

Information Studies



- Coastal, campus university
- Guaranteed first year accommodation
- Bursaries and scholarships valued at up to £3,600 available for competition
- One of the largest venues for the arts in Wales, with its own theatre, cinema and galleries on campus
- Excellent sports facilities
- The National Library of Wales, one of the top European libraries, is a priceless resource for students at Aberystwyth
- Safe and friendly place to study



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Why choose to study with us?

- We are one of the world's leading providers of information and library studies courses.
- The Department's employability rate for its graduates is second to none and demand is increasing for people with the knowledge and skills we teach.
- We have been established for over forty years and many of our graduates are now in leading positions throughout the United Kingdom and internationally.
- Our programmes are professionally accredited by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). Your degree will have national and international recognition.
- We care and can offer a genuinely supportive and progressive place to learn.
- Aberystwyth has been voted in the top five of UK universities in the National Student Satisfaction Survey.
- We enjoy a stunning, coastal location, opening up opportunities to pursue diverse interests alongside your studies.
- We offer a wide range of programmes including courses for those interested in library work as well as those looking to become managers in the emerging 'information society'.
- We also offer joint honours programmes, giving you the chance to combine our programme with other subjects to allow you to continue with more than one subject at university.
- Aberystwyth is home to one of the UK's five copyright libraries: The National Library of Wales. A wonderful resource for information studies students, on our own doorstep.



Information Studies: Where can it take you?

Are you interested in:

People?

Working in an information related field is first and foremost about enabling people to get access to the information they need. How? By helping people to become 'information-rich' be it through help and advice in a public library, access to rare and precious materials in a special library or archive, or through the development of online or digitised resources. Our graduates work in a range of professions, including the traditional library setting, in archives or museums, the media, or the corporate business environment. In all these contexts, it is about getting the right information to the right people at the right time to help make things happen.

Technology?

The Internet and the web have revolutionised access to information: how it is stored, retrieved, accessed, evaluated, and put to good use. The different users and uses of information have increased the careers available to information professionals. Technology is one of the key tools wielded by today's information professionals.

Information?

Do you like problem solving? Researching? Using the Internet? Books and reading?

If yes is the answer to these, then have a look at the sort of career opportunities a degree in information studies can give you ...

You will see from the diagram above that there is a wide variety of careers available to our graduates. You may want a career as a professional librarian or information manager or perhaps plan to pursue further postgraduate studies to enable you to become a professional archivist or records manager. There are various posts in these professions ranging from public library work, supporting local communities, to large university libraries or copyright libraries which look after vast collections of material. There are more specialist information collections: medical, legal, governmental and corporate.

Libraries continue to help people grow and gain access to life opportunities and if you become a professional librarian, you will be part of a progressive, enabling service for people of all ages and backgrounds. Our Information and Library Studies courses



include the study of the relationship between information and society. Libraries are not just somewhere to go and relax, they are fundamentally about learning and in as much, about individual growth and development.

'The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history.'

Carl T. Rowan, American journalist

It may be that you are interested in working for a business organisation, helping as a professional information manager, an increasingly important role in any organisation's decision making and product development activities.

'I've had great fun managing information in different sectors. The subjects I'm dealing with and the types of customers have changed, but my portfolio of technical information skills and approaches to encouragement of knowledge management have added value everywhere.'

'One of the most valuable elements of my library and information studies was that it taught me how to find answers from the widest possible range of sources. I use this skill not only to answer enquiries from other people, but also to find out things to help me in my own work and professional development. It's important to remember that what seems an obvious way of reaching a solution to someone trained as an information manager is often enlightening to another person.'

'I've never regretted choosing to do a vocational degree at the start of my career. It gave me practical technical skills, and enhanced communication skills which have stood me in good stead in a variety of different roles. It also gave me a good overview of the world I'd be moving into as an information professional, and some valuable contacts which I still have many years later.'

I've enjoyed the wide variety of work I've been involved in to date, and the range of people I've worked with. As an information professional I've had glimpses of the front line activities and back room working of major successful organisations, as well as been involved in top level management.'

Gwenda Sippings, Information Consultant and graduate of the Department

'The one thing I often say to people is that I think I occupy 'the best job in Wales': one couldn't wish to have a more varied and consistently interesting set of tasks, or to work with a more variously talented group of people, or to see so much of the world. Without the professional start I was given in [in the Department] none of this would have been possible.'

Andrew Green, National Librarian Wales and graduate of the Department

Since the early 1990s, the world has experienced an information revolution. The web and new technologies mean that information is more accessible to more people than at any other time in human history. In fact, the problem is no longer one of not enough information being available, but one of too much information being available. New skills are needed to evaluate information: Can it be trusted? What is its source? Is it reliable? Is it important or just 'noise'? Our courses tackle these topical problems, with the aim that our graduates will take these invaluable skills into their future careers. Perhaps the increasing importance of these skills to employers accounts for our impressive careers statistics in the most recent Career Destination reports:

- More Aberystwyth Information Studies graduates (93%) entered work or further study within six months of graduation than graduates from all disciplines nationally
- More Aberystwyth first degree Information Studies graduates (72%) entered into employment within six months of graduation, into a 'graduate' role, compared with first degree Information Studies graduates nationally.

Hopefully we have given you some idea about where a degree in one of our programmes can take you. Of course, in the first instance, if you decide to come and study with us, it will take you to Aberystwyth ...

What is Aberystwyth like as a place to live and study?

'There are so many advantages in choosing to spend three years here. The people, the sea, the scenery and the atmosphere all combine to give you a cracking university experience'

The Guardian University Guide

Aberystwyth is a great place to come and study but don't just take our word for it. We have consistently scored highly in Student Satisfaction league tables. Here's mention of some of the most recent surveys:

- Aberystwyth University received the highest score in the UK for student satisfaction in *The Times Good University Guide 2008*
- In June 2007 a study of 34,000 student reviews by the *accommodationforstudents.com* website concluded that Aberystwyth is the UK's favourite university town.
- In the most recent *National Student Survey*, Aberystwyth had the highest level of student satisfaction in Wales (August 2007)
- We were also in the top ten in *The Good University Guide, 2007*

Part of what makes Aberystwyth so special is its physical beauty. The University is set in unspoilt countryside with a fabulous coastline and sea views. We have mountain ranges and the local beaches have consistently been awarded the EU Blue Flag for cleanliness. Just inland we have regular sightings of Red Kites and just offshore you get to see bottlenose dolphins. Then we have the stunning sunsets over Cardigan Bay. All of this generates a 'feel good' factor making Aberystwyth a happy and friendly place to be.

Aberystwyth is small (we like to think cosy) but as a tourist and university town it has lots of restaurants and places to eat and has a lively social scene.

'Friendliness and fellow-feeling fills the air and many love the cosy community atmosphere so much they have to be unglued from the campus after graduation'

The Push Guide to Which University



Accommodation

We guarantee you a place in university accommodation for your first year. That really helps with the whole process of settling into a new place. Most students actually spend two of their three years in campus accommodation. What's more, staff in the Accommodation Office will help you find private sector accommodation for the time you spend off campus.

The University offers both self catering and catered accommodation. The table below will help give you some idea about the facilities and costs (2008-2009 prices):

Self catering accommodation (Prices per week)

Twin rooms from £64.75

Single rooms from £69.10

Single en suite from £90.30

Catered accommodation (Prices per week and include prepaid meal allowance) Term time only

Twin rooms from £83.60

Single rooms from £96

All rooms are connected to the computer network and include free access to the Internet. To see the different halls of residence available visit the University's accommodation web pages:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/prospectus/accommodation/

Student life

When you need a break from your studies you will find a very active social scene at Aberystwyth which includes lots going on in the Student's Union as well as the spectacular Arts Centre located right at the heart of the Penglais Campus. It boasts a

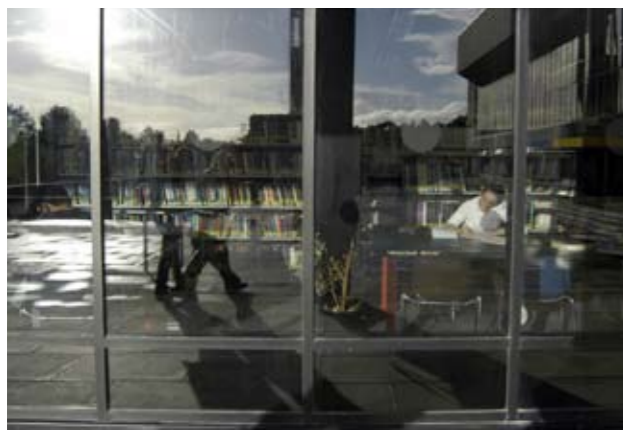
concert hall, a cinema, a theatre, galleries, cafes, bars, a bookshop and more. If you have an interest in music or amateur dramatics, you'll find opportunities for music making and thespian pursuits.

Maybe you're more interested in sports. Here is a list of the University's sports facilities:

- 48 acres of sports pitches
- specialist facilities for water sports including a boathouse
- recently refurbished indoor swimming pool
- two sports halls
- Technogym equipment
- wellness fitness suite
- free weights room
- dance studio
- all weather sand dressed floodlit hockey/football pitch
- squash courts
- an indoor five-a-side football pitch
- nine badminton courts
- two basketball courts
- one indoor hockey pitch
- three volleyball courts
- eighteen tennis courts
- an indoor climbing wall
- an equestrian centre

'Despite some national triumphs, the Aber attitude to sport is friendly and open to even the most wimpish athlete.'

The Push Guide



Academic facilities

The University has over 900 PCs for your use, many available 24/7. We have our own specialist library on the Llanbadarn Campus which houses the leading collection of materials for information and library studies in the UK. In addition to our specialist library, the University's main library holds 700,000 volumes. There's more. Aberystwyth is home to one of the UK's five copyright libraries (entitled to receive a copy of every book published in the UK): The National Library of Wales which houses over 6,000,000 published volumes, newspapers, maps and prints plus a whole host of other resources. It is right on our doorstep and a great asset for all students but especially for information studies students.

'I decided, after a twenty-year break from education, to become an undergraduate taking a BA in Historical and Archival Studies. I was very apprehensive about how I would cope after such a long break from education and how it would be to be a mature student. I was warmly welcomed into the department who have been incredibly supportive; I have never had a problem that I couldn't discuss with staff. The University has fantastic learning programmes available to enable students to develop and strengthen skills. The course is everything I could have hoped for; split between History and DIS I get to use the skills I have developed in DIS in the research that I undertake for my History modules. The location of the University is fantastic; sun, sand, sea and the National Library of Wales (a wonderful resource for students). I even get to go on a work placement as part of my third year. Aberystwyth itself is a fantastic place to live; it's fun, vibrant and friendly. There are places to go, both busy and quiet, things to see and people to meet. Deciding to come to Aberystwyth University is one of the best decisions I have ever made.'

Kate, second year student 2008

What courses do we offer?

Single honours

Information and Library Studies	P110
Information Management	P101
Historical and Archival Studies	VP31

New courses planned for 2009

Cultural Heritage Studies
Business Information Management

Joint honours - Information and Library Studies and

American Studies	PT17
Art History	PV13
Drama	PW14
Education	PX13
English	PQ13
Film and Television Studies	PW16
Fine Art	PW11
French	PR11
Geography	LP71
German	PR12
Gwyddeleg	PQC5
History	PV11
International Politics	PL12
Irish	PQD5 and PQC5
Museum and Gallery Studies	P102
Politics	PLC2
Spanish	PR14
Welsh History	PVC2
Welsh/Cymraeg	PQ15

Information Management major with

Accounting and Finance	P1N4
Business and Management	P1N1
Economics	P1L1
International Politics	L2P1
Marketing	P1N5

Information Management minor with

Accounting and Finance	N4P1
Business and Management	N1P1
International Politics	L2P1
Marketing	N5P1

Course structure explained

Our degrees are modular. A module is a self contained block of study. Your degree is made up of individual modules which have a credit weighting, typically 10 or 20 credits. A module is assessed as soon as it is completed and that way you accumulate credit towards your final degree. Each programme has modules you are required to complete and these are called core modules. Most schemes also include optional modules, giving you some choice over the subjects you will study. A list is included below of the modules currently offered by the Department. To see which modules are studied for a particular degree, refer to the charts provided which illustrate the content of each of our programmes. Of course, new modules are introduced and others withdrawn, so the most up to date information on our schemes can be found on the University's website at:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/schemes/current/dis.html>

Modules: The building blocks for your degree

Here are the modules that we currently offer:

IL10110	Foundations of Information Studies
IL10720	Computers: Tools for an information age
IL11510	Skills for Information Studies
IL10210	Effective Communication
IL10920	Introduction to Information Retrieval
IL11020	Using Information
IL11120	The Archival Inheritance
IL11420	Database Design and Management
IL30510	Collection Management
IL31620	Information Retrieval
IL31820	Information Sources: Evaluation, use and access to information
IL33320	Research Methodology
IL31320	Information and Society
IL34020	Information Literacy
IL30720	Work Placement
IL32410	Management Information Systems
IL32820	Knowledge Management
IL32520	Management of Organisations
IL32620	Marketing of Services
IL33010	Business Systems Analysis

IL33610	Strategic Development of Information Systems
IL35120	Records Management in an Electronic Age
IL34220	Quantitative Methods for Decision Makers
IL34320	Archive Management
IL30620	Dissertation
IL35320	Web Design and Information Architecture
IL35420	Publishing and Web 2.0

Detail on the curriculum and assessment of our modules can be found on the Department's website at:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/modules/current/dis.html>



Here are the degree programmes we offer

Information and Library Studies - P110

'Books constitute capital. A library book lasts as long as a house, for hundreds of years. It is not, then, an article of mere consumption but fairly of capital, and often in the case of professional men, setting out in life, it is their only capital'

Thomas Jefferson

You may have had the opportunity to work in a library and realised that librarians are professionals requiring a professional qualification, in the same way that teachers, solicitors and doctors are professionals. This degree programme is for you if you would like to become a professional librarian.

Your first year studies lay the foundations for more specialised study in your second and third years. First year modules survey the world of information. You will learn about who produces information and distributes it: authors, creators, publishers and the mass media. You will consider the different formats for information: printed and digital. You will learn about the needs of different users of information: readers, listeners, viewers. And of course there are all the skills involved in understanding how information is stored and retrieved. Throughout this year your studies embrace the new technologies that are needed by today's information professionals.

In your second and third years of study you will study general principles of management and develop an understanding of how these are applied to the organisation of libraries and information services. You will learn more about the design and use of systems for information storage and retrieval, information sources and information services. We offer a wide range of optional modules which allow you to pursue topics that may be of special interest to you.

Structure and content

Here are the modules you would study:

First year

IL10720 Computers: tools for an information age
IL11720 Social Context for Information Studies
IL11510 Skills for Information Studies
IL10210 Effective Communication
IL11620 Foundations of Information Studies

Plus 40 credits worth of options which could include:

IL11120 The Archival Inheritance
IL11420 Database Design and Management

Second Year

IL30510 Collection Management
IL31620 Information Retrieval
IL33320 Research Methodology
IL34020 Information Literacy
IL31320 Information and Society
IL31820 Information Sources: access, use and evaluation

Plus a 10 credit option module

Third Year

IL30620 Dissertation
IL30720 Work Placement
IL32520 Management of Organisations
IL32620 Marketing of Services

Plus 40 credits worth of option modules



Information Management - P101

'Information technology and business are becoming inextricably interwoven. I don't think anybody can talk meaningfully about one without talking about the other'

Bill Gates

Understanding the importance of information, how it is used, stored, accessed, evaluated, and made to work for an organisation is the purpose of this degree scheme. You will learn about the various business environments in which information professionals work. You will have to learn about the legal and financial aspects of working in a corporate environment and be able to embrace new technologies.



Structure and content

Here are the modules you would study:

First year

IL10110 Foundations of Information Studies
IL10720 Computers: tools for an information age
LA15710 Foundation of Law
MM11420 Managing Finance
IL11510 Skills for Information Studies
IL10210 Effective Communication
IL11620 Foundations of Information Retrieval

Plus 20 credits of options which could include:

IL11420 Database Design and Management

Second Year

IL31620 Information Retrieval
IL32410 Management Information Systems
IL33320 Research Methodology
IL34020 Information Literacy
IL31820 Information Sources: access, use and evaluation
IL32820 Knowledge Management

Plus a 10 credit option module

Third Year

IL30620 Dissertation
IL30720 Work Placement
IL32520 Management of Organisations
IL33010 Business Systems Analysis
IL32620 Marketing of Services
IL33610 Strategic Development of Information Systems
IL35120 Records Management in an Electronic Age

Historical and Archival Studies - VP31

Domesday Book

'At over 900 years old, Domesday is the earliest surviving public record and the foundation document of the National Archives. It is also the starting point for most local historians researching the history of their area.

At Christmas 1085 William the Conqueror ordered a great survey of land holding in England. This recorded who owned or lived on the land, what livestock they kept, how much the land was worth, and what taxes were owed to the Crown. It was nicknamed 'Domesday' by the native English, after God's final Day of Judgement when every soul would be judged and the verdict written in a book, with no right of appeal!

National Archives collection

This degree programme brings together the absorbing subject of history and how history is studied alongside the fascinating skills and knowledge of archivists. It is designed for students who are interested in both the study of history and the management and use of archives and records. There is a good balance between historical studies and those that focus on archives and records and the wider 'information world'. Course work takes different forms as appropriate for different subjects and purposes, and you can look forward to a short 'work placement' in the third year, for which your tutors will help you to find an interesting host organisation. Opportunities for a 'year in employment' may also be explored, and there are valuable opportunities for study visits to organisations such as the National Library of Wales, Ceredigion Archives, and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, all of which hold significant collections of archives and records and make them available for public use.

This course opens up opportunities to develop a career within a cultural organisation or in a position which includes an aspect of record keeping, but if you are thinking about becoming a professional archivist or records manager, it will provide great insight into these fields and be a useful qualification from which to go on to study for a professional postgraduate qualification.

The Sinking of the Titanic: Telegram sent

The Russian East Asiatic S.S. Go. Radio-Telegram. S.S * Birma*.

B2 Words. Origin Station Time handed in. Via Remarks

to	Origin Station	Time handed in.	Via	Remarks
	Titanic	about 1:40am		

C/O SOS SOS CQD cqd - MGY

We are sinking fast passengers being put into boats

MGY

National Archives collection

You will spend half of your time studying with the Department of Information Studies and half with the Department of History and Welsh History. Details of the curriculum for this course are provided below.

Structure and content

Here are the modules you would study:

First year:

IL11120 The Archival Inheritance (core)

Plus 40 credits of options from:

IL10720 Computers: tools for an information age

IL11510 Skills for Information Studies

IL11620 Foundations of Information Retrieval

IL10110 Foundations of Information Studies OR

IL11720 Social Context of Information Studies

Plus 60 credits from History and Welsh History

Second Year

IL34320 Archive Management (semester 1) or IL35120 Records Management (semester 2)

IL31320 Information and Society

Plus 20 credits of option modules



There are then two possible pathways through the History modules that you may take (please note that options from History and Welsh History are subject to change):

Pathway A

HY30020 Historians and the Writing of History

Plus one module from:

HY31220 Sport, Leisure and Popular Culture in Britain since 1850

HY31720 Mass Politics in Modern Europe 1789-1945

HY32020 The British Isles in the Long Eighteenth Century

Plus one module from:

HA33320 Hanes Ar Y Teledu

HY32520 Oral History: The Past in the Present

HY32620 Researching with Letters and Diaries

HY32720 Investigating Georgian and Victorian Landscapes

HY32820 Myth and History in the Viking Age: Saga and Society in Medieval Iceland

HY32920 Images of Stalinism

HY33420 History as Myth-Making: The 'Myth of the Blitz'

HY34320 History in Cartoons: Studying Georgian Satirical Prints

HY34520 History's Mysteries: The 'Amateur' & 'Academic' Historian

HY34620 Exploring Nineteenth-Century Exhibitions

HY34720 The Sound of History: The Civil Rights Movement in Post-War America

HY34820 Early Modernity in Film



Pathway B

HY30510 Historians and the Writing of History 1 OR

HY30610 Historians and the Writing of History 1B

Plus one module from:

HY31220 Sport, Leisure and Popular Culture in Britain since 1850

HY31720 Mass Politics in Modern Europe 1789-1945

HY32020 The British Isles in the Long Eighteenth Century

Plus one module from:

HC35230 Twf Cymdeithas Drefol: Cymru 1750 – 2000

HY35330 Profit, Piety and Power in Western Europe, C.1090-C.1220

HY36330 The Rise and Fall of a Protestant Nation: Ireland 1750-1801

HY36430 The British Town 1349-1700

HY36830 Women and Gender in Britain C 1800 - C 1950

HY38230 Weimar Germany: Making and Breaking of German Democracy, 1914-1933

HY38430 Great Britain and the US: 1850 to the Present: Comparative History

WH35230 The Growth of an Urban Society: Wales 1750-2000

HA36830 Menywod A'r Berthynas Rhwng Y Rhywiaw Ym Mhrydain C1800-C1950

HC32130 Gwrthdaro A Chydfodolaeth - Y Normaniaid Hyd Owain Glyn Dwr

HC33130 Cymru A'r Tuduriaid 1530-1603

HY36230 The British Isles and the 'English' Revolution

HY37930 Enterprise: The History of Business Since 1850

HY38630 Founding of Mod America: Sectionalism and Social Change 1850-1900

HY38930 Paris in Turmoil: 1830-1871

WH33130 Wales under the Tudors

WH34230 National Identities in the British Isles 1801-1914

WH36130 Civil War and Revolution in Stuart Wales, 1603-1714

Third Year

- IL30720 Work Placement
 IL33920 Local History in Wales: sources and services
 IL34320 Archive Management (semester 1)
 or
 IL35120 Records Management in an Electronic Age (semester 2)

There are then two possible pathways through the History modules that you may take (please note that options from History and Welsh History are subject to change):

Pathway A

Two modules chosen from:

- HY30130 Dissertation
 HY30230 Special Subject
 A 30 credit option module

Pathway B

- HY30410 General Historical Problems
 HY30130 Dissertation
 or
 HY30230 Special Subject

Plus one module from:

- HY31220 Sport, Leisure and Popular Culture in Britain since 1850
 HY31720 Mass Politics in Modern Europe 1789-1945
 HY32020 The British Isles in the Long Eighteenth Century



Joint honours degree programmes

If you decide to study for a joint honours degree programme this means you will study two distinct subjects and spend half your time on each subject. This provides the opportunity to still study what are considered core aspects of the information and library studies course, alongside another subject which you may already enjoy studying and want to continue studying. It is currently possible to combine Information and Library Studies with one of nineteen other arts and social science subjects. Our joint honours programmes are professionally recognised by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) which means that if you decide to pursue a career as a professional librarian, you can. The core subjects that you would study with us are detailed below.

Structure and content of Information and Library Studies joint degree programme

Here are the modules you would study:

First year

- IL10110 Foundations of Information Studies
 IL10720 Computers: tools for an information age
 IL10210 Effective Communication
 IL11620 Foundations of Information Retrieval

Plus 60 credits of modules from your chosen second subject

Second Year

- IL31620 Information Retrieval
 IL31320 Information and Society
 IL31820 Information Sources: evaluation, use and access to information

Plus 60 credits from your chosen second subject

**Third Year**

- IL30720 Work Placement
 IL32520 Management of Organisations
 IL34020 Information Literacy

Plus 60 credits of modules from your chosen second subject

Major / Minor degree programmes

There is a third way in which you can combine two main subjects of study and that is by opting to take Information Management as either a Major or Minor combined with another subject. In recognition that knowledge and skills concerning the management of information is increasingly important in business organisations, there are four business related subjects available as a minor. They are: Accounting and Finance, Business and Management, Economics, and Marketing. If you opt to study a major with us, you will spend two thirds of your time studying Information Management and the remaining one third on your chosen minor subject.

It is also possible to combine Information Management major with International Politics minor.

Structure and content of Information Management Major degree programme

Here are the modules you would study:

First year

- IL10110 Foundations of Information Studies
 IL10720 Computers: tools for an information age
 IL11510 Skills for Information Studies
 LA15710 Foundation of Law
 IL10210 Effective Communication
 IL11620 Foundations of Information Retrieval

Plus 40 credits of modules from your chosen second subject

New schemes planned for 2009

The Department is planning two new schemes: Cultural Heritage Studies and Business Information Management. Once approved, further details will be available on our website.

Second Year

- IL31620 Information Retrieval
 IL34020 Information Literacy
 IL31820 Information Sources: evaluation, use and access to information
 IL32410 Management Information Systems OR IL33010 Business Systems Analysis

Plus 10 credit option and 40 credits of modules from your chosen second subject

Third Year

- IL33320 Research Methodology
 IL32520 Management of Organisations
 IL32820 Knowledge Management
 IL35120 Records Management in an Information Age

Plus 40 credits of modules from your chosen second subject

The proportions of Major and Minor can be reversed so that you spend one third of your time studying Information Management and two thirds on your chosen second subject taken from the following options: Accounting and Finance, Business and Management, Marketing and International Politics.

Course delivery – How do we teach and how do you learn?

The Department's philosophy is to offer student-centred learning whereby you take an active role in your learning rather than sitting in a class and hoping to absorb knowledge passively. We combine traditional and innovative teaching methods so you will attend lectures and seminars but also be involved in peer assessment, group work, study visits and draw upon the Department's wealth of open learning materials. We have white boards and PowerPoint - with which you may already be familiar - but also electronic conferencing, an interactive virtual learning environment (VLE) and web-assisted learning.

Of course, if you decide to apply for one of our courses, you have chosen a vocational degree programme and we strive to make our courses practical and relevant to the real life work situations you will face in your graduate career. So, as well as being taught by the Department's staff, our courses include lectures by guest speakers who have established careers in the information world. They help to give practical context to your academic studies. Behind the practical and professional aspects of your studies, you will also find intellectually stimulating ideas, philosophies and concepts and you will be taught research skills and problem solving, helping you to develop use of your mind to think as well as to do.

Most of our students complete a Work Placement module at the end of their second year. In this, you spend a month in a relevant organisation. This helps consolidate what you have already learnt about the requirements of an information professional. It teaches you many new things as well, out of the classroom situation and in a professional environment. Here is one student's thoughts on his recent work placement experience:

'I undertook my work placement at the Media Archive for Central England (MACE). MACE is one of eight publicly funded regional film archives in the United Kingdom. Over the four weeks, I was involved in a wide variety of tasks that made up the day-to-day running of the archive. My placement hosts were pleased with my progress and asked if I would mind staying on an extra week to help with a special cataloguing project. This was another opportunity to gain yet more experience in this sector.'

Overall, I found my placement a very rewarding experience. It helped to put much of what I had learnt during the course in context, and see how it applied to a real life scenario and work situation. It also helped me to decide that this was the kind of work I would like to become involved with upon graduating.'

Adam Hartwell

Single Honours Information and Library Studies

The University also offers all students the opportunity to take a year out of their studies and participate in a year of relevant employment. The University has staff to help you find an appropriate placement. This is what they say about the scheme:

'The Year in Employment Scheme is an excellent opportunity to undertake a year's work experience ... to develop skills, make yourself more employable to future employers and gain invaluable life experience. Students reading any subject may apply for employment in any field in which they wish to gain experience - in the UK or abroad.'

One of our former students spent his Year in Employment helping to establish a library in a village in Nepal; another of our students worked as a House of Lords researcher. The Year in Employment Scheme is optional and if taken comes at the end of your second year of studies. You then return after your placement to complete your final year. Whilst working you can expect to receive a salary and will not be liable to pay university fees.

We have a broad range of assessment methods which include traditional examinations, essays, reports, special projects, presentations, group work and relevant practical tasks. All assignments for your second and third year modules count towards your final degree, enabling you to gradually accumulate credits. The Department offers a popular module which helps develop and refine your study skills helping you to adapt to the new learning requirements of a university. The University also has a professional team of staff in its Language and Learning Centre available to help with crucial learning skills, so help is always at hand, should you need it.

Practicalities

Financing your studies

Details about the University's tuition fees can be found on our website at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/prospectus/finance

To help with the costs of your higher education, the University has a comprehensive range of bursaries and scholarships available. As a student applying for one of the courses offered by the Department of Information Studies, you are eligible to apply for the following:

- **The University's Entrance Scholarship or Merit Award** - These awards are based on performance in examinations held in early February of the year of entry to the University. These scholarships can be worth up to £3,600. Full details can be found on these pages: www.aber.ac.uk/en/scholarships/scholarships.php
- **Welsh National Bursary and an Aberystwyth Bursary** - If your residual household income is £39,300 (this figure is subject to change but correct as of March 2008), you will receive a bursary towards your living costs. Full details of these bursary schemes can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/scholarships/aber-bursaries.php
- **Residential Bursary** - To ensure that all students, irrespective of means, benefit from the unique learning environment offered by Aberystwyth University, the University is offering a £500 discount from the relevant first year residential fee. For further details on this scheme see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/scholarships/residential-bursaries
- **Music Bursary** - These are open to students who hold any kind of offer and are intended for experienced players of orchestral instruments who can actively contribute to the University's wide range of orchestras, bands etc. They are awarded on the basis of competitive audition. Further details are available from: www.aber.ac.uk/en/scholarships/music



Useful web links:

University web site :
www.aber.ac.uk/

Department of Information Studies web site:
www.dis.aber.ac.uk/

University life videos:
www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/student-life

Department of History and Welsh History:
www.aber.ac.uk/history

University Accommodation Office:
www.aber.ac.uk/residential/en/accommodation

University guidance on finance related issues:
www.aber.ac.uk/en/prospectus/finance/

University Schemes Database:
www.aber.ac.uk/en/study-schemes/

University Modules Database:
www.aber.ac.uk/en/modules/

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals:
www.cilip.org.uk

The National Library of Wales:
www.llgc.org.uk/

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales:
hwww.rcahmw.gov.uk/

Admissions and Department contact details

If you still have a query you are welcome to contact us. Give us a call, send us an e-mail or write to:

Tel: 01970 622188

E-mail: dis-dept@aber.ac.uk

Mail: Department of Information Studies
Aberystwyth University
Llanbadarn Campus
Llanbadarn Fawr
SY23 3AS

If you would like to apply for one of the undergraduate courses, you will need to apply through UCAS. Applications can be made from the September of the year before you intend to start at university. There are no required subjects at A level for study of our programmes but there may be requirements for joint honours combinations.

We also welcome applications from mature students and applications from students with other educational qualifications and from overseas.

We organise Visiting Days each year when you can come and meet us, some of our students and check out Aberystwyth as a place to come and live and study.

Staff in the University's Undergraduate Admissions Office are also available to help with any queries you may have and they can be contacted by e-mail or phone:

E-mail: ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 1970 622021



- Flexible choice for students
- Exceptional support for student learning
- Coastal, campus University
- Guaranteed first year accommodation
- Bursaries and Entrance Scholarships valued at up to £3,600 available
- Excellent sports facilities
- Access to The National Library of Wales
- Vibrant student life

For further information and application forms please contact:

Recruitment & Marketing,
Aberystwyth University,
Old College, King Street,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AX
Tel: 01970 622065
Fax: 01970 621554
Email: marketing@aber.ac.uk