



PRIFYSGOL
ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY



Mini Guide

1872



This is Aberystwyth

Welcome to our informal guide about university:
applying, studying, living and leaving.

We want to explain how it all works and why it's so exciting –
and give you a glimpse of what life might be like when you get here.



Our Subjects

University study opens up whole new worlds of inquiry, allowing you to be guided by your interests and a wide selection of subjects and modules, and the expertise of world-renowned research and teaching. Many of the subjects will no doubt sound familiar to you, but the range of what you can do with them is only limited by your imagination.



▲ Accounting and Finance

Accounting and Finance involves the concepts of money, business and management, with an emphasis on professional careers in these areas. Accounting relates to information analysis for different aspects of a business, while finance solely concerns a business' monetary funds. Our multi-accredited courses will help you develop the professional knowledge and skills needed from the global accounting and finance sector.

▲ Agriculture

The world needs talented, highly skilled farmers, managers and advisors to ensure this vital, diverse and technological industry is ready for the challenges ahead. At Aberystwyth, our students benefit from the great diversity of farmland and agricultural terrain, which are commercially managed by the department and are being used for teaching and research purposes.

▲ Animal and Aquatic Sciences

Animal and Aquatic Sciences at Aberystwyth includes Animal Behaviour, Animal Science, Equine and Veterinary Bioscience, Equine Science, Equine Studies, Marine and Freshwater Biology, Wildlife Conservation and Zoology. You will be studying in a world-class department whose research is contributing towards solving global issues such as the prevention of deadly diseases, food security and crop growth in drought-prone soil, developing sustainable and environmentally friendly fuels, and studying the effects of climate change on ecosystems.

▲ Art and Photography

The School of Art is housed in a magnificent Grade II-listed building where history and tradition meets contemporary practice. Here, art is made and debated, exhibited and experienced. You will become immersed in artistic and curatorial practices and art historical research.

▲ Biological Sciences

The rich ecology of Wales provides the perfect environment to develop and hone your skills as a biologist. Combining scientific theory and practical lab and field work, this fascinating subject will give you a greater understanding of the world around you and how it works.

▲ Business and Management

Business and Management is both a practical and academic discipline that covers topics ranging from Leadership, Organisational Behaviour and Information technology to Data Analytics, Supply Chain Management and Global Logistics. Degrees in Business and Management usually contain elements of other disciplines such as Accounting and Finance, Marketing, Economics and Tourism.

▲ Childhood Studies

Similar to Education, Childhood Studies is distinctive in its own way too. It's essentially about how children learn and develop, but also about how childhood is understood in different contexts and cultures, and how various services for children and families are organised and delivered.

▲ Climate Change

The need to address the climate emergency is clear and pressing. A key part of our response is ensuring people have the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to build a green, low emission and climate-resilient future. As our economies transform to meet this challenge there is an increasing need for passionate graduates who can answer the demands of a changing job market. Climate change experts are required to help lead within business, government and the public sector, non-governmental organisations and research.

▲ Computer Science

From developing cameras for use in space missions to developing better ways of screening cancers, our research has contributed to some of the most important events in history.

▲ Criminology

Criminology is a fascinating broad-ranging subject that examines the causes of crime, the effects of crime, crime management and prevention. Ultimately, in understanding what causes crime, criminologists look for ways in which we can prevent crime and mitigate the harms caused. It explores the consequences of being labelled 'criminal', and how society responds to criminal behaviour by detecting, punishing and rehabilitating individuals who commit offences.

▲ Drama and Theatre

At Aberystwyth, we approach the subjects of Drama and Theatre in the most expansive way possible. Here, we build on your existing interests, your knowledge and skills in drama, theatre and performance, but the course will aim to challenge your preconceptions and expectations, to expand and extend what you might consider drama and theatre to be.

▲ Ecological Sciences

Ecology is the study of how organisms interact with each other and the natural environment. There is an urgency for us to have a new generation of Ecologists that can respond to the environmental challenges we face. These include habitat destruction, climate change, micro plastics, diseases - this list is endless.

▲ Education

Education is the study of how we learn - from how we think, how we absorb and process information, understand new concepts, and how we develop new skills. It's also about studying how learning is most effectively supported by schools, teachers, and by parents and communities, so that children and young people can achieve their full potential.

▲ Economics

Economics is the study of choice; at Aberystwyth we provide students with the opportunity to investigate how these choices are made. Whether they are examining consumers and corporations or analysing groups and governments, our students develop skills to analyse the world in front of them and formulate conclusions about what is likely to happen in the future.

▲ English and Creative Writing

We offer flexible courses that combine the very best elements of traditional literary studies with exciting and innovative approaches to our subjects. From Chaucer to Twitter, writing has the power to inform, challenge and change our perceptions. At Aberystwyth you can channel your own passion for reading and writing and make your own contributions to our long literary heritage and to the literature of the future.





▲ Film and Television Studies

Film and Television are familiar words to people, but we have a particular approach to the study of Film and Television here at Aberystwyth. Whether you are interested in the moving image as an art form or an industry, whether you are interested in creating films, or studying film and television texts themselves, our diverse degree in Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth University will give you the space to explore different creative, technical and critical approaches in a vibrant community.

▲ Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Aberystwyth is the perfect place to study Geography and Earth Environmental Sciences. Nestled between the Cambrian Mountains and located on the coast of West Wales, you will benefit from all the natural resources that will aid your study. Our Geography, Human Geography and Physical Geography are accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) (with the Institute of British Geographers).

▲ History

History has been taught at Aberystwyth University since the 1870s making us one of the oldest History departments in Wales. At Aberystwyth, you can learn more about The Tudors, Twentieth Century Germany, or Modern China. We offer a wide variety of historical periods that will appeal to your interest and hone your historical desires.

▲ Information Studies

Established in 1964, the Department of Information Studies provides world-class education for those working or planning a career in libraries, archives, and the fast-developing world of digital information.

▲ Law

Law has been taught at Aberystwyth since 1901. The Department has a proud tradition of scholarship and research and has prepared generations of people from all over the world for professional careers in the legal sector. All our undergraduate law degrees offer a good foundation for entry into the legal professions and those preparing for the new Solicitors' Qualifying Examination.

▲ Mathematics

Mathematics is the science of numbers and their operations. Mathematics finds applications in all branches of science and many areas of business and finance. It is at the heart of all modern technology. We have a range of degree schemes including single honours in mathematics, pure and applied mathematics, mathematical modelling and statistics.

▲ Media and Communication Studies

Media and Communication Studies degrees aim to prepare you for work in media-related industries and to allow you to critically analyse the ways in which the media reflect, represent and influence the world.

▲ Modern Languages

There has never been a more exciting time to study languages. With other languages competing with English to be the main language of global communication, there are more reasons than ever to become bilingual or even multilingual. Here at Aberystwyth, we offer a range of courses in the study of French, Spanish, German and Italian, either as single or joint honours degree programmes in the case of Spanish and French, or joint honours in the case of German and Italian.

▲ Nursing

We offer BSc Adult Nursing and BSc Mental Health Nursing courses. Our Nursing courses offer a bespoke and intimate learning experience. The Healthcare Education Centre is newly established and houses the Clinical Skills Unit, a state-of-the-art simulation suite where you can learn clinical skills in a safe and supportive environment.

▲ Politics and International Relations

With strands covering intelligence and security, climate change and global development, our International Politics programmes provide an outstanding environment in which to study the most significant issues and concepts that shape politics and international relations today.

▲ Physics

Our physicists are some of the UK's leading experts and are involved in projects ranging from engineering new materials and instruments to planetary missions and ground-breaking studies of the Sun's activity.

▲ Psychology

Psychology is the Science of Mind and Behaviour; this means that it is a broad subject that tries to understand human behaviour from the biological explanations of how the brain works to the social understanding of how we interact and adapt with our environment or change cognitively as we get older.

▲ Sociology

By examining the political landscape and considering contemporary issues such as crime, education, social welfare, inequality, religion, race and gender, and through adopting theoretical and evidence-based stances to critique society, sociologists can bring about transformative change to create a better world for all.

▲ Sport and Exercise Science

Combining disciplines such as Physiology, Psychology and Biomechanics, Sport and Exercise Science at Aberystwyth provides you with the applied skills, knowledge and competences that will act as the foundation for your future career. Sports and Exercise Scientists have worked with athletes who have competed at European and world championship level.

▲ Tourism and Adventure Tourism

Tourism can include what we normally think of as tourists (sand, sea and sun, and taking selfies in a foreign country) but also visiting friends and relatives, pilgrimages, health tourism and any other type of experience away from one's main place of residence. Our degrees are accredited by the Tourism Management Institute, which adds validity to our courses in the eyes of potential employers and it is another way to certify the quality of our programmes.

▲ Veterinary Science

Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science delivers the BVSc Veterinary Science degree in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). Our Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree offers you a chance to train at not one, but two world-leading institutions.

▲ Welsh and Celtic Studies

Aberystwyth offers unique opportunities for its students to learn Breton, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh – from beginners to confident and fluent speakers. Aberystwyth is the home of Professional Welsh, and this sector-leading scheme is popular with students and employers who seek a 'gold standard' in the language.



Choosing your degree



When you start looking at universities, you're going to hear a lot of unfamiliar terms, even about the kind of degree you might want to study or the 'path' you want to go on.

At Aberystwyth, we offer all kinds of degrees, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. You can study full or part-time, and you can also study two subjects as part of the same degree, with equal or different focus on each. You can spend a year working in industry for the kind of employer you might go on to have a career with, and even spend a year studying at a university abroad!

▲ Single honours degrees

If you're most interested in just one subject, this might be the right path for you. A single honours degree course means you'll study just one subject, like Biology or History, and graduate in it, usually after three years.

▲ Combined honours degrees

Yes, you guessed it! A combined honours degree will see you studying two subjects. They don't necessarily have to be related or even from the same discipline! It's a great way to expose yourself to more and different types of knowledge, ways of learning and of thinking about the world.

You can study each subject equally (joint honours), or you can choose to focus more on one (your 'major') than the other (your 'minor'). Combined honours degrees are designed to be flexible, so throughout your course you'll be able to decide for yourself how it is structured.

▲ Single honours with integrated year of foundation study

Our single honours with integrated year of foundation study courses are a great route into subjects you're passionate about, but have less experience in. They're perfect if you want to change direction from what you've studied at school or college, or if you didn't quite get the grades you were hoping for when you left.

Studying at university is completely different from school and sixth form - many students find themselves much better suited to the independent learning and critical thinking that university demands, and taking a foundation year is a great way to bridge the gap!

▲ Integrated year in industry / study abroad

Some of our degrees give you the chance to spend a year working for a company in the industry your degree is focused on, or study at one of our many partnered universities globally. This is a great opportunity to get some practical experience, to see if a particular type of work is for you, to start making professional contacts, or to immerse yourself in another culture.

An integrated year in industry / studying abroad turns your degree into a four-year programme. Our students come back from their year in industry / study abroad refreshed, newly focused and inspired to take the next steps on their academic and professional journeys.

The department made sure we were ready for working in industry by hosting many events aimed at practising applications, assessment centres and picking up skills. They also encourage students to do a placement year in industry - I worked at the Walt Disney Company Europe headquarters in London!

Natalia Miller, Computer Science



Why study through the medium of Welsh?

99% of graduates who studied in Welsh were in employment or further study just 6 months after graduation.*



There is demand for young professionals who can work bilingually, and salaries for such roles are higher on average.



We offer a range of scholarships for students studying in Welsh.

*HESA, 2018



Scholarships and Bursaries

Financial Support at University

Scholarships and Bursaries provide additional funding that you can use to support with the cost of living and studying at a university.

If your student loan doesn't cover your university costs, you may be eligible to apply for any scholarship that Aberystwyth University offers. You don't have to pay a scholarship or bursary back to the University; it is funding awarded to you based on your eligibility.

At Aberystwyth, we offer a generous package of scholarships and bursaries worth thousands of pounds to support our students with their living costs. We offer a range of financial support including academic awards, subject-specific awards and scholarships for sporting and musical achievement, support for care-leavers,

young carers and estranged students. We also offer scholarships for students who wish to study all or part of their course through the medium of Welsh.

At Aberystwyth, it is possible to hold a number of awards together to make your financial package more valuable.

Please visit our website to see the full range of Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards available: www.aber.ac.uk/scholarships

Your career starts here

Your time at university is a journey of discovery and exploration where you'll learn more about yourself, future options and how these fit in with the changing world around you.

Part of this journey involves building knowledge, attributes, skills and experiences - what this means, in reality, is taking full advantage of all aspects of life at university and all it can offer you.

Make the most of your time when you aren't studying by enriching your student life - volunteer for a worthy cause or take up a part-time job as a Student Ambassador or apply for one our internship schemes.

For more Careers information, please visit: aber.ac.uk/careers

“The second I arrived in Aberystwyth for the Open Day, I fell in love with both the town and the University. The idea of spending three years living by the sea in this glorious, bustling bubble in the middle of the Welsh countryside was all so warm and friendly too and I immediately knew it was the place for me.”

Arfon Rowlands, BSc Sports and Exercise Science

Explore the world at Aberystwyth



Aberystwyth University offers an exciting range of options for you to go abroad while you are studying for your degree.

Short term study or work abroad

From your very first year at Aberystwyth, we offer short periods of study or work abroad, from three days to eight weeks. These opportunities deliver great benefits without removing you from your studies or other commitments for too long.

Study at an international partner university

At Aberystwyth you can choose degree courses which include a semester studying abroad in your second year, or an entire year studying abroad in your third year. If you choose a language degree at Aberystwyth you will spend the third year of your degree studying or working abroad. This time spent abroad will improve your fluency and confidence in the languages you choose and immerse you in the host culture.

Work abroad during your industrial year

If you choose a degree with an integrated industrial year, you can choose to do this abroad.

Hong Kong



Budapest



Sydney



Washington, DC



Support

Whether you are planning a short trip, or an entire year abroad, at Aberystwyth you have our support. The Global Opportunities team, together with the academic or industrial year coordinator in your department and Student Support team, will work with you to prepare you thoroughly for the experience. You will attend pre-departure events to make sure that you know what to expect at your destination, and that you have all your travel paperwork in order. You will also learn how to make the most of your trip and how to access help if you need it. Return workshops co-hosted with the Careers Service will help you reflect on and integrate your experiences, helping you to consider how to include your experience abroad in job applications and conversations with future employers.

Funding

Aberystwyth University's Global Opportunities team will advise you on funding available to support your time abroad. Funding is available from both UK and Welsh government schemes promoting study and work abroad. Additional funding is available for students from disadvantaged groups.

Aberystwyth's European Opportunities Fund, made possible by the very generous donation of a former student, is unique to Aberystwyth. This fund supports living and travel costs for short periods of study and work in the EU and EEA countries. All Aberystwyth students receive free travel insurance for their time abroad.

Benefits of study and work abroad

- Boost your confidence
- Enhance your communication, intercultural and interpersonal skills
- Grow your adaptability and resilience
- Increase your openness to international opportunities
- Benefit your career.



Zoe Perryman

F802 Geography with an Integrated Year Studying Abroad

Where did you go on your Global Opportunity?

University of Bergen, Norway

What was the best part about your experience? The best part of the experience was the people and the scenery, lots of lasting memories with great people in a beautiful country!

What was the most challenging aspect of the experience?

The biggest challenge for me was adjusting to new ways of teaching and grading in the university as it was different from my home department.

What three words would you use to describe your time?

Impactful, awe-inspiring, exhausting (but in a good way!)

Best piece of advice before going abroad? Throw yourself into everything and speak to everyone, you're only there for a set amount of time but the connections you make will be long lasting.



Life on campus

Moving on from school or college is huge. Moving to a new town is even bigger. That's why we built a campus that you'll want to call home.

Aberystwyth is a campus university. That means that wherever you go for your classes, our main campus, Penglais, is where you'll study and socialise, and where many of you will sleep! It doesn't matter whether you live on or off campus, though - our campus is a stone's throw from the centre of Aberystwyth and its historic seafront and some epic views.

We strive to provide everything you need for a happy and successful transition into university life, and the close-knit community that thrives at Penglais is at its heart. Penglais Campus is packed with facilities, societies and people all devoted to making your studies a success, keeping you healthy and active and ensuring your social life is exciting and vibrant.



Accommodation

Going to university is a big step, and for most students it will be your first time living away from home.

To make this transition as smooth as possible, whatever your living needs, we have something that will suit you:

- Catered and self-catered options
- Standard or en-suite rooms

We guarantee accommodation to all first-year students. While living in our accommodation, there is no need to worry about the cost of fluctuating bills, because our accommodation fee includes utilities and fibre optic broadband

and personal contents insurance. In addition, as one of our residents, you will receive a free platinum gym membership at the University's Sports Centre. The membership will give you free and unlimited access to the gym, all fitness classes, the swimming pool and saunarium.

Visit our virtual tour and explore our accommodation:
www.aber.ac.uk/virtual-tour



Study your way

University is about community, but it's also about independence. Our range of study spaces will help find the balance that's right for you.

At Aberystwyth we understand that, just as everyone learns differently, everyone studies differently too. That's why our newly refurbished Hugh Owen Library is open 24/7, offering modern study spaces to use whenever is right for you. A dedicated Physical Sciences Library is also available, along with 800 open access computers spread across campus.

We've created dynamic study spaces across the entire campus, including informal student

lounges (perfect for group work!), vending machines and comfortable seating. If you're looking for a change of scenery, you can also access the National Library of Wales' reading room, just next door to Penglais Campus.

Our Blackboard virtual learning environment gives you access to course material anywhere, anytime, and with free wifi across the entire campus, including our halls of residences, you'll always be connected!



Students' Union

Aberystwyth University Students' Union is a student-led organisation designed to support you through your entire university experience.

The Students' Union (SU) is a vital part of any university – giving students a say in how the University is run and supporting them with free, impartial and confidential advice through its dedicated representatives. But at Aberystwyth the Students' Union offers so much more besides; offering students a range of over 100 clubs and societies to connect them with like-minded members and lifelong friends.

The success of our SU is the students themselves, and during your university journey, you'll have the chance to influence the way it is run through elections and the individual societies.

And if there isn't anything for you and your friends? That's simple – the SU will give you all the tools you need to set up your own clubs and societies and help you to find your people.

Sport and fitness

Go, Team Aber! The Students' Union (SU) hosts over 100 sporting clubs and societies, meaning there's something for everyone, whether you're looking for martial arts like karate or Taekwondo, team sports like rugby and hockey, or something a little different, like street dancing, slacklining and ultimate frisbee.

If you've never thought of yourself as 'sporty' before, maybe one of our clubs can help you change your mind. SU clubs provide the perfect opportunity to pick up something new, boost your fitness, and meet people from outside of your bubble.

Team games not your thing? Our Sports Centre gives you the opportunity to train holistically, offering a gym, treadmills, a swimming pool, a

sauna and weights rooms, including a female-only option. But you don't have to go it alone - work up a sweat in HIIT, Yoga, Pilates or circuits classes, plus lots more.

Best of all, if you live in university-managed accommodation, a platinum membership to the gym (inclusive of all classes, swimming pool and sauna) is included in your rent - helping you stay fit and focused.

The best thing about studying at Aberystwyth University was trying new things out of my comfort zone, such as playing basketball for the University, and making new friends, many whom I am still friends with today.

Carys Jones, BA International Relations



Societies

The Students' Union (SU) is about bringing students together, with a particular focus on giving students from different courses and subject areas - whose paths might not otherwise cross - the chance to get to know each other.

Here are just a few of the many societies you can join:

AberPride

AberPride provides support for LGBTQ+ students, evening and sober socials, and campaigning events.



Photography Society

Acquire new skills or develop existing ones in this enthusiastic group of photographers and film-makers working with a range of technologies in workshops and location shoots.

Cartoon and Comic Society

The University's go-to place for anything related to superheroes, fandoms, cartoons and pop culture, providing regular screenings and organising movie marathons at the nearby Commodore Cinema.



Law Society

One of the oldest and largest societies at Aberystwyth, the Law Society offers networking events and textbook sales, organises law firm visits and open days and an annual Christmas Ball. Other subject societies are available!

Aberystwyth's commitment to community is felt most strongly in our SU societies. These groups are run by students and for students, and there really is something for everyone!

Bursting with culture

Interested in art, culture, music and cinema? Aberystwyth has so much to offer - and much of it can be found right on campus!



The Arts Centre

The Aberystwyth University Arts Centre is one of the largest venues of its kind in Wales, and it plays host to all kinds of artistic and cultural events year-round. Some of these, like performances put on by our Creative Arts and Drama students, support grassroots theatre and celebrate new talent. Others include touring shows by bands, artists, dancers and theatre groups.

The Centre's cosy boutique cinema even plays host to film festivals, and regularly screens cult classics.

Having an arts centre on the doorstep was such a desirable addition too - I was able to experience a multitude of brilliant touring performances from across the UK!

Melissa Vagg, BA Drama & Theatre Studies and Scenography & Theatre Design

The Arts Centre offers:

-
- live music
- comedy
- theatre
- art exhibitions
- courses
- cafés
- a boutique cinema

Performances take place in the Centre's 1,200-seat concert hall, its 300-seat theatre and the more intimate studio.



Music at Aberystwyth

Music provision at Aber is open to all students. Whatever you're studying, you can be part of a vibrant musical community.

Music provision at the University has recently entered an innovative and exciting era with the appointment of a new director, Iwan Teifion Davies, to lead the provision forward in an inclusive, exploratory and community-focused way. Music-making at Aberystwyth brings town and gown together to work in varied ways as ensembles, orchestras, concert bands and choirs as well as in smaller groups dedicated to particular instruments. The University offers rehearsal spaces and practice

rooms to students and community members, groups and musical gatherings and there are opportunities for tuition, further development and performance and production at all levels. We are also thrilled to be able to offer a range of Music Scholarships that provide the chance to practise a wide range of musical skills here in Aberystwyth and beyond. If you love music, in whatever form or fashion, we welcome you to enjoy it here with us at Aberystwyth.

More than just 'brain food'

Our restaurants and cafés offer quality, responsibly sourced food at affordable prices. We cater to all our students' dietary needs, offering a wide range of vegetarian, vegan, halal and kosher meals, as well as options for students with food allergies and intolerances.

You can grab a Starbucks at several of our outlets, pick up snacks and treats at the Students' Union (SU) shop or sit down to eat at the Arts Centre, IBERBach or in the SU's own Nosh Da café.

And because university life is about more than just academic learning, we've put together a range of flexible meal plans that will help you learn how to budget for food shopping, maintain a healthy diet and survive on more than just pasta and pesto!

We've worked hard to make our food and drink concessions as ethical and sustainable as possible. Thanks to our University-wide campaign, Aberystwyth was the first university in the world to earn plastic-free status for all its

outlets! We continue to work hard to find and develop new initiatives to minimise our impact on the environment.

All our students get 10% off food and hot drinks across all our outlets, and we offer a loyalty card for extra discounts too. You can pre-load money onto your student card - a great way to help manage that budget!), using our very own app to load and monitor credit.



Maybe you're too busy to cook?

No problem - Nosh Da even delivers to all campus halls of residence!



Well-being is the centre of our world

We're committed to making sure everyone feels welcome, safe and supported to participate in all parts of university life. It's part of our mission statement to deliver inspirational education and research in a supportive environment, and we strive to treat the needs of all our students seriously and sensitively.



▲ Accessibility

Our accessibility advisers are committed to helping students with disabilities and learning differences. When considering what course to apply for, try to think about any elements that might present particular difficulties, or contact the department directly to ask if there's anything you're unsure about. Our accessibility advisers can help you with this too – just let us know how we can help you.

If possible, we recommend that you visit both Penglais Campus and your chosen department to find out about the support that might be available. Our team of accessibility advisers will be happy to help you at any stage during your application, and they can also:

- discuss a study needs assessment
- give advice on grants, like the Disabled Students' Allowance or DSA
- arrange one-to-one study skills training and support workers
- provide additional help and support for care leavers.

▲ Peer mentoring

'Signpost' is our friendly and confidential scheme open to all new undergraduates, offering one-to-one advice to help you settle into university life.

▲ Nightline

Our independent listening service, Nightline, is our confidential helpline, email and instant messaging service, run by a team of trained students who can point you to useful services and resources – or just be there to listen.

▲ Applying to university

Finally, our well-being support isn't limited to our existing students. We also want to help prospective students from all backgrounds feel welcome and supported, which is why we encourage you to contact our Admissions team if you need help with your university application.

They'll be able to help explain the admissions process in more detail and explain the requirements and criteria for applications to our courses.

Applying to university can be a very daunting prospect, but we're here to help! Contact ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk for more information.





Learning that lasts a lifetime

When you're deciding which university to go to, it's only natural to focus on the subject(s) you want to get a degree in. But don't forget – universities can offer so much more!

You might call this extra-curricular learning; some say it's 'holistic'. But at Aberystwyth, we call it Lifelong Learning. After all, do we ever really stop learning?

Lifelong Learning courses can be studied in addition to your degree, offering higher education accredited courses that might complement your study, or take you in a new direction completely – giving you both a break and a fresh perspective.

▲ We offer additional courses in subjects like:

- Art and design
- Ecology and Conservation
- Photography
- Psychology

You can even earn a new language, including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish!

Many of our Lifelong Learning courses are offered free of charge, and others are available to our students at low rates. These courses can mark you out as an individual, give you the edge over your competitors when applying for jobs, and open your mind to whole new ways of looking at the world.

Aberystwyth – A Location Like No Other

Aberystwyth is the perfect place to study, have fun and make friends for life. The town is only a short walk downhill from Penglais Campus and it brings everything you need for student life together in one place, all with a view of the historic seaside town.

The Great Outdoors

From hiking to surfing, from mountain climbing to wind boarding, Aberystwyth is your place to try something new or to continue a hobby that you already enjoy.

Explore our culture and heritage

There are several sites of historical interest in the heart of Aberystwyth. Located in the centre of Aberystwyth is the medieval castle ruins, and nearby is the Iron Age hillfort of Pen Dinas which is the perfect spot to see Aberystwyth from a different angle and to catch some breath-taking sunsets.

Browse our indie shops

At Aberystwyth, we are proud of our strong community of indie shops and pop-ups. Wander through our town to discover art galleries, vintage clothing and incense-filled trinket shops.

Be part of the best student experience

Whether you want to dance the night away to the latest pop hits, catch a band / artist at an intimate gig or be entertained at a comedy gig, you can craft your perfect night in Aberystwyth.



Applying

1

Discover

You can learn all sorts of information about courses, accommodation, costs and university life in general on our website and in this guide. If you want to learn about university from the perspective of students, try online forums like The Student Room.

2

Visit

Why not come along to an Open Day? Here you'll get to check out the University and the town for yourself. You'll meet lecturers, students and see all our amazing facilities, giving you a taste of what it might be like to spend the next few years here!

3

Apply

Once you know what you want to study, you can apply to us through UCAS. Just make sure you get your application in before the deadline.

4

Get ready

If you're invited to an interview, you'll find out from us via email. All the information about how to get here, what will happen and what you'll need to bring will be in the email, so you can focus on making the right impression.

5

Wait

We know it's tough, but once you've reached this stage, it's a waiting game. Admissions teams up and down the country work hard to process your applications as quickly as possible, and you'll be notified of any decisions through UCAS Track. Hang tight!

6

Decide

Once you've received responses from your chosen universities, you need to pick a 'firm' and an 'insurance' university. Your firm choice is the one you'll go to if you get the necessary grades. This is the perfect time to attend an Applicant Visiting Day, especially if you haven't been to campus before. You're going to love it!

7

Results

It's a big day, but hopefully you'll get the grades you need. Check UCAS Track to see whether you've been accepted by either of your final choices, but if you haven't, don't panic. Now is the time to get in touch with us, as we may have spaces available on similar programmes through Clearing.

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Arrive

Well done - getting into university is a huge step! Arrival can be a bit disorienting: you have to move in to your accommodation, enrol on your course and make new friends! But don't worry, our staff and students are here to guide you every step of the way, and during Freshers' Week you'll be able to learn more about clubs and societies, find your way around campus and settle into this exciting new chapter of your life.

Making a statement

When you apply to university, you'll have to write a personal statement. UCAS asks for 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text – this is roughly 600 words. This might sound like a lot, and it could be the first time you've written something like this, so it's a great idea to plan ahead!

1 You only write one personal statement, which gets sent to all the universities you're applying to, so don't mention a particular university by name.

2 Find out about the courses you're applying for: use information from websites, prospectuses and official social media accounts to find out what qualities universities want from you.

3 Ask yourself: how have your most recent studies prepared you for the course? What do you want to get out of studying for a degree?

4 What else makes you a good candidate for university? Think about jobs, placements, work experience, volunteering, and even your hobbies and interests.

5 Get specific: don't waste words making general statements that could apply to anyone, or using 'business-speak'. Give real examples from your life.

6 Make your points quickly and clearly, and don't repeat yourself.

7 Think about the essays you write now: the best ones always have an introduction and a conclusion, and are well-structured in between. Use your conclusion to reinforce your application, not just to summarise it.

Do's

Show you're interested

Don't just describe a course, tell us why you want to study it! Admissions tutors love enthusiasm.



Give yourself plenty of time

Set some deadlines for drafts way ahead of the last date to apply. Once you have your ideas down it'll all feel much more manageable!



Check, check and check again

When you've finished, wait a day or so, then go back and read it again. Read it aloud, read it on paper, and ask friends and family to help spot typos and any bits that don't make sense.

Dont's

Lie

It Honesty is the best policy.



Copy

The first rule of university is that all your work has to be your own. Start with your statement – remember, it's supposed to be personal!



Panic

This might be your first time applying for something formally. But don't worry – Admissions teams understand this, and we've all been there! Plan what you want to say, be proud of yourself and stay positive.





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