



University of
St Andrews | FOUNDED
1413 |

Combined Studies Evening Degree



Flexible evening study that fits around your life



Suitable for those with no formal qualifications or returning to study



St Andrews is ranked top in the UK (*Guardian University Guide 2024 and The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024*)



Apply to start in either September or January



“The programme has helped teach me that I have the skills and determination to do most things I set my mind to, and I have used this new confidence to try new things. I was successful in a promotion at work and have got involved in local committees and community groups who value my input”

Natalie

2024 Combined Studies graduate

Combined Studies MA (General)

Designed for those returning to education after a significant break. Delivered on a part-time basis in the evening, this course is ideal if you have other commitments during the day.

Who can apply?

- Combined Studies has flexible entry requirements, making it a great option for a wide range of people.
- For example, you can apply if you haven't taken any formal qualifications since school. You can also apply if you have studied recently.
- Work experience and professional qualifications will be considered as an alternative to recent academic qualifications.
- We expect a basic level of education at school level including English and Mathematics.
- We look for applicants who have a willingness and desire to learn, and can succeed in a demanding academic environment.

How does the degree work?

- Combined Studies is divided into credit-bearing modules which span a 12-week semester; each module covering a different subject area.
- There are two semesters each year: September to December and January to May.
- Choose to study one or two modules per semester, and work through the degree at a pace that suits you.
- Each module has a weekly evening class which you can either join online or in person.
- Modules are designed for Combined Studies students and are assessed by continuous assessment (essays or reports) or class tests.
- Three different levels of modules, allowing you to progress in subjects that you are more interested in.
- Begin with broad ranging level 1 and 2 modules, before moving to more advanced level 3 modules towards the end of your degree.

Key information

- Classes run Monday to Thursday between 6.30pm - 9.30pm.
- Choose one or two evening classes per week.
- Join classes either online or in person.
- Opportunity to study a broad range of subjects based on your interests.
- Degree takes four to eight years to complete.
- Graduate with an MA (General) degree.

Study a range of subjects on the MA Combined Studies, including:

- Art History
- Computer Science
- English
- Geography
- History
- Management
- Mathematics
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Social Anthropology

Find out more about
Combined Studies





Fees and scholarships

- If your personal income is less than £25,000 per year and you study at least 30 credits, you can apply for the SAAS part-time fee grant to cover the cost of your tuition fees.
- Tuition fees are calculated each year and depend on fee status and the number of credits studied.
- In 2024-2025, a Home fee status (Scottish) student would pay £303 per 20 credit module.
- There is a part-time study scholarship to help with the costs of being a student like travel, books and childcare. This is an award of up to £100 per module.

Three compulsory introductory modules will equip you with the **skills you need** to successfully complete the Combined Studies degree.

Introduction to Psychology

Covers key areas of modern Psychology and demonstrates that Psychology is a diverse and interdisciplinary science. The module will explore underlying psychological theory and mechanisms. Tutorial and practical sessions will also introduce principles and techniques used in psychological research. No previous knowledge of Psychology is required.



Information Technology (IT)

Gives you a practical overview of application software that is used for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and web authoring. This module will give you a range of transferable skills that will help with producing documents, presentations and contributing to the World Wide Web. The module also discusses the role of computers in society and considers historical, social and ethical issues.



Reading English

Introduces you to the study of literature in English and covers a small number of texts, in prose and verse, from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The module focusses on practical criticism, close reading and the importance of literary-historical context.





Ishbel, 2024 Combined Studies graduate



David, 2024 Combined Studies graduate



Dee, 2020 Combined Studies graduate

Combined Studies gives you the freedom to **choose from a variety of subjects** and **tailor the degree** to suit your interests.

Art History

Explore artistic periods, movements and new developments from the Renaissance period to the Post-Impressionism and Avant-Garde movements in the twentieth century. Examine the themes, subjects and ideas developed by these movements through scrutinising a variety of media, including: paintings, architecture, photographs, monuments and set designs. Develop your critical thinking by analysing artistic and literary texts and discussing various topics, such as how the artists reveal the changing social and cultural concerns and ideas of their day.



Computer Science

Students will learn about modern developments in information and communication technologies (ICT) and develop transferable skills that can be applied in different areas of work and study. The School of Computer Science is rated highly for teaching and research, with enthusiastic and friendly staff, a building with top-class twenty-four-hour facilities, and a great reputation amongst students and graduates.



English

Literature expresses the values and aspirations, and the certainties and uncertainties of the societies in which it was created. To study English at university is to take up these questions in a rigorous and systematic way, relating them to a literary culture of exceptional richness and diversity, extending over a thousand years and more. In the School of English, eminent scholars and critics of literature from the Middle Ages to the present day work alongside some of Scotland's leading creative writers.



Geography

When undertaking the study of Geography, students explore a fascinating range of important environmental, cultural and economic phenomena on local, national and global scales. Geography offers an exciting challenge to those who wish to think critically and creatively about the world around them.



History

By studying History at St Andrews, you will experience a range of expertise in many areas of the past, including medieval and modern history, from Scotland to Greater Europe, East Asia and beyond. Thematic interests within the School of History include religious history, urban history, transnationalism, historiography and nationalism. This is all set in a medieval town, which teems with history, allowing you to be immersed in the history you study.



Management

Management is the study of how people at all levels organise and co-ordinate the activities and resources of organisations towards its goals. You will examine the nature of contemporary thinking about management in organisational contexts and develop an awareness of the key management skills, behaviours and theories. You will also have the opportunity to engage in class discussions and relate your own and others' experiences to the theoretical concepts learned each week. Whether you are seeking a rewarding career in management or are a current manager wanting to develop in your role, this course will challenge your understanding of what makes a good manager and will allow you to appreciate the complex skills needed in contemporary organisations.



Mathematics and Statistics

Mathematicians seek to understand complex patterns and structures and develop the tools with which to analyse them. Whether these patterns relate to physical or biological phenomena, or the structure of mathematics itself, the primary aim is to describe, categorise and understand the processes involved. Historians of mathematics study the way mathematicians have developed mathematics, and related to societies in the past.



Philosophy

The study of Philosophy is concerned with trying to make sense of ourselves and the world we live in through rational argument. Philosophy attempts to examine and answer questions raised by natural science, art and literature, the nature of language and communication and history. You will become familiar with views put forward by the principal figures of the philosophical tradition, and learn how to rationally and independently assess your own arguments.



Psychology

Modern psychology focuses on the understanding of perception, cognition, motivation and behaviour at several different levels, from the study of the brain to complex social interactions of humans and animals. Psychology at St Andrews is taught with an emphasis on understanding how the mind and brain work to facilitate our behaviour.



Social Anthropology

Social anthropology is a constantly evolving, well-established discipline that asks the fundamental question of 'what it is to be human'. It seeks to answer this by examining the diverse ways in which human beings establish and live social lives in the contemporary world. Anthropologists stress the importance of understanding other ways of life, learning about different cultures and the limits to aspects of our own society and culture.



Support with returning to studying

If you would like some help getting back into study, we offer pre-sessional Study Skills workshops. These are included for Combined Studies students in the weeks before the start of the semester and they are a great opportunity to ask questions and raise discussion points. In the sessions we cover:

Reading and note-taking

For new students, being presented with long reading lists and being expected to study independently can be a daunting prospect. Training will be provided to look at tips and techniques on how best to read 'academically,' and different ways of taking notes and organising your thoughts.

Essay writing

Being able to present your thoughts coherently in an essay is an essential academic skill. Essay writing is an important component of assessment for many subjects, so being able to construct a good essay is key.

IT skills

Navigating new IT systems can be intimidating for new students, but having up to date IT skills can be incredibly useful for studying (and other aspects of life). Training will explore the different online systems used by students and how to use Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Word and email.

Good academic practice

All students need to complete training in good academic practice before they begin their studies. This will include how to avoid plagiarising the work of others and behave with academic integrity.



Being a student at St Andrews

If you join the Combined Studies programme, you will become a part of our diverse student community. You will also have access to resources including:

The Careers Centre

- Careers advisers provide individual guidance and coaching, as well as group workshops.
- Careers fairs and other opportunities to meet top graduate employers. Extensive digital resources to help with career planning and finding job vacancies. Advice about further study opportunities.

The library

- You will have access to study spaces around St Andrews including the Main Library in the town centre.
- Access to books, online journals and digital resources.

Academic and professional development

- A range of workshops and resources to help develop skills that employers value.
- Skills include teamwork, leadership, problem solving, confidence and IT skills.

Disability support

- Support is available for students with a wide range of disabilities and learning difficulties.
- The disability team works closely with students to review individual requirements and discuss available support.





Recognition of Prior Learning

Prior learning at higher education level

- We can review your previous studies to see if you are eligible for credit transfer (up to 180 credits) towards your Combined Studies degree.
- All qualifications must be at SCQF level 7 or above, SVQ level 4 or above, or equivalent.
- Prior learning can include:
 - HNC or HND qualifications, or HN-level modules.
 - Degree-level courses/modules (completed degrees are not eligible).
 - Education-level qualifications awarded by professional bodies, e.g. nursing, accountancy, chartered surveying, where these have been mapped onto SCQF qualifications.
- For qualifications which are less than five years old, full credit value of the award may be granted.
- Qualifications more than five years old will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Due to the pre-requisites in place for a number of the more advanced modules on the MA Combined Studies degree it may not always be possible to use the full amount of any transferred credit.

Work-related qualifications and experience

- It is possible to gain credits for prior work-related learning.
- You will need to demonstrate clear learning outcomes from your experience and how these skills are applicable to the Combined Studies programme.
- It may be possible to use work experience to gain credits in lieu of specific modules when your experience is clearly aligned with the module content. For example, if you have extensive computer skills from your work, this can be considered in lieu of the compulsory Information Technology module.



Enhancing your Combined Studies degree

To make your degree journey **as flexible as possible** we have collaborative agreements with two leading institutions which allow you to **tailor your degree to your needs**. Modules from these institutions can be taken alongside your St Andrews modules and will be recognised on your final degree award.

University of Dundee

The University of St Andrews has a long standing arrangement with the University of Dundee which allows students to take modules from either institution as part of their part-time evening programmes.

This collaboration allows students to access the wide range of modules at both institutions adding value to their qualification.

Subjects previously offered at the University of Dundee include:

- Languages For All French
- Languages For All Spanish
- Languages For All Italian



University
of Dundee

The Open University

Since 2019, our collaboration with the Open University Scotland allows students from both institutions to take part in a wider range of subject options. This gives students the chance to expand on the subjects included in their degree as well as giving opportunities for a range of flexible study options to suit their needs including: classroom learning, blended learning or full distance learning. This collaboration is available to students studying Combined Studies at the University of St Andrews and the BA/BSc (Honours) Open degree through the Open University Scotland.

Subjects available include:

- Mathematics and Statistics
- Business and Management
- Economics



"I found the option to study some Open University modules through the programme helpful. The range of modules available means you will always find something to keep you interested and motivated to keep going!"

Natalie

2024 Combined Studies graduate



"I'd really recommend evening study. This flexible degree is a secret gem of Scotland. You can join online or come into class, and it's been a really positive and lovely experience."

David

2024 Combined Studies graduate



"This programme is amazing for people in full-time employment and with families. Evening classes give you the flexibility you need. Studying at St Andrews helped me have my current job and progress in my career."

Maria

2023 Combined Studies graduate



"I never imagined that I would be studying part-time for a degree at the University of St Andrews! It is an amazing experience to study alongside students just like me and learn from world-class academics... I wish I had the courage to join years earlier."

Susan

Current Combined Studies student

Get in touch

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Find out more about the MA Combined Studies programme and how to take your next steps towards evening study.



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