



University of  
St Andrews | FOUNDED  
1413

# Summer Academic Experience Courses

Ages 16-18

11 July - 1 August 2026

## Overview

The University of St Andrews pre-university Summer Academic Experience Courses are the only ones of their kind officially run by a Scottish university.

The Summer Academic Experience Courses give you the opportunity to broaden your knowledge of your chosen academic subject in an intellectually stimulating environment and to experience university-level teaching and learning in the distinctive Scottish system. Unless otherwise noted, all courses include sessions designed to develop your academic writing, as well as research and presentation skills relevant to the academic subject being studied. You will also have the opportunity to meet with Admissions staff and to find out about application to UK universities.

The academic courses are further enhanced by extensive field trips and visits to places of cultural and historical interest.

Courses available this year:

- **Cinema, Ideas and Society**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship**
- **Medicine**
- **Physical Science, Mathematics and Computer Science**
- **Psychology and Neuroscience**
- **Social Science and Humanities**
- **Sustainable Development**

## The University of St Andrews

Founded in  
**1413**

**1st**  
University in  
Scotland

The University of St Andrews is located in the medieval town of St Andrews, a thriving, close-knit community of around **20,000** people.

Beautiful old stone buildings, quaint narrow lanes and broad, tree-lined streets contribute to the **unique** and **tranquil** atmosphere.

The town nestles atop a rocky headland on the **east coast** of **Scotland**, with breathtaking views, and is located just north of the capital city Edinburgh.

There are regular **flights** to Scotland from London, Europe and international destinations. The nearest international airports are Edinburgh (one hour) and Glasgow (two hours). All students are met on arrival by our staff and transferred directly to St Andrews.



# Summer Academic Experience Courses

## Cinema, Ideas and Society

Blending elements of Film Studies, Philosophy and Anthropology, this course will offer you a chance to deepen your understanding of cinema and the role it plays both as a cultural phenomenon and in relation to each of us as individual viewers. In the process, you will gain an opportunity to explore a wide range of topics and get a feel for the disciplines involved in the course. You will learn about some critical concepts underpinning how we think about cinema, hone your textual analysis skills, participate in class debates and meet stimulating thinkers as well as professional critics. You will develop a more nuanced understanding of how films, and art in general, influence the way we look at the world, society, and ourselves. Through in-class viewings and access to the vast collection of titles in our library, you will discover new works, develop your interpretive skills and try your hand at criticism by completing a film diary project.

## Creative Writing

Covering genres including fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry, this course is for anyone who wants to develop their own creative writing. As well as focusing on craft, you will be introduced to the work of leading contemporary authors and learn about making a career as a writer. You will be taught by award-winning Scottish writers and have the opportunity to gain feedback on your own creative work. Whether you are an experienced writer who wants to take their work to the next level, love literature and want to learn more, or simply want to explore a new skill, this course is for you.

## Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship

With contributions from the Schools of Management and Economics & Finance, you will explore current business issues and questions, take part in simulated business scenarios, undertake a marketing project and discover how businesses of the future could become more sustainable.

## Medicine

This course in the School of Medicine gives you an insight into the practice of medicine in the UK, the unique application process, the UCAT testing and a chance to practise for MMIs (multiple mini interviews). You will attend lectures, conduct experiments and collect data in our laboratories, as well as visit the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh.

## Physical Science, Mathematics and Computer Science

This course in the Faculty of Science comprises academic input from the Schools of Chemistry, Physics & Astronomy, Mathematics & Statistics and Computer Science. Laboratory sessions, a computer science project, field trips and a visit to the University Observatory add to this popular course.

## Psychology and Neuroscience

From biological brains to social minds: this course delivers contemporary teaching across a broad range of areas, led by researchers from the School of Psychology & Neuroscience. We will cover topics such as developmental and cultural psychology, cognition, perception, the biology of neurons and disorders of the nervous system. You will also have a chance to complete a research project, during which you will engage with hypothesis formation, research design, data collection and interpretation.

## Social Science and Humanities

This course is designed to give you an introduction to the study of subjects in the Social Sciences and Humanities at university level. The course will typically consist of contributions from the Schools of Psychology & Neuroscience, History, Philosophical, Anthropological & Film Studies, International Relations and Modern Languages.

## Sustainable Development

This Summer Study course is offered by the School of Geography & Sustainable Development, which prides itself of its unique, interdisciplinary flagship programme in SD. You will be able to gain an overview of the key debates and research interests of our School and will have the opportunity to explore and critically discuss some of the principles and practices associated with Sustainable Development. Like our degree programmes in Sustainable Development, our Summer Study course is innovative, interdisciplinary, and dynamic. You will be able to explore different scientific and conceptual approaches to sustainability, and discuss and reflect on societal values and core themes such as justice and security, while also actively engaging with tools of implementation. We will introduce you to a range of disciplines and skills associated with SD research and practice and towards the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to design and develop a small group project on an SD theme of your choice. This course encourages you to look beyond the UN Sustainable Development Goals and actively consider how the goals can be pursued and implemented in practical and equitable ways.

New course may become available, please check [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/go/saec](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/go/saec) for more detailed course descriptions

# Facilities

## Halls of residence

You will be housed in comfortable bedrooms in one of the University's halls of residence. Dedicated staff members are on hand to provide pastoral care, emergency first aid response and to ensure your safety and wellbeing. The team is also there to organise extracurricular activities and ensure you have a whole lot of fun!

## Sports Centre

You have free access to the University Sports Centre, including the gym, playing fields and indoor and outdoor courts.

## Library

All students are able to use the superb University Library with over a million volumes. There is free access to computers and Wi-Fi in the halls of residence and around the University. Your student ID card will allow you to use printers throughout the University.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2025, the Summer Academic Experience Courses welcomed 160 students from 38 different countries



# Social and cultural activities

Classroom teaching on all courses is complemented by cultural excursions and outings to a number of sites of historic, cultural and scientific importance. These usually include but are not limited to:

Day trips to explore the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow / A visit to the Stirling Castle / V&A Dundee / Captain Scott's RRS Discovery, Dundee

We offer an extensive social sporting programme for students subject to the availability of supervisory staff where appropriate:

The Talent Show / Sports / Beach activities / Quiz nights / Movie nights / Karaoke night / Debate Night / Ceilidh / Highland games / Night out at Club 601 in the Students' Union / International Exchange night / Pick & Mix activities to suit all interests

We offer an extensive social sporting programme for students subject to the availability of supervisory staff where appropriate:

General access to the Sports Centre playing fields, courts and gym / Beach volleyball / Mini golf at the famous Himalayas links course / Beach boot camp / Table tennis / Zumba / Urban obstacle course / Yoga

# How to Apply

Apply online:

[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/go/saec](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/go/saec)

The all-inclusive fee for the Summer Courses covers:

Tuition / Accommodation in University halls of residence / Three meals per day / Textbooks and reading material / Field trips and excursions / Sports Centre membership / All social and cultural events and activities / Airport transfer to and from St Andrews on arrival and departure

Please see our website for 2026 fees.

Applications should be submitted online where you will be asked to provide supporting documentation.

The Summer Academic Experience Courses operate a rolling admissions policy so early application is strongly advised, as places are limited and do fill up quickly.

Upon receiving an offer of a place a non-refundable deposit of £500 is payable in order to accept your offer and reserve your place.

## Summer Academic Experience Courses

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**No.1**  
**Scottish University**

*The Guardian*  
*University Guide 2026* and  
*The Times and The Sunday Times*  
*Good University Guide 2026*



**Stunning**  
**coastal location**

**Cosmopolitan**  
**community**



**Top 2**  
**University**

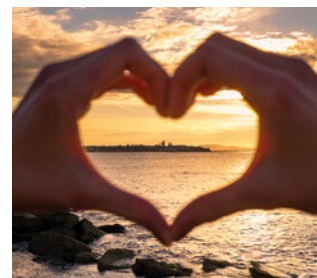
*The Guardian*  
*University Guide 2026* and  
*The Times and The Sunday Times*  
*Good University Guide 2026*

**4** Year  
**Degree programmes**  
**offering flexibility**  
**and choice**



**Over 600**  
**years of academic**  
**excellence**

**~10,200**  
**Students**



[www.st-andrews.ac.uk](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk)

### 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/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/course-revision-protocol.pdf](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/course-revision-protocol.pdf)

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