Study Abroad

Studying at the University of Aberdeen as a visiting student
Aberdeen is the fifth oldest university in the UK but we have an outlook that is truly twenty-first century. We are ranked in the World Top 160* Universities and 5th in the UK for overall student satisfaction.**

Our great reputation for world-leading research attracts outstanding students and academics from across the globe. Our rich heritage, impactful research and learning excellence has contributed to our association with five Nobel Prize winners and more recently being named ‘Scottish University of the Year 2019’ by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.

In 1495, our founder stated that the University of Aberdeen would be ‘Open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others’. We honour this statement by warmly inviting you to join our Aberdeen family and to become part of the next chapter in history.

Can we help?
- abdn.ac.uk/study
- study@abdn.ac.uk
- +44 (0)1224 272090
- @aberdeenuni
- @universityofaberdeen
- youtube.com/uniofaberdeen
- instagram.com/uniofaberdeen

Edinburgh 128 mi / 206 km
Glasgow 146 mi / 235 km
Manchester 350 mi / 563 km
London 546 mi / 879 km
Ancient university with impact

In the top 160 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022

Founded 1495

Scottish University of the Year

14,500 students

130+ nationalities

Olympic Standard

Aberdeen Sports Village

Associated with

FIVE Nobel Prizes

Global Top 60 for positive impact on society

International Global Networks

Study exchange opportunities with over 150 partner institutions across the globe

Over 220 sports clubs and societies

Sir Duncan Rice Library named one of the most beautiful in the world

75% of research classified as world leading

Ranked in the TOP 20 UNIVERSITIES in the UK

Guardian University Guide 2022, The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022

The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019

CEOWORLD magazine, 2016

Study Abroad Guide 2022
Scotland's third oldest university and the fifth oldest in the UK, founded in 1495. 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.
Campus Resources

- **Sir Duncan Rice library** — An architecturally significant, Award Winning Library
- **Special libraries and archives** which hold over 200,000 rare books printed mostly before 1840, and over 4,000 unique and manuscript collections.
- **24/7 computer lab access** Language learning resources, through our dedicated language centre
- **Careers Service** — A dedicated team who can help both undergraduate and postgraduate students develop skills, work experience and mentoring.
- **Researcher Development** — A group who support research student’s personal and professional development by working to enhance transferrable skills; stimulate creativity and maximise career potential
- **Museum collections**, which include; Anatomy, Archaeology, Anthropology, Art, Geology, Herbarium, History, Pathology, Scientific Instruments & Zoology
- **Student Hub** — A secure web-based portal through which you can view and check your personal details, course enrolments, timetable, accommodation fees, library loans and exam results
- **Disability provision** — A range of specialist software on all classroom PCs, and several individual occupancy Assistive Technology Booths, dedicated IT Service Desk, student learning support and services
- **A range of food outlets offering EVERYTHING from halal to vegan options**
- **Science Teaching Hub** — Our flexible, state-of-the-art laboratories designed to accommodate interdisciplinary teaching
- **Mental Health Support** If you have a diagnosed mental health condition we provide a range of professional, free and confidential support appropriate to your personal and academic needs through our team of Mental Health Mentors. You can also come and speak to us about any issues you may be experiencing and get help in seeking support in the local community and NHS.
- **Student support** Our Student Advice and Support Office offers impartial, confidential advice and support to students across a wide range of issues including finance, disabilities and specific learning differences, mental health and wellbeing, and more. International Student Advisers are available to help with visa and immigration matters.
- **Disability advice** Our team of Advisers provide information, advice and support for students with physical and mobility difficulties, visual impairments, hearing impairments, medical conditions, specific learning differences and mental health conditions. They also provide assistance to students who are eligible to apply for the Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA).
- **Student Counselling Service** We offer a free, confidential and professional counselling service for students who have personal, social or emotional concerns.
- **Looking after your health** Full NHS medical services are available to students. The Old Aberdeen Medical Practice, a comprehensive NHS health practice, has many years of experience in providing advice and treatment to students.
- **abdn.ac.uk/student-support**
- **student.support@abdn.ac.uk**
- **Student Counselling Service**
  - abdn.ac.uk/student-support
  - counselling@abdn.ac.uk
- **Disability advice**
  - abdn.ac.uk/student-support
  - student.disability@abdn.ac.uk
- **abdn.ac.uk/student-support**
- **student.support@abdn.ac.uk**
- **abdn.ac.uk/student-support**
- **counselling@abdn.ac.uk**
- **abdn.ac.uk/student-support**
- **student.disability@abdn.ac.uk**
Welcome to one of the most prosperous and beautiful regions of the UK. Aberdeen is a vibrant, creative and ambitious city, known for its historic charm and cosmopolitan community. Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have something for everyone: from the bustling city centre of Europe’s energy capital to some of Scotland’s most beautiful countryside and coastlines.
The city of Aberdeen

Aberdeen is a unique student city, characterised by a mixture of distinctive architecture, cosmopolitan spirit, northern light and its proximity to the sea.

Cosmopolitan Spirit
The city of Aberdeen is a big player in the energy industry and is home to two well recognised universities. As such, Aberdeen has attracted people from all over the world, making it a multi-cultural city, where you can quickly feel at home.

Arts and Culture
From historical venues such as His Majesty’s Theatre and the Music Hall, to smaller intimate spaces for live entertainment such as The Lemon Tree or the Blue Lamp, Aberdeen has something to offer everyone. The city also hosts international show tours and festivals across genres including art, live music, opera, theatre and comedy. Find out more at: aberdeenperformingarts.com aberdeenfestivals.com

Food and drink
The city offers a fantastic mix of both well-known restaurant chains and quirky independently owned bistros and eateries offering the best local produce. You will find restaurants and cafes that cater for vegan, gluten-free and halal diets across the city. You will also come across many different international themed eateries including American, Brazilian, European, Chinese, Thai, Turkish, West African and Indian.

Shopping
Whether in the city’s shopping malls, numerous retail parks, or in the bustling city centre itself, shoppers can find high street and designer stores, as well as independent retailers and international street markets. The city also benefits from next day delivery services from many online sellers.

Health, style and beauty
Aberdeen has a huge choice of hairdressers, barbers and beauticians to keep you looking and feeling your best throughout your time here. You will find everything from extension and braiding salons to traditional Turkish barbershops.

abdn.ac.uk/study/city

Annual Nuart street art festival

City centre to airport in 20mins
One of the most affordable cities for students*
3rd safest university city in the UK**
Our coastline is one of the world’s 20 most iconic landscapes***
The countryside and beyond

Wildlife
The city and surrounding countryside is famously known for many different types of wildlife. Spot dolphins in the North Sea, or see hundreds of seals at the Sands of Forvie National Nature Reserve – less than 20 miles from the city centre. To catch a glimpse of rare animal and plant species, visit the Cairngorms National Park, which is home to 25% of the UK’s threatened birds, animal and plant species.

Proud of our history
Evidence of Aberdeenshire’s past is still very prominent today, with historical attractions ranging from the Neolithic age to World War II. Stone circles, castles, ruins and other buildings can be found all over the city and surrounding countryside. One of our most well-known castles is Dunnottar Castle, a 13th century castle, beautifully situated beside the dramatic North Sea.

Beaches and Coastline
The North East of Scotland boasts over 150 miles of stunning coastline. As such, the region is home to some of Scotland’s most beautiful sandy beaches and the most breath-taking cliffs. There are many walking trails and plenty of opportunities to take part in water sports, such as surfing.

See the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis)
A once in a lifetime experience, the Aurora Borealis is a stunning example of natural beauty that can only be seen from certain spots in the world (we’re thrilled to say we’re one of them). For hundreds of years Aberdeenshire has been a famous hot spot for this magical light show, attracting visitors from across the world. Look out for Aurora forecasts online, which help you pinpoint the best time and place to see the show. aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk

Source: National Geographic

Study Abroad Guide 2022
Where are you from and what do you study?
I'm from Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. I study Chemical Engineering at Tufts University.

What made you apply to the University of Aberdeen?
I applied to the University of Aberdeen because it was one of the few universities abroad that offered the engineering courses I needed during the correct semester.

What have you enjoyed or found different about your studies in Aberdeen?
I have really enjoyed living with full-time students at Hillhead student village. My flatmates are Scottish and Finnish and it's been really great making friends from different countries and learning about their cultures.

Academically, I really enjoy the change of pace. The academic system here puts most of the weight on final exams, so there are very few graded assignments throughout the semester. I am used to having many graded assignments and problem sets, so it feels like I have more free time here. I'm also really loving learning about Separation Processes in Scotland, because we are learning about whiskey and gin distillation in that course. I have been able to visit local gin distilleries and it's so cool knowing the science and engineering involved.

Do you think there are any specific benefits to studying abroad as an engineer?
Studying abroad as engineer is quite difficult to do, especially as a Chemical Engineer, so there is a lot of merit in doing it. I think studying abroad sets you apart from other engineers because it shows you care about expanding your interpersonal skills. It is really interesting learning engineering in a new place because there is a different emphasis on real-world applications depending on where you study. For example, since the oil industry is prevalent in Aberdeen, I've been learning how to apply engineering principles discussed in class to oil drilling.

What have you enjoyed most about living in Scotland?
I have really enjoyed the beautiful scenery and architecture here. I love travelling around Scotland because there's always something to be impressed by, whether it's the Gothic buildings or rolling hills in the countryside. I also love how close it is to so many other amazing countries and cities.

Are you involved in any societies or sports clubs on campus?
Yes! I am in the Chemical Engineers Society, the Gin Society, and the Exchange Aberdeen Society.

“Studying abroad sets you apart from other engineers because it shows you care about expanding your interpersonal skills.”
Emma Meehan, Chemical Engineering student
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.

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
- An English language test if English is not your first language. Please see our website for details

abdn.ac.uk/studyabroad

Tuition and costs 2022/23
International Students:
Semester £9,900 / Full Year £19,800
EU National Students:
Semester £5,900 / Full Year £11,800

Visit our website for further information
abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/exchangestudy-3061.php#panel3079

Additional spend
In addition to tuition fees, you will need approximately £1,024 a month to cover additional costs including housing, food, utilities, books, transport and recreation.

Application
When you are ready to apply, please email goabroad.incoming@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): 15 October
- Academic Year (September - May): 1 July.

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

Key Facts
- 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
An ancient University with Incredible choice

We offer a wide range of courses across the following subject areas:

- Accountancy
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Biology and Biological Sciences
- Biomedical and Medical Sciences
- Business Management
- Celtic, Gaelic and Scottish Studies
- Chemistry
- Computing Science
- Conservation, Ecology and Environmental Science
- Criminology and Sociology
- Divinity, Theology and Religion
- Economics
- Engineering
- English and Creative Writing
- Film and Visual Culture
- Finance
- French
- Gaelic
- Geography
- Geology and Geoscience
- German
- History
- Language and Linguistics
- Law and Legal Studies
- Marine Biology
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Modern Languages and Translation & Interpreting Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Physics
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Real Estate
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sports, Exercise and Health Sciences
- Zoology
When you study in Aberdeen you become part of an international community that welcomes you whoever you are and wherever you come from. We have a hugely diverse student and staff population, with over 40% of our students coming from outside of the UK.
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:
ausa.org.uk/societies

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

Sport at the university

Reach your full potential with our Olympic standard sports facilities.

Aberdeen Sports Village, located just across the road from the main campus, provides outstanding sports and exercise facilities, including:

• More than 150 exercise stations
• Over 100 group exercise classes
• A 50 metre Olympic swimming pool
• A 25 metre Olympic diving pool
• Full-size 3rd generation FIFA approved indoor football pitch
• Full-size grass football pitch
• An eight lane 400m running track
• A six lane indoor running straight
• Four squash courts
• Exclusive memberships for UoA students
• Personal trainer induction with every membership
• Training plans
• Two health and relaxation suites

And if that’s not enough for you...

There are numerous other sports facilities available across the University:

• Two rugby pitches
• A lacrosse pitch
• An artificial cricket wicket
• Outdoor tennis courts
• Floodlit football training areas
• The Balgownie Playing Fields, for football, rugby and shinty teams
• The Hillhead Centre has a full-size sand-dressed synthetic pitch and a grandstand
• The River Dee boathouse rowing club
• Royal Deeside climbing bothy

AUSA sports union

Whether your interest in sport has just begun or is well-established, the opportunities to get involved in sport at the University of Aberdeen are endless. As part of the Aberdeen University Students’ Association (AUSA), the Sports Union runs more than 50 sports clubs. The Union has an elected body with a full-time Sport Officer and Sports Administrator. Our clubs often compete against many of the universities across the United Kingdom.

International student support

Go Abroad 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.

Incoming 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
• Language groups

Connect with us
ausa.org.uk
facebook.com/abdnunisa
twitter.com/ausatweet
youtube.com/TheAUSATube
Accommodation

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.

Hillhead Student Village has both self-catered and catered accommodation. Please note, however, that a typical catered meal plan would not be as extensive as a meal plan at a North American university. The majority of students opt for self-catered accommodation.

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.

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 and catered accommodation options, with the majority of apartments being single sex
- 24/7 on-site assistance

Please refer to: abdn.ac.uk/accommodation

Student visa and immigration regulations

Visitor Visa
Visa nationals coming for less than six months must apply for entry clearance as a visitor.

Non-visa nationals (including EU/EEA/Swiss students who don’t have status under the EU Settlement Scheme) can either apply for entry clearance as a visitor before traveling or request to be admitted as a visitor on entry to the UK. You can’t do any paid or unpaid work.

It is your responsibility to ensure you have adequate health insurance.

Find out more on visa nationals at: www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list

Student Visa
All full-time international students staying for more than six months will need to apply for a student visa.

The mandatory immigration health surcharge entitles you to use the National Health Service [NHS].

Find out more at: www.gov.uk/student-visa
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided to you but it is subject to alteration without notice. The University reserves the right to make variations to the contents or methods of delivery of programmes and courses, to discontinue programmes and courses and to merge or combine programmes and courses. The University is constantly developing new programmes and courses, so please visit our website for the latest information. The University of Aberdeen continues to pursue best practice and high standards of service for all students. For more information visit www.abdn.ac.uk/amendments