

This document gives information on the University of St Andrews educational experience by providing statements of clarification on the St Andrews approach to providing degree and module information; curriculum review, teaching and learning; and fee setting.

This document should be read in conjunction with the [University Terms and Conditions of Study](#).

These particulars are valid for offers to study in 2024-2025.

In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to make changes to these particulars after you have accepted your offer, or during your programme of studies. Any material changes required will be approved by the relevant University committee(s), prior to being communicated to affected applicants and students in writing via email.

Further particulars of offers

Once you have accepted your offer to study at the University of St Andrews, you enter into a contractual agreement with the University. This agreement includes:

- your degree programme
- the expectations of students whilst studying in the University of St Andrews community
- the University approach to delivering a quality learning experience.

The University aims to ensure that students are aware of the main provisions of the agreement, and this page offers further information on key aspects of your offer.

Learning and teaching at St Andrews

Our approach to learning and teaching is a little like the University itself: a mix of very traditional and very new. In every subject, we take care to cover all the bases, on the one hand familiarising our students with the knowledge and theories that are essential to understanding the discipline; and on the other, giving them a chance wherever possible to develop practical uses for the expertise they acquire. From this starting

Force Majeure

The University shall not be liable for non-performance of its obligation to its students where performance is prevented by unforeseen acts, events, omissions or accidents beyond the reasonable control of the University (a "Force Majeure Event") including, but not limited to, acts of God, flood, drought, earthquake or other natural disaster, epidemic or pandemic, terrorist attack, civil war, civil commotion or riots, war, threat of or preparation for war, armed conflict, imposition of sanctions, embargo, or breaking off of diplomatic relations, nuclear, chemical or biological contamination or sonic boom, any law, requirement, or any action taken by a government or public authority, including without limitation imposing an export or import restriction, quota or prohibition, or failing to grant a necessary licence or consent, collapse of buildings, fire, explosion or accident; any labour or trade dispute, strikes, industrial action or lockouts, non-performance by suppliers or subcontractors, interruption or failure of utility service, or cyber or ransomware attacks.

The University will not refund tuition fees following a Force Majeure Event.

Lectures, seminars and tutorials

Most subjects use lectures, especially in the first two years, referred to as sub-honours. Students can use their first two years to discover their own specific strengths before finalising their degree intentions at Honours level. Lectures are a good way to ensure everyone in the class receives the same key information, and they help students develop note-taking and summarising skills. The material covered in lectures is generally followed up in smaller seminar groups or tutorials where there might be a structured open discussion, a general debate, a presentation by students, or a series of questions, exercises or examples to be worked through with the tutor. Owing to the relatively small undergraduate student body in comparison to some universities, St Andrews is in the enviable position of offering small group teaching in many subjects.

Laboratories

In addition to lectures and seminars or tutorials, some subjects require laboratory sessions. These normally take place in custom-designed labs, where students carry out practical tasks, following a programme of work devised by their lecturers and directed by experts during the session. Labs allow you to put theoretical knowledge into practice, perfect your skills and develop into competent, well-trained and highly-skilled specialists. Lab sessions are not just for science: Economics, Modern Languages and others use them too.

Additional learning opportunities

One-to-

Learning from each other

We expect students to lead discussions in student-led tutorials (in-person or online) in which students set the pace of learning. And although we are an ancient university, we support various online learning opportunities through our virtual learning environments, blogs, chat-rooms, podcasts, project forums, wikis

addition, students should independently use learning resources like the Library to 'read around' the subject, fill gaps in knowledge and understanding, check the reliability of information they have discovered and feel confident they have grasped what is being taught.

To help in this, further module information is available, clearly showing the programme of study and assessment involved. Bibliographies of extra reading are provided at the start; further recommendations may be given during class, depending on what comes up. Many tutors post material on the Virtual Learning Environment; others may conduct short 'refresher' tests during the class itself to check that everyone has reached the necessary level of understanding.

Some subjects require a high percentage of scheduled learning hours, for example because a student can only make progress by attending a laboratory or carrying out supervised fieldwork. In other subject areas, a large amount of individual reading or practice is the only way to ensure adequate learning. In both cases, students must quickly develop time management skills to enable efficient use of the full-time study week.

Fee setting

The University reviews its fees and charges annually and communicates this information to all students (see approach to fee setting in the University's [Fee Setting Protocol](#)). This leads to the publication of a [list of approved fees](#) for all cohorts in early September for the following academic year.

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