

1495



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ABERDEEN**  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

# LIFE WITH US



Home to opportunity

# 75%

OF THE UNIVERSITY'S  
RESEARCH IS RANKED AS EITHER  
INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT OR  
WORLD LEADING \*

\*Ranked by Times Higher Education based on REF 2014 GPA scores



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**20 FTSE 100**  
COMPANY  
OFFICES IN  
OUR CITY

— Our students get —

**FREE WIFI** )))  
ON CAMPUS  
and all around  
— *the city* —

— Over —

**150**



**SPORTS CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

# Welcome

Welcome to the University of Aberdeen Business School, a leading international provider of excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate education. Our base at the historic King's College campus in Old Aberdeen consists of an international faculty of world-leading academics with strong professional links with the business community. The Business School is nationally and internationally renowned for its research in Energy and Environment, Finance and Governance, Work, Health and Wellbeing and Property Market Analysis.

Through our location in Aberdeen - a key international business centre - the University has forged contacts with global companies and boasts an impressive track record for employability, which means that our graduates are consistently among the most targeted in the UK by leading employers.

As well as producing graduates who are ready to hit the ground running in the workplace, we provide working executives, who wish to enhance their career prospects, access to academic expertise through our Aberdeen Executive Education Network, which is a unique network between academia and business that exists to help companies and individuals realise their potential.

## Here is our story

We hope you will enjoy reading just a few of our student and Alumni stories. There is so much on offer at the University of Aberdeen and we hope you will join us and one day give us your story.

# Student Stories



## Zena Marijewko

### MA BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Having a very international background, Aberdeen University, with its multicultural environment was the clear choice. It also appealed to me that the course is taught on the University's main campus. This has allowed me to meet students with different degrees, in different years of their studies, all with unique backgrounds, from all over the world. I am also very fortunate to have the

opportunity to combine degrees after the first year, by having the option of choosing modules outside the course. This allows students to study subjects that they are interested in, but do not want a degree in, or that they then realize they would like to combine their degree with. As the library is right in the middle and the Sports Village is just minutes from campus, I enjoy going to the gym or library between classes, ensuring an efficient study life.



## Christian Hristov

### MA ECONOMICS

The best memories of my time at University come from a variety of activities during my time as a student. Getting an internship at BP during my third year was as satisfying as winning a medal in a sporting championship. I have good memories from all the sports competitions I have taken part in, especially the ones where I won a medal or got a personal best. The most memorable was

the very first medal I won, which was a bronze in the 200m at the Scottish University Championships in 2016. It was a huge achievement to be in the top ten at the Scottish nationals with 2 personal records while holding a full time internship and a part time job in Summer 2017. This is where I proved to myself that being mentally strong and positive can help you achieve anything you set your mind to. I am also really grateful for the University of Aberdeen awarding me with a Half Blue Award for my sporting achievements.



# Samuel Asare Ankomah

## MSC LAW AND ECONOMICS OF OIL AND GAS

The choice to study MSc. Law and Economics of Oil and Gas at the University of Aberdeen was the best decision I could have taken at this point in my career because of Aberdeen's location at the heart of the oil and gas industry in Europe. My home country Ghana is believed to have significant commercial oil and gas reserves and is currently strengthening its fledgling energy sector, so a comprehensive knowledge of energy law and the financial aspects of oil and gas will equip me with the requisite knowledge to pursue my career in the oil and gas industry.

I was excited about the University's large international base. It has exceeded my expectations - I have enjoyed meeting people from different backgrounds with various cultural differences that share similar goals and purpose.

The programme's integration of guest lectures and seminars from leading industry professionals in the field means that upon completion of my course I will have benefitted enormously from years of empirical knowledge in this sector and will also have practical knowledge from industry leaders.

# Lynette Oti

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## MSC FINANCE AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

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Aberdeen University provides unparalleled linkages to key industry players through its strategic partnerships, providing relevant training enabling me to gain a greater insight into making the right decision when choosing my first job. Through the assignments I gained technical, analytical and business skills to help me gain a deeper understanding of the capital market world. I have confidence that I will be able to understand clients and adapt to challenging situations in the future.

Through various group presentations I have also improved my leadership, teamwork and presentation skills.

Additionally, meeting a broad variety of fellow classmates, I have created a long lasting network of contacts.

Aberdeen Business School has been the perfect fit for me because it is international, and the inclusion of CFA examinations provides a competitive advantage in beginning my career in finance. Furthermore, I have gained so much by being exposed to the global industry connections in the finance sector, aimed at training leaders and entrepreneurs who understand business and challenge it to re-invent it for the better.



# Marcos Sorja

## MA ECONOMICS WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Coming to the University of Aberdeen from Spain was definitely a big change in my life. Arriving here was no easy task but just as I walked on to campus I realized how friendly and welcoming everyone was. Staff from the University helped everyone move in, returning students would show new students around and everyone was making new friends. The first week went by quickly and in a matter of days, I felt at home with people that now feel like my closest friends.

After the first couple of weeks of socializing and getting used to Aberdeen, classes started. At first, I was really worried about the size of the classes since I realized that in the introductory lectures there were about 400 students. But I got used to it very quickly since it gives me the freedom to study however I want. It is also very helpful that there were tutorials every few weeks that clarify any questions about the lectures, as well as open office hours where I can just go and talk to my tutors directly.

But after all, the easiest way to pass courses is to study. I came to Aberdeen a bit worried about starting University because I've never been great at focussing on my studying, but as soon as I saw the library on campus I knew that I wanted to spend a lot of my time there. The overall vibe in the library is very focussed, especially towards exam week, and it really gives me that push to study.



If I need a break from studying, I have the Sports Village right next to campus. I go there a lot for sports training but I can also go to the gym or the swimming pool whenever I need to.

I can also go to all of the events organised by the University's societies like weekly debates or networking events.

Overall, my time in Aberdeen has been amazing and I'm sure that this won't change for the next three years. Being here has allowed me to completely change my life for the better and make amazing friends.



# Robert Docherty

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**MA BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

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The thing I have enjoyed most about studying at the University of Aberdeen has been the possibility of getting real hands-on leadership experience. Being part of the Economics & Business Society has given me the opportunity to meet and work with like-minded people and establish long-lasting friendships.

Studying at the University of Aberdeen can be a lot more than just academia and offers other ways to truly prepare you for the future!



# Khizzar Anwar

## MA BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

Being part of the University of Aberdeen Business School is a life changing experience. Each class offers in-depth knowledge from experienced professors and tutors, and support is always on hand. Additionally, I have had the pleasure of participating in some amazing student-led societies and I am currently the President of the Economics & Business Society, which has allowed me to take the lead in hosting both academic and social events.

I have also had the opportunity to go on exchanges to both Copenhagen Business School in Denmark and Southwest University of Finance & Economics in China. These experiences gave me great insights into different cultures and languages, whilst also making friends for life.





## Richard Walker

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### MSC INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT/MBA

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I am originally from Aberdeen but had been living overseas for many years prior to returning for my studies. The University of Aberdeen has a great reputation, particularly in the energy field with it being located in the heart of Europe's oil and gas capital. Its high employment rates after graduating, great industry ties and proximity to family and old friends were main reasons for choosing to study here.

I have spent this year studying International Business Management which has included a wide range of courses from finance, marketing, managing people and more. I believe that gaining a fundamental understanding of different areas within business is important in order to become a successful leader. The International aspect of the course really helped me appreciate different cultures and what can be done to bring people from all over the world together to achieve common goals.

# Alumni Stories



# Mark Tabrett

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**MA ECONOMICS AND MATHS, MBA**  
CEO of Nimbli

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I really enjoyed meeting and working with such a diverse group of students from various different cultures across a range of experience levels. It introduced me to different ways of thinking, approaches to learning and generally meeting lots of very interesting new people.

One of my favourite experiences was being taught about securitised products by the former Chief Economist at Freddie Mac (who was a market leader in the US mortgage market in creating these new products). It was very interesting to be taught how these new “safe” financial products were going to revolutionise bond markets before bringing the global financial system near to collapse less than three years later. Although the theory was flawed, I feel very lucky to have had an insight from an expert in the field before such a world-defining event.

I would advise all students to prepare for the tutorials - you get so much more out of the seminars reading ahead and joining in with the debates, plus any job afterwards is going to involve that so enjoy the time to practice! You should make the most of Aberdeen - for many it's a new city with a different culture so try to get out of the library and see as much of it as you can.

My career path has been anything but conventional... after graduating in 2006, I stayed in Aberdeen and worked as a chartered accountant for four years at a Big 4 and a smaller independent firm.

After realising accountancy wasn't for me, I had an internship at a global Asset Manager in Edinburgh (which I loved). After the internship ended, I joined an oil E&P company back in Aberdeen as a business analyst, providing financial support to the operational business units. I always go back to asset management but ended up enjoying oil so much that I decided to stay, ultimately moving through several departments including business improvement and corporate planning. Eventually I left Aberdeen and made my way to London, where I joined the Equity Research department of a global Investment Bank, spending my days analysing and making investment recommendations on (you guessed it) oil companies.

My top tip for students is to stay open to new experiences and don't set a fixed career path as it never works out as planned. I always wanted to work in financial markets and never the oil industry... but after I joined an oil company I really enjoyed it and it ultimately lead me into a career in financial markets at one of the top institutions in the world, and then founding my own company.

Life would be boring if you knew exactly what would happen next, so pick a role you'll enjoy and see where it takes you!

# Victoria Dalziel

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## MA REAL ESTATE

Associate Investment Director at  
Aberdeen Standard Investments

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I chose to study at the University of Aberdeen as they offered a wide range of courses within the Business School and had the capability of a Real Estate accredited degree which not many other Scottish Universities had the option of.

One of the best 'field trips' I attended was the Cornell International Real Estate Case Competition in New York. This was an intense experience but an unforgettable one, the competition challenged my ability in working under pressure and working within a team efficiently. It was a great group I went with and although we didn't win it was excellent to experience something like it.

I find practical experience is the best way to help bring relevance to what you are learning in the classroom and I gained practical Real Estate experience from Easter and summer internships. I had an internship during the Easter break at JLL in Edinburgh and I was fortunate that they asked me to come back for a summer internship. The following summer I completed a 10-week summer internship with Standard Life Investments within their Real Estate department.

Following my internship at Standard Life Investments I joined as an Assistant Portfolio Manager in September 2016. I was working on the Pooled Property Pension Fund which is a £3bn UK based real estate fund investing in prime UK properties. My role within this team was to asset manage a portfolio of Real Estate assets and assist the fund manager in acquiring and disposing of assets. I also assisted the fund manager in fund reporting and analysis. In 2017 Standard Life Investments and Aberdeen Asset Management merged to form Aberdeen Standard Investments.

My degree was essential to getting my job at Standard Life Investments as they were looking for a graduate with a Real Estate degree. A lot of what I learnt at university provided good foundations to build further knowledge in.







# Nicolle Sinclair

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## MA ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Global Head of Talent at Brewdog

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When I was deciding which University to attend, being from a small village in the Central belt meant that both academia and sport were important to me. I knew I wanted to focus on my studies, but still have the sea and mountains to play in on my down time. It made perfect sense that Aberdeen was the right choice because they had a brilliant Business School as well as active clubs for snowsports and surfing.

The favourite part for me when I was at Aberdeen was the community of people. As a very active and sociable person, I loved staying in Hillhead halls where I met people from loads of different backgrounds. The lecturers were also brilliant. Having figured out in my 3rd year that I was moderately dyslexic, this could have knocked my confidence going into my dissertation year, however with support from the Business School I successfully completed my degree.

There were so many clubs and societies to join at the University. I was President of Aberdeen Snowsports club and also part of the Surf club. Every Tuesday and Thursday I attended a circuits class with other club members.

When I look back at my time at the University, there were so many great memories. I even had two favourite lecturers who I should mention, Mark Whittington, who was a massive support to me during the time when I found out that I was dyslexic and had to choose my dissertation topic. He was a very kind man who was very passionate about his field and his students. The second would have to be Harminder Battu for Economics (although his lectures in first year were at THE WORST TIMES – but he openly said that was on purpose). Harminder had a true passion for economics and a skill for bringing real life examples of current day business issues for students to engage with.

# David Steyn

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## MSC FINANCE AND REAL ESTATE

Commercial Analyst at IWG plc

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I had always kept an eye on potential courses at the University of Aberdeen based on my family's extensive experience and success in graduating from the University. Once the time in my life was right, and I saw a top level, unique course available, I immediately applied.

I will be the 3rd generation of my family to graduate from the University of Aberdeen, after my grandfather who did his PhD in the 1960's, my father and his 5 siblings that attended during the 1980's, and now myself. Now I have graduated our family have their 10th University of Aberdeen Degree.

I studied Finance and Real Estate, which is an innovative degree offering from the University of Aberdeen. Pioneering the connection between the worlds of finance and real estate, the course allowed me to utilise my industry experience, further my knowledge base, and build a global network.

The degree offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to participate in the Real Estate Academy of China, Asian Cities Tour, involving four weeks of practical, perspective changing experience. Potential employers are stunned with the volume of knowledge, the real world understanding, and the industry skills attendees of this trip come back with.

My master's degree with the University of Aberdeen elevated my career from a promising industry new comer, to a sharp and valued professional. I have been able to work across the globe, harnessing my skillset to deliver value in finance functions, for real estate companies. More often than not you regret the goal you did not chase, the shot you did not take, and the degree you did not attempt. The University of Aberdeen is the perfect place to blend innovation with tradition, and to turn knowledge into industry prowess.





# Roisean Farquhar

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## **MSC MARKETING MANAGEMENT**

Business Development Executive at  
Apollo Engineering

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The University of Aberdeen was always one of my top picks as a University. Both my parents and grandparents are alumni and after studying there during my Undergraduate degree it allowed me the confidence to study a Masters there.

During my degree, I was given the opportunity to undertake multiple courses participating with local businesses and further a three-month project with Tendeka in which I would produce a report and presentation for them rather than a traditional dissertation.

I picked up as much experience as was possible while studying full time but the opportunity to study in this way for 3 months was an opportunity that I think really helped me while applying for jobs. When I applied for my current role at Apollo Offshore Engineering I was the first graduate that they had hired in that role, and my track record with industry and positive feedback meant I was able to stand out from the crowd.

The highlight of my experience at the University of Aberdeen was my work placement with Tendeka and the great opportunity for learning it provided.

Oil and Gas is one of the most complicated industries to understand, especially in the beginning and having to write a marketing project was incredibly challenging but rewarding. I had the most supportive project supervisor that gave me the confidence I needed to succeed. Furthermore, my project mentors from the company were also incredibly supportive and encouraging, they made what was initially a daunting and intimidating task into something that I was immensely proud of, that I had produced within 9 weeks.

I would tell someone who is considering studying at Aberdeen that it was the best 5 years of my life, and I had the most fun but also the most challenging time, and felt like I grew as a person hugely. Try and get involved in things you're interested in such as sports, societies or committees. I was part of Aberdeen Snow and the Athena Swan committee, and on top of the more academic aspects of university you learn so much and gain so much from these experiences.





# Sandy McKinnon

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## **MA BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

Director and Co-Founder at  
Foodstory Limited

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Coming to the University of Aberdeen was definitely the right decision for me. I followed in the footsteps of my cousin Chris MacKenzie who has now moved his way up to be Global Marketing Executive for Samsung.

For me Kings college campus is a magical place to come and study. Not only do you get the historical nods to the past, but you also get a sense of community and togetherness that I have not really seen at any other University. It is an emotive feeling that has followed me ever since and something that Foodstory aims to encapsulate. Studying business at the University of Aberdeen was a great experience for me. The courses were very diverse and covered a wide range of business skillsets and interests. I was even able to link my extracurricular interests with my studies in my final year, when I set up and ran the student radio station ASR (Aberdeen Student Radio). I was able to run it as a business for the year, linking it to my entrepreneurship course to help me make a success of both activities.

Foodstory is now into its 5th year and although it has been my dream to own my own business, some of the happiest memories I have are those of my time as a student and sabbatical officer at the University of Aberdeen.

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The University of Aberdeen Business School is an international multi-campus School with a partnership with AFG College in Qatar.