



# Guide for Parents and Guardians

# Top 10 in the UK\* and top three in Scotland for student satisfaction

(National Student Survey 2022)

## 1st in Scotland and 3rd in the UK\* for employability and/or further study

(HESA Graduate Outcomes 2022)

## 3rd in Scotland and the UK for student experience

(The Times and Sunday Times  
Good University Guide 2023)



## 2nd in Scotland for teaching quality

(The Times and Sunday Times Good  
University Guide 2023)



## Top modern university in Scotland for graduate prospects

(Guardian University Guide 2022)

## 2nd in Scotland for learning community

(National Student Survey 2022)



We all know the important role a parent or guardian plays in their loved one's university experience. Whilst you are considering their options for life beyond school or college, this guide is designed to provide you with key information on how Robert Gordon University (RGU) supports our students at this crucial time of their lives.

## Contents:

Jargon buster .....	4
About RGU.....	6
Testimonials.....	7
Support at RGU.....	8
Employability .....	10
The Granite City .....	12
Accommodation .....	14
Widening access.....	15
Cost of living .....	16
Student finance.....	17
Countdown checklist.....	19

# Jargon buster

Our jargon buster is designed to help you understand some of the terminology associated with higher education and applying to university.

## Firm choice

After receiving an offer, the potential student has accepted this offer and confirmed it as their first choice in the UCAS system.

## UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is a UK-based organisation whose main role is to oversee the majority of applications to university courses in the UK. UCAS Track is the system used by applicants to follow the progress of their applications. UCAS Extra is a service for applicants who have used all five of their choices and have been unsuccessful or declined all offers.

## Clearing

Clearing is a UCAS service for applicants who didn't meet the criteria of their conditional offers, who declined their offers, who are considering changing their university or course choices or who have not yet applied to university. Clearing allows applicants to apply for courses that still have vacancies and some universities will lower their entry requirements during this time.

## Insurance choice

Essentially, this is the second choice selected by the potential student.

## Direct applications

The process by which an applicant applies directly to the university rather than applying through UCAS. This service is commonly used by non-EU students and the process will vary from university to university but will often involve a direct-application form and the submission of a statement of purpose.

## Entry requirements

Entry Requirements are a set of criteria that must be met in order to be offered a place on a course. These can range from academic qualifications, subject specific grades, medical requirements, interviews and admissions exams. These requirements will vary depending on subject and institution.

## Personal statement / statement of purpose

A supporting text written entirely by the applicant to showcase why they are applying to university and why they would be an ideal student for their subject area of choice. A good personal statement is essential to any university application.

## Conditional offer

An offer has been made to a potential student whereby the applicant must successfully meet certain criteria prior to being accepted. These 'conditions' are often based on academic grades.

## Confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)

A CAS is required if a student needs to apply for a Tier 4 General student visa. The CAS contains the details of the course applied for, the conditions met and also information about financial matters such as scholarships and deposits. This is shared directly with the UKVI as well as with the applicant, who includes the CAS number when applying for their visa.

## Unconditional offer

An offer has been made to a potential student whereby the applicant has fulfilled the criteria required for admission.

## Placement

Placements are an excellent opportunity for students to gain real life work experience during their studies. Placements may be paid or unpaid and can vary in duration but all will contribute towards the employability of the student.



## About RGU

Robert Gordon University is recognised as a top university in Scotland for its high quality teaching, applied learning, strong industry links, state-of-the-art facilities and demand driven courses. All of this ensures that our students will have a fantastic experience at university, while gaining the knowledge and skills required for a successful career.

Our history of preparing students for work dates back to the 17th century when Robert Gordon had a vision to provide all pupils with an education as a way to better our community. This vision to constantly create a better and brighter future for our students and the world around us is still embraced here at RGU today.

My overall experience has been extremely positive at RGU, which has been largely down to the people that I have met along the way – these are relationships which will endure beyond university and benefit me in my career going forward. However, if I had to choose one highlight, I would have to say my study abroad exchange to Canada in my second year, which enabled me to travel one of the most beautiful countries, immerse myself and learn in an unfamiliar culture, and develop myself as a global citizen who now has a network that spans across multiple continents.

**Nick Hennigan, BA (Hons)  
International Business  
Management**



As a parent, I took comfort in knowing that Nick was supported both personally and academically throughout his studies. There is an overwhelming sense that RGU staff across the board genuinely care for their students, which translates the positive outcomes achieved by students. He has emerged from his degree as a different person: one that appreciates the importance of collaborating with others to maximise outcomes, thinking beyond convention and the bottom line, and importantly working hard to succeed.

**Nick's mum**

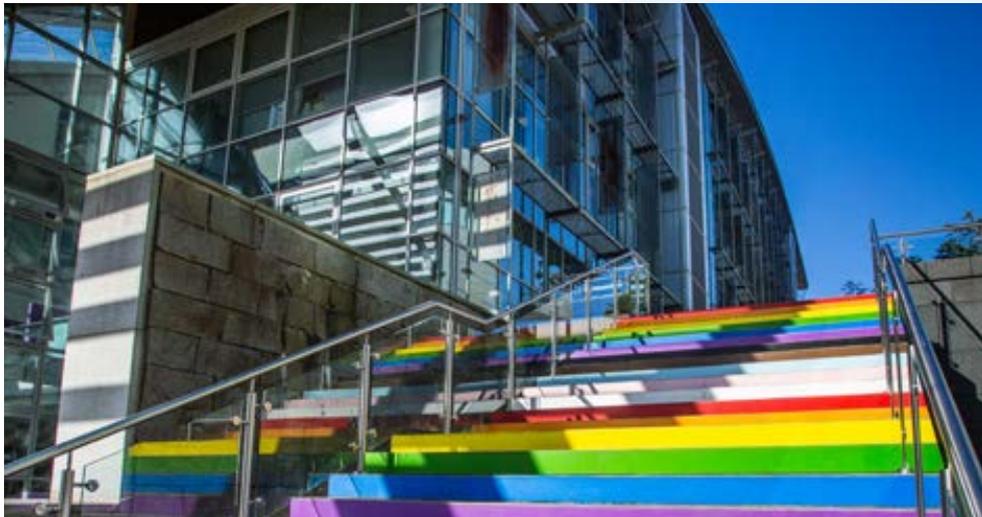
# For support when it's needed

At RGU, we understand that every student's journey is different and we are committed to ensuring that support is available when it is needed. This is reflected in us being ranked 2nd in Scotland for personal tutors (Student Crowd 2022) thanks to our efforts in supporting students as they transition to university, access support services and help them thrive beyond course work.

There are a variety of teams sharing a common goal to provide advice and support throughout the duration of our students' time here at RGU.

**Student Counselling & Wellbeing Service** – Student life at university can be exciting and rewarding, but we recognise that it can also be stressful and overwhelming. Our Wellbeing Team operate a confidential service and are here to talk over any challenges that our students may experience whilst at university.

**The Inclusion Centre** – The Inclusion Team work to ensure that our students can reach their full potential by offering confidential advice and specialist support to students with physical and sensory impairments, autism spectrum disorders, health conditions, mental health conditions, dyslexia and those with short or long-term support needs.



**LGBTQIA+ network** – RGU took part in Grampian Pride's parade for the first time in May 2019, showing its support for equality and diversity in North East Scotland. We promote a number of internal activities to support diversity and inclusion for students and staff, such as monthly rainbow film nights, providing rainbow lanyards for staff and students who wish to show their support, and promoting the internal Rainbow Network.

**Student Immigration Team** – This team provides immigration and visa support to international students, in addition to support whilst they are on campus. Throughout the year, our team will provide services including a meet & greet at Aberdeen International Airport, new student orientation and a support and advice service.

**Faith and spirituality** – RGU's chaplaincy service exists for the benefit of the whole university community and is available for people of all faiths and none. We have a dedicated prayer facility on-campus inside Kaim Cottage which is sheltered beautifully in the pines overlooking the River Dee.

**Study support** – At RGU, we understand that the transition from school to university can be challenging which is why our Study Skills Service has been created. Our team are here to support all students and to provide confidential, one-to-one advice and guidance on many aspects of academic study including academic writing, exam preparation, numeracy and much more.

For more information on life at RGU visit [www.rgu.ac.uk/life-at-rgu](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/life-at-rgu)





## For endless possibilities

We are committed to providing our students with the knowledge, tools and experience they need to achieve their future goals, whatever they may be. We do this by giving them access to a number of opportunities and support services out with their studies.

### **Links with industry**

Over many years of collaboration, RGU has developed excellent relationships with some of the world's most well-known organisations, including NHS Grampian and Shell to name just a few. These relationships allow us to constantly update the knowledge and skills taught within our curriculum so that our graduates are ready to meet industry demands.

The vast majority of our undergraduate courses offer placement or work experience opportunities, with our placement partners ranging from local business start-ups to global organisations.

[www.rgu.ac.uk/placements-at-rgu](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/placements-at-rgu)



### **Careers support**

Our Employability Hub is here to support all students and alumni on their employability journey, which includes finding part-time work during their studies and a career after they complete their course. The resources provided will help RGU graduates become experienced professionals, creative innovators, confident life-long learners and global citizens.

[www.rgu.ac.uk/employability](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/employability)

### **Innovation@RGU**

As the first university to achieve accreditation from the Scottish Innovative Student Award (SISA), RGU is working with industry to embed entrepreneurship and innovation across its courses. Our dedicated Innovation Team support students and prepares alumni for the future of work through a range of programmes, including a startup accelerator, innovation skills and tools, short courses, and bite-sized digital classes.

[www.rgu.ac.uk/innovation](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/innovation)

# Aberdeenshire & The Silver City



Set between the Rivers Don and Dee in the North East of Scotland, Aberdeen is the **3rd best place to live in the UK** (HomeViews 2022). With a population of approximately 228,000, Scotland's third most populous city is a cosmopolitan, creative and connected place, with an abundance of opportunities.

Ranked in the top **10 UK cities for desirability**, demonstrating that we are a vibrant, diverse and safe city (QS Best Student Cities 2022), Aberdeen is a place that is rich in culture, with a range of museums, art galleries, cinemas and concert venues. With more than 16,000 students in the city, studying at RGU means being part of a vibrant, student friendly city with great shops, restaurants, international food stores, nightlife and live music.

[www.visitabdn.com](http://www.visitabdn.com)



# For a home away from home

Leaving home for the first time can be one of the most exciting things about going to university, but we know that you might need some reassurance that your loved one will be safe and supported.

RGU:ResLife is a support network designed for all students in accommodation and their goal is to enhance the living experience of all RGU students. The team offer 24/7 welfare support to those living in RGU accommodation but will also advise and support those within the private sector. ResLife arrange a full social calendar for students to take part in which

can help students get to know Aberdeen whilst enabling them to socialise and integrate with others.

RGU provides accommodation for 900 students at 5 different purpose-built developments situated in the city centre and around campus. We also work closely with student accommodation providers in the private sector and our accommodation team will work with future students and their families to choose the right accommodation for them.

[www.rgu.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/accommodation)



# Widening access

At RGU, we are passionate about promoting fairness in access to university study for students from underrepresented backgrounds in higher education study. We work in partnership with regional schools and colleges from across Scotland on projects to prepare students for university study, each step along the journey.

We work with individuals who:

- Live in a 'SIMD20 postcode' area as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- Attended a partner regional secondary school.
- Have experience of care from a care-experienced or care leaver background.
- Are estranged from family (young people living independently without family or parental support).
- Have an unpaid caring role providing support to a family member or friend (unpaid carer).
- College students studying Higher National (HN) qualifications or access courses.

To find out more about the work and services of the Widening Access Team, please visit [www.rgu.ac.uk/access-rgu](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/access-rgu)

## From college to RGU

RGU welcomes applications from students who have previously or are currently studying at college. We have over 20 years of experience in helping students transition from college to university and have a range of support should you need it.

## College to RGU

HNC (1 year of study at college)



Second year direct entry at RGU \*

HND (2 years of study at college)



Third year direct entry at RGU \*

RGU's Degree Link programme offers guaranteed progression\* to our courses for students coming from college with a relevant HNC/HND qualification. To find out more about the progression opportunities available to you, please visit:

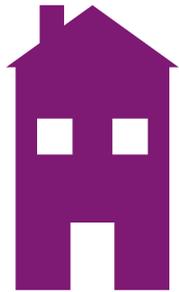
[www.rgu.ac.uk/degree-link](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/degree-link).

\*In some cases, there may be specified conditions that will need to be met by the students during their studies at college, please check our website for more information [www.rgu.ac.uk/degree-link](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/degree-link)

# Cost of living

Aberdeen is **1st in the UK for affordability** thanks to our lower living costs (QS Best Student Cities 2022).

Average costs of living in Aberdeen:



**Accommodation**  
£85 to £165 per week



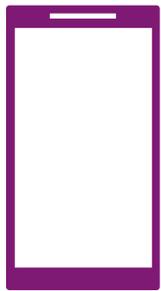
**Toiletries/Food**  
£40 per week



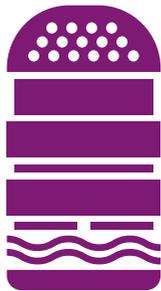
**Transport**  
Bus Fare\*  
£3.95 per day/  
£16.50 per week



**Books/Stationery/  
Photocopying**  
£25 to £45 per month



**Mobile Phone**  
£10 to £40 a month



**Eating Out**  
£7 to £15



**RGU SPORT**  
Free to £30 per month



**Cinema Ticket**  
£6 to £8

\*If you are under 22 and have a Young Scot card you may be eligible for free bus travel across Scotland!

# Student finance

## Students from Scotland

Students who live in Scotland may be eligible to have their tuition fees paid for by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). Students can also apply for a student loan to help with their living costs. Full details of support available to students in Scotland can be found at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) or **0300 555 0505**.

## Students from England, Wales & Northern Ireland

RGU has adopted a tiered approach with three bands of undergraduate tuition fees, which range from £5,660 - £9,000 for the 2023/24 academic year. These fees are reviewed annually so please visit the individual course pages of our website for up-to-date fees. Most students apply for a student loan for fees and living costs. Full details on the funding available can be found at the appropriate student finance website:

ENGLAND - [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

WALES - [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

NORTHERN IRELAND - [www.studentfinancenir.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk)

## International and EU/EEA Students

Our tuition fees can vary depending on the area of study and are reviewed annually. Up-to-date tuition fees can be found on the individual course pages of our website. A wide range of scholarships and financial awards are available to international students, full details of which are available at [www.rgu.ac.uk/scholarships](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/scholarships).

Our dedicated student finance team can be contacted at [studentfinance@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:studentfinance@rgu.ac.uk)



*“RGU has provided me with multiple opportunities, both extracurricular and through my degree, which has given me many skills which can be applied to any job discipline. The degree was very hands on and I now have **multiple transferable skills** which can be used in any work place.”*

**Natalie Campbell**

*“Natalie made the decision to leave school at the end of 5th year to start her degree at university aged 16. As parents, we were concerned but were assured after discussions with RGU staff at various events during the application process that even though Natalie was young to start university, she would cope.*

*Natalie has thoroughly enjoyed her time at RGU both socially and academically. Forensics & Analytical Sciences was the correct choice for her. It was a challenging degree which suited her enthusiastic and highly motivated approach.”*

**- Natalie's Mum**



## Countdown to university checklist

You can help your loved one prepare for university by making sure they have completed our 'countdown checklist'.

- Visit one of our Open Days, Discovery Days or Weekly Campus Visits - [www.rgu.ac.uk/visit](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/visit)

- Make sure that they accept their place and choose RGU as their firm choice

- Teach them how to cook some of their favourite home-cooked meals

- Confirm accommodation

- Identify clubs and societies to speak to during freshers' week

- Set-up a student bank account

- Contact our current students to get their advice on joining RGU at [www.rgu.ac.uk/contact-a-student](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/contact-a-student)



CHAT WITH  
OUR STUDENTS

*"Hi! I'm Rachel, a second year Fashion Management student at RGU. Moving to Aberdeen from Inverness last September, I have loved every minute of my time at RGU so far. I love spending time with friends, doing lots of cool things in and around Aberdeen, I now know the city very well! Please feel free to drop me a message with any questions about Fashion Management, societies and clubs, moving away from home, study tips or anything else you can think of!"*

**Contact us:**  
[studentrecruitment@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@rgu.ac.uk)



**ROBERT GORDON  
UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN**