



Undergraduate Prospectus 2013

Scotland's Land-Based Higher Education Institution





Scotland's Land-Based Higher Education Institution

SAC is a Higher Education Institution offering university-level education. We have three campuses, in Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh, and offer courses in a range of subjects relevant to our land-based, rural and environmental expertise. We're a small and friendly place where you won't be a lost face in a crowd. Class sizes are generally smaller than at larger universities, and you'll have excellent access to lecturing and support staff.

In addition to offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses, and training opportunities, SAC also runs an international advisory and consultancy service, and has a large specialist research division. SAC's mission is "to enhance the rural economy and environment". Our consultants provide professional advice to rural and agricultural businesses and vets across Scotland, the UK, and overseas. Our Research Division conducts policy and scientific research in a range of areas relevant to the rural sector.

SAC staff are recognised authorities in their field and as a student at SAC you have relevant access to this up-to-the minute knowledge and expertise. Your lecturing staff not only bring their own experience and enthusiasm for their subject to your classes, but they draw on the knowledge of SAC as an organisation, using research and consultancy staff to deliver lectures, provide real life examples, and supervise projects.

SAC offers a unique blend of academic and commercial environments, which creates exceptional opportunities for innovative, vocational higher education. We believe no other higher education institution can offer this exciting blend of expertise and experience.



“

“Unlike many institutions you never feel like ‘just a number’ at SAC. It offers a very personal education, and the lectures were genuinely an enjoyable experience. I still have regular contact with many of the staff who taught me and the students I studied with. You never really leave SAC, and you never really want to.”

Chris Mair, BSc (Hons)
Rural Resource Management

Welcome to SAC



I am delighted to introduce SAC's undergraduate prospectus for 2013.

I believe that SAC can offer you a unique student experience.

As Scotland's only land-based Higher Education Institution, SAC has a diverse range of students united in their choice to study courses which make a difference. Our graduates leave us well equipped and enthusiastic to play their part in the rural, land-based and environmental agendas. They will shape a future which affects us all from the food we eat, to the air we breathe and from the buildings we live, work and study in to the outdoor space we enjoy.

These are exciting times for SAC. We have a new campus in Ayr and are working closely with other Colleges on innovative learning partnerships. Our cutting edge and internationally recognised research continuously informs our academic course portfolio which, along with our services to the land-based and rural industries, provides enviable study opportunities for our students.

I hope this prospectus encourages you to join SAC's growing student community and I invite you to find out more by coming to an Open Day.

I am confident that SAC can offer you a learning experience of real value and relevance.

Professor David McKenzie
Vice Principal (Learning)




Contents




Index of courses	2
Learning at SAC	4
SAC added value	4
Employability and careers	6
Ensuring quality	6
Student services	7
Student life at SAC	8
SAC - your choice of where to study	9
Aberdeen	10
Ayr	11
Edinburgh	12
About our courses	13
University level education	13
Structure and progression	14
Advanced Entry	15
Partner Colleges	16
A flexible approach to study	17
Full-time	17
Part-time	17
Returning to learning	18
Short Courses	18
Distance learning	19
Training courses	19
Degree level study	20
Course information	22
Agriculture	22
Applied Science and Technology	32
Business	46
Environment, Countryside and Conservation	54
Horticulture and Garden Design	68
Sport, Tourism and Outdoor Pursuits	82
How to Apply	94
Entry Requirements	97
Finance and Funding	101
International Students	104
Visit us	108
Contacts	110
Important information	112

Index of courses

The index on this page gives you a full listing of all our courses. We suggest that you read through the introduction to the course area first, as this is designed to give you a sound overview of the subject. More detail is given on the individual course pages. Our entry requirements are summarised on pages 97 to 100, and page 94 tells you more about how to apply. Visiting SAC to talk to the Student Recruitment Officers, teaching staff and current SAC students is also an excellent way to find out more, so please come along to one of our Open Days if you can. Finally, make sure you check our website for additional and up-to-date information!

A full list of SAC's undergraduate courses, organised into general subject areas, is given here, together with UCAS codes and campus locations.

Page	Course	UCAS Code	Aberdeen X	Ayr Y	Edinburgh Z
 Agriculture					
27	BSc/BSc (Hons) Agriculture	DN42	•	•	•
28	HND Agriculture	004D	•	•	•
29	HNC Agriculture	104D		•	
30	Certificate in Agriculture	APPLY DIRECT	•		
31	HNC Poultry Production	324D		•	
 Applied Science and Technology					
38	BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science	D300		•	•
39	BSc/BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science*	D700		•	
40	BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience	D420		•	
41	HND Applied Bioscience	527D		•	
42	BSc/BSc (Hons) Green Technology	CF98		•	
43	HND Green Technology	89FC		•	
44	HND Sustainable Building Technology	72FK		•	
45	HNC Sustainable Building Technology	27KF		•	
 Business					
51	BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management**	D0N0	•		•
52	HND Rural Business Management	654D	•		•
53	HNC Rural Business Management	APPLY DIRECT	By Flexible Learning		

Page	Course	UCAS Code	Aberdeen X	Ayr Y	Edinburgh Z
 Environment, Countryside and Conservation					
60	BSc/BSc (Hons) Countryside Management	F750	•	•	
61	HND Countryside Management	157F	•	•	
62	BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Protection	F851			•
63	BSc/BSc (Hons) Sustainable Environmental Management	FN82	•	•	•
64	HND Environmental Management and Sustainability	47DF	•	•	•
65	BSc/BSc (Hons) Rural Resource Management	F810			•
66	HND Rural Resource Management	018F			•
67	HNC Countryside and Environmental Management	057F	•	•	•
		<small>APPLY DIRECT</small>	By Flexible Learning		
 Horticulture and Garden Design					
73	BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden Design**	K301			•
74	HND Garden Design	092W		•	•
75	HNC Garden Design	192W		•	•
76	BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture	D410			•
77	HND Horticulture	914D		•	•
78	HNC Horticulture	014D		•	
79	Diploma in Professional Gardening	<small>APPLY DIRECT</small>		•	
80	BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Plantsmanship	D4D7			•
81	HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship	454D			•
 Sport, Tourism and Outdoor Pursuits					
88	BA/BA (Hons) Activity Tourism Management	N832		•	
89	HND Activity Tourism	038N		•	
90	HNC Activity Tourism	338N		•	
91	BA/BA (Hons) Outdoor Pursuits Management	N874		•	
92	BA/BA (Hons) Sports Coaching and Development	N872		•	
93	BA/BA (Hons) Sport and Recreation Management	N873		•	

*Top-up degree – Entry to year three

**subject to validation

UCAS Application Codes and Campus Codes are given in the table above. SAC's Institution Code Name is **SAC**, and the Institution Code is **S01**. Further information about how to apply is given on page 94.

Learning at SAC

University level education... SAC added value

At SAC, we recognise the responsibility we have in ensuring our students leave us with the knowledge, skills and confidence required to develop their future career. We're proud of the reputation our courses have, which is one of quality and industrial relevance, taught by those who are recognised and respected educationalists and experts in their field.



It's not all just sitting in lecture theatres...

You learn in many different ways at SAC. There will, of course, be traditional lectures, some involving guest speakers, and practical classes such as laboratory work (depending on your course), but you'll also participate in a range of seminars and tutorials, group presentations, projects, and written assignments. Our goal is to ensure that you develop the necessary academic knowledge in your chosen subject area together with the transferable skills such as independent learning, group work, presentation, communication, IT, and problem solving that you'll need for your future. And learning isn't confined to the classroom! Whatever course you're studying you'll find that study tours, field trips, and real-life case studies all feature.

Our smaller teaching groups also mean we are able to arrange regular visits to relevant industry locations and to meet experts working in your field.

Resources

SAC has all the resources you would expect from a University level College, such as excellent library and IT facilities, and well-equipped teaching classrooms and lecture theatres. Our specialist resources are also substantial. SAC has farms, advisory offices, and veterinary services located across Scotland. Our science courses are supported by well-equipped teaching laboratories, and our strong research base

means that students have access to highly specialised laboratories and equipment. We have amenity and commercial horticultural units, woodlands, gardens and conservation areas. In addition, our strong industry partnerships provide access to learning at facilities such as the Royal Botanic Garden, research institutes, farms, and tourism and outdoor pursuits venues.

The SAC Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

All SAC students have a personalised learning area in the SAC Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This can be accessed at any time, and from anywhere with an internet connection, and provides a valuable and flexible source of learning support for both campus-based and distance learning students. Material to complement lectures, campus announcements, careers information, job vacancies and College events can all be found here.

For students undertaking courses by flexible learning, 'virtual' modules are complemented with real-time, online group tutorials, allowing interaction and the exchange of ideas between lecturers and student groups.

Student representation

At SAC, all students have the opportunity to make a difference. Student Liaison Committees (one for each campus), the Education and Skills Committee, and the Academic Advisory Committee provide students with a direct and formal means of communication with SAC's senior managers and Board of Directors. In addition, each course year elects student representatives who meet with staff termly as part of the course's Student Liaison Group and SAC's Student President liaises with active Student Associations at each campus to ensure the student voice is heard.

Your opinions matter to us and you'll find that we consult with you regularly throughout your time at SAC. On-line evaluations give you the chance to tell us what you think about the modules you study and more generally about your overall experience of being a student at SAC.



Employability and careers

SAC's courses prepare you for the future. Of the students completing courses in 2010, 92% of respondents were in employment or were studying within 6 months. Our courses are designed with your future career in mind; vocational in nature, blending academic with practical. We regularly invite industrial representatives to advise and contribute to our plans for new and existing courses.

As a student at SAC you will be taught by an SAC team which, depending on your course, may include lecturers, researchers, vets, and consultants as well as speakers from industry. Knowledge transfer is at the heart of SAC - passing on experience, industry insight, and expertise, ensuring the commercial environment is part of the classroom.

Where appropriate to your course, you will study for industry recognised training qualifications. All first year students will work with their Adviser of Studies in devising, and then completing, a personal development plan (PDP). You will also be encouraged to enhance your classroom learning through appropriate personal volunteering and community projects which may contribute to formal assessments.

Formal, short term, work placements feature on many courses. Longer placements, such as SAC's unique Trust Traineeship scheme, offer successful applicants the opportunity to work in SAC's own Consulting Division for the summer between third and fourth year.

A testament to the career worthiness of our courses is that many companies approach SAC first when seeking new employees. An annual careers fair also takes place, attracting a mix of blue chip and smaller companies, charities and volunteering agencies, as well as training and public sector bodies.

Ensuring a quality education

In addition to its own internal quality assurance systems, SAC participates in the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Enhancement-led review, and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) quality procedures. Being inspected and complying with these external benchmarking agencies ensures that SAC's quality of education is guaranteed. Our comprehensive internal quality assurance system covers all aspects of the development, delivery and review of SAC's courses, and includes an appeals and complaints procedure. The Further and Higher Education Charter for Scotland sets out the standards expected of Higher Education Institutions and these are encompassed within SAC's education quality system, the College's Commitment to Service, and its Student Charter.



Student services

Looking after your welfare

Starting your course at SAC is bound to bring you new challenges. You'll be managing your time and your finances while studying, socialising, and possibly working and juggling family commitments. If you find you need help, you'll have the reassurance that timely support is readily available.

Student Services describes the facilities and team of staff that support your well-being while you are studying at SAC. We aim to provide a friendly, and, when needed, confidential service. If you are looking for advice and help with money matters, personal issues, health care, accommodation, spiritual support, sport, recreation or leisure, Student Services will listen, advise and help.

Student support is a concern of all teaching staff at SAC, particularly your Adviser of Studies. The campus Senior Tutor is also a key contact, especially for funding and learning support concerns. SAC has access to a network of community and partner University support agencies. If Student Services is unable to help, it will know who can and will put you in touch with them quickly.

Disability and learning support

SAC undertakes all reasonable efforts to facilitate participation in our courses by those students who declare a disability at application.

If you are to be offered a place at SAC on the basis of information provided as part of the application process, we will contact you to discuss the specific support requirements you might need in order to achieve the course outcomes. If you wish to discuss your particular needs in advance of submitting your application, please contact us and we will arrange for the Senior Tutor of your chosen campus to speak with you.

Accommodation

Accommodation arrangements vary depending on your choice of campus. Please refer to the individual campus pages for more information, or check our website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning

“ Staff and lecturers have been helpful from first enquiring about attending SAC to helping with projects, coursework and future employment. The College has offered me a friendly, close and almost family-like atmosphere and many opportunities to join in social, sporting and industry events. I feel confident in my future career through what I've learnt at my time here and proud that I have attended SAC.”

David Hurst,
Agriculture student



Student life at SAC

SACSA is SAC's Students' Association. The Association exists to support your experience at SAC. The officers represent your views to the senior management and ensure that there are social activities for you to take part in. The Students' Association is led by the Student President and each campus has its own campus Vice-President and Students' Council which organises the local social events.

“



“Life at SAC is not just about gaining a qualification; it is about the whole experience.”

“Becoming a student brings all types of new experiences and here at SAC we love to embrace this! Studying is a huge part of College life but it is also about trying new things, being adventurous and meeting new people.”

“At the start of my SAC journey I was apprehensive but the other SAC students soon changed this. SAC's unique atmosphere makes it easy

to make friends and supports its students regardless of their age, background or reason for becoming a student.”

“Central to this is SACSA (the Student Association) run for students by students. It aims to help you make the most of your time at SAC from running clubs and societies to providing student welfare, support and guidance. SACSA are also committed to help organise student social events and retain the traditions of each campus including the masquerade ball in Ayr, Edinburgh's Christmas Ceilidh and Burns Supper, and Aberdeen's annual Graduation Ball and after party!”

“SACSA does not only focus on extra curricular events. We have an important job representing all SAC students ensuring that the student voice is heard. This is not only at College level but also at national level as SACSA is part of the National Union of Students (NUS) which aims to promote, defend and extend the rights of students.”

“If you choose to study at SAC, you will be studying at a unique institution and will join a student body which extends worldwide and has been around for over 100 years. Come to SAC and the next few years will be amongst the best of your life!”

Margaret Burns

Margaret Burns
SACSA President 2011/12

SAC – your choice of where to study

SAC has three campuses, in Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh. Some of our courses are offered at all three campuses, others at one or two (refer to the index on pages 2-3 for details). If you are choosing between SAC campuses we would advise you to try and visit the campus on an Open Day so that you can experience the environment first-hand. Page 106 has more details about Open Days and arranging a visit.

www.sac.ac.uk/learning/campuses



Aberdeen



Ayr



Edinburgh



SAC Aberdeen

SAC Aberdeen is situated on the Craibstone Estate, about 5 miles from the city centre. Its location offers you the best of both worlds – close proximity to the city with excellent transport links (the airport and local train station being less than 2 miles away), but with the peace and tranquillity of a country estate. The Craibstone Estate has its own farmland, arboretum, gardens and walks, as well as teaching and sports facilities, refectory, and accommodation.

Aberdeen is known as the “granite city” and is Scotland’s third largest city with a population of a quarter of a million people. It is home to over 16,000 students, at colleges and universities, making it a vibrant city offering varied student life. There are excellent cultural, sporting, leisure and shopping facilities to suit all tastes and ages. As you would expect from any major city, there is a wide range of pubs and clubs, the theatre, Exhibition Centre and Music Hall which host major concerts and gigs. Other attractions include cinemas, museums, karting, paintball, golf, and rural pursuits. There are also whisky and castle trails in the picturesque surrounding area. If you like the great outdoors, Royal Deeside and the Cairngorm National Park are both close by offering beautiful scenery and a range of outdoor adventure activities.

Accommodation is available on campus in Sutton, Hunter and Mackie Halls. The halls have internet access and are close to the main teaching building along with a bar, sports lab, and sauna. Sutton Hall is SAC Aberdeen’s main undergraduate residence and offers en-suite single rooms and shared self-catering kitchens. A number of rooms have been designed for wheelchair access. Hunter Hall is mainly used by mature and international students, while Mackie Hall is used primarily to house students under the age of 18. Both offer single rooms with shared bathrooms and self-catering kitchens.

“Here at SAC Aberdeen the atmosphere is extremely welcoming and caring. On campus there are excellent facilities and a range of opportunities to try new things and to get involved. Clubs such as the Engineering Club help to give students a chance to learn practical skills in a more relaxed atmosphere. Getting involved with the Student Representative Council allowed me to meet new people and help organise and run social events for the student body.”

Righa Purvis,
Student at SAC Aberdeen

“The staff at SAC Aberdeen are what makes the campus - whether you’ve a personal or educational issue, their support is unfailing. They’re so friendly, so willing to look after you and they put themselves out to help you. They concern themselves with your future and do their utmost to support you in ventures outside the college.”

Rachel Christie,
Student at SAC Aberdeen



SAC Ayr

SAC Ayr is located on the newly built 'state of the art' Riverside Campus, in a parkland setting close to the centre of Ayr. The campus, opened in 2011, is within easy walking distance of excellent local and national travel links and the town's retail heart. SAC shares the campus and many of the student facilities with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS).

Using the rare opportunity provided when building a new learning environment from scratch, SAC designed teaching and learning space around the needs of our students, and took advantage of the partnership with UWS to offer access to a range of shared social space. The library, bar, cafés, sports facilities, and shop are for students from both SAC and UWS, creating a vibrant and diverse campus environment in an attractive riverside setting.

From its green belt location the campus is only a short walk into Ayr town which is situated on the west coast of Scotland and looks across the Firth of Clyde towards the Isle of Arran and the atmospheric

Mull of Kintyre. A wide range of outdoor activities are available in the surrounding area, and there are bars, cinema, theatre and live music venues all nearby. To the south lies the unspoilt countryside of the Galloway Hills, while to the north the buzz of Glasgow is easily reached. As Scotland's largest city, Glasgow offers all the retail, social and cultural facilities expected of a major European city.

The campus offers student residences (owned and managed by UWS) which accommodate both SAC and UWS students, while the town of Ayr and the villages located in the surrounding countryside provide a range of rental opportunities for students wishing to live off campus.



“ The SAC Ayr campus is a vibrant place to study and socialise. It is in a central location - Ayr town centre is only a few minutes walk - yet far enough out to enjoy the parkland setting and tranquillity of the River Ayr. We have sports teams, environmental groups, leisure groups and more. Whatever your interest you're bound to find an extra curricular activity to suit you. Hope to see you at Riverside...!”

Luke Hendry,
SAC Ayr Social Committee

“SAC Ayr's Riverside Campus gives students a lot of social potential, with the campus only a 10 minute walk from Ayr town centre. The new campus which is shared with UWS, provides a dynamic student environment due to the wide range of students and courses offered. The campus offers up-to-date facilities and the possibility of taking part in various clubs and societies offered by both SAC and UWS.”

Scott Dewart,
Student at SAC Ayr

SAC Edinburgh

SAC Edinburgh is located on the Science Campus (King's Buildings) of the University of Edinburgh, on the south side of the city. This joint location with the University means that while you study at SAC, and enjoy its family atmosphere, you also have access to a range of sports, leisure, bar and restaurant facilities on-site, shared with students of the University. SAC Edinburgh has three lively SACSA student societies – the Edinburgh Agricultural Society, the Green Feet Environmental Society, and the Strong Roots Horticultural Society – open to all students and organising a variety of sporting, subject-related, and social activities throughout the year. As a student at SAC in Edinburgh you're also able to join the Edinburgh University Student Association which offers additional access to a wide range of student clubs and societies.

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital city. It's a small city, with around half a million residents, and over 10% of these are students! The city is perfect for student life; vibrant and full of activity, yet compact enough to get around easily. There are countless pubs, restaurants and cafés, and a huge range of cinemas, theatres, museums, sports facilities, music venues, and clubs, to suit every taste imaginable. Edinburgh's historic centre, with majestic castle and gardens, and its enviable location near the sea and surrounded by hills, are some of the many reasons it's often voted the best city in the UK.

Many companies provide high quality private student accommodation within the city. Further details are on their websites:

www.unite-students.com

www.iq-student-accommodation.com

www.iamnotasheep.co.uk

Some students take accommodation at one of these student residences, and others share rented accommodation which is also widely available in Edinburgh.

“Edinburgh is full of character and never fails to charm those who visit – it is a real pleasure to study here. With its scenic views, the SAC Edinburgh is a relaxing campus on the outskirts of the city centre, only a short journey to many world renowned attractions.”

“I have really enjoyed my time at SAC; the staff are friendly and are always happy and available to help should I have any queries or concerns. With an on-site gym and bar, there is ample opportunity for some morning exercise or to wind down after a long day of lectures. There are many places to eat on Edinburgh Campus – prices are reasonable with a wide choice to suit all tastes.”

“I have certainly had an interesting and exciting time here at SAC Edinburgh and I'm sure you will too!”

Daniel Fisher
SACSA Vice President Edinburgh



About our courses

University level education

What qualifications are offered?

SAC offers a range of undergraduate qualifications from Diploma to Degree.

Degrees

Our degrees are either a Bachelor of Arts – BA/BA (Hons) – or Bachelor of Science – BSc/BSc (Hons) – depending on the subject, and are awarded by either the University of Glasgow or the University of Edinburgh. We're very proud of our close links with these ancient Scottish universities, and students take our degree courses in the knowledge that they will graduate with a world-wide respected university degree.

Diplomas and Certificates

Higher National Diploma (HND) and Higher National Certificate (HNC) qualifications are awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and their content is designed in close consultation with industry, business and other colleges, to maximise employment and progression opportunities to our degrees. SAC's Diploma/Certificate courses combine SQA Units with work placement opportunities.

How long does the course last?

If you're studying full-time, a HNC lasts one year, a HND two years, a general degree three years, and an Honours degree lasts four years. Part-time study normally takes twice as long, but we are able to be flexible about the rate at which you study the course.

SAC has an academic year of 30 weeks, divided into three terms (for first and second year students) or two semesters (for third and fourth year students). The year starts in late September and ends in June with the graduation ceremony in early July. Exact term dates are available on our website.



University partners: Edinburgh and Glasgow

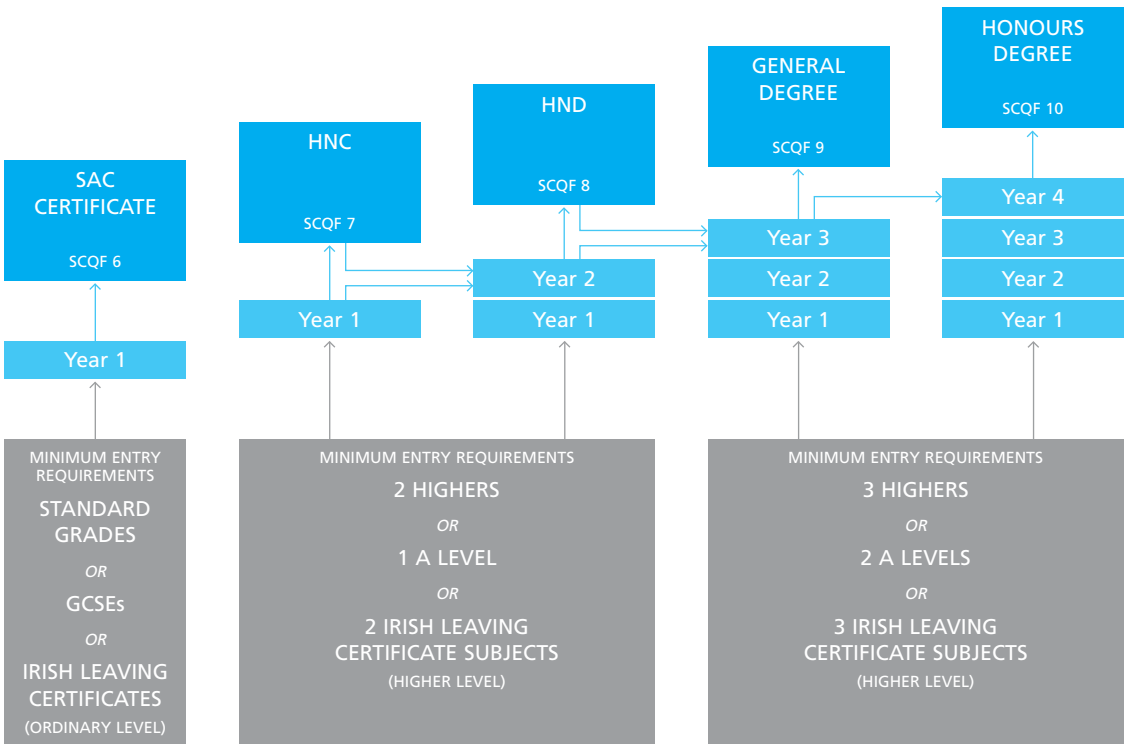
SAC works with partner universities which award you prestigious university degrees when you graduate with us. Most of SAC's degrees are awarded by the University of Glasgow, while our Environmental degrees are awarded by the University of Edinburgh. Both of these historic universities are ranked in the top 100 in the world, giving you an undergraduate degree with international recognition.

All of SAC's courses aim to blend the subject-specific, academic and practical skills and knowledge required with a relevant range of transferable skills to maximise your employment opportunities when you leave us. You'll find that the HNC and HND years (and first and second years of degree courses) are quite broad and varied – designed to give you a good grounding in your chosen subject area. The degree years (years three and four) will be more in-depth and specialised in content, culminating in you undertaking your own research project in your Honours (final degree) year.

How are the courses structured?

We have structured our courses to offer you entry and exit flexibility, as the diagram shows. For example: students who successfully complete an HNC at SAC are able to apply to move into year 2 of a related HND, and then progress into years 3 and 4 of a related degree course, without any repeated years. Conversely, students who are initially intending to study for a degree course, who for some reason find that they need to leave their studies earlier than intended, are normally able to leave at the end of Year 1 with an HNC or the end of Year 2 with an HND qualification.

SAC has a mixture of students – some know that they will study all four years of the Honours degree from the start, and others enrol initially for an HNC or HND and find as they progress that they want to stay on to complete their degree.



Advanced Entry

Do I have to start the course in Year 1?

No. If you have qualifications which are suitable, you can apply to join the course in Year 2 or Year 3, to save you repeating what you've studied before. You should check your qualifications with SAC's Admissions Office, but for example: if you have a related HNC qualification from another College, you may be accepted straight into Year 2 of the HND or degree course. If you have a related HND, or a foundation degree, you may be accepted straight into Year 3 of the degree.

Leanne Imlach began studying Finance with Management Science at the University of Strathclyde, before transferring onto SAC's Rural Business Management degree. When asked if she would recommend SAC as a learning experience Leanne responded:

“ Yes, there was a great sense of community including the teaching and support staff who are always available for any sort of help. Being able to approach lecturers that may not have taught you before for advice and extra information is definitely an advantage over bigger institutions. Coming directly to SAC from a large university was initially a bit of a culture shock, but interacting with a much smaller group allowed me to really connect with staff and classmates, which vastly improved the learning experience as I become more involved with the whole process.”

Leanne Imlach,
Rural Business Management

PROFILE

Vycki Shade

Recently graduated with
BSc (Hons) Sustainable
Environmental
Management.



Vycki made full use of SAC's flexible course structure, originally committing to a one year HNC course. Her appetite for learning drove her on to progress to HND, general degree, and finally Honours degree. She considers that setting a new academic goal year by year allowed her the chance to gain confidence as she progressed.

“ The first couple of years of the course were very practical, and the staff are so enthusiastic and knowledgeable they sweep you along with them. The campus is really nice and the intimacy of smaller groups allows students to strike up genuine friendships with staff and other students. The mixture of school leavers and mature students allows an opportunity to hear other viewpoints and values.”

“ I found studying at SAC a great boost to my confidence and found it really stimulating to learn new skills and outlooks on sustainability and the environment in general. Tasks such as reading ecological surveys and carrying out practical aspects of my job such as delivering presentations, preparing reports and understanding technical information all comes much easier since studying. The employment market is now very different from when I started working - the application of environmental skills is more of a requirement than a separate issue.”

Vycki feels that her studies opened up new opportunities and have been really helpful in her career. Two years ago she gained promotion to the post of Senior Engineer – in part a reflection on her broader knowledge-base and abilities.

Partner Colleges

SAC has formal agreements with a number of partner Colleges supporting possible advanced entry onto SAC's courses. These include Banff and Buchan College, Aberdeen College, Angus College, James Watt College, and Kilmarnock College. Contact details of these Colleges, and further information about progression possibilities can be found at:

www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/progression/contlearning/

Future developments

SAC is working closely with Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge Colleges, Scotland's land-based colleges, and at the time of writing is in advanced merger discussions which are supported by the Scottish Government. Merger of the four land-based institutions in Scotland would provide a single educational establishment offering land-based education from national level to postgraduate degree and build upon the subject strengths of each. Updates on the proposed merger will be available on SAC's website. It is not envisaged that merger discussions will affect SAC's undergraduate provision for 2013 entry. Please contact us if you require more information.

Barony College

Courses at Barony College include agriculture, land-based engineering, equine studies, fish farming, forestry, horticulture, veterinary nursing, and animal care. Several of these complement those offered by SAC and progression from Barony College's courses in agriculture, and horticulture into SAC's HNC, HND and degree courses is possible. Progression from other courses may also be possible.

**Further information: Tel: 01387 860251,
www.barony.ac.uk**

Elmwood College

Many students who complete one of Elmwood's land-based NC or HN courses (such as greenkeeping or horticulture) go on to study at SAC. Elmwood has also been offering animal care courses at NC and HN levels for a number of years and students may progress from these to a range of SAC courses. For those who have a passion for horses, Elmwood's equine courses may lead to progression onto SAC's Rural Business Management or Activity Tourism degrees.

**Further information: Tel: 01334 658856,
www.elmwood.ac.uk**

Oatridge College

Courses at Oatridge College include activity tourism, agriculture, animal care, land-based agricultural and horticultural engineering, farriery and forgework, countryside management, equine studies, horticulture and landscaping. Most of these run at NC and HN levels and there is a long tradition of Oatridge students progressing onto SAC degree courses in agriculture, countryside management, rural resource management, and horticulture.

**Further information: Tel: 01506 864800,
www.oatridge.ac.uk**

A flexible approach to study

Studying full-time

Each undergraduate course is made up of “modules” – different subjects studied during the academic year. For example, in year one of a course you’ll find that you study up to 15 different modules, giving you a breadth of understanding in your chosen subject area. In years three and four of the degree years, you study fewer modules, but are required to work more independently, specialising in the areas of the course which interest you.

At SAC the teaching timetable is organised into half-day blocks of study. Usually, one module will take up half a day a week (either a morning or an afternoon). There will be additional work (assessments and group projects for example) to do in your own time.

Studying part-time

All of SAC’s undergraduate courses are available to study full-time or part-time.

As a part-time student you study alongside full-time students but take fewer modules each year thereby reducing your learning time commitments to fit in other things like a job or family responsibilities. Typically, part-time students study at half the rate of full-time, so an HND course may take four years instead of two. However, we are as flexible as you need us to be and if your personal circumstances change and you want to study more or less, or even suspend your studies for a while, it is possible.

SAC’s provision is credit rated and mapped against the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) which means you receive recognition for the successful completion of each module.



“ Studying at SAC has given me a flexible opportunity to study while continuing to work full-time. My employer agreed to give me half a day a week to attend the course. The teaching staff take the time to get to know all of the students and appear to go that bit further to help you fit in and enjoy your studies. I would certainly have no hesitation in recommending SAC as a place to study part-time.”

Corri McHardy,
Rural Business Management student

Returning to learning

Being a 'mature' student

Whether you are thinking about studying full-time or part-time, taking the decision to return to learning after an absence is admirable.

Returning to learning can be daunting. SAC staff are experienced in guiding you through the practicalities of being a student, and many students find our small class sizes and excellent access to lecturing and support staff really helps the transition. We particularly welcome the diversity of life experiences that older students bring into the learning environment and are delighted with the interaction and group bonding that emerges between those who join SAC straight from school or college, and those who have taken a break from formal learning.

Around 28% of our undergraduate students are mature (over 25) so you will find that you're not alone when you join us. Some students have taken a few years out before progressing their education, some have brought up families, some are planning to study while they are working in order to improve their prospects, and some have pursued successful careers in a different field before deciding to change direction and take up study again.

“ After 15 years in the same job, I decided I wanted to change career and found a suitable course at SAC. Starting as a mature student, I was worried I wouldn't fit to full-time study alongside the younger generation. I needn't have worried. There was a varied age range and everyone was really friendly and supportive.”

Alison Rock,
BSc (Hons) Environmental Protection

Short Courses – for interest or professional development

Some learners choose to study just one or two modules with SAC. The modules which make up our undergraduate courses can be studied on their own, without the need to sign up for a full programme. You fit in with our undergraduate timetable, and attend the class along with the other students.

Distance Learning modules (available on the HNCs in Countryside and Environmental Management, and Rural Business Management) are also available for short course study.



Distance learning

Learn at home, with occasional weekend study

SAC offers a number of distance learning courses, currently mostly at postgraduate level.

At undergraduate level, you are able to study two courses by distance learning:

- HNC Countryside and Environmental Management (see page 67).
- HNC Rural Business Management (see page 53).

A distance learning HNC course is studied part-time, at home, by using materials provided on a memory stick and on-line through SAC's Virtual Learning Environment. The course takes 2 years to complete. Students are required to attend three weekend study schools each year (six in total) when field work, case studies, classes and some assessments take place. The weekend study schools also give you the opportunity to meet fellow students and lecturers face-to-face.

“ The course was really flexible and for me it was a great way to fit studying in around a full time job. The memory stick with the lectures was really easy to use – it contained all of the relevant information needed to complete the assessments – and the staff were really supportive and approachable.”

Hazel Syme,
HNC Countryside and Environmental
Management by Flexible Learning

Professional training courses

In addition to its undergraduate and postgraduate courses, SAC offers professional training courses through its Training Services provision. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is available for a range of industries, and includes food hygiene, tourism, business and management skills, CPD for vets, environment and conservation courses, and plant and equipment skills. SAC students are also given opportunities to benefit from this industry recognised training while they are studying their academic courses – sometimes as part of a module, sometimes as an extra course at cost. Further details can be found on our Training Services website at www.sac.ac.uk/training



Degree level study

SAC offers a unique learning environment for University degree study. Awarded by either the University of Glasgow or University of Edinburgh, SAC's degrees are developed by teams which comprise academic teachers and researchers and leading practitioners and scrutinised by a panel of internal, external and awarding university peers. Our degrees are designed to be academically challenging, vocational and relevant for the 21st century.

Undergraduate degrees are 3-4 years (full-time) in duration. Most students continue to the fourth year to graduate with complete their Honours degree. Some choose to complete after three years with general degree, often to pursue employment opportunities which have presented themselves during the general degree year.

What is an SAC graduate?

SAC staff and students have developed a suite of Graduate Attributes and these can be viewed as the framework for the design of our degrees. Together with any related professional accreditation requirements, the relevant QAA subject benchmarks and industry feedback, Graduate Attributes will shape the content of your degree, the assessments you will undertake and the knowledge and skills you will take with you once you finish.

A graduate of SAC will be able to demonstrate the following:

- Academic Competence
- Critical Thinking
- Desire for Learning and Personal Development
- Responsible Member of Society
- Employability

For more information on Graduate Attributes please visit the SAC website.

How our degrees are structured

Years one and two are designed to be a broad introduction to the subject giving you a breadth of knowledge and skills, as well as invaluable transferable skills (such as IT, communication, group and independent working) that you will need for your degree study and future employment.

Years three and four allow you to focus in on your chosen subject. Students will study a subject to a greater level of detail and will be required to undertake more independent study. Many degrees offer a choice of elective modules which allow you to tailor the course to your own interests and career aspirations.

In your fourth year you will also undertake an extensive piece of individual research, investigating a subject of your own choice. This 'Honours Project' gives you the opportunity to work with supervisors from across SAC, experts in their field actively conducting research or providing consultancy.

Conducting your own research project allows you to develop a wealth of skills, from research skills to time management and planning, as well as building specialist knowledge, all of which will be relevant to your future employment. Whilst it may appear initially daunting, our students tell us that the sense of achievement on submission is worth the hard work!

Degree courses at SAC

Degree title	Degree Awarded by
BSc/BSc (Hons) Agriculture	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science*	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Green Technology	University of Glasgow
BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management**	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Countryside Management	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Protection	University of Edinburgh
BSc/BSc (Hons) Sustainable Environmental Management	University of Edinburgh
BSc/BSc (Hons) Rural Resource Management	University of Edinburgh
BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden Design**	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture	University of Glasgow
BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Plantsmanship	University of Glasgow
BA/BA (Hons) Activity Tourism Management	University of Glasgow
BA/BA (Hons) Outdoor Pursuits Management	University of Glasgow
BA/BA (Hons) Sports Coaching and Development	University of Glasgow
BA/BA (Hons) Sport and Recreation Management	University of Glasgow

*Top-up degree

**subject to validation







Agriculture

Introduction

The agricultural and poultry industries are primarily concerned with the production of basic foodstuffs on farms, but also include the supply of inputs for farming such as fertiliser, seeds, animal feeds and machinery. In addition, agriculture is becoming increasingly integrated with other sectors of the food chain such as processing, distribution and retailing, to form the agri-food industry. This broader industry is one of the largest in the UK, accounting for over 10% in both employment and Gross Domestic Product.

Agriculture and poultry courses at SAC consider the wider agri-food industry, with the focus on production agriculture and related issues such as countryside protection and animal welfare.

Courses

BSc/BSc (Hons) Agriculture

HND Agriculture

HNC Agriculture

Certificate in Agriculture

HNC Poultry Production

Careers and Employment

SAC students find employment in a wide range of jobs within the agri-food industry, often following a period of travel on completion of their studies. Agriculture, including poultry, is a worldwide industry, and you will find job opportunities both nationally and internationally.

Overall 95% of our Agriculture graduates are employed within 6 months of completing their studies with a number returning to the family farm putting new ideas into practice which expand or diversify the business.

With SAC's significant position within the industry, and the range of businesses and research institutes they visit whilst studying, SAC students are well placed to see potential career paths. Those seeking opportunities in a professional work environment such as consultancy or land agency, for example, will have had the opportunity to experience this at first hand through the Professional Practice module run in the Honours Year.

Currently within the industry there is a lack of technical experts in areas such as agronomy and animal nutrition, and SAC Honours students who have specialised in these areas in their final year are in a good position to fill such vacancies. Examples of recent jobs gained by our agricultural graduates include agri-business partner for a bank, sales specialist for an animal nutrition company, and product developer for a feed company, as well as managers on working farms.

Many former poultry students have taken jobs in the operation and management of poultry production units, processing plants and feed mills, or have established careers in technical and advisory posts in companies that service the poultry and wider livestock production industries.

SAC also works with Aviagen, the global leader in poultry genetics, in supporting a student intern programme of vacation employment, study bursaries and graduate employment opportunities.

PROFILE

Gregor Mackintosh

Graduated with an Honours degree in Agriculture.



After returning to his family farm in Aberdeenshire, Gregor established a fledgling business producing extra virgin oil from oilseed rape.

"We've been growing oilseed rape on the farm for 20 years. We never really gave much thought to where it went, other than as a vegetable oil and biofuel. After College I came home to work on the farm, but had already developed the idea to diversify during my final year of study."

"During my fourth year at SAC I based my Honours Project on a feasibility study and market investigation into the production and sale of Cold Pressed Rapeseed Oil. Now in year two of the business our products can be found across Scotland in Farm Shops, Delicatessens, Butchers, and ASDA stores, and will be appearing in other leading stores soon. We also supply to a leading fish processor which uses the oils to add further value to their innovative products which are produced for ASDA, Sainsbury's and M&S."

"I continue to work closely with the SAC Marketing team who have proved to be a great asset to the business and were also on hand during my study. To add further value and pass on the natural goodness of the oils in other ways, we have also developed an infused oil range; my Lemon, Garlic, Jalapeño Chilli and now Ginger infused oils are sold to retail, catering and processing sectors."

"The business experience gained as part of my course was of great benefit to me as I had already developed business plans and a business model while studying at SAC, which made the search for funding a lot easier."

Why study Agriculture at SAC?

SAC has over a hundred years of experience of providing agricultural education, and offers an Agriculture degree course validated by the University of Glasgow. Teaching draws on SAC's unrivalled research and consultancy activity, and as a student you will be in regular contact with both commercial producers and agri-businesses.

SAC has an extensive network of consultants and advisors, expert knowledge of Scotland's agriculture, and a strong international reputation. Livestock research is particularly strong at SAC; for example, all UK genetic evaluations carried out for dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep are carried out by SAC geneticists who are continually developing new breeding tools for the industry. SAC vets who provide diagnostic support to practising vets in the field can be drafted in to provide expert tuition on the course. SAC has expansive laboratory facilities providing a range of analytical services and specialised equipment, such as a CAT scanner which can be used by students during their Honours projects. To support poultry courses, SAC has extensive production and processing facilities, and world leading researchers in avian science.

PROFILE

Margaret Baxter

Studied HNC Poultry Production.



"Having secured a contract to produce Free Range Eggs I needed to obtain the skills required to get the best production out of my hens while also looking after their health and wellbeing. After an open day at SAC I decided that the HNC in Poultry Production was the course I needed to study."

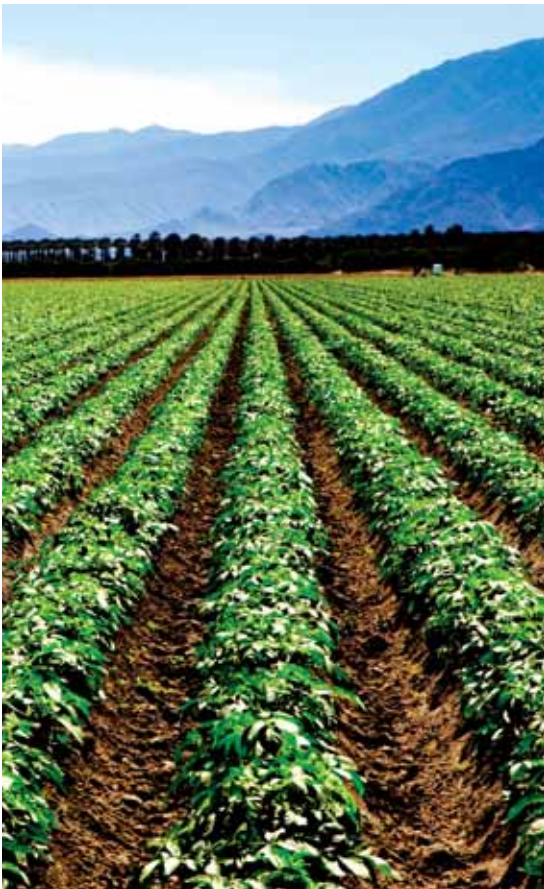
"I had initial worries about going back to studying 25 years after I left school, but I found the staff put me at ease and made the whole experience enjoyable and successful. The lectures and information, including online services, were very well presented and made learning straightforward and enjoyable. I also met other students on my course who I still keep in touch with regularly."

"I now feel well prepared for whatever the business presents me with and am passing on my knowledge to family and staff."



Preparing you for your future

In helping you prepare for employment, agricultural students are offered a range of opportunities to enhance their CVs. Practical skills courses in subjects such as crop spraying and cattle artificial insemination can be arranged alongside your academic course. Business skills can be honed through entering SAC teams in national business competitions such as the Pinnacle Awards. As an Honours student you can apply for a trainee studentship to spend a summer based in an SAC Farm Business Office for which you will not only be paid, but will receive a bursary towards your final year of study. Sponsorship to attend events and meetings such as the prestigious Oxford Farming Conference is also available to you. Study tours to other parts of the UK and Europe are arranged to gain awareness of the industry beyond Scotland.



PROFILE

Samantha Rendall

Recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) Agriculture.



Sam joined the Agriculture course straight from school, and studied a variety of topics such as livestock production, crop science, business management and farm diversification as part of her degree course. Sam says:

“From a very young age I have had a keen interest in agriculture and always enjoyed working on the family farm. I wanted to work within the rural sector, which is why I chose to study Agriculture at SAC. I have gained an understanding of the management of the countryside, environment and food production from ‘plough to plate’. Visits to a wide variety of different local enterprises, including egg producers, dairies, farm shops, soft fruit growers, beef and sheep farmers, a mushroom farm and a daffodil grower makes you realise what potential Scotland's agriculture has. Study tours to England and abroad also allowed us to gain further insight into the advanced technologies that have been developed for everyday agriculture elsewhere, which may one day become the norm here in Scotland.”

Prior to starting her Honours year, Sam was awarded a place on the SAC Trust funded traineeship and spent 10 weeks working for the SAC Farm Business Consultancy service.

“The summer placement allowed me an insight into the valuable service that SAC Farm Business Services has to offer land based industries. SAC is constantly adapting to changing market conditions and challenges, preparing their staff for the future.”

Sam is now working as a full-time Trainee Agricultural Consultant at SAC.

Agriculture BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

DN42

Campus Codes

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by

University of Glasgow

SCQF Level

9/10

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The aim of the degree course is to develop your general and specialist knowledge, understanding, and skills in agriculture to allow you to aspire to a leadership role within the agricultural industry. This is a wide-ranging course, giving you an understanding of the entire food chain, from plough to plate. You will develop the ability to tackle problems by collecting, analysing and evaluating qualitative and quantitative information and using it to make sound decisions. You will develop the knowledge and understanding required for a senior management position within the agricultural, agri-business or agri-food industries, in both a UK and global context. You will also acquire a good appreciation of the environmental, moral, ethical and legal issues relevant to the agricultural industry today, and an understanding of how agriculture inter-relates with society.

What Will I Learn?

Tutorials and seminars with SAC researchers and consultants will be a feature of the degree course. You will study topical issues and the latest technological advancements in agricultural science in modules such as New Perspectives in Plant Protection and Animal Feed Technology.

How Will I Learn?

The first two years follow the HND Agriculture course. As you progress through the degree years, your exposure to and interaction with specialist research and consultancy staff will increase. To provide an international perspective, you can undertake an overseas study tour based on a relevant theme.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into parasite control in grazing lambs, the effect of eyespot on the yield of winter wheat, and the impact of seasonal migrant labour on the Scottish agricultural industry.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/agriculture

“ Studying Agriculture at SAC gives you a wide range of knowledge in all the different aspects of Agriculture from Livestock to Crops to Mechanisation and much much more! All the staff are really friendly and will go out of their way to help you. I love the fact that at SAC you are a person, not just a number!”

Rachael Blyth, Agriculture

Agriculture HND

UCAS Code

004D

Campus Codes

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The aim of the HND course is to provide you with a vocational programme based on the skills and knowledge required for employment at supervisory/junior managerial level within the agricultural industry and for self-employment in farming or other land-based sectors. You will gain the skills, knowledge and understanding of animal and crop production technology, farm mechanisation, business management and managing people which are necessary for a position as a trainee/assistant farm manager or equivalent. You will also develop a sound appreciation of animal welfare, environmental and conservation issues and understand the concept of sustainability during your studies.

What Will I Learn?

Key business skills are developed through modules such as Planning, Budgeting and Control, which will allow you, towards the end of the course, to undertake a Business Case Study on a farm business, evaluating its performance and suggesting potential changes that could be made.

How Will I Learn?

Classroom sessions are supplemented by visits to a range of agricultural businesses. Visits to farm businesses will concentrate particularly on examining the decision making process undertaken by the manager in determining their strategy. Opportunities are also given to use advanced software programmes for tasks such as livestock rationing.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of SAC's BSc/BSc (Hons) Agriculture or BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management degree courses.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/agriculture

“I am so pleased to be able to manage my own farm and this is really what I have wanted to do since I left College. It is so hard for young people who don't come from a family-owned farm to get on the first rung of the ladder and my HND significantly helped me get to where I am today.”

John Kerr, Agriculture

Agriculture HNC

UCAS Code

104D

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The aim of the HNC course is to provide you with a husbandry-based programme in production agriculture which, in combination with practical experience and guidance from a manager, will enable you to undertake the running of a farm enterprise. Within the HNC course you will develop the required skills and knowledge in crop production, animal production and mechanisation in an integrative manner and develop an ability to complete and maintain appropriate records and documents. You will also become aware of relevant health and safety, animal welfare and environmental issues during the course.

What Will I Learn?

Your skills and knowledge in the main areas of agriculture are developed through modules such as Plant Protection, during which you will learn to identify weeds, pests and diseases and how to minimise their impact on crops, and Livestock Husbandry, which covers a range of techniques such as handling, vaccination, and stock selection.

How Will I Learn?

The skills and knowledge you gain throughout the course will allow you to be able to monitor crop and livestock enterprises on a farm as an ongoing project. This will culminate in a report in which you will present your findings based on observations and data collected during farm visits.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of the HND Agriculture or BSc/BSc (Hons) Agriculture course.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/agriculture

“HNC Agriculture gives a good base knowledge of most areas of agriculture, ranging from crops through livestock, and touching on diversification, aiding people that are not from farming backgrounds to gain enough information to work within the industry.”

Scott Dewart, Agriculture

Agriculture SAC Certificate in Agriculture

Apply direct to SAC

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

SCQF Level

6

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The SAC Certificate in Agriculture is a one year course which gives an introduction to the agricultural industry. For those leaving school with four Standard Grades or equivalent the Certificate can provide a route into the Higher Education Agriculture programme at SAC. Alternatively, this could be a stand-alone course which could lead to employment within practical farming in positions such as stockperson or grieve. The introductory nature of the course makes it suitable for those with farming experience as well as those without any prior knowledge or experience.

What Will I Learn?

You will develop both theoretical and practical skills that will enhance your employment prospects; these will include livestock skills such as milking, calf rearing and lambing, and mechanisation skills such as operating field machinery, farm building repairs and welding.

How Will I Learn?

The course will involve classroom, workshop and practical teaching sessions. Practical skills are developed and assessed in the farm situation where you will be expected to demonstrate the ability to undertake tasks such as basic livestock handling and the setting up of machinery for specific field operations. The underpinning knowledge will also be assessed in the classroom.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may apply to join the HNC or HND Agriculture course.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/agriculture

“I came to SAC because I wanted to learn more about Agriculture. I was recommended to come to SAC by friends who were both past and present students of the College. The staff are very friendly and helpful. There is a good social life and I have made friends for life here.”

Elaine Morrison, Agriculture

Poultry Production HNC

UCAS Code

324D

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The UK poultry industry is a competitive, dynamic industry with an annual retail turnover of £3.4 billion. This makes it one of the most successful UK food production industries. Tremendous job opportunities await you in today's exciting and highly advanced poultry sector. If you think you can meet these challenges creatively and productively, you will find plenty of scope for professional growth. The HNC Poultry Production will prepare you for employment and provide a stepping stone for further vocational training.

At SAC you will be taught by specialists who are part of the industry and committed to their subject. They will ensure that the course continues to evolve and reflect any changes in the poultry industry, and will help you develop the skills and knowledge required for a challenging and rewarding career.

What Will I Learn?

The HNC Poultry Production covers such topics as commercial egg production, poultry meat production, and poultry health, ensuring that you have the skills to manage a healthy stock of laying or breeding birds, including knowledge of control measures and legislative requirements.

How Will I Learn?

You will have access to a substantial poultry research unit which encompasses all aspects of modern poultry production from rearing through to processing. These facilities include a hatchery, laboratories, a processing plant and stock rearing houses.

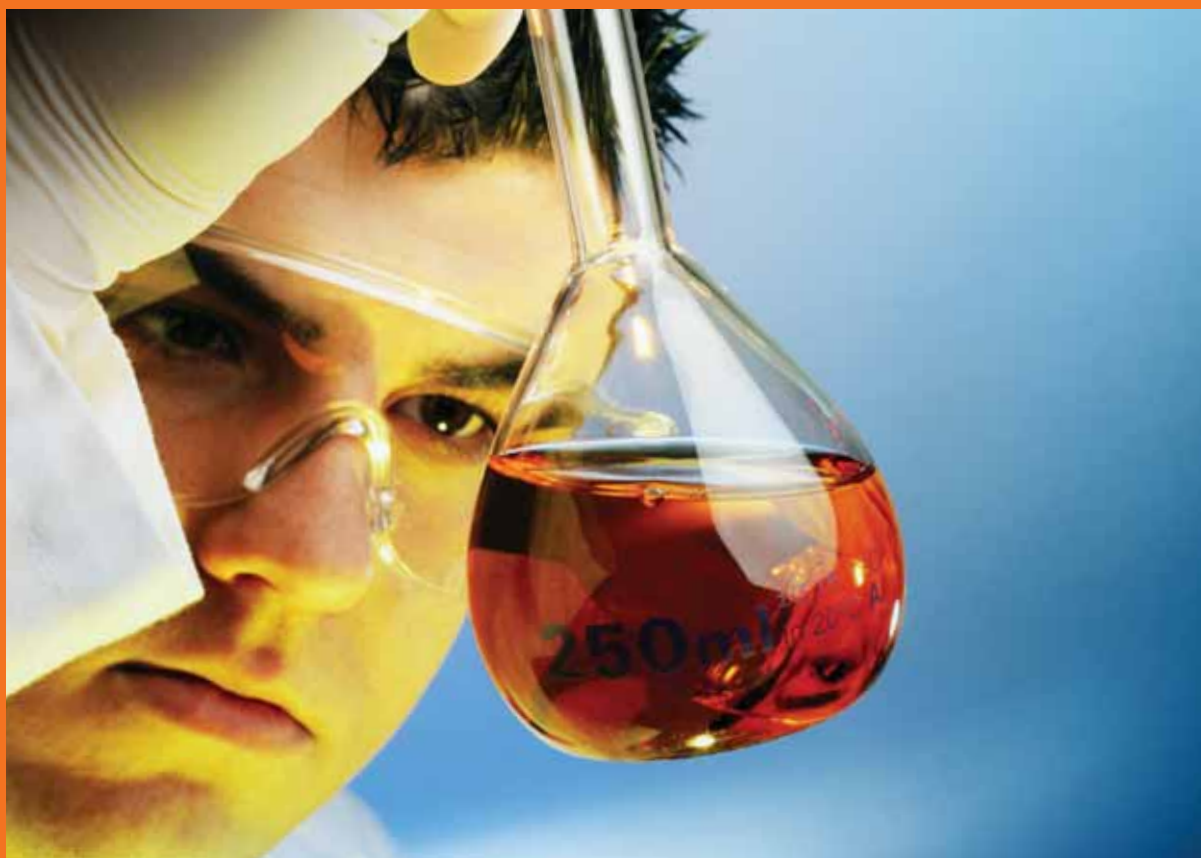
Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, progression may be possible into year 2 of the following SAC degree courses: BSc/BSc (Hons) Agriculture, BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science, or BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/poultry

“ The poultry department has a focused, inspirational team, who are passionate about their subjects and really bring the lectures to life! If you want to learn valuable skills, gather priceless memories and meet some truly amazing people - SAC is for you. Innovative, friendly and unique in every way.”

Phyl Fleming, Poultry Production





Applied Science and Technology

Introduction

Mankind faces critical challenges over the coming decades. How can we use our land and resources to supply a rapidly growing global population with food, energy, housing and raw materials, while improving standards of animal welfare and reducing our impact on the climate and natural ecosystems so vital for our survival?

The combined skills of scientists and technologists in a range of land-based disciplines will be vital in meeting these challenges. We need talented graduates to devise smart solutions and develop innovative technologies to exploit the opportunities created as society moves towards a low carbon, green economy. As an SAC graduate you will be well equipped to meet 21st century needs.

Courses

BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science

BSc/BSc (Hons) Agricultural Science

BSc/BSc (Hons) Applied Bioscience

HND Applied Bioscience

BSc/BSc (Hons) Green Technology

HND Green Technology

HND Sustainable Building Technology

HNC Sustainable Building Technology

Careers and Employment

SAC's Applied Science and Technology courses can lead you to a variety of career opportunities.

Applied Animal Science

The livestock sector offers a wealth of career opportunities. Past graduates have gained employment as veterinary research assistants, investigating livestock diseases such as BSE. Others have found jobs as technical representatives for animal health products, joined feed companies as nutritionists, or entered careers in livestock breeding. Some graduates have been appointed as animal health officers and animal welfare officers.

Applied Bioscience

The bioscience sector is dynamic and diverse. Past graduates specialising in plant science options have entered research positions in plant pathology, crop quality, weed control, plant trials, and biofuels. Those taking the biotechnology options within the course have found employment with companies such as GlaxoSmithKline, Invitrogen and Adgen Agrifood Diagnostics. Those with a food science focus have entered positions in areas such as food quality and safety, or in food product development. Other graduates have become secondary school Biology teachers after completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

Agricultural Science

Many specialist posts in support of the agricultural industry require science graduates. Examples of the jobs of Agricultural Science graduates include farm business consultant, farm conservation adviser, agronomist, meat hygiene inspector and environmental supervisor for a composting company.

Green Technology

In the UK's renewable energy and environmental sectors, 400,000 new jobs are forecast by 2020, with 160,000 of them in Scotland. Graduates of SAC's innovative Green Technology degree are expected to gain employment as project managers, technical representatives and technicians with companies operating in the renewable energy, waste management or bioproduct supply chain sectors. Others might enter posts as consultants, inspectors or development officers with environmental agencies and organisations promoting energy efficiency, recycling and the expansion of sustainable technologies.

Sustainable Building Technology

Opportunities for successful students of Sustainable Building Technology will be found in the building services, engineering and design sectors. Expertise in low-carbon design, low-energy consumption, and renewable and sustainable building are needed by both private companies and the public sector, such as local government planning and building control departments.



“ The course is challenging but its good to be studying subjects which seem to be discussed in the news and media every day. This is bound to be reflected in the job market as time goes on.”

Kieron Smith, Green Technology

PROFILE

Nicola Stewart

Nicola graduated with an Honours degree in Applied Bioscience.



In her final year Nicola conducted an Honours research project into the distribution and potential applications of condensed tannins in Scottish wild plants. Since graduating, she has been working for the Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI). Here she spent six months at the Mylnfield Lipid Analysis unit and has also worked on various projects including an analysis of Vitamin C in blackcurrants and the nutritional properties of barley.

"I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the course, which explored many areas of plant and animal science. Most class sizes were small, allowing the lecturers to spend more time with each student when required. The lecturers were approachable and would always give support when it was needed. I hope to continue working for SCRI and in the future I would love to conduct research towards a PhD."

Why study Applied Science and Technology at SAC?

SAC is a specialist, land-based institution with the vision "to be the leader for innovation and sustainable development in the rural sector". With this academic and business focus, your science course will be relevant and current, with SAC's researchers and consultants contributing to its curriculum and teaching.

SAC has particular research strengths in animal science, sustainable livestock systems, crops, soils and the environment. In addition to its Veterinary Services, SAC's consultancy activities include arable, livestock, food chain quality and safety, environmental management, renewable energy, energy efficiency and building design. Strong links to land-based industries have ensured that SAC's former students have an excellent track record of gaining professional jobs in their chosen subject after graduation.

In addition to drawing on SAC's own expertise, you will undertake relevant visits to research institutes, commercial companies, development sites or local farms throughout your course. For many courses, a third year Study Tour will give you first hand experience of the wider application of your studies and possible career pathways in your field.

Visits to SAC's research farms are included for some modules, while Honours year Applied Animal Science, Agricultural Science and Applied Bioscience students can develop their skills in disease diagnostics at SAC's Veterinary Disease Surveillance centres. Some students have carried out Honours research projects in association with industry e.g. the biofuel company D1 Oils, leading to the offer of research posts after graduation.



Preparing you for your future

During their course, students are encouraged to undertake relevant work experience during vacations and to apply for scholarships and bursaries. Second year Applied Animal Science and Applied Bioscience students can apply for the Aviagen Ltd scholarship, which offers a year's work placement with this poultry breeding company, together with financial support towards the cost of their SAC studies.

At the end of their third year, a number of science and technology students have been awarded SAC Trust Fund Traineeships, providing summer work experience with an SAC Farm Business Services office, together with a bursary towards their Honours year. Other third year students interested in crop disease control have successfully gained scholarships from the British Society for Plant Pathology to carry out summer research projects with SAC specialists, while some Green Technology students have been offered vacation employment on environmental projects.



PROFILE

Erin Williams

Graduated with an Honours degree in Applied Animal Science.



After graduating, Erin went to the Royal Veterinary College, London to undertake a PhD. She is now a lecturer in Veterinary Sciences at the University College Dublin.

"I chose SAC because I felt the course offered a wider choice of career paths compared to some of the more rigid degrees from other universities. Rather than learning about chemical and biological processes in isolation, these were mainly taught in the context of, for example, animal nutrition, reproduction, or health and disease, making the course more practical, relevant and understandable."

"Whilst doing my degree, I became very interested in animal reproduction and health and, having really enjoyed my Honours project, I decided to continue in the research world. My PhD work has been published in international academic journals and I have presented it at conferences nationwide. My research was also picked up by Pfizer, who have developed therapeutics for uterine disease in cattle and, with them, I have travelled around the UK and Ireland speaking to vets and farmers about the impact of uterine disease on cattle fertility. After my PhD I joined University College Dublin, where I have been investigating the effects of genetics, nutrition and uterine disease on cattle fertility."

"Overall, I could not recommend SAC enough to any student thinking of going there. The dedication and enthusiasm of the lecturers certainly rubs off, and the Applied Animal Science course can open up lots of fantastic career options. It definitely still has a place in my heart!"

PROFILE



Allan Thomson

Recently graduated with a BSc (Hons) Green Technology.

While studying for SAC's degree in Green Technology, Allan Thomson had a part-time job with the Energy Agency and also spent his last summer vacation working with SAC's Farm Business Services consultants.

Upon graduating, Allan was awarded a scholarship for an MSc by research in Canada, with the University of Dalhousie and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. There, he is investigating renewable technology applications and potential energy efficiencies in the poultry industry.

"SAC's Green Technology degree provided me with a wide range of skills and an appreciation of our environment whilst building up a solid knowledge base in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and their applications in the rural sector. I would urge those considering a career in renewable energy to study at SAC, not just for the skills and knowledge you develop, but also for the friendly and supportive environment in which the course is delivered."

Applied Animal Science BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

D300

Campus Codes

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

Animal science is a fascinating field of study. As an Applied Animal Science student at SAC you will be at the cutting edge of the latest industry developments, giving you a head start for an exciting career after graduation.

Applied animal scientists will have a vital role to play in meeting the future demands of our growing population in a time of climate change. Applications of animal science are crucial for improving the productivity and sustainability of livestock production systems, for controlling disease epidemics, for raising standards of animal welfare, and for enhancing wildlife biodiversity.

The aim of this course is to equip you with a sound knowledge and understanding of animal science and its applications, together with practical and laboratory skills and an understanding of the environmental, ethical and economic contexts in which the sector operates.

What Will I Learn?

Following a foundation in biological principles and laboratory skills, you will study the growth, nutrition, reproduction, health, welfare and behaviour of animals, with a particular focus on farm livestock.

Elective modules include disease diagnostics, breeding and genetics, pharmacology, ecology, molecular bioscience, and animal science and society.

How Will I Learn?

Theoretical aspects of the course are complemented by laboratory and practical classes and by visits to farms and animal science research institutes. A third year study tour is included to show the wider applications of animal science.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the prevalence and genetics of compressive cervical myelopathy in pedigree sheep, and a comparison of behaviour in laying hens when housed with or without perches.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/appliedanimalscience

“ Applied Animal Science has proved to be an excellent programme. SAC is a friendly place to study and lecturers are keen to see you do well. Visits to relevant sites, such as farms and research centres, are enjoyable as well as demonstrating how the theory that we learn is used in practice.”

Grace Smith, Applied Animal Science

Agricultural Science BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

D700

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Entry into Year 3 only

Degree Awarded by

University of Glasgow

SCQF Level

9/10

Advanced Entry

Into year three only as top up degree

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The agricultural industry draws on scientific understanding and technical expertise to sustain the efficient production of crops and livestock, whilst protecting the environment, improving livestock welfare standards and meeting strict food quality standards. Today, that scientific input is needed more than ever as the agricultural sector faces the challenges of climate change and the rising demands for food and fuel by the growing global population.

Well-trained agricultural scientists have a vital role to play in boosting the efficiency of crop and livestock production, adapting agricultural systems to the changing climate, and helping us to combat climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, reducing fossil fuel inputs and developing renewable energy resources. Graduates of this top-up degree course can look forward to challenging and worthwhile careers.

What Will I Learn?

Building on your previous knowledge and experience, you will study the applications of science in areas such as livestock nutrition, health, disease and diagnostics, genetics and breeding, crop nutrition and protection, soil science, waste management, pollution control and environmental protection.

How Will I Learn?

The course includes farm and industrial visits and provides training in the experimental and laboratory skills needed for analytical, research and development work in agricultural science. You will use advanced software packages for tasks such as livestock rationing.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the effects of breeding on the incidence of ovine footrot, factors influencing the incidence of tuber late blight disease caused by *phytophthora infestans*, and the epidemiology of clostridial diseases of cattle and sheep in Scotland.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/agriculturalscience

“ Studies are all very relevant to the ever-changing agricultural industry. The field trips are particularly interesting as you see how what's taught in the lecture room is put into practice. The lecturers are all very enthusiastic about their subject and very approachable and keen to help you get the best out of the course.” **Ema Caskie, Agricultural Science**

Applied Bioscience BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

D420

Campus Codes

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

Recent skills reviews report a growing demand for well trained graduates in the rapidly developing bioscience sector. This course explores the diverse applications of biosciences in the land-based sector today, such as the drive to sustain efficient production of food, renewable energy and raw materials for industry, whilst protecting the environment and natural biodiversity.

This course aims to develop your knowledge in areas such as genetics and breeding, the response of plants to pests, pathogens and environmental stress, the diagnosis and control of animal diseases, and biological aspects of food quality, safety and processing. You will also develop key laboratory practical skills in cell biology, microbiology, DNA molecular techniques and immunotechnology.

What Will I Learn?

The first year will provide you with a strong foundation in biological principles and laboratory skills. In subsequent years you can choose from elective studies in the applications of plant, animal, microbial and environmental biology as well as in biotechnology and food science.

How Will I Learn?

In addition to traditional lectures, you will develop skills in practical and experimental techniques, both in laboratory classes and by conducting individual research projects. Applications of biosciences will be illustrated by visits to a number of research establishments, from commercial laboratories to food and drink manufacturing plants.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into detection of salmonella from gut samples of deceased wild birds, the use of plant secondary metabolites to control clostridium infections in poultry, and the transfer of antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/appliedbioscience



“I gained a variety of skills and techniques from the laboratory classes which I use in my current job. The Bioscience Study Tour was a particular highlight, as it gave you an insight into different kinds of working environments and the range of jobs that were on offer after graduating.”

Margaret Hazle, Applied Bioscience

Applied Bioscience HND

UCAS Code

527D

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Well-trained biological scientists are in great demand by today's innovative bioscience companies, which make a significant contribution to the economy both in Scotland and the UK. For the land-based bioscience sector, recent advances have delivered numerous beneficial applications in environmental protection, crop and livestock production, animal welfare and the sustainable supply of bioenergy and bioproducts from biomass.

HND Applied Bioscience is designed to equip you with the biological understanding and practical laboratory skills required for employment in a technical or scientific post in the land-based bioscience industries or for progression to degree level study. Depending on your interests, you can follow either the applied bioscience or the applied animal science stream.

What Will I Learn?

Building on your first year foundation in biological principles and practical laboratory skills, the second year develops practical skills in DNA molecular technology and immunotechnology and their applications in the land-based sector. Other modules explore aspects of animal health and nutrition, ecology, crop physiology, pollution and waste management, and biomass technologies.

How Will I Learn?

Traditional lectures are supplemented by laboratory practicals and visits to biological research establishments, commercial bioscience companies and farms. To further develop your planning and research skills, you will conduct an individual practical investigation drawing on your knowledge and skills from across your second year studies.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of the appropriate stream of HND Applied Bioscience, students may enter the third year of SAC's degree courses in Applied Bioscience or Applied Animal Science.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/appliedbioscience

“ I chose to study at SAC because I was unsure of which specific scientific career path I wanted to follow and SAC's Applied Bioscience course provided the basis for many different sectors of employment. The lecturers were approachable and helpful. With fairly small class sizes, you were never too scared to ask a question if you couldn't understand something.”

Kirsty Donnelly, Applied Bioscience

Green Technology BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

CF98

Campus Codes

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

The drive to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is creating new green job opportunities in the renewable energy and environmental sectors. The UN and the UK and Scottish governments recently outlined plans for moving to a low carbon, green economy by increasing renewable energy generation, improving energy efficiency and accelerating the development of green technologies for tackling pollution, managing waste, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SAC's Green Technology degree is designed to prepare graduates for this emerging sector of employment. You will not just learn about environmental problems; you will gain the scientific understanding and technical skills which will enable you to contribute to practical action against climate change and environmental degradation.

What Will I Learn?

You will study renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, the sustainable production and processing of crops, algae and wastes for bioenergy and bioproducts, eco-buildings, pollution control and waste management. Other modules include climate change, business management, and planning and environmental impact assessment.

How Will I Learn?

Engineering workshops, laboratory classes, visits to companies and development sites and a study tour will develop your skills and understanding of the issues relating to the deployment of green technologies. You will also undertake case studies and research projects into topics of your choice.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included the determination of the ideal collection interval for household waste destined for anaerobic digestion, and an assessment of woodchip fuel quality in the UK.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/greentechnology

“I'm not sure you really can sum up my course in one quote – it's probably the most diverse thing I've ever tried in my life! One day you can be learning about ecology, or power factors in electricity, and the next you could be walking around a field looking at different land uses! The course is so diverse it allows you to interpret it in the way you want.”

Sarah Allison, Green Technology

Green Technology HND

UCAS Code

89FC

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Forecasts predict a major expansion in job opportunities for the renewable energy and environmental sectors, as governments implement policies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and tackling climate change.

To meet challenging targets, changes are occurring across industries, businesses and communities as we move to a low carbon, green economy. These involve increased deployment of technologies for generating renewable energy, managing wastes and controlling pollution as well as for improving the energy-efficiency of our buildings and transport systems. SAC's HND in Green Technology aims to equip students with key technical and scientific skills combined with an understanding of environmental issues and sustainable land use so that they can contribute to this 'Green Technological Revolution.'

What Will I Learn?

Following a foundation in scientific principles and environmental issues, your studies will include small-scale renewable energy systems (e.g. wind, solar, hydro and biomass), the energy efficiency of buildings, transport and agriculture, and the sustainable production and processing of crops, algae and wastes for bioenergy and bioproducts.

How Will I Learn?

Your practical and technical skills will be developed through engineering workshops and laboratory classes. You will see technology in use first-hand on visits to companies and development sites, and you will undertake a case study for improving the environmental performance of a selected site.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of SAC's BSc/BSc (Hons) Green Technology.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/greentechnology

“I am studying part time while continuing to work as an energy adviser for East Ayrshire Council. The Council places a high priority on energy efficiency and carbon management and I had been looking for a relevant course which would enhance my continuing professional development. This course complements, and builds on, my previous training and experience in the energy field while providing a broader environmental context for energy issues.”

Sarah Farrell, Green Technology

Sustainable Building Technology HND

UCAS Code

72FK

Campus Codes

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HND.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Sustainable Building Technology is the course for you if you want to make a real, positive improvement to future living. Successful students of this course will help to design and construct buildings that will reduce carbon emissions and the costs of heat and power for all of us. Architects and engineers have been creating great buildings for centuries and they still do; think of where you live and how your favourite buildings positively influence you. But, there's a problem! Heating and cooling strategies keep us comfortable, but we must not ignore the costs of this in today's world.

Sustainable Building Technology gives you the skills and knowledge to help design and construct a world where we live well, but at less financial cost, and with less impact on the natural environment.

What Will I Learn?

You will study subjects such as energy performance of buildings, biomass technologies, heating, lighting, thermal comfort, natural ventilation, mechanical cooling, micro-generation systems, sustainable building services engineering, electrical and electronic systems, biodiversity conservation, environmental awareness, waste management, and low environmental impact construction methods.

How Will I Learn?

You will have lectures and tutorials and will also take part in many laboratory practicals and study visits on important subjects such as thermal insulation materials, air temperature and humidity measurement, refrigeration and heat pump cycles, ventilation, solar panel water heating, photovoltaic cells and wind turbines.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may apply to Glasgow Caledonian University's BSc (Hons) degree in Building Services Engineering.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/sustainablebuilding

“Everybody was really helpful which is especially good if you're a mature student. The course was interesting and covered a broad range of subjects (environment, building services, building materials, renewable energy) which helps to figure out what to specialise in.”

Alan Lapsley,
Sustainable Building Technology

Sustainable Building Technology HNC

UCAS Code

27KF

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

SAC is a specialist, land-based institution with the vision ‘to be the leader for innovation and sustainable development in the rural sector’. With this academic and business focus, this course is relevant and current, with SAC’s researchers and consultants contributing to its curriculum and teaching.

Students from the HNC and HND in Sustainable Building Technology will join the group of professionals charged with the hugely important and rewarding responsibility of increasing the efficiency of our energy use, and reducing the environmental impact of our building designs of the future. Based at the new Ayr campus you will study at SAC’s very own ‘living lab’.

What Will I Learn?

You will study subjects such as sustainable building structures, construction materials, planning, mathematics for construction engineering, environmental awareness, waste management, and natural and built environment integration, as well as learning how to use relevant tools such as AutoCAD.

How Will I Learn?

The course involves laboratory practicals and study visits covering issues such as thermal insulation materials, building air quality, ventilation, and constructing with timber and other grown materials. In addition, you will do a technical performance analysis of a renewable energy technology.

Progression Opportunities

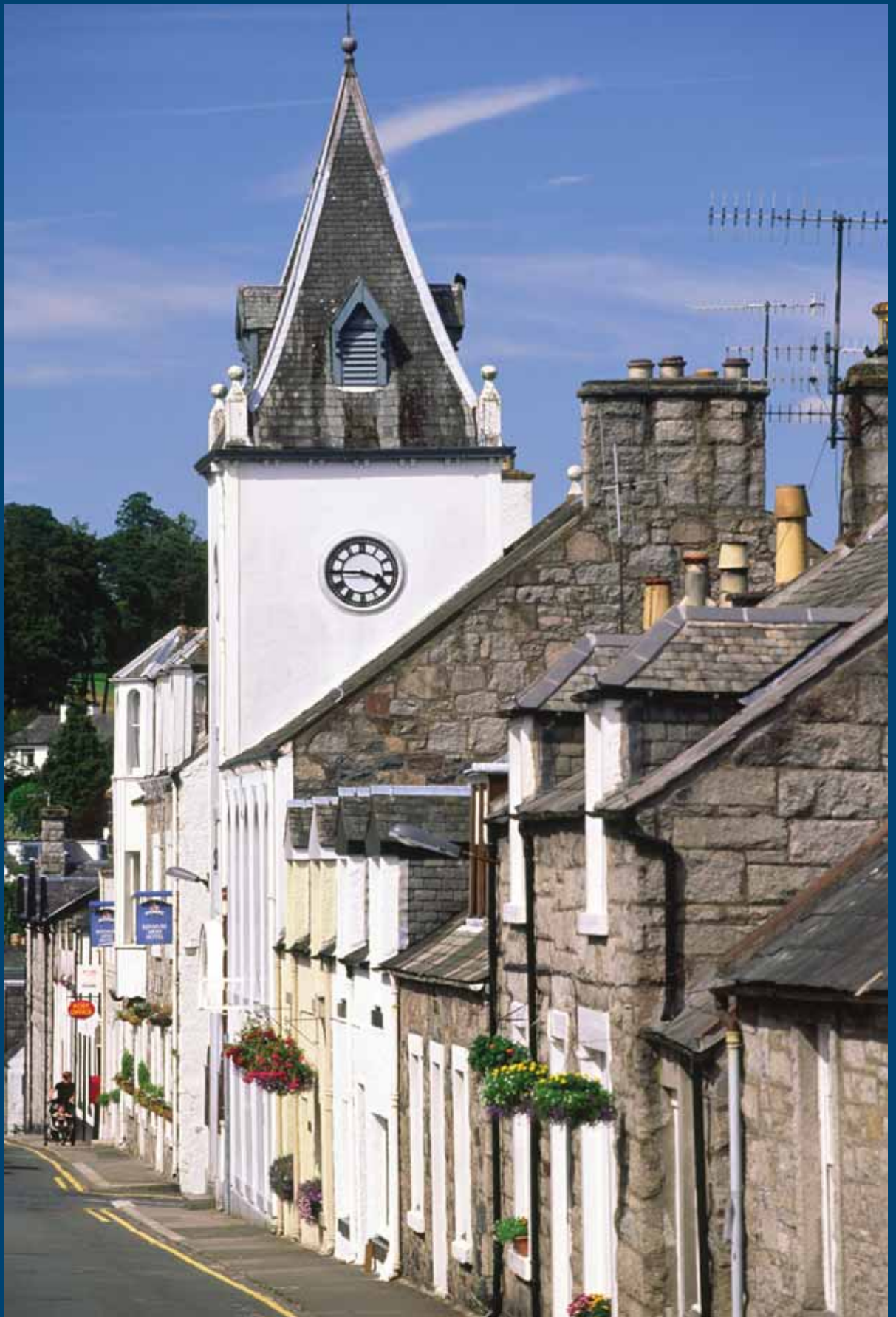
Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of the HND Sustainable Building Technology.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/sustainablebuilding

“It’s definitely the course I was looking for to improve my knowledge of sustainable buildings. The Building Regulations are becoming greener every year.”

Nigel Cochrane,
Sustainable Building Technology





Business

Introduction

Rural Business encompasses businesses related to agriculture, the agricultural supply sector, estate and land management, food production and marketing, equine management, and industries supporting the animal sector, such as rural veterinary practices.

Rural Business Management at SAC offers innovative courses designed to meet your needs as well as those of prospective employers, ensuring excellent employment prospects. By incorporating specialist rural related modules alongside a core of entrepreneurship, marketing, economics, finance, IT and human resource management, SAC ensures that you have a rounded business education along with specialist knowledge for the rural sector of your choice.

Courses

BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management*

HND Rural Business Management

HNC Rural Business Management

*subject to validation

www.sac.ac.uk/businesscourses

Careers and Employment

You will gain knowledge and skills depending on your choice of elective subjects. Whichever you choose, you will be equipped for careers in a wide range of areas.

Those who choose to supplement their business core subjects with modules of an agricultural focus will be well prepared for a career in the diverse agricultural sector. Past graduates have developed successful businesses based on family farms, or gone on to diverse careers such as grain trader, Scottish Government officer, or auctioneer.

Some students choose an animal related focus to their studies and these students will prepare themselves for careers in horse business management, veterinary practice management and the animal related supply sector. Graduates in this area combine practical animal experience with specialist business knowledge and industry experience.

Other students focus on land or estate management modules, and prepare themselves for rewarding and varied careers in this sector. Other Rural Business graduates have set up in farm consultancy or entrepreneurial activity related to sustainable energy.

The Chartered Management Institute (CMI) has formally recognised the value of these SAC courses. When you graduate with a Rural Business Management degree you are eligible for professional membership of the CMI, at either Associate or Member level.

Why study Business at SAC?

SAC has a wealth of consultancy, research and teaching staff who provide you with both specialist lectures and supervision of dissertations in your specialist area of study. Allied to this, our excellent links with industry and frequent use of industry placements, site visits and business case studies means that your theoretical knowledge will be fully underpinned with practical skills, giving you a real edge in your chosen profession.

“ The real strength of the Rural Business Management programme is its diversity of subject areas. We offer a wide choice of elective modules in land management, food, agriculture, environmental issues, equine and animal related topics alongside a core of business modules. This prepares students for careers which can range from estate management, food quality control, consultancy, working for Government agencies, to running businesses such as equine or farm tourism.”

“ Our graduates are very employable due to their industry placement experiences during the programme and their focus on their chosen industry in professional practice placements and in their Honours dissertation. Your outlook will be widened by frequent industry visits, case studies, and overseas study tours. The results speak for themselves with over 93% of graduates going into good jobs, even in the current economic climate.”

George Robertson
Business Management
Programme Leader

PROFILE

Alasdair Brooks

Is in his final year of the BA (Hons) Rural Business Management.



Alasdair (far right) with fellow students Andrew Tullie and Douglas Mathison on their prize trip to Mondragon, Spain.

“I chose to come to SAC as I would like to follow a career that allows me to live and work in a rural environment. I am from a farming background and noticed the opportunities to develop and diversify within the rural sector. This is what led me to choose the Rural Business Management course.”

“The course provides business skills as well as agricultural knowledge. Some of the most interesting modules include Business Law, Marketing, and Management Skills and Entrepreneurship. There are also visits to various farms and other rural businesses giving you an insight into how agriculture and the rural economy is changing.”

“Studying at SAC provides a great opportunity to make new friends from different backgrounds and to gain a new perspective on agriculture and rural business which will help you in whatever you chose to do in later life.”

“The College also provides a lot of opportunities for entering projects into competitions. Last year a group of four business students, including myself, entered a national competition for a co-operative business plan. Our ‘Borders Farm Forestry Co-op’ business plan won the competition and our prize was an all expenses paid trip to Mondragon in Spain to see co-operatives in action.”

“Once I have finished my course at SAC I intend to go abroad to New Zealand or America to work and travel and hopefully pick up some new ideas for rural diversification to bring home.”

Preparing you for your future

We aim to enhance your learning experience by providing you with challenging and competitive activities. Examples of this added value at SAC include: teams entered for the Pinnacle Business Awards in London; teams entered for the Grassroots Challenge at the Royal Agricultural College; students selected for SAC Traineeships as consultants; all business students have access to industrial management placement situations, sometimes in challenging positions overseas; and all fourth year students participate in Professional Practice placements working at a high level in industry.

Distance Learning

The HNC Rural Business Management (page 53) is studied by distance learning. More information can be found on page 19, and on SAC's website. You study part-time, over two years, mainly at home by using course materials provided by SAC. Two or three times per year you will attend a study weekend, which not only gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow students and SAC staff, but allows SAC to organise visits and case studies which bring real-life examples and practical application to the theory you have studied.

“ Although I grew up on a farm and still enjoy helping, it was only when I started working for SAC doing cattle records that I began to get more interested in the business side of Agriculture. The Rural Business Management HNC by distance learning is very well suited to me since I work part time and have two small children. The study weekends give you the chance to meet tutors and fellow students and clearly explain what's expected of you. There is always someone at the end of the phone or email to help. I still work for SAC and the skills I am learning on the course are helping me at work. My experiences are extremely positive and I would have no hesitation in recommending this course to anyone.”

Ann Walls, Rural Business Management by Distance Learning

PROFILE

Sarah Reid

Graduated with an Honours degree in Rural Business Management.



“ When I joined the Rural Business Management programme I immediately felt I had chosen the right course, with a good mix of general business modules paired with more specialised subjects.”

“ Throughout my time at SAC I found the staff to be friendly, approachable and willing to help whenever possible. The good relationship between staff and students leads to interesting lectures, with an atmosphere which encourages student involvement and an opportunity to engage in interesting debates and seminars.”

“ At the end of my third year, I was offered a full-time job but also felt that I wanted to complete my Honours degree. Fortunately, SAC allowed me to complete my final year over two years on a part-time basis. Although this was very challenging, I feel that it improved my time-management skills and helped me focus on meeting deadlines.”

“ Since graduating, I have accepted a position with Vion Foods Scotland Ltd. as a Business Analyst. This role is most relevant to my degree and I use the skills and knowledge I gained throughout my time at SAC on a daily basis.”

“ I would thoroughly recommend the Rural Business Management programme to anyone who has an interest in the land-based industries, as the qualification lends itself to a very broad range of career options upon graduation. And to anyone who is considering part-time study – go for it. You will surprise yourself at how you manage to fit everything in. I know I did!”

Rural Business Management BA/BA (Hons)* Subject to validation

UCAS Code

D0N0

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

This course aims to provide you with a thorough knowledge of the fundamental concepts of business management, taught in a unique way related to the specialist options which you have selected. Business modules are supplemented by a choice of elective subjects across a wide range of rural topics, such as animal science, agriculture, horse business, and land management. In all cases, what you learn is complemented by the use of applied case studies, often delivered in situ, giving you a real hands-on feel for that industry.

Applicants may progress from other institutions or disciplines with a suitable HND for direct entry into year three of this programme. Excellent career opportunities are available on graduating from SAC with a BA Rural Business Management degree.

What Will I Learn?

The first two years follow the HND Rural Business Management. In years three and four marketing, management strategy, research skills, and economics are supplemented by a range of elective modules allowing you to focus on a rural business area of your choosing.

How Will I Learn?

Your academic study is always underpinned by practical work such as field trips, case studies, business plans, study tours, industry placements, and professional practice, helping to ensure that by the end of the course you have a firm grasp of your chosen industry.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into oilseed rape biodiesel production viability, equine and food diversification for an Angus farm, and hotel location and turnover in North East Scotland.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/ruralbusiness

“ SAC is a great place to study because the staff have practical experience in the subjects they teach, are very helpful and have time for each student. The facilities are good and every effort is made to put on trips which makes studying more interesting. The study tours to Spain and Dublin were excellent and were a good opportunity for students to see how rural industries operate in different countries.”

Isla French, Rural Business Management

Rural Business Management HND

UCAS Code

654D

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

This course will expand your existing business knowledge and skills, with the emphasis at all times being on rural business throughout the UK. You will study a range of up-to-date and relevant modules, giving you a real insight into rural business today while providing you with a range of transferable skills which are of vital importance to today's graduates.

Through the specialist elective modules available (offered in addition to the generic business core) you will be able to tailor your studies to focus on your own particular sector of interest. An optional summer work placement between the first and second year ensures that you will acquire practical and operational skills and knowledge. Some students have found placements overseas including in the United States, Canada and Europe.

What Will I Learn?

Year one follows the HNC Rural Business Management curriculum, introducing the key functions of management, marketing, human resource management and finance. Year two modules build on this and include further study of human resources, finance and economics. To meet the needs of employers you will also study advanced IT and E-commerce.

How Will I Learn?

Field trips, guest speakers and practical activities are incorporated into modules, and full use is made of the wealth of knowledge held by the staff at SAC, including specialist consultants. Each year there is the opportunity to take part in a study tour, visiting rural businesses.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of SAC's BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management degree.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/ruralbusiness

“ The HND in Rural Business Management offered a good mixture of classes and was both challenging and enjoyable. I really enjoyed my second year as the classes were integrated with other courses, giving us a different perspective on topics, and a chance to meet other students.”

Leah Morgan,
Rural Business Management

Rural Business Management HNC

Apply direct to SAC
Study by Distance Learning

SCQF Level 7
Entry Requirements Page 97

The Rural Business Management HNC covers the major business management functions, such as enterprise, marketing, economics, finance, and human resources, but with specific reference to rural business. Rural business is a key contributor to the UK economy, and career opportunities are diverse.

As you progress, you will learn the skills you need to make a valuable contribution to rural industries. Personal development planning is a key feature of the course, and you will be encouraged to develop your own Personal Action Plan to identify skills which require further development. This could include time management, report writing, information retrieval and communication skills.

The HNC course is part-time by distance learning. Those wishing to study on-campus full-time or part-time should apply for the HND or BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management course, of which the HNC is the first year.

What Will I Learn?

One of the first modules you will study is Business Management: An Introduction which provides an insight into the world of business from a manager's perspective. It introduces the key functions of management, marketing, human resource management and finance. You will also design a simple website.

How Will I Learn?

You will undertake a variety of case-studies during the course, investigating real-life situations and business issues. Study weekends for distance learning students allow the opportunity for group work and for visits to relevant industries.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of the HND or BA/BA (Hons) Rural Business Management.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/ruralbusiness

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the course and the modules we studied. As I had hoped, all the modules related to our business in some way and I could learn a new skill and apply it in a practical manner. The assignments seemed realistic and manageable (as most people have other commitments) and the study weekends were very well organised and well balanced.”

Morven Sivewright, Rural Business Management (Distance Learning)





Environment, Countryside and Conservation

Introduction

The importance of the environment is increasingly recognised, and includes issues such as conservation, climate change, habitat loss, pollution, and sustainable development. There is greater public awareness of environmental issues than ever before.

Organisations are increasingly required to address environmental impact through legislation. The environmental employment sector is therefore one that is expanding, and will continue to do so in the future.

SAC is well placed to deliver courses which blend theory with best practice, drawing on extensive practical experience and facilities. As a graduate of our courses, you'll be able to apply appropriate solutions to environmental problems, based on sound knowledge and understanding.

Courses

- BSc/BSc (Hons)** Countryside Management
- HND** Countryside Management
- BSc/BSc (Hons)** Environmental Protection
- BSc/BSc (Hons)** Sustainable Environmental Management
- HND** Environmental Management and Sustainability
- BSc/BSc (Hons)** Rural Resource Management
- HND** Rural Resource Management
- HNC** Countryside and Environmental Management

www.sac.ac.uk/environmentalcourses

Careers and Employment

A career in the environment, countryside and conservation field requires flexibility and a willingness to learn and adapt. The range of possible jobs is wide, and SAC's graduates have followed a variety of career paths. Each of our environmental courses has a slightly different focus, be it conservation, sustainability, environmental science, or management and legislation. A particular course choice may lead more naturally into a specific career area, but graduates have found that the practical nature of SAC's courses allows access to a broad range of career destinations.

Graduates from recent years have worked in the following areas: countryside ranger, waste management, energy auditing, wind farm consultancy, environmental protection, woodland and habitat management, recycling and waste reduction, rural development, planning, estate management, pollution control, and environmental education.

In general, an HNC/D award will lead to an entry-level job, whilst a degree allows career entry at a higher level. However, employers also look for additional experience, so it is useful to gain work experience through volunteering or appropriate summer work. We strongly encourage all our students to be aware of the job market. There are many good sources of information, and two useful websites for reference are the Countryside Jobs Service (www.countryside-jobs.com) and the ENDS environmental website (www.endsjobsearch.co.uk).

SAC's courses are suitable for those wishing to pursue an environmental career straight from school, but they are also popular with mature students wishing to develop new skills and change careers.

PROFILE

Kai Thomson

Graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Sustainable Environmental Management.



On finishing his studies Kai immediately started work as an environmental systems analyst with DOF Subsea working on environmental audits and management systems. Having spent a couple of months working in Aberdeen he is off to Houston to carry out Environmental Audits and will be going on to perform similar functions in Norway – all within months of graduating. The course covers a wide range of subject areas including environmental subjects such as environmental awareness, climate change, ecology, waste management, pollution control, sustainable transport, resource economics, GIS and ISO14001.

Reflecting on his time spent studying Kai commented: "SAC has a unique blend of research, academia, and strong links with the business world. The College is perfectly positioned to offer all its students a well grounded skills base, beyond the purely academic. For me, this has been a key feature of the Sustainable Environmental Management course and I feel well prepared to take all future employment prospects head on. Companies and individuals face both challenges and opportunities for good environmental practices. I am so fortunate to now have the necessary skills to work with a company which has the foresight to approach these challenges with enthusiasm. This course has allowed me to expand my horizons and to have the confidence to believe in the value of my skills. I am focussed and prepared for the future. My time at SAC has been challenging yet rewarding and has been great fun."

Why study Environment, Countryside and Conservation at SAC?

SAC offers excellent opportunities to study environmental and countryside issues. Our three campuses allow access to a mix of urban and rural study sites, including our research farms. Our small class sizes mean that field trips are a regular feature of our courses, and that learning is student-centred. In addition, SAC Research and Consultancy provide access to a wide range of experts employed in the sector, as well as links with other bodies and organisations. In short, SAC offers the best study venue for mixing appropriate theory with the best in applied knowledge and practice.

“ I applied for Environmental Protection and the next thing I know I'm halfway up Ben Nevis, walking through Glen Coe and petting the animals at Blair Drummond. It's the kind of course where anything can happen and it often does. Well worth it in my opinion.”

Lara McClung
Environmental Protection



Distance Learning

The HNC Countryside and Environmental Management (page 67) can be studied full-time, part-time, or by part-time distance learning. More information can be found on page 19 and on SAC's website.

Gaining Practical Experience

Studying at SAC is not just about what you learn in the lecture theatre – it is about putting that knowledge into an applied context. We undertake frequent study visits, including residential field trips, to ensure that you will have exposure to a wide range of practical examples as well as contact with industry. We'll encourage you to undertake appropriate work experience or volunteering opportunities, such as with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), local Rangers, or with other voluntary groups. You'll also be offered opportunities for widening your experiences (and CV enhancement) through participation in the John Muir Award Scheme. Field trips and site visits are an integral part of these courses. Appropriate footwear and sensible waterproof outdoor clothing are required.

“ Participating in the John Muir Award Scheme gives our students valuable experience in conservation volunteering through discovering and exploring wild and remote places.”

Dr Deirdre Wilson
Environment Lecturer

PROFILE**Joanna Dick**

Graduated with a
BSc (Hons) Countryside
Management.



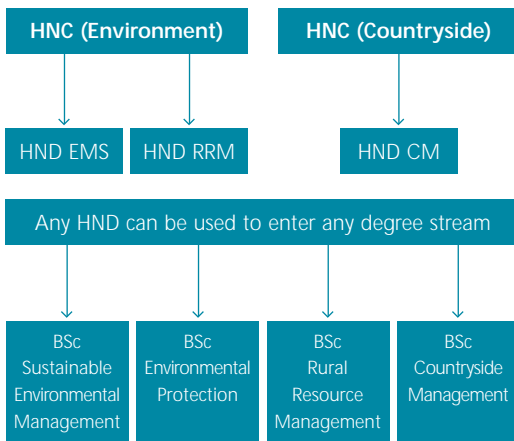
Immediately on finishing her degree, Joanne secured a job at St Cyrus National Nature Reserve with Scottish Natural Heritage. She is now employed as a full time Site Management and Interpretation Officer on a reserve including coastal grasslands, dunes and cliffs. Apart from species-rich grassland, the site supports grasshoppers and a wide range of breeding birds and butterflies. There is also a visitor centre with a steady stream of enthusiasts and school groups coming to widen their knowledge and enjoy the views and environment.

Speaking at the reserve, Joanna says: "The course is excellent because it has equipped me with a range of skills that I need for the job I am now doing. Practical experience gained during my studies, and going out on site with the College's Conservation Club has been of particular value in the post. SAC is a small institution, and the interaction between the students and the lecturers really helped get the best out of me and maintain my enthusiasm during my studies. I am ready to take on the challenges of my new job and feel confident and capable in my day to day duties."

Progression Routes

Progression routes through the Environment and Countryside courses at SAC are flexible. In the first year, students select to follow the HNC with either the Countryside or Environment stream.

The Countryside stream leads to the corresponding HND, whilst the Environment stream leads to either the HND Rural Resource Management, or the HND Environmental Management and Sustainability (itself available in two streams). Any HND can then be used to enter any degree, although some extra reading may be recommended prior to starting the degree years.



PROFILE

George Hipwell

Graduated with a degree in Rural Resource Management.



“ During my time at SAC I developed many skills that have equipped me well for life working in the rural sector. In addition to general life skills such as the ability to manage time and adjust to the demands of deadlines and various workloads, the courses at SAC gave me a sound understanding of disciplines such as business management, budgeting and planning, rural development and various land management tools.”

“ The delivery of the course created both a clear appreciation of the theory behind the subjects but also how they were implemented in practice. This was achieved through a mixture of lectures, lab work and field trips. The education I gained through studying at SAC has helped me to develop my future career on a strong platform. I continue to work with a local rural estate and my future looks promising.”

“ Studying with SAC gives a rounded and all-encompassing education on rural matters and provides a strong platform from which to move into a career, whether that is within the land based industries or not. Some of the many benefits of studying at SAC are the support from staff throughout, as well as the wide spectrum of subjects studied which gives you confidence and also options for your future. I would thoroughly recommend studying with SAC.”

Countryside Management BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

F750

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by

University of Glasgow

SCQF Level

9/10

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Modern day countryside managers need a blend of skills to enable them to react to both challenges and opportunities as they arise. Through this course, traditional ecological and visitor management topics are complemented with the additional necessary knowledge and skills you will need, such as data handling, community involvement, and woodland management. The course offers flexibility, allowing you to choose modules to suit your particular aspirations, and you'll put the practical knowledge you gain to good use through real-life scenarios and case studies.

Countryside Management at SAC attracts students of many different ages, backgrounds, and future aspirations. What they have in common is an interest in studying this unique mix of people management, biodiversity, conservation and ecology. SAC offers the only Countryside Management degree in Scotland, and this qualification can lead you to a wide range of careers.

What Will I Learn?

The first two years are the HND Countryside Management, which gives you an introduction to the theory and principles. In your degree years, modules such as Managing Community Projects and Action for Biodiversity, will require you to put this knowledge to practical application.

How Will I Learn?

Learning material is delivered in a number of ways, but field trips and visiting specialists play an important part. Residential field trips ensure you have the chance to experience a range of scenarios, and see how different solutions to problems work in practice.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the reintroduction of the Golden Eagle to Ireland, the role of volunteers in conservation activities, and the ecology of saucer bugs in the River Doon.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/countrysidemanagement

“ Conservation Management Planning was a fantastic module as it allowed students to think outside the box and use their own initiative. I also thoroughly enjoyed our Ecology modules as our lecturer did everything with such passion; it was a pleasure to be taught by her. Overall I feel that SAC has prepared me well and has given me all the skills I need to go out there and get the job that I want to do!” **Bruno Paterson-Brown, Countryside Management**

Countryside Management HND

UCAS Code

157F

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant qualification.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

If you care about the management of Scotland's countryside and the people who enjoy it then Countryside Management is the course for you. Nature conservation, interpretation, and land use are all included in this dynamic, hands-on course taught by professionals with experience in the industry who will help you to develop the practical skills that are necessary for the workplace.

By the end of the course you will have an in-depth grounding in both the practice and theory of countryside management which will enable you to deal effectively with current and future issues. You'll also have opportunities to become involved with a local conservation group to further develop your practical skills. In the past, students have built their own wildlife garden and tree nursery, as well as carrying out badger and bat surveys, building bird and bat boxes, and assisting with bird ringing and tree felling.

What Will I Learn?

Following on from year one (the HNC Countryside and Environmental Management, electing the Countryside stream), the HND introduces new topics such as habitat management, ecological surveying, conservation skills, and visitor management.

How Will I Learn?

Field trips are an integral part of the course and there is also a week-long residential study tour which seeks to bring together the various topics that you have studied, emphasising the integrated nature of the course.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of the BSc/BSc (Hons) Countryside Management, or may be accepted into year three of any of SAC's other environmental degree programmes.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/countrysidemanagement

“I knew the sort of job I wanted but wasn't sure how to get there. Countryside Management offered all the things I needed. SAC was a great place to study, the atmosphere was friendly and the staff were really helpful.”

Jan Dunlop, Countryside Management

Environmental Protection BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

F851

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by University of Edinburgh

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

Have you wondered how we manage the various impacts that humans are having on the physical and biological environment? Do you have an interest in blending environmental concerns with applied science and social issues?

This course combines these different strands to examine how humans impact on the environment, and what effects these impacts may have. It blends environmental protection with environmental science, and will teach you analytical skills (both in the lab and in the field), and an ability to evaluate data. You'll learn how to monitor, manage and minimise the environmental impacts of waste and pollution. This course produces environmental managers fit to tackle current and future environmental issues. Graduates may work in waste/pollution control in industry as well as in remediation and the regulatory agencies.

What Will I Learn?

The first two years follow the HND Environmental Management and Sustainability. Years three and four build on this knowledge, teaching you how to identify, minimise and manage environmental impacts through modules such as Pollution Control, Environmental Biology, and Waste Reduction and Recycling.

How Will I Learn?

You will develop both theoretical and applied skills through a combination of traditional lectures and regular visits to relevant study sites (urban and rural), organisations (such as SEPA), and industries (such as recycling, waste management, transportation, and farming). Further practical skills will be developed through laboratory and fieldwork studies.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into carbon footprinting, diffuse pollution – nitrogen and phosphorous concentrations in stream water, and a comparison of the biodiversity of post-industrial wasteland sites along the Water of Leith.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/environmentalprotection

“ I can honestly say that there is no part of the course that I didn't enjoy. Highlights include the many study visits, and completing my Honours project. I aim to work for SEPA, but I also now have the knowledge and confidence for other jobs in the environmental field.”

Alison Rock, Environmental Protection

Sustainable Environmental Management BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

FN82

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by University of Edinburgh

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

Sustainability is a concept that is increasingly part of our common language, whether discussing climate change, community development, or nature conservation. This course places sustainability within an applied context, and combines aspects of science, geography and social sciences to examine the impacts that humans are having on our environment, and how those impacts may be minimised.

In this course you will study across disciplines, but always within the context of managing the environment and relevant human impacts. You will graduate with a sound grasp of the underlying theory (scientific, social, economic), but also with the knowledge of how to apply practical solutions in management.

What Will I Learn?

The first two years follow the HND Environmental Management and Sustainability. The final years are interdisciplinary and cover a range of modules such as GIS, Climate Change and the Global Environment, and Conservation Management Planning.

How Will I Learn?

Regular field or site visits are supplemented by residential field trips which allow you to broaden your experiences and place your studies within an applied context. The emphasis is on putting theoretical knowledge and management techniques into an applied and real-world context.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the quality of environmental impact assessment, environmental education in schools, woodland restoration rationale in Scotland, and the attitudes of access takers towards open access in the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/sustainableenvironmental

“ A degree in Sustainable Environmental Management gives you a broad range of practical and theoretical knowledge about land management, conservation, resource economics, and practical skills like writing management plans, reports, and Environmental Impact Assessments. The staff are so helpful, field trips are fantastic, and I can't recommend it highly enough for anyone looking for a job in the environmental sector.”

Bernadette Moloughney, Sustainable Environmental Management

Environmental Management and Sustainability HND

UCAS Code

47DF

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Sustainability, conservation and protecting the environment are now of prime importance. This course equips you with the knowledge and skills needed to address environmental concerns not by studying environmental issues alone, but by considering them in the appropriate social, economic and management context.

Within the HND you will choose between two streams; the first (sustainable environmental management) concentrates more on human geography issues and conservation, whilst the second (environmental protection) takes a slightly more scientific approach and covers environmental impacts and monitoring. Most of the modules in the two years are common to both streams, ensuring that all students address environmental concerns across a broad front, and based on a common core of knowledge.

What Will I Learn?

Building on year one, the HNC Countryside and Environmental Management, the second year develops your technical and academic skills across the environmental and sustainability fields. You'll also develop your transferable skills, such as report writing, critical analysis and presentation skills, to prepare you for the job market or for further studies.

How Will I Learn?

As with all environmental courses at SAC, lecture-based learning is heavily supplemented by field visits, external speakers, case studies and a study tour. This enables the knowledge gained in the lecture room to be placed firmly within an applied context.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of the following degree programmes at SAC: BSc/BSc (Hons) Sustainable Environmental Management, BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Protection, BSc/BSc (Hons) Rural Resource Management, BSc/BSc (Hons) Countryside Management.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/environmentalsustainability

“ I found it easy to integrate into student life at SAC. The range of modules in the course are very practical in nature, with many using real life examples as projects and case studies. Having graduated with an HND I have started work with Wind Prospect as a Development Officer, travelling and working on projects in various countries.”

Joseph Padbury, Environmental Management and Sustainability

Rural Resource Management BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

F810

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by

University of Edinburgh

SCQF Level

9/10

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The worlds of business, industry, society and environment are becoming increasingly intertwined, with all businesses (ranging from industrial plants, to tourism ventures, to nature reserves) now obliged to operate in an environmentally friendly manner. Combining environmental and business knowledge to achieve sustainability is the main aim of this course. This is achieved through the study of the environment alongside aspects of business management, social sciences, and regulation/policy drivers.

Graduates from this course are able to address business targets and desired outcomes, whilst also working with the regulatory environment to minimise environmental impacts and achieve sustainable development.

What Will I Learn?

As this course is by necessity multi-disciplinary, you will cover a range of topics that are necessary to achieve the required business/environmental balance. Example modules include Rural Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Policy Analysis, and Resource Economics.

How Will I Learn?

You'll make frequent use of case studies of relevant businesses in which environmental, economic, management and social elements are brought together. Regular field visits and residential field trips expose you to a variety of situations and examples of sustainable development.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into management strategies of red deer populations, farmer attitudes to the SDRP, and the feasibility of a wind turbine development in Orkney.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/ruralresource

“ The appeal of studying Rural Resource Management is the breadth of the course. It gives you the freedom to choose the direction you want to go in; you are never pigeon-holed. When I started the course I was convinced I wanted to be a Countryside Ranger, but by the Honours year I was concentrating on the socio-economic impacts of rural transport and car use in National Parks!”

Chris Mair, Rural Resource Management

Rural Resource Management HND

UCAS Code

018F

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

This course identifies and examines the wide range of geographical, environmental, business, social, economic and political issues which affect and impact on the rural environment and our ability to manage resources in a sustainable manner. The study of the environment and human impacts is combined with appropriate business, social and scientific skills. This unique blend of topics ensures you have the potential to develop into an environmentally-sensitive rural resource manager for the future, with the ability to address rural development and environmental issues with practical and applied solutions.

What Will I Learn?

Year one offers a broad range of topics, following the HNC Countryside and Environmental Management. In year two, environmental issues are combined with a study of the factors influencing rural development in modules such as Rural Socio Economic Development, and Business Management: An Introduction.

How Will I Learn?

The emphasis in this course is on the practical application of appropriate techniques. Lectures are supplemented by regular field trips which put techniques and knowledge gained into an applied context. Residential field trips in years one and two allow more extended studies in appropriate rural locations.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of the following degree programmes at SAC: BSc/BSc (Hons) Rural Resource Management, BSc/BSc (Hons) Environmental Protection, BSc/BSc (Hons) Sustainable Environmental Management, BSc/BSc (Hons) Countryside Management.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/ruralresource

“ The mix of field trips and classroom based learning is great. By choosing your own elective modules you can shape the course around your own interests and towards the field you hope to work in. This also means that you have some joint classes with students from other courses, which can sometimes provide interesting discussions!”

Debbie Davidson, Rural Resource Management

Countryside and Environmental Management HNC

UCAS Code

057F

Campus Code

X Aberdeen

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

Also available by Distance Learning

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Do you care about the environment? Have you ever wondered if you have what it takes to play a part in managing our countryside? The HNC Countryside and Environmental Management course will give you an introduction to Scotland's rural and urban landscape and how it's used and managed. The range of subjects covered is greater than in any other comparable course and includes conservation, pollution, ecology and land use.

With ever increasing demands on our natural resources from recreation, conservation and energy generation, as well as the impacts of traditional land uses such as agriculture and forestry, there's a clear need for graduates with a broad understanding of the relevant issues, and the growing range of careers open to them.

What Will I Learn?

You'll choose to specialise in either countryside or environment, and will study a range of introductory modules including Ecology and Ecosystems, Environmental Awareness, Biodiversity Conservation, Geology, and Countryside Recreation or Pollution and Waste Management.

How Will I Learn?

The course is a blend of theory and practical sessions, and will take you out of the classroom where you'll see how the environment and countryside is actually managed in a wide variety of habitats and situations. You'll meet environmental managers and see first hand some of the practical skills they use. You can study this course full-time, part-time, or by Distance Learning (see page 19).

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of SAC's HND courses in Countryside Management, Rural Resource Management or Environmental Management and Sustainability.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/countrysideenvironmental

“ I really enjoyed this course – a wide range of topics are covered in a friendly learning environment where you are not just treated as a number.”

Simon MacGillivray, Countryside and Environmental Management





Horticulture and Garden Design

Introduction

Horticulture and Garden Design are subjects which are integral to: creating and managing sustainable environments; improving the health and well being of our population through provision of safe healthy food; green space provision for exercise and improvement of our environment; and the production and establishment of plants for gardens and for ecosystem restoration.

These are both practical and scientific subjects, and with a qualification in these areas you will be able to contribute to the well-being of the human race and the health of the planet.

Courses

BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden Design*

HND Garden Design

HNC Garden Design

BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture

HND Horticulture

HNC Horticulture

Diploma in Professional Gardening

BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Plantsmanship

HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship

*subject to validation

www.sac.ac.uk/horticulturalcourses

Careers and Employment

UK qualifications in this sector are highly regarded throughout the world, and interesting and rewarding employment opportunities are available both in the UK and abroad. Throughout your studies you will develop contacts with potential future employers through visits, trade shows, study tours, visiting speakers, work experience, summer placements, involvement in industry liaison meetings and participation as a student member in professional organisations. Many employers approach SAC directly when seeking to recruit new staff.

With a horticulture qualification, there are very varied career possibilities including: management of public green-space, country parks, private gardens, botanic gardens, and community gardens; work in horticultural retailing and garden centres, for landscaping companies, nurseries, and fruit and vegetable crop production, as well as in journalism, television, teaching, school gardening, education, research, advisory work, restoration of historic gardens, landscape reclamation, marketing, and horticultural therapy.

Garden designers are often self-employed or employed by local councils, garden centres or landscape consortia as designers or landscape design technicians, where strong plant knowledge and attention to detail in design will be valued. Alternatively, some students move towards landscape management or horticulture and gain positions within private or historic gardens.



PROFILE

Helen Jeffrey

Studied HND in
Garden Design.



Following the completion of the HND in Garden Design, Helen set up her own Garden Design & Garden Maintenance business in the Scottish Borders.

"I have had a passion for gardens and plants from a very young age and wanted to continue this passion in my career. Upon completing the HND Garden Design at SAC, I spent 6 months in Australia working in a plant nursery. This allowed me to expand my knowledge of horticulture and to learn about plants, and their use, in a different climate. When I returned to Scotland I wrote a business plan and applied to the Princes Trust for a loan, which allowed me to set up my own business. I am in my second year of business and it is going very well, even with the current recession. Recently I have been selected as one of the top two companies in the PSYBT Borders Business of the Year Awards, which I'm ecstatic about."

"The HND at SAC gave me the confidence and the experience to set up my own business. One module in particular that I found especially beneficial was the "Design and Construction of a Show Garden", which gave me project management experience and seeing a project through right to the end."

**Helen Jeffrey, Inspirations at Early Vale
(Garden Design & Maintenance)**

Why study Horticulture and Garden Design at SAC?

SAC has its own practical horticulture facilities comprising greenhouses, gardens and landscaped areas, and additionally has partnerships with both the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) who provide garden resources for practical garden maintenance classes and work experience, and with local councils who provide additional nursery facilities and parks for practical work and projects. We have good links with the many facets of the horticulture and landscape industry, and also with scientific institutes and SAC's own researchers and consultants, and you will find that classes at all levels involve these professional experts.

Throughout your course you can be involved in a variety of additional activities ranging from the design and construction of show gardens for horticultural shows and exhibitions, to helping with community garden projects. Exciting summer placements abroad are possible through our worldwide contacts in horticulture, or in a diversity of enterprises in the UK including our own research labs. Study tours both at home and abroad will also broaden your horticultural horizons well beyond Scotland.



PROFILE

Alex Anderson

Studied the
BSc Horticulture.



"I worked with a relative in his garden maintenance business and was encouraged by him to study for a qualification. What he actually said to me was 'Don't be another cowboy with a lawnmower. If you are going to talk to customers, you should know what you are talking about.' So I went to Elmwood College and studied the NC and HNC. Towards the end of the HNC, I was wondering about progressing further, and found the course at SAC."

"After chatting with current students at an Open Day, my aspirations were raised and I knew that, in the long term, I would probably not work in garden maintenance with my relative, but would look to more ambitious options."

"I arrived at SAC to study part-time on the HND Horticulture course, but by the end of the first day decided to go full time. I loved all aspects of the course which seemed to cater exactly for my needs. I have now graduated with a degree in Horticulture. I have spoken to a lot of people about what I've been doing and have been told that I was at 'the best horticultural College in Britain'."



Working in Partnership



The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) extends to four sites – Edinburgh, Benmore, Logan, and Dawyck, and is world-renowned for its rich collection of plant species and conservation work. The landscaped gardens, botanical collections and expertise of RBGE staff offer a unique learning resource unparalleled in Scotland. The Horticulture with Plantsmanship courses (pages 80 and 81) are taught jointly by SAC and RBGE and as a student you have direct access to the vast resources of both institutions.

An additional fee is payable to RBGE at the start of each academic year to cover visits, study tours and specialist course materials. As a guide, costs for 2011 were £250 per year in the first and second years, £125 in the third year and £50 in the fourth year.



Garden Design BSc/BSc (Hons)* Subject to validation

UCAS Code

K301

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by

University of Glasgow

SCQF Level

9/10

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

UK garden designers are held in high regard worldwide, as well as in the UK. Increasing demand for the services of garden designers in Europe and further afield is creating exciting opportunities for those qualified. Well-trained garden designers are equipped to design small scale public open spaces as well as larger gardens.

Years one and two develop the basic toolkit required to be a garden designer and consist of the modules of the HND Garden Design. Years three and four broaden and deepen your knowledge and encourage exploration and production of more ambitious designs. The course has a strong plant focus.

What Will I Learn?

The first two years follow the HND Garden Design. In the final two years you will study international and regional garden styles and world gardens, climatic zones and ornamental plants, sustainable design and environmental issues, environmental psychology, landscape horticulture, and professional practice.

How Will I Learn?

You will undertake project design work on real sites with community and private clients to expand your ability to design innovatively and creatively. A project abroad may be undertaken, and you will research specific themes such as water conservation or designing a garden for a hospital.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered will be varied, such as investigations into the perception of planting green roofs and green walls, the uses of novel sustainable materials in garden features, or designing gardens for young people.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/gardendesign

“ I studied the HND Garden Design. This course puts a lot of emphasis on developing practical skills in order to create attractive gardens and landscapes. The next logical step for me is to expand my overall design knowledge and perhaps add an international dimension to my portfolio by completing the Garden Design degree. I look forward to studying modules such as environmental issues, landscape psychology and project management, and progressing from residential gardens to mid-scale public spaces.”

Lisa Gray, Garden Design

Garden Design HND

UCAS Code

092W

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant qualification.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

With an HND in Garden Design, you will be well equipped with the knowledge and skills to enter the garden design profession. Many students with an HND go on to set up successful independent garden design businesses; some work with other garden designers in small companies, or for landscaping companies, or with consortia involving designers and other landscape professionals; others go on to further qualifications in garden design or landscape architecture.

This course develops your competence in the wide range of skills needed by practicing designers, including communication with clients and other professionals, and organising and managing design and construction projects.

What Will I Learn?

In year one you will follow the HNC Garden Design. In the second year you will refine your design skills, use computer-aided design (CAD), and learn about plants for specialised plantings. You will broaden your knowledge in modules including Construction of Hard Landscape Features, Landscape Design History, and Getting Started in Business.

How Will I Learn?

You will design in a range of garden styles, and prepare designs, construction details and planting plans for real clients. Practical construction projects, and visits to a range of landscapes are all integral parts of the course. As a team you will work on the design and construction of a show garden for a major gardening exhibition.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of SAC's BSc/BSc (Hons) Garden Design (course subject to validation).

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/gardendesign

“ The course covered a wide range of subjects which are relevant to the design industry as a whole and provides a solid base for entering the profession. The highlight of my time at SAC was designing a show garden and building it with my fellow students at Gardening Scotland. The garden won a silver gilt medal and I achieved the Best New Show Garden Designer Award.”

Colin Bell, Garden Design

Garden Design HNC

UCAS Code

192W

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The HNC introduces you to the many facets of garden design which include design, plant knowledge, hard landscaping and business studies. During the year, you will design gardens for real clients and develop hands-on horticultural knowledge.

Employment opportunities with HNC include working for landscape companies and horticultural enterprises, often providing design input into their projects. Some students with previous relevant experience go straight into designing gardens and setting up their own business, although they often come back to take more advanced HND modules while working!

What Will I Learn?

You will study design in modules including Landscape Graphics, Design Process and Composition and Garden Design Concepts alongside developing your plant knowledge with Plant Recognition, Planting Design and Horticultural Practices modules. Design and Use of Hard Landscape Features, Surveying and Business Management are also included to provide a rounded curriculum.

How Will I Learn?

You will carry out guided design work in a studio setting using real projects with real clients and covering a range of styles of gardens. You will visit plant nurseries, gardens and hard landscape suppliers and will spend time on walks around the campus and botanic gardens to learn plant identification, and undertake practical horticulture.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of the HND Garden Design.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/gardendesign

“The campus is really friendly and after a few weeks I got to know students doing a whole variety of courses. As quickly as the second term of the first year, we have stepped into a real garden and started to create designs based on the owner's plans, needs and wishes.”

Lucy Gillie, Garden Design

Horticulture BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

D410

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

There is a current lack of horticulturists trained to degree level, particularly in the UK. This means that as a graduate, you will have excellent employment opportunities. Horticulture is a diverse and dynamic industry that encompasses the commercial production of fruit, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants, and the design, establishment, and maintenance of our parks and gardens, leisure and sports facilities, open spaces and managed landscapes. This degree provides you with a broad horticultural base so that you are equipped to work in any of these areas, while allowing you to specialise in either Production Horticulture or Gardens and Green Space Horticulture during your studies.

What Will I Learn?

The first two years are the HND Horticulture, which can be studied either in Edinburgh or at SAC's Ayr campus. In years three and four you will study core subjects plus a choice of specialist modules in production horticulture (including vegetable and fruit production and crop products) or green space management (landscape horticulture, woodlands and open space management).

How Will I Learn?

You will visit growers and landscapes to evaluate production methods and management requirements, and scientific organisations to see field and lab experimentation. You will prepare blueprints for plant production, management plans, and collect lab, field and landscape-based data for analysis.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: example Honours Projects include investigations into the effect of growth regulators on the fruiting of *Vaccinium*, developing horticultural therapy provision in Scotland, and the effect of flash flooding on street tree growth.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/horticulture

“ I enjoyed studying for the degree in Horticulture. Studying a broad range of subjects has enabled me to see the bigger picture and the variety of options available to me for a career in horticulture.”

Linda Ingle, Horticulture

Horticulture HND

UCAS Code

914D

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

With an HND in Horticulture, you will have both a sound practical base in horticulture and an understanding of the theory behind the practices. You will be well equipped to enter the profession and should be eligible to take up a management level position after gaining experience in industry.

The course offers two streams: Gardens and Green-Space elective modules provide the competencies to work in the parks, gardens and landscape sector at a professional level. Production Horticulture modules prepare you for employment in fruit or vegetable production, greenhouse protected edible crop production, or ornamental plant production. Production can be on a small specialist scale in the UK or alternatively, in nurseries growing millions of trees, shrubs and bedding plants. Whatever the scale, this course develops the essential practical, technical and scientific expertise you will require.

What Will I Learn?

In year one you will follow the HNC Horticulture. In year two, modules include Advanced Plant Propagation, Hardy Ornamental Nursery Stock Production, Landscape Management & Maintenance, and Integrated Approaches to Plant Protection. Elective modules allow specialisation in either crop production practices or landscape horticulture.

How Will I Learn?

You will visit nurseries, gardens and landscapes, and also scientific organisations to see how they conduct tests such as seed viability. You will undertake a project in an area of special interest to you, and there is usually an optional study tour.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of SAC's BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture or BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Plantsmanship. Entry to the BSc Horticulture with Plantsmanship is competitive as there are limited places on the course.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/horticulture

“ Studying horticulture at SAC has helped develop my skills and knowledge in such a way that I feel increasingly confident about pursuing a career in the industry. The course amounts to more than I first expected; it really gives a comprehensive coverage of topics which when combined give a wide breadth of knowledge and understanding.”

Kenneth Hutchison, Horticulture

Horticulture HNC

UCAS Code

014D

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The HNC covers the fundamentals of horticulture. You will learn both practical skills and develop your underpinning knowledge of plants and their cultivation. You will also be introduced to the different sectors of the industry including nursery production, maintenance of gardens and green-space, and plant retailing. During your studies, the diversity of the course and work experience opportunities will help you to weigh up which areas of horticulture and gardening you are most interested in for future employment or further study.

You will be qualified for a broad range of job opportunities at the end of the HNC including working for nurseries, private and public gardens, landscape companies and local authorities.

What Will I Learn?

You will learn plant identification, plant uses, soil management, plant protection, business management, nursery production, and plant physiology. Practical work will include horticultural techniques for plant propagation and the growing on of plants, garden maintenance, and how to conduct a plant trial on an outdoor plot.

How Will I Learn?

Much of your learning will be practically based. For example, you will propagate plants, pot them up, prune plants, and plant trees and shrubs. Plant identification is taught through guided walks in College grounds and botanic gardens. There are frequent visits to growers, nurseries and gardens.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of the HND Horticulture or HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship. Entry to the HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship is competitive as there are limited places on the course.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/horticulture

“ The course was an excellent start to any career in horticulture. It provided all the knowledge and skills I needed to progress in the field. My career ambitions are to work in the world's most prestigious gardens with the top horticulturists. The staff at SAC not only helped me towards this goal, but with their excellent knowledge and mentoring, fired my ambitions.”

Nick Malcolm, Horticulture

Professional Gardening Diploma incorporating the HNC Horticulture

UCAS Code

Apply direct to SAC

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

This SAC Diploma is a two-year, work experience based course which aims to provide the practical experience, training and academic knowledge required by a professional gardener.

There is an increasing shortage of people skilled in the maintenance of gardens of all sizes, including those of historic and botanical importance. The aim of this course is to produce professional gardeners with the practical skills and academic knowledge to maintain and manage gardens, landscapes, and plant collections. The combination of a higher horticulture qualification and work experience, backed up by employers' references will make you very employable.

The course is aimed at both new entrants to horticulture who wish to become professional gardeners, and people in horticultural employment wanting to improve their knowledge and skills for career development.

What Will I Learn?

The course incorporates the HNC Horticulture which is studied part-time. You will also undertake training courses to obtain industry recognised certificates for practical skills. A limited number of paid work experience placements are available. Alternatively, you may arrange your own placement subject to approval by SAC. Those in relevant employment may also apply for the course.

How Will I Learn?

For four days per week, you will undertake work experience, for example with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), private, or local authority gardens in a planned programme. At SAC, you will take HNC modules involving a mix of lectures, practical skills and specific certificated training courses. The cost of this course will include both academic tuition fees and fees for certificated training courses.

Progression Opportunities

After completion of an additional 3 modules, students may join year two of the HND Horticulture or HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship. Entry to HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship is competitive as there are limited places on this course.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/professionalgardening

“ I would be more than happy to take students from this course at my place of work, and to support the College in any way possible. Sounds like a very comprehensive course.”

Iain Turnbull, Rydal Hall (Employer)

Horticulture with Plantsmanship BSc/BSc (Hons)

UCAS Code

D4D7

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

The course is delivered in partnership with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) (page 72) with classes and practical work based at both RBGE and SAC's Edinburgh campus. As a student on this course you will benefit from the considerable resources and expertise of both organisations.

Recent reports identifying future skills gaps have noted that there will be a shortage of people in the UK with botanical abilities in plant identification, and also with knowledge of techniques appropriate to the restoration of historic gardens at a high level. This course will equip you to fill these roles.

What Will I Learn?

In the first two years you will study the curriculum outlined for HND Horticulture with Plantsmanship. Years three and four broaden your studies by taking a global and historical perspective on plants and plant collections, whilst further developing your scientific understanding of taxonomy and physiology.

How Will I Learn?

Coursework involves group work and individual project work on a range of topics including experiments relating to physiology and taxonomy, production of a management plan for a historic garden, and business case studies.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the conservation status of *Juniperus Cedrus*, *Meconopsis* seed morphology, and bryophyte diversity of structures in heritage gardens compared with the adjacent natural rocky outcrops.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/plantsmanship

“The vast range and high level of knowledge, skills and experiences on offer through studying Horticulture with Plantsmanship at SAC provide a magnificent programme for anyone wishing to take their academic study of plants and their cultivation to degree level.”

Edward Miles, Horticulture with Plantsmanship

Horticulture with Plantsmanship HND

UCAS Code

454D

Campus Code

Z Edinburgh

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

The Horticulture with Plantsmanship course is delivered jointly by SAC and The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) (page 72) and allows you to specialise in the area of horticulture known as 'plantsmanship', which can be defined as a 'knowledge of the diversity of plants and their cultivation'. In addition you will also gain a good understanding of other aspects of horticulture and plant science.

The Horticulture with Plantsmanship course integrates the management of plant collections with knowledge of plant distribution, classification, diversity, structure, identification, recognition and cultivation. Recent surveys have highlighted a future need for more people trained in botany who are able to identify and understand plants, and this course equips you to take advantage of this opportunity.

What Will I Learn?

Year one consists of the HNC Horticulture. In year two, you will specialise in subjects relating to the horticulture of botanic gardens by studying modules including Plant Classification and Systematics, Designing and Managing Plant Collections, Landscape Design History, Ecology and Conservation.

How Will I Learn?

As an individual, you will have your own garden plot in year one and undertake a specialist project in an area of particular interest to you in year two. Extensive work experience in a range of sections of the gardens at RBGE is undertaken in year one.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of SAC's BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture or BSc/BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Plantsmanship.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/plantsmanship

“ Aspects I enjoyed included plant identification, systematics and classification, and plant portfolio work, and also being surrounded by some of the UK's top researchers at RBGE and SAC. Studying at the RBGE was an opportunity too good to miss for any horticulturist or botanist.”

Chantelle Davies,
Horticulture with Plantsmanship





Sport, Tourism and Outdoor Pursuits

Introduction

Recreation is increasingly important to the lifestyle of people of all ages. Whether it's participation in competitive sport, personal fitness, outdoor pursuits, countryside activities, horse riding, food, wildlife or nature tourism, or visiting heritage sites and national parks, there is a growing need for the right facilities, resourced, staffed and managed to a high standard.

The sport, recreation and activity tourism industries within the UK have grown rapidly, and account for the employment of around 2.5 million people. This represents 10% of the UK working population and one in five of all new jobs. Government initiatives to promote healthier lifestyles have also led to greater demands on existing facilities and on the creativity of professional staff to develop activities that interest individuals and encourage involvement.

Courses

BA/BA (Hons) Activity Tourism Management

HND Activity Tourism

HNC Activity Tourism

BA/BA (Hons) Outdoor Pursuits Management

BA/BA (Hons) Sports Coaching and Development

BA/BA (Hons) Sport and Recreation Management

Careers and Employment

When you successfully complete one of these courses at SAC you'll have the appropriate knowledge, skills and training to find rewarding jobs in exciting growth areas with excellent prospects for career development. Although the courses have been designed with an emphasis on the sport, recreation, outdoor pursuits and activity tourism sectors, their core of transferable skills (such as IT, teamwork, and presentation skills) will ensure that opportunities will also be available within other industries.

These courses enable you to present employers with three vital requirements for employment – a highly recognised academic qualification, work experience, and relevant industry recognised awards.

Take a look at what industry has to say:

“Students graduating from SAC with one of these qualifications are of a very high standard and have the skills and knowledge required to compete within our industry.”

“These SAC courses enable students to apply theory to practice and whilst being academically sound also have a very vocational foundation.”

Recent examples of graduates' career destinations include: sports development, sports facility management, teaching (after PGDE training), health and fitness management, outdoor pursuits management, activity instruction, activity holiday provider, event management, national park information officer, and graduate traineeship.



Why study Sport, Tourism and Outdoor Pursuits at SAC?

SAC has been offering courses in these subject areas for over 20 years and has a sound reputation for producing high quality graduates. Many graduates now hold senior positions in the leisure or recreation industries.

The academic staff delivering these courses have strong links with employers within their industry and practice in their own right. They therefore have a clear knowledge and understanding of current industry developments and the specific requirements of businesses recruiting graduates. Lecturers are regularly involved in research, consultancy and training initiatives providing support to employers, government organisations, national governing bodies and voluntary and charitable agencies.

Practical Experience

The opportunity to gain work experience is built in to all our sport, tourism and outdoor pursuits courses. In addition to putting you in touch with employers and gaining real experience of the industry, this allows you to be involved in the practical application of knowledge and skills. The courses also provide you with opportunities to gain industry recognised awards and qualifications which prove invaluable when seeking employment following graduation. For example, you may gain NGB Coaching Awards, or First Aid qualifications as part of your course. Several modules within the courses incorporate industry visits that allow you to examine real-life situations and link the course content to practical experiences. Other exciting opportunities available to you include study tours (local and international), events management, group work, and team challenges.

Practical Requirements

These courses are truly vocational with particular emphasis on physical activities. Certain modules involve a level of pre-skill and performance competence from students. Outdoor Pursuits modules include practical sessions in hill-walking, kayaking and climbing which require a level of fitness, stamina and physical endurance. These modules are core for the Outdoor Pursuits Management and Activity Tourism courses. Please contact us for any further advice on your suitability.

“ The aim of the sports and outdoor pursuits programmes is to provide students with opportunities to gain the knowledge, skills and experience that will equip them for exciting employment opportunities. Graduates from these programmes are highly regarded within the sport and outdoor pursuits sectors within the UK and worldwide.”

Dr David Hume, Sports Programme Leader

PROFILE

Carol Brown

Graduated with a BA (Hons) Activity Tourism Management, specialising in Nature Tourism.



“ It is never too late to follow a dream. After pursuing a career in insurance, I decided to return to College. SAC offered me a chance to learn about tourism through a combination of hands-on experiences and academic exercises. The instructors have real life experience in the field complemented with scholastic rigour that provides the tools necessary for graduates to enter the workforce with confidence and a working knowledge of the industry.”

“ I have worked at VisitScotland as a seasonal Visitor Services Advisor for four seasons between terms, using the knowledge I gained at SAC. Most people will change jobs several times during their working lives and SAC provided me with the tools to move into a new career. Because SAC gave me the skills to progress further into an aspect of tourism I enjoy, I can take advantage of this opportunity to be on the cutting edge of a vital part of tourism. Thank you SAC!”

Since graduating, Carol is considering continuing her studies at postgraduate level.



PROFILE

Scott Frew

In the third year of his Sports Coaching and Development degree.



"The course is relevant and enjoyable and help is always available from fellow classmates and lecturers. The lecturers always try to give us something 'different' and continually arrange visits and extra coaching awards to give us the experience and skills we need to bump up our CVs."

"I have gained coaching awards in basketball and rugby and gained experience from coaching at both primary and secondary school level. I know about finance, spreadsheets, profit margins, management, the 4 Ps, market segmentation and sports policy. To top it all off, I get to keep up a good level of fitness (which has really helped with my sport) thanks to fitness testing and the practical content of the modules."

"I play sport at a high level and have always been supported if I have needed to go on trips/competitions abroad. I have met classmates that I will keep in contact with for the rest of my life, and lecturers that I would call friends. SAC is the place to be!"



PROFILE**Caitlin
Anderson**

Studying for her BA
(Hons) Sports Coaching
and Development.



"I am in the third year at SAC and the time has flown by, thanks to the friendly staff, my friends within the College, and the course itself. The sports sector is something I have always been interested in since a young age. In the past two years I have gained lots of experience through coursework, coaching and voluntary work, all arranged as part of the course. As a water-ski and diving coach, I found learning about the different coaching techniques and coaching a range of different people very beneficial. I have been able to link my personal experience in sport with what I have learnt on the course, giving me the best of both worlds."

"While being at SAC my sporting career has benefitted as the staff involved in my course are very understanding and always there to help. I look forward to the coming years and to further develop my sporting and coaching knowledge and list of skills."



Activity Tourism Management BA/BA (Hons)

UCAS Code

N832

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

Activity Tourism encompasses a number of activities from the physical such as canoeing, climbing and hill-walking to the more leisurely, such as nature-watching or the sampling of local food and drink. People undertake these activities to have fun, take in stunning scenery, improve their fitness, and be stretched by the challenge. Whatever the activity, facilities need to be created, managed and run by well-qualified and informed staff.

This course will develop your skills to investigate trends, evaluate contemporary management issues, and plan for the future safe and responsible operation and management of activities. You'll build an awareness of the activity tourism industry, and learn about the issues involved in balancing the requirements of both your customers and the environment.

What Will I Learn?

You start by studying the HND Activity Tourism for the first two years, taking additional specialist elective modules. Years three and four allow you to investigate UK active tourism whilst further developing your management and research skills.

How Will I Learn?

In year three, your class will plan, organise, deliver and evaluate a field trip where new activities can be experienced. You may be able to attend conferences, hear guest presenters and network with local activity providers, assisting them in their marketing and product development.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into mountain bike tourism on the Isle of Arran, the Scottish market of independent hostels and back-packers, and the development of wildlife tourism through community-based projects in Zambia.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/activitytourismmanagement

“

The course combines breadth of relevant subject theory, practical skills and the application of topical and up-to-date issues. I didn't want to study in the confines of a city or be just another number in a huge lecture theatre. This course provides a good range of skills and knowledge for future employment.” **Louella Edward-Collins, Activity Tourism Management**

Activity Tourism HND

UCAS Code

038N

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

8

Advanced Entry

Into year 2 is possible with a relevant HNC.

Entry Requirements

Page 97

Tourists in the 21st Century are looking for a wide range of experiences, from the adrenalin rush of an extreme sport, to developing knowledge and appreciation of locally produced products, heritage, or nature. This Activity Tourism course builds your understanding of the tourism industry and will open up a wide range of possibilities for your future career, not just in the service sector of information officers, visitor centre operators and activity providers, but also in setting up, operating and managing your own business.

Within this HND course, you can choose whether to opt for the strenuous activities, such as climbing, kayaking or equestrian pursuits, or to study modules about the living world, natural heritage and its appreciation, or to develop your awareness of food, culture and heritage.

What Will I Learn?

Building on the HNC year, year two of the HND examines the niche tourism products for which Scotland is renowned, with reference to aspects of sustainability, rural communities and business diversification. You'll also study the events industry, and can choose elective modules which specialise in your particular activity interest area.

How Will I Learn?

You will visit national parks, visitor centres, tourism providers, and rural businesses. You'll speak to industry professionals and learn about customers' experiences. You'll learn new skills through developing your own business plans, writing reports, analysing problems, organising events, and coming up with viable solutions to problems.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year three of the degree in Activity Tourism Management.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/activitytourism

“ The Managing an Event module in second year was excellent. We organised a Fun Run in aid of charity. The module was challenging and practical because we were actually organising a real event which people were relying on happening. We had to raise sponsorship, organise publicity as well as manage the event on the day itself.”

Victoria Harvie, Activity Tourism

Activity Tourism HNC

UCAS Code

338N

Campus Code

Y Ayr

SCQF Level

7

Entry Requirements

Page 97

This course aims to give you a basic understanding of the broad area of activity tourism, which encompasses both very physical and gentler activities. Whilst activity tourism may conjure up images of vigorous exercise and harsh conditions such as canoeing, climbing and mountaineering, not all 'activity' holidays need involve strenuous physical exercise. Other less active pursuits, such as nature watching and following food trails, are also activities, as well as exploring local culture and heritage. Within the course you can opt to take more energetic modules, with outdoor activities such as kayaking, or modules which concentrate on the living world and access to the countryside. You'll also learn how to look after the needs of both your customers and the environment, safely and responsibly.

What Will I Learn?

You'll learn how the Scottish tourism industry operates and what its key products are; what motivates visitors and tourists, and how to identify their needs and exceed their expectations; how businesses are managed, and how to become more aware of the environment and tourism's impact upon it.

How Will I Learn?

You will develop relevant skills through a range of group work, team challenges, problem solving and planning activities, and will build up knowledge through indoor and outdoor activities. You'll learn from key players in tourism businesses and organisations through guest lectures and visits to tourism providers.

Progression Opportunities

Upon successful completion of this course, students may join year two of the HND Activity Tourism, with the opportunity to begin to specialise in your area of interest.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/activitytourism

“ This course has enabled me to develop my interest in tourism and the outdoors, and has provided me with both academic and National Governing body qualifications. I've been introduced to the outdoor sport of climbing, and have gained valuable climbing experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year. I'd recommend this course to anyone, and am looking forward to HND progression next year.”

Thomas Gaughan, Activity Tourism

Outdoor Pursuits Management BA/BA (Hons)

UCAS Code

N874

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

Do you enjoy outdoor activities such as walking, climbing, mountain biking, or water sports? Have you ever considered a career in this field? Outdoor pursuits provide recreation activities for millions of people across the UK. Its benefits are also recognised by businesses that use outdoor pursuits to enhance personal development, transferable skills, and team building.

For the outdoor pursuits industry to continue to grow and develop, employers need educated and trained personnel. From abseiling to zorbing, graduates of this course will be well placed to manage facilities and services in a wide range of fields.

What Will I Learn?

Years 1 and 2 are common to all the sport-related degree programmes and incorporate contemporary sports policy and practice, business management and practical skills. Years three and four allow you to investigate subjects such as the management and development of outdoor pursuits, and outdoor activity facility management, while building your knowledge of coaching, health, and leadership skills.

How Will I Learn?

The course emphasises the application of theoretical concepts to real life situations within the outdoor pursuits industry. Traditional classroom based sessions are supplemented by activities such as practical sessions, group work, industry visits, case studies, work placements and study tours.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the diffusion of innovations in mountain biking, upland footpaths in the Argyll Forest Park, and the risk management techniques utilised within the outdoor activity environment.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/outdoorpursuits

“ Studying at SAC is a decision that I am very pleased with. I chose Outdoor Pursuits Management as it offered something different from other courses. I believe that the course has helped me develop into a more confident person with transferable skills that will help me in the future.”

Neil Todd, Outdoor Pursuits Management

Sports Coaching and Development BA/BA (Hons)

UCAS Code

N872

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

As a graduate of the sports coaching and development degree you will be prepared for management positions in the sports industry, combining advanced practical team and individual coaching skills with sports psychology and sociology, leadership, health and fitness expertise, and business knowledge.

This sports coaching and development course has been designed to respond to the dynamic and changing nature of the sport and recreation sectors. The course enables you to develop appropriate key skills and knowledge which can be transferred to a wide range of career opportunities within sport and recreation, and related organisations.

What Will I Learn?

Years 1 and 2 are common to all the sport-related degree programmes and incorporate contemporary sports policy and practice, business management and practical skills. Years three and four allow you to investigate subjects such as sports development, event management, sports coaching, performance enhancement, sociology, psychology, and health.

How Will I Learn?

The course emphasises the application of theoretical concepts to real life situations within the sport and recreation industry, and employs a range of teaching and learning methods. Traditional classroom based sessions are supplemented by activities such as practical sessions, group work, industry visits, case studies, work placements and study tours.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into the health benefits and sports nutrition which affect football performance and player well-being, the benefits of physical activity for children with autism, and the advantages of plyometric training for explosive power in combination with traditional strength programme methods.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/sportscoaching

“ The course is well set out and really hands on. The lecturers are sound and happy to help you with the course at any time. I had most fun when coaching my classmates and getting my first aid certificate. The course was great – this is a course I would definitely recommend.”

Tenie McGuigan, Sports Coaching and Development

Sport and Recreation Management BA/BA (Hons)

UCAS Code

N873

Campus Code

Y Ayr

Degree Awarded by University of Glasgow

SCQF Level 9/10

Advanced Entry Into year 2 or 3 is possible with an appropriate HN, foundation degree, or similar qualification.

Entry Requirements Page 97

If you're considering a career in the varied sport and recreation industry, this course aims to provide you with the applied knowledge and skills that you'll need for your future. From the operation and management of gyms and leisure centres, to running unusual outdoor recreation facilities, the sport and recreation industry has grown significantly over the last decade, and the expectations of the level of qualifications and training of those employed within the industry have increased.

Sport and recreation can refer to all forms of physical activity which aim at expressing or improving fitness and mental wellbeing, forming social relationships, or obtaining results in competition at all levels. It includes competitive sport, outdoor pursuits, aesthetic movement and conditioning.

What Will I Learn?

Years 1 and 2 are common to all the sport-related degree programmes and incorporate contemporary sports policy and practice, business management and practical skills. Years three and four allow you to investigate subjects such as sport development, sports event management, leadership skills, the sociology of sport, and recreation provision.

How Will I Learn?

This course emphasises applying theoretical concepts to real life situations within the sport and recreation industry. Traditional classroom based sessions are supplemented by activities such as practical sessions, group work, industry visits, case studies, work placements and study tours.

Honours Projects

In your fourth year you will undertake your own research project in a subject which interests you, drawing together all that you have learnt on your course. Topics covered are varied: recent Honours Projects have included investigations into men's Gaelic Football at University level in Scotland, the viability of developing the Isle of Arran as a 'Golf Island', and how sports injuries in field hockey are related to the playing surface.

Find out more: A more detailed course leaflet is available for this course. Please contact us or visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/sportrecreation

“ This course offers a wide variety of complementary subjects which are vital for employment in the sport and recreation industry. SAC offers so much to each individual who wishes to work in this sector. This is why I have found it to be such an easy transition from education to full-time employment.”

Iain Hopkins, Manager of SNO!zone, Xscape, Braehead

How to Apply

I want to study full-time for a Degree, HND, or HNC.

If you'd like to study the above courses full-time, you need to apply through UCAS. UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Take a look at their website: www.ucas.ac.uk You'll find lots of advice on how to apply, and how to track your application. You need to submit your application on-line via their 'Apply' system, and you can apply for up to 5 courses.

If you have any problems with your application, or you can't apply on-line, you can contact them by calling **+44 (0)871 468 0 468**.

When should I apply?

UCAS's first deadline for applications for courses starting in September 2013 is 15 January 2013. Applications received after this date are considered by UCAS to be 'late' applications. We would encourage you to apply by this date. SAC still accepts applications to its courses with places until the second UCAS deadline of 30 June 2013, though it is possible that some courses will be full if you apply after 15 January.

Between 30 June and late September, UCAS processes your applications through the Clearing scheme. If your application is made in this period, you'll be sent details of how Clearing works.

If you're an international student from outside the EU, you **must** apply before the 30th June deadline, in order to leave enough time to process your application and for you to organise a successful visa application.

What other information do I need to apply?

The UCAS Apply system will ask for personal and contact information, qualifications, and payment. You also need to provide a reference (usually from a teacher or an employer) and a personal statement, which is your chance to let us know why you want to study the course you have chosen. Further advice on making your application can be found on both SAC's and the UCAS websites.

UCAS Codes Explained.

When applying for a course through the UCAS system, you will be required to enter the course code, which specifies the exact course you are applying for and the campus at which you want to study. The full UCAS code is made up of several elements:

SAC's Institution Code Name is **SAC**.

Our Institution Code is **S01**.

Course codes are listed in the course index on pages **2** and **3**, and are also on the **UCAS website**.

Campus codes are:

X for the **Aberdeen Campus**,

Y for the **Ayr Campus**, and

Z for the **Edinburgh Campus**.

I want to study a Certificate or Diploma course full-time.

If you're applying for full-time study on one of SAC's Certificate or Diploma courses (Certificate in Agriculture – page 30, or Diploma in Professional Gardening – page 79), you apply direct to SAC. You can download the Undergraduate Application Form from our website.

I want to study part-time or by Distance Learning.

All of SAC's courses can be studied part-time. To apply for part-time or distance learning study, you don't apply through UCAS. You can download the Undergraduate Application Form from our website. You'll need to complete information about your qualifications and work experience, and provide a personal statement explaining why you'd like to do the course. You also need to provide us with the contact details of two referees.

I'm hoping to gain advanced entry.

Advanced Entry onto SAC's courses is possible with a range of qualifications such as HNC, HND and foundation degrees. Exceptionally other qualifications may permit advanced entry and you are advised to contact the Admissions officer to discuss your position in advance of submitting your application.

If you are seeking advanced entry into year two or three, you need to make sure that you indicate this in the year of Entry section (enter a 2 or a 3) on your application. Please make sure that you check with SAC that your qualifications are suitable before you apply.

I want to study a short course.

If you want to study individual modules as a short course, you need to apply direct to SAC on the Short Course Application Form. This can be downloaded from our website.



What happens once you get my application?

If we are able to offer you a place on the course, you will receive a “conditional” or an “unconditional” offer. For some courses you may be invited to interview. If your offer is unconditional, that means you have already met all our entry requirements. If it's a conditional offer, you have to meet specified requirements before your place is confirmed – achieving certain grades in your exams for example.

You'll also be invited to attend an applicant day at the campus you've applied to, to have a look around the facilities and learn more about the course.

Widening Access

SAC is proud to support SWAP (the Scottish Wider Access Programme) and other regional initiatives such as LEAPS, Kickstart and Aspire North. If you have participated in any of these programmes, please do mention this in your personal statement.

I'd like some more help!

SAC has a single Admissions Office based at the Edinburgh campus which processes all our applications, whichever course or campus you apply for. If you're in any doubt about how to apply or need an application form, please contact us:

Phone: 0800 269 453

Email: admissions@sac.ac.uk

Write:

Admissions Office

SAC Edinburgh

West Mains Road

Edinburgh EH9 3JG

These sections of the prospectus may also be of use:

- International Students – page 104.
- Entry Requirements and Qualifications – page 97.
- Advanced Entry – page 15.



Entry Requirements

General Policy

SAC's policy is to encourage participation in, and wider access to, our courses. Ultimately, admission will be at the discretion of the College Principal, acting on the advice of the Head of Admissions. The primary criterion to be satisfied by any applicant seeking entry will be that he or she has a realistic chance of success and of benefiting from the course. SAC aims to offer flexibility whilst securing entry standards. Maturity, work experience and motivation are recognised as alternatives to formal qualifications and entry is also possible with appropriate access-level qualifications.

SAC is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities. Further information can be found on our website:

www.sac.ac.uk/learning/aboutcollege/equality

Prospective students are invited to visit the College, and it is particularly important that those with disabilities make use of this opportunity. In this way, each individual can assess his or her capabilities with the facilities available and the physical environment of the campus. Some courses are offered at more than one campus and it may be that one campus is more suitable than another. Applicants to whom an offer is to be made on the basis of current or predicted academic achievement and other information provided during the application process, and who declare a disability at application, will be contacted to discuss their individual needs.

In common with the other Higher Education Institutions in the UK, SAC may require applicants to undertake a basic Disclosure Scotland check. This process is confidential and is in place to ensure SAC's care of its students and staff. If you have any queries about this, please contact the Admissions Officer, in confidence, on 0131 535 4391.

General Minimum Entry Requirements

The minimum general entry qualifications are outlined here. Specific requirements for individual courses are also provided on page 99. Mature applicants with experience but no formal qualifications are encouraged to discuss their application with the College.

Literacy and Numeracy

All applicants are normally expected to have a Standard grade (1-3), GCSE (A-C) or equivalent pass in English, as evidence of literacy skills, and in Mathematics or equivalent, as evidence of numeracy skills.

Standard Entry Requirements for Degree courses:

Applicants must hold a **minimum** of 3 Scottish Highers (Grades BCC), 2 A-Levels (Grades CC), or equivalent qualification. Specific subjects may be required for some courses.

Standard Entry Requirements for HNC and HND courses:

Applicants must hold a **minimum** of 2 Scottish Highers (Grades CC), 1 A-Level pass, or equivalent qualification. Specific subjects may be required for some courses.

Advanced Entry:

Advanced Entry onto SAC's courses is possible with a range of qualifications such as HNC, HND and foundation degrees. For further information, please see page 15, or contact SAC's Admissions team.

Equivalent Qualifications

Standard Minimum Entry Requirements are given in terms of Scottish Highers and A-Levels, though a wide range of qualifications are accepted as equivalent. The Irish Leaving Certificate, with subjects at Higher level, is normally considered equivalent to the Scottish Higher. Those offering alternative qualifications such as AVCE, Diplomas, SVQs, NVQs, Scottish/European/International Baccalaureate, other international qualifications, SWAP, or other Access Courses, should contact SAC's Admissions team for guidance and advice as to the acceptability and equivalence of their qualifications. International students should also refer to the guidance given on page 104.

Additional Specific Entry Requirements, by course

In addition to the specified general minimum entry requirements, some courses require a level of prior knowledge in specific subject areas. Those courses with specific requirements are listed opposite. Those not listed have no defined subject-specific requirements in addition to the standard minimum entry requirements, but you are advised to seek guidance as to appropriate prior interests or experiences.



Standard Minimum Entry Requirements to include:

	Standard Minimum Entry Requirements		
	A Higher science subject	A Higher science subject or geography	Higher biology or chemistry
Agricultural Science, BSc(Hons)/BSc	See specific requirements on page 100		
Agriculture, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND/HNC		Yes	
Agriculture, Certificate	See specific requirements on page 100		
Applied Animal Science, BSc(Hons)/BSc			Yes
Applied Bioscience, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND			Yes
Environmental Management and Sustainability, HND		Preferably	
Environmental Protection, BSc(Hons)/BSc		Yes	
Garden Design, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND/HNC		Preferably	
Green Technology, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND	Yes		
Horticulture with Plantsmanship, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND	Preferably		
Horticulture, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND/HNC	Preferably		
Professional Gardening, Diploma	See specific requirements on page 100		
Rural Resource Management, BSc(Hons)/BSc/HND		Yes	
Sustainable Building Technology, HND/HNC	Yes		
Sustainable Environmental Management, BSc(Hons)/BSc		Yes	

Specific Entry Requirements for SAC's Degree in Agricultural Science:

Agricultural Science is offered as a top-up degree only (Years 3 and 4 of the degree course). As such, entrants will need to meet SAC's advanced entry requirements to enter at SCQF Level 9. Entry is dependent on an appropriate/related HND or foundation degree or equivalent.

Specific Entry Requirements for the Certificate in Agriculture:

Applicants are normally expected to have obtained passes in four subjects at Standard grade (Grades 1-3), GCSE (Grades A-C), or equivalent, including one science subject, English and Mathematics. Applicants to these courses may be invited to interview to discuss their academic and practical experience. The course is practical, and a mature approach to independent and group working, studying with minimal direction, and the adherence to relevant health and safety requirements, is necessary. Some practical training within the course may only be undertaken by students when aged sixteen and over, due to health and safety requirements.

Specific Entry Requirements for SAC's Diploma in Professional Gardening:

Two Scottish Highers (Grades CC) or equivalent, or relevant vocational qualifications are accepted, and should include a science subject. Mature applicants with experience but no formal qualifications are encouraged to apply. An interview with a panel which includes representatives of work placement employers will also take place.



Finance and Funding

The information that follows is correct at the time of writing (Autumn 2011). Please refer to the relevant websites for the most up-to-date information. Arrangements for student finance and funding are likely to have changed after the publication date of this prospectus.

The system for students studying in Scotland is different from that for students studying elsewhere in the UK, and the system of financial support and fees for all students in higher education remains under continuous review. You are therefore strongly advised to seek current information about funding relevant to your own situation.

Applicants from outwith the UK should refer to the information provided on page 104.

Tuition Fees

- Tuition fees are payable to SAC and cover tuition, assessment, examination, and other services provided by SAC to enable and support learning.
- You may also be required to pay additional fees: costs related to field trips or required equipment (depending on your course), certificated training courses, fees for registration with the awarding body, and for re-sitting examinations and re-assessment.
- The most up-to-date tuition fees can be found on our website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/tuitionfees



Scottish Students

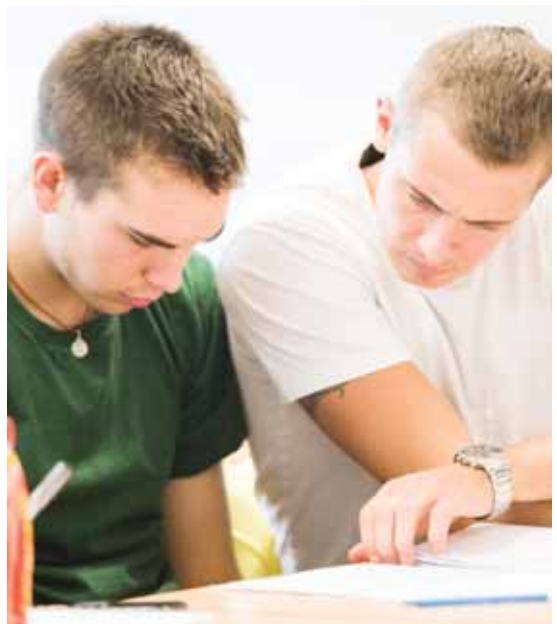
- 'Scottish students' means Scottish domiciled students who are studying full-time in Scotland.
- Scottish and EU students from outside the UK, on full-time courses, should contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for the latest information about funding your course:
www.saas.gov.uk
- Additional funding (bursaries for young students, travel costs, and supplementary grants for example to lone parents or students with a disability) may also be available to you from SAAS.
- Scottish students should refer to the SAAS website for up-to-date advice specific to their own circumstances.

Students from the rest of the UK

- Students from the rest of the UK will be required to pay tuition fees. The "Rest of UK" fee level is set by SAC each year, and published on our website.
- Full-time students may receive funding from their local education authority or funding body, for example Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, or Student Finance NI.
- You may receive a Student Loan or Bursary to help pay your tuition fees.
- UK students from outwith Scotland should contact their local funding body for information and advice.
- SAC has a discrete bursary scheme to assist students from the rest of the UK with their fees. Application is made once you are enrolled. Funds are limited and any award is means tested. For further information please visit the website.

Living Expenses

- The Student Loans Company (SLC) administers a range of products encompassing the areas of tuition fee support, maintenance support, and targeted support, on behalf of the English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh Parliaments/Assemblies and Devolved Administrations.
- For most students, financial support for living expenses from Government will be in the form of a means-tested loan administered by the SLC.
- Loans are paid monthly directly into the student's bank account. You are therefore advised to set up an account prior to starting at SAC, so you are ready to receive your loan payments.
- You will not have to start repaying your student loan until you have finished or left your course. The rate at which you repay the loan will depend on your income; you will only begin to repay your loan once you are earning more than a specific salary level, set by Government.



Additional Funding

- Additional funding, for example Discretionary Funds and Childcare Funds, may be offered by SAAS and is administered by SAC. Eligible students apply for these once they have started their course; contact us for more information.
- SAC offers a limited number of Centenary Bursaries each year. Introduced in 2004 to celebrate SAC's 100 years of land-based education, application for these is available to any SAC student registered for an award who may otherwise be unable to participate in an SAC course due to financial barriers. Application for a Centenary Bursary takes place once you have started your course.

Part-Time Students and Returning to Learning

- Part-time students study at a reduced pace and pay a tuition fee proportionate to the full-time fee. Mature and part-time students may be eligible, depending on circumstances, to apply for certain loans, grants and bursaries.
- SAC operates a fee waiver for those on certain benefits and allowances; contact us for information.
- SAC is registered with the Ministry of Defence's Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme.
www.enhancedlearningcredits.com
- Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDL) are bank loans that can be used to help pay for work related learning. Because the Professional and Career Development Loan is a commercial loan product, it should only be considered as an option once all other student funding options have been investigated.
www.direct.gov.uk/pcdl

SAC Certificate in Agriculture Students

- This course is not covered by SAAS/SLC funding. Scottish domiciled 16-17 year olds may be eligible for an SAC fee waiver, and some Diploma students may be able to claim additional financial assistance.

Useful Websites

- Scotland & the EU: **www.saas.gov.uk**
- England: **www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance**
- Northern Ireland: **www.studentfinancenl.co.uk**
- Wales: **www.studentfinancewales.co.uk**
- Adult Learners: **www.direct.gov.uk/adultlearning**
- Student Loans: **www.slc.co.uk**
- PCDL: **www.direct.gov.uk/PCDL**
- **www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/funding**



International Students

SAC has a long tradition of welcoming students from outside the UK to study with us. Overseas students greatly enhance the learning experience of other students with their unique viewpoint and

life experiences. The following information should be read together with the rest of this prospectus, relevant web pages, and SAC's International Student Guide.



Advice for international applicants from outside the European Union

All Degree, HND and HNC full-time course applications must be made through UCAS. UCAS operates an on-line application process. If this is difficult for you please contact UCAS direct for help (www.ucas.ac.uk). You may also find that your local British Council office may be a UCAS application centre and can offer assistance.

Applications to SAC's Certificate/Diploma courses are made direct to SAC on an SAC application form. Please refer to page 94 for more details on How to Apply.

It is important that you complete your application form as fully as possible. If you would like to discuss your application to SAC prior to its submission, please e-mail: internationalstudent@sac.ac.uk

If you are not an EU or EEA national, entry to the UK for study purposes requires you to obtain a visa. Since 2009, the UK has operated a points based immigration system. Further information can be found from your local British Council office or on the following website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

You will need to provide SAC with relevant documentation, and pay your first term's tuition fees, before your offer of a place on a course becomes unconditional. Because of this, and the general extended postage times in correspondence between SAC/UCAS and other countries, **applications from students outwith the EU must be received prior to 30th June 2013 for courses starting September 2013.** You are advised to submit your application prior to the UCAS first deadline of **15 January 2013.**

Tuition Fee levels will be confirmed no later than the summer of 2013. The most up-to-date information is available on SAC's website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/tuitionfees/

Please note that SAC is unable to enter into personal correspondence to support any application for a study visa beyond the provision of a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies.

Enquiries about grants and sponsorship must be made to your own Government or local British Council office. SAC regrets it is unable to provide discrete financial support for overseas students.

“ As an international student, I found that SAC was a great place to begin my higher education. From the beginning of the pre-application process, the staff at SAC were helpful, and gave me good advice and information in choosing my course. The smaller class sizes also make it easier for a student to get any help needed, to make sure you are on the right track. Coming from a different educational system altogether, the lecturers were great in explaining how the system at SAC works. All this coupled with the ability to live in one of the best cities in the world - Edinburgh - has made me strongly believe that SAC was the best choice I could have made for my education.”

David Ross is from Canada and studied Applied Animal Science at SAC

Advice for applicants from within the European Union

SAC welcomes students from a number of EU countries each year. We accept a range of qualifications (including most high school leaving certificates, and the international baccalaureate) as appropriate for entry to our courses. You may find specific information about the suitability of your home country's qualifications listed on our website, or please contact us for advice.

Qualifications at an appropriate level and in a relevant subject area may also be used to gain advanced entry onto SAC's courses. For example, applicants who have completed the equivalent to an HND in an appropriate subject may join SAC's degree courses in year three.

For more information about How to Apply for a course, please refer to page 94. All undergraduate applications for HE-level full-time study are processed through UCAS (www.ucas.ac.uk) and you are advised to apply before the UCAS first deadline of 15 January 2013.

If you are a student from the EU or EEA, you should contact the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) - www.saas.gov.uk - for information about finance and funding.

Barbara Brändle first came to SAC as an Erasmus exchange student, and enjoyed her studies so much she applied for advanced entry as a full-time degree student, joining Year 3 of the Agricultural Science degree.

“ The lectures and modules are much more up-to-date and illustrated with recent studies. I really enjoyed all the farm visits and trips to different companies to see how they manage to implement what we learned in the classroom. Now I have graduated I am looking forward to working on a farm and later I might do a Masters degree and go into research.”
Barbara Brändle, Agricultural Science



Qualifications and English Language

Due to the range of overseas qualifications, potential applicants are advised to contact the International Student Recruitment Officer in writing with full details of their qualifications, the syllabus and the course they wish to apply for so that advice may be given.

As all teaching, learning materials, and assessment is in English, competency in written, spoken and the understanding of English must be demonstrated. SAC prefers the Academic IELTS exam as proof of English language level, but we will accept a range of equivalent qualifications. Details of competence required are available on the following website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/international/internationalqualifications/englishlanguage

Student Exchanges

The ERASMUS scheme is a pan-European initiative which provides support to develop student exchange between higher education institutions. SAC has ERASMUS agreements with a number of partner institutions. Details can be found on our website: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/aboutcollege/partnerships/erasmus/

Each year, SAC welcomes exchange students from overseas (including Europe, the USA and Canada) who bring complementary knowledge and experience. Further information is available from the International Student Recruitment Officer.



“ My exchange semester in Scotland was a great experience! Studying at SAC was fun because there was a very friendly atmosphere amongst the students and staff. The many excursions were very interesting and helped to understand the theory discussed in class - they were also a great opportunity for me to see more of Scotland. All in all, I had a great time in Scotland and I look forward to the next visit! ”

Heide Einkopf,
Erasmus Exchange (Tourism)

Visit us

Open days and travel directions

Open days at SAC

SAC holds regular open days to give you the best possible opportunity to come and visit us. We tell you as much as we can in this prospectus and on our website, but we encourage you to come and visit the campus to speak to staff about your course, and to have a look around.

Open day dates for 2013 entry are as follows:

- Saturday Open Morning – 8th September 2012
- Open Afternoon – 10th October 2012
- Open Afternoon – 21st November 2012

For more information about open days, information about taster events held at each campus, and to book your place on an event, please visit our website: www.sac.ac.uk/opendays

If you are unable to attend one of our open days, please contact the student recruitment team and we will try to make alternative arrangements for you to visit and meet staff.

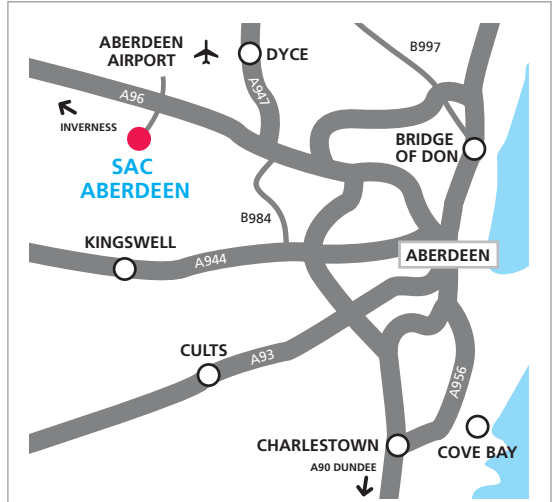
Those students who apply by the 15 January deadline and to whom we are able to offer a place, will be invited to an Applicant Day at which they can learn more about their chosen course and studying at SAC.

Further information on campus locations can be found on our website at: www.sac.ac.uk/learning/prospective/contact/campuslocation

“ I enjoyed the whole day and found out a whole lot more information than first envisaged. I am confident that my daughter would enjoy her time here. The staff are very friendly and helpful.”

Parent of an attendee at an Edinburgh campus Open Day

SAC Aberdeen



By Road

The campus is about 5 miles to the north-west of the city centre, and is served by bus services from the city centre.

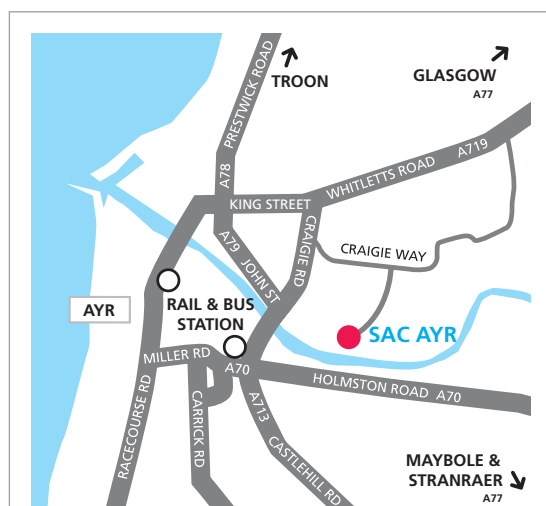
By Rail

There is a frequent train service from Edinburgh and Glasgow to Aberdeen. Dyce is the nearest train station to the campus, but Aberdeen station is also convenient.

By Air

The campus is 2 miles from Aberdeen Airport, which offers scheduled flights to many UK and European destinations.

SAC Ayr



By Road

The Ayr campus is in central Ayr, near to Ayr College and the Dam Park Stadium, accessed by the A719 Whitletts Road and the B747 Craige Road. SAC shares the Riverside Campus with the University of the West of Scotland.

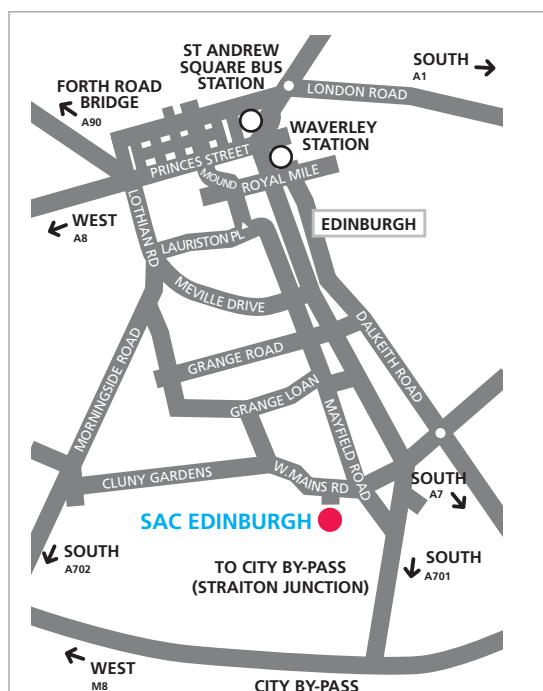
By Rail

Ayr train station is less than a mile from the campus. There is a regular train service from Ayr to Glasgow, which connects with the rest of Britain. A service also runs from Ayr to Troon and Stranraer, for ferry services to Ireland.

By Air

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is located a few miles outside Ayr and offers a range of connections with the UK and the rest of Europe. Glasgow International Airport is 35 miles from the campus and offers connections to the UK, Europe and international destinations.

SAC Edinburgh



By Road

The campus lies 3 miles to the south of the city centre, and 3 miles to the north of the city bypass (A720). The campus is served by a variety of buses.

By Rail

Edinburgh Waverley station, in the city centre, is a 15 minute taxi journey from the campus and connects to towns and cities throughout Britain.

By Air

Edinburgh International Airport is located to the west of the city, 13 miles from the campus, and offers connections to the UK, Europe and international destinations.

The Student Recruitment Officers can be contacted as follows:

<p>Aberdeen Campus Student Recruitment Officer SAC Aberdeen Craibstone Estate Aberdeen AB21 9YA T: 01224 711189 E: aberdeen@sac.ac.uk</p>	<p>Riverside Campus Ayr Student Recruitment Officer SAC Ayr Riverside Campus University Avenue Ayr KA8 0SX T: 01292 886196 E: ayr@sac.ac.uk</p>	<p>Edinburgh Campus Student Recruitment Officer SAC Edinburgh West Mains Road Edinburgh EH9 3JG T: 0131 535 4391 E: edinburgh@sac.ac.uk</p>	<p>International Students International Student Recruitment Officer SAC Edinburgh West Mains Road Edinburgh EH9 3JG T: 0131 535 4032 E: internationalstudent@sac.ac.uk</p>
--	---	--	---





Important information

All students will be required, as a condition of enrolment, to abide by and to submit to the College's disciplinary rules and regulations, as amended from time to time. A copy of the current disciplinary rules and regulations is available on request from the College.

The College will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver courses in accordance with the descriptions set out in the prospectus. However, the College has to manage its academic provision and facilities in ways which provide a quality learning experience to its students, and are efficient and cost effective. It therefore reserves the right to make variations to entry requirements, the content or method of delivery of courses, to discontinue courses, to move courses to another campus, to merge or combine courses or years of courses and withdraw or replace facilities if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary by the College. If the College discontinues any course, it will use reasonable endeavours to facilitate application to a suitable alternative course.

Learning activities included in this prospectus are given as examples and inclusion does not guarantee they will be offered each year.

SAC reserves the right to request applicants or enrolling students to provide further information relating to any aspect of their application or enrolment. If such further information is not provided within the period stipulated then SAC reserves the right to refuse to consider the application, not to enrol, or to withdraw enrolment.

SAC makes its offer of a place based upon the academic potential of the applicant and their suitability to the course. As many of our courses are vocational and involve practical activity and placement, a level of maturity is required which may be assessed through interview as part of the application process.

To meet legislation for the Protection of Children, places in SAC Halls of Residence are only available to students who are over 16 years of age.

The information contained within this prospectus is correct at the time of writing in November 2011.

SAC is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC003712.

General information about SAC's consultancy and research work may be obtained from:

SAC
West Mains Road
Edinburgh
EH9 3JG
Telephone: 0131 535 4000
www.sac.ac.uk

The majority of photographs are provided by SAC, current and former staff and students of SAC and RBGE. Other images provided by D N Anderson, Photographer.

This Prospectus has been produced on biodegradable environmentally friendly paper.



Agriculture



Applied Science and Technology



Business



Environment, Countryside and Conservation



Horticulture and Garden Design



Sport, Tourism and Outdoor Pursuits

www.sac.ac.uk/learning

