



Further Information

Teaching and Learning

Our overarching principle for all teaching and learning at Abertay is that the student learner is at centre of everything we do. Active learning is our underlying pedagogy at Abertay University.

This is based around social constructivism approaches to learning, which suggest that students learn best when engaged in collaborative activity with others to construct their knowledge and understanding. University level learning aims to develop higher order cognitive skills, as well as discipline specific knowledge and skills.

We have learnt a great deal through the pandemic and have adopted a blended learning approach at Abertay that is based on the principle that digital aspects of learning are a core part of the student's experience of the programme and are intended to enhance their experience of onsite provision.

We believe that blended learning is most effective when programmes identify the learning priorities that are best delivered on campus due to the nature of the activity and embed these as key markers within a broader, integrated student learning experience.

The University's Learning Enhancement Strategy offers a roadmap for our approach to learning and teaching that places the student at the centre.



Research and Knowledge Exchange

Abertay University has an established reputation for working well across traditional research boundaries, as well as within new and emerging disciplines and sectors.

We are committed to high quality research that delivers real impact for society. From environmental research into sustainable businesses and food production, to using computer games as creative and critical tools to understand the behaviours and structures that drive and influence individuals in the societies in which they exist. Our researchers are solving complex real-world problems to fuel innovation-led growth and sustainable development.

Society faces unprecedented socio-economic and environmental challenges, the continual emergence of sector disruptors, and the problems as well as benefits afforded by global connectivity and competition – these are truly wicked, complex challenges often requiring mixed discipline approaches.

The solutions to these challenges require the application of excellent fundamental research and creative cross- and inter-disciplinary approaches that

consider the interplay amongst a mix of social, economic, environmental and technological concerns.

Our [Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy 2020 -25](#) brings our research together into a single University-wide initiative where expertise from a range of subject areas is integrated and used to support discovery, innovation and applied research within, and across, traditional disciplinary boundaries. We have drawn on our industry-facing heritage and effective interdisciplinary practice, to enhance our existing expertise and internationally recognised successes; our research culture is inculcated into everything we do as a University.

Our structure promotes collaborative and interdisciplinary working, to break away from traditional academic models and address real-world challenges. Our academics and research staff focus and build excellence within diverse Research Groups, interact and innovate to build strength in our ways of working within Pooled Excellence areas, and collaborate with other discipline experts through our Challenge Spaces to deliver impact for society and the economy.



Our Schools

The Graduate School

The Graduate School is central to our research community. The School is a dedicated facility located at the heart of the University, providing support, training and professional development opportunities to our vibrant postgraduate research community and academic staff.

Specially designed to promote integration and inculcation of interdisciplinary and collaborative working in our next generation of researchers, postgraduates study and learn together in a range of areas including

Environmental Management, Law, Psychology, Bioscience, Economics and Business, Cybersecurity and Computer Games.

Further information about the School is available at: <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/schools/graduate-school/>



Our Schools (continued)

The School of Applied Sciences

The School of Applied Sciences has a strong reputation in the design and delivery of innovative programmes that reflect today's employment needs. Most of our degrees are accredited by professional bodies and are co-designed with industry to have relevance, with practical applications to real world settings. We aim to ensure that students will gain not only a valuable qualification, but also transferable skills to allow them to fulfil their ambitions. To that end, our programmes provide students with degree-appropriate placement opportunities. The School currently delivers

programmes in partnership with two international organisations, with plans in train to extend this further. We work closely with the University Graduate School to support postgraduate research, education and training, to provide teaching experience, and to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) outreach activity.

Further information about the School is available at: <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/schools/school-of-applied-sciences/>



Our Schools (continued)

The School of Business, Law and Social Sciences

The School of Business, Law and Social Sciences (BLS) covers the following subject disciplines: accounting, finance, business management, marketing, human resources, law, criminology, sociology, and social science. The School has a strong reputation in the design and delivery of innovative programmes that reflect today's employment opportunities. This has resulted in establishing several national and international partnerships. Our programmes are relevant, informed by industry needs, and with a focus on practical application and innovative solutions to real world settings. We aim to ensure that students will gain

not only a valuable qualification, but also transferable skills to allow them to fulfil their ambitions. We also have a vibrant and growing community of research students, and our close working relationships with industry partners and the professions ensures that all our students and our staff have direct experiences of the challenges faced in today's turbulent economic climate.

Further information about the School is available at: <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/schools/Dundee-business-school/>



Our Schools (continued)

The School of Design and Informatics

The School of Design and Informatics consists of three divisions: the Division of Games and Arts, the Division of Game Technology and Mathematics and the Division of Cybersecurity. The School is the home of Abertay's undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in cybersecurity, applied computer science, games, and digital arts.

Abertay was one of the first universities in the world to offer degrees in Computer Games Technology and Ethical Hacking and continues to be recognised as an international leader in its fields. The school is the National Centre of Excellence for Computer Games Education (Screen Skills/SFC) and is recognised as an Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Education (Gold Award) by the National Cyber Security Centre as well as being ranked as the top International School for video games by the Princeton Review. These prestigious awards recognise the high quality of our teaching, research and knowledge exchange work across the school.

The School undertakes research and knowledge exchange activities to ensure the currency,

development and health of its subjects and disciplines within the University as a whole. The School is also the home of Dare Academy, the Securi-Tay conference, and has long-established professional links with Dundee's thriving tech community, and multinational technology and media companies including Microsoft, and Sony, and sector bodies such as NCSC, UKIE and TIGA.

cyberQuarter is an R&D centre built on a consortium of academic and industry partners to accelerate and grow a cybersecurity cluster in Dundee. cyberQuarter will offer access to expertise, specialist technologies and international networks to support and promote innovation and enterprise in the field. The Centre will host small companies and individuals alongside sector stakeholders and research academics to bring, intellectual, business and sectoral expertise to bear on close-to-market solutions.

Further information about the School is available at: <https://www.abertay.ac.uk/schools/school-of-design-and-informatics/>

Professional Services

External and Corporate Relations

The External and Corporate Relations team leads the University in both our external engagement agenda and internal corporate relationships and communications. The team is focussed on enhancing both the University's reputation and revenue, and encompasses five focussed functions: Marketing and Communications, International Recruitment and Study Abroad, UK Recruitment; Admissions; and Events.

The External Relations staff comprises a mix of specialisms to ensure the University is positioned with a distinctive voice and creates impact in terms of both reputation and revenue.

Finance, Infrastructure and Corporate Services Governance

The Finance, Infrastructure and Corporate Services (FICS) Directorate is comprised of a range of professional services departments, including:

- Administrative Services
- Business Development
- Campus and Commercial Services
- Corporate Support Services
- Finance
- IT Corporate Systems
- IT Service Delivery
- Procurement

Governance

The Governance Office supports the University Court and Senate, as well as their respective sub-committees. The Governance Office also manages compliance with the University's responsibilities under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and relevant data protection legislation as well as leading on an Information and Records Management project, entitled InfoSmart.

People Services

The People Services team provides a comprehensive, professional service to support achievement of the University's strategic objectives and People Strategy.

We work together to support organisational development and deliver people services across the employment life cycle for around 600 staff. Key elements of our services include: recruitment and selection; employment terms and conditions and staff benefits; reward, promotion and grading; employee and trade union relations; staff learning, development and training; equality, diversity and inclusion; health and safety; occupational health, staff engagement and wellbeing.

The People Services team's core values are professionalism, service excellence, effective communication, working well with others, respect for self and others and always learning. We support learning and development for University staff and reflect that within our own team, providing continuous professional development through internal and external courses and conferences, mentoring and support, and opportunities for involvement in areas of work that enable development of professional skills and experience.

Professional Services (Continued)

Student and Academic Services

The key operational priorities for SAcS during 2020-25 period are to champion the student experience (including supporting student learning); prepare students for a world of work to enhance their employability; to increase the organisation's administrative effectiveness and efficiency; to support teaching excellence and research impact. SAcS has three areas of delivery; these are:

Academic Services is responsible for a range of activities relating to academic administration and governance. The team manages a range of student processes, including registration, timetabling, assessment, academic appeals, academic progression and awards. Academic Services supports Academic Quality and Standards Committee, the Academic Leadership Group, as well as School Academic Committees and Programme Committees, and handles student discipline/ complaints for the University.

Library Services is responsible for a range of activities relating to the acquisition of academic and digital skills (including English for academic purposes), technology enhanced learning, management of library collections and journals, supporting early career researchers' (including PGR student) development of digital scholarship and information management skills, and enabling learners and researchers access published scholarly information and data.

Student Services is responsible for providing information, advice, guidance and counselling. The professionally trained staff provide support to the student community on career management, placements, disability, student funding, welfare concerns, student visas, mental health and counselling, as well as providing general student information and advice on University-related issues via the Support Enquiry Zone (SEZ).

Planning

The Planning Office is responsible for a number of broad areas including: strategic planning, operational planning and resource allocation, performance measurement and monitoring (including KPIs and benchmarking), risk management, liaising with the Scottish Funding Council (including the development and monitoring of the University's Outcome Agreements), providing management information via the Abertay Analysis, statistics and knowledge (AASK) portal to support decision-making (including environmental scanning), and co-ordinating the University's submission to HESA.

Professional Services (Continued)

