University of St Andrews
FOUNDED 1413

International Foundation Programmes
2022-2023
About St Andrews

The University of St Andrews is a world top 100 university (QS University World Rankings 2022), ranked first in the UK according to The Times and The Sunday Times University Guide 2022. St Andrews is also the highest ranked Scottish university in the Complete University Guide 2022 and Guardian University Guide 2022.

St Andrews is a leading university with a world-class reputation for academic excellence and student satisfaction; it is also a unique place to study and live. Welcoming hundreds of international students each year, the coastal Scottish town of St Andrews is compact – just two square miles – and the University’s buildings are spread throughout the oldest and newest parts of town, making the town and University interconnected and highly cosmopolitan.

About our International Foundation programmes

International Foundation programmes (IFPs) at the University of St Andrews are International Pathway courses that enable students to meet the demands of a degree programme in the UK, and at St Andrews in particular. The programmes combine academic subjects with English language development and the skill set required for successful undergraduate study.

Our International Foundation students:
- are ‘overseas’ for fees purposes.
- have a high school qualification (or mixed curriculum) not recognised for degree entry.
- typically use English as an additional language.

To check your eligibility for International Foundation programmes at St Andrews, please email ifp@st-andrews.ac.uk.
International Foundation programmes

International Foundation programmes at St Andrews prepare high-achieving international students for the demands of an undergraduate degree at St Andrews or another UK university. The programmes offer both September and January entry dates and deliver modules in a range of academic subjects, providing routes onto a wide variety of degree programmes.

Medical Sciences (International Pre-Med)
September entry
This programme is designed to prepare you for success in our Medicine degree.

You are guaranteed a place on the Medicine degree at St Andrews if you successfully pass the International Foundation programme and the additional School of Medicine criteria as outlined here:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/ifp/medical-sciences-september/#d.en.131466

Central to this Medical Sciences programme is an ethos of co-operation and collaboration amongst the students. This is achieved through group work and projects in the context of a supportive environment for personal and academic growth.

Medical Sciences (Extended International Pre-Med)
September and January entry
The Extended International Pre-Med programmes have the option of a September and a January start date. Both programmes are taught over four semesters. Year 1 focuses on studying sciences as you build knowledge about Medicine. In Year 2 we encourage you to work more collaboratively and independently on science for Medicine.

Our interactive teaching and learning experiences will help students understand what it means to study medicine and to be a doctor. Extended International Pre-Med students will be offered classes to prepare them for the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT). They will sit the UCAT in the summer before Year 2.

“The programme is highly focused on skills, which are useful in order to be able to study at the University as an undergraduate. These skills include essay writing skills, time management, citation and references, research skills, etc. From personal experience, these skills have never been taught in my school in Dubai (at least not as deeply). And many of my friends feel the same way. The IFP helped to smooth the transition between the curriculums in our home countries and the curriculum of the University.”

Adyl (Dubai, UAE)
For me the whole experience of the IFP at St Andrews has been an adventure I have cherished, and I am pretty sure that the experience will have a huge impact on my future life. I find myself very lucky to have spent such an amazing time with wonderful teachers and students who were very supportive and a big joy to be around!

Bohyun (Busan, South Korea)

Science subjects

Science (International Year One)
September entry
This integrated foundation and first year programme enables students to progress directly onto the second year (Y2) of their degree. It also offers students a guarantee of fixed fees over their four years of study.

Depending on your intended degree, you will typically study subjects such as molecular and cellular biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and statistics, Earth sciences, geography, computer science, and psychology.

Science (International Year Zero)
January entry
This multi-discipline programme enables students to complete their studies in time to enter university in September of the same year. Students have the potential to progress onto a single or joint Honours degree within the Faculty of Science.

Arts subjects

Business – Management, Economics and Finance (International Year Zero)
September and January entry
This business-orientated programme facilitates the transition from high school to the first year of undergraduate study in a range of academic disciplines including Management, Economics, Financial Economics and Mathematics.

Social Sciences and Humanities (International Year Zero)
September and January entry
This programme equips students with the intellectual and linguistic skills appropriate to the demands of undergraduate Arts degrees such as Psychology, History, International Relations, and Philosophy. Students have the potential to progress onto a single or joint Honours degree within the Faculty of Arts.

Why study foundation at St Andrews
Our class sizes are small – typically a maximum of 16 students – and we monitor the progress of our students closely, providing individual support and guidance, including routine meetings with a personal tutor.

Students typically have 16-18 hours of contact time each week and we teach through a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials and classes. Students on the Science and Medical Sciences programmes will also have practicals including laboratories.

After the International Foundation programme
Students who successfully complete their International Foundation programme are guaranteed a place on an undergraduate course at St Andrews, although Medicine students must meet additional criteria.
As well as International Foundation programmes, the University of St Andrews offers undergraduate, Masters and doctoral-level programmes, and we provide summer school courses that enable high-school students (16-18 years old) to experience life as a student at a top British university.

The University of St Andrews has more than 600 years of history, so student life is rich with traditions and extracurricular options that combine to offer a strong sense of community and an outstanding student experience.

In St Andrews you will find more than you would ever expect in a town of our size. There are at least 160 societies and sports clubs, opportunities to get involved in music and theatre, evening languages, volunteering and more. This, together with our internationally renowned teaching system, has resulted in St Andrews being named the UK’s top university for student satisfaction for the thirteenth time in the past 15 years (National Student Survey 2021).

Studying at St Andrews offers you the opportunity to learn at one of the most extraordinary universities in the world. Highly ranked across league tables and with a global outlook, St Andrews offers you a high quality, passionately taught education in a historic and welcoming setting.

To experience St Andrews for yourself before you apply for a place on a International Foundation programme, why not try a three-week taster of life as a student by enrolling on a Summer Academic Experience course?

Find out about our summer school courses at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/non-degree-courses/summer-courses/academic-experience

Learn more about the St Andrews student experience at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/why/experience

“Your university experience is more than just academic. There are hundreds of activities you can get involved with at St Andrews and there’s always something new to try.”

Gavin Sandford, Director of Student Development and Activities, Students' Association
Accommodation

We recommend that our students stay at David Russell Apartments (DRA) during their pre-degree programme. Being in University halls enables international students to make friends quickly and it enhances their learning and acculturation experience.

These award-winning eco-friendly halls are just a short walk from the International Education Institute and Faculty of Science buildings.

Every apartment has five study bedrooms, each with its own private shower and toilet, and a shared living space and fully equipped kitchen. There is high-speed internet access and free in-room telephone access to all Schools and Departments within the University. DRA’s Wardenial Team encourages a sense of community across all apartments and is the first point of contact for any problems as well offering support for students.

See more information about DRA at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/accommodation/halls/dra

Fees and how to apply

Current programme fees can be found online at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/study-options/foundation/fees

The tuition fee includes:

- Access to all University facilities
- A transfer from Edinburgh or Glasgow airport, or Leuchars train station, when you first arrive
- The use of course books, handouts and other course materials
- laboratory coats and dissection kits, as required.

Applications are online and direct and there is no application fee. If you send us your most recent transcript and a personal statement when you apply, we aim to give you a decision within two weeks. We make offers when we believe a student has the potential to succeed and we may invite you to an interview by Skype or telephone to find out more about you.

Applications for September entry are open from early October to late-July. For January entry, you can apply between early March and late-November.

Apply online at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/subjects/study-options/foundation/apply
Curriculum Development

As a research intensive institution, the University ensures that its teaching references the research interests of its staff, which may change from time to time. As a result, programmes are regularly reviewed with the aim of enhancing students’ learning experience.

Our approach to course revision is described at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/policy/academic-policies-curriculum-curriculum-at-st-andrews/curriculum-at-st-andrews.pdf

 Photographs by: Spencer Bentley, broad daylight, Nick Callaghan, Marcell Kovacs, Gabrielle Levey, Mevist, Caroline Trotter, Oli Walker and Laurence Winram

Produced by Print & Design, University of St Andrews, October 2021.

The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC013532.