

Tyler Keevil - MA Creative Writing



Q. Why did you choose to come to Aberystwyth?

A. I'd visited Aberystwyth before and was impressed with the coastal location, as well as the energy of the town. In addition, the MA course Aber offers in Creative Writing was exactly what I was looking for.

Q. Impressions of Aberystwyth - the University, the town etc?

A. Aberystwyth is an incredible location for a university – an isolated coastal town with great bars, a good variety of restaurants, beach access, and a laid-back atmosphere. With so many students from all over the globe, it has a very cosmopolitan feel. Just as importantly, the local people are friendly and seem genuinely happy to put up with crowds of foreign students invading their town every autumn. After my time here I feel a real affection for this country and its people.

Q. Please comment on the quality of the course, the teaching and staff within the department

At Aberystwyth, the MA in Creative Writing is taught solely by professional writers – working novelists and poets. They're both dedicated and inspirational, and I found my tutors very willing to go the extra mile in helping me with my writing and developing my craft.

Q. Please comment on the University facilities

Aberystwyth has a great Arts Centre, with an astonishing variety of international dance, theatre and cinema on offer every week. Literary launches are frequently held in the well-stocked bookshop, which in itself is a great place to kill some time.

The university also has a well-developed sports centre with various courts, fields, and surfaces. Aberystwyth is also home to the National Library of Wales, which I believe by law contains a copy of every book printed in the country – making it a great resource for research students.

Q. Would you recommend Aberystwyth to fellow Canadians?

Definitely. To me, Wales had a familiar vibe. I felt at home here. Welsh people and Canadians have more in common than I imagined. Both cultures are accustomed to living next to a larger and culturally overbearing neighbor, and have accordingly developed a fierce sense of national identity. At the same time, Welsh people are very down to earth. They share a love of sports and the outdoors, like most Canadians – and there's no shortage of adventure over here: hiking, surfing, camping, you name it.

Q. Any other comments?

I can't think of a place in the U.K. I'd rather go to university!

***Tyler is currently studying his PhD in English and Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University**