SAMS
Scottish Association for Marine Science

A partner of UHI



OPEN DAY 2026

Undergraduate Marine Science

Welcome to SAMS, a partner of UHI

www.sams.ac.uk

Welcome to our Open Day!

We're delighted to have you join us today here at SAMS in Oban. This is your opportunity to explore all that SAMS has to offer, from our interactive sessions that dive into various subject areas, to the chance to connect with our staff, lecturers, and current students. Whether you're here to get a feel for our campus, ask questions, or simply take in our stunning surroundings, we hope today gives you a true sense of what it's like to be part of our vibrant marine science community.

You will hopefully book on to one or more of our interactive sessions which are designed to give you a taste of the diverse subject areas we cover, from plankton to marine robotics.

We encourage you to ask questions, engage in conversations, and make the most of this opportunity to learn about the academic, social, and career opportunities available to you when studying marine science here at SAMS, a partner of UHI.

Choosing the right place to continue your education is a big decision, and we understand how important it is to find the right fit. We hope that during your visit today, you will discover everything that makes SAMS a unique and inspiring place to study marine science.

Enjoy your visit today and I hope to see you again soon.



Professor Keith Davidson.
Associate Director of Education
SAMS



Sheina Marshall building map





Schedule

Morning session 10.20am to 12.30pm

ACTIVITY	TIME	WHERE
REGISTRATION FOR EVENT	10.20-10.30	OCEAN LEARNING CENTRE
WELCOME TALK	10.30	JOHN HOWE- AP ORR
MEET THE ROBOTS AND TAKE A DIVE UNDERWATER	11.00	MFR
SAMS TOUR	11.00	SAMS AMBASSADORS
'MARINE BIOLOGY AND OUR LIVING LABORATORY	11.00	LEVEN
THE WONDERS AND MYSTERIES OF SOUNDS UNDER THE SEA	11.30	AP ORR
ICE TO MEET YOU: A DEMONSTRATION OF ARCTIC MARINE SCIENCE AT SAMS	12.00	JOHN GAGE LAB
SAMS TOUR	12.00	SAMS AMBASSADORS
*GEOLOGY ROCKS	10.30-12.30pm	JAMES GEMMILL LAB
*CLUBS AND SOCIETIES - SOCIAL LIFE @SAMS STAND	10.30-12.30pm	CAFÉ CAMUS
*MEET THE COURSE TEAM STAND	10.30-12.30pm	ETIVE
*ACCOMMODATION STAND	10.30-12.30pm	ETIVE
*TEA COFFEE/REFRESHMENTS	10.30-12.30pm	CAFÉ CAMUS

*Sessions will run continuously - drop in to chat & ask questions.

Afternoon session 1.20pm to 3.30pm

ACTIVITY	TIME	WHERE
REGISTRATION FOR EVENT	13.20-13.30	OCEAN LEARNING CENTRE
WELCOME TALK	13.30	JOHN HOWE- AP ORR
MEET THE ROBOTS AND TAKE A DIVE UNDERWATER	14.00	MRF
SAMS TOURS	14.00	SAMS AMBASSADORS
'MARINE BIOLOGY AND OUR DEEP SEAS	14.00	CLIFFORD MORTIMER ROOM
THE WONDERS AND MYSTERIES OF SOUNDS UNDER THE SEA	14.30	LEVEN
ICE TO MEET YOU: A DEMONSTRATION OF ARCTIC MARINE SCIENCE AT SAMS	14.30	JOHN GAGE LAB
SAMS TOUR	15.00	SAMS AMBASSADORS
*GEOLOGY ROCKS	13.30-15.30	JAMES GEMMILL LAB
*CLUBS AND SOCIETIES - SOCIAL LIFE @SAMS STAND	13.30-15.30	CAFÉ CAMUS
*MEET THE COURSE TEAM STAND	13.30-15.30	ETIVE
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*Sessions will run continuously - drop in to chat & ask questions.

Clubs & Societies

University isn't just about lectures and seminars – important though they are! It's also a great opportunity for you to make friends and learn new sports, hobbies and skills.

There are roughly 160 students at SAMS (100 undergrads and 60 postgrads), but our students are also part of the larger Oban student community as well as regional and sectoral student grouping with UHI.

The SAMS student community is very inclusive, and it is difficult to be lost or lonely even as a new student. We have a welcoming and active community where students define their own niche.

There are scores of social student gatherings, be it BBQs on the beach, creative art hubs, pub crawls or attending the numerous events that happen in the town and neighbouring communities over the year.

A large number of students come here because of the scenery and physical environment. They might go for a swim or dive at lunchtime, meet up with friends to run up one of the local mountains or go on a cycle ride. At the weekend they might go sailing in the summer, climbing in autumn, skiing in winter or white-water rafting in the spring!

There are currently three student clubs at SAMS: diving, climbing and sailing. More information can be found on the SAMS website www.sams.ac.uk/study









Photo by - Isla Ellioyt-Walker

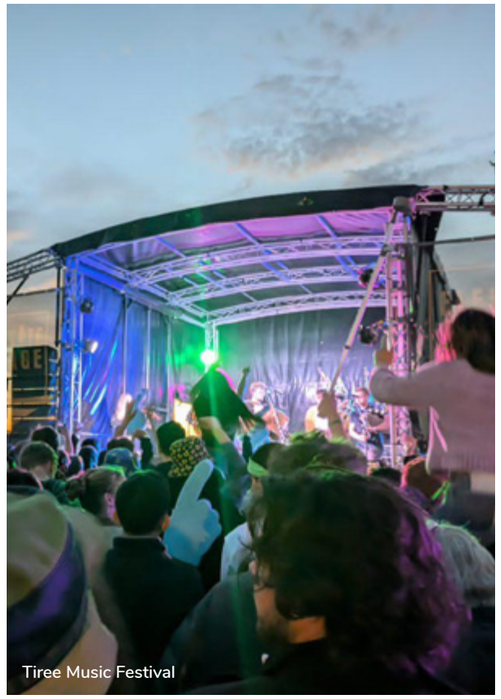


The Oban Open Draw



About Oban

Oban is a small coastal university town with around 8,500 people but due to its thriving tourist industry in the summer, its growing student population and as a rural hub, it provides more facilities and services than its size would suggest.



Tiree Music Festival

AMENITIES

The town has a modern leisure centre, a public library, hospital, dentists and many pubs, shops and restaurants. Oban is proud to be a fairtrade town since 2006. SAMS is also a fairtrade organisation! It has a Tesco, Marks and Spencer, Lidl, Aldi and Farmfoods alongside other retailers such as Waterstones, Boots and Costa and a multitude of small independent shops.



OUTDOOR PURSUITS

The stunning scenery offers access to many outdoor pursuits. You will be able to do most kinds of sport in the area. At SAMS, we also organise many lunchtime activities such as yoga and meditation classes, while others go running, swimming, cycling, diving or kayaking.



LOCAL JOBS FOR STUDENTS

Because of the array of local businesses, students usually find it relatively easy to gain temporary or permanent part-time jobs. Our students often pick up part-time jobs in hotels, bars, restaurants, cafes, shops, supermarkets and tourism organisations such as wildlife and boat tour operators.





ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD AND DRINK

The Corran Halls hosts touring and local cultural performances, festivals, fairs and conferences. The town is full of places to eat, from small take-away cafes, fish and chip shops and an open-air seafood shack to top-end restaurants and everything in between. Oban is often referred to as the Seafood Capital of Scotland, so make sure to check out if that is an accolade it deserves! There are small local businesses like the Oban Chocolate Company to sample or chains such as Wetherspoons or Subway.

There are at least eight pubs in the centre of Oban, ranging from the traditional Oban Inn to the large Corryvreckan (Wetherspoons). Apart from meeting the locals you might encounter live music, DJ entertainment or sport on the big screen. We also have the View which is a ceilidh house, music and event venue. Many places in the town offer student discounts or deals.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Most students and visitors stay in Oban.
There is a regular bus service - operated by West Coast Motors - from Oban to Dunbeg, the village adjacent to SAMS. Catch the 405 from Oban and it will take you to Dunbeg - or occasionally all the way down the road to Dunstaffnage / SAMS - for £2. West Coast Motors runs several other lines throughout the Highlands. Young people aged 5 to 21 who live in Scotland can get a free bus pass. You can use this on most bus services in Scotland. Visit myscot.gov for more information.

Many students and staff choose to cycle to the institute and the cycle track from Oban's Ganavan beach is a pleasant and safe way to make the three-mile journey. SAMS has two roofed bike sheds and a bike repair station.

Oban is connected via trains and buses to the main Scottish population centres of Glasgow and Edinburgh, both of which have international airports. The busy ferry port in Oban connects the town to many of the stunning Hebridean islands.



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FIND OUT MORE

Get in touch! We are here for you.

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