Self-Guided Tour

University of St Andrews
Scotland’s first university – 1413
Welcome!

The University of St Andrews is a world-class institution renowned for its teaching quality, community feel and stunning location. During this tour we hope you get a feel for the University, the town and what it is like to be a student here.

This tour will guide you around many of the University’s main buildings and facilities, such as St Salvator’s Quad, the Students’ Association and the Library. It will also introduce you to some of the University’s many traditions and provide a little insight into student life here. The full tour will take approximately 90 minutes.

Many of our students love that the town is our campus and that we are really integrated into the community. St Andrews is unique in many respects and stays in students’ hearts long after they graduate, with many finding themselves returning to the charms of the town.

We hope you enjoy your day and choose to make St Andrews a part of your future, just as we did!

“I decided St Andrews was for me after I enrolled in the Guided Access Programme (GAP) whilst I was still in my sixth year of high school. The programme gave me a taster of university life as I studied two St Andrews modules alongside my subjects at school. St Andrews is very cosmopolitan—every week you’ll meet someone from a different part of the world that has a unique story to tell. Studying at St Andrews is an experience that has lifelong benefits. The education you are given will open so many doors for you in the future. The people you meet at St Andrews will not just be short-term acquaintances – they will become friends for life.”

Jonathan, current student from Scotland

“I decided to come to St Andrews because I was looking for a unique educational experience for university. St Andrews offered a global community that I could engage with inside and outside the classroom. It is quite a special place to live and a beautiful place to be in the world. The traditions and small town bring St Andrews students closer together, but with the ease of connecting with Edinburgh when you need more of a city feel. Our social lives are always full of unique, creative and cultural events. Life in St Andrews never stops, but in a way that is fun and engaging and keeps things interesting. In many ways, St Andrews has felt like an adventure, but it has also become a home.”

Emma, current student from the USA
Admissions

St Katharine’s West is the home of our Admissions team. Our Admissions staff are here to answer any questions you may have, including entry requirements, studying at St Andrews, student life, scholarships and anything else you would like to know.

Office hours Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.
T: +44(0)1334 463325   E: admissions@st-andrews.ac.uk

From the front entrance as you leave the building, turn right at the bottom of the steps and walk along the road – this is The Scores.

The Scores

The Scores is home to a variety of different University academic Schools and buildings:

- School of History
- School of Classics
- University House – the Principal’s accommodation
- MUSA – the Museum of the University of St Andrews holds four galleries each with a different exhibition.
- Philosophy – two doors for Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics
- School of Economics & Finance
- School of English
- St Andrews Castle is an important historical point of interest. Student drama groups use the ruins as a backdrop for some of their performances and in spring the University holds ‘The Ceilidh at the Castle’.

There are many other academic Schools spread throughout the town, some of which we will be visiting later on in the tour. Keep an eye out for others around the town!

Keep walking along The Scores, walk down past the Castle, alongside the Cathedral and down the small path to the Pier.
The University of St Andrews is over 600 years old. With its age come many traditions:

**The Pier Walk** – Every Sunday at noon, students wear their red gowns and meet in St Salvator’s Quad. They walk down to the Pier and out along it, climb the ladder at the end and walk back along the higher section of the Pier.

**Red Gowns** – In the sixteenth century, gowns helped identify students as young as 13 and prevent them from getting into trouble. The gowns are now completely optional and often worn on special occasions. They are worn slightly differently throughout the years of study:

First year – on the shoulders.

Second year – hanging off the shoulders.

Third year Science students – off the right shoulder (because Science students are always right).

Third year Arts students – off the left shoulder (because Arts students have hearts).

Fourth year – round both elbows (showing they are ready to drop their undergraduate gown and pick up their graduation robe).

**The Gaudie and May Dip** – On the last day in April, there is a special sunset Pier walk known as The Gaudie, honouring former student John Honey for his bravery in saving five sailors who were shipwrecked off the coast. Students then stay up sitting around bonfires on the beach and at sunrise everybody charges into the North Sea. This is known as May Dip.

Walk back beside the harbour then up a street through the archway (called The Pends). When you reach South Street turn left and keep walking for 350m until you reach a white archway on the left with a Latin inscription and a black gate. Head through this to reach St Mary’s Quad.
**St Mary’s Quad**

Walk through the archway with the Latin inscription (In the beginning was the word) into St Mary’s Quadrangle. On the right is St Mary’s College, which is one of the older parts of the University, founded in 1539, and home to the School of Divinity. The School of Psychology & Neuroscience is on the left behind the evergreen holm oak tree and farther down is the Bute Building which includes the Bell Pettigrew zoology museum that is open to the public in July and August every Tuesday and Friday 2pm to 5pm, or by appointment.

Head back out through the archway and turn left onto South Street. Cross the road and walk down Church Street, which is to the right hand side of the church. Turn right when you get to Market Street and follow the road round the corner onto Union Street. On your left you will find the Buchanan Building, which is home to the School of Modern Languages. At the end of Union Street turn right onto North Street and walk along until you find Younger Hall on the left.

**Younger Hall**

Younger Hall is the University’s Music Centre. Music is a huge part of student life with many students being involved in bands, orchestras and choirs. This large building houses a concert hall seating up to 1,000 people and is the main concert venue in St Andrews – we have even had Pink Floyd perform here! Younger Hall is also where the graduation ceremonies take place each June and November/December. After the graduation ceremony, the new graduates make their way along North Street to St Salvator’s Quad.

Follow in their footsteps! Turn your back to Younger Hall and turn right. Walk down North Street until you reach the PH which is in the cobblesstones at the foot of St Salvator’s Chapel tower.

**The PH**

Do not step on the PH! Legend says that any student who steps on the PH will have bad luck causing them to fail their final exams. This superstition stems from Patrick Hamilton, an early Protestant reformer, who was burnt at the stake here for the crime of preaching heresy in 1528 during the Reformation. It is said that he cursed the University as he died. Groups of students walking along North Street can be seen to “part like the Red Sea” as they reach the PH to avoid stepping on it.

Go through the gates beneath the Chapel’s tower to enter St Salvator’s Quad.
St Salvator’s Quad

The Quad is at the geographical and spiritual heart of the University. St Salvator’s Chapel is the oldest remaining part of the University, dating from the fifteenth century.

Raisin Weekend is a student tradition that celebrates Academic Families; an informal network of support for first year students, where third year students ‘adopt’ first years to create a family unit. After taking part in a variety of festivities throughout the weekend – including fancy dress and a scavenger hunt – the celebration ends in a giant shaving foam fight on Lower College Lawn, just below St Salvator’s Quad.

Facing away from the chapel you will see that in the west wall on your left is a gate which leads through to a footpath. Go through this and turn left. A few steps up the path there is an archway on your right. Head through the archway to find the Main Library.

The Library

The recently redeveloped library can hold around 1,000 students in a variety of study spaces throughout the building. It is open between 8am and 2am, seven days a week. The Library holds an extensive selection of resources – print and electronic collections, a substantial media collection and many databases. There are also departmental libraries throughout the University that hold a wider range of specialised books and students can often find 24 hour study spaces in their hall of residence.

Facing the glass entrance to the Library, turn left and walk up the path and onto North Street. Turn left again and the second building along is the ASC.

The ASC

The Advice and Support Centre is the support hub for students, helping with any query that relates to student life: from paying bills, obtaining an academic transcript, seeking advice on visas, getting help, dealing with personal issues, counselling, disability support and legal matters.

Cross the road at the traffic lights and head up College Street. When you reach Market Street turn right and walk the entire length of the street. On this street you can find everything you will need as a student from books to clothes and much more. Turn right onto Greyfriars Garden then turn left at the end of the road and take the second left up Abbotsford Crescent. This will lead to McIntosh Hall.
McIntosh Hall

The University has a selection of accommodation spread out across the town (all the green buildings on the map at the back); McIntosh Hall is one of these. Our residences range from beautiful stone buildings with period features to stylish new apartments. Students can choose from catered or self-catered accommodation and standard or shared rooms with shared bathroom facilities or en-suites. Rent includes a fully furnished bedroom, the shared kitchen and social facilities, bathroom facilities, all bills, internet access, contents insurance and Hall Committee subscriptions (each residence has a Hall Committee which organises a range of social events and activities throughout the year). Visit our website for more information about our halls: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/accommodation

Turn left onto Hope Street, which then becomes Howard Place. Follow it to the end of the road and turn left. The modern Students’ Association is ahead of you.

Students’ Association

The Students’ Association, also known as the Union, is the hub and heart of student life here in St Andrews, as well as being the main home of the student voice. It is run by elected students who are dedicated and passionate about making improvements to student life. They are here to make the student experience as enjoyable as it can be, providing services, hosting events and activities, and representing students’ views to the University and beyond.

Turning around, you will see the Careers Centre right across the road from the Union.

Careers Centre

The Careers Centre provides a lifelong service for all students and alumni. Offering one-to-one careers advice, help on how to write cover letters and fill in application forms, they also advertise internships and job opportunities, and host networking and careers events across the globe where students and potential employers can meet.

Facing the Union turn left and walk down to the mini roundabout. Cross at the lights, turn left and continue right down Doubledykes Road. Continue along for approximately 200m and then go right along Kennedy Gardens, turn the corner and descend the steps on the right and you will find yourself on the North Haugh.
North Haugh

The North Haugh is home to many of the University’s science facilities, including Mathematics & Statistics, Physics & Astronomy, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, as well as the School of Management.

The North Haugh is also close to several halls of residence, highlighted in green on the map.

Follow the road along the top of North Haugh and go up the slight hill to reach the Sports Centre.

Sports Centre

Over 65% of students take part in sport and/or physical activity at the University. There are no classes on Wednesday afternoons allowing students time for sports and extracurricular activities.

The Sports Centre provides a huge range of state-of-the-art facilities for students and training spaces for sports clubs as well as various fitness classes and dedicated sports coaches for our performance sports clubs – one of the few universities to do so. Some of the Sports Centre’s facilities are listed below.

- 130-station gym
- Performance suite
- Sports arena
- Dance studio
- Sports halls
- Climbing wall
- 400m running track
- Grass and synthetic pitches
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Indoor tennis courts

Well done, you have made it to the end of the tour!

We hope you learnt a lot about the University and student life. The town is now yours to wander and explore as you please – you can use the map to help you get around.

Please feel free to visit us at Admissions, St Katharine’s West, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, or if you have any further questions send us an email to: admissions@st-andrews.ac.uk

We hope to see you around St Andrews in the future!