Study Abroad

Studying at the University of Aberdeen as a visiting student
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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 USA, 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.
In the top 1% of the world’s 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)

96.6% of our graduates enter directly into work, further
study or training within six months - putting us in the UK
top five for graduate employment
(Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2016)

• Law School ranked 12th in the UK out of
  more than 90 law schools
  (Complete University Guide 2017)

• Medical School ranked 7th in the UK
  (Guardian University Guide 2017)

A truly international university: 30% of our
14,500 undergraduate
students are from
outside of Scotland
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 £57 million 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

The £57million Sir Duncan Rice Library opened in 2012
Aberdeen ranked as the **safest university city** in the UK*  
And also the **Happiest****  

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

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**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 throughout 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
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 great outdoors

The area around Aberdeen offers a great selection of **outdoor pursuits** including surfing and kite boarding 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](http://www.visitabdn.com)
I hadn’t travelled outside of the USA before, apart from a week in Mexico, so I knew I wanted to have an international experience and find out what another country is like – but that quickly turned into me wanting to come to Scotland. Part of my ancestry is Scots-Irish and my stepmother actually studied at the University of Aberdeen herself, so I did some research and decided that Aberdeen was definitely the place I wanted to go. It’s English-speaking, but there were still so many cultural nuances to explore and that was really exciting.

I’ve had so many highlights here. I think being in a new cultural sphere, learning new things and making new friends has expanded my horizons beyond just my initial college experience in the States. I’ve met so many people, and I’ve made quite a good number of friends as well. I have an English friend, and I have a friend from Western Scotland. I have a friend with Pakistani heritage. So there’s a whole mix of people who I’ve managed to make good friends with, which is incredible.

Aberdeen has a great feeling to it, it’s informal and natural. It’s nice to be able to go to the local pub and talk to professors and students. I’ve gotten involved in things I wouldn’t have had the chance to do back home; there’s a place on campus here where you repair bicycles, then you get to ride them on a short-term loan. It’s hands-on and it teaches you how to navigate your way around a bicycle. And I’ve been on lots of trips through the International Society; it puts on a great array of well-priced trips each semester, so I’ve seen more of the UK than just Aberdeen.

Don’t get me wrong, there have been challenges! During my first week I ventured into the city to pick up some bedding. I hadn’t yet become familiar with local transport, so I ended up having to walk a long way. Carrying comforters and things around Aberdeen by yourself is not the most fun thing to do! But, actually, on the way back I ran into some other people who lived at the Hillhead Student Village like I did, so we all ended up catching the bus together.

My Aberdeen experience will help me in what I go on to do next, without a doubt. It’s given me perspective and I can see that relating to the various ways the global economy works – working with different people, travelling and entertaining. I now have an appreciation of the different lifestyles that exist, even just in the English-speaking world. I have had my eyes opened: Aberdeen is a particularly international university, so I’ve met many people who I wouldn’t have met had I stayed in the States.

How would I summarise my Aberdeen experience in three words? Quite simply… “Do it again!” If you’re unsure about having a study abroad experience here, my advice is to just go for it and jump in. The water’s not getting any warmer but you just have to swim.
Study abroad programme

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, 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 official 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 2017/18

Semester £7,150 / full year £14,300

Additional spend

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

Application

When you are ready to apply, please email studyabroad@abdn.ac.uk and you will be provided with a link to the online application. If you are a student from a partner university, you will be provided with the link after your home university nominates you for exchange or study abroad at the University of Aberdeen.

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 with US partner universities, gives pre-med and biological sciences students the opportunity to learn in one of Scotland’s top-ranked medical schools while staying on track with their pre-med requirements.

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.

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.
Over 75% of our research is classed as world leading or internationally excellent*

*Source: Research Excellence Framework, 2014
The Sir Duncan Rice Library has been named one of the most beautiful libraries in the world*

*Source: CEOWORLD magazine, 2016
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 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
Before I moved to Aberdeen I was living in Virginia. To be honest, I expected to end up studying in London – but when I heard that the degree programme at Aberdeen would give me so much flexibility, more or less carte blanche to study what I wanted, I decided it was a great option for me.

During my first year I ended up studying in two faculties, law and arts, and in three departments, law, history and politics. I could, in essence, do what I liked. I joined the debating society and travelled an enormous amount, particularly over the Christmas and Easter vacations.

I was only supposed to stay at Aberdeen for a year but, one day, I was chatting to Don Withrington, then the Dean of Overseas Students and Director of the Centre for Scottish Studies. He said that I seemed to be having a very good time and that I was doing really well.

He said to me, “Did you ever think of staying?” I said, “Stay? Do you think… would they let me stay?” I thought about it for about 10 seconds and ended up staying an extra two years.

After Paul Hauser graduated from the University of Aberdeen he went on to Harvard Law School and is now a successful international lawyer. He tells us how his year abroad turned into an extended stay in the Granite City.

Applying to law school is an intensely competitive experience. When I decided to stay on at Aberdeen my dad’s main concern was whether it would affect my abilities to get into a good American law school because, particularly in those days, there was no continuous assessment. You took exams at the end of your last year and your degree was rated on that basis but, in the meantime, there were no grades. I had an LSAT score and some pretty good letters of recommendation, but I had no idea how things would pan out. Well, it went extraordinarily well. It turned out that the law schools were looking for people a bit different, like me. I essentially got accepted wherever I applied.

At Aberdeen I learned an approach to life which I have tried to follow ever since. When you study abroad, when you take yourself out of that comfort zone and put yourself somewhere else, it almost makes you ask those questions of yourself and look for options and choices for yourself. Part of the lesson is try to have fun with your life. I’m not bored, never have been since the day I showed up at Aberdeen. That’s important.
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
- HII526: Vikings!
- AY4013: Viking Archaeology
- HIS2Q: Nations and Unions: Writing Irish and Scottish History
- GHI007 and GHI507: 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.
Sixth Century
cross-disciplinary courses

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.

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 multidisciplinary understanding of the impact of the digital society on individuals and the main issues and challenges of this society.
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 multidisciplinary approach. You will explore competing definitions of sustainability, the impact of personal, technological and economic actions and decisions on the environment and political strategies designed to improve sustainability, as well as investigating the emergence of international co-operation and 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
Our staff and student body is made up of over 120 nationalities.
The University of Aberdeen boasts one of the largest wireless campuses in Europe.
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 sports clubs covering indoor and outdoor sports such as volleyball, basketball, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, snow sports, sailing, hillwalking and climbing.

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 King’s College Campus and the Hillhead Student Village.

Hillhead Student Village

- Located beside Seaton Park, a 20 minute walk or a five minute bus ride to King’s College 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 College 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.