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| TITLE | Identifying Flowering Plants |
| TUTOR | Dr Anna Suchy |

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 Anna Suchy aas17@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.

[Click here](https://myaccount.aber.ac.uk/open/activate/) to find 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](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. [Guide to Blackboard Ultra - Students  : Information Services , Aberystwyth University](https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/it-services/elearning/blackboard/guidetoblackboardultra-students/)

**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**

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of flowering plant identification, using floras and keys. These are essential and valuable skills for all field and conservation ecologists. Students will get to know basic terminology in field botany and key characteristics of flowering plants, which are the largest and most diverse group in the plant kingdom.

The course will provide the knowledge needed to identify the most frequently encountered British species from the common families. The focus will be on the development of practical identification skills and students will be encouraged to complete personal field trips and explore their local, natural environments.

This distance learning course will enable students to study from home and participate in an online community of other students fascinated by plant identification. The module is delivered through Blackboard, our online learning environment and can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also a core module for the Certificate of Higher Education in Field Ecology at Aberystwyth University. There will be a welcome webinar at the start of the course.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of terminology used in field botany.
2. Design and use a simple dichotomous key
3. Observe and record, using the correct terminology, the key features necessary for the identification of flowering plant species
4. With the aid of a flora, key (including the use of an electronic key), identify a range of unknown flowering plant specimens.

**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.

**Unit 1**

Introduction to terminology in field botany and the use of a glossary

**Unit 2**

Plant morphology for field ecologists

**Unit 3**

Floras and keys for plant identification (what they are and how to use them)

**Unit 4**

Plant families -how to recognize them?

**Unit 5**

Identification of common plant specimens

**Unit 6**

Plant identification: extra tips and resources

**Unit 7 (additional)**

Flowering plants of Wales

**ASSESSMENTS**

1. Plant Review 500 words (20%)
2. Written assignment 1600 words (60%)
3. Flowering plant ID quiz (20%)

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 the co-ordinator: emm32@aber.ac.uk

**Don’t forget to follow us on social media to keep updated about Lifelong Learning at Aberystwyth University:**

**Facebook**: Dysgu Gydol Oes Aberystwyth Lifelong Learning

**Twitter**: @Aber\_LLL

**Instagram**: @aberystwyth.lifelong.learning