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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

Medical Sciences

UNDERGRADUATE
GUIDE

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2019

SCOTTISH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR



1st

IN THE UK FOR OVERALL
STUDENT SATISFACTION
– GENETICS AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY

(Source NSS 2020)

Welcome

It is my hope that you will join our dynamic and friendly community, and enable us to help you achieve your aspirations and potential. We pride ourselves in world-leading excellence in both teaching and research.

As a medical sciences student at the University of Aberdeen you will be part of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition. As our teaching is research-led you will be taught by some of the top academics in the UK, delivered in the best possible environment with access to world class facilities.

We offer a range of degrees, and many choices within these, allowing you to shape your study to suit your career aspirations and interests. Our exciting curriculum and the opportunities we provide for you to enhance your transferable skills and employability, mean that when you graduate you will leave this University empowered and with the right skill set for the next stage of your career.

I hope you enjoy reading about the opportunities there are for you in the School.

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya
Head of School



Your Learning Experience

The diversity of subjects and flexibility of our degrees allows students to explore different subject areas before specialising in their chosen discipline.

Our degree programmes are built to enhance your employability. All our honours disciplines offer the following features highly relevant to your future job prospects:

- a three month full time research project in the final year as standard;
- an optional industrial placement year and graduation with a Masters (MSci), and;
- highly relevant and sought after experience in Bio-business.



Top 5

IN THE UK FOR OVERALL
STUDENT SATISFACTION
– BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE;
ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY
AND PATHOLOGY

(Source NSS 2020)

All medical sciences BSc Honours degrees follow the traditional Scottish four year structure. Typically, you will take a selection of courses in your first year from a broad range of subject areas, giving you the opportunity to expand your academic experience.

The key advantage to this four year system is that it allows a substantial level of flexibility meaning that you can defer your ultimate degree subject choice because the requirements for first year are largely the same for all degrees. You are then in a stronger and more informed position to make the correct judgement about which area you will specialise in.

How you are taught

A variety of teaching methods and styles are used to make the teaching engaging, exciting and responsive to the latest research in that subject area. The research we carry out in the School directly informs and guides our teaching, particularly in the final Honours year. During years 1, 2 and 3 students undertake their practical classes in our dedicated teaching laboratories. As a student, your learning is supported by MyAberdeen, our virtual learning environment from which you can access the lecture Powerpoint slides, on-line practice tests, links to related reading, and tutorial support material.

We make innovative use of 'educational voting' handsets in class, remote control 'clickers' that allow each and every student to electronically respond in class by anonymous vote to questions posed by the lecturer. Your academic development is supported from year 1 through to year 4 by an assigned personal tutor, who acts as adviser and mentor throughout your University career.

Undergraduate degree programmes

Biomedical Science Degrees

Human physiology, form and function, health and disease, across the span of medical biosciences.

- Applied Sports Science
- Biomedical Sciences
- Exercise and Health Science
- Human Embryology & Developmental Biology
- Immunology & Pharmacology
- Neuroscience with Psychology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology
- Sports & Exercise Science

Visit our online prospectus to learn more about our degrees:

www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate

Molecular Medical Science Degrees

A range of cell and molecular biology subjects taught in the context of human health and disease.

- Biochemistry
- Biotechnology
- Genetics, Genetics (Immunology)
- Immunology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology

1st

IN SCOTLAND FOR OVERALL
STUDENT SATISFACTION –
MICROBIOLOGY AND
CELL SCIENCE

(Source NSS 2020)



Combining teaching with research excellence

Research led teaching ensures that our students are being taught by those at the forefront of scientific research and who are passionate about their subject area.

Professor Gordon McEwan

is Director of Teaching and is a Physiologist by trade. He has a wealth of experience in teaching at all levels and is co-organiser of the first year introductory Medical Science course. Gordon is heavily involved in its delivery so you will be seeing a lot of him during the early phase of your educational experience here.



Dr John Barrow

started his scientific career right here in Aberdeen, as an undergraduate Biochemistry student and is now a Senior Lecturer. He is involved in all aspects of undergraduate teaching, which includes being the co-organiser of the first year Medical Science and Cell Biology courses.



Dr Steve Tucker

is a Senior Lecturer and is involved in teaching all levels from 1st year through to Masters level, where he teaches many aspects of Physiology and his beloved Pharmacology. Across your 1st year courses, Steve will teach you about a variety of topics including the pharmacology of drugs such as cannabis, morphine and Viagra!

Dr Jenny Gregory

is a Lecturer in Physiology and Sports Science. Her main research interests lie in understanding how bone shape and structure changes with exercise, disease and disuse, particularly using biomedical image analysis techniques.



Dr Derryck Shewan

is a Senior Lecturer and a prominent member of our teaching staff. You will see him from day one as he helps oversee student induction and is involved in the teaching of Introduction to Medical Sciences. He coordinates the Skills Courses in 2nd year and Honours projects for Biomedical Science degrees.



Dr Flora Gröning

is a Senior Lecturer in Anatomy and Programme Co-ordinator for our BSc Biomedical Sciences (Anatomy) degree. Her research interests include the application of 3D modelling to biomechanics and musculoskeletal research. Flora also leads the development of digital 3D Anatomy learning tools at the University.

Any questions? Phone us on 01224 272090 or email study@abdn.ac.uk

Careers and employability

All our degree programmes offer students the opportunity to undertake a year's work placement. The range of degrees within the Medical Science disciplines prepare you to follow a broad range of careers relating to medicine and the life sciences.

Preparing you for industry

Employers now expect an impressive list of skills, knowledge and experience in their graduate recruits. They welcome 'transferable skills' acquired during a work placement, such as communication, numeracy, use of IT, group work and time management.

Students are placed in an industrial, commercial or research environment where they will obtain a breadth of practical experience to complement their degree programme.

We currently have links with a number of different companies and have recently placed students in companies such as Pfizer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca and NIMR as well as a number of smaller companies in the UK and abroad.



Career pathways

The quality of your training will permit you to take advantage of international career opportunities in research and development. Some pursue these within Universities and Research Institutes, while others find employment in the biomedical research, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Our Bio-business courses teach you how biology links directly to commerce which may inspire you to set up your own business.

But not all Medical Scientists are to be found in laboratories. Others choose further study in related areas such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, dietetics and physiotherapy. Some may be found teaching in schools, inspiring the next generation of scientists, or in courts of law, arguing over complex patent cases.



Mindaugas Viskontas

BSc Neuroscience

“Being able to approach the teaching staff, talk about their research and have the opportunity to get involved in it alongside them was amazing. I have enjoyed Aberdeen so much I am looking to stay on for my Masters degree next year.”

An understanding of contemporary biology combined with your wider graduate skills will give you an additional broad choice of potential career options such as bioethics, journalism and health economics. For graduates with a Sport & Exercise Science background there are a number of career options available such as coaches, trainers, managers, physiotherapists and other health related professions concerned with fitness and nutrition.

Abigail Hay

MSci Genetics (Immunology) with Industrial Placement

“Wherever you are from or whatever your interests, the University of Aberdeen has something for you, will welcome you and help you learn and grow.

“I’ve really enjoyed the two research projects I have undertaken as part of my degree. Putting theory into practice has confirmed that research is what I want to do long term.”



10 reasons to choose Aberdeen

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

A thriving, cosmopolitan community with students from 130 countries set within a beautiful, historic campus that has seen five Nobel Prizes.

02 Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide

We are ranked 14th in the UK for Anatomy and Physiology in the Complete University Guide 2021.

03 The very best learning resources

We pride ourselves on providing state-of-the-art learning resources and students have the opportunity to experience working in a research focussed environment. We are especially proud of the excellent facilities at the internationally recognised Aberdeen Sports Village.

04 Choice and flexibility

Unique programme options with industrial placements and the opportunity to graduate with a Masters (MSci).

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. Some of our students have participated in the European Space Agency Human Space Physiology Training Course.

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

Our experience and connections can help secure that all-important first step on the ladder to a successful career. We offer highly relevant experience in bio-business, a final year research project and optional industrial placement year.

07 A supportive community

A self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city; we will do everything we can to help you quickly feel at home. Right from the start, our staff and student support teams will ensure you have access to all the support and guidance you might need - academic, personal, medical or financial.



Any questions?

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

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 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 friendly, Aberdeen is ranked as the safest city in Scotland in the Unbroken Britain Survey, Provident Financial, 2018.

10

We're on the map!

Aberdeen is probably closer than you think. Affordable and regular air, rail and bus connections will get you around Scotland, the UK and further afield in no time.

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