

Akari Honda - Student Profile



Akari, originally from Ibaraki, Japan, is currently in her first year of a BA in Celtic Studies at the University. Before starting her degree, she attended the English language summer school at Aberystwyth's International English Centre and completed a foundation year.

Akari is enjoying her time at Aber and is thrilled to be following her interests in folklore and fantasies through her Celtic Studies course. She has also attended the Welsh for Adults courses at the University to learn Welsh. Commenting about her experiences so far at Aberystwyth, Akari said:

"I took a 12 week English summer course before taking a foundation course last year. It was a great experience for me to join it. There were many students who came from different countries all over the world, and it was very interesting to exchange a variety of cultures with them inside and outside of the classes. Of course I was nervous on the first day of the course. But all the staff and teachers were very kind and friendly, so I could relax and enjoy the classes. There was a day trip every weekend and I could visit many attractive places such as Cardiff, Liverpool, and Chester. There were many other social events, but what I remember strongly is a BBQ on the beach of Aberystwyth. A beautiful sunset made the food even more delicious!

Aberystwyth is located in the middle of Wales. There is another official language excluding English, which is Welsh, so all of the signs are written in both English and Welsh. When I came here for the first time, I felt like I was not in the UK I was very happy when I remembered some simple greetings in Welsh and could use them.

I have read many books especially fantasies and folktales since I was a child, and I noticed that many of the European fantasies are based on the culture of the Celts. I started to have interests about them, what kind of people they were, what their history, culture and lifestyle was like. Although it is not a very popular subject even in the U.K, I decided to take Celtic Studies because it was so attractive for me.

Aberystwyth University is the best place for me to take this course because it has the highest quality in its field within the whole of the UK. Although Celtic literature and languages are the main contents of this course, you can learn Celtic culture, music, and history as well. There is a language exchange scheme, and you can study in Ireland or Brittany for one or two semesters. After I graduate from this course, I would like to have a job where I can make the Celtic culture familiar to people."