



Abertay
University®

IMPACT REPORT

We know the current situation is tough, so we'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our positive successes that you have helped us to achieve in 2020.

All donations big and small help us to make a difference.

Thank you for supporting Abertay University.

Abertay University's response to Covid-19

Many Abertay University students are already overcoming barriers to achieve their educational goals. We know we are working with a substantial (31%) percentage of students with the greatest need.

Now, our students are additionally dealing with the social, economic and health impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Nearly half
of our students
are first generation
university entrants

More than a quarter
of our students come to
the university from a
disadvantaged
background



A snapshot of what Abertay Students have been facing during the pandemic

- Financial hardship – many students were in financial difficulty just to meet essential costs such as food housing and utilities. These would normally be covered by summer jobs which disappeared.
- Students who normally have parental support also found themselves struggling financially, as many families felt the impact of jobs being furloughed
- Struggling to access and keep up with their studies remotely due to having basic IT equipment and no access to libraries
- Homelessness
- Borrowing money from family member who may have lost work themselves
- Poor mental health – many students who are away from friends and family for the first time in their lives were struggling to cope with the negative mental health impacts of lockdown
- Cancellation of graduate scheme interviews and placements and real worries about long term prospects
- Our final year Mental Health Nurses graduated early to assist during the peak of the pandemic

We supported
1,400

students during lockdown and provided additional funding to those facing hardship.

Money raised contributed to...


Rent and Food costs of
£1,200

Sanitiser
£1,200

Masks
£1,200

Transport costs
£2,000

Welcome packs
£2,400



Donations were put to immediate use, supporting students in unexpected and urgent financial need. Through funding and donations, we were able to alleviate the immediate financial hardship through the provision of awards for food and housing costs.

We provided over 100 food parcels over the course of the pandemic to student halls and incoming students who had to self-isolate upon arrival.

We were able to buy digital shopping vouchers of £50.00, to send via email to students so that they have instant access to shopping if required due to self-isolation or financial hardship arising, they could buy what they required and have it delivered to their homes.

The provision of additional counselling helped those struggling to deal with some of the more negative impacts of lockdown, e.g. isolation, anxiety, depression, relationship abuse, etc. To feel safer, more supported and less alone. It also helped to raise awareness amongst staff of typical causes of depression and anxiety and increasing staff confidence in being able to help students source the help they need whilst respecting role boundaries.

We provided technology essential for students to continue their studies from home.



My counselling sessions were invaluable and helped me a lot. I sought out help because I was having a very tough time and the counsellor was understanding and supported me in every session. They allowed me to guide what was spoken about and I feel a little safer going forward

(recipient of Wellbeing Fund)





To know that we have prevented eviction, poverty and starvation is overwhelming and to appreciate the mental health impact this will have on students beyond the start of term and the summer we can only begin to imagine.

Elley Petrie, CEO Abertay Students' Association

The funding and donations provided have already made a difference to many of our students during lockdown. Thanks to the provision of staff training and the additional items of hardware, the project will continue to deliver benefits to students for a good while to come.



Times Award – University of the Year for Teaching Quality

We were recently recognised by The Times and Sunday Times (September 18th 2020) as “the most socially inclusive university in Scotland. Truly, a modern university.” This is something we are really proud of.

Abertay University has ranked in the UK top ten for both student satisfaction and teaching in the new Guardian Good University Guide 2021.

Teaching is everything. 2020’s been quite a year. Our rankings success follows a series of strong

performance this year, but don’t just take it from us:

- Sunday Times UK University of the Year for Teaching Quality
- Guardian University Guide Top 10 in UK for Student Satisfaction with Teaching, Course and Feedback
- National Student Survey Top 10 UK Universities for Student Satisfaction
- Princeton Review best in Europe for Video Games Education

In the overall rankings table, the University recorded a 39-place

climb, moving into the top 50 of the 120 UK institutions that were ranked this year.

Abertay University has a key role to play in challenging social and educational disadvantage. It is deep rooted in our DNA to support all students to realise their full potential, regardless of background or which school they attended. We have a real affinity with students who come from more disadvantaged backgrounds. We truly understand the transformational opportunities a degree can bring.

Abertay has been instrumental in building the city of Dundee’s place as a global hub for computing and gaming, a perfect example of a university and business working together for the common good. Students recognise the excellence of teaching more widely across the university, placing it close to the top of the tree among universities across the UK for the second successive year. It achieves all this while at the same time being the most socially inclusive university in Scotland. Truly, a modern university.


Alastair McCall, editor of The Sunday Times
Good University Guide.



**Hear how
your donation
can impact
our students'
university
experience.**

Your donations make a difference. You have helped us to empower young people with potential from diverse and challenging backgrounds to enable them to reach their full potential and make their impact in the world.





Cheryl Torano, a care-experienced single mother of two, joined Abertay's BSc (Hons) Ethical Hacking programme from college, and went on to her dream job as a Cyber Security Engineer at Brightsolid in her home city of Dundee.

Cheryl outlines her turbulent start to life in new book *The Rise of the Cyber Women*, a collection of real life stories compiled by Lisa Ventura from the UK Cyber Association. The stories are by women who are pioneers in the industry, and have overcome adversity or taken non-linear paths to where they are today.

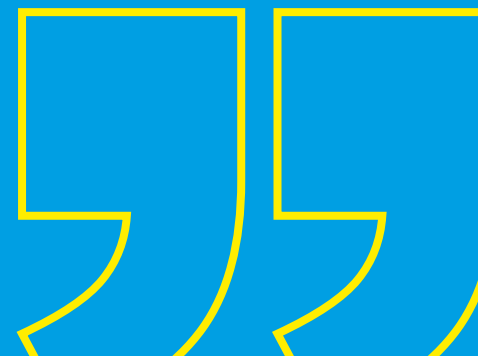
36-year-old Cheryl said: "I never even daydreamed about going to university, let alone having a career in the cybersecurity industry."

We fundraise to ensure we can support students to take part in the life changing experience of university and career changing opportunities as a graduate.




Moving on to Abertay from my college course felt like a completely natural progression and it really couldn't have been easier. Having young children, I rely on my family for childcare support and that meant studying and finding a job close to home was my only option. It was fantastic to be able to do all of that on my doorstep – coming through college and university has been totally life changing for me and my kids.

**Cheryl Torano,
Ethical Hacking Graduate**



Talent knows no bounds, but we need your help to empower young people with potential from diverse and challenging backgrounds to enable them to reach their full potential and make their impact in the world. Your gift supports our programmes and projects.



**For more information contact
fundraising@abertay.ac.uk**

