Welcome to Aberystwyth 2021
Welcome to Aber

Croeso cynnes iawn – a very warm welcome to Aberystwyth University and the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your life.

I am confident that your time here will be both enjoyable and rewarding.

We’re a pretty special place to study. We’re firmly rooted in our vibrant bilingual community but we reach out to the wider world, making a global impact with our research and sending out graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to take them further in life.

As well as developing you academically, university is where you make friends for life and you will have every opportunity to socialise and enjoy meeting new people in a safe environment.

When you arrive with us in September, our Big Welcome will include a wide-ranging programme of events and activities for you to enjoy, both in-person and online. It will be your chance to explore your surroundings, get to know other students, meet staff in your department, and try out new things. You will also have the opportunity to find out about more than 100 different clubs and societies run by the Students’ Union.

Take time to explore our beautiful seaside town with its independent shops and laidback café culture. A favourite pastime is a walk along the prom and kicking the bar for luck when you reach the railings at the foot of Constitution Hill. It’s said by some to guarantee you a good degree (but take it from me, there are more reliable ways of doing that).

The first weeks of university life can be daunting, but we’re an extremely friendly and supportive community so there’ll always be someone you can turn to. Staff within our Student Support and Careers Services are a great source of advice. You can also talk to your departmental Peer Guide, Personal Tutor, one of our A-team volunteers or Resident Assistants. As your Vice-Chancellor, I’m always ready to listen to what my students have to say, so stop me on campus or email vice-Principal@aber.ac.uk.

The last eighteen months have brought challenges for us all. But now, with growing confidence and optimism for the coming year, I look forward to meeting you and I wish you every happiness and success as you embark on this journey of discovery towards your degree.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice-Principal

Hi and congratulations on securing your place at Aberystwyth, the team at AberSU are looking forward to welcoming you in September!

I’m certain that Aberystwyth is going to be an amazing place for you and a great setting for the next step in your journey. Aber is such a beautiful place with a supportive community that you can throw yourself into, which is one of the reasons why I love it here. At AberSU, we want Aber students to love student life and joining one of our sports clubs or societies can help you do just that; we’ve pretty much got a sport club or society for everyone, and if we haven’t then why not set up your own to meet people with the same interest?

My priority is to make sure that you are all happy here at University and make these the best and most memorable years of your life. If you’re unsure of anything or just want to see a friendly face over the coming weeks, and years then please get in touch with us at the SU, either over social media or drop in to see us. If you ever see me around on campus please come and say ‘Hi’, it would be great to meet you!

I hope you have a safe journey here when the time comes; go meet your flat mates, come along to some of our SU events and enjoy your time here at Aberystwyth University.

See you in September.

Sabina O’Donoghue
AberSU President 2021-22

www.abersu.co.uk
Follow @UMAberSU on social media
Big Welcome and Orientation activities

With the countdown to the start of the new academic year on, we hope you are looking forward to joining us in September.

Meeting new people and making new friends is a vital part of the university experience, and we want to ensure that you have every chance to socialise, relax, keep fit, and have fun safely.

The University and the Students’ Union have arranged a programme of activities and events for when you arrive here with us. Find out more about Big Welcome on pages 12 and 13.

You will also be able to enjoy extracurricular activities including music, sport, additional learning, volunteering and careers and enterprise events, giving you ample opportunity to meet people with similar interests, pursue your hobbies or try something new.

All of our activities and events will follow Welsh Government COVID-19 guidelines, and as you prepare to join us for the new term we’ll keep in touch via email to share important updates and information.

You can also visit www.aber.ac.uk/welcome
Our campus
Arrival and accommodation

When do I need to arrive in Aberystwyth?

The main arrivals period for students living in university accommodation is between Wednesday 22 and Saturday 25 September (please see p. 9 for further details).

All incoming undergraduate and postgraduate students will need to be in Aberystwyth by Monday 27 September for Orientation Week.

International students Further guidance for international students can be found on pages 24 and 25.

Key collection

How to collect your room key:

First of all, please ensure you have completed your pre-arrival Induction Programme found in the Accommodation Licence Pack, and have booked a move-in slot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Move in Period</th>
<th>Key Collection location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Pentre Jane Morgan (PJM), Cwrt Mawr, Rosser, Rosser G &amp; Trefloyne Residences.</td>
<td>Slots available between 10:00 and 18:00 from Wednesday 22 to Saturday 25 September*</td>
<td>Pentre Jane Morgan Lounge, SY23 3TE at the time of your booking slot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Fferm Penglais.</td>
<td>Slots available between 10:00 and 18:00 from Wednesday 22 to Saturday 25 September*</td>
<td>Y Sgubor, Fferm Penglais, SY23 3FH at the time of your booking slot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Pantycelyn.</td>
<td>Slots available between 10:00 and 18:00 on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 September*</td>
<td>Pantycelyn, SY23 3FL at the time of your booking slot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please note that there will also be an option to request an out-of-hours arrival slot if required.

Late Arrivals Late arrival slots will be offered from Sunday 26 September – further details of how to request late arrival will be included in the pre-arrival Induction Programme.

Details of where to collect keys for early and late arrivals will be available on the following webpage prior to arrival:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/new-students/moving-in

While we emphasise the importance of keeping to your booked move-in slot, we appreciate that unforeseen circumstances may delay your arrival time. As part of the final joining information you receive, we’ll make sure you know how to keep us informed, and we assure you that our team will be ready to welcome you when you arrive on campus (this service operates 24 hours a day).
Travel, arriving and parking
For detailed information about getting to Aberystwyth visit our travel pages: www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel

Coming by car
Further details, including confirmation of where to collect your keys and free parking arrangements will be provided as part of your pre-arrival information.

Coming by train
Over the main arrivals period, look out for members of the A-Team in red t-shirts who will help with directions.

Details of the free bus service which will operate during this period between the train and bus stations, key collection locations and residences will be available at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/new-students/freshers

Park and unload
During the Big Welcome you will be able to park on campus without a permit for the purpose of unloading your belongings and moving into University accommodation.

Help us to help you
Parking immediately next to the accommodation is limited and therefore during the Big Welcome we limit parking in these areas to a maximum of 20 minutes to ensure that we can facilitate this service for all students. Once you have unpacked the car please re-park in one of the designated long stay car parks. Members of staff will be on site to help you park.

To find out all about parking on campus, and to apply for a permit if you are eligible, please visit our Parking webpages - www.aber.ac.uk/en/parking.

Registration
Before you officially become a student at Aberystwyth University you need to complete registration.

The registration timetable and further information about how to register online can be found here:
www.aber.ac.uk/registration-undergraduate
www.aber.ac.uk/registration-postgraduate

It is important to contact the Student Administration Office in the Academic Registry if you are unable to register on time.

Student Administration Academic Registry:
01970 622290 or 622787 or 628515.

Undergraduate queries:
ugstaff@aber.ac.uk

Postgraduate queries:
pgstaff@aber.ac.uk

Verification
(undergraduate and foundation students only)
You must be prepared to provide satisfactory evidence of your qualifications either before registration or during the first year of your studies. Please note that there will be an official random verification exercise during your first year. Therefore, when you come to Aberystwyth you should bring with you, or ensure that you can obtain at short notice, the following documents:

- Birth certificate or passport
- Certificates detailing your academic and/or professional qualifications (e.g. GCSE, A-levels)

Please do not forward any certificates to Aberystwyth University unless you are asked to do so.

Undergraduate Admissions Office:
01970 622021
ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk

Right-to-study checks
What is the ‘right to study’?
The ‘right to study’ means you have the permission to remain in the UK and this permission does not restrict you from studying in the UK.

Who needs a right-to-study check?
Anyone who wants to register to study a course of any length at Aberystwyth University.

How and when will you need to provide right-to-study documents?
UK/Irish nationals: You will be required to upload your right to study document/s in advance of arriving at Aberystwyth as part of the ‘Activate’ process. Shortly after you have activated your Aberystwyth University email account you will receive instructions about how to upload your document(s) onto a secure upload page.

Students on a Student Visa/Visitor Visa: Your right to study will be checked as part of an International Students Pre-Enrolment Check. The international students pre-enrolment check will take place electronically. You will receive specific details by email about what documentation is required and how to provide your document.

For more information about right-to-study checks, including what document(s) you will need to provide, please go to:
www.aber.ac.uk/right-to-study-checks

If you have any queries about right-to-study checks please email rtsstaff@aber.ac.uk
Events and activities

Big Welcome
The Big Welcome will offer a host of exciting opportunities for you to take part in a range of events and activities. As part of this, your Students’ Union will offer a busy programme of freshers’ activities and evening entertainment.

Event listings can be found on our Big Welcome webpages – new activities will be added over the coming weeks at www.aber.ac.uk/welcome

Arrival
The main arrival period for new students moving into university accommodation is between Wednesday 22 and Saturday 25 September. In addition to this, international students who need to travel earlier can request to arrive from 9 September.

During this period, our aim is to help you settle into your accommodation, begin to find your way around your new home and provide you with opportunities to start making new friends.

Big Welcome and Orientation Week Guide
You’ll be able to pick up a copy of our Big Welcome and Orientation Guide when you arrive. A directory of useful contacts and support services will be included to signpost you to the help and advice available.

Orientation Week and meeting your academic department
Orientation Week will run from Monday 27 September to Friday 1 October.

New students will need to complete online registration on the 28 September 2021. Pre-registration will be available from 20 to 27 September 2021.

Please note that registration and orientation arrangements will differ for new BVSc Veterinary Science and PGCE students – please refer to the registration webpages (see p.11) and departmental orientation listings (see below) for further information.

Orientation activities provide the opportunity to take part in a range of sessions, some focused on your academic department, some to enable you to meet people on your course. You will also meet your personal tutor, who will be a key contact for pastoral support throughout your first year and beyond.

Further details about academic department events can be found online at: www.aber.ac.uk/orientation-dept

Dates for the academic year 2021/22 can be found online at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/dates-of-term/dates-2021

Supporting Your Learning
As part of your orientation activities, please complete the Supporting your Learning module which is available through Aberystwyth University’s online learning environment (Blackboard).

You can access Blackboard via blackboard.aber.ac.uk, after you have activated your University email account and have your Aberystwyth username and password. Guidance on how to activate your email account will be sent to you by the Information Services team.

Once you are able to log into Blackboard, familiarise yourself with the Supporting your Learning module (found in your My Organisations list), which includes essential information you will need during your degree. A short video on how to use the guide is available to view when you open the module.

Further guidance on how to access Blackboard can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/blackboard-faq

ApAber
ApAber is an app for students at Aberystwyth University; to make it easier for you to plan your day.

ApAber can be downloaded before you arrive at Aberystwyth so do it now!

Further information on ApAber, including how to download it can be found here: www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/it-services/apaber
Payment of tuition fees

All tuition fees will be due for payment in full by no later than 11 October 2021. The option of paying in instalments is also available.

Please refer to www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-finance for full payment terms and conditions.

Eligible home undergraduate students can defer the tuition fee until after their studies by obtaining a student loan for fees. The Student Loans Company (SLC) will pay this amount direct to the University. Students who do not submit an application form will become liable to pay the full tuition fees. If you decide not to apply for a tuition fee loan, the fee will be due for payment by 11 October 2021 as detailed above.

Information services

Library and IT

Information Services provide IT and library services to registered users at Aberystwyth University, subject to Information Services Regulations and Guidelines.

To make use of our facilities you will need an Aberystwyth University IT account and an Aber Card.

During Big Welcome and Orientation we hold regular library introductory sessions to familiarise new students with the facilities and services available.

Shops, bars and food outlets on campus

Ensuring you maintain a balanced and healthy diet is really important while studying. So we’re committed to delivering tasty, great value food using fresh and, where possible, local ingredients.

With two restaurants, four cafés, two ‘grab’n’go’ shops and two bars, you can pick and choose your refreshments to suit your taste, diet and budget.

Better still, our extensive Nosh delivery service takes the effort out of shopping and will deliver hot food and shopping anywhere on campus 7 days a week!

For specific locations and opening times, please see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/hospitality.

Conveniently located in the Students’ Union building, the Student Shop provides a wide variety of everyday items alongside an in-house bakery and a pasta bar. Stacking a range of grab’n’go food options, confectionary, clothing, stationery, toiletries and gifts – there’s something for everyone!

Meal Plan Offer: why not take advantage of our fantastic value ‘Eat with us – Shop with us’ flexible meal plan packages? Eat what you want, when you want, where you want: from hot dinners to Starbucks on the go, or just pick up some ingredients to cook yourself.

See cateringpackage.aber.ac.uk for details.

Please note all outlets on campus are cashless – we accept all debit and credit cards and Apple Pay (and equivalent) and you can also pay with your Aber Card.

Aber Cards can be topped up online - www.aber.ac.uk/en/aber-card. The Students’ Union offers a facility for topping up Aber Cards with cash at their reception desk.
Student Support

We appreciate that when you arrive at university there’s a lot to take in. We want to assist you with the transition to enhance your wellbeing and help you make the most of all university life has to offer.

Independent learners
If you come from a care background, are a young adult carer or are estranged from your family, please see our website for the support we can offer: www.aber.ac.uk/careleavers

Peer Guides
All our academic departments operate a Peer Guide Scheme. You will be contacted by your nominated Peer Guide shortly before you arrive in Aberystwyth to help you settle in: www.aber.ac.uk/en/sscs/accessibility/peer-support

Emergency contact
In the interest of safety, all students are required to provide details of someone who can be contacted in the event of an emergency. When you have activated your student account, please add your emergency contact details to your student record.

Please ensure that the named person is aware and has agreed to give their details to the University for use in the event of an emergency.

Home and University address details
Your safety matters to us. To ensure that the University is able to update you with important information, students must ensure that the contact details they provide are correct and up to date.

Registration with a doctor
Students are required to register with a GP (local doctor) of their choice within the first week of arrival. This is vitally important to ensure continuity of care, especially if you are in receipt of any prescription medicine or other treatment.

Each GP practice has a website which explains about the services they offer and how you can register as a patient.

More detailed information about GP registration details will be sent to you nearer arrival time.

Information about GP practices in the area can be found here: www.aber.ac.uk/en/sscs/student-health

UK students should bring their National Health Medical Cards with them. Students who have an NHS number (i.e. UK students or non UK students who have previously registered with a GP) will be required to provide their NHS number in order to register with a GP.

For international students please see health information on page 25.
Welcome to Aber! Now go abroad!

Every Aberystwyth student gets a chance to go overseas as part of your degree. You can choose to go for a whole year, a single semester or choose from short courses which you can complete in your summer holidays. Aberystwyth University offers cash to help you access these opportunities. Think of a summer school in the USA or Europe, an internship in Vietnam or Taiwan. Think of travelling independently or exploring with a group of your new Aber friends. We will give you plenty of support wherever you decide to go and however you decide to do it. Watch out for updates from Global Opportunities or send a message to global@aber.ac.uk and we will add you to our virtual noticeboard so you will be the first to hear about new opportunities.

Lifelong Learning

The Lifelong Learning Department at Aberystwyth University offers you unique learning opportunities, which can boost your degree and help you stand out from the crowd.

What is Lifelong Learning?
Lifelong Learning offers short, higher education accredited modules in a wide variety of subjects, including Art, Languages, Literature & Creative Writing, Ecology, History, Psychology and Professional Skills.

What can we do for you?
Alongside your degree programme, you can take one module with us per term. This is included in your fees, so there is no additional cost to you.

What are the benefits?
• You can personalise your CV and leave university with a toolbox of new skills
• You can learn for the fun of it! Pursue a subject you are passionate about or try something new
• You can meet and socialise with a diverse range of people.

Welcome to your Careers Service

The Careers Service is here to help you make the most of your time at Aberystwyth, get involved in all the experiences available to you whilst you are here at University, and consider how those experiences will be useful to you as you progress through your course.

Our experienced and professionally qualified staff will help you:

• identify and source useful work experience options
• recognise the skills your university degree gives you that are valuable to employers
• plan your possible future career path(s)
• support you as you make applications to employers
• assess whether PG study will suit you and help progress your career
• understand how to set up your own business and begin planning
• link with employers, alumni and professional bodies to progress your career plans.

Offering services on-line, on a one-to-one basis, and through webinars and events we are looking forward to helping you with all aspects of your career journey and your future success. Your university username and password will give you access to our online portal at www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers where you can access all our events, vacancies and services.
Recreation and activities

Here at Aberystwyth we want to provide you with great spaces not just for learning and study but also for sport, recreation and social activities.

Music at Aber

There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved in Music@Aber. Whether you are interested in joining the symphony orchestra or wind band, singing in a choir, looking for instrumental or voice tuition, or want space to rehearse for a band, we are here to welcome and guide you.

For further information, please visit www.aber.ac.uk/music or get in touch with us on music@aber.ac.uk

Aberystwyth Arts Centre

We'll have plenty on offer for you this autumn: enjoy amazing contemporary art in our galleries and join in one of our many courses, from live drawing to ballet, theatre groups to pottery. Our cinema programme caters for all tastes and offers you access to fabulous films right here on campus.

There’s plenty to see and do here, and we want you to consider us your home from home during your time in Aber. Call up and see us, have a cup of tea in our café or bar, browse the craft shop and bookshop – and then relax while looking at the best view campus has to offer over the whole town and out to sea.

Welcome to Aber, it’s the best place in the world!

National Library of Wales

Situated next to campus is the National Library of Wales – one of only five copyright libraries in Britain entitled to receive a copy of every book published in the UK. As a student at Aberystwyth you’ll have free access to its facilities, which include exhibitions, a gift shop and café and millions of books, journals, digital images, electronic resources, rare manuscripts and maps. The National Library is also home to the National Screen and Sound Archives of Wales.

Information on accessing the National Library of Wales resources can be found at: www.library.wales

Sports Centre

The Sports Centre is on the main campus and is a core element of student life. We have worked hard this summer to provide you with a safe environment in which to workout, relax and enjoy your favourite sports and exercise.

Here are some of the ways in which you can participate with us:

• All students living in university accommodation receive free and unlimited access to the Sports Centre and the Wexer exercise app with Student Platinum Membership
• Any students not living in university accommodation can enjoy the same unlimited access by purchasing Student Platinum Membership for £25 per month or £125 per annum
• We have installed a new satellite 24-hour gym at Y Sgubor, Pferm Penglais which will be ready for September and is available on the doorstep of those students in halls
• We have developed a new booking system to ensure you can exercise when you want in a comfortable space
• Our main centre includes state-of-the-art Matrix fitness equipment which has been adjusted to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements.
• We also offer the free-weights area and plate-loaded room.
• We have a dedicated studio for indoor cycling and other group exercise classes such as Yoga, Pilates and conditioning workouts. The Sports Cage facility gives us plenty of extra room for sports training, circuits, HIIT and Zumba.
• Our swimming pool forms part of the main Sports Centre – book in advance to secure a lane for your swim session
• We have great outdoors facilities including a floodlit short-pile 3G competition surface; floodlit 3G training pitch; 400m 2-lane track; an equestrian centre, 48 acres of sports pitches and specialist facilities for watersports.

Please come down to see us, we are just along from Edward Llwyd building and behind the International Politics building. Whatever is going on, we always have a warm welcome for you.

01970 622280
sports@aber.ac.uk
www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre
Happy to Aberystwyth University

**Students’ Union**

Being a student is about much more than simply attending lectures and studying! It is about the overall experience, trying new things, being adventurous and making the most of the opportunities available to you. We want Aber students to love student life and be ready for anything.

As a student-led, independent part of the University, Aberystwyth Students’ Union represents students and provides a diverse and inclusive array of activities, events and services that enrich student life. These include advice, volunteering and leadership opportunities and supporting over 100 clubs and societies.

To find out more about your Students’ Union, check out our website and join us on social media. Full details about Students’ Union membership benefits can be found at [www.abersu.co.uk](http://www.abersu.co.uk).

---

**Relaxing in the Students’ Union**

The Cwtch Bar in the Union building is a relaxed space for students with pool tables and plenty of comfortable seating. It offers a full range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks (including Starbucks coffee) and has a wide selection of snacks and paninis available all day.

Nosh Da offers a range of cooked-to-order pizzas, burgers and wraps to cater for all tastes. Orders can be taken at the bar or online and the food can be delivered locally too.

---

**Students’ Union advice**

Free, friendly independent advice for all Aberystwyth University students on a range of areas, including academic, housing, money and personal support.

- Students’ Union Advice: 01970 621700
- union.advice@aber.ac.uk
- [www.abersu.co.uk/advice](http://www.abersu.co.uk/advice)

---

**Events**

The Students’ Union will be hosting a range of events during the welcome period ranging from virtual meet and greets to the Freshers’ fair and evening events. For a full list visit: [www.abersu.co.uk](http://www.abersu.co.uk).

---

**UMCA**

UMCA is the Welsh Students’ Union which represents its members socially, linguistically and educationally. As well as organising all kinds of social events throughout the year, UMCA is home to many Welsh societies which allow you to be part of a great community.

- UMCA President: 01970 621738
- umca@aber.ac.uk

---

**Official Freshers’ Facebook group**

Join the Students’ Union’s official 2021-22 Freshers’ group to talk to other Aber students and find out about the range of activities, events and opportunities happening over the freshers’ period: [www.facebook.com/groups/heloaber2021](http://www.facebook.com/groups/heloaber2021)

---

**The Welsh language at Aberystwyth**

Many students choose Aberystwyth because of the vibrancy of its Welsh speaking community and the exceptional opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh.

Welsh is a living language in Aberystwyth and in many other parts of Wales. Around a fifth of the country’s population can speak Welsh. However, about half of the population of the county of Ceredigion speaks the language. We operate a Bilingual Policy and ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.

**Learning Welsh**

We’d encourage you to discover for yourselves a little about the language and its unique culture. There are plenty of opportunities to learn Welsh at Aberystwyth University. Each year many students without any prior knowledge of Welsh express an interest in learning the language.

Modules for beginners are offered by the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies, while Learn Welsh ([www.aber.ac.uk/en/learn-welsh](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/learn-welsh)) offer classes in the community.

---

**Aberystwyth and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol**

Aberystwyth University works closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to develop opportunities for students to study in Welsh whatever subject they are studying. The Aberystwyth University Branch of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is situated in the Centre for Welsh Language Services, and the Branch Officers are always happy to answer questions about studying through the medium of Welsh. You can contact them on aberystwyth@colegcymraeg.ac.uk.
Information for international students

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Aberystwyth, and we’re working hard to make your journey and arrival as straightforward as possible.

Your Arrival

We are aware that global travel is still complicated this year, but don’t worry, we’re here to help and support you through the journey. There are different travel arrangements, depending on which country you are travelling from, and whether it is a Green, Amber or Red List country. You can find out official details on the Welsh Government website: www.gov.wales/coronavirus-travel.

- If you are arriving from a Red-List country, we will support you with £1,000 towards the cost of the quarantine hotel.
- If you are arriving from an Amber-List country, we will support you through your 10 day self-isolation on campus.

For more up to date information, see: www.aber.ac.uk/international/arrival

International Airport Pick-Up Service

An Airport Pick-Up service will be provided from Birmingham International Airport (BHX) on the following dates:

- Thursday 9 September
- Friday 10 September
- Thursday 16 September
- Friday 17 September
- Wednesday 6 October
- Thursday 7 October.

Booking is essential and further information for can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/international/arrival

Opening a bank account

When opening a bank account in the UK, you will need a ‘Letter of Introduction to UK Banking Facilities’, available to download from your Student Record.

For full details about how to obtain a letter or Registration Certificate to open a bank account in the UK please refer to www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/certification

Visa support

The International Student Adviser can offer support, advice and information on matters related to your student visa. Please do contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

- International Student Adviser: +44 1970 621548
- immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk
- www.aber.ac.uk/international

Health

International students (including EEA/Swiss) who are coming to study for six months or more will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge as part of their visa application process. If you paid the Immigration Health Surcharge then you will qualify for free NHS treatment on the same basis as anyone who is ordinarily resident in the UK.

International students (including EEA/Swiss) who are coming to study for less than six months and have not paid an Immigration Health Surcharge should take out private medical insurance for the duration of their visit to the UK.

Family members of students who are not travelling to the UK on a dependant type visa will also need to take private medical insurance for the duration of their visit to the UK, as they may not be eligible for free NHS treatment.

All EEA/ Swiss students are also advised to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from your home country before coming to the UK. Visit the European Commission’s website for more information on how to apply for an EHIC card. The EHIC card is available free of charge, please take care to only use an official website to avoid the risk of using a website that will charge you a fee.

Please refer to the Student Health pages for further information www.aber.ac.uk/en/sscs/student-health

Biometric residence permit (BRP/Visa)

(applies only to non-EU Students)

Aberystwyth University will provide information to students who need to pick up BRPs. Further details will be emailed to you nearer the start of term.

EEA/Swiss students will not need a BRP, visas will be issued digitally.
To-do list

- Keep checking your personal email account to receive important information and instructions.
- Download the ApAber to your mobile.
- If you will be living in University accommodation, when prompted via email, follow guidance to complete your pre-arrival Induction Programme found in the Accommodation Licence Pack.
- Check into accommodation during your pre-booked slot.
- Activate your email account and obtain your Aber Card – these give you access to library and computer services, and some of our residences. You need to activate your email account and obtain your Aber Card before you can register as a student.
- Keep checking your new University email account once it has been activated.
- Complete the Supporting your Learning module to help you prepare to study with us (see p.13 for details).
- Complete registration by the deadlines provided for your course (see p.11).
- Make arrangements to pay your fees (tuition and, if appropriate, accommodation).
- Enter your emergency contact details onto your student record.
- Check your home and University address and contact details are correct.
- If you have a disability/learning difference/long term health issue, and have not yet contacted the Accessibility Team please email accessibility@aber.ac.uk for advice on adjustments and support.
- Register as a patient with a local doctor’s surgery.
- Open an account with a local bank (unless you already have a UK account).
- Try to get one, or preferably both, of your COVID-19 vaccination doses before your arrival in Aberystwyth.
- Check out our COVID webpages www.aber.ac.uk/covid for all the latest information and frequently asked questions.
- Complete the right to study / visa document process.

See you soon!