

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH

REDEFINE

**WITH
POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH**

CONTENTS

Welcome	1
Redefine at Stirling	2
Discover Scotland	6
Your Stirling	7
Redefine with research	8
Research programmes	10
Living Well	12
Researcher spotlight	14
PhD profile	16
Global Security and Resilience	18
Researcher spotlight	20
PhD profile	22
Cultures, Communities and Society	24
Researcher spotlight	26
PhD profile	28
Research partners	30
Stirling Graduate School	32
Academic faculties	34
Types of research degree	36
PhD opportunities	38
Ask an expert	46
Hints and tips for students by students	50
Studentships, scholarships and funding	52
International students	54
Student experience	56
How to apply	64



of our postgraduate
research leavers are in
employment or further
study within six months
of leaving us

Destinations of Leavers in Higher Education survey 2015/16



in Scotland
for welcoming
international
students

International Student Barometer 2016



Almost
of our research is rated
either world-leading or
internationally excellent

Research Excellence Framework 2014

WELCOME



At the University of Stirling, 'being the difference' is in everything we do. We are a global university with a reputation for high-quality research and teaching.

We strive for excellence and, as a forward-looking university, we are proud that three-quarters of our research is ranked world-leading or internationally excellent.

Our exciting and groundbreaking research – which is strategically grouped under the themes of Living Well; Global Security and Resilience; and Cultures, Communities and Society – impacts on the lives of people and places, and makes a real difference around the world.

PhD students are an invaluable part of this success and are integral to academic life at Stirling, generating new knowledge and ideas to meet the needs of a global society.

Stirling's academic partnerships with researchers around the world allow us to generate different perspectives to address key world issues. From cancer prevention and the concerns associated with the world's ageing population, to tackling worldwide food security problems, we are leading major studies into global challenges.

The University of Stirling provides a welcoming and supportive environment to meet the needs of our PhD researchers.

Our culture, student support and beautiful campus provide the perfect home to help you to realise your ambitions.

We hope you will choose to continue your academic journey with the University of Stirling.

Professor Judith Phillips
Deputy Principal (Research)

REDEFINE RESEARCH AT STIRLING

1ST IN THE UK FOR CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

International Student Barometer 2016

The University of Stirling is an international university with a global reputation for high-quality research. We have a passion for breaking new ground and creating impact in everything we do.

Our research degrees are designed to develop forward-thinking graduates, and help scholars from around the globe to redefine their potential in an inspiring and international academic setting.

Research with impact

Our world-leading academics are experts in their fields, whose work is centred on making an impact on society. Stirling's focus on interdisciplinary research sees our experts collaborate across faculties, institutions, countries and continents to find solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), three-quarters of Stirling's research activity was classed as either world-leading or internationally excellent.

100% OF PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH CLASSED AS HAVING WORLD-LEADING IMPACT

TOP 20 IN THE UK FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL POLICY

TOP 25 UK INSTITUTIONS FOR BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

1ST IN SCOTLAND AND 12TH IN THE UK FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

TOP 5 IN THE UK FOR AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY AND FOOD SCIENCE

3RD IN SCOTLAND AND TOP 20 IN THE UK FOR PSYCHOLOGY

A global outlook

Stirling is a truly global university. This is reflected in our 4,000+ community of postgraduate students. Almost half of our postgraduate students are from overseas. We have research partnerships in over 60 countries, and our students and staff represent more than 120 countries from around the world.

ALMOST 3/4 OF RESEARCH IS RATED WORLD-LEADING OR INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT

Research Excellence Framework 2014

Postgraduate community

Students within our thriving and vibrant postgraduate community are committed to making a difference in their field. But, achieving a work-life balance is essential for a happy and productive learning experience. The Postgraduate Society at Stirling provides a platform for research postgraduate students to connect and relax outside of their studies, with regular coffee mornings, pub quizzes and research events.

Our four-floor library is also home to the Postgraduate Research Zone, where students can share knowledge or conduct individual study in this purpose-built academic space, overlooking our beautiful campus. This, along with dedicated support from staff at our Graduate School, makes Stirling the ideal environment to explore your passions.

Campus life

Students rate Stirling first in the UK for its campus environment¹. Our stunning 330-acre campus was named one of the UK's top 20 heritage sites of the 20th century².

Our facilities on campus have also been awarded a QS five-star rating³, including our newly renovated accommodation, catering outlets, shops, a thriving arts centre, and even our own 18th-century castle.

Sporting excellence

We are Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, and rank first in Scotland and joint-fourth in the UK for our sports facilities⁴, which include Scotland's National Swimming Academy, the Scottish National Tennis Centre and a nine-hole golf course. Our students participate in more than 50 sports clubs, and the University offers a range of scholarships and bursaries for student athletes.

¹ International Student Barometer 2016

² International Council on Monuments and Sites

³ QS World University Rankings 2018

⁴ Times Higher Education Student Experience survey 2017

AIRTHREY GOLF COURSE

Less than a five-minute walk from student accommodation, our nine-hole golf course is right on your doorstep.

AIRTHREY CASTLE

Our very own 18th-century castle is still in use today, and overlooks the University's picturesque golf course.

AIRTHREY PARK MEDICAL CENTRE

Our on-campus general medical practice and dental centre.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Home to our students: more than 2,500 bedrooms across 20 residences on and off campus.

THE LINK BRIDGE

The scenic commute between Halls and University; you'll make your nine am lecture even if you leave at five-to-nine.

AIRTHREY LOCH

Our very own loch; home to our water sports teams, along with our resident swans.

PATHFOOT BUILDING

Where the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport and the Institute of Aquaculture are based. It also hosts an art collection.

ANDREW MILLER BUILDING

The heart of the University made up of the Atrium, Library, Students' Union and the MacRobert Arts Centre.

COLIN BELL, IRIS MURDOCH AND RG BOMONT BUILDINGS

These buildings are where the Faculty of Social Sciences is based, and are home to some of our cutting-edge research centres.

COTTRELL BUILDING

The Cottrell Building is home to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Stirling Management School.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING INNOVATION PARK

Home to some cutting-edge research and development companies.

INTO BUILDING

Our brand-new centre is designed to offer international students unique academic pathways that can help them gain a degree.

NATIONAL SWIMMING ACADEMY

Home to Scottish Swimming and our world-class student athletes, who practise more than 35 hours per week in our Olympic pool.

NATIONAL TENNIS CENTRE

Tennis superstars Andy Murray and Gordon Reid famously honed their skills on our courts.

THE PITCHES

Get a front-row seat to the action on our grass and artificial 4G pitches.

WALLACE MONUMENT

Climb 246 steps to reach the top of our famous landmark, built to commemorate Scots hero, Sir William Wallace.

SPITAL HILL CHALETs

Popular student accommodation in our Scandinavian-style timber chalets.

**STUDYING IN THE PRESENCE OF NATURE
CAN BOOST PRODUCTIVITY BY UP TO 12%,
AND REDUCE LEVELS OF STRESS**

Washington State University, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

DISCOVER SCOTLAND



SCOTLAND HAS BEEN VOTED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD

Rough Guide 2017

Education and innovation

Scotland is renowned for its innovative, modern and cutting-edge research and teaching. Thousands of international students are attracted to Scotland for its academic excellence, and the Scottish education system has been adopted in many countries all over the world. Scotland is also famous for its inventions, including penicillin, the bicycle, the television and the telephone. We are continuing that tradition, and our researchers are at the forefront of their fields – which means you will be mentored by experts in each area of study.

Beauty

Our dramatic landscapes, distinct geography and countless scenic landmarks are breathtaking. Mountains, lochs, beaches, islands and castles offer you wonderful opportunities to get out and discover our country. The Scottish Highlands are also a short journey away on the train. For outdoor enthusiasts, this is the prime location for catching a glimpse of our incredible landscapes. Scotland is also home to the world-famous North Coast 500. Bringing together just over 500 miles of stunning coastal scenery, the path will take you through some of the most beautiful villages and towns in Scotland.

Food and drink

If you're into food and drink, Scotland has plenty to offer. For those looking for a traditional experience, you can't miss a hearty serving of haggis, neeps and tatties. Scotland also boasts 13 Michelin-star restaurants, and most of the globe's top whisky distilleries are dotted throughout the country.

YOUR STIRLING

Walk with history

Stirling Castle is one of Scotland's grandest, and it was the childhood home of Mary, Queen of Scots. That's why it's no wonder it's been named Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction¹. Stirling is also linked to two of Scotland's historic heroes: Sir William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. You can climb up the 246 steps of the Wallace Monument to enjoy breathtaking views of Stirling, or step back in time with a visit to the Battle of Bannockburn Experience to learn about the famous battle between Scotland and England.

Entertainment

Seamlessly blending in with the city's rich history is Stirling's thriving nightlife. From the buzzing bars and clubs of the city centre to the more traditional real ale and whisky pubs, shopping, cinema and chic coffee houses, Stirling is a place that suits the needs of every student. Stirling city centre is just two miles from the campus – less than 10 minutes by bus.

Get exploring

Stirling has everything you could hope for in a city, and even has its own cycle sharing network in the form of Nextbike. Stirling's central location means getting across Scotland couldn't be easier. Glasgow and Edinburgh are both within easy reach for a day of shopping or a night out. If you are into music, Glasgow hosts over 130 gigs a week – so you are sure to find one of your music idols playing near you.

ALMOST 100,000 PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE CALL STIRLING HOME



#SCOTLANDWELCOMESTHEWORLD

OUR RESEARCH



Research at Stirling makes a difference. Our three research themes – Living Well; Global Security and Resilience; and Cultures, Communities and Society – underpin our commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges facing society today.



Living Well

With a multidisciplinary approach that includes sports science, psychology, marketing, economics and health, our research improves wellbeing across the world, allowing people to maintain, attain or regain good health.

Work includes exploring the impact of alcohol licensing and tobacco packaging; establishing how to help people live well with dementia; and ensuring the best nursing and cancer care is delivered to patients.

Our academics are pushing the boundaries of longevity and ageing, and informing National Governing Bodies (NGBs) on the long-term impact of contact sports.



Global Security and Resilience

Our expertise in Global Security and Resilience spans a wide range of academic subjects and perspectives, but has the common goal of tackling the challenge of providing the world's growing population with a sustainable and secure way of living.

We explore how the world's forests and its flora and fauna are evolving in response to climate change; we investigate how humans interact with the world, whether that is in the field of international diplomacy or digitally within the context of cyber security; and we develop solutions to maintain sustainable and safe sources of fish, creating new and innovative ways of feeding global communities and improving access to fresh water around the world.



Cultures, Communities and Society

Nothing exists in isolation, and researching subjects in their wider context forms the core of this thematic area. Social policy, history, computing science, and biological and environmental sciences, as well as media and communications, enable much broader and more comprehensive investigations into how we communicate with and understand each other.

By exploring the past and recognising how we learn from it, promoting innovation and change, and understanding distinctive cultures and political authority, our research brings communities together in mutually beneficial ways. Whether that involves analysing organised crime, or discovering the birthplace of James I of Scotland, our work spans continents and time periods.

For more information about our research at Stirling, visit: stir.ac.uk/research



“At Stirling, we are committed to providing solutions to the world’s greatest challenges.

“Our interdisciplinary approach to research – within the themes of Living Well; Global Security and Resilience; and Cultures, Communities and Society – fosters a culture of innovation and change. We think outside the box and draw upon our knowledge across, between and within disciplines to make an impact.

“By exploring a diverse range of perspectives and applying them to our work, we make a positive difference to society and communities around the globe.”

Dr John Rogers

Director of Research and Innovation Services

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Alongside our overarching research themes, the University has established 12 interdisciplinary research programmes.

These programmes provide an interdisciplinary approach to groundbreaking areas of research and each contributes to activity within one or more of our research themes, ensuring that all of our research is directly relevant to today's societal challenges.

Our themes and programmes are the engine house of Stirling's major strategic research activity. These include:

Ageing and Dementia

The world's population is living longer, presenting challenges to health, long-term care and economies. By investigating the health and social wellbeing of communities, our research results in positive change.

Being Connected

Social division and exclusion are increasing worldwide. We tackle inequality by analysing social networks, geographies and big data technologies.

Contextual Learning in Humans and Machines

Intelligent machines are making increasingly sophisticated decisions, but, without context, they bring risk. We seek to enhance machine-based decision-making to positively impact society.

Cultural Heritage

Society's identity, wellbeing and progress are constantly challenged. We empower communities by heightening their understanding of their cultural past to allow them to positively influence their future.

Digital Society and Culture

Digital technologies are changing the way we live. Our critical thinking questions the impact of these changes and explores potential solutions to address the challenges this creates.

Environmental Change

Driven by human influence, environmental change is accelerating. We explore sustainable solutions for a more resilient future.

Extreme Events in Science and Society

Extreme events vary widely and can include bereavement, disease, flooding and social unrest. We research how societies and ecosystems might better respond to extreme events and prepare for the unexpected.

Global Food Security

The global population is expected to rise from 7.6 billion to 9.8 billion by 2050. Our ambition is to ensure that there is enough food for future generations.

Health and Behaviour

Human behaviour is having an impact on health. We explore behaviours that can improve lives.

Home, Housing and Community

Millions across the world remain homeless. Focusing on social justice, we influence the agenda for policy and practice, promoting a safe and secure home for everyone.

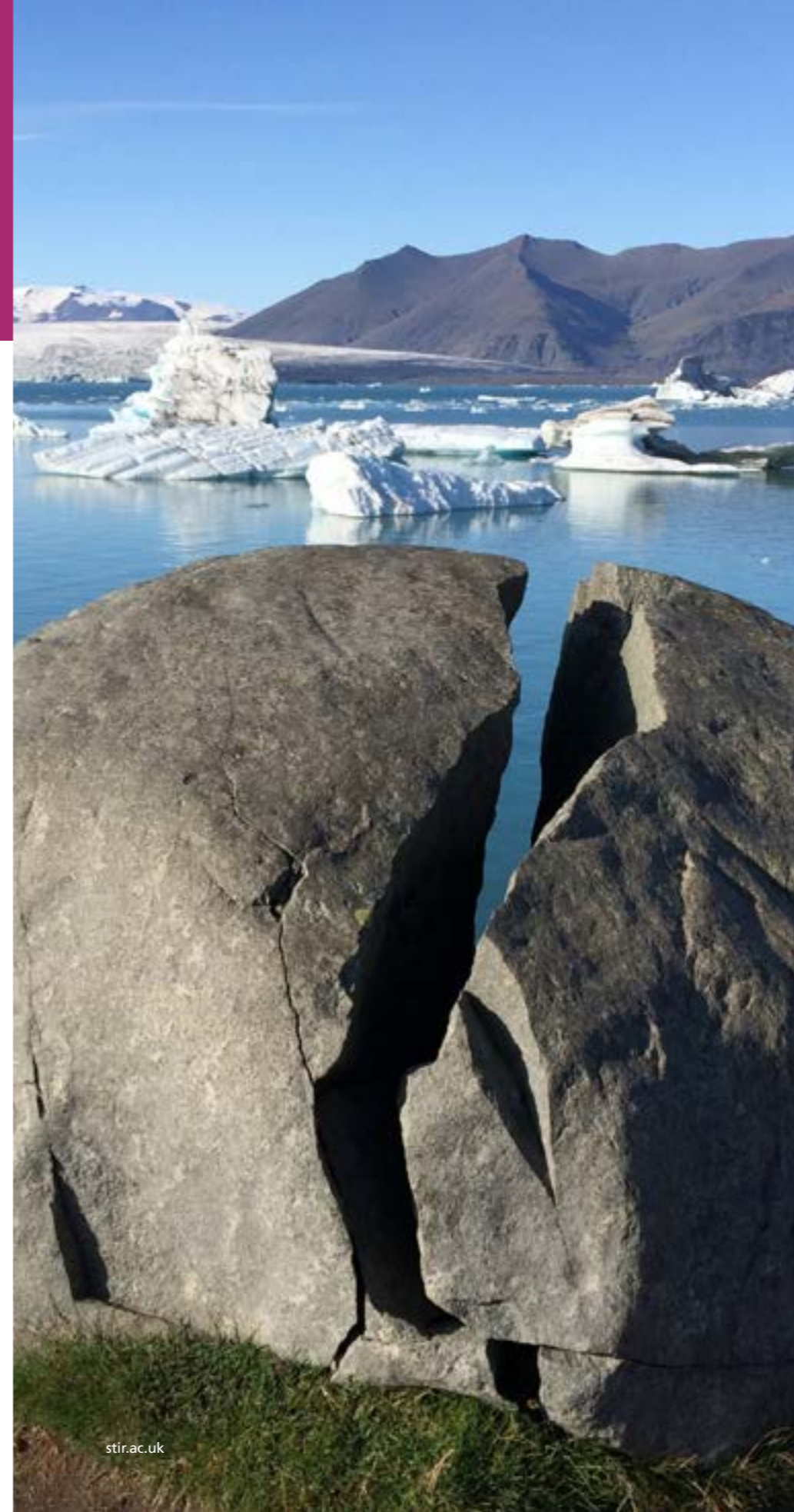
Human Security, Conflict and Cooperation

Regional and international conflicts, driven by climate change, pose a serious threat to world stability. We explore the impact of climate change on human security to manage and identify ways to resolve these conflicts.

Mobile Cognition

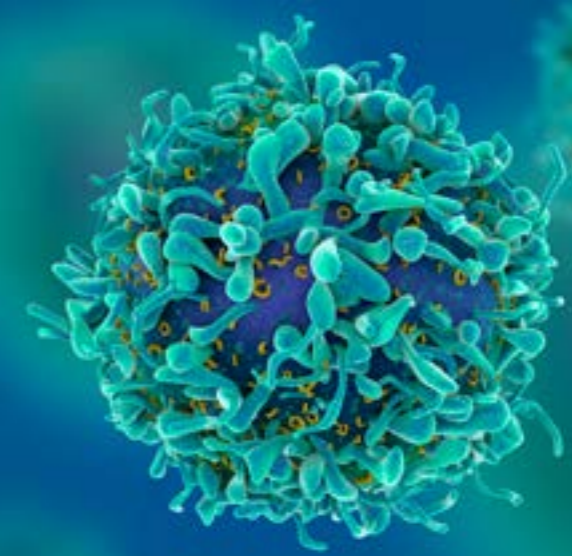
By investigating how human brains work in the real world, we offer a new perspective on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions.

For more information on the University's research themes and programmes, visit: stir.ac.uk/researchthemes





LIVING WELL



The prominence of digital technology means it is easier than ever to monitor and track our personal health goals. Despite this, the wellbeing of our population remains a major concern.

Obesity, tobacco and alcohol misuse, cancer, dementia, and stress are just some of the life-endangering issues that we face today, all of which present a major threat to our public health service.

Stirling academics, researching within the theme of 'Living Well', focus their efforts on addressing these challenges and providing innovative solutions to support the health of our nation, and of countries around the world.

Improving lives of children

Our research in the area of child health informs policymakers on the benefits of school pupils taking part in the 'Daily Mile'. Children are encouraged to run, jog or walk around their school grounds during a 15-minute break from class, which is in addition to normal intervals and physical education lessons.

Working closely with Honorary Graduate and initiative founder, Elaine Wylie, as well as academics from the University of Edinburgh, our researchers aim to combat global problems such as low physical activity, high sedentary behaviour, declining fitness levels and high levels of obesity.

Academics within the Institute of Social Marketing are also influencing policy in a bid to protect children from the harmful effects of smoking. Under new policy regulations – informed by research at Stirling – tobacco and cigarettes can now only be sold in plain, standardised packaging.

A systematic review of evidence showed that packs with no brand features or bright colours are much less appealing to consumers, and make health warnings more effective. Thanks to this vital change, tobacco products are now sold in dark green packaging, with large images advertising the harmful effects of smoking and other health-related warnings.

Remote cancer screening

For those already in the healthcare system, our experts are working across disciplines to develop electronic blood monitoring software, which will allow patients with blood cancer to conduct haematology tests remotely from the comfort of their home.

Combining our strengths within health sciences and computing, this pioneering technology will benefit patients by reducing the number of visits they need to make to hospital, while also relieving pressure on the health service.

Dementia app to improve quality of life

Digital innovation can also be applied to dementia care. Working with Newcastle-based architects, Space Group, our academics within the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) have designed and launched a cutting-edge app, IRIDIS.

The app is a mobile version of the DSDC's Dementia Design Audit Tool, which makes an assessment of a person's home, and a bespoke recommendation, at the touch of a button – including feedback on lighting, colour contrast and noise.

Following years of research in this area, our scientists have proven that good design enables people with dementia, and age-related impairments, to enjoy a greater quality of life and remain independent for longer.

With the help of IRIDIS, Stirling is shaping the future of how we design homes, workplaces, care facilities and public buildings for our ageing population, and is making a positive difference to the lives of people with dementia.



**AWARDED THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZE FOR
GROUNDBREAKING SOCIAL
MARKETING RESEARCH**

LIVING WELL

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT



Professor Linda Bauld
Director of the Institute of
Social Marketing and Dean
of Research Impact

According to the World Health Organisation, tobacco kills more than seven million people each year, with the majority of tobacco-related deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries. Professor Linda Bauld, Director of the Institute of Social Marketing and Dean of Research Impact, leads a team of researchers dedicated to reducing these figures.

“Smoking kills more people every year than HIV, tuberculosis and malaria combined. As smoking dwindles to a minority activity in the UK, the number of smokers is still increasing elsewhere. By 2030, it’s predicted that more than 80 percent of tobacco-related deaths will occur in low- and middle-income countries.

“The tobacco epidemic was created in the developed world, where smoking rates sky-rocketed in previous decades. It took us many years to work out how to bring them down, through research, advocacy, communicating health risks and introducing evidence-based policies.”

Making a difference to global health
As part of the Global Challenges Research Fund, the University of Stirling – along with six universities from the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies, eight overseas partners, and Cancer Research UK – has been awarded a £3.4 million grant to reduce tobacco-related harm in less affluent countries.

Professor Bauld and her team aim to bring down smoking rates by conducting research to inform tobacco taxation, tackle the illicit trade of tobacco and negate the efforts of tobacco companies that undermine governments’ attempts to reduce smoking.

They currently work with researchers in the South Asian and Sub-Saharan African countries of India, Bangladesh, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, the Gambia and Ghana to offer training and research support.

The four-year, multidisciplinary project is part of one of the most ambitious international research programmes ever created, with £225 million invested across 37 interdisciplinary projects.

“We are delighted that the Institute of Social Marketing, as part of the multi-UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies, has the opportunity to lead this new research. The work we are doing is helping to combat one of the world’s biggest preventable causes of death and aims to make a real difference to global health.”

Collaboration close to home
Linda, who is also the Cancer Research UK Prevention Champion, works closely with PhD and postdoctoral researchers at Stirling, and draws on the expertise of her colleagues within the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport.

“At the Institute of Social Marketing, we have an active team of 27 researchers including postdoctoral scholars and PhD students. We couldn’t do our research without the energy and enthusiasm that these colleagues bring. Our wide range of studies provide ideal opportunities for research training and capacity building, not just on tobacco control, but across a range of studies aiming to prevent chronic disease like cancer.”

**£3.4 MILLION RESEARCH
SUPPORTED BY GLOBAL
CHALLENGES RESEARCH FUND**

WORKING WITH EX-PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER, ALAN SHEARER, STIRLING'S RESEARCH COMMANDED WORLDWIDE MEDIA ATTENTION



LIVING WELL



Tom Di Virgilio
Former PhD student, turned Lecturer
Specialism: Brain changes as a result of head impact

By drawing together experts from many different subject areas, including sports science, psychology, marketing, economics and health, we look at ways to improve global wellbeing – allowing people to maintain, attain or regain good health.

PhD student Tom Di Virgilio has spent the past three years working with two leading University of Stirling academics: cognitive neuroscientist Dr Magdalena Ietswaart, Faculty of Natural Sciences; and Reader in Exercise Physiology Dr Angus Hunter, Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport.

Their research into the true impact of heading a football – supported by Stirling neuropsychologist Professor Lindsay Wilson in consultation with leading University of Glasgow Medical School Neuropathologist Dr Willie Stewart – was the first to detect direct changes in the brain after players are exposed to everyday head impacts, as opposed to clinical brain injuries like a concussion.

The study, which was published in the journal *EBioMedicine*, received worldwide media attention, including coverage on Sky News and Al Jazeera, as well as in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Working with former England football captain, Alan Shearer, Stirling academics also showcased their findings in the BBC One documentary, 'Alan Shearer: Dementia, Football and Me'. The footage saw Shearer undergoing tests in a lab at Stirling with Tom and his supervisors, and demonstrated clear results to support their study – with direct evidence of changes to Alan's brain activity immediately after heading a ball.

"I was very lucky to be involved in this research, because I have always had an interest in brain trauma and brain health," said Tom. "It was a fantastic experience to work on this project alongside people who are highly regarded in their fields of research."

Tom first came to the University as an undergraduate studying for a degree in Sport and Exercise Science. He fell in love with the campus and stayed on to do a Masters degree, upgrading to a PhD in Neuropsychology in 2015. He is currently employed as a full-time temporary lecturer and is applying for a full lectureship.

"My experience has been very positive in terms of the support provided by both the University and the facilities and supervisors," he says.

"You are well taken care of here."

"There are lots of workshops available to postgraduate students on how to write, how to present, how to survive a viva and so on. These aid the development of researchers."

Tom is fortunate to be dual-supervised by Magdalena (primary) and Angus (secondary), who have both had a significant impact on his development.

"The faculties work well together and both have been equally supportive in providing the materials and funding I needed."

"It's been a very positive experience. If I could do it again, I would."

PHD PROFILE





GLOBAL SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

WITH A RISING GLOBAL POPULATION, THERE IS A WORLDWIDE NEED TO DEVELOP A MORE SUSTAINABLE WAY OF LIVING

Our researchers are working to protect the health, welfare and functioning of communities and the environment, to cultivate a more secure and resilient future.

Global food security

In the area of food security, our world-leading Institute of Aquaculture is investigating the impact of climate change on European fisheries and aquaculture, as part of the EU Horizon 2020 project ClimeFish.

The four-year, multi-partner project – which combines expertise from 21 institutes in 16 countries – is important for the maintenance of aquatic food security, as climate change continues to threaten sustainable growth in aquaculture and fisheries worldwide.

ClimeFish aims to help ensure seafood production can increase in areas and for species where there is a potential for sustainable growth, thereby supporting employment and the sustainable development of rural and coastal communities.

Buzz pollination

On land, our scientists are also studying threats to bee pollination of crops – a crucial factor in world food production. The team found that neonicotinoid pesticides significantly reduce the number of pollen grains a bumblebee is able to collect.

The study, led by Dr Penelope Whitehorn, of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, was the first to demonstrate changes in the type of buzzes produced by bees exposed to pesticides, resulting in them collecting fewer pollen grains.

Extreme events

Another important dimension of climate change is the focus of joint research involving academics from Stirling and the University of Tromsø in Norway. Researchers will study the rapid decline of ancient ice sheets, which could help scientists predict the impact of modern-day climate and sea-level change.

For the first time, scientists have reconstructed in detail the evolution of the last ice sheet that covered Iceland around 20,000 years ago.

By using data from the geological record to constrain model reconstructions of rapid ice sheet change thousands of years ago, scientists hope to better predict how contemporary ice sheets may react in the future and the resulting impact they may have on rising sea levels.

Human security

Our academics are also playing an influential role in creating more secure communities, while preserving people's right to privacy. Stirling's Professor William Webster, Director of the Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy, helped shape a new UK strategy concerning the operation of surveillance cameras.

In a world-first, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner has established a National Strategy for England and Wales to set out how surveillance cameras should be operated and to ensure that they are used in the public interest. Professor Webster advised on the development of the strategy, designed to help keep people safe in public places and respect their right to privacy.

STIRLING ACADEMICS LEAD GLOBOLAKES AND FOUR HORIZON 2020 PROJECTS



Professor Andrew Tyler
Professor of Environmental Science
Associate Dean for Research in
the Faculty of Natural Sciences

Providing the world's growing population with a sustainable and secure way of living is a key focus for both staff and students at Stirling. Professor Andrew Tyler, Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, is at the forefront of a world-leading project aiming to improve access to fresh water across the globe.

"As a society, we are fundamentally dependent on water for drinking, energy and food security," Tyler explained. "However, the declining quality and quantity of water has been highlighted by the World Economic Forum as the pre-eminent risk to society and the global economy.

"Ensuring access to clean and safe water for all is a real challenge and fundamental to alleviating poverty and developing more resilient, healthy and sustainable communities."

Global water monitoring

Experts hold very little data on the world's 100 million lakes due to their geographical spread, coupled with the logistical and political difficulties of monitoring water. Therefore, protecting citizens from water scarcity, pollution and deleterious impacts, including harmful algal blooms, remains a serious challenge.

In a bid to tackle the issue, Andrew and his Stirling team lead the £2.9 million GLoLaKes project, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which has established the world's first satellite-based global lake surveillance system.

The innovative approach – involving a number of other UK universities, research institutes and overseas partners – uses earth observation technology to measure the absorption and reflection properties of light emanating from lakes, rivers and estuaries to reliably estimate the constituents within the water. This technique provides vital data on water quality, such as algal concentrations and harmful algal blooms, and mineral and organic matter.

While other scientists have developed satellite algorithms to monitor one or two lakes on a local scale, Professor Tyler's team is the first to develop a capability to work across a range of optically complex waters globally.

He added: "Our work is groundbreaking."

Combining expertise

The Stirling team are now turning their attentions to interdisciplinary work in an attempt to increase the developing world's access to fresh water. They are working with colleagues in the Faculty of Social Sciences, to establish how best to deliver these new sources of information to communities, and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, to understand cross-border conflicts and the associated legal frameworks of governance.

Water for all

Building on this capability, Professor Tyler's team has now secured further funding, through the European Union's Horizon 2020, for a number of related projects involving end users and partners across Europe. Meanwhile, Stirling experts are also working with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to develop a risk-based management strategy for water quality monitoring and reporting as part of another NERC-funded project.

Tyler, whose research interests also include the impact of radioactivity on the environment, added: "Our highly interdisciplinary work is tackling serious global issues. We are keen to exploit this opportunity to provide the knowledge that will help deliver water for all."

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

OUR PHD RESEARCHERS ARE BREAKING NEW GROUND BY STUDYING THE EFFECT OF RADIATION ON WILDLIFE IN CHERNOBYL



Experts at the University of Stirling are dedicated to exploring the world's environment to investigate and provide solutions to the risks posed to life on our planet. PhD researcher Kat Raines has spent the last three years investigating how damaging radiation is to bumblebees in Chernobyl – her findings have captured the attention of international policymakers, academics and the media.

International research

Kat Raines graduated from Stirling with a BSc (Hons) Conservation Biology in 2012, before spending three years working in bird and turtle conservation and conducting invasive species research in the Seychelles. She departed the tropical paradise in 2015 after being tempted back to Stirling by the lure of a PhD – and within six weeks was conducting research alongside fellow academics in Chernobyl.

"We had no idea what it was going to be like," Raines said. "When you think of Chernobyl, you picture a desolate nuclear wasteland. But when we arrived we found beautiful meadows of flowers and, fortunately, lots of bees.

"I chose to focus on bees as they provide invaluable ecosystem services and have complex interactions with many aspects of the environment."

Radiation study

It was the first of three field trips Kat took to the city, in central Ukraine. Back in Stirling, and under the supervision of Professor David Copplestone and Dr Matthew Tinsley, she studied bee colonies under controlled laboratory experiments in an on-campus radiation facility and, through her work, made a significant discovery.

"I set out to investigate whether colonies changed after being exposed to the levels of radiation seen in Chernobyl – and found that reproduction decreased following such exposure," she said.

Raines' study focuses on three key areas – reproduction, wing wear and parasites – and forms part of the larger Transfer, Exposure, Effects project, which aims to reduce uncertainty in estimating the risk to humans and wildlife from radioactivity.

Research impact

The papers are due to be published later in 2018; however, Kat has already received excellent feedback from peers at events in Westminster and Berlin, while major media outlets have noted interest in covering the study.

Kat has taken the opportunity to develop her teaching experience at Stirling, delivering lectures and tutorials to undergraduate students across a range of subjects, including ecology, evolution and field skills. She also holds the position of Graduate School Officer for the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

In recognition of the expertise she has in her field, Raines recently secured a three-month internship with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

She said: "It is great to see people excited about my research.

"I have really enjoyed my time at Stirling and love my department, which I have found to be a supportive and friendly environment.

"Stirling has given me a solid foundation and offered good opportunities, and I would definitely recommend it to anybody considering a PhD."

PHD PROFILE





CULTURES, COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY



Nothing exists in isolation from the rest of the world, and studying and researching subjects in their wider context is at the heart of our thematic area of Cultures, Communities and Society.

Our research brings together experts from social work, history and computing science, or biological and environmental sciences and media and communications, to enable wider interdisciplinary investigations into how we communicate with and understand others.

Whether it's exploring the past to see how we can learn from it, promoting innovations in teaching or understanding distinctive cultures, our research spans continents and time periods.

Heritage and conservation

Archaeologist Professor Richard Oram, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, is involved in the creation of a world-leading heritage and conservation research centre at the University, as part of an international agreement involving Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Palace Museum – also known as the Forbidden City – in Beijing, China.

The Forbidden City houses the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world. The brand-new, campus-based research centre will allow researchers to investigate a range of issues facing built heritage, and the impacts of climate and wider environmental changes on a global scale.

Professor Oram is also leading a project to locate the final resting place of King James I, who was murdered over 580 years ago.

Working with other experts in archaeology, Scottish history and 3D visualisation from the University of Stirling, the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), and the School of Simulation and Visualisation at the Glasgow School of Art, the joint venture seeks to locate the Charterhouse site – a monastery of Carthusian monks commissioned by James I as a showcase and future mausoleum for his dynasty – and recreate it as a virtual museum for the 21st century.

Crime and justice

Looking at the issue of crime in the present day, research by criminology academics Dr Hannah Graham and Professor Gill McIvor, from the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) at the University

of Stirling, helped inform a new Scottish Government policy to expand tagging and reduce the use of prison and remand.

Healthy ageing

Government policy is also being shaped by research from Professor David Bell and Research Fellow Dr Elaine Douglas, of the University of Stirling Management School, on the lives of Scotland's older population.

The Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) study, which has analysed the data of 1,000 Scots over the age of 50, will inform, influence and support the debate about how the country tackles problems posed by its ageing population.

Professor in Global Ageing, Ian Philp, also starred in the ITV documentary series '100 Years Younger in 21 Days', which challenged eight celebrities to lose 100 years between them in just three weeks.

Philp designed a unique experiment to see if it was possible to reduce their body, brain and face ages without them going under the knife. The results were a resounding success, with one contestant dropping from a body age of 50 to 30, from a face age of 62 to 58 and from a brain age of 73 to 69.

CONDUCTED SCOTLAND'S FIRST LONGITUDINAL AGEING STUDY



Professor David Bell CBE
Professor of Economics
Stirling Management School

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Shaping government policy and effecting transformative change is what drives the work of our researchers and academics. As lead of a landmark study that aims to improve the quality of life among older people, renowned economics expert Professor David Bell, of the University of Stirling Management School, is very much at the forefront of this approach.

He has been Professor of Economics at the University of Stirling since 1990, specialising in labour economics, the economics of ageing and the economics of constitutional change. His work was recognised when he was awarded a CBE in the 2017 New Year's Honours list for services to economics and public policy.

Vitality in later life

As leader of the Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) study – conducted by the University of Stirling – Professor Bell improves the lives of Scotland's older population by providing policymakers with a comprehensive insight into the economic, health and social circumstances of people over 50.

The study, which involves collaborative working across faculties, has collected data from 1,000 Scots aged 50 and above – providing a wealth of information that will inform, influence and support the debate around how the country addresses the challenges faced by its ageing population.

"HAGIS is a longitudinal survey of ageing in Scotland and is also part of a worldwide network of such surveys," said Professor Bell.

"It offers valuable experience for PhD students because it provides opportunities for study across a number of different disciplines including economics, psychology, applied social science, and health and sport.

"The study is also helping to shape government policy and is investigating new scientific areas associated with data analysis."

Nurturing new talent

Together with his colleague Dr Alasdair Rutherford, of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Bell is co-supervising two PhD students who are working on ageing and administrative data.

"We agree on objectives for the students and review them at regular intervals," he said. "We work closely together and ensure we are on hand when necessary. This could be to direct them to literature or learning that would help them in their work, or develop their networks by putting them in contact with people – including those in academia, the Government or Third Sector organisations.

"A key benefit of being at the University of Stirling is the close contact with members of staff. It's compact and focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to research. This, along with its fantastic facilities and extensive research opportunities, makes Stirling the perfect breeding ground for new ideas and innovations."

MILEVA'S WORK HAS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 72,000 READERS ON THE CONVERSATION'S GLOBAL RESEARCH PLATFORM

**CULTURES,
COMMUNITIES
AND SOCIETY**



Stirling academics are passionate about studying and researching subjects in their wider context – including how we communicate with and understand others.

Dominance and prestige are two of the ways that we identify people with a high social status. Human beings pick up on these subconscious cues by the way people look, the way they talk and their presence around others. But how does this judgement affect the way we behave towards them? This is a question that Dr Viktoria Mileva set out to answer during her PhD studies at Stirling.

“Imagine an interview situation,” Mileva explained. “You are sat across from an employer who you feel intimidated by, and perceive to be more dominant than you. How does this make you feel and, importantly, how does it make you act?”

“That’s what my fellow PhD student, Juan David Leongómez, and I were keen to find out. A lot of research has been done on the behaviours of more dominant, or more prestigious people, but there are few studies on the effect they can have on the people they interact with.”

The influence of social status

Working with academic supervisors in Psychology, Dr Mileva and Dr Leongómez conducted ‘simulated’ job interviews with a group of volunteers and discovered that individuals alter their vocal characteristics – particularly pitch – in response to people of different social status.

“A deep, masculine voice sounds dominant, especially in men, while the opposite is true of a higher-pitched voice,” Viktoria continued. “If someone perceives their interviewer to be more dominant or more prestigious, they typically raise their pitch. This may be a signal of submission, to show the listener that you are not a threat, and to avoid possible confrontations.”

The research also found that participants who think they are dominant – and use negative methods like manipulation, coercion and intimidation to acquire social status – are less likely to vary their pitch, and will speak in a lower tone when talking to someone of a high social status.

Similarly, individuals who rate themselves high in prestige and are respected by their peers do not change how loud they are speaking, regardless of whom they are speaking to.

“Signals and perceptions of social status have an effect on virtually every human interaction, ranging from morphological characteristics – such as face shape – to body posture, specific language use, facial expressions and voices,” Mileva added. “Understanding what these signals are, and their effects, will help us comprehend an essential part of human behaviour.”

International collaboration

Prior to this study, but also during her PhD year, Viktoria engaged in a collaborative research project with Alex Jones (PhD, Bangor University) and Richard Russell (Associate Professor, Gettysburg College) to discover how wearing make-up can affect the way women are perceived by others.

The study – the first of its kind in the world – found that women who wear make-up are seen by men as being more prestigious and well-respected, while women see them as more dominant and threatening. The research concluded that make-up changes the perception of your social status depending upon who is making the judgement.

Facial recognition

Now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University, Mileva is focusing her efforts on acquiring information about the way humans learn to recognise faces. Once complete, this study will allow computer scientists to train complex computer systems to detect and recognise people automatically.

PHD PROFILE

RESEARCH PARTNERS



Our global research collaborations:

Norway	70	Greece	11	Ghana	4	Estonia	2	Guinea	1
Spain	25	Australia	11	Austria	4	Uganda	1	Greenland	1
Germany	25	New Zealand	9	Vietnam	3	Turkey	1	Gambia	1
France	24	Hungary	8	Portugal	3	Tanzania	1	Gabon	1
Italy	22	Switzerland	7	Iceland	3	Slovakia	1	Faroe Islands	1
Netherlands	21	Czech Republic	7	China	3	Qatar	1	Ethiopia	1
Ireland	19	Canada	7	Sierra Leone	2	Poland	1	Egypt	1
Belgium	17	Romania	6	Serbia	2	Peru	1	Dominican Republic	1
United States	16	Finland	5	Senegal	2	Mexico	1	Cyprus	1
Denmark	16	Bangladesh	5	Lithuania	2	Malta	1	Croatia	1
Sweden	13	South Africa	5	Kenya	2	Malawi	1	Chile	1
India	12	Malaysia	4	Japan	2	Guyana	1	Brazil	1
								Argentina	1

As an agent for global change, we work to forge strong research partnerships both at home and overseas. Over the years, we have teamed up with some of the world's most innovative institutions to address key global challenges. Whether it's publishing a joint paper, collaborating on a research project or providing fieldwork opportunities for our thriving PhD community, we are proud to be making waves in research across the globe.



Project: Student Health Over Time Study (SHOTS)

Location: Queensland, Australia

SHOTS is an initiative led by the University of Stirling and the University of Queensland, Australia, which assesses the health behaviours of undergraduate nursing students at three different points during their course through a repeated, cross-sectional survey. Health behaviours refer to the specific beliefs that people have around health, and their subsequent actions. The results of the survey are then used to create a personal teaching model for the students, bridging knowledge gaps and using their own experiences to enhance learning.



Project: The Big Data Surveillance (BDS) Project

Location: Quebec, Canada

The Centre for Research into Information, Surveillance and Privacy (CRISP) – led by Stirling academics – is proud to partner with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC), the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) and the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG) on the Big Data Surveillance Project. Funded through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant, the research examines the relationship between big data and surveillance in three linked streams: security, marketing and governance.



Project: Make-believe Matters

Location: Maastricht, Netherlands

People with dementia are increasingly dependent on their social and material environment for care, orientation and retaining a sense of self. At the same time, their illness makes them particularly susceptible to deception and a loss of trust in their surroundings. The University of Stirling's Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) – along with partners at the University of Maastricht, Netherlands – has established the 'Make-believe Matters' project to address the important role of physical objects for people with dementia. The research aims to develop an educational tool for caregivers and designers to better understand the needs of dementia sufferers, enabling them to create a bespoke, patient-centred environment for dementia care.



Project: Sustainable New Ingredients to Promote Health (SNIPH)

Location: Delhi, Goa and Kerala, India

SNIPH is a collaborative project designed to improve access to quality fish for consumption in India. The University of Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture is currently working with Aqua Lab Research, the University of Delhi, Delhi Technical University, Goa University and the University of Kerala to deliver a sustainable food solution for all.



Project: Historic Environment Scotland

Location: The Forbidden City, China

This unique research partnership brings together three world-renowned centres of excellence to advance research in new historical and cultural heritage strategies. It also develops training opportunities for staff and professionals working in heritage and conservation, as well as joint doctoral courses.

STIRLING GRADUATE SCHOOL



Stirling Graduate School (SGS) provides postgraduate research students with everything they need to succeed, both in their studies and in their future careers.

We firmly believe that undertaking a research degree is not just about sitting at a desk all day. It is about becoming embedded in the research culture of the University – debating the latest theories with experts, being out in the field collecting data, attending seminars, chatting over coffee in the common room and taking advantage of the various employment and professional development opportunities available, such as teaching, internships or volunteering. Stirling Graduate School strongly encourages you to make the most of your time here while studying for your degree, and supports you in doing so.

As a postgraduate researcher, you will be provided with study space, access to computing and information services, supplies and materials, a range of online research resources, and help getting your IT and field equipment set up and ready to go.



“Stirling Graduate School is dedicated to delivering high-quality learning and development opportunities, in an interdisciplinary research environment, for all postgraduate research students. We are committed to supporting and enhancing the PGR student experience, whilst creating a sense of belonging to a vibrant university-wide postgraduate community.”

Professor Samantha Punch
Professor of Sociology
Dean of Graduate Studies

Get involved

Here are just some of the ways you can get involved in the postgraduate community at Stirling:

Three-minute Thesis

Try the ‘Three-minute Thesis’ – pitch your PhD to an audience of peers and supervisors with this annual three-minute presentation challenge.

Postgraduate Skills Week

Attend Postgraduate Skills Week – brush up on your research and teaching skills, and get help thinking about careers within or beyond academia.

Skills development courses

Sign up for a skills development course – prepare for your future with our Vitae Researcher Development Framework training courses.

Research Week

Join us on campus for a dynamic, multidisciplinary showcase of our innovative research.

Postgraduate Research (PGR) Tuesdays

Come along every Tuesday with your lunch to relax, chat and share your experiences with fellow PhD students. On alternate Tuesdays, staff who have also been PhD students at Stirling will share their experiences of being a PGR student and thereafter transitioning into work.

Postgraduate Research Zone

Exclusively for postgraduate students, the Graduate School’s Postgraduate Research Zone provides an adaptable teaching and learning space for like-minded, passionate students from different disciplines and faculties to meet, study and socialise.

Caraid magazine

Caraid (which is Gaelic for friend) is the University of Stirling’s dedicated, online magazine for postgraduate research students, and is run by the Stirling Graduate School.

We welcome submissions from all postgraduate research students, whether it’s a short story or a poem, an opinion piece, or an entry from the visual arts (paintings, drawings and photographs). We celebrate ideas, diversity and creativity and encourage students to share their perspectives and experiences as an active part of our community.

At Stirling, one of our top priorities is to enhance your employability through cutting-edge research. Everything you do while you’re studying with us is designed to help you build the skills to be the difference and be noticed by potential employers.

Our graduates stand out. Stirling students not only achieve a qualification, but leave campus equipped with life-changing skills. Our graduates are motivated, self-confident, digitally aware, enterprising individuals who are making an impact on the world stage.

Developing your career

Our world-leading academics will equip you with the knowledge to make an impact in your chosen field – but it’s our dedicated Careers and Employability Service that will help you to identify and market your skills and transfer them to the workplace. The Careers and Employability Service provides a range of resources and support to help you make informed career decisions, achieve your goals and develop the tools that will enable you to excel in your career and throughout your life.

Our extensive services include:

- One-to-one advice and guidance, including CV and application consultations
- Careers events, workshops, employer presentations and sessions to enhance your employability skills
- Wide-ranging resources including practice psychometric testing, personality profiling and video interviewing software
- Access to our TARGETconnect platform to search for volunteer positions, graduate-level vacancies, internships and part-time work

stir.ac.uk/careers

International careers information

If you’re thinking about returning to your home country or working abroad once you graduate, we provide support, information and links to key international job search resources such as GoinGlobal and access to employers and alumni worldwide.

REDEFINE YOUR CAREER

100% OF OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH LEAVERS ARE IN EMPLOYMENT OR FURTHER STUDY WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF LEAVING US

Destinations of Leavers in Higher Education survey 2015/16

ACADEMIC FACULTIES



Each of our five academic faculties contributes to the University's core research themes, ensuring that our research spans a breadth of relevant discipline areas and makes a difference to people's lives.

Arts and Humanities

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities is our largest faculty, and offers a unique research environment in which you will be encouraged to explore, question, innovate and create. The Faculty is home to experts in the areas of Communications, Media and Culture; English; History; Law; Modern Languages; Philosophy; Politics; and Religion.

Health Sciences and Sport

The Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport's primary mission is to be the natural first choice for everyone with an interest in health and sport, and to develop global citizens who are equipped with the skills to make a positive difference to society. Our research strengths have been forged in Nursing; Physiology; Psychology; Management; Sociology; Social Marketing; Public Health; Primary Care; and Mental Health.

Natural Sciences

The Faculty of Natural Sciences explores the complex and challenging interrelationships between human behaviours; technologies; and biological, environmental and aquatic systems. The Faculty brings together four academic divisions: Aquaculture; Biological and Environmental Sciences; Computing Science and Mathematics; and Psychology.

Social Sciences

The Faculty of Social Sciences is a dynamic, multidisciplinary collective of around 70 academic staff and research students. Exploratory efforts in this area are focused on Child Wellbeing and Protection; Crime and Justice; Dementia and Ageing; Education; Public Services and Governance; and Social Studies.

Stirling Management School

Stirling Management School is an AMBA-accredited school of management and business, and is home to seven dynamic centres of research. The school is organised into five divisions: Accounting and Finance; Economics; Management, Work and Organisation; Marketing and Retail; and the Centre for Advanced Management Education.

Researchers at Stirling conduct high-quality research that ranges from the strategic to the applied, and makes a vital contribution to the economic, social and cultural life in Scotland and beyond.

Students wishing to undertake a postgraduate research degree have a number of options available to them. From Master of Research (MRes) degrees to Professional Doctorates, there is something for everyone.

MRes

We offer a range of Master of Research (MRes) courses in areas such as education, applied social research, publishing studies and health. MRes courses can provide students with a solid grounding in advanced research methods – including disciplinary-specific methods, and quantitative and qualitative methods – as well as an understanding of the challenges and opportunities around interdisciplinary research. An MRes qualification is ideal preparation for those interested in continuing to doctoral study.

MPhil

Stirling's Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is an advanced research degree that is typically shorter than a PhD qualification, but is completed to the same academic quality. It comprises a major independent research project and provides a significant grounding in research methods that will equip students to enter a career within a professional field, or to continue on to complete a PhD.

PhD

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an advanced postgraduate qualification comprising three or more years of independent research on a subject-specific question. It is carried out with the support of an academic adviser and culminates in the completion of a thesis that offers a significant contribution to the academic field. It is the highest academic degree a student can achieve.

Professional Doctorates

Professional Doctorate qualifications integrate professional and academic knowledge. We have a range of subject areas, including:

- Doctor of Applied Social Research (DASR)
- Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- Clinical Doctorates: Doctor of Nursing, Doctor of Midwifery or Doctor of Professional Health Studies (NursD/MidD/DPHS)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)
- Doctor of Diplomacy (DDipl)
- Doctorate in Health Psychology (DPsych)
- Doctorate in Big Data Science

Professional Doctorate qualifications are designed for professionals who want to focus on a particular area in their field and make a contribution to theory and practice through further study. Courses typically comprise a taught element in the first year, followed by a significant period of independent research. Professional Doctorates often take students three to four years to complete full-time, or six to eight years part-time.

These courses are generally delivered on a part-time basis to better suit working professionals, but in some cases, full-time courses may be available.

TYPES OF RESEARCH DEGREE

For find out which type of research degree suits you and your career ambitions, visit: stir.ac.uk/1nw



PHD OPPORTUNITIES



LIVING WELL

Drawing from expertise across a range of disciplines, our PhD students within the theme of Living Well learn from, and work with, some of the world's leading academics. From changing behaviours towards smoking to encouraging greater exercise in schools, our research provides an ideal environment for aspiring academics of the future.

Dementia and ageing

Improving quality of life for our ageing population, and those living with dementia, is a significant challenge for modern society. Through interdisciplinary research, we hope to better understand what measures and policies might increase our ability to manage and support an ageing population and better support people and families living with dementia.

Health, lifestyle and behaviour change

Whether you are interested in understanding the evolutionary principles that underlie human and animal behaviour, exploring the latest psychology theories and methods that can improve societal health and wellbeing, or investigating how the brain functions and responds to external stimuli, we have expert staff researching in the areas of behaviour, health and cognition. We also support research which focuses on end-of-life care for patients with terminal illnesses and how national and international policy is shaping and reshaping the health and lifestyles of individuals.

Mobile cognition

By investigating how human brains work in the real world, we offer a new perspective on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of neurological conditions. Human behaviour has traditionally been examined under laboratory conditions. Our work moves psychology out of the lab to investigate and understand human behaviour. We use pioneering brain imaging technology to address problems and ask questions that haven't previously been explored.

Population and public health

Policy and practice-relevant research is a key way to improve the health of populations (in Scotland, the UK and beyond) and reduce health inequalities. Whether you are interested in public health interventions, such as tobacco control, drug and alcohol policy, or policies around occupational and environmental health, Stirling will help you to make a difference through your research.

Sports social science

Stirling supports a range of exciting research projects covering sports, sport coaching and performance. With a varied view of sport and sports science – and its relationship to things like identity, economics and public health – our research aims to understand and reflect critically on the way sport shapes, and is shaped by, society. We also work with elite athletes to understand the factors that can limit or enhance performance, and investigate the impacts of exercise and healthy lifestyles on society.

For more information on opportunities for PhD research, visit:
stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees



GLOBAL SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

Global security and resilience is one of the world's most pressing challenges. From climate change to national security, our PhD students have the opportunity to make a real-world difference to the people and places around them.

Accounting, finance and economics

Our economics expertise covers areas such as environmental, resource and energy economics; public health and behavioural economics; and the history of corporations. Alongside our economics expertise, we have expertise in financial technology (Fintech) to help researchers model and forecast market volatility and financial data, and colleagues interested in the behavioural and psychological aspects of finance and economics.

Big data and digital economies

The pace of technological development has resulted in the exponential growth of online connectivity between people, businesses and processes. We live in an age of 'Big Data', and understanding its infrastructure can provide us with unique insights into consumer behaviour, and how people access and use products and services. We can offer research expertise in a vast range of fields and topics, including machine learning, operational research, biological modelling, image processing for disease detection and other cross-cutting themes.

Human security

Human security encompasses a broad range of topics including issues of military conflicts, terrorism, equality, gender, immigration, trade and environmental and energy policies. Our political scientists are interested in how perceptions of threat to human security shape national and global political agendas and the way these issues interface with human rights. Our historians also bring contextual analysis to how countries and regions have changed over time, reshaping international relations across the world, and our natural scientists are using data science methods to examine security and network-based technologies.

Management, work and organisation

From understanding the nature of management structures used by large businesses in emerging economies, to resource allocation models used to support postnatal care, we have research teams looking at a range of aspects of business, management, human relations, public policy and administration.

Public services and governance

Effective governance and leadership in public services is fundamental to society, public health and a healthy democracy. Our expert staff will be on hand to help you develop cutting-edge research in these areas.

Ecology, conservation and food security

Our researchers are internationally recognised experts in ecology, conservation management and aquaculture. We have specialisms in tropical rainforest ecology, conflict management in conservation areas, and genetics in fish farming, as well as many other research areas focused on providing practicable and sustainable solutions to challenges in the natural landscape.

For more information on opportunities for PhD research, visit:
stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees



CULTURES, COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETY



PhD research within Cultures, Communities and Society is as broad and diverse as the theme itself. Whether your interests lie in digital media and retail, or crime and justice, you will work closely with our leading academics to provide solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Child wellbeing and protection

With experts in social work, child protection, education and health, we bring a holistic and integrated approach to this field. Our strength lies in the potential we have to undertake original research on issues affecting children's development, from pre-birth to adolescence. By bridging theory and practice, our researchers work to provide the best evidence base for policy development that will shape the lives of children, young people and families.

Crime and justice

National and international policies on crime and justice impact people's lives. Our researchers work to develop and produce research outcomes that critically inform policy and practice, from understanding the complexities of human trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable groups, to innovations in electronic monitoring and effectiveness. If you are interested in the criminology and sociology of crime and justice, our skilled team of academics can support you in your research.

Media and communications

We support research in areas of media and communications, including journalism, cultural policy, television, feminism and gender studies, and international public communications. This includes opportunities to pursue practice-based research degrees.

Education

Our researchers work to bring novel theoretical, conceptual and methodological insights to our understanding of learning and leadership within the education professions. You might be interested in the impacts and influence of digital infrastructures; platforms and devices in education, or the tools and techniques necessary for developing professional leadership; or issues around widening access. We welcome research ideas.

Humanities and cultural studies

We offer a broad range of humanities and cultural studies research opportunities in subjects such as history, philosophy, law, literature and cultural heritage. Whether you want to pursue research in colonial and early American history, contemporary European history and medieval Scottish history, or legal, moral and political philosophy, or research in environmental and energy law, global cinema, gothic fiction, or landscape and heritage studies, we support a diverse range of subjects within the field of humanities and cultural studies.

Marketing and retail

With specific expertise in marketing of small and medium-sized enterprises, e-marketing, music marketing, sports marketing, international marketing and applied marketing, much of our research activities fall under the remit of critical marketing, bringing together the latest in research and practice. Whether policy or practice is your area of interest, we have a dynamic and diverse team of researchers who can support you to pursue your research ambitions.

Social statistics and behavioural sciences

Data and surveys are part and parcel of a knowledge-rich society and modern governance. Our researchers are investigating the application and interpretation of statistical models and data processing techniques to enhance business and ecosystem monitoring, using current theories in mathematics and behavioural sciences. We also have expertise in social marketing and public health interventions, with opportunities to pursue research in areas such as tobacco and alcohol harm reduction campaigns.

For more information on opportunities for PhD research, visit:
stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees

PROFESSOR JAYNE DONALDSON

Professor of Nursing
Dean of Faculty
Health Sciences and Sport

Jayne is a Registered Nurse and Registered Nurse Teacher with a keen interest in healthcare services provision, whose expertise focuses on improving the quality of care provision, and service redesign and improvement. Jayne is a Professor of Nursing and has held a number of Senior Management positions within the Scottish healthcare and Higher Education sector. She is currently a member of the Council of Deans of Health Scotland and UK.



Is a PhD for me?

Postgraduate research degrees can open up a range of opportunities for graduates. It is a period of intensive training and intellectual challenge, which allows students to build upon their existing knowledge within a certain subject area, and push the boundaries of current research. Using this experience, our graduates have gone on to pursue successful careers in a range of sectors, including health and sport research and development, clinical and industry practice, the government, research councils, and further academia.

How long does a PhD take?

Typically, a full-time PhD course in the UK lasts between three and four years, but the duration depends largely on the funding stream. The University and Faculty have a number of initiatives to help you stick to your planned research timetable and meet your milestones throughout your study. There is an active postgraduate research community, where the level of peer and supervisory support is second to none.

What types of funding are there for a PhD?

From University scholarships to PhD loans and academic foundations, the opportunities for research funding are very much out there for the taking. Our research within the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport is often linked with funded studentships, and we recruit students to carry out specific projects for PhD study – these have included international government funding, NHS, Alcohol Research UK, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Chief Scientist Office (CSO), and other industry and sector partners.

PhD studentships in these areas are allocated to specific projects – which aim to improve the UK's economy, society and health, and to create a sustainable future – and are available to UK and EU residents.

International students also have the option of student-based funding. This stream allows PhD researchers to receive monetary support for their personal research interests, rather than for a predefined project. Usually, these funds will be awarded by the government in their home country and the research will work towards solving a particular economic, social or environmental issue. These are often the most flexible projects, because students are given a set time allocation to develop their own research.

What are the AHRC and ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships and how will Stirling's membership benefit me?

Stirling has developed strong relationships, and participates proactively, with the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership Scotland and the ESRC Scottish Doctoral Training Centre, also known as the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) and the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS).

The SGSAH and SGSSS offer additional training opportunities for postgraduate research students, allowing them to benefit from the latest learning and teaching in research, and connect aspiring researchers to a vast network of leading academics in their fields.

These two national graduate schools are fully funded by two leading UK Research Councils: the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

For research students funded by the National Environment Research Council (NERC), Stirling also has established links with the IAPETUS Doctoral Training Partnership.

In addition, our own Stirling Graduate School participates regularly in UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) events to ensure our students are up to date with wider postgraduate research sector developments.

What qualifications do I need?

Normally, a Masters-level degree – or international equivalent – is required to progress to a research degree. However, it can sometimes be possible to transfer directly from your undergraduate studies if you are interested in pursuing further study.

Regardless of your subject preference, it is expected that you will have achieved at least an upper second-class bachelor's degree in your undergraduate studies. For students who are keen to progress to doctoral study but do not have a Masters, we offer more than 100 postgraduate taught courses across a range of disciplines at Stirling to bridge the required knowledge gap. All of our taught courses include an element of research-based learning, but the Master of Research – commonly known as MRes – in particular offers students an intensive training in research methods, and will put graduates in good stead for PhD study.

ASK AN EXPERT



ASK AN EXPERT

DR MARIO VALLEJO-MARIN

Associate Professor of Evolutionary Biology

Mario became fascinated with evolutionary biology while growing up in tropical Mexico. His main interests include plant evolution, bee pollination and the origin of species. After training in Mexico, the USA and Canada, Mario joined the University of Stirling in 2008. Here he has continued his work on evolutionary biology and discovered some of the youngest plant species on the planet, including the endemic Scottish monkeyflower.

How and when should I apply?

To apply for PhD study at Stirling, it is a simple three-step process. First, you must identify and contact an appropriate supervisor to help you identify a suitable topic that fits your interests and the research programme, and to help you source potential funding opportunities. In most cases, this will require finding funding for PhD studentships to support you and your research during the PhD.

Next you must prepare a draft research proposal, outlining the topic you wish to investigate, your experience, and what methods you intend to use.

Finally, your potential supervisor will help you to refine your proposal and complete the final stage of the process by submitting your online application.

In the UK most PhD studentships begin in the autumn. However, funded and self-funded PhDs can start at any time of year. You should begin applying as soon as possible. Although new studentships are advertised throughout the year, submission deadlines typically close at the start of each year.

How many papers am I expected to publish during my PhD?

There is no minimum requirement in order to graduate. Students may publish one or two papers during their studies, but there is a large variance in this area. Although it does not affect your ability to graduate, high-quality publications will make you more competitive in the job market, particularly if you plan to follow an academic career. My advice to PhD students would be to start publishing early and often, while keeping in mind that sometimes it can take longer to reach conclusions on certain topics.

What is an integrated 1+3 studentship and how could it benefit me?

Students who do not have a Masters qualification but are passionate about progressing to PhD research can apply for an integrated 1+3 degree programme. This study option allows you to complete a full year of taught study and, providing you meet the necessary progression criteria, move immediately on to three years of PhD research. Securing an integrated Masters and PhD programme will not only provide you with an excellent route into doctoral research; it also gives the added security of knowing your research funding is taken care of before you begin your studies.

Are there opportunities to conduct research abroad?

Yes, lots! Many of our students travel overseas for training and research purposes. They go to Canada, Alaska, the Tropics; they participate in exchange programmes in Australia, Germany and Spain. The opportunities are endless, and the extent to which a student can travel during their PhD studies is very much up to the individual.

You can apply for specific exchange programme grants, utilise an existing relationship between a supervisor here and collaborators abroad, or you could be a part of a specific joint project with another institution overseas.

At Stirling, we encourage our students to think outside the box and explore as many different perspectives and contexts as possible, in order to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Am I able to change supervisor if I want or need to?

Yes, and it is very much encouraged to ask for that if you feel you need it. Our job is to ensure that you come into a research environment that allows you to fulfil your research potential. So, if needed, we have made it very easy to change supervisors – although this rarely occurs. In an effort to ensure our students have the best guidance from the outset, all PhD students at Stirling are assigned two supervisors: one primary and one secondary. This gives you two points of contact at any time during your studies and should ensure all of your research needs are catered for.

I have a family who need to travel with me, is there support for this?

Absolutely, there are lots of students from around the world who choose to relocate with their families in order to pursue a PhD qualification. As this can be a big commitment for your loved ones, the University of Stirling aims to ensure the transition is as easy as possible.

Staff within our Psychology department run a dedicated nursery programme, allowing young ones to integrate early on and make new friends. We also offer dedicated family accommodation on campus, allowing your family to relocate without the stress of finding a new home. There are regular coffee mornings and informal clubs – set up by partners of PhD students – which create a safe, friendly environment for you to quickly set up roots in Stirling and feel at home in Scotland.

HINTS AND TIPS FOR STUDENTS BY STUDENTS

As a postgraduate research student at Stirling, you will be supported and challenged to push the boundaries within your respective fields. We've gathered a few top tips from current and former students to prepare you for your research journey.



**Stephen Chinn,
Scotland**

PhD student
Specialism: Oncology and cancer care

Unless your PhD is part of an existing project, one of the most important pieces of work happens before the starting line – finding the right supervisor. When you've got a shortlist of 'possibles', start researching them. Read their publications. Look at the projects they are working on. Try to get a sense of what they would be like to work with. If you get to meet them, don't be afraid to ask the challenging questions. If they are right for you, they'll respond well. Choose wisely. You'll be spending three years working with them.

Once you've started, participate in research life. We all need support and encouragement, and the best place to get it is from your peers.



**Katherine Allen,
United States**

PhD student
Specialism: Education

As an international student, moving to another country can be quite daunting. Make sure you bring copies of your medical records with you and register with the on-campus medical practice as soon as you arrive – visits to the doctor are free in Scotland under the National Health Service (NHS).

Bring enough money with you for the first two weeks (at least) after your arrival. The University will give you the required documents to open a bank account once you get here. It can take a little while to set up your account, so it's best to have a contingency fund. It's also good to plan your journey to the University once you land in the UK. There's nothing worse than getting off a long flight and having to sort out travel arrangements, especially if English isn't your first language. Good luck!



**Craig Anderson,
Scotland**

PhD student
Specialism: Behavioural Economics

Taking on a PhD is a marathon, not a sprint. It will pull you as much as you push it, and will challenge you to innovate and change direction along the way. The best advice I would give to prospective PhD researchers is "don't try to answer your PhD in the first six weeks". Lots of students burn out by forgetting that a PhD is a long game. It can be a little nerve-wracking, and all of us feel out of our depth at times or at least a little uncertain. But the certainty you are seeking will take time. Embrace the unknown and explore it. Enjoy the journey.



**Phuspa Poopalasingam,
Malaysia and Canada**

PhD student
**Specialism: Management,
Work and Organisation**

Being a student from overseas, I came to Stirling not knowing anyone. I have been blown away by the warmth and hospitality of staff and students – who have made me feel at home here – and the ample learning resources available to you as a PhD researcher.

I would definitely recommend that students make the most of the University's subscription to Lynda.com – an online resource of training videos and tutorials for personal and professional development.

There are thousands of helpful tutorials across a range of different subjects, which have really helped me so far in my PhD journey.

I have loved my experience so far and would definitely recommend it to students thinking of undertaking their PhD study at Stirling.



**Christine Habeeb,
United States**

PhD student
Specialism: Sport psychology

During your viva, you need to demonstrate two things: independence and contribution. Make it your mission to clearly express those qualities in the way you write and speak about your work, even if it doesn't always feel that way.

To prepare for this, I would recommend sending your manuscript out for review. Even if it's rejected, you get an opportunity to have an expert in the field comment on your work, which can lead to new perspectives and help you to deal with potential challenges.

If you want to get the most out of your studies, don't put your life on hold while you wait to finish your PhD. Get involved with other research, teaching and practical opportunities. In the eyes of your future employer, going above the call of duty is what separates a 'good' candidate from a 'great' one.

STUDENTSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

There are a wide range of scholarship and funding opportunities available to our postgraduate research students.

If you have the talent, ability and drive to study with us, we'll do our best to support you to reach your full potential.

Here are just a few of the funding sources available:

Doctoral studentships

The University provides a range of studentship opportunities in specified discipline areas. Many of the studentships will cover the home/EU fee rate; overseas students will need to cover the difference between the overseas fee and the home/EU fee.

UK Research Council studentships

The University is a member institution of a number of Research Council doctoral training partnerships. Stirling has excellent collaborative links with both the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) and the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS). These national graduate schools offer additional advanced training and networks for postgraduate research students, including summer schools and internships.

Carnegie PhD Scholarships

Carnegie PhD Scholarships are available to students across all academic disciplines wishing to pursue three years of postgraduate research leading to a PhD. Candidates must have achieved a first-class Honours undergraduate degree and must have studied at a university in Scotland. These scholarships are highly competitive.

Commonwealth scholarships and fellowships programme

If you are from one of the Commonwealth countries (not the Commonwealth of Independent States), you may be eligible for this scheme. Scholarships normally cover tuition fees, travel and living expenses for up to three years.

Portfolio funding

Using lots of different small awards is another way to fund your studies. You can build a portfolio of funding by applying to educational charities and academic foundations. Funders in this category can range from major charities to small trusts, but be mindful that some may have narrow remits in niche subjects. You should spend time researching opportunities, and writing speculative letters to appropriate organisations who may not have formal processes.

New PhD loans (England and EU)

Students from England and the EU may be eligible for a postgraduate loan of up to £25,000 to fund the cost of doctoral study. Loans are available from 2018 and full details of the scheme are available on our website.

British Council funding

British Council scholarships are targeted at international researchers studying in fields considered to be of special importance in the candidate's own country. Grants are for postgraduate study or research, and vary in size – from small grants to fellowships, which will cover fees and living expenses.

Career development loans

Professional and career development loans are commercial bank loans that can be used to help pay for work-related learning. You can borrow between £300 and £10,000 to help support the cost of up to two years of learning (or three years if it includes one year of relevant unpaid practical work). The Government will pay the interest on the loan while you are learning, and for one month afterwards. You will then need to start repaying the loan as you would any other commercial loan product.

Country-specific grants

Check the grant-awarding bodies in your own country – the Ministry or Department for Education, for example. Many international governments fund students to study abroad in subject areas of national strategic importance.

Self-funding

You can work full-time and study part-time, or study full-time and work part-time – both of these options can be quite demanding. Working while you study can give you key work-based skills that future employers may value, but you would need to consider how you balance your time between work and study, and whether there is sufficient flexibility in both to enable you to successfully complete your degree. Most students who self-fund study part time.

Please be sure to check the terms and conditions for each funding source, including eligibility and submission deadlines.

For a full list of funding and scholarship opportunities, visit: stir.ac.uk/scholarships



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



By choosing the University of Stirling, you're also choosing to become a global citizen in an increasingly connected world. We're a truly international institution, and our beautiful campus is home to a dynamic community of staff and students from more than 120 countries. One in five of our students is from overseas, and just under half of our postgraduate students come to us from outside the UK.

We believe that this diversity helps us to develop outward-thinking graduates with limitless potential. Stirling might be a Scottish university – but thinking and working globally is part of our daily teaching, learning and research practice. It's part of who we are. That's why our students rate us first in Scotland for welcoming international students¹. The University also consistently earns five QS Stars in the World University Rankings for internationalisation.

MORE THAN 120 NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED ON CAMPUS

Student support

The University of Stirling has a dedicated International Visa Advice Team, and experts within our Student Hub, who can provide you with advice on application processes, tips on what you should do before you arrive, and one-to-one guidance during your time here at Stirling. Services include: application support, financial advice, immigration information, travel support and cultural activities designed to help you make the most of your time in Scotland.

stir.ac.uk/77

If you'd prefer to speak with someone in person before you arrive, you can also get in touch with one of the University's international representatives in your own country.

stir.ac.uk/g9

English language requirements

If English is not your first language, you may need to provide us with evidence of your English language skills in order to receive a place on your chosen course. The University of Stirling accepts many forms of English language qualifications, including:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) PTE
- Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)
- DAAD: for applications through IEC Germany only

Please note that students coming to us from majority English-speaking countries, such as the USA or Canada, will not need to provide us with English language qualifications.

Learn more about English language qualifications and requirements: stir.ac.uk/1ae



Visa information

All international students interested in coming to Stirling (apart from European Economic Area and Swiss nationals) for a period of more than six months will need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa before travelling. You will need to apply through the UK Government, and include both an application fee and a health surcharge.

Your visa will last for the duration of your study; however, it will come with a few restrictions. As part of the terms of your visa, you will normally be allowed to work during your studies. Usually, students will be limited to working 20 hours per week during term time, and there are certain jobs that you may not be permitted to undertake.

Normally, you can apply to bring dependants, such as a partner or children, with you for the duration of your studies as part of your Tier 4 (General) student visa.

For advice on how and where to apply for your visa, get in touch with our International Advisors Team: internationaladvisor@stir.ac.uk

“Joining the University of Stirling Postgraduate Society is a great way to make friends and meet like-minded people, especially if you have moved far away from home.

“Students are introduced to Scottish culture through organised events and activities. It’s a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in life at Stirling.”

Aliya Kenjegalieva
PhD Economics
Postgraduate Society President

1ST IN THE UK FOR WELCOMING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student Barometer 2016

YOUR LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY INVESTS
£1.5 MILLION EACH YEAR
IN JOURNALS, NEW BOOKS,
DATABASES AND DVDS

Based in the centre of our beautiful campus, Stirling's state-of-the-art library houses over 500,000 titles and has plenty of space for research and study. We invest £1.5 million in new books, journals, databases and DVDs every year to ensure our recently refurbished library is a contemporary study hub that gives you all the tools and inspiration you need to succeed.

Postgraduate Research Zone

As a postgraduate student at Stirling, you will have access to a unique space to help and enhance your studies. Housed within the library, the Stirling Graduate School's Postgraduate Research Zone provides an adaptable teaching and learning space for like-minded, passionate students from different disciplines and faculties to meet, study and socialise.

Archives and special collections

Our expansive collections house everything from ancient poetry to quantum physics. As a student at Stirling, you'll also be given access to the University's dedicated archives reading room, where you can explore the wide range of historical collections, influential documents and quirky artefacts that have helped shape Scotland's past.

Collaborative research

At the University of Stirling, we encourage our students to share ideas and create change. That's why our library has been designed to encourage group study and collaborative learning through its innovative study pods, group-training and private-study rooms, coffee bar seating, private lounges, and a designated study zone that's open 24/7.

The world at your fingertips

Our students aren't limited to the resources housed in our four-floor library. The University is a member of the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL), which provides Stirling's students with access to resources from universities all over the UK and Ireland. The library also connects students with full access to more than 350 industry-specific research databases from around the globe – covering everything from American magazines and EU white papers to global financial data and biomedical repositories.

Online learning resource: Lynda.com

As a student at Stirling, you will benefit from the University's subscription to Lynda.com. This leading online learning platform gives you access to a vast video library of engaging, top-quality courses, across a range of disciplines, taught by recognised industry experts.

For 20 years, Lynda.com has helped students, leaders, project managers – anyone in any role – to develop the software, creative and business skills necessary to succeed. With tutorials in five languages, Lynda.com is a global platform for success.

5-STAR EXCELLENCE
AWARD FOR FACILITIES

SOMEWHERE TO CALL HOME

Looking for the perfect place to live while studying at the University of Stirling?

We offer a wide range of modern, comfortable and secure postgraduate residences on our beautiful 330-acre campus, in nearby Bridge of Allan and in Stirling's vibrant city centre.



All postgraduate accommodation contracts are offered for 50 weeks and include utilities, Wi-Fi, insurance and bed linen.

Built around your needs

We've invested £40 million in our student housing over the last few years, listening to what our students want every step of the way. All accommodation is single occupancy, and you can choose from a range of flats, chalets and townhouses.

On campus, everything is planned around you – so you'll find laundry facilities, a supermarket, a pharmacy, a medical and dental centre, a gym, a bookshop and a bank within a few minutes' walk, as well as all the facilities the University and Students' Union have to offer.

If you've got family or friends who would like to visit, we have the Stirling Court Hotel on campus, with a fantastic restaurant, bar and facilities.
stirlingcourthotel.com

Family accommodation

We also offer accommodation for students wishing to bring their family with them. This accommodation is not currently available to book online. Please contact Accommodation Services to make a booking.

pgfamilyaccommodation@stir.ac.uk
stir.ac.uk/familyaccommodation

Accessible housing

We can provide or adapt accommodation for a variety of requirements, and can also arrange pre-entry visits. If you have any specific needs, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

ask@stir.ac.uk

How to apply

Students can apply online via the University portal as soon as they receive confirmation of a conditional or unconditional firm offer. Applications open in April each year.

For more information, including accommodation costs, please visit:
stir.ac.uk/accommodation



At the University of Stirling, we believe your postgraduate experience is so much more than just academic study. It is a time for adventure and new experiences that should extend beyond the walls of classrooms. If you're in search of a place to connect with the Stirling community and broaden your postgraduate experience, our award-winning Students' Union is the place.

STUDENTS' UNION

Your Students' Union


The Students' Union offers independent advocacy and support for its members, and is here to ensure your student experience is the best one possible.


The Union works closely with a range of relevant postgraduate bodies to ensure all your views and issues are taken into account, and that you can make the most of your student experience.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

 /stirlingstudentsunion

 @stirlingunion

 @stirlingunion

 stirunion

Making Students' Lives Better

Your Students' Union aims to ensure that it improves the student experience of all students. To support your academic needs, we work closely with Graduate School Officers to inform and engage on University policies and practice. Our award-winning facilities also provide a community focus for students to gather, share ideas and socialise. With a host of student-focused outlets at your fingers tips, there is something for everyone.

You can also find out more about what the Students' Union has on offer on our website:

stirlingstudentsunion.com

Postgraduate Society and more

Our students love to explore and share the passions and interests that make them unique. That's why we have more than 80 societies and 50 sports clubs to choose from, including our dedicated Postgraduate Society.

The University of Stirling Postgraduate Society gives taught and research postgraduate students the chance to come together through a range of planned social activities. From regular coffee mornings and pub quizzes, to lunches and research events, it's a great way to meet like-minded students from a range of disciplines. We also have clubs centred on business development, volunteering, music, travel, the arts and much more.

If sport is more your thing, we have a great range of competitive and participation sports for you to try during our 'Give It A Go' sessions.

As Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence, the University of Stirling has one of the best reputations in the UK.

We have been at the forefront of Scottish sport for nearly five decades, and are proud to have supported world-class athletes from around the globe. Our incredible student athletes have competed at the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Walker Cup.

We aim to make sure every student can enjoy our world-class sports facilities, which are fully accessible to disabled users, and we provide a wide range of activities and support services that cater to all of our students' individual needs.

Choose from more than 50 fitness classes per week, learn to swim, try tennis, or join a walking or running group around our beautiful campus.

Outstanding sports facilities

Our sports facilities include:

- The National Tennis Centre, which features six indoor courts and two outdoor all-weather floodlit courts.
- The National Swimming Academy, which houses a 50-metre, six-lane pool and land-conditioning room.
- A nine-hole, par-three golf course, putting green, driving range, pavilion and video analysis suite.
- The Sports Centre, which boasts a great range of cardiovascular and resistance equipment and two free-weights areas with lifting platforms.
- An eight-court sports hall and three squash courts.
- Air-conditioned dance, indoor cycle and fitness studios.
- A 400m all-weather running track.
- Two artificial pitches and seven grass pitches.

To find out more about sport at Stirling, visit:
stir.ac.uk/sport

SPORT

SCOTLAND'S UNIVERSITY FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE

STUDENT SUPPORT

We strive to ensure all of our students are able to embrace life as a part of our vibrant postgraduate community – which is why our extensive student support services are always on standby to lend a helping hand.

Student Services Hub

University is about finding your own way, but that doesn't mean you have to do it on your own. Our extensive support service teams are here for you every step of the way. The Student Services Hub brings lots of frequently used services together under one banner, meaning you can resolve a range of queries through a single point of contact.

We can help you with questions on all of the following services:

Accessibility and inclusion

The Accessibility and Inclusion team provides professional expertise to enable students with a wide variety of needs to access all aspects of their university life. Dedicated advisers offer assessments for your learning and support requirements, and create a tailored support package to meet your individual needs. Please get in touch to discuss any specific needs or arrange a face-to-face meeting. We highly recommend pre-entry visits for students with mobility or sensory impairments.

Careers and employability

Whatever your ambitions, we'll make sure you can make the most of your abilities. From discussing your future career plans to supporting you with practical job-seeking skills, our Careers and Employability Consultants can help you to be the difference in your chosen field. We're here to equip you with the skills you need to make a positive start to your career.

Emotional wellbeing

We operate a free, confidential counselling service on campus. Our qualified counsellors and mental health advisers are here for you throughout your time at Stirling.

Faith and spirituality

The Chaplaincy is open to all faiths and none, and celebrates the wealth of nationalities, cultures and beliefs represented here at the University of Stirling. With a dedicated facility in the heart of the University campus, it offers a quiet room where you can stop by any time for reflection and meditation, and a communal area which is lively and sociable. Our team of Chaplains can offer emotional, spiritual or practical support and guidance, and we have a dedicated prayer and wash room for Muslim students.



Immigration

Our International Advisers Team, within our Student Hub, can provide you with advice and information to help you secure the appropriate visa for the duration of your studies at Stirling.

Income office

At the University of Stirling, we recognise that you need flexibility when paying your fees, so we provide a range of secure payment options.

Money support

Student Money Advisers can help with budgeting and money management. They can also help you to apply for additional funding and financial support.

Registry services

Academic Registry deliver a range of key administration and information services for students throughout their studies at the University of Stirling, from enrolment to graduation.

Student learning

We run a regular schedule of workshops and tutorials organised by our Student Learning Services team. No matter what stage of your studies you're at, you can take advantage of drop-in sessions, workshops and other services designed to help you become an independent, successful learner.

Study Abroad

We offer a wide range of once-in-a-lifetime study abroad opportunities. You can choose to study at one of our partner universities across four continents and develop your personal skills, broaden your horizons and experience new cultures. Talk to our team of advisers about these exciting opportunities.

For further information, or to ask about any of the services above, please contact us or visit our website:

ask@stir.ac.uk

01786 466022

stir.ac.uk/studentsupport

HOW TO APPLY



In addition to an approved research proposal, students applying for a research degree at Stirling should meet the following academic entry criteria:

Bachelor's degree with minimum upper second-class honours, or international equivalent.

English Language Proficiency: IELTS 6.5 (minimum 6.0 in all subtests), or equivalent.

Some research degrees may have higher requirements; please check the postgraduate research pages on the University website.

[stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees](https://www.stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees)

APPLICATION PROCESS



1. RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Students wishing to study for a PhD should first prepare a draft research proposal. Your research overview should be 1,000–2,000 words in length, and broadly outline the topic you wish to investigate, your experience in this field of study, and how you intend to conduct your research.

We strongly encourage you to review the research currently being undertaken in your subject area at Stirling, and to tailor your proposal accordingly. [stir.ac.uk/research](https://www.stir.ac.uk/research)

General Admissions

For further information about the PhD application process, or if you have any questions, please contact our Graduate Admissions team:

+44 (0)1786 466655
graduate.admissions@stir.ac.uk



2. CONTACT SUPERVISOR(S)

The next stage is to identify and make contact with a potential supervisor, or supervisors. To assist with this task, the University has developed the online 'Find a Supervisor' tool, which allows you to search for members of academic staff by name, keyword and research area. [stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees](https://www.stir.ac.uk/researchdegrees)

You should then get in touch with potential supervisors by email or phone to discuss your research overview. If they are able to supervise your research, your chosen academic will support you to refine your ideas and develop a full research proposal.

If you are having difficulty identifying prospective supervisors, support is available from the Graduate Admissions team. graduate.admissions@stir.ac.uk



3. ONLINE APPLICATION

When you have finalised your research proposal with your supervisor, you will need to submit a formal application for PhD study. You can apply throughout the year and there are four possible start dates for research degrees – 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. Guidance on completing the online application form and providing supporting documentation is available via the University website. [stir.ac.uk/1ny](https://www.stir.ac.uk/1ny)

If you meet the entry requirements for your area of study, you will be made a formal offer of a place. You'll then be sent an offer letter and information on how to access our Applicant Portal to respond to your offer and prepare to begin your studies.

INDEX

A	
Accessibility and Inclusion	62
Accommodation	58-59
Accounting, Finance and Economics	43
Ageing	10, 25, 27, 41
Application Process	64-65
Aquaculture	19, 31, 43
Archives and Special Collections	57
Arts and Humanities, Faculty of	34
Ask an Expert	46-49
B	
Behaviour, Health and	10, 13, 41
Behavioural Economics	43, 51
Behavioural Sciences, Social Statistics and	45
Being Connected	10
Big Data and Digital Economics	43
C	
Campus Map	4-5
Cancer care, Oncology and	13, 50
Careers and Employability Service	33, 62
Chaplaincy	62
Child Wellbeing and Protection	45
City of Stirling	7
Clubs, Societies and Sport	60-61
Communications, Media and	45
Community, Home, Housing and	11
Conflict and Cooperation, Human Security	11
Conservation, Ecology and Food Security	43
Contextual Learning in Humans and Machines	10
Crime and Justice	25, 45
Criminology	25, 45
Cultural Heritage	10, 25, 31, 45
Cultural Studies, Humanities and	45
Culture, Digital Society and	10
Cultures,	9, 24-29, 44-45
Communities and Society	

D	
Dementia	10, 13, 31, 41
Digital Economics, Big Data and	43
Digital Society and Culture	10
E	
Ecology, Conservation and Food Security	43
Economics	26-27, 43
Economics, Accounting and Finance	43
Economics, Behavioural	43, 51
Education	45, 51
Emotional Wellbeing	62
English Language Requirements	55
Entry Requirements	55, 64
Environmental Change	10, 19-21, 43
Extreme Events in Science and Society	10, 19
F	
Faculties	34-35
Arts and Humanities	34
Health Sciences and Sport	34
Natural Sciences	35
Social Sciences	35
Stirling Management School	35
Faith and Spirituality	62
Finance, Accounting and Economics	43
Food Security, Ecology and Conservation	43
Food Security, Global	10, 19-21
Funding and Scholarships	52-53
G	
Global Food Security	10, 19-21
Global Security and Resilience	9, 18-23, 42-43
Governance, Public Services and	43

H	
Health, Public	41
Health and Behaviour	10, 31, 41
Health Sciences and Sport, Faculty of	34
Heritage and Conservation	25
Heritage, Cultural	10, 25, 31, 45
Home, Housing and Community	11
How to Apply	64-65
Human Perception and Recognition	28-29
Human Security	11, 19, 43
Human Security, Conflict and Cooperation	11, 43
Humanities and Cultural Studies	45
Hub, Student Services	62

I	
Immigration and Visa	55, 62
Income Office	62
International Careers	33
International Entry Requirements	64
International Partners	30-31
International Students	54-55

L	
Library	56-57
Living Well	9, 12-17, 40-41

M	
Management, Work and Organisation	43, 51
Marketing and Retail	45
Marketing, Social	15, 41
Media and Communications	45
Mobile Cognition	11, 16-17, 41
Money Support	62

N	
Natural Sciences, Faculty of	35

P	
Partners	30-31
PhD Opportunities	38-45
Living Well	40-41
Global Security and Resilience	42-43
Cultures, Communities and Society	44-45
PhD Profile	16-17, 22-23, 28-29
Living Well	16-17
Global Security and Resilience	22-23
Cultures, Communities and Society	28-29
Postgraduate Research Zone	32, 57
Psychology	16-17, 28-29, 50
Psychology, Sport	41, 50
Public Health	41
Public Services and Governance	43

R	
Registry Services	63
Retail, Marketing and	45
Research, Postgraduate Zone	32, 57
Research Degree, Types of	36
Research Themes	8-9, 12-13, 18-19, 24-25
Research Partners	30-31
Research Programmes	10-11
Researcher Spotlight	14-15, 20-21, 26-27
Living Well	14-15
Global Security and Resilience	20-21
Cultures, Communities and Society	26-27

S	
Security, Global Resilience and	9, 18-23, 42-43
Scholarships	52-53
Social Marketing	15, 41
Social Sciences, Faculty of	35
Social Science, Sports	41
Social Statistics and Behavioural Sciences	45
Societies and Clubs	60
Society, Cultures, Communities and	9, 24-29, 44-45
Spirituality and Faith	62
Sport	3, 41, 61
Sport, Psychology	41, 50
Sports Social Science	41
Stirling Graduate School	32
Stirling Management School	35
Stirling, City of	7
Student Accommodation	58-59
Student Services Hub	62
Student Support	54, 62-63
Accessibility and Inclusion	62
Careers and Employability	62
Emotional Wellbeing	62
Faith and Spirituality	62
Immigration	63
Income Office	63
Money Support	63
Registry Services	63
Student Learning Services	63
Student Services Hub	62
Study Abroad	63
Students' Union, The	60
Surveillance and Privacy	19, 31, 43

T	
Tuition Fees	52-53
Types of Research Degree ³	36
U	
Union, Students'	60
V	
Visa Information	55

DISCLAIMER: The publisher acknowledges the right of all copyright holders. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information given in this publication, but the University can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Photo on inside front cover taken by John McPake.

University courses, services and procedures are continually reviewed, enhanced and revised and this may result in some changes between the time of publication and the date when the student enters the University.

Where any changes will affect an applicant, the University will keep the applicant fully informed.

Accreditations are awarded and reviewed periodically in line with the relevant regulatory body's policies and procedures. Accreditations provided against course information are correct at time of print. For current accreditations, please consult the University website, stir.ac.uk

The University of Stirling is a charity registered in Scotland, number SC 011159.

Publication date: 07/18

PROSPECTUS PRODUCTION

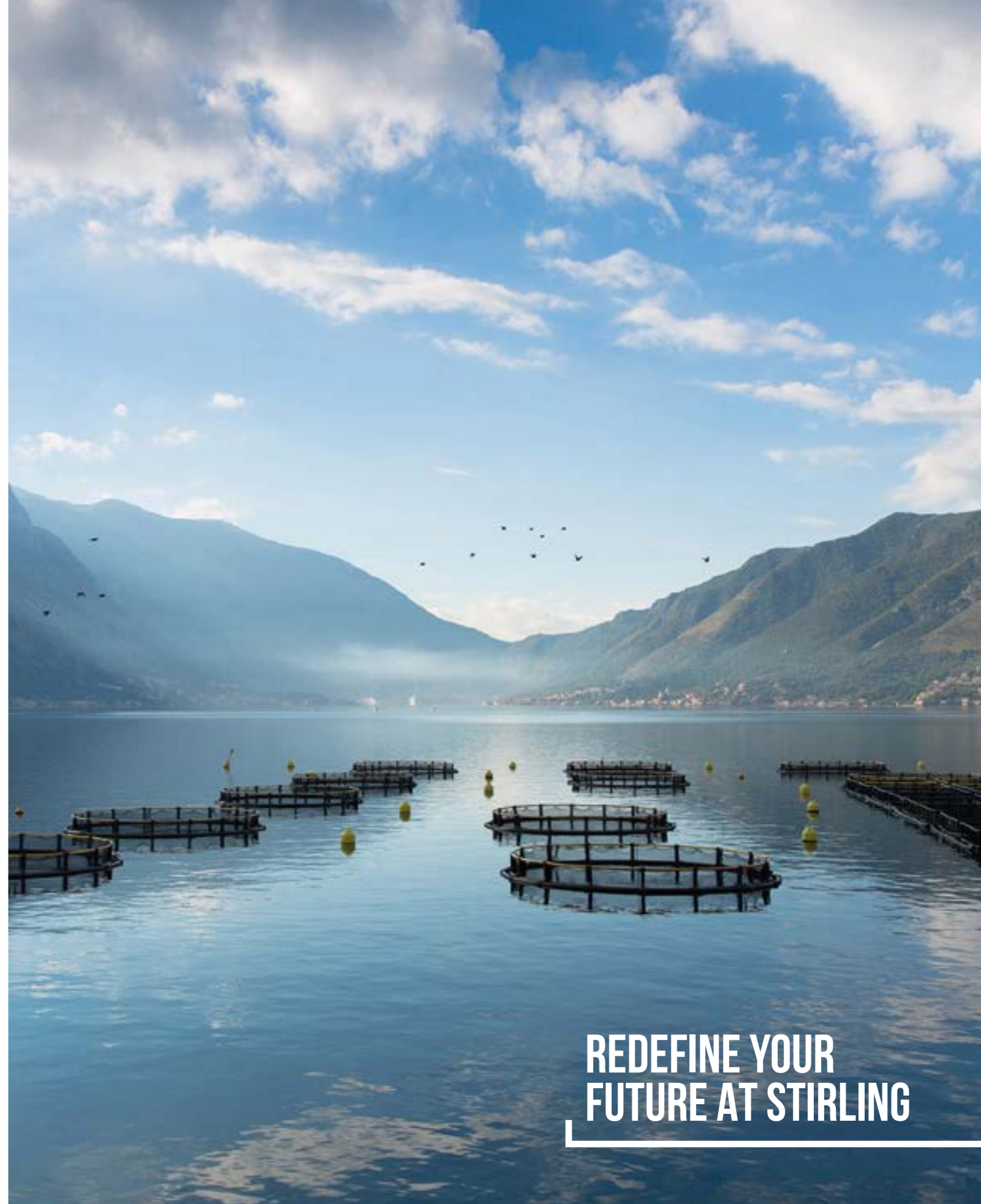
This prospectus is printed on Edixon. This paper is environmentally friendly having come from sustainable forests.





“Stirling is a fantastic place to study and the staff make sure you have every opportunity to succeed.”

Craig Docherty, Scotland
PhD Computing Science



**REDEFINE YOUR
FUTURE AT STIRLING**



REDEFINE AT STIRLING

stir.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING

