University of St Andrews

The University of St Andrews celebrated its 600th Anniversary in September 2013, and is the oldest university in Scotland and the third oldest in the UK. The University is a unique combination of ancient and modern, local and global. Once the centre of Scottish political and religious life, St Andrews retains many marvellous medieval buildings and juxtaposes them with modern, cutting-edge science and arts facilities.

The town is small with the University accounting for approximately half of the population. With around 8,000 students (one-third of whom are from overseas), and the constant infusion of visitors coming to experience the spectacular scenery and famous golf courses, St Andrews has a distinctly cosmopolitan air.

The University consistently ranks in the UK top ten (UK University Guides) and has been judged to be one of the UK’s top multi-faculty universities in the National Student Surveys from 2006 to 2013. Perhaps its most distinguishing feature, however, is the strong sense of community reinforced by the size and location of the town and the many cultural and social activities in the University.

Key facts

World renowned - Ranked in the world top 100 (QS World Rankings and Times Higher Education), fourth in the UK (Guardian University Guide 2013) and joint second in the UK for Student Satisfaction (National Student Survey 2011).

Teaching excellence - 1:13 academic: student ratio, 97% degree completion rate and first in Scotland for teaching quality.

Location - Stunning coastal location with easy access to airports and European destinations.
FACULTIES AND FOCUS

The University has four faculties: these are Arts, Divinity, Medicine and Science. Within the faculties there are a total of 18 Academic Schools at St Andrews. These offer students a wide choice of degree subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate level. At undergraduate level, the broad base and flexible nature of study at St Andrews allows students to discover their specific strengths before the more in-depth and specialist study in years three and four (with the exception of Medicine). Some subjects may be studied in both the Faculties of Arts and Science, namely Economics, Geography, Management, Mathematics, Psychology and Sustainable Development (the content is the same irrespective of the faculty).

At postgraduate level, both Masters and Research students are an intrinsic part of the University’s thriving culture in which they conduct their research at the highest level. Each of the Schools and Units offers particular strengths and has its own identity.

PARTNERSHIPS

The University of St Andrews is partnered with a number of institutions across the globe ensuring high quality academic experiences for the University’s students in the Faculties of Arts, Divinity and Science. The University’s various study abroad programmes include more than forty subject-specific options in Europe, Australia, China, the Middle East, Russia and Uruguay, and the ‘St Andrews Abroad’ programme offers a range of opportunities with exchange partners in Canada, the USA, Australia and Singapore.

St Andrews students may therefore have the opportunity of trying a very different student experience at institutions such as: Renmin University of China, the University of Melbourne, the University of Pennsylvania, or Sciences Po in Paris.

There are also opportunities to work abroad as part of specific degree programmes in Modern Languages and Chemistry. Students who undertake study or work in another EU country as part of their degree programme may be eligible to participate in the Erasmus scheme and may also receive a Mobility Grant, which contributes to the costs of studying or working abroad.

A study abroad placement usually takes place in the third year of a degree programme, either for a semester or a full year.

The University’s BA International Honours degree is awarded jointly by the University of St Andrews and the College of William & Mary, Virginia (founded by Royal Charter in 1693) after two years of study at each institution. This partnership will offer students unprecedented opportunities for collaborative learning and a richly varied experience of higher education.

St Andrews has participated in the Science without Borders (SwB) programme since its inception, welcoming Brazilian students to St Andrews at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and developing links with Brazilian institutions.

RESEARCH STRENGTHS

The majority of the research at the University of St Andrews takes place within the Academic Schools, and also in Research Centres which provide a home for large research projects.

The excellent quality of research at the University is demonstrated by the results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008, when St Andrews was recognised as one of the UK’s leading research institutions for the quality of its research across science and the arts. The findings also state that 94 per cent of St Andrews’ research activity is internationally recognised and 60 per cent is world leading or internationally excellent.

St Andrews submitted more than 92 per cent of its academic staff for consideration in the RAE 2008, one of the highest submission rates of any UK university.

EMPLOYABILITY

St Andrews graduates have a good first destination record for employment, further study or training and this is reflected in national university league tables. Many of the University’s graduates go on to do further academic research throughout the world. Popular career areas for the University’s students are finance, teaching, management consultancy, research and development, marketing and the media. In recent years graduates went to work for organisations including Thomson Reuters, Blackrock, Community Energy Scotland, Deloitte, Teach First, Rolls-Royce, United Biscuits, Proctor and Gamble and Cancer Research UK, to name a few.

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