

GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES



# School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE



→ **1ST IN THE UK &  
6TH IN THE UK  
FOR FOR FILM AND  
VISUAL CULTURE\***

The Complete University Guide 2024

\* As part of Drama, Dance and Cinematics

# Welcome

The School of Language, Literature, Music and Visual Culture is home to a wide variety of arts and humanities subjects. We offer degrees in English, Linguistics, Celtic & Anglo-Saxon Studies, Music, Music Education, Film and Visual Culture, Translation and Interpreting Studies, French and Francophone Studies, Gaelic, German, and Spanish & Latin American Studies. We also offer supporting studies in Arabic, Mandarin and Swedish.

Our undergraduate programmes can be studied as Single or Joint Honours degrees, offering you a wide selection of choice and flexibility. They equip you with a wide range of transferable skills, from critical thinking to project management, making University of Aberdeen graduates some of the most employable in the UK. And thanks to our Sustained Study language options, you can learn a new language, or keep studying an existing one, alongside your main subjects.

When you study with us, you will be joining a diverse and vibrant student community. You will get to know teachers who are world experts in their field, and offer courses which encourage you to expand your thinking as you explore new ideas. Our student-led societies offer a welcoming and friendly environment in which to develop your passion for your chosen area of interest.

I very much hope you enjoy discovering what we have to offer through this brochure, the prospectus and online via our website. Don't hesitate to visit our discipline stands during the Open Day, or get in touch if you have any specific questions. We can also arrange for individual visits during the year, where you can meet our staff, explore our beautiful campus and find out first-hand why you should make Aberdeen your first choice for university study.

**Professor Chris Collins**  
Head of School

# Your Learning Experience

Our exciting range of courses are sure to heighten your curiosity, broaden your horizons and develop your ability to reason.

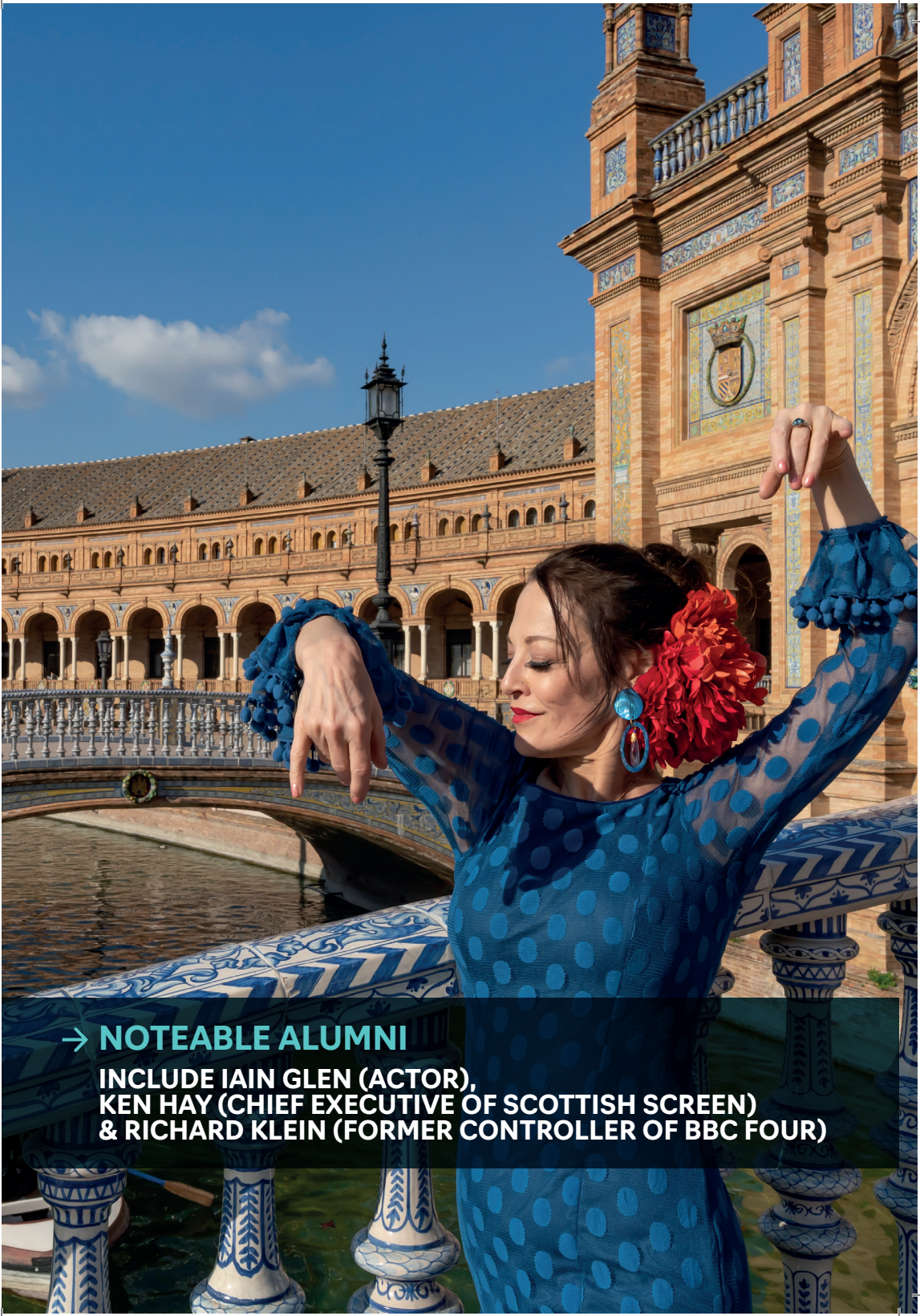
Aberdeen is a great place to study the Arts. Our courses open up the rich history of cultural traditions from across Europe and the world, and offer you the opportunity to explore the links between them. Many also draw on the wealth of materials which are held in the University's museums, libraries and special collections reflecting the heritage of an institution educating students since 1495.

You can combine our subjects with many others, including business, law, history, sociology and philosophy. Our Sustained Study language courses allow you to learn a new language or improve your command of an existing one alongside your main subjects of study. We offer Arabic, French, Gaelic, German, Mandarin, Spanish and Swedish. If you are studying our Modern languages and Translation & Interpreting degree, or one of our joint honours degrees in French, German or Spanish, you will have the opportunity to spend time abroad, studying, teaching or working. Our degrees offer great flexibility, the opportunity to pursue a host of placement and study options, and routes into careers at home and abroad, from international business to arts management and the third sector.

## Other reasons to join us:

- Aberdeen is one of the few universities in the UK where your studies can take you from Viking literature to Andalusian Flamenco.
- Our Music department covers a wide range of music, from renaissance to rock, and from opera to electroacoustic music, while offering you the chance to perform in a wide range of ensembles, including early music, choirs, orchestras and jazz.
- Our courses are informed by the latest research, and are taught by world experts in their field, meaning you will be working with cutting-edge ideas.
- Our specialised spaces include a large venue for rehearsals and concerts, a film editing suite, music practice rooms, and a state-of-the-art interpreting suite.
- Our subjects constantly perform strongly in the National Student Survey. In 2023, Music was ranked 1st in the UK for student satisfaction. English Studies and Linguistics were ranked 1st in Scotland.
- Our disciplines have vibrant, student-led societies and clubs, and you will have opportunities to participate alongside staff in a range of exciting annual activities, including the WayWORD literary festival, musical performances and field trips.





→ **NOTEABLE ALUMNI**

**INCLUDE IAIN GLEN (ACTOR),  
KEN HAY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SCOTTISH SCREEN)  
& RICHARD KLEIN (FORMER CONTROLLER OF BBC FOUR)**

# Combining teaching with research excellence



## **Dr Wayne Price**

Wayne is a Senior Lecturer in English Studies at the University of Aberdeen. He has a keen interest in writing – winning numerous national and international awards for both fiction and poetry. He has also been a finalist in the Manchester International Poetry Prize - one of the UK's richest poetry awards.

## **Dr Tom McKean**

Tom describes himself as a folklorist, specialising in Scots and Gaelic song, customs and traditions. Tom leads the Elphinstone Institute, who research various aspects of North-East Scottish folklore. The institute's intriguing research has added to the richness of the University's teaching and facilities.







**Dr Dawn Leslie**

Dawn is a Lecturer in Language & Linguistics who specialises in Scots and other minority language issues. She also runs the popular 'Introduction to Doric' course which teaches how to use the dialect of the North-East. Dawn is herself a graduate of the University of Aberdeen and is passionate about rooting her research in the local culture.

**Professor Patience Schell**

A historian of Latin America, Patience says, 'Teaching history is what I've always wanted to do. Working at the University of Aberdeen, I'm so lucky that I'm able to share my enthusiasm for history with my students, encouraging their creativity and understanding, while having a laugh, too!'



**Professor Edward Campbell**

Eddie is a Professor in Music, specialising in musical modernity and aesthetics. The author of three books, his research and teaching are interdisciplinary, exploring the relationship between new music and philosophy, literature, psychoanalysis and post-colonial studies. He enjoys exploring the amazing diversity of new music that is out there with students.



# Undergraduate degree

In the School we offer twelve subjects at undergraduate degree level. If you are still deciding which direction you would like to take in your studies, our programmes are designed to be flexible so that you can easily transfer from one programme to another. Our programmes allow you to take courses from other disciplines in the University, so you can combine many arts and humanities degrees with business, law, and other subject areas.

Take a look at our online prospectus to see the full range of possibilities available to you!

## MA Celtic & Anglo-Saxon Studies

One of the few such degrees in the UK, our exciting programme explores the literature, history, languages and culture of the Celts, Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. Working with international experts, you will discover how the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia have been shaped by Celtic history and culture. Many of our students combine the programme with archaeology, and go on to have careers in heritage management, teaching, research and broadcasting.

## MA English

English, in its many forms, has been used down through the centuries, becoming an integral part of our lives today. Immerse yourself in works of literary art from Shakespeare and the Renaissance right through to Victorian literature, Modernism and contemporary Scottish and Irish writing. Studying MA English opens the door to many career pathways, including publishing, journalism, broadcasting and education. You can also study **English with Creative Writing** with our team of authors and poets including some of Scotland's best-loved writers. The degree can be combined with another humanities subject on offer at the University of Aberdeen.



## **MA Film & Visual Culture**

With our innovative programme, you explore not just the history and theory of film from Hollywood to the New Wave, but the whole array of visual culture that surrounds us, including selfies and medical imaging. Our practice-based courses help you develop your own skills as a filmmaker and you can enjoy a range of public events, exhibitions and film screenings. Careers include broadcasting, new media and journalism.

## **MA French & Francophone Studies**

French has been taught at Aberdeen since the 1890s, and the Carnegie Chair of French was established in 1926. Our programme explores the history and diversity of French and Francophone culture, taking you from the Early Modern to the contemporary period and across the French-speaking world. Courses range widely across film, literature, linguistics, sociology, politics and history. Your time abroad can be in Paris, Lyon, Brussels, Geneva, and even the island of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean. Our graduates go on to a range of careers, including international relations, management consultancy, teaching and translation.

## **MA Gaelic Studies**

Gaelic has been taught at Aberdeen for over 100 years. You will learn about Scotland's oldest living language, and be immersed in its rich literary and cultural traditions. Opportunities for graduates are very good: teaching, Gaelic development, arts management and librarianship are all career options and there is an increasing demand for Gaelic graduates to work in the media. The Gaelic Society organises ceilidhs and trips, and offers the opportunity to use Gaelic in informal settings.

## **MA German Studies**

Like French and Gaelic, German has been taught at Aberdeen for over a century. The teaching team includes native speakers from Germany and Austria. Courses cover the literature, film, art and history of the German-speaking countries. Options for your time abroad include studying in German-speaking universities or working as a language assistant. German can be combined with our other Modern Languages as well as a wide range of other humanities subjects.

## **MA Modern Languages and Translation & Interpreting Studies**

This programme aims to transform strong linguists into highly employable translators and interpreters. You will develop a high level of proficiency in up to two languages, reinforced by practical experience of employment during a period of residence abroad. You will explore the use of specialised language in a range of contexts (business, legal, technical, scientific, literary) and learn how to apply it in specific translation and interpreting settings.

## **MA English Language & Literature**

Study the development of the English language from its Anglo-Saxon origins to contemporary usage while exploring its rich literary history. You will explore the language of Old English, the structure and use of contemporary English, and the rich variety of literature in English that has arisen alongside its linguistic development.

## MA Language and Linguistics

You will join one of the country's top Linguistics departments, ranked first in the UK\* by the National Student Survey 2023.

\*The ranking is an aggregated mean average of positive responses percentage across 25 questions that are asked at all institutions across the University. The ranking is based on the Guardian University Guide 2023 edition list of universities.

The programme will develop your understanding of key topics from phonetics and syntax to sociolinguistics and language acquisition. Linguistics graduates are highly employable, with openings in communications technology, language teaching, broadcasting and publishing.

## MA Spanish and Latin American Studies

Aberdeen is one of the most dynamic places to study the Spanish language and Latin American culture in the UK. The wide-ranging and interdisciplinary programme explores visual culture, literature, history, politics, citizenship, society and anthropology across Spain and Latin America. Many of our students study Spanish & Latin American Studies alongside subjects such as Politics & International Relations, Sociology and Anthropology. Your time abroad can take you to a host of countries including Peru, Mexico and Chile.

## BMus Music

Our Music degree gives you the opportunity to learn, compose and perform with world-renowned composers, musicologists, performers and practitioners across many genres, styles and periods of music. At Aberdeen, traditional and contemporary influences combine naturally. As well as developing your existing talents, you will be able to explore new avenues such as community music, electroacoustic composition, and ethnomusicology.

You can perform in the beautiful King's College chapel and you will benefit from private instrumental and vocal lessons. Our graduates have gone on to be professional performers, composers, teachers, researchers, and entrepreneurs in the arts and creative industries.

## BMus Music Education

Music Education at Aberdeen is unique in offering the integrated study of music and education within an academic University music department. The programme embraces a flexible approach fostering innovation, creativity, social interaction and collaboration whilst developing your knowledge and skills and their application in an educational environment. The programme includes supported school placements, and you will graduate with a qualification to teach in Scottish secondary schools, inspiring a new generation of musicians.

# Professional & Cultural links

Our research and professional networks are integral to our work and benefit our students in several ways.

- You will benefit from exposure to professionals and experts in our taught classes, seminars, events and talks. Our lecturers are passionate about the subject inside and outside the classroom - so don't be surprised if you get the opportunity to take part in creative projects of their own!
- Our curriculum has been formulated to ensure you learn transferable skills that can take you anywhere.
- Many of our students undertake work placements and internships during their year abroad.

The School has excellent relationships with the cultural sector and is often involved with local and national activities. Our beautiful campus is home to a wealth of events that are open to all, including the University Concert Series, the WayWORD literary festival, and much else besides. The School also has links with Sound Festival, concert venues and galleries in Scotland.



→ **2ND IN THE UK  
FOR MUSIC**

The Times and The Sunday Times  
Good University Guide 2024

# 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** Choice and flexibility

At Aberdeen, you can combine our arts and humanities degrees with other subjects, allowing you to specialise in multiple areas and explore your interests in-depth.

## **03** A proven track record for employment, with 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 student workplace internships and the opportunity to attend our annual Employability Networking Event.

## **04** Degrees which are recognised and respected worldwide

Our courses are taught by leading experts in their field and informed by cutting edge research.

## **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 in whatever you choose to do. We have over 220 clubs and societies for students to join and offer excellent on-campus sports facilities.

## **06** The very best learning resources

Our collection of diverse materials and specialised spaces provide you with an immersive experience to develop your passion and discover a world of knowledge.





## 07 **A supportive community**

A self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city; we will do everything we can to help you feel at home quickly. We have excellent support services to ensure you have access to all the support and guidance you might need - academic, personal, medical or financial.

## 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.

## 10 **We're connected!**

Daily scheduled flights from Aberdeen International Airport mean we are just 90-minutes from London, Dublin, and Amsterdam. There are also trains and buses departing every hour from Aberdeen city centre to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and the rest of Scotland.

**Any questions?** Phone us on 01224 272090 or email [study@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:study@abdn.ac.uk)

1495



UNIVERSITY OF  
ABERDEEN

[abdn.ac.uk/sll](https://abdn.ac.uk/sll)

+44 (0) 1224 272090  
[study@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:study@abdn.ac.uk)

 [universityofaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/universityofaberdeen)

 [aberdeenuni](https://twitter.com/aberdeenuni)

 [uniofaberdeen](https://www.youtube.com/uniofaberdeen)

 [uniofaberdeen](https://www.instagram.com/uniofaberdeen)

UOADESIGN: CL0324