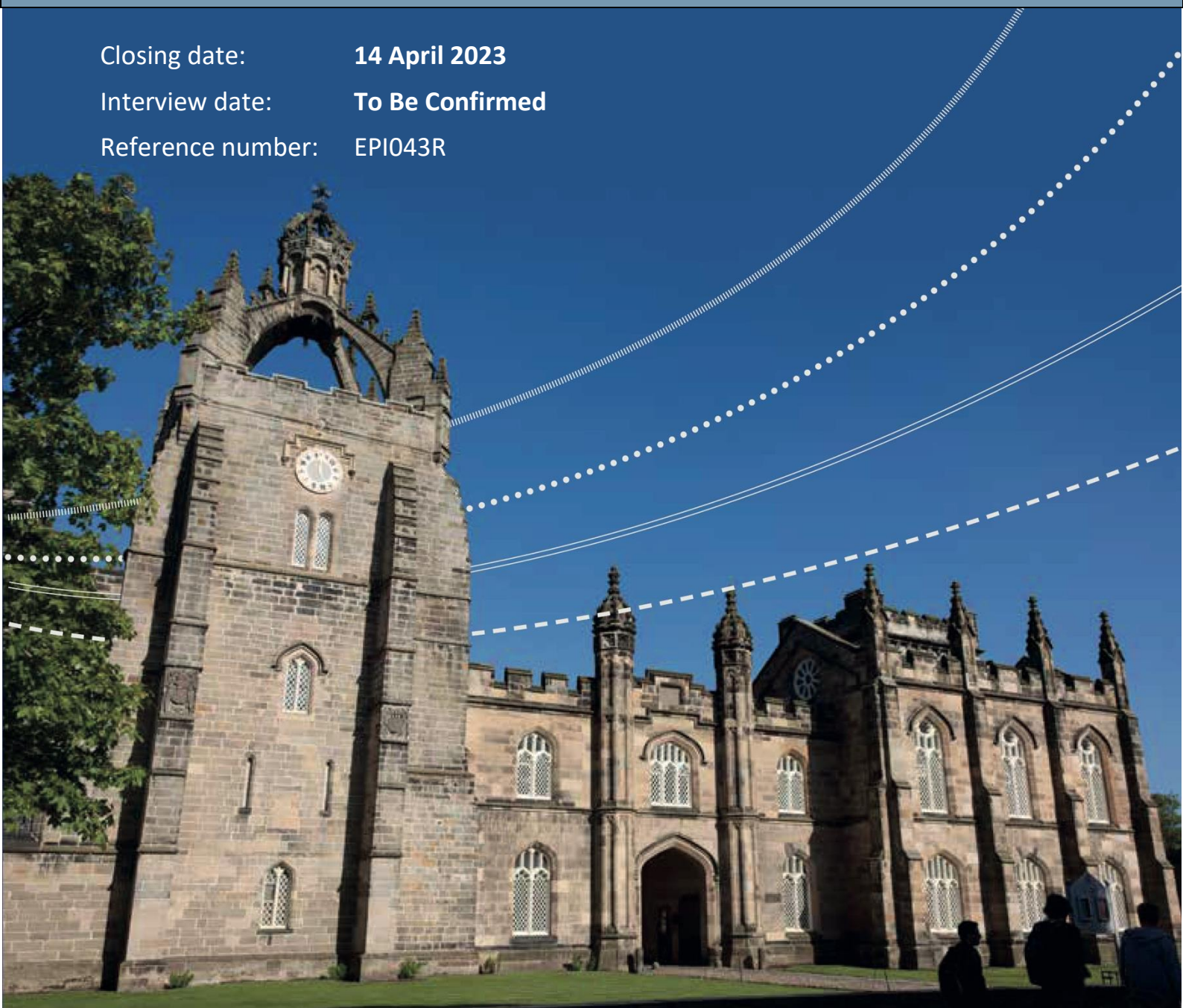


## Research Fellow

*INSTITUTE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES,  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES & NUTRITION*

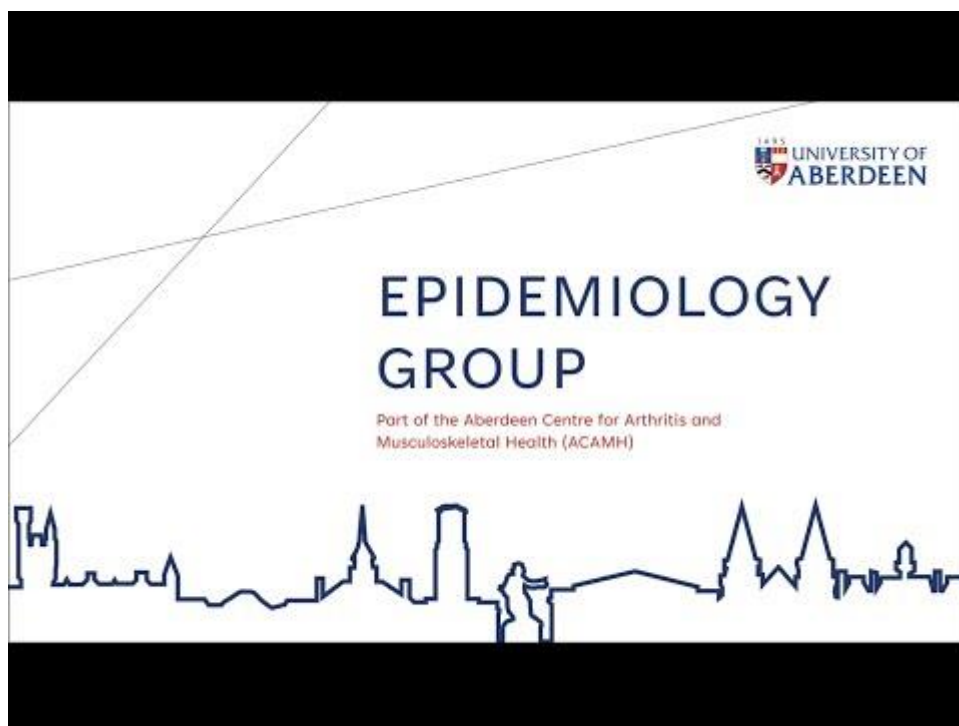
Closing date: **14 April 2023**  
Interview date: **To Be Confirmed**  
Reference number: **EPI043R**



## INTRODUCTION

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The Epidemiology Group has as its focus common musculoskeletal conditions (such as osteoarthritis, spondyloarthritis and fibromyalgia) and their co-morbidities, including pain and fatigue. We study their epidemiology, trials of management and undertake health services research about how to deliver best care to persons with these conditions. The Epidemiology Group is the lead partner of the MRC and Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work ([About CMHW — Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work](#)), with a particular interest on how these conditions affect individuals' ability to engage in paid work.



We are seeking to appoint an exceptional Research Fellow with experience in quantitative research in healthcare settings (or ideally with some qualitative research experience). The Research Fellow will support delivery of an exciting programme of research as part of the Epidemiology Group's contribution to the MRC and Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Health and Work (CMHW). This will include, but is not limited to, working on specific studies such as QUICK (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/research/epidemiology/quick-2047.php>) and Making it Work™ ([Making it Work | The Institute of Applied Health Sciences | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#)). Additionally, the Research Fellow will support the development of new studies, as well as how to engineer impact across all CMHW projects. Further information about the Epidemiology Group and specific projects is available from [www.abdn.ac.uk/epidemiology](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/epidemiology).

## JOB DESCRIPTION

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### MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The postholder will be responsible for delivering aspects of the studies described above, support development of new studies, and will be expected to:

- Work interchangeably across different studies within the CMHW portfolio
- Conduct high quality research, and provide sustained and active support for departmental research
- Collaborate as an enthusiastic and effective team member
- Contribute to the development of the CMHW, and the wider contexts of the Epidemiology Group and Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health
- Engage in general academic and administration and research support duties

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Work with Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) groups to inform study design, participation, and dissemination
- Lead and or support permissions and approvals
- Conduct different kinds of literature reviews, such as systematic and narrative synthesis
- Recruit participants to studies
- Lead and or contribute to primary data collection via a range of quantitative (and ideally qualitative) methods
- Lead and or contribute to statistical analysis (and qualitative analyses depending on expertise), and interpretation of data
- Synthesise different types of data
- Assimilate findings in accessible ways
- Support dissemination in a range of academic and other contexts
- Support and develop different routes to making research impactful

## CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

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- You will have a PhD in a relevant discipline.
- You will demonstrate capacity for high-quality research and publication in a relevant area of health or social science,
- You will have experience in quantitative research in healthcare settings (or ideally with some qualitative research experience).
- You will have experience of working with both patients and staff at various levels within the NHS
- You will demonstrate experience of writing for lay, clinical and academic audiences
- You will demonstrate experience of working within interdisciplinary teams.
- You will be ambitious, enthusiastic, have excellent communication skills, good team-working, organisational and interpersonal skills.



## TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

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Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 6, £36,333 - £39,592 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here)

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (e-mail: [grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk)) for further information.

The candidate appointed to this post may be eligible for homeworking on an occasional or regular basis. For more information please refer to our [Homeworking Policy](#).

### AT A GLANCE

#### SALARY:

Grade 6

£36,333 - £39,592

#### HOURS OF WORK:

Full-Time, 37.5 hours per week

#### CONTRACT TYPE:

Project-Limited for 24 months

#### LOCATION:

Aberdeen



## PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<b>Education/Qualifications</b> Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD in a health or social science related field or equivalent doctoral degree</li> </ul>	
<b>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</b> e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of quantitative research with evidence of having undertaken analysis leading to published works. Experience of working with patients and staff at various levels of the NHS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of research in occupational settings</li> <li>Experience of communicating research outputs in creative, non-traditional ways (i.e. beyond academic presentations and publications)</li> <li>Experience of qualitative research in healthcare settings, particularly with patient participants and healthcare professionals.</li> <li>Familiarity with the organisation of the NHS</li> <li>Experience of writing for lay, clinical and academic audiences</li> <li>Experience of facilitating discussions with members of patient and public involvement groups</li> </ul>
<b>Personal qualities and abilities</b> e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to establish rapport with participants</li> <li>High ethical standards in conducting research on sensitive health topics</li> <li>Team player with the ability to work independently and use initiative.</li> <li>Good problem-solving and critical thinking skills</li> <li>Good organisational and record keeping skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of partnership working with NHS, patients, and public</li> </ul>

## ESSENTIAL

## DESIRABLE

- High attention to detail
- Good interpersonal skills with the ability to interact constructively with a wide range of colleagues across different disciplines
- Willingness and ability to undertake
- administrative and research support duties
- Experience of managing multiple aspects of projects with competing time demands
- Knowledge of equality and diversity in the workplace

### Other

e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.

- Willingness to travel for meetings with research collaborators if required (this may include travel outside normal working hours and/or overnight stays)

## UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

*open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others*

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.



## CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables<sup>1</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the UK for overall student satisfaction<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and the Guardian University Guide 2023

<sup>2</sup> National Student Survey (NSS) 2022

## ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**  
We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- **Interdisciplinary**  
We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- **International**  
We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- **Sustainable**  
We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances.  
  
We work responsibly.

## OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

## OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

## INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021





## IMPACT

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2022 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals<sup>4</sup>.

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland's best institution for environmental research<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022  
<sup>5</sup> QS World University Rankings 2022

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## THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES AND NUTRITION

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The School (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/index.php>) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today's medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences (IEHMS) and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/>
- The Institute of Medical Sciences <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/>
- The Rowett Institute <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/>
- The Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/IEHMS/>
- The Institute of Dentistry <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/>

Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focused on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) and Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), both funded by the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEHMS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition. The highly regarded University of Aberdeen MBChB programme and several postgraduate programmes including a Masters in Clinical Education are delivered by IEHMS.

The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of masters programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/cheri/>)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/>)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/>) and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/>)

The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels.

This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people's lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research.

## ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

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Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit [www.visitabdn.com](http://www.visitabdn.com)



## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

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The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University's commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#).

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

[www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277)

## HOW TO APPLY

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Online application forms are available at [www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs)

The closing date for receipt of applications is **14 April 2023**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Gary J Macfarlane, Head of the Epidemiology Group  
[epidemiology@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:epidemiology@abdn.ac.uk)

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Gary Macfarlane.

**Please quote reference number EPI043R on all correspondence.**