



UNC  
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at CHAPEL HILL

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Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Office of General Education  
UNC-CH

### University of Aberdeen, Scotland- Student Exchange Program

Dear Colleagues:

The Department of Political Science and the Study Abroad Office are submitting for your approval a proposal to establish a student exchange program with the University of Aberdeen (UA), located in Aberdeen, Scotland, to begin in Spring 2017.

Further information about UoA can be reviewed at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/>

#### Rationale and Support

Currently, UNC-CH's study abroad portfolio in Scotland includes student exchange partnerships with the University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, and University of St Andrews. These exchange programs have been consistently popular in the last five years, and even though we have expanded the programs to incorporate more students, there remains more demand than we have exchange places available. For instance, 11 students applied for six exchange spots for the Spring 2016 semester at University of Edinburgh. We seek to develop a new partnership and offer more exchange places to satisfy the needs of UNC-CH students. UA has also experienced growth in outbound mobility, and they are seeking a new exchange partner in the United States.

Given the mutual need for a new partnership, the many areas of academic overlap between UA and UNC-CH's College of Arts and Sciences, and the high academic quality of both institutions, we seek to enter into a bilateral exchange partnership.

The UNC-CH Department of Political Science supports the establishment of this new bilateral exchange partnership. Professor Frank Baumgartner had an honorary appointment at UA from 2000 to 2010. Professor Baumgartner has a high regard for UA's Department of Politics and International Relations. Political Science majors are among the many students who apply to exchange programs in Scotland, and UA offers a strong course selection for these students.

Though this proposal is supported by the Department of Political Science, the program will be open to all students in the College of Arts and Sciences. UA offers an extensive course catalog and will be attractive and open to students from many disciplines.

### The University of Aberdeen

UA is a public research university located in the city of Aberdeen, Scotland. It was founded in 1495 as King's College, though it was referred to as University of Aberdeen. In 1860, King's College merged with Marischal College, a university founded in 1593 in Aberdeen as a Protestant alternative to King's College. The two merged and created the university as it is known today. UA is Scotland's third oldest university and the fifth oldest in the English-speaking world. The total student population is roughly 14,750, with approximately 10,250 undergraduate students. UA is consistently ranked among the top 150 universities in the world.

The university is divided into three colleges which are further divided into schools as follows:

1. College of Arts and Social Sciences
  - a. Divinity, History, and Philosophy
  - b. Education
  - c. Language and Literature
  - d. Law
  - e. Social Science
  - f. Business
2. College of Life Sciences and Medicine
  - a. Biological Sciences
  - b. Medical Sciences
  - c. Medicine and Dentistry
  - d. Psychology
  - e. Institute of Nutrition and Health
3. College of Physical Sciences
  - a. Engineering
  - b. Geosciences
  - c. Natural and Computing Sciences

The campus, located just outside of the city center in historic Old Aberdeen, was recently named among the top ten most beautiful historic universities in the UK. In addition to the architectural treasures, the university has invested heavily in new teaching, research, and recreational facilities in recent years, including a new library and sports village.

Emily Marlton, Northern Europe and Oceania Programs Director in the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office, conducted a site visit to UA in September 2015. Emily was accompanied by Melissa McMurray, International Liaison Officer in UNC Global Relations. Emily and Melissa met with colleagues in the International Office, met with academics, toured campus, and surveyed the area surrounding campus.

### The Program

The program will be a two-way exchange, with semester and year-long options.

Additionally, the agreement with UA includes a non-exchange option that allows UNC-CH students to enroll for a semester or full academic year paying the UA study abroad student tuition and fee. Such students would not be counted in the exchange balance but would have the same academic program and access to services as exchange students. This arrangement allows the UNC-CH Study Abroad Office to make the exchange slots available to our 'in-state' students while making non-exchange at UA available to our 'out-of-state' students for whom UA tuition is approximately the same as or less than their UNC-CH tuition.

UA will nominate students to study in UNC-CH's College of Arts and Sciences. UNC-CH will nominate students from the College of Arts and Sciences to take courses across UA's three colleges.

### Student Services

Exchange students have access to student support services, facilities, and student life at UA just as the degree-seeking students do.

Exchange students at UA will receive support from the Study Abroad and Exchange Team, including a comprehensive orientation session at the beginning of each term. The orientation includes an overview, including history, of Scotland with an emphasis on Aberdeen. Each exchange student is also assigned a Go Abroad Tutor, a member of faculty who is available to meet and provide advice on matters relating to course selection.

Exchange students at UA are guaranteed a room in university sponsored accommodation. Housing is located within walking distance to the university. Most housing consists of single rooms and is self-catered (kitchen provided, student cooks own meals). Students live alongside Scottish and international degree-seeking students and other exchange and study abroad students.

### Eligibility

The minimum GPA requirement for admission to this exchange program will be 3.0, and students must have completed at least one year of university study at the time of application. Students must enroll in a minimum of the equivalent of 12 credit hours and will receive transfer credit for courses taken at UA. The equivalent of a "C" or above is required for credits to transfer.

### Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom

Aberdeen is Scotland's third largest city with a population of 220,000. Aberdeen is big enough for students to have a city experience but compact enough for new students to easily navigate and make friends. In recent years Aberdeen has been ranked as Scotland's safest University City, the happiest city to live, and one of Scotland's sunniest cities. With two universities, Aberdeen is home to 50,000 students and has plenty to offer a young demographic.

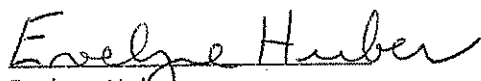
### Health and Safety

Students will be enrolled in international accident and health insurance through HTH Worldwide ([www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com)) for the duration of the program. There are no immediate health concerns in Aberdeen. Modern medical facilities and highly skilled medical practitioners are available in Scotland.

The United Kingdom is politically stable and has a modern infrastructure. According to the US State Department website, it shares with the rest of the world an increased threat of terrorist incidents. In particular, extremists have targeted transport sectors in cities such as London and Glasgow. Additionally, the US State Department website states that the overall crime rate in the UK has decreased in the past ten years, with the exception of serious crime in many London boroughs which has increased. The US State Department urges US citizens to be cautious and aware of their surroundings and exercise the same safety precautions as they would in any city. .

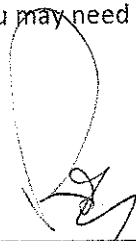
We are happy to provide any further information that you may need to evaluate this proposal.

Yours sincerely:



Evelyne Huber

Evelyne Huber  
Department Chair, Department of Political Science



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Robert Miles  
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Exchanges