

## **St Andrews 600**

### **Quick Facts**

*“... considering also the peace and quietness which flourish in the said city of St Andrews and its neighbourhood, its abundant supply of victuals, the number of its hospices and other conveniences for students, which it is known to possess, we are led to hope that this city, which the devine bounty has enriched with so many gifts, may become the fountain of science...”*

*Pope Benedict XIII, 1413*

### **PAST**

St Andrews is Scotland's first university and the third oldest in the English speaking world.

A school of higher studies was established in St Andrews in 1410 by graduates of Paris, a formal charter was granted by Bishop Henry Wardlaw in 1411, and the achievement of full University status was granted by Pope Benedict XIII in 1413.

Pope Benedict conferred university status by issuing a series of six Papal Bulls. One of these documents survives and is preserved and displayed in the Museum of the University of St Andrews (MUSA). MUSA curates over 112,000 University artefacts.

The first St Andrews graduate was William Yhalulok or Zalulok who graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1413 and then Master of Arts in 1414. A typical Arts student back then started his course around the age of 13 and lived under strict supervision.

Early history was eventful. King James tried to move the university lock, stock and barrel to Perth in 1426. In 1470, a group of students and Masters were expelled for attacking the Deans with bows and arrows.

By the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, St Andrews has grown to encompass three colleges – St Salvator's (1450), St Leonard's (1511) and St Mary's (1538). The surviving buildings of St Mary's College and St Salvator's Chapel date from these periods.

St Andrews was one of the first British universities to allow women students to matriculate - in 1892 – and the first group of women graduated from St Andrews in 1896.

Our buildings are amongst the finest examples of mediaeval architecture in Scotland - St Mary's Quadrangle is home to a thorn tree – known as 'Queen Mary's Hawthorn' - reputedly planted by Mary Queen of Scots.

St Salvator's Chapel is 550 years old and the ancient heart of the University. St Andrews graduates are entitled to marry in the chapel's magnificent Late Gothic environs, alongside the tomb of university founder Bishop Kennedy.

## **PRESENT**

St Andrews is home to the 'three people rule' - it is said that if you walk down the street in St Andrews, you are bound to know at least one in every three people you pass; creating a unique community spirit with a real sense of belonging. For this reason, students affectionately refer to St Andrews as 'The Bubble'.

There is no traditional University 'campus' - instead, University buildings are part of the town's landscape; centres for mediaeval learning sit side by side with the local fishmonger, giving a real sense of the University's place in the history of St Andrews.

St Andrews may be a small city, but the University accounts for half of the local population (approx. 17,500). Current student population is 7500 of which 6000 are undergraduates.

St Andrews is one of the UK's most cosmopolitan academic communities - students and staff come from over 120 countries. One third of students are from Scotland, a third from the rest of the UK and EU and a third from overseas.

A flexible degree structure offers over 400 degree programmes within three faculties.

For over ten years St Andrews has been amongst the most popular universities in the UK, with approximately ten students vying for every one place to study here. In some subjects – International Relations and Economics – there may be up to 25 applications per place.

The University is one of few to guarantee all first-year students a place in halls. Over half of St Andrews students live in university owned or managed accommodation.

In recent years, the University has pursued a varied programme of investment. It has recently opened a new £45 million Medical and Biological Sciences building and the provision of 250 new rooms for students. In the year ahead it will progress work on a major £14 million refurbishment of its Main Library, the construction of a new Biological Sciences Research Centre, the development of a wind farm to offset rising energy costs and the development of plans for a renewable energy centre.

## **PRESTIGE**

World-class reputation in teaching and research consistently place St Andrews top in Scotland and amongst the top five in the UK, according to annual league tables produced by The Times, Sunday Times and The Guardian.

The Times Higher Education World Universities Ranking named St Andrews among the world's Top 20 Arts and Humanities universities in 2010.

St Andrews has been ranked the top multi-faculty university in the UK in the National Student Surveys of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The University has the lowest drop-out rate in Scotland and one of the lowest in the UK, second to Oxbridge. Over 98% of St Andrews students complete their degree.

Innovative Access programmes designed to attract students from non-traditional university backgrounds. St Andrews currently invests in a wide range of scholarships and aims to increase access and scholarship funding during its 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign.

## **PREEMINENCE**

St Andrews is one of Europe's most research intensive universities – over 40% of its turnover comes from research grants and contracts.

University research in the UK is assessed through the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council. The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise revealed that 94% of St Andrews' research activity is internationally recognised and 60% is world leading or internationally excellent.

All St Andrews academic Schools across Science and the Arts boast world leading research activity.

Recent research at St Andrews has led to:

- A breakthrough in the development of new treatments for influenza.
- New understandings into the true age of the Earth's crust.
- The discovery of new planets.
- Commercialisation of a 'light bandage' for use in the treatment of skin cancer.
- Proof that eating your greens makes you look healthy.
- Fresh insights into the life of Virginia Woolf.
- Development of 'light syringe' for use in the treatment of a range of diseases
- New insights into the importance of Asian film festivals.
- The development of lasers for use in the detection of landmines and bombs.
- Better understanding of when a woman's biological clock starts ticking.
- The discovery of previously unknown material on the life of Robert Burns.
- New ways to better understand and treat Alzheimer's disease.
- Development of 'invisible' material.
- Investigations into the cause of mysterious 'corkscrew killer' seal fatalities.
- The development of mobile phone technology that can tell whether you're sad or happy.
- Studies into the importance of dust on the formation of life.
- The suggestion that male stubbornness exists in the fish world.

- The discovery of a record ice cap melt in Greenland.
- Proof that chimpanzees admire trend-setters within their social group.
- Insights into how young people feel when they move from primary to secondary school.
- The development of an alternative to Facebook, new social networking software called 'Peerbook'.

## PEOPLE

St Andrews' graduates include statesmen, inventors, authors, political leaders and journalists. Among them are: inventor of the logarithm John Napier, James Wilson, one of the fathers of the American Constitution, Nobel Prize Winner Sir James Black, First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond, writer Fay Weldon, actress Siobhan Redmond, Michael Forsythe, actor Crispin Bonham-Carter, broadcaster Hazel Irvine and HRH Prince William.

Since 1921, the University has awarded honorary degrees to a range of distinguished individuals from around the world. Honorary graduates include: The Dalai Lama, The Duchess of York (later HM The Queen Mother), Benjamin Franklin, Dame Helen Mirren, J K Rowling, Sean Connery, Rikki Fulton, Seve Ballesteros, Sir Alex Ferguson, Jack Vettriano, John Suchet, Melvyn Bragg, Sean Connery, Bob Dylan, Joanna Lumley, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Maggie Smith, Michael Douglas, Billie Whitelaw, Iain Banks, Aly Bain, Susan Hampshire, Bill Bryson, Craig Armstrong, Seamus Heaney, Anna Ford, Jenni Murray, John Humphrys, Kazuo Ishiguro, Denis Law, Jackie Kay, Jack Nicklaus, Ken Loach, Liz Lochhead, Trevor McDonald, Sheena McDonald, Colin Montgomerie, Peter Alliss, Betty Boothroyd, Edwin Morgan, James Naughtie, Ian Rankin, Nick Faldo, Richard Dawkins, Lord George Robertson, David Steel, John Simpson, Charlie Sifford, Sir Jackie Stewart, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Robert Winston and John le Carre.

Our former Lord Rectors include Rudyard Kipling, J. M. Barrie, Sir Douglas Haig, John Stuart Mill, Fridtjof Nansen, Nicholas Parsons, Tim Brook-Taylor, Nicholas (Nicky) Campbell, John Cleese, Donald Findlay, Andrew Neil and Sir Clement Freud.

Graduate Sir James Black (1946) went on to invent beta-blockers, a milestone in pharmacology that has saved and transformed the lives of millions.

Inventor of the kaleidoscope and friend of Sir Walter Scott, Sir David Brewster was Principal of the United College (1838-1859).

James Gregory, the first Regius Professor of Mathematics at St Andrews, and whose work Isaac Newton relied upon, designed the 'Gregorian' telescope in 1661.

The University is governed by Court - its membership drawn from the University, the local community and beyond. The Court is chaired by the Rector, currently Scotland's Information Commissioner Kevin Dunion, elected by the students for a three-year period in 2008.

The current Principal is Professor Louise Richardson, who joined the University from Harvard in 2009, succeeding Dr Brian Lang. A native of the Republic of Ireland and a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, the University of California and Harvard University, Prof Richardson is the first female to be appointed Principal of a Scottish ancient University. Formerly Executive Dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, she is widely regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on the study of terrorism and political violence.

Our Chancellor is Sir Menzies Campbell. Sir Menzies succeeded the renowned classicist, the late Sir Kenneth Dover.

## **PECULIARITIES**

The distinctive scarlet gown was introduced in 1672 as a means of marking out young students to the local tavern hosts. They are still worn by students today for formal occasions and by student ambassadors.

The University's motto is AIEN ARISTEUIEN / Αἰέν ἀριστεύειν, which, translated, means EVER TO EXCEL. It derives from a paragraph in Homer's Iliad, Book 6 line 208: '.. he sent me to Troy and bade me very instantly to be ever the best and to excel all other men'.

The official University song (also used throughout European universities) The Gaudeamus is sung at official events and all Graduation ceremonies and is translated roughly as:

"So let us rejoice while we are young: after the joys of youth and the troubles of age we shall return to the cold earth. Long live the university, long live the professors, long live each and every member; may they always flourish. Away with gloominess! Down with back-biters and student-haters! To the devil with the scoffers!"

The Academic Family tradition sees senior students take members of the new intake under their wing and guide them through life at St Andrews.

Undergraduates famously dodge the PH marked in the cobbles outside St Salvator's Quadrangle – it is considered bad luck and a sign that a student will not pass their exams if they step on the initials of martyred student Patrick Hamilton, who was burned at the stake for heresy in 1529. After exams are finished, students may be seen jumping on the initials to celebrate.

Each May Day, students take part in the traditional May Dip – braving the chill of the North Sea. The May Dip is reputed to be the only way to cleanse the curse of accidentally standing on Patrick Hamilton's initials.

Parliament Hall was named so after it was home to the Scottish Parliament in 1645-6 – it moved there briefly to escape the bubonic plague in Edinburgh.

The King James Library (est 1612-43) was originally intended to house books bequeathed by Mary Queen of Scots and is home to the University's own meridian line.

The Old Union coffee shop (first opened in 1891) was restored and opened to the public in 2002 thanks to a donation from Fife artist Jack Vettriano.

Student societies are an important part of student life – there are over 140 societies and 50 sports clubs to choose from, including those dedicated to Harry Potter, knitting, swing dance and even Tunnocks Caramel Wafers.

On Raisin Monday, first year students gather in St Salvator's Quad to take part in possibly the world's biggest foam fight. It is the more modern tradition stemming from Raisin Weekend, a celebration of the academic family tradition.

The University is home to the World's oldest student debating society (est 1794)

Our student-led Charities Campaign is one of the most successful in the country; in 2010 it raised over £60,000 for charity.

The St Andrews Voluntary Service was established forty years ago and sends students out into the local community, enhancing the lives of the elderly and adults and children with special needs.

University academics formed their own band - Dry Island Buffalo Jump – to raise money for student scholarships. With eighteen degrees between them, they are described as the 'brainiest band in Britain'.

St Andrews students are a creative bunch - they make movies, stage around thirty theatrical productions a year, and, in 2009, launched the ambitious annual students arts festival On The Rocks.

Our Library owns over one million books and is home to one of the largest and most important collections of historic photography in Scotland. A £14m refurbishment is currently underway.

The School of English is currently home to some of the nation's finest writers and poets: Robert Crawford, John Burnside and Don Paterson.

The Younger Hall, where all new students graduate, was opened in 1929 by the Duchess of York (later HM The Queen Mother)

Approximately one in ten St Andrews graduates marries a fellow alumnus.