



**UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING**

Academic Excellence
at the heart of Scotland

A photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, four students are sitting on a dark wooden bench by a body of water. One student is sitting on the ground to the left of the bench. In the background, a large, multi-story university building with a prominent tower is visible on a grassy hill. The scene is framed by bare tree branches in the upper left and right corners.

Profile



Welcome

The essence of the University of Stirling is its great people: our graduates, staff and students are helping to shape the world.

Founded by Royal Charter in 1967, the University of Stirling was the first genuinely new university in Scotland for over 400 years. We retain our pioneering spirit and a passion for innovation and excellence in all we do.

We aim to be at the forefront of research and learning that helps to improve lives. Working with academic, commercial, public, private and voluntary sector partners, Stirling is one of the UK's leading research universities in the fields of health and wellbeing, the environment and people, culture and society, enterprise and the economy, and sport.

Students are at the heart of what we do and we provide one of the best all-round student experiences in the UK. In learning and teaching, we work with our student community to deliver high quality programmes that produce intellectually able graduates who are highly sought after by employers. We are ambitious for our students, and our flexible learning opportunities enable them to explore and discover new subjects and interests.

There is a vibrant and growing postgraduate community and we welcome students, researchers and staff from around the world. This gives our research and teaching a global outlook, while remaining relevant to our Scottish culture and economy.

The University of Stirling's mission is to pursue world-class research, scholarship and learning in order to inspire, challenge and support motivated individuals who want to shape our world.

In support of this, the University:

- › Conducts world-class research that makes a positive contribution to society, the economy, the environment and culture
- › Promotes and enhances student learning through innovative teaching programmes with a clear focus on real world needs
- › Benefits wider society through broad-based access to educational opportunities
- › Provides an attractive, supportive and caring environment for students and staff
- › Ensures that the wider community and partner organisations can benefit from its expertise, services and facilities

A unique setting

The University is just two miles from the centre of Stirling, and the magnificent 310-acre campus has a loch, a golf course and 18th-century Airthrey Castle. Our staff and students enjoy outstanding recreational opportunities on one of the most beautiful campuses in Europe. A visit is strongly recommended, but if this is not possible, the virtual campus tour [www.stir.ac.uk/tour] provides a flavour of what to expect.

The University has two other campuses, in Stornoway and Inverness, which are centres of excellence for the teaching of nursing and midwifery.



A University at the heart of Scotland

Stirling is at the geographic heart of Scotland – dramatically positioned at the point where Lowland and Highland Scotland meet.

A fascinating mix of old and new, Stirling has a reputation as one of the most attractive places to live in the UK. The city is a thriving, compact and welcoming community, and boasts a wide range of commercial and cultural facilities.

Stirling has excellent direct rail and road links to the rest of Scotland and the UK. London and Europe's other capitals are a short hop by air from either Edinburgh or Glasgow airports, both of which are within easy reach of Stirling.

Research Excellence

Our energetic research community conducts quality research relevant to the economic, social and cultural needs of society, making a vital contribution to life in Scotland and beyond.

Much of our research is focused on improving the human condition, from dementia and patient experiences of cancer, to the impact of alcohol marketing on teenagers and fish oils on autism.

Collaboration and innovation are two of our hallmarks, and partnerships with other institutions, within the private, public or voluntary sectors, are of paramount importance to the research activity itself and also to the application of that research through knowledge exchange.

Key research themes

- › Health and Wellbeing
- › Environment and People
- › Culture and Society
- › Enterprise and Economy
- › Sport

Stirling was ranked the top university in Scotland in the latest “Research Success Rankings” (2007). In addition, in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, 10 percent of our research was judged to be ‘world leading’, and a further three quarters as ‘internationally excellent’ and ‘internationally recognised’. In four areas - Sport, Nursing and Midwifery, Education, and Film and Media - the University is first in Scotland for research.

This level of success is set to continue as we remain on course to secure annual research income in excess of £10m in 2009.



Our student-centred approach

The University is committed to flexible learning and was the first UK university to introduce a semester system. It has a modular degree structure that allows for tremendous flexibility and choice. Stirling is also accessible to students who have not come through the usual academic channels.

Our students benefit from excellent support services within a caring environment, and those with disabilities are an integral part of the community.

Employers

Stirling graduates are in demand by employers, and we have one of the highest graduate employment rates in the UK. This reflects the flexible nature of our degree programmes and our commitment to a broad level of learning, which creates students with the skills and confidence to shape their world beyond the University.

Quality Learning and Teaching

The University is home to leading researchers and scholars attracted by the environment, the facilities and the student-centred approach.

According to the latest external review, the quality of teaching and the academic standards of awards at Stirling are amongst the best in Scotland (QAA, 2006). Perhaps this helps to explain why Stirling's track record for retention and completion rates is so good (HESA).

Worldwide appeal

The formal and informal aspects of a Stirling education are international in outlook, with over 80 countries represented on campus. Around one in five students come from overseas, and they have their own dedicated support team.

Academic Subjects:

Health and Wellbeing

Including Cancer Care, Dementia, Nursing & Midwifery, Psychology, Social Work

Culture and Society

Including Education, English Studies, Film, Media & Journalism Studies, History, Languages, Philosophy, Politics, Religions, Social Sciences

Environment and People

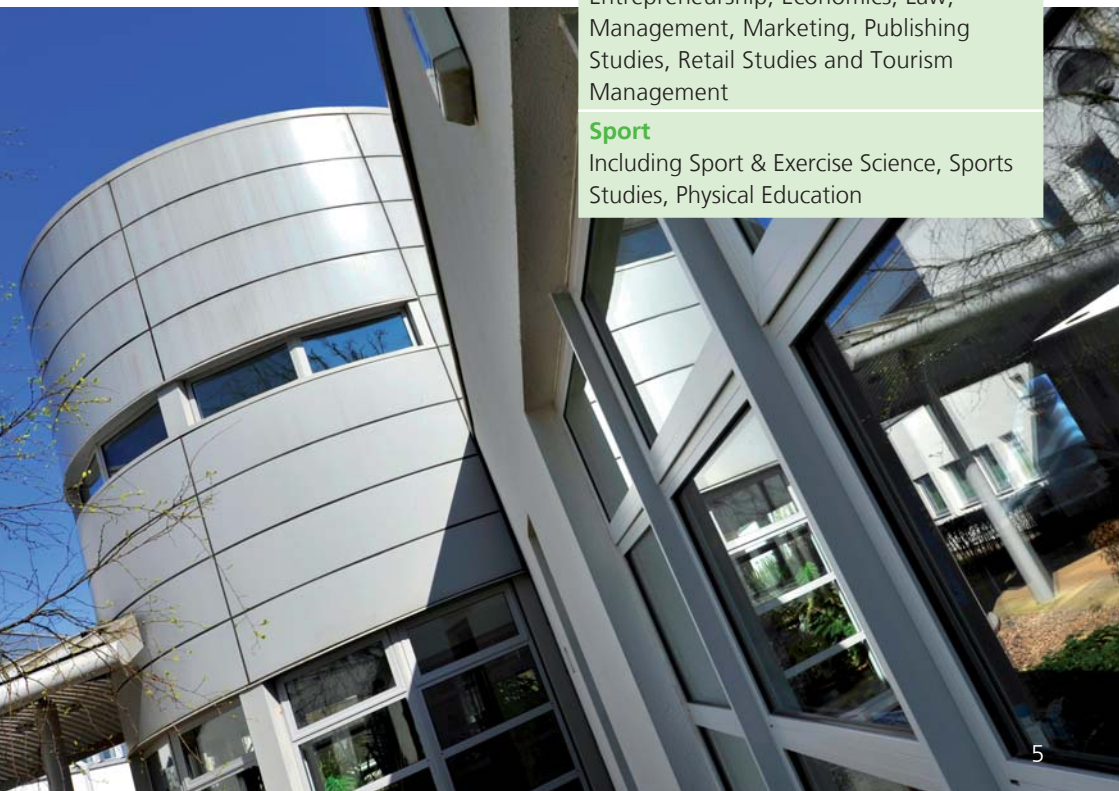
Including Aquaculture, Biological & Environmental Sciences

Enterprise and the Economy

Including Accountancy, Business, Computing Science & Mathematics, Entrepreneurship, Economics, Law, Management, Marketing, Publishing Studies, Retail Studies and Tourism Management

Sport

Including Sport & Exercise Science, Sports Studies, Physical Education



Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence



Sport: including Sport & Exercise Science, Sports Studies and Physical Education

Designated by the Scottish Government as the hub of student sport in Scotland, Stirling attracts many talented athletes to its international sports scholarship scheme.

The University has some of the finest sports facilities on a single site in the country, including the Scottish National Swimming Academy, the Gannochy National Tennis Centre, and the Scottish National Women's Football Academy. We have a golf course

and golf academy, a state-of-the-art fitness centre, pitches for football, hockey and rugby, and facilities for all major indoor and outdoor sports.

The campus is also home to the sportscotland Institute of Sport, the Central Scotland Institute of Sport, the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland, Scottish Swimming, as well as national coaches for tennis, swimming and triathlon.

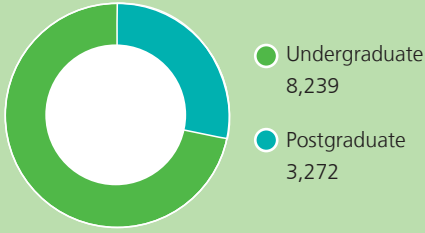
Partnerships and Communities

The University has many important partnerships with business, public bodies and other education providers and plays an active part in the business and cultural life of the local and wider community.

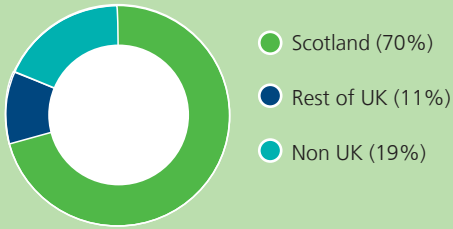
Our first class facilities – open to all – include the Stirling Management Centre, a modern library, and an extensive collection of Scottish art.

The University also provides a home for the macrobert, Scotland's leading arts centre for young people, which attracts an enthusiastic audience to its varied programme of cinema, theatre and dance performances.

Student Numbers



Geographic Origin



Total number of students

11,511

Finance (2007 – 2008)

Annual Turnover: £92.9m

Sources of Income

Funding Council Grants	£41.5m
Tuition Fees & Education Contracts	£19.1m
Research Grants & Contracts	£7.8m
Other income	£23.6m
Endowment & Investment income	£0.9m

Staff

Academic Staff	416
Research Staff	117
Support Staff	860
TOTAL	1,393

Based on employees Full Time Equivalent (FTE)

Former students who are shaping the world:

- › Dr Doug Allan, wildlife and documentary cameraman
- › Iain Banks, novelist
- › Hon Lord Neil Brailsford QC, High Court judge
- › Andrea Calderwood, film producer
- › Todd Cooper, Olympic swimmer
- › Mark Cousins, film writer, producer and director
- › Mark Daly, broadcast journalist
- › Lord Neil Davidson QC, Advocate General for Scotland
- › Sir Bill Gammell, Chief Executive of Cairn Energy plc
- › Paul Grice, Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament
- › Maria Hjorth, golfer
- › Shelley Jofre, broadcast journalist
- › Daniel Kawczynski MP
- › Jackie Kay, novelist
- › Liz Lake, television writer and producer
- › Derek Lambie, editor, *Scottish Daily Express*
- › Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
- › Catriona Matthew, golfer
- › Hayley Millar, broadcast journalist
- › Rt Hon Dr Jack McConnell MSP, former First Minister of Scotland
- › Dr Donald MacLeod, President and Chief Operating Officer, National Semiconductor Corporation
- › John McLellan, editor, *The Scotsman*
- › Rhona McLeod, broadcast journalist
- › Richie Ramsay, golfer
- › Rt Hon Dr John Reid MP, former Home Secretary
- › Jayne Secker, broadcast journalist
- › Keenan Smart, wildlife producer

Alumni network reaching **130** countries

Active Alumni Association membership: **35,000**

Top Rankings

Best University in the UK for 'a good place to be' (*International Student Barometer, 2007 and 2008*)

Best University in Scotland and Third Best in the UK (*push.co.uk, 2008*)

Top in Scotland for Communications & Media (*The Times Good University Guide 2009 and The Independent Complete University Guide 2009*)

Top in Scotland for Education (*The Times Good University Guide 2010*)

Top in Scotland for Sports Facilities and Services (*The Times Good University Guide 2008*)

94.6% of our Graduates in Employment or Further Study after Six Months (*Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2009*)

What people say about Stirling

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What I remember most keenly is the wonderful feeling of freedom of being there and the sheer intoxication of living and working in a place devoted to learning, to the pursuit of knowledge. (Dr Iain Banks, BA 1975, DUniv 1997, novelist)

My life has been punctuated by several memorable events and my time at Stirling was certainly one of them...these were fantastic times. (Dr Doug Allan, BSc 1973, DUniv 2007, international wildlife documentary cameraman)

Stirling's campus is regularly described as one of the most beautiful in the world, set in 300 acres at the foot of the Ochil Hills. (*Guardian University Guide 2010*)

The natural environment of the campus makes it an inspiring place to be whether for sport or academic research.
Sir Bill Gammell (BA 1974, DUniv 1974, Founder and CEO of Cairn Energy plc)

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www.stir.ac.uk

Contacts

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