibility

A wide choice of degree options which you can tailor to your career aspirations and interests, plus the opportunity to study abroad.

03 A proven track record for employment and the best headstart your career can get

Our experience and professional links can help secure that all-important first step on the ladder to a successful career. Based on the Graduate Outcomes 2022 survey (2019/20 leavers), 93.8% of our UK-domiciled full-time first-degree graduates are in employment and/or further study 15 months after graduation.

04 Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide

The School of Law is ranked Top 100 in the World for Law (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022). You will be taught by top academics shaping policy, many of whom have 'written the book'.

05 Opportunities to develop yourself and your interests

Not only academic qualifications to rival the best, but also personal, communication and teamwork skills to make you an all-round achiever in whatever you choose to do. We boast over 150 clubs and societies for students to join and offer excellent on-campus sports facilities.

06 The very best learning resources

We pride ourselves on providing state of the art learning resources for all our students. Computing and library facilities are geared towards your needs. The School of Law is proud of its very own specialist law library - the Taylor Library is a dedicated resource housed within our building.



Any questions?

Call us on **01224 272090**
or email us at
study@abdn.ac.uk

07 A supportive community

A self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city; we will do everything we can to help you feel at home quickly. We have excellent support services and we aim to make sure, right from the start that you have access to any guidance you might need – academic, personal, medical or financial. The University is ranked 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction out of 122 higher education institutions (NSS 2022).

08 First class accommodation

All new students are guaranteed a place in student accommodation, either on the campus or close by - so no need to set the alarm clock too early.

09 A buzzing, friendly city that has it all

Aberdeen is everything a student city should be and more! Historic, international, fashionable and welcoming. In 2021, Aberdeen was awarded the purple flag for its night-time economy and safety by the Association of Town and City Management, for the eighth year in a row. Aberdeen is the perfect place to live and study.

10 Closer than you think

Aberdeen is a well connected city with plenty of affordable and accessible transport links. Regular air, rail and bus connections will get you around Scotland, the UK and further afield in little time.

+44 (0)1224 272090
lawugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk

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