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| TITLE | Bird Identification |
| TUTOR | Emzi Frater |

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](mailto:learning@aber.ac.uk)

**The Tutor:** Emzi Frater [emf20@aber.ac.uk](mailto:emf20@aber.ac.uk)

**The Co-ordinator:** Elin Mabbutt [emm32@aber.ac.uk](mailto: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. [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**

An understanding of birds and how to identify them is a useful field skill. This module will introduce students to basic bird physiology and topography, including the ability to identify key morphological features. It will explore various habitats for birds and which species may be more common within different settings. Having a working knowledge of bird identification is important for a range of ecology careers and sectors, from Ecological Surveyor to Ranger and any industry likely to work in close contact with birds, including forestry, the built environment and engineering. This is a broad introductory course, so perfect for a beginner, and will be followed by a number of more specialised bird identification modules for those students who wish to broaden their knowledge further.   
  
Bird Identification can be studied as a stand-alone course, but it is also a key module for the Certificate of Higher Education in Field Ecology at Aberystwyth University. This online, self-paced learning course enables students to study from home while participating in an online learning community. The course is delivered through Blackboard, the virtual learning environment, and will include a minimum of one live webinar alongside the asynchronous weekly activity.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. use basic terminology in describing bird topography and anatomy
2. demonstrate an ability to differentiate between common bird species for identification to species level
3. explain potential occurrence or prevalence of birds within different habitats in the UK
4. demonstrate an understanding of bird taxonomy and categorisation for key families

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

This is a self-paced, online learning module with 1-2 live webinars. The content is delivered using Video PowerPoint lectures and external video content. Activities, discussion boards and mini quizzes will be embedded throughout the course so the tutor can provide support and trickle feedback. A number of the activities will help the students to prepare for the assignments.  
  
Unit 1 - Introduction to the course

Unit 2 - Taxonomy of birds, their key families and features

Unit 3 - Habitat Week 1: Birds - Garden and Park

Unit 4 - Habitat Week 2: Birds – Woodland

Unit 5 - Habitat Week 3: Birds – Freshwater

Unit 6 - Habitat Week 4: Birds – Open Habitat

Unit 7 - Habitat Week 5: Birds – Coastal

**ASSESSMENTS**

1. Bird Identification Test (20%)  
2. Written Assignment 1500 words (80%)

**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](mailto: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