PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

www.aber.ac.uk/en/ibers

Agriculture
Newsletter 2020

List of Courses

BSc
Agriculture
Agriculture with Animal Science
Agriculture with Business Management

MAg (Integrated Masters in Agriculture)
Agriculture
Agriculture with Animal Science
Interested? Phone Hefin Williams on 01970 621658 or Email: hew05@aber.ac.uk

Foundation Degree
Agriculture
Interested? Phone Penri James on 01970 621630 or Email: wpj@aber.ac.uk

New Integrated Master's Schemes at IBERS

Two new study schemes have been launched at IBERS this year, MAg Agriculture and MAg Agriculture with Animal Science.

Our Integrated Master's schemes offers students the opportunity to combine a BSc with an extra year of study so that they will graduate with a Master's level qualification. These degrees develop the breadth and depth of knowledge, and prepare students to be subject specialists able to make effective use of state of the art innovations within the agricultural industry and beyond. These courses can also serve as a stepping-stone to further research degrees and will develop the skills needed by today's professionals.

Our Integrated Master's degrees have been specifically created to meet the increasing demand for suitably qualified personnel to work at high level within the Agricultural and allied industries. The subject specialist skills developed on this course will allow students to target careers in agricultural consultancy, agronomy, farm management, livestock health and nutrition and all other allied roles.

National Student Survey 2019

91% overall student satisfaction for Agriculture

With overall student satisfaction at 91%, Aberystwyth University has outperformed the UK figure of 84% by 7 percentage points. Aberystwyth University has also retained its place as the top university in Wales for student satisfaction for the fourth year running.

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2020 WELSH UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

Aberystwyth University has been named **Welsh University of the Year** for 2020 by The Times / The Sunday Times Good University Guide.

Precision Livestock Farming project at IBERS

The 'PreciseAg' (Precision livestock farming for a sustainable Welsh agricultural industry) project is run by IBERS and Further Education partner Coleg Cambria at Llysfasi with funding from HEFCW and support from Farming Connect. The project is undertaking essential, early stage development, of technologies and models which will aid livestock production throughout the UK and beyond.

The project began in 2018 and is focussing on factors affecting on-farm productivity. These include, improving parasite management strategies; developing technologies to assist in early prediction of lambing and the risk of associated complications; using tools to assess individual dairy cow feed intake; and using sensors to assess health in young dairy calves.

In October 2019, IBERS hosted an open day at Aberystwyth University's Gogerddan Farm, to demonstrate and discuss how Precision Agriculture Technology can aid farmers to manage their farms and improve animal husbandry and welfare. The day included presentations from some of the staff here at IBERS discussing different aspects of the PreciseAg project and a presentation on the developments happening on University Farms.

Dr Hefin Williams, who is the Agriculture degree scheme coordinator at IBERS, and leads the PreciseAg team said: "This event was a crucial opportunity for us to share some of the findings from our Precision Livestock Agriculture project to the farming industry. We believe that Precision Technologies will play a crucial role in allowing agriculture to adapt to many challenges in the future and we are working hard to make sure that farmers are aware of the technologies' capabilities".

BeefQ - Beef Eating Quality

BeefQ is a research project in IBERS aiming to improve the eating quality of beef.

The BeefQ project aims to help farmers and processors in Wales to produce beef that meets future consumer's needs. BeefQ is working with farmers, processors and consumers, to build the capacity to implement an eating quality assessment system in Wales to boost the eating quality of PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) Welsh Beef, and returns for farmers.

To date, over 2000 beef carcases from processors in Wales have been graded using the Meat Standards Australia meat-eating prediction model, which is forming the basis for the Welsh eating quality prediction systems. Samples from some of these carcases are now being sampled by 1200 testers at events throughout Wales to help develop the scientific blueprint for beef with outstanding eating quality attributes.

Dr Pip Nicholas-Davies, the BeefQ Project Coordinator at Aberystwyth University said, "Consumers are the drivers of value through the beef supply chain and their willingness to pay is influenced by the consistency of their beef eating quality experiences and perceived value for money. It makes sense then that we use consumers as the tools for assessing meat eating quality."
Two events were recently hosted at Aberystwyth University and attracted a wide range of consumers, including students from IBERS, who not only sampled with beef but also helped run the events.

Agriculture students helping out at the BeefQ consumer tasting session at Aberystwyth University

To find out more visit: www.beefq.wales
Or follow @BeefQWales on Twitter

IBERS student wins NFYFC Young Stockman of the year 2019

BSc Agriculture student Ffion Havard is the winner of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Young Stockman of the year 2019.

Ffion Havard, a third year BSc Agriculture student here at IBERS, won the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs Young Stockman of the Year title. Ffion is a member of the Sennybridge YFC, Brecknock and has reached the national competition twice before.

On the day, Ffion won three of the competitions; she came first in the pig, sheep, and dairy rounds of the competition before being awarded the title young stockman of the year.

"I felt over the moon. I never expected it, but I'm really, really happy! With stock-judging, you have good days and bad days and a lot of it comes down to your placings and not every time do you agree with the judge. Luck was on my side to have agreed with the judge's placings on all four rings – certainly a rare occasion for me," said Ffion.

Further Education students visit IBERS

In November we welcomed Land-Based FE collage students from across Wales to Aberystwyth University for a two-day taster course to learn about our work on Precision Livestock Farming as part of the PreciseAg project.

Students from Coleg Cambria Llysfasi, Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor Glynllifon, Coleg Gwent, Newtown College, and Coleg Sir Gar attended.

During the event, students got a chance to learn about the work on Precision Livestock Farming here at Aberystwyth University, including a demonstration of precision agriculture technology such as accelerometers and GPS and a chance to process and analyse data from these technologies. Students got a taste of the work done on managing Liver Fluke in the environment in the lab, and had a chance to learn about the developments happening on the University Farms.

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