Accommodation at Aberystwyth

A guide to Student Accommodation including Residences, Facilities, Hospitality and Fees

February 2015 Edition
Welcome

Starting at university is an exciting time and we want to ensure that you find the right place to live. There are new friends to be made, new places to discover and the chance to develop many new interests. Being in university residences enables you to meet a diverse range of people from different backgrounds and cultures, on a variety of courses and you can make friends straight away.

Investing in Quality

This is an exciting time for students to join Aberystwyth University as a number of ambitious plans for future development have been announced, as well as a number of projects being recently completed. Aberystwyth University is investing over £100m in enhancing and extending our already excellent residential and teaching facilities.

They will ensure that you will benefit from world class teaching and learning facilities to ensure that you have all the skills you will require to succeed in the world of work. This represents one of the most significant investments in the University’s history. Together they will ensure that Wales's oldest university will be well placed to survive the challenges of the twenty-first century – Aberystwyth’s third century of existence.

The ambitious plans include:

• The opening of Fferm Penglais in 2015, a major new hall of residence - £45m
• A reconfiguration and refurbishment of teaching and learning facilities - £700,000
• The Redevelopment of our Llanbadarn Centre for our Institute of Management, Law and Information Science - £4.5m
• An innovation campus at Gogerddan - £35m
• A redevelopment of the prestigious Old College - £20m

The new innovation campus will significantly enhance our world class research facilities and the links with businesses.

Aberystwyth has long enjoyed a reputation for high levels of student satisfaction, excellent employability prospects and a friendly and supportive environment.

In 2013, an independent survey noted that Aberystwyth was the safest university campus in the UK, and Aberystwyth has just been recognised as the ‘Greatest’ town in the UK, winning the Academy of Urbanism Great Town Award 2015.

Living costs and commuting costs are also amongst the lowest in the UK.

We offer you a range of high quality accommodation, all of which is conveniently located in Aberystwyth. From ‘traditional’ catered residences, where meals are provided, to en-suite self-catered accommodation, we can provide you with an option that is best suited to your requirements.

As well as recently completing a major upgrading of some residences, our new residential development project, Fferm Penglais, adjacent to Pentre Jane Morgan, was occupied by its first 250 residents in January 2015, and will by September 2015 provide an additional 1,000 places in individual en-suite rooms of the highest quality and specifications, continuing our objective to provide the highest standards of accommodation.

Each residence is a vibrant community with its own distinctive character offering you a safe and secure environment in which to socialise, study and relax. Residences vary in style and size with many being on campus; others are conveniently situated close to the town centre.

This guide will give you all the essential information, the range of accommodation types on offer and how to apply for them. We hope this gives you all the information you need, but if you have any further queries our friendly and experienced team are happy to assist. Please see page 23 for our contact details.

Residential Bursary (Undergraduates Only)

For entry in 2015 the University is offering a Residential Bursary (a reduction of £400 on the University’s first year residential fee) for all Home / EU full-time undergraduate students who put Aberystwyth as their first choice by 30 June. Further information is available from:

http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/scholarships-bursaries/residential
Catered Accommodation

This accommodation is arranged in either flats or individual houses to accommodate between 5 and 10 people.

Apart from our en-suite accommodation all self-catered residences offer shared bathroom facilities to include: toilet(s), wash basin(s)*, showers and/or baths.

All our self-catered accommodation has fully fitted kitchen/diners to offer you independence to cater for yourself; the facilities include: oven with grill and hob, fridge, freezer, kettle, toaster, microwave, iron, ironing board, dining table and chairs as standard, with many now including breakfast bars with stools and soft seating areas.

However, if you also like the sound of using our catering facilities you can load your Aber card with money, or your parents can top it up on your behalf, to use at any of our outlets - you will also benefit from the 10% discount!

Catered Residences – Aber Card

As a catered student your Aber card will automatically be credited with enough money for at least one main meal a day. This meal allowance is taken from your accommodation fees and loaded onto your Aber Card in termly instalments, giving you the flexibility of when and where to eat. Best of all, if you use your Aber card at any of our catering outlets you will benefit from a 10% discount!

Catering Services

Our Catering Services offer you a wide range of menu choices in relaxing atmospheres at the following catering outlets:

- TaMed Da Restaurant, TaMed Bach Coffee Shop - Penbryn halls of residence
- Cegin Pantycelyn - Pantycelyn halls of residence
- Blas Gogerddan, Gogerddan Campus
- The Lounge @ Rosser and Pentre Jane Morgan Learning Centres with full vending services
- IBER Bach - Penglais
- Blas Padarn - Llanbadarn Centre
- Sguborfach - Fferm Penglais

This type of accommodation can be found in the following residences:

- Brynderw
- Cwrt Mawr
- Fferm Penglais (en-suite and studio) - New development, see page 13 for details
- Pentre Jane Morgan
- Rosser (en-suite)
- Trefloyne
- Seafront
- Seafront (en-suite)

*Some bedrooms also contain a wash basin.

**Please note: the photographs used are representative of typical self-catered kitchens.

Self-Catered Accommodation

All catered accommodation provides shared bathroom facilities which will typically be shared between around 12-25 people. Bathrooms include several toilets, wash basins*, shower cubicles and / or baths.

If you take up residence in our catered accommodation you will also benefit from the use of our award winning restaurants.

In addition to this our catered halls are equipped with kitchenettes to allow students to prepare basic meals and snacks if they wish. These offer a kettle, toaster, microwave, table top oven/hob and fridge/freezer.

Catered accommodation is a good choice if you do not know how to cook or you do not want to worry about cooking your own food and doing your own washing up. For your parents, it's reassuring to know that you are being fed.

*Some bedrooms also contain a wash basin.
Bedroom Types

**Single Room:** Study bedroom with single or 4ft bed with mattress and furniture to include: desk, computer chair, shelving and wardrobe as standard. These rooms can be found in either catered or self-catered residences.

**Shared Room:** Shared study bedroom with 2 single beds with mattresses and furniture to include desks, chairs, shelving and wardrobes as standard. These rooms can be found in either Catered or Self-Catered residences.

**En-suite Room:** Study bedroom with either single, 4ft or double bed with mattress and furniture to include: desk, computer chair, shelving and wardrobe as standard. Plus private shower room featuring toilet, wash-basin and shower. These rooms are only available in self-catered residences.

**Studio Room:** Each studio provides an open-plan living space, and includes a double bed with mattress, workspace, en-suite shower room and a small kitchenette. Furniture to include: desk, computer chair, shelving and wardrobe as standard. Plus private shower room featuring toilet, wash-basin and shower and private kitchen area featuring table with two chairs, sink unit with stainless steel sink/drainer, wall units, cooker hood and built in combination oven below worktop, 2 ring electric hob and fridge/freezer below worktop. These rooms are available in Fferm Penglais self-catered residence.

**Budget Room:** Study bedroom with single bed with mattress and furniture to include: desk, computer chair, shelving and wardrobe as standard, located within Aberystwyth Town. Laundry facilities, Learning Centre and Reception are all within easy walking distance of the residence. These rooms are only available in self-catered residences.

*Please note: the photographs used are representative of typical bedrooms and shared areas.
Map of Residences

We offer a range of different types of accommodation with residences to suit individual requirements and budgets.

- **Catered Residence**
- **En-suite shower room**
- **Laundry**
- **Residents’ Car Park**
- **Computer Rooms**
- **Computer links in all study bedrooms**

**Seafront Residences***

*contains a proportion of en-suite rooms

**Pantycelyn**
(Welsh Medium)

**Prospective students considering Pantycelyn should be aware that a potential redevelopment of the building may take place and therefore could affect the availability of accommodation within the hall.**

**Brynderw**

- **Fferm Penglais**
  (New development - see p.13 for details)

**Pentre Jane Morgan**

**Penbryn**

**Trefloyne**

**Cwrt Mawr**

**Rosser**
What’s included in the Accommodation Fee?

Insurance
We have in place a block-cover policy protecting some of your items against theft, fire, flood and accidental damage with unlimited student room cover. For further information, including full details of what’s covered, what’s not covered, excesses and extra insurance cover options, please refer to – http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/fees/fee-includes/insurance/

Energy Charges
Heating, water, electricity and lighting are all included in the accommodation fees.

Network Connections in Rooms
All student bedrooms have a hard-wired network connection offering high-speed access via the academic computer network. In addition to this there is Wi-Fi in the majority of our residences. There is no charge for this service.

Learning Facilities
In addition to the excellent catering and housekeeping facilities available, a number of residences also provide learning facilities (as seen above). These learning centres can be found at PJM and Rosser Halls of Residence. These learning centres provide you with a convenient place where you can undertake your own academic work or work as a group on a particular seminar or project. They have dedicated facilities and are covered by an extensive WiFi provision.

What’s not included in the Accommodation Fee?

Bedding, Kitchen equipment and Cleaning
You will need to provide your own bedding, bed linen, cutlery, crockery, pots and pans. Students are responsible for maintaining appropriate levels of cleanliness in their own bedrooms and they also have a collective responsibility (along with fellow residents) for communal areas such as kitchens / diners and bathrooms.

Parking
There is a limited number of car parking spaces on campus. If you need to park a vehicle on campus you must obtain a permit for the appropriate zone from Campus Reception. Remember that Aberystwyth offers you a compact environment and so it is possible, for the majority of people, to walk to everywhere they need to get to as a student. Further information can be found at - http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/parking/

Bus Services
To travel in and around Aberystwyth there are frequent local bus services available. These services offer a discounted travel card scheme, cards are available to purchase from the Students Union - http://www.abersu.co.uk/
Support Information

Individual Requirements for Accommodation

We welcome applications from students with individual requirements and have a number of adapted rooms available in University residences. We will endeavour to allocate the most suitable accommodation during each year of your study at the University, provided that applications are received within the published Accommodation Office deadlines. If you have a medical condition, sensory impairment or individual requirements as a result of a specific learning difficulty, please give details when completing your application form for accommodation. All information will be treated in confidence and will help in the allocation of the most appropriate accommodation for individual needs. Aberystwyth University is committed to the principles of inclusion and equal opportunities. We offer ongoing advice, information and guidance to our students. Prospective students are encouraged to contact an Accessibility Advisor at Student Support, in confidence, to discuss their requirements before making a formal application. Please ring 01970 621761 or email disability@aber.ac.uk.

Personal Support

Each residence has a structure of personal support to welcome you and ease you into independent living. Each residence is allocated a Resident Tutor whose sole purpose is to support your growth and development. As a member of the Student Support team, they provide an important link between you and the range of other support provided by the University at the Student Wellness Centre and the Student Welcome Centre. You can consult your Resident Tutor on any issue connected with university life: they are there to make your time with us both happy and successful.

Student Welcome Centre

The Student Welcome Centre is your One Stop Shop for advice and information on a range of support services including, student finance and money management, disability and specific learning differences.

The Welcome Desk is your first port of call for general enquiries about support services and any complaints or concerns you may have and indeed, any compliments you may wish to make. All feedback is welcomed as this helps us to improve the university experience for all students.

Welcome Centre office hours are:
Monday to Thursday, 9am-5pm and Friday, 9am-4pm
Tel: 01970 621761
Email: student-support@aber.ac.uk

Student Wellness Centre

The Student Wellness Centre provides advice and guidance on a range of health matters, including emotional and sexual wellbeing. Our Health, Mental Health and Counselling Services are located here. Appointments are preferred, but not always necessary.

Wellness Centre office hours are:
Monday to Thursday, 9am-4.30pm and Friday, 9am-4pm
Phone: 01970 622087
Email: nurse@aber.ac.uk or counselling@aber.ac.uk
Fferm Penglais - New Development

The Fferm Penglais Student Residence offers you the very latest in purpose-built en-suite student accommodation. Located within easy walking distance of the University's academic buildings, the new residence provides a superb environment for living and studying with generous en-suite bedrooms including hard wired and Wi-Fi internet access. A convenient central service area provides laundrettes, café, social and sporting facilities. There are also high specification studio apartments which are completely self-contained and spacious consisting of your own private bedroom, shower room and kitchen with dining area.

There is an area of accommodation located within the Fferm Penglais Student Residence dedicated to students who are Welsh learners or fluent Welsh speakers and wish to live in a Welsh speaking environment.
The STEP by STEP Guide to getting Undergraduate Accommodation

**Accommodation Key Dates**

**April (and onwards)**
Online accommodation applications open for students holding Aberystwyth UF, UI, CF, CI

**30 June**
Put Aberystwyth as Firm choice by this date to be eligible for the Residential Bursary

**July onwards**
Activate your AU e-mail account (before you can do this you’ll need to confirm your place on your course). Once you have activated your AU e-mail account the University will only use this e-mail address to contact you, so please check it regularly.

**1 August**
Apply by this date to qualify for a guaranteed place in University Accommodation

**18 September**
Licence start date, accommodation available from 10.00am

**18 – 20 September**
Fresher’s Weekend

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**Check e-mail (your AU e-mail account once you’ve activated it)**

**Check UCAS Track**

**Get your 10 digit Personal ID Number**
0123 456 789...

**Choose your Firm and Insurance (First and Second) choice Universities**

**Applications open 1 April**

**Apply online**

**AU offer you an Unconditional or Conditional offer**

**Your electronic offer of accommodation is automatically sent to you**

**Activate AU e-mail account to be able to accept your Accommodation Offer**

**From 1 April onwards – if holding AU as Firm or Insurance choice, receive your invitation to apply online for accommodation**

**Letter sent by e-mail and posted to home address**

**18-20 Sept**
Fresher’s Weekend – Move into your room

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**Undergraduate Admissions Office**
Student Welcome Centre,
Aberystwyth University, Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3DD

Tel: 01970 622021
Email: ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk
Web: www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad

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**Key:**

- **AU** = Aberystwyth University
- **CF** = Conditional Firm
- **CI** = Conditional Insurance
- **UF** = Unconditional Firm
- **UI** = Unconditional Insurance
The STEP by STEP Guide to getting Postgraduate Accommodation

Accommodation Key Dates

**April (and onwards)**
Online accommodation applications open for students that have fulfilled the conditions of the offer letter for postgraduate study.

**July onwards**
Activate your AU e-mail account (before you can do this you’ll need to confirm your place on your course). Once you have activated your AU e-mail account the University will only use this e-mail address to contact you, so please check it regularly.

1 **September**
Apply by this date to qualify for a guaranteed place in University Accommodation.

18 **September**
Licence start date, accommodation available from 10.00am.

18 – 20 September
Fresher’s Weekend.

Postgraduate Admissions Office
Student Welcome Centre,
Aberystwyth University, Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3DD

Tel: 01970 622023
Email: pg-admissions@aber.ac.uk
Web: www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad
Additional Information

Accommodation Guarantee
To qualify for a guaranteed place applicants must ensure that their accommodation application is received by the published deadline dates in the year of entry and that they respond to the offer of accommodation by the deadline date detailed in the Accommodation Offer. Please note that a place in University owned or managed accommodation is guaranteed, but not a specific type of room or location. Further information regarding our guarantee and priorities policy is available from - http://www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation

Allocation of Rooms
We will allocate you a place in residences, taking into account your preferences as indicated on your application for accommodation, and will try to offer you one of your higher preferences. However, because the residences vary in the numbers of students they accommodate and some are more popular than others, obtaining your higher preferences cannot be guaranteed. If there is not a vacancy in your first preference of residence, we will consider all your other choices in priority order until a vacancy can be located. If one of your preferred residences is not available we will make you what we consider a suitable alternative offer.

It is our policy to house students in mixed flats in terms of gender/nationality wherever possible. If you would like to request that you are placed in a male or female only flat/house, please indicate this on your application for accommodation and we will endeavour to meet this request subject to availability.

We normally allocate separate blocks of residences to undergraduates (including 1st year, returning, Study Abroad or Erasmus students) and postgraduates. However, this may not always be possible especially if the number of one group is higher than anticipated.

Summer Accommodation
If you require accommodation over the summer in Aberystwyth University residences this can be arranged through the Accommodation Office, please contact us for more information.

Private Sector Accommodation
The Accommodation Office maintains a database of private sector accommodation, suitable for student use, ranging from flats, bedsitting rooms, shared houses and single study bedrooms.

The Accommodation Office staff can offer a free advice and guidance service to all students before and during their time in the private sector. Further information is available from - http://www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation/private-sector/
Accommodation Fees

1. Payment of Fees
Accommodation fees for students living in University accommodation can be paid by either a single payment of the yearly fee or via a maximum of three instalments, in October, January and April. Students are required to make the necessary arrangements for payment whilst completing the online Accommodation Licence Pack when securing University accommodation.

Enquiries regarding the payment of Accommodation Fees can be made to Student Fees Office (Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AX).

Tel: 01970 621583, e-mail: fees@aber.ac.uk

2. Residence
Fees for accommodation let over 33.28 weeks do not include Christmas and Easter vacation periods. Students who chose this option will have to remove their belongings from their room during these periods. All other accommodation listed here is let over either 39, 40 or 50 weeks unless otherwise stated and includes the Christmas and Easter vacations. Please read The Key for exact dates of Licence Agreements.

3. Acceptance Fee
A sum of £100 is payable in order to reserve a room in University accommodation. Students are required to make the necessary payment whilst completing the online Accommodation Licence Pack when securing University accommodation. Current students living in University accommodation who secure University accommodation for the following academic year can choose to use their existing Deposit to reserve the room.

On commencement of the licence period, the Acceptance Fee will convert to the Deposit and be held by the University for the duration of the students stay. Shortly following the end of the licence period the Deposit, less any deductions under the Licence Agreement, will be reimbursed to the student.

4. Catered Residences - Aber Card
The catered residence annual accommodation fee includes a sum of £1,501.50 (39 weeks) and £1,281.50 (33.28 weeks) as a pre-paid meal allowance. Terms and conditions are included within the Accommodation Licence Pack. By using the Aber Card the student can enjoy the flexibility of deciding where and when to eat in University owned and managed catering outlets.

5. Welsh Medium Accommodation
Dedicated accommodation for students who are either welsh learners or fluent welsh speakers, and wish to live in a welsh speaking environment.

Accommodation 
at Aberystwyth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-catered Residences</th>
<th>ANNUAL COSTS (APPROXIMATED)</th>
<th>Weekly Rate £</th>
<th>Nightly Rate £</th>
<th>Length of Licence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brynderw (budget)</td>
<td>£3,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ffemr Penglas (en-suite)</td>
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<td>Pentre Jane Morgan</td>
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<td>Seafront (en-suite)</td>
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<td>Trefoyne</td>
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<th>Catered Residence</th>
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<th>Nightly Rate £</th>
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<th>Welsh Medium Residences</th>
<th>ANNUAL COSTS (APPROXIMATED)</th>
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The Key

(1) The overall length of licence is 39 weeks.
Occupancy period commences 10am on 18th September 2015 - Ends 10am on 17th June 2016

(2) The overall length of licence is 40 weeks.
Occupancy period commences 10am on 18th September 2015 - Ends 10am on 20th March 2016

(3) The overall length of licence is 50 Weeks.
Occupancy period commences 10am on 18th September 2015 - Ends 10am on 2nd September 2016

(4) The overall length of licence is 33.28 weeks.
Occupancy periods (i) Commences 10am on 18th September 2015 - Ends 10am on 13th December 2015, (ii) Commences 10am on 2nd January 2016 - Ends 10am on 20th March 2016, (iii) Commences 10am on 9th April 2016 - Ends 10am on 17th June 2016.
S = Single Room; T = Twin Room

*Instalment figures are only approximate.

Please Note:
- Bedding, ben linen, cutlery, crockery, pots and pans are not provided at any Residence.
- Accommodation Fees include energy, the provision of a network connection and a high level of personal contents insurance.
Top 10 reasons to live in Aberystwyth University Accommodation

1. Only £100 Acceptance Fee
2. All energy bills included
3. Hard wired and wireless Internet included
4. Insurance included (Unlimited value on personal items within the study bedroom, including accidental damage)
5. 24/7 manned reception, helpline and patrols to assist with all Maintenance, Security and Welfare concerns
6. 24/7 Learning Centres within easy access to your residence
7. Laundry facilities on site
8. Support provided by the Residential Support team living within the residences
9. Convenient location close to academic and campus facilities, as well as the town centre
10. Payment plans available for accommodation fees

Accommodation Office
Y Sgubor, Fferm Penglais
Aberystwyth University,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3FH
Tel: 01970 622984
Email: accommodation@aber.ac.uk
Web: www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation

facebook.com/AberUni.AccommodationOffice