

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES

# 321<sup>st</sup> Statutory meeting of the General Council

7 December 2024

Open to all and dedicated to the pursuit  
of truth in the service of others.

## University update

Professor George Boyne  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES

# Aberdeen 2040



# Aberdeen 2040 Interdisciplinary Challenges



## Recent Recognition of the Quality of our Education and Research

- Second in Scotland for overall student satisfaction and 15<sup>th</sup> in the UK in the National Student Survey (NSS) 2024.
- Highest ever UK position of 15<sup>th</sup> in the Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025, where we also moved up from 4<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> in Scotland.
- Ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the UK and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Scotland in The Guardian University Guide 2025, including 1<sup>st</sup> in the UK for Medicine.
- 30% growth in research awards in academic year 2023/24.

## Global Rankings

- The University is consistently top 250 in the world.
- We continue to perform exceptionally well on **International Outlook** in the Times Higher World University Rankings 2025 (8<sup>th</sup> in the UK, 18<sup>th</sup> in the world and 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland).
- In the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024, the University was placed 48<sup>th</sup> in the world and 10<sup>th</sup> in the UK for supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

# University Priorities for 2024/25

- Quality
- New Revenue
- Ways of Working

## Educational Innovation

- Transnational Education - Qatar and China; exploring new opportunities in other locations.
- New on-campus degree programmes launched in Energy Transition, Health, and AI.
- 15 new online programmes launched including:
  - MSc in Health Data Science
  - MSc in Engineering Industrial Robotics
  - MLitt in Philosophy & Society
  - LLM in Energy Transition Law.



## Research Impact

1. University scientists identified people carrying cancer gene with an ancestral link to Orkney. A co-designed community screening programme for Westray residents has been implemented and lives of identified carriers will be saved through early diagnosis.
2. The University participated in a collaborative project with the private sector and NHS Scotland to use Artificial Intelligence in Breast Screening. This has helped doctors find an additional 12 percent more cancers than in routine practice.
3. A University study described as 'world-class research' by the UK Regulator, the North Sea Transition Authority, has identified areas of a North Sea gas 'super basin' which has the greatest potential for storing industrial carbon emissions, a key aim of the energy transition. The interdisciplinary research is having global impact as its methods are now being adopted and used by other countries.
4. Researchers found that 96% of secondary schools in Scotland have a compulsory uniform and that education could be jeopardised through cost due to differences in financial aid from local authorities. The Scottish Government has introduced statutory guidance which has reduced the cost of school uniforms.

**Open to all and dedicated to the pursuit  
of truth in the service of others.**

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES

# 321<sup>st</sup> Statutory meeting of the General Council

7 December 2024



# STUDENTS' UNION

Aberdeen University Students' Association (AUSA) is a registered Scottish Charity, No SCO37971

# ELECTED STUDENT OFFICERS

## OUR 2024 TEAM

<b>Student President</b>	Christina Schmid
<b>Vice President for Activities</b>	Tõnis Tilk
<b>Vice President for Education</b>	Miles Rothoerl
<b>Vice President for Communities</b>	Ainhoa Burgos Aguilera
<b>Vice President for Welfare</b>	Karim Hurtig



# CORE VALUES & PRINCIPLES

Our job is simple –  
Improve Students' Lives!

Everything we do should be:

- Helpful
- Student Focused
- Inclusive



---

**CLASS REPS**

---

**SCHOOL CONVENERS**

---

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

---

**LIBERATION AND SECTION FORUMS**

# STUDENT ACTIVITIES

We have a huge range of student-led activities for you to get involved in.

Sports, Societies, Groups and free Sport Activities.

Steady increase in percentage of students participating in last 3 years (23/24):  
c. 17% sports  
c. 21% societies

Over 250 Clubs and Societies



## BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- community building beyond courses
- Mental and physical wellbeing
- Skill development
- Ambassadors for the University

## HOW WE SUPPORT THEM

- Recruitment (Activities Fayres)
- Training & skill development
- Bookings & facilities
- Granite City!

## CHALLENGES

- Resource vs demand
- Communication with activities
- Highlighting the positive impact of student activities
- Cost-of-Living Crisis



# DAILY EXPRESS

Stormy Daniels tells of Trump sex encounter  
\$5 OFF WHEN YOU SPEND £25  
Ex-ministers say voters have been 'betrayed by liberal immigration policies'

## 'MYTH MIGRANTS BOOST ECONOMY MUST BE BUSTED'

SENIOR Tories are demanding that Sunak dump "liberal immigration rules, claiming to be a myth" that migration boosts Britain's economic growth.

**Blissed**

And in a bid to prove the Tories have the Sunak intent to act before the general election, the Immigration Minister also said that those who have "benefited" from the rules have done so by paying to work in the country.

**KING 'TOO BUSY' TO SEE HARRY**

# BORDERLESS

International Students face increased levels of hardship in a multitude of ways.

We compiled them and grouped them into National, local academic and local welfare issues.





# LOCAL WELFARE ISSUES

- No data on late arrivals
- No personal tutors for PGTs
- Interpretation of UKVI rules
- Graduate Route as important goal
- No clear understanding of "Term Time"
- Lack of ownership of international students issues
- Guarantor scheme not designed for international students

## University denies over-reliance on foreign students

4 days ago



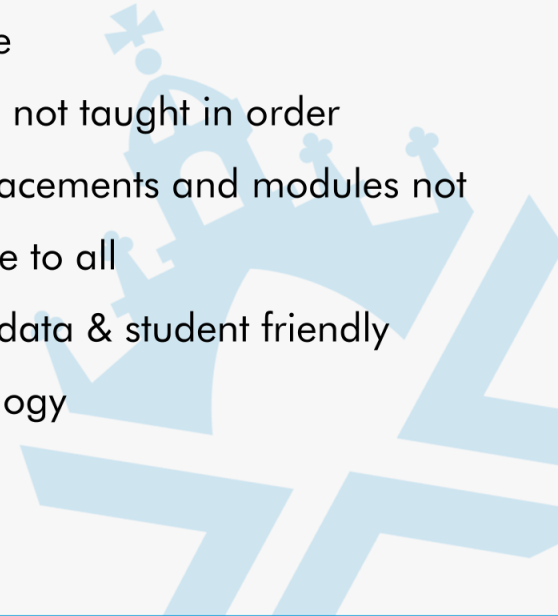
Prof Muscatelli said overseas students were important in making universities "viable"

The vice chancellor of the University of Glasgow has denied his institution is over-reliant on foreign students.



# LOCAL ACADEMIC ISSUES

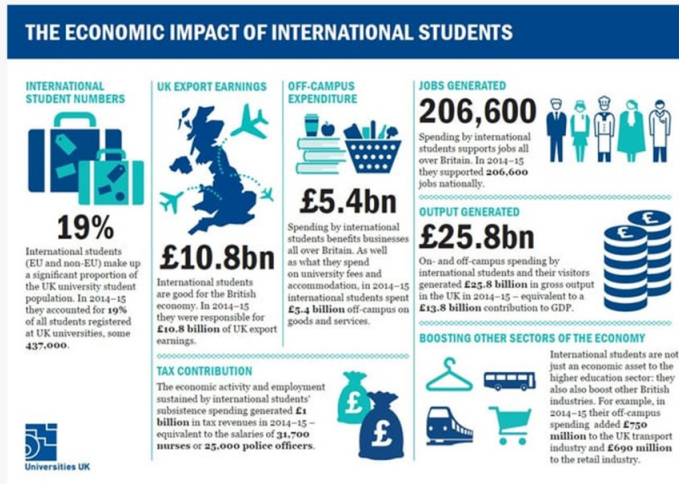
- Inconsistent approach with academic misconduct
- Resit timetables not synced with Visa schedule
- Courses not taught in order
- Trips, placements and modules not available to all
- Lack of data & student friendly terminology



# WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT

International students can be ambassadors for the University, if they feel welcomed and have a good overall experience

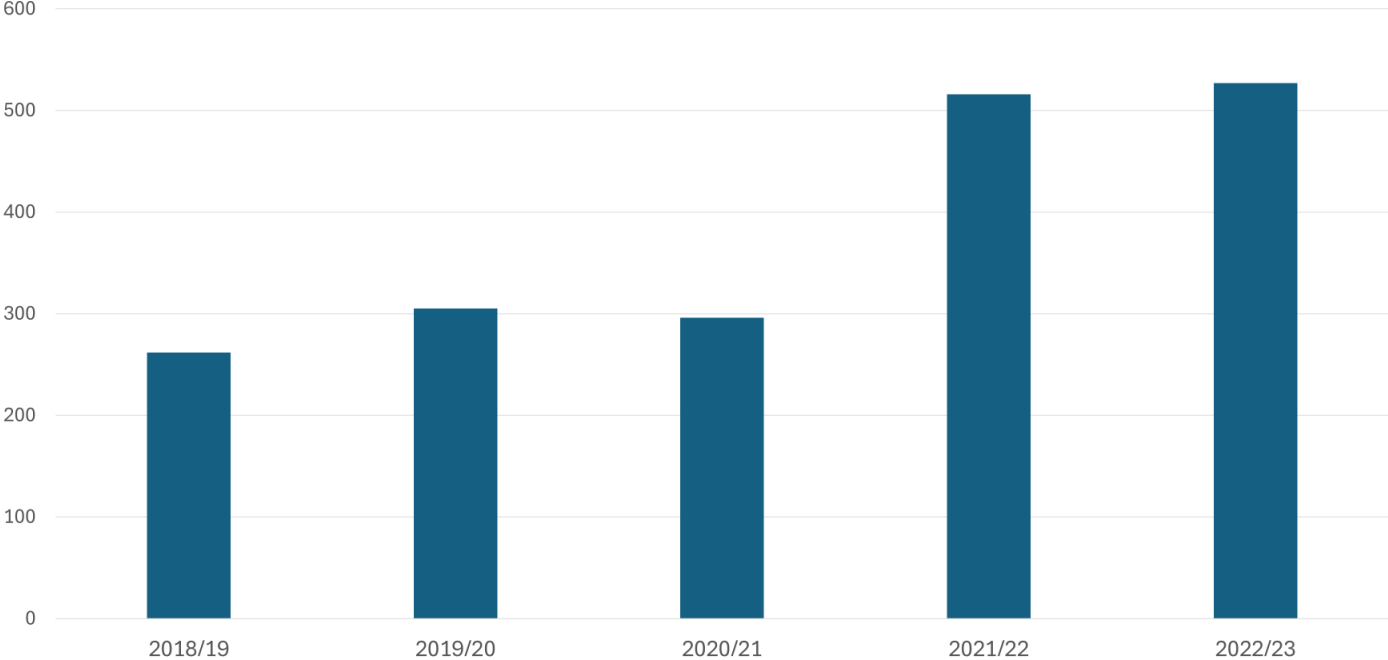
Supporting them helps everyone: the students and the University



# HOW WE WANT TO INCREASE SUPPORT

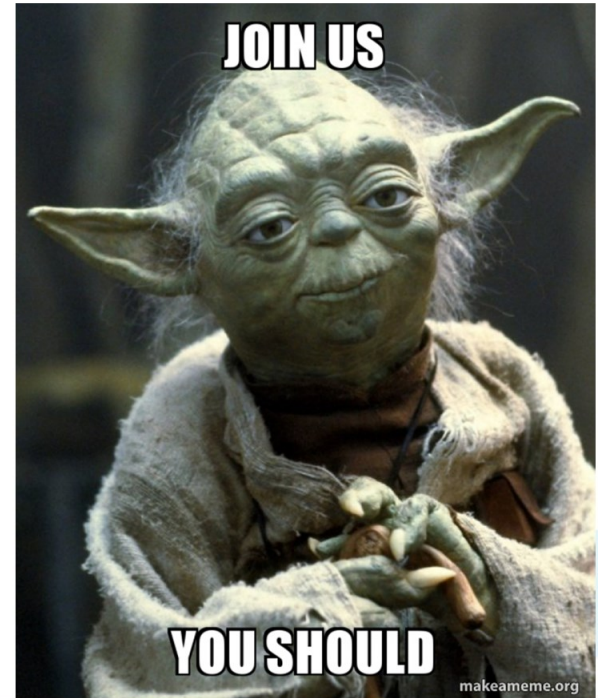
- Working Group at UoA to address the issue from a data driven approach
- Culture Competency embedded in Values, Governance and Strategy
- Student-focused approach:
  - Consistent policies
  - Terminology (C6&C7)
  - Adjusted resit timetable
- Bespoke support for late arrival PGTs
- Dedicated support for PGTs:
  - When they get bad news
  - Opening all opportunities

Number of Advice Cases



# How can you help?

- Development Trust Fundraising Campaigns
- The Student Union Trustee Board
- Two vacancies
- [https://www.ausa.org.uk/about/ausa\\_vacancies/](https://www.ausa.org.uk/about/ausa_vacancies/)



GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES

# 321<sup>st</sup> Statutory meeting of the General Council

7 December 2024