

Connectivity: a pioneering Masters programme driven by the most revolutionary transformation of the 21st Century

- Unique, cutting edge, multidimensional postgraduate study across the sciences, social sciences and arts and humanities.
- Understand the ways the internet, digital technology and multiple media and communications platforms are transforming the world's social, cultural, economic and political spheres.
- Engage with, and equip yourself for, the developments, issues, challenges and opportunities of an increasingly interconnected world.
- Part of a wider institutional positioning in the field of internet communications, digital technologies, cyberspace activities, robotics and emergent international issues.
- Excellent and diverse career prospects from a network of vocational and employment interfaces.
- Scholarships, superb research facilities, coastal campus and high quality of life.

Introduction

This Masters degree in Connectivity provides a unique opportunity to study the most significant and dynamic phenomena of the 21st Century: the ways in which the combined force of the internet, digital technology and multiple media and communications platforms are radically shaping not only the nature of individual lives and communities but also the architecture of economies, societies and cultures around the world. The exponential scale and speed of technological change in this area is compounded by the acceleration from innovation to mass usage and global consumption. The extraordinary number and variety of applications and derivatives in this fusion of on-line connections has created a surge of cyber activity that far surpasses any assured grasp of the meaning, direction or significance of what is widely cited to be an 'information revolution'.

This Masters programme, led by the Department of International Politics, is a key component of a major new initiative by Aberystwyth University. This will create a high-profile hub for the study of 'Connectivity', combining teaching, research and dissemination in the field and is establishing itself as a focal point of commercial and public outreach for exploring the impact of the 'information revolution' on modern life.

Interdisciplinary Expertise and Programme Contribution

Department of Computer Science <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cs/>
Enables students to understand the technology which makes the 'Connectivity' phenomenon possible.

Department of Information Studies <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/dis/>
Provides an understanding of the implications of the internet for data management and the transfer of information.

Department of International Politics <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/interpol/>
Enables students to explore issues of cyber security and cyber warfare and the impact of connectivity on domestic and international politics.

Department of Law and Criminology
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/law-criminology/>
Provides expertise in the impact of the internet on legal issues.

Department of Psychology <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/psychology/>
Offers insights into the ways that information and communications technology affects the development of human understanding and development.

Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies
<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/tfts/>
Focuses on the ways in which web-based technologies and media influence culture and make possible new forms of performance.

School of Art <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/art/>
Focuses on the ways in which web-based technologies and media influence culture and make possible new forms of art.

School of Management and Business <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/smb/>
Focuses on the implications and opportunities of 'Connectivity' for business and enterprise.

Scheme Outline

As the world's first Masters Degree scheme of its kind, this unique programme provides students with the opportunity to study in a truly multi-disciplinary environment ranging from international politics to art and from computer science to management. This innovative and integrated approach allows students to examine not only the impact of these technologies and the ways they are used on a range of disciplines across the arts, sciences and social sciences, but also the ways that different strands cross and interact with each other within and between the social, cultural, political and economic realms. The involvement and range of departments from across all three faculties in Aberystwyth University enables students to explore implications of this 'Connectivity' phenomenon from different disciplinary perspectives, while the core module for the degree scheme will provide a more holistic approach to understanding the impact of web-based technology and media.

Course Structure

Core Module (60 Credits)

Connectivity Digital Spaces
and Cyber Worlds

Optional Modules (60 Credits)

To include a minimum of 20
credits from at least two different
university faculties

Dissertation (60 credits)

Core Module: *Connectivity: Digital Spaces and Cyber Worlds*

The core module taught over two semesters introduces the key issues and debates in the emerging area of 'Connectivity' – that is the study of the creation and functioning of new communications technologies (such as the internet, digital technology and multiple media platforms) and their impact on social, cultural and political life. The module introduces the range of specific disciplinary perspectives on information and communications technology, before proceeding to address some of the largely unexplored questions related to the impact of web-based media. These include its potential as a transformative and democratic agency and its challenges for human organisation, behaviour and thinking. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the module is delivered by senior academic staff from each of the eight participating departments, demonstrating the multitude of ways that new digital and web-based technologies are interconnected, the implications of their operational and analytical synergies and providing an integrated and holistic approach to the field.

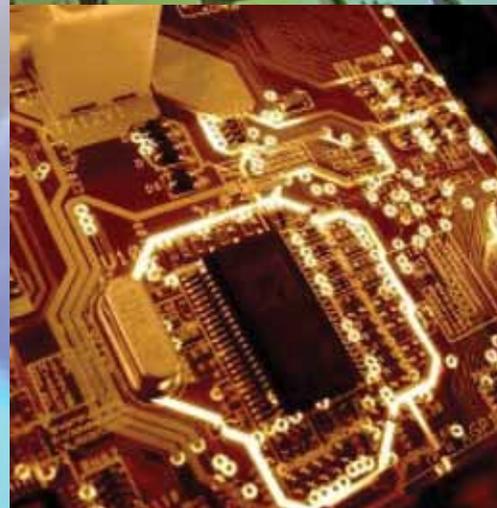
Optional modules

Students select 60 credits of optional modules from at least two different faculties from among those outlined in the table below. These optional modules enable students to explore more discipline-specific applications or implications of new forms of communication and knowledge production.

Faculty	Module Identifier	Module Title	Credits
Science	CHM5720	The Internet and How it Really Works	20
	CSM6120	Introduction to Intelligent Systems	20
	CHM5410	Forensic Computing and Ethical Hacking	10
Social Sciences	ILM0520	Publishing and the Web: Exploring New Technologies	20
	ILM0820	Records and Information Governance	20
	ILM5120	Information Society	20
	ILM7510	Digital Information: Discovery to Delivery	20
	IPM1230	Critical Security Studies: Emerging Issues	30
	IPM1030	Contemporary Strategic Problems	30
	IPM2430	Power, Culture and Identity in International History	30
	LAM3320	Computer Systems and the Law	20
	MBM9110	Information Systems and the Digital Firm	10
	MMM4010	Internet Marketing and the E-Business	10
Arts	AHM0330	Art and Visual Culture A	30
	AHM0410	Art and Visual Culture B	10
	ARM0130	Portfolio Development	30
	TPM0130	Theoretical Practices	30
	TFMXX30	Digital Cultures*	30

* New module subject to Faculty of Arts approval

Module information for the above can be found by entering the individual module identifier at: <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/modules/>



Dissertation

The 60 credit dissertation enables students to undertake an advanced exploration of a topic of their own choosing which is related to new digital and web-based communications, with the guidance of an advisor from a department specialising in the chosen topic.

Vocational and Employment Interfaces

Employability is an essential feature in establishing a centre for the study of the 'Connectivity' and is integrated into the Core Module for the Masters Programme. Students are required to develop an engagement with the information and communications technology work of a business or organisational sector. This engagement with external businesses and organisations, combined with the 'hands on' experience gained through the range of laboratory and studio based research and learning as part of the innovative and wide ranging teaching methods, will provide a unique set of employability skills.

Criteria for Admissions

The minimum basic entry requirements are an upper second class (Honours) degree or equivalent and two satisfactory references. Candidates who do not meet this requirement will be considered on a case by case basis and will normally be interviewed as part of the application process.

Applications

Applications can be made on-line, or application materials can be downloaded from <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/howtoapply/>. Alternatively, paper copies of application materials can be obtained from the contact details below.

Further Information

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