

THE UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

About the university

With the motto of 'Innovation and Excellence', the University of Stirling is one of Scotland's most modern universities. The University of Stirling was founded in 1967 with the vision of providing higher education for people from all walks of life and since then it has played an important part in the British Higher Education Sector. The university is a Plate Glass university which was established as a result of the Robbins Report on Higher Education along with Herriot-watt University, The University of Dundee and the University of Strathclyde. Though the university is a medium sized university with a relatively small student population, still it has continued to expand and has been successful in establishing a name which is enlisted in the top universities of Scotland. When the university first received its Royal Charter on 13th Nov 1967 there were 164 undergraduate and 31 postgraduate students and currently the university has around 9000 students in various fields of study.

Location

The University of Stirling is located just outside of the city of Stirling, in the beautiful country of Scotland. Scotland is one of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and is easily accessible from all around the world. The cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh are located within an hour's distance from the university campus and have their own airports. Flights are also available from the London Airports to Glasgow and Edinburgh. A frequent and reliable bus service connects the university with the city of Stirling whose railway service serves Glasgow and Edinburgh as well as London, Perth and Aberdeen.

Campus

The main campus of the University of Stirling is situated around 2 miles from the city of Stirling, even closer to the town of Bridge of Allan. The campus is built around a loch and is surrounded by the steep wooded ochil Hills .It is built on a magnificent 310 acre estate centered on the 18th century Airthrey Castle. The Wallace Monument looming over the campus which commemorates one the Scotland's most famous freedom fighters, dominates

the skyline of the campus. The campus is also surrounded by woodland that changes colour dramatically with season and forms a very fascinating view.

Apart from the main campus in Stirling, the university also has the Highland and Western Isles campuses which specialize in Nursing and Midwifery. The Highland campus is on the outskirts of Inverness and within the grounds of Raigmore Hospital and the Western Isles Campus is located in Stornoway.

Courses

The University of Stirling has a unique feature of offering modular degree programmes that allows greater flexibility and choice. There are now over 256 courses at the undergraduate level and a wide variety of courses at the postgraduate level also. The university is organized academically into various departments each specializing in their respective courses. The academic departments are:

1. **Accounting and Finance Division:** This division offers undergraduate degrees in both accounting and finance and at postgraduate level M.Sc. programmes in Investment Analysis, International Accounting and Finance are offered. PhD degrees are also offered and research conducted by this department is ranked 1st in Scotland.
2. **Department of Applied Social Science:** It provides courses in sociology, social policy and criminology, social work, Dementia and housing studies.
3. **Institute of Aquaculture:** This institute offers courses in the field of Aquaculture or Marine Biology with specific emphasis on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture across the globe. It is the largest multi-disciplinary department of its kind in the world.
4. **School of Biological and Environmental Sciences:** It offers 11 undergraduate degree programmes including environmental geography, Biology, animal biology and environmental science and 3 postgraduate M.Sc programmes on environmental management, river basin management and sustainable development. Research degree and PhD projects are also offered.
5. **Business and organization division:** This is one of the largest departments in the university and offers undergraduate degrees in business studies, management science, management, Human resource

- management, public management and administration. At the postgraduate level it offers MBA in Public Service Management and M.Sc programmes in various management courses and also M.Res in Business and Management.
6. **Department of Computing Science and Mathematics:** The undergraduate degrees in this department include B.Sc in computing Science, Information systems, Software Engineering, Business Computing and Mathematics and its applications. The postgraduate qualifications include M.Sc in Advanced Computing, Computing for financial markets, Information Technology, Internet technologies for E-Business and PhD by research.
 7. **Economics division:** The courses offered include Economics, Money, Banking and Finance, Environmental Finance, Energy Management etc...
 8. **The Stirling Institute of education:** It has been rated number 1 in Scotland for the quality of its research in education by the Times Higher Education table of excellence and offers various programmes in teacher education, language teaching and training of new researchers.
 9. **Department of English studies:** One of the largest departments in the university, it offers various courses in English studies.
 10. **Department of Film,, media and Journalism:** The programmes available in this department include media and culture , Global cinema, Financial Journalism, Media Management, Public relations , Public Communication and courses in Radio, television , print and online journalism.
 11. **School of History and politics:** This school offers courses in African History, American, British, Environmental, European, Irish and Scottish History and in International Conflict and cooperation, the external relations of the European Union, Scottish Politics, Nationalism and Regionalism in Europe, Party Politics and Political Communications and Liberal and Socialist Political thought and ideologies.
 12. **School of Languages, Cultures and religions:** It is an integrated unit with an internationally renowned research profile and high quality teaching and offers courses in French, Spanish, Religion and Global Cinema, Culture, Arts, Management, Human Sciences and International Management Studies.
 13. **School of Law:** The Stirling School of law offers three degree programmes: the LLB, BA in law and BA in business Law. It also

- offers postgraduate degree programmes and Diploma in legal practice or LLM
14. **Department of Marketing:** It is a division of the School of Management and provides courses in Marketing, Retail Marketing, Tourism management and International Tourism management.
 15. **Department of Nursing and Midwifery:** Students interested in getting degree, higher degree, masters and doctoral degree in Nursing and health care courses can join this department.
 16. **Department of Philosophy:** This department provides undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in various facets of philosophy and is engaged in research work that is world leading and is placed in top 10 UK philosophy departments.
 17. **Department of Psychology:** Students who want to enter into the field of psychology can avail various courses from this department.
 18. **Department of sports studies:** This department was ranked 1st in Scotland and 5th in UK in 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and offers courses in sports studies, Sports and exercise, Professional education and physical education. Sports studies can also be combined with 20 subjects ranging from accountancy to social policy.

International Programmes

The University of Stirling offers some programmes for the international students. These are:

1. **Undergraduate Certificate:** International Students willing to enter BA/B.Sc degrees but their academic qualifications do not meet the requirements for the direct degree entry can join this course. After completion of this course of one year, students can directly progress into the second year of their degree.
2. **Pre-Masters:** Students who want to enter into the masters degree but are not eligible for direct entry can join the pre-masters on whose successful completion students can directly enter the preferred Masters Programme.
3. **Certificate in English for university Study:** Students who fall short of 0.5 IELTS band to meet the conditions of the university entry can join this 10 weeks course. After taking this course the students will be to progress onto their degree programme without having to retake the IELTS exam.
4. **Preparation for the certificate in English for university study:** Students who in order to meet the condition of the university need to

- improve their IELTS score by 1 band can join this course. After this 9 weeks course students will progress onto the Certificate in English for university study and do not need to take another IELTS test for degree admission.
5. **Pre-sessional English Course:** This course is for those international students who want to enhance their English language proficiency and study skills. It is a course of 5 weeks duration.
 6. **IELTS preparation Courses:** The centre for English Language Teaching at the university of Stirling also offers IELTS preparation courses from September to June.

Sports and Activities

The University of Stirling is Scotland's leading university for sport and is designated as 'Scotland's university for sporting excellence' in sports education, sports research, competitive sports and sports development. It offers comprehensive range of sports facilities. The university has its own 9-hole golf course and driving range and Gannochy National Tennis Centre which is recognized as a National centre of excellence. It also has a 50 – meter swimming pool, badminton and squash courts, gymnasium, sports hall and all –weather playing fields. The campus has been selected as the Head quarters for the Scottish Institute of Sports, The commonwealth Games Council for Scotland and Scottish Swimming. In addition, there is a football academy on campus and Stirling university Rugby Football club. In all there are around 40 different clubs run by the Sports Union and the university also provides sports scholarships in six core sports-canoeing, golf , squash , swimming , tennis and triathlon that allows students to prepare for international competitions.

Why to study at university of Stirling

The University of Stirling was ranked best in the UK for 'good place to be 'and among the top 3 universities in Scotland in the National Student Survey 2008. It was ranked among the top 10 universities in the Times Higher Education Supplement award for the UK's Best Student Experience 2006. The university is ranked in top 20 in UK for various subjects such as education, philosophy, Communications and Media studies and Hospitality, Leisure, recreation, Sport and Tourism. It is one of the only 16 universities in the UK with 5 star sports facilities. It is also ranked 1st in Scotland for the

Best Student's Union in Scotland award. In the Times Good University guide 2006 Stirling's accounting and finance department was one of the only 4 Scottish departments to be enlisted as one of the top 20 university departments in the UK.

The atmosphere of the university is very friendly and the environment and surroundings are superb. The campus has the Mac Robert Arts centre which provides facilities of Cinema, theatre, cafes etc... The Robbins Students centres provide facilities of nightclub and other entertainment sources. The university has 24 hour computer labs and all the classrooms are fully networked. The university library holds more than 500,000 volumes and over 9000 journals. The university also owns a highly successful International Conference Centre which is the 1st conference centre of excellence in Scotland and also Stirling Management Centre.

The Stirling has offered modular degree programmes allowing greater flexibility and choice. It was the 1st UK University to introduce the system of 2 semesters instead of 3. The summer academic programme at the university also offers summer classes and evening classes. Many subjects have achieved excellent teaching ratings. Not only this, Stirling is ranked 3rd in the UK for graduate employability, according to the 2006 Sunday Times Good University Guide. The university's research programmes are world leading.

Advantages for International Students

The University of Stirling has been a very attractive choice for international students from many years. It offers the most suitable study environment and maximum opportunities. Students of over 80 nationalities are represented at the university, with 14% of students coming from overseas. The International Office and the International Student Adviser provide all the help, advice and support to international students. The university provides ample accommodation options. There are around 2300 places on campus and an additional 1000 places available off campus. The University of Stirling offers a number of Scholarships to international students. These are:

1. **Graduate Scholarships:** Students with outstanding academic record can avail a scholarship of 1500 pounds or 10% discount in fees.

2. **The university of Stirling India award:** This award offers a fee waiver of 1000 pounds for the 1st year and 500 pounds for 2nd, 3rd & 4th Year to every student from India studying full time for an undergraduate or postgraduate degree depending upon the academic level.
3. **International sports scholarship programme:** Talented sports player become eligible for various sports bursaries and scholarships offered by the university

In addition to the above scholarships there are also departmental scholarships given to students to encourage them to perform better.