

RGU Study Abroad Course Catalogue

March 2020

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General Information

→ <http://www.rgu.ac.uk>

Name and Address

OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

Robert Gordon University
Garthdee House
Garthdee Road
Aberdeen
AB10 7QB
Scotland, UK

ADDRESS OF STUDY ABROAD TEAM

Employability and Professional
Enrichment Hub
Ishbel Gordon Building
Garthdee Road
Aberdeen
AB10 7QG
Scotland, UK

Description of the Institution

RGU delivers a high-quality vocational education and relevant curriculum which provides learners with the skills they require to thrive throughout their careers. As a result, the university has a reputation for producing graduates that are highly sought after by employers. Over the last decade RGU has consistently had one of the best records of any UK university for graduate level employment. Its reputation for teaching excellence is demonstrated further through its Gold award in the UK Teaching Excellence Framework. It celebrates a high-quality student experience and is currently ranked in the top three universities in Scotland for student satisfaction. It has been named as the Scottish University of the Year in The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide, 2021.

RGU has a heritage going back 250 years and was awarded university status in 1992. Throughout its development, the university has remained committed to creating equal opportunities to access a relevant and valuable education. It is made up of eleven schools and offers over 300 courses ranging from engineering, architecture, computing, and life sciences to the creative industries, health and social care, and business. It has a student population of over 16,500, who study on-campus and online; notably, it is one of the largest providers of distance learning in the UK. Courses are developed through close collaboration with employers, professions and industry to address skills regional and national needs, and this ensures that curriculum is demand-led.

The university is making significant investment to grow its globally impactful research in key areas including sustainable transport; built environment visualisation; industrial biotechnology; smart data and artificial intelligence; and pharmacy practice. Through prioritising strategic research partnerships, the university fosters excellence in knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration. RGU is known for its close engagement with industry and has a significant track record in workforce development both nationally and

internationally. It collaborates with organisations, governments, trade bodies, industry associations and educational institutions to stimulate innovation and drive economic development.

→ [About RGU](#)

Academic Authorities

The Academic Quality Handbook, alongside the Organisational Regulations and Academic Regulations, serves as a key constituent of the University's quality assurance framework, defining and providing detailed operational guidance on the University's quality assurance procedures.

→ [Academic Governance](#)

Academic Calendar

Our Academic Year is broken into two semesters:

- Semester 1 – usually runs from September to December
- Semester 2 – usually runs from January to May

Full details are available online:

→ [Academic Calendar](#)

About Aberdeen

Aberdeen is the best Scottish city to live and work according to The Good Growth for Cities Index, (PwC, 2019). The index measures the performance of 42 of the UK's largest towns and cities against ten indicators including employment, health, income and skills, housing affordability and environmental factors.

Aberdeen also has the honour of being named the 2nd safest city in the entire United Kingdom in The Alternative UK University City League Table 2017 and the second most affordable city for students in the UK by Natwest in 2017. Aberdeen is one of the best places to be a student according to top student website Accommodation for Students.

Aberdeen is often referred to by its friendly locals as 'The Granite City', and 'The Silver City with the Golden Sands' because almost all of its buildings are made of the local grey stone, granite, and the city has spectacular sandy coastlines to the east (not to mention some of the UK's highest mountains to the west).

It is far milder here than one might expect for our northern location. The East coast is actually the sunniest area in Scotland, where sunshine hours average around 1,500 per year, ideal for the outdoor and active lifestyle which attracts huge numbers of people to the area throughout the year.

With the Grampian Mountains and Cairngorms National Park right on our doorstep, there are plentiful opportunities for mountain biking, mountain climbing, skiing, snowboarding and white water rafting within easy reach of the city.

→ [Scotland's Third Largest City](#)

Application Procedure

NOMINATION

Students should be nominated by their sending institution using our [online nomination form](#). Our nomination deadlines are:

- Semester 1 – 01 May
- Semester 2 – 01 October

APPLICATION

Incoming exchange students must complete and submit an [Application form](#) and a [Learning Agreement](#). Our application deadlines are:

- 01 June for students arriving in Semester 1
- 01 November for students arriving in Semester 2

Applications can only be submitted online. Students need to upload a fully completed and signed Learning Agreement, letter of motivation and transcript of records before the application can be submitted. Other documentation may be required, depending on which academic school you are applying to. Further information is provided in the online portal:

→ [Apply to Study at RGU through Erasmus or Exchange](#)

Once a student's application has been accepted and processed, the student will receive an email from us. This email will include the student's reference number which will allow them to apply for accommodation online at <https://www.rgu.ac.uk/roomonline>. Students will not be able to apply for university accommodation until they have received this email.

Admission Requirements

Students are expected to have relevant prior learning which should be demonstrated on the Transcript of Records. Students applying to Gray's School of Art have to submit a portfolio and a decision on admission will be based on this.

Language Policy

RGU does not currently require incoming exchange students to provide evidence of their language skills. However, students are expected to have a level of competence in English to allow them to fully participate in classes; write essays; undertake assessments (both oral and written) etc.

Students who are attending for a whole year may be required to provide evidence of English language skills as part of the visa application process. More information:

→ [UK Government - Check My Visa](#)

Arrangement for recognition of mobility and prior learning

Students are expected to provide a Transcript of Records when applying in order that staff can see that the students have the relevant academic background.

Assessment boards meet annually, usually in June. Students will be issued with final a Transcript of Records after these boards. Students studying in Semester 1 only will be issued with provisional Transcripts after their study period has been completed. Final Transcripts of Records are usually issued via our online portal in July.

ECTS Credit Allocation Policy

Students will be awarded ECTS credits for work successfully undertaken and these will be shown on the Transcript of Records which is issued after a study period has been completed.

The number of ECTS allocated to each module is available:

→ [ECTS Module Guides](#)

Arrangements for Academic Guidance

Each academic School has a named [Exchange Coordinator](#) who incoming students can approach in the first instance for any questions they may have related to their studies. The Exchange Coordinators are all members of academic staff.

List of Programmes Offered

Selected modules are available to incoming exchange students. A full list of modules is available from the website:

→ [ECTS Modules](#)

N.B. Students cannot pick and choose modules from different courses or years of course. We have provided partially completed Learning Agreements for all our courses which accept incoming exchange students and these can be accessed online.

Learning Facilities

RGU has recently invested more than £100 million in the development of its campus, an ongoing project, and in new facilities and resources.

→ [University Library](#)

→ [IT Facilities](#)

→ [RGU Learning Facilities](#)

Practical Information for Incoming Students - Before Departure

Accommodation

UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

The Accommodation Services Team endeavours to provide accommodation for all exchange students who book in advance as long as they have submitted a fully completed application form and Learning Agreement by 01 June for Semester 1 and 01 November for Semester 2.

N.B. Any University accommodation rented out to exchange students can only be rented for a minimum of one whole semester, i.e mid-September to December and January to May.

If you wish to stay in University accommodation, you must do so by applying online at [Roomonline](#) Please note that you will not be able to apply for accommodation online until such time as you have received a letter of acceptance from us.

All of our accommodation is self-catering. Full information, including prices, locations and what is provided in each residence, is available online:

→ [RGU Accommodation](#)

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Exchange students may wish to stay in private accommodation, however, if they choose to do this, then they are responsible for sourcing this themselves.

→ [Alternative Accommodation](#)

Cost of Living

It is estimated that for stay in Aberdeen of 4 months, you may need approximately £3,000 and £3,500 to cover living costs depending on your individual lifestyle and the duration of your stay. These costs would include accommodation, food, books and travel expenses.

→ [Cost of Living](#)

Financial Support for Erasmus Students

The European Commission provides funding through the Erasmus+ Programme which is designed to aid students who wish to study or work in another Erasmus participating country as part of their degree.

You may be entitled to an Erasmus grant, which you would receive from your sending university, if eligible. Erasmus grants are intended to be supplementary funding and are not designed to cover the total cost of studying abroad.

N.B. Students should check with their sending institution whether Erasmus funding is available for mobilities to the UK.

Entering the Country and Visas

You may need a visa to enter the UK. Information on visas and how to apply for them are available online from the UK Government's website at

→ [UK Government - Check My Visa](#)

For details on entering the UK, please refer to the UK Government website:

→ [UK Government - UK Border Control](#)

Enrolment

Students will receive further information regarding enrolment close to their date of arrival.

→ [Enrolment Information](#)

With your student ID card, you will be allowed access to all University premises and facilities. With your student card you will also be able to benefit from some of the student discounts that are on offer to students within Aberdeen. For example, you can get discounts in certain cinemas, sports facilities, restaurants and nightclubs.

Insurance

It is strongly recommended that students who are on a study/work visit to Aberdeen are insured. Your insurance policy should be fully comprehensive and cover you in the event of medical emergencies as well as your property.

Clothing

When coming to Aberdeen from another climate, remember to bring warm clothing, as the Scottish weather can be unpredictable. So do not forget to bring fleeces, an umbrella and/or waterproof clothing. A waterproof jacket with a hood is essential.

On Arrival

Arriving in Aberdeen

When making travel arrangements, students who are staying in RGU accommodation are advised to arrive Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am - 5pm. This is preferable as staff are on site during these times and can allow you access to your accommodation. If you think that you may arrive outside these times, you should contact the Accommodation Services who will arrange for someone to be on site at your arrival time to give you access to your accommodation.

Accommodation Services

Tel: + (44) (0)1224 262129

Email: accommodation@rgu.ac.uk

If your arrival coincides with the beginning of the academic year (September), you will be greeted at the airport or train station, provided that you have completed the necessary form prior to arrival. This form can be downloaded from www.rgu.ac.uk/roomonline after you have applied for accommodation. Please note that you will have to make your own way to your accommodation.

From the Airport

TAXIS

The taxi fare from the airport to your accommodation will cost approximately £15.00 to £30.00. Taxis are available from outside the terminal.

BUS

The Jet Service 727 runs regularly from the airport to Union Square bus station, which is in the city centre. Fare information and timetables are available:

→ [Stagecoach Bus - Jet Service 727](#)

From the Bus/Train Station

The taxi fare to Woolmanhill, Meal Market or Garthdee will cost approximately £5.00 - £12.00. Taxis are available from inside the railway station, which is next to the bus station.

Medical Facilities

→ [Medical Services](#)

If you are coming to study for one semester only., you may be entitled to free healthcare under the NHS. Full information on your entitlement can be found at:

→ [NHS Inform - Overseas Students](#)

Students who are coming for a whole year may be have pay the NHS surcharge when they apply for a visa:

→ [UK Government - Check My Visa](#)

Dentists

If you require dental treatment, you will have to pay for all the treatment you receive. There are numerous dentists in Aberdeen, both National Health Service dentists and private ones, although there may be a waiting list to see an NHS dentist.

→ [Scottish Dental - Register with a Dentist](#)

Banking

If you wish to open a UK bank account, it is advisable to choose a bank that is within a reasonable distance of where you will be living or studying. Most banks will require certain documentation in order to open an account. It is advisable to take along four documents:

- Student ID Card
- Passport
- A letter with your Aberdeen address
- Letter of Acceptance from RGU Some banks may also ask you for a letter of confirmation of enrolment from Robert Gordon University. You can request a letter from the Student Help Point on [AskRGU](#).

The majority of banks are open from 9 am to 5pm/5.30 pm.

If your bank card displays a Visa or Mastercard symbol then you may be able to withdraw money from ATMs, however, you may be charged for this. It is advisable to check with your own bank in your home country before you leave.

Some of the banks in Aberdeen are:

- The Royal Bank of Scotland
- The Clydesdale Bank
- Lloyds/TSB
- Barclays Bank
- The Bank of Scotland

Living in Aberdeen

Student Life Department

The Student Life Department provides access to the following support and advice services:

- [Student Help Point](#)
- [Study Support Services](#)
- [IT Facilities and Helpdesk](#)
- [The Inclusion Centre: Disability and Dyslexia](#)
- [Counselling and Wellbeing](#)
- [Medical Services](#)
- [Visa and Immigration Advice](#)
- [Religious Support](#)

Travel

Aberdeen has a good bus service that operates in and around the city centre and to the various campuses of the University. Students can travel between the city centre and Garthdee by using services 1, 1A and 2.

→ [Transport](#)

Standard First Aberdeen buses in Aberdeen operate on an exact fare basis - i.e. you pay the exact money as you will not be given any change. However, you can also pay with a contactless debit/credit card or via Apple Pay/ Google Pay. While staying in Aberdeen you can purchase a bus pass that will give you unlimited travel within the city. These passes can be purchased for a period of 1 day, 1 week, 1 month or 3 months.

FIRST BUS

→ [First Group - Aberdeen](#)

First bus also has an app that you can use on your smartphone. It allows you to buy tickets in advance and use your phone to get on the bus. More information:

→ [First Group - mTickets](#)

RAIL

A 16-25 Railcard gives you discount on rail travel. It can be purchased online or at all major railway stations. It costs approximately £30. For up-to-date information, please consult the railcard website:

→ [16-25 Railcard](#)

Timetable and fare information:

→ [Scotrail](#)

ResLife

RGU: ResLife ensures that all RGU students benefit from the University experience and have all the available resources on hand to help them succeed personally, socially and academically. This service is available to all students, whether they live in RGU or private accommodation.

→ [Reslife](#)

Meals

There are food outlets in all of the main buildings on the Garthdee Campus, each offering something slightly different. These outlets are normally open during the day. While the times may vary during the assessment period, catering is not usually available in the evenings.

→ [Catering](#)

The Student Association

Going to university isn't just about getting a degree. There is an entire lifestyle that comes with being a student. Although studying is a big part of it, it is also about the overall experience; trying new things, being adventurous and making the most of the opportunities available to you.

The Students' Union is all about making your experience the best it can be. Our purpose is to support students by providing a number of different services and opportunities for you to get involved in. Being a student gives you the opportunity to try any number of exciting new things, such as being part of a sports team or society, taking part in student activities or trips, volunteering, raising money for charity, or simply meeting new people! The list is endless, but the bottom line is that we are here to help students, and that is our number one priority.

→ [RGU Union](#)

The Inclusion Centre: Disability and Dyslexia

The Inclusion team have many years' experience of supporting students with dyslexia, sensory and mobility impairments, mental health difficulties, medical conditions, autism spectrum disorders and temporary impairments, such as broken limbs.

The centre can provide:

- Exam arrangements such as extra time
- Dyslexia screening and evaluation
- In-house assessment of needs
- Liaison with external agencies, for example the Autism Initiatives or the RNIB
- Support in organising in-class support

→ [Inclusion Centre](#)

English Language Courses

The Study Skills tutor team supports students to develop their knowledge of English language for academic purposes.

→ [Study Support Services](#)

Sports Facilities

RGU SPORT has state-of-the-art sports facilities available and acts as a social hub for the Garthdee campus. A range of classes suitable for all abilities and interests is available. Whatever your goals are there is something for everyone.

RGU SPORT is also home of over 30 sports clubs ranging from football to curling, weightlifting to cheerleading. Everyone is welcome whether you are looking to try something new or are a high level, performance athlete.

→ [RGU SPORT](#)

University Societies and Sports Clubs

There is a wide variety of Societies and Sports Clubs that you can get involved with.

Membership of a Society or Sports Club provides excellent social activities and great opportunities to make new friends. Find out more about the Societies and Sports Clubs at Freshers Fayre, which is held at the beginning of Semester 1, the Societies Fayre at the beginning of Semester 2:

→ [RGU Union](#)

ESN

There is an active Exchange Student Society at RGU which is run by students for students, called ESN RGU. It is part of the wider Erasmus Student Network, which is a collection of student societies that work together all across Europe. ESN RGU arranges many events throughout the Academic Year, from pub

quizzes to murder mystery tours to trips to Edinburgh! Membership also grants discounts in many of the pubs and clubs in Aberdeen. You can find them on Facebook by searching for "ESN RGU".

Student Counselling and Wellbeing Centre

Coming to a foreign university can be an exciting and rewarding time. It can also bring changes into your life which at times might become stressful. There is a wide range of personal, emotional and academic issues which might affect you during your time at RGU.

Asking for help when feeling stressed or worried is a positive step to make to maintain emotional health and wellbeing.

If you feel that you need help, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Counselling and Wellbeing Centre:

Counselling and Wellbeing Centre

Ishbel Gordon Building

Garthdee

Tel: (01224) 262120

Email: counselling@rgu.ac.uk

→ [**Counselling & Wellbeing**](#)

If you require immediate help and cannot contact the centre, please contact:

- Your GP
- Emergency services (999) in life threatening situations

Other 24 hour helplines include:

- The Samaritans – 116 123
- NHS 24 – 111

Public Holidays

Usually the last Monday in September is a local holiday and the University will be closed. Other holidays include:

- New Year's Day and 02 January
- Aberdeen Spring Holiday (April)
- Aberdeen Summer Holiday (July)
- Aberdeen Autumn Holiday (September)
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day

Electricity

The voltage of electricity in the UK is much greater than in most other countries. If you intend to bring any electrical appliances with you, please bear in mind that you may need an adaptor/transformer as the sockets are completely different also. Please check before use as if voltage is not sufficiently reduced it may irreparably damage your appliance.

TV Licence

You need to be covered by a valid TV licence if you watch or record TV as it's being broadcast, irrespective of what channel you're watching, what device you are using (TV, computer, laptop, mobile phone or any other) and how you receive them (terrestrial, satellite, cable, via the Internet or any other way). If you don't have a licence you risk prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000. A colour licence costs around £150.50 for 12 months.

You need your own separate TV licence if you live in halls of residence and watch or record TV in your room while it's being broadcast. Further information can be found on Accommodation Services' website or:

→ [TV Licensing](#)

Communication

MOBILE PHONES

Many mobile phones will work in the UK, however, it is advisable to check with your service provider before you leave your home country. UK mobile phones are readily available in supermarkets and specialist shops, both on "pay as you go" and "pay monthly" tariffs.

Shop Opening Hours

Most shops are open from 9am to 5pm/5.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and from 9am to 8pm on Thursdays. Many shops are open on a Sunday. The bigger supermarkets are open most days until at least 10pm, while some are open for 24 hours.

What's On

If you would like to know what is happening in Aberdeen then you can pick up monthly guides such as:

- 'Arts and Recreation Listings'
- 'What's On' – also online:

→ [Visit Aberdeenshire - What's On](#)

These are available from the Tourist Information Office and other places of interest.

Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Police - 999
- Ambulance - 999
- Fire - 999

Please note that these numbers are for EMERGENCIES ONLY.

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

- Operator – 100
- International Operator - 155

Directory Enquiries - there are several numbers, each charging different amounts, examples of these are 118 118, 118 500 and 118 247. You can also search for directory enquires online.

- Police Scotland– 101 (for non-emergencies)
- Foresterhill Hospital - 0345 456 6000
- NHS 24 – 111

Embassies and Consulates

If you lose your passport or ID card or need any other advice, you should contact your local Embassy or Consulate.

→ [**UK Government - Foreign Embassies in the UK**](#)