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| TITLE | Understanding Bats – An Introduction |
| TUTOR | Dr Fred Slater |

Dear Student,

Thank you for enrolling on this Lifelong Learning course. This letter gives you some further information. If you have any questions, please contact either:

**The LLL Office**: learning@aber.ac.uk

**The Tutor:** Dr Fred Slater frs3@aber.ac.uk

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt emm32@aber.ac.uk

We hope you enjoy the course.

Best Wishes,

**The Lifelong Learning Team**

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**GETTING STARTED**

**Aberystwyth University Student Account**

Before you can begin your course, you need to activate your **Aberystwyth University Student Account**. After you pay and enrol, you will be sent your **unique student number** by the Lifelong Learning Administrator. This will enable you to obtain your student username and set a password for your student account.

Having an account gives you many additional benefits such as access to the university library and online journals, an email address, and discounts for university services.

Please watch this [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Embed.aspx?id=8599b9f0-bb74-4e17-8a61-abb800c9c1b1&v=1) as it will give you all the instructions you will need to set up your student account.

Once you have completed this process login to your [Aberystwyth University email account here](https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize?client_id=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&redirect_uri=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office.com%2fowa%2f&resource=00000002-0000-0ff1-ce00-000000000000&response_mode=form_post&response_type=code+id_token&scope=openid&msafed=0&client-request-id=1a50f117-68e4-464d-b9c3-80fd788cb7e5&protectedtoken=true&claims=%7b%22id_token%22%3a%7b%22xms_cc%22%3a%7b%22values%22%3a%5b%22CP1%22%5d%7d%7d%7d&domain_hint=aber.ac.uk&nonce=637354312838097988.a0319ebd-6272-4475-a59a-e0b8afa5fbe1&state=Dcs7DoMwEEVRO1kJTTobf5lxgbKWNzBIUUCRkBK2HxfndtcaY-7drbOhx9CUKdeSY-LMoVFj9gg5NpXVTYmSK4WqQ21wGoSxoW6i0fZ3GD8Xxuep2I8ZoqfH4r_vx2-dL5UDr_0P)

**Online Learning Environment: Blackboard**

Once you have an active username and password you can login to our **online learning environment** called **Blackboard** by going to<https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk>. This is where you can access the learning materials for your course, interact online with your tutor and other students and submit your assignments. Here is a [**video (link)**](https://aberystwyth.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d3b1a6e3-a555-4da3-be65-ac31007c1927) on how to access Blackboard and navigate the various pages and tools.

**Microsoft Teams**

Your course may include one or more live online learning webinars or seminars. If so, these will be held using the online platform **Microsoft Teams**. Like Blackboard, you can access Teams online by going to <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and logging in with your Aberystwyth University student username and password. Although not essential, we would recommend you download the Microsoft Teams software onto your desktop. Once you have logged in, you can do this from the Microsoft Teams homepage. Click on the circle in the top right-hand corner of the screen and select **Download the Desktop App.**

If an online meeting has been scheduled by your tutor you will receive an email to your **University Email Account** that will contain a link, which you can click on to join the meeting. Alternatively, if you go to your **Calendar** in Microsoft Teams, which is on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see a **Join button** appear by the meeting just before it begins, which you can click on.

If you haven’t used Microsoft Teams before I would recommend watching this one minute [**video (link)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pauAUOl8v4) so you know what to expect.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

An introductory course about bats covering their variety of form, distribution, and ecology. The course begins with a brief review of bat classification and variety on a worldwide scale, emphasising their positive economic and environmental contributions as well as their potential threats to humans as vectors of disease. The course then progresses to species found in the British Isles, how to identify them, and looks at key aspects of their ecology. Because of their largely nocturnal activity patterns the course then examines methods of survey with emphasis placed on a simplistic introduction to the techniques for listening to and interpreting bat calls. Methods of conservation and mitigation will be reviewed particularly in relation to human intrusion, pollution, predation, and disease.

The course is introductory and not designed for professionals seeking governmental bat licence qualifications.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Appreciate the diversity of bats on a worldwide scale and their contributions to human and environmental well being as well as potential threats to health.

2 Recognise British bat species and their basic ecology.

3 Understand the main techniques used to study bats.

4 Understand the threats bats face and associated methods of conservation and mitigation.

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Activities and tasks will be embedded into each unit so students can practise the techniques they have learned and develop their skills. Students will be encouraged to share their own work and participate in discussions on Blackboard. Alongside the learning materials on Blackboard the tutor will be on hand via email to answer any queries and provide guidance throughout the course. They will also participate in the online discussions.

The course will be divided into five units:

1. Introduction – Bats of the World

2. Bats of the British Isles

3. Working with bats/listening to bats

4. Conservation and mitigation

5. Threats and disease

**ASSESSMENTS**

1. Four Discussions will be set up one for each Learning Outcome for each of which will be up to 5% for participation (4 x 5% = 20%
2. The work will be assessed by means of a final 1500-word essay with a weighting of 80%. A choice of titles will be offered to cover the range of the learning outcomes.

**Submission Policy**: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/virtual-student-centre/schemes_programmes/latesubmission/>

Find our full programme listings here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses/>

Are you interested in completing a Certificate in Higher Education? If you are, speak to your tutor or contact the co-ordinator: emm32@aber.ac.uk