

Parent's Guide

For entry in 2017



Another world
...a safe haven

TOP 4
IN THE UK
AND 1st IN WALES

★★★★ NSS 2016 ★★★★★

FOR STUDENT
SATISFACTION

Another world... a warm welcome

At Aberystwyth we pride ourselves on the warmth and friendliness of our University. We are of a size where human relationships matter, and close links exist between staff and students. They meet not just in the lecture room and in seminar groups, but at social and cultural events. Ours is a caring University where ties are close and strenuous efforts are undertaken to ensure the well-being and welfare of all our students. With the individual attention and support we give our students, and the safe environment of the University and town, you can rest assured that your son/daughter will be cared for whilst at our University.

With over 140 years of excellence in teaching and research, the University performed well in the Research Excellence Framework 2014, where 95% of its research was of an internationally recognised standard or higher. Aberystwyth has been voted

4th best broad based university in the UK and the best in Wales for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2016, with 92% student satisfaction.

Aberystwyth University is also amongst the top 50 universities in the UK for “best graduates for the workplace” according to a report published by the Times Higher Education (THE), and over 92% of our graduates were in employment and/or further study six months after graduation.

Aberystwyth offers you an excellent package of scholarships, bursaries and awards, and we have also made significant recent investments in student residences, which enables us to guarantee all our first year students a place in university accommodation. Aberystwyth provides students with a high-class residential experience conducive to study and success at a reasonable price.

If, as a result of reading this booklet, you have any questions or queries, then please do not hesitate to contact us. Our friendly and welcoming staff are always willing to help. Full contact details are provided at the back of this booklet.



Professor John Grattan
Acting Vice-Chancellor

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**Aberystwyth is the safest
university in Wales, and is in
the top 10 safest place to be a
student in the UK,
according to the Complete
University Guide 2015**



Helping your son/daughter to choose a subject

With such a wide choice available, choosing which subject and course to study is probably one of the hardest decisions facing students today. Here's some information for you about the variety and methods of study available at Aberystwyth, to help you to help your son/daughter to choose the subject that's right for them.

Your son/daughter may already know what they want to do, and have their career all planned out, but many don't yet know what they want to do in the future. If this is the case, make sure your son/daughter is going to enjoy their time at university, and that they are truly interested in the scheme they're thinking of studying. They will do better in a course they're enjoying, and will be able to motivate themselves much easier. The skills gained during their studies are highly valued by employers, and in many jobs now the skills gained at university are often deemed more important than the degree subject.

Agriculture, Geography and Politics subjects at Aberystwyth are amongst the top 150 in the world for teaching quality, according to the QS World Rankings 2015



Subjects

At Aberystwyth we offer our students a tremendous variety of courses. These include directly vocational courses and the more academic courses, which can be studied in many different combinations. Our main subject areas include...

Accounting, Finance, Economics, Marketing, Business and Management; Fine Art and Art History; Biological Sciences; Computer Science; Drama, Theatre, Film and Television Studies; Education and Childhood Studies; English and Creative Writing; Environmental Sciences; European Languages; Geography and Earth Sciences; History and Welsh History; International Politics; Law and Criminology; Mathematics; Physics; Psychology; Rural Sciences; Sport and Exercise Science; Veterinary Biosciences; Welsh, Professional Welsh, Celtic Languages and Celtic Studies.

All of our courses prepare our students for a wide range of careers as they all provide useful and essential skills and abilities that are valuable in the world of work. Thus, for example, a graduate in History will have a range of knowledge specific

to the subject, but will also be able to assimilate information in a structured and organised way and to present a case clearly and constructively. Our students not only learn to work on their own, but also develop team working skills, which are of the utmost importance for their subsequent careers. They will also gain time management, critical thinking, writing and research skills.

Methods of study

Once your son/daughter has chosen their subject, they need to decide on the method of study. Single honours schemes concentrate on studying one main subject in depth, whereas joint honours schemes allows students to combine two subjects, studying both equally. Major/minor schemes are also available in some combinations, which allow students to study one subject for two-thirds of their time here, and the minor subject for a third of their time here. For a complete list of courses and possible combinations visit our website:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/course-finder



4 of our subject areas were voted the best in the UK – Animal Science, Environmental Earth Science, French and Celtic studies, National Student Survey 2016



100% of our students were satisfied with their courses in the subject areas of Fine Art, Environmental Earth Science, Physical Geography, Animal Science, Countryside Conservation, Accounting and Finance, Plant Biology, International Politics and the Non-Western World, and Astrophysics.
National Student Survey 2016



Aberystwyth is ideally located for the study of geography, environmental and countryside courses, as it's located within easy reach of mountains, the sea, estuaries, forests, sand dunes and marshlands.

Choosing the right course...

Make sure that your son/daughter takes their time to research and gather information about all of their choices, and has had a chance to look at their favourites in detail.

- Make sure that your son/daughter takes their time to think about the subjects they enjoy studying, and discuss their strengths with you, their friends and teachers. It's important they choose a course that they'll enjoy studying, as well as one they'll be capable of doing
- Make sure your son/daughter chooses a course that is within their grasp in terms of their qualifications. There's no point to them dreaming about fantastic courses, if they don't think they'll get enough points to qualify to study them.
- Does your son/daughter know what he/she wants to do after graduating? Do they know what job they would like to have, or what qualifications will be needed to try for that type of job? Some subjects are specialised, and they don't want to spend three years studying a subject that will restrict their career choices.

Once they know what subject they would like to study, they'll need to consider **where to study that subject...**

To find out which universities offer the courses your son/daughter is interested in, visit the UCAS website that has a course search facility that lists all the courses available in Britain (wwwucas.com). The Unistats website also offers a course search option (<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk>).

Once they have a list of places, doing some of the following things will be advantageous, as your son/daughter tries to reduce their list to five choices:

- **Look at the university websites and their prospectuses.** You should request a prospectus from every university on the shortlist. They may also have an alternative prospectus that is prepared by students, as well as having subject-specific course brochures.
- **Visit the universities that interest them most,** if you can. Most universities have Open Days, and there should be information about these on their websites and in their prospectuses. You will get a chance to speak to current students during Open Days.
- **Look at social media websites.** Most universities now have Facebook pages and use other social media sites. They sometimes provide the chance to contact current students directly.
- **Research the scholarships and bursaries.** Many universities offer a variety of financial packages to help your son/daughter through their studies. Scholarships and bursaries are usually money that is in addition to the loan, and usually they don't have to be paid back. It's worth having a look at what they have to offer, because any extra support is sure to be a big help.

Another world

...a safe haven

Enter another world at Aberystwyth where our inspirational teaching, research with excellence, and trusted support combine to prepare your son/daughter for their future, and will help them to make the most of your and their investment.

Everything we do is centred around our students. We work with them to bring out their potential in their chosen field. This may be based around work, research or further study. We hope that this is the environment that you want them to be part of.

We're the safest university in Wales, and in the top 10 safest in the UK, according to the *Complete University Guide 2015*. So you can rest assured that your son/daughter should be well supported and feel at home here at Aberystwyth, indeed many of our students stay for years after graduation.



Our close-knit community is one of the jewels in our crown. Not only is there a unique bond between the students, but our staff and the people of Aberystwyth are also very welcoming and friendly. Indeed Aberystwyth was officially named a "Great Town" at the prestigious Academy of Urbanism 2015 Awards.

Inspirational Teaching

At Aberystwyth your son/daughter will be taught by some of the leading experts in their field. This means that they'll be familiar with some of the world's new theories and research even before they're known to the wider world. Indeed 92% of our students are satisfied with their student experience at Aberystwyth, according to the National Student Survey 2016.

To support our high standard of teaching, we have in place a thorough process of supervision, support, training and continual professional development that will help your son/daughter to reach their potential and be ready for the career that they want. Our Careers Service works closely with departments to deliver additional talks and activities, so that whilst they study your son/daughter will develop skills that



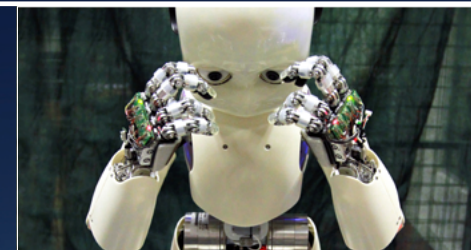
are highly sought by employers. A range of extra-curricular opportunities will also be available including guest lectures, field trips, work experience in the UK or abroad, study or volunteering abroad, workshops of all kinds, all of which will give life experience and enhance both their CV and student experience.

Research with Excellence

With 95% of our research of an internationally recognised standard or higher in the Research Excellence Framework 2014, Aberystwyth is within the top 50 UK institutions for research power and intensity.

Our scientists are experts in their fields, and some of our recent research highlights include:

- our space scientists played an important role in the discovery of the remains of the Beagle 2 Mars Lander
- the University was shortlisted for the RCUK/PraxisUnico 2015 Impact Awards for Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation Professionals, for its "fair and equitable use of *Miscanthus* (elephant grass) genetic resources in the energy sector through international treaty and influence on UK and EU policymaking".
- our Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences staff are playing a pivotal role in a £1.8 million project to develop the technology required to plant the energy crop *Miscanthus* from seed, to produce green fuel faster. The team



will investigate how to optimise conditions for producing seed, and will trial a number of new varieties to investigate their yield and suitability for UK conditions.

- led by an Aberystwyth physicist, an international group of researchers has discovered a new method of manufacturing glass. The discovery could lead to the production of 'designer glasses' with applications in advanced photonics, while also facilitating industrial scale carbon capture and storage.
- the Head of our Department of Law and Criminology addressed the Annual World Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology, with his key note paper discussing the global challenge presented by an ageing population

Trusted Support

Our well-equipped libraries are open 24 hours a day during term-time, and our friendly and approachable student support services offer help through a range of different ways, providing information and advice on financial, learning, academic and emotional issues.

Our communal work lounges located in Rosser, Pentre Jane Morgan and Fferm Penglairs residences offer our students spaces to socialise and also work together in a less formal setting, enabling further peer support, and offering them a space to work with other colleagues in a different setting.



The brand new communal hub at Fferm Penglairs residences is open 24/7 for use by students, including laundry facilities, an indoor bike storage, meeting rooms and a social space with WIFI and printing facilities. Also located within the hub is the SGUBORfach lounge/café, that offers a range of snacks, hot and cold drinks during term-time.

Your step-by-step guide to applying to university

Key dates for entry in 2017

Early September 2016

UCAS open for applications for entry in 2017.

15 January 2017

Deadline for applying through UCAS. At Aberystwyth we are happy to receive offers after this date, and we treat all applications on an individual basis.

15 & 18 January

Closing date to apply for Aberystwyth University Entrance Scholarship – 15th January for EU/international applicants, 18th January for UK applicants.

31 January

Entrance Scholarship Examinations.

April (and onwards)

Online accommodation applications open for students holding Aberystwyth UF, UI, CF, CI offers.

30 June

Those who submit UCAS applications after this date will be entered into Clearing.

17 August

A level results day.

20 September

Final deadline for applications to 2017 courses.

START

Apply through
UCAS.com.
Aberystwyth University
institution code: A40

Top Tip: Your son/daughter will be given a 10 digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as it will be needed for many things

The University will decide if they'll offer your son/daughter a place or not

Top Tip: Check progress through UCAS track. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within 4 weeks

The offer will show up on UCAS Track

Results day
UCAS track will show confirmation of your son or daughter's offer of a place. If they're unsure of their place, contact the university directly

Accommodation
Once we are chosen as your son or daughter's firm/insurance choice they will be able to apply for their accommodation (from 1st April onwards)

Once your son/daughter has received all of their offers, they will need to respond within a set time, noting which universities will be their firm and insurance choices

Try to ensure that your son/daughter is not on holiday on this day or indeed during that week

If your son/daughter doesn't get what they had hoped for, entering 'Clearing' might be worthwhile (see page 10)

Congratulations, your son/daughter has completed the university application process! Now make sure they have applied for accommodation, and start preparing them for their university experience (see page 20)!

FINISH

How we consider applications

When we consider applications for our degree schemes, we do so on the basis of the applicant's potential to benefit from academic study. The decision as to whether to accept an application is made without regard to race, ethnic origin, religion or creed.

The applications are received by our Undergraduate Admissions Office which transfers the applications on to the course tutor in the appropriate subject

for consideration. In some subjects, for example joint honours schemes in English and History, the application form is sent to a tutor in each department. The University aims to respond to applications within 4 weeks so that your son/daughter can be informed of our decision promptly. The process can be worrying enough as it is without having to wait a long time for decisions, and so we closely monitor the process to ensure that delays are minimised.

Undergraduate Admissions Office:

Cledwyn Building
Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DD
Tel: 01970 622021
E-mail: ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk

Meeting the terms of the offer

If your son or daughter achieves the appropriate grades in their exams, then he or she has met the terms of our offer and we will be pleased to accept him/her as a student. We seek to ensure that those who have shown a commitment to Aberystwyth by making an application are allocated a place on their course, or on an alternative, should they narrowly fail to meet the terms of the original offer. However, we can only guarantee acceptance if the terms of the offer are fully met. Flexibility for 'near misses' is limited and varies from subject to subject. If there are any doubts following the publication of the results, then please contact us. We have helplines available throughout the summer and the intention of this service is just that - to help your son/daughter.

Clearing and Adjustment

If your son/daughter doesn't get the results they had hoped for, or indeed if they had better results than expected and aren't happy with their choice of university, entering the Clearing and Adjustment process could be a good option for them. On results day, universities across the country offer entry onto courses through Clearing with a view to matching students to vacancies available.

How clearing works

Your son/daughter will automatically enter Clearing if they are registered with UCAS and are not holding any offers. UCAS offers a list of the courses available through this process, and some other websites show which courses are available, though this changes constantly. At Aberystwyth we operate a Clearing Hotline on extended hours. See our website for further information.

Adjustment is slightly different to Clearing, in that it offers students who have already been through the application process, but had better grades than they expected, to change to another university that has Adjustment vacancies. Contacting universities through their Clearing hotlines as early as possible is the fastest way to do this.

It's worth noting, that your son/daughter can contact the universities before they are officially released into clearing, to find out what their options are, and then sort out the paperwork. Be warned that places fill up quickly on results day, and so try to discuss this process with your son/daughter before results day, even if it's only to get them thinking of anywhere else they would be interested in, so that they can call that university first.



Some terms explained...

Conditional Offer	Outline the conditions under which your son/daughter will be considered for the university. E.g. achieving B at A level.
Unconditional Offer	A firm offer of a place at university, as a result of qualifications your son/daughter already has.
U/F	Unconditional Firm offer. A definite place at university that your son/daughter has already indicated as being of definite interest.
U/I	Unconditional Insurance offer. A definite place at another university or on another course, often on lower qualifications. If your son/daughter doesn't get the points for the U/F offer, they will automatically be offered a place at this insurance choice university/course.
C/F	Conditional Firm offer. A firm offer of a place at university, as long as conditions of offer are met.
C/I	Conditional Insurance offer. An insurance place at university, which depends on your son/daughter fulfilling the conditions of their offer. If your son/daughter doesn't fulfil conditions of C/F offer, they will automatically be offered a place at this insurance choice university/course, as long as they have fulfilled the conditions of this offer.
UCAS ID	When you apply for a place at University, through UCAS at the very beginning of the process, you will be given a 10 digit UCAS ID number, which is unique to you. Keep it to hand as you will need it several times throughout the application process, and if you enter Clearing or Adjustment.
UCAS Track	Once you register and complete your application online through UCAS, you will be able to view the progress of your application, view and respond to offers, and add clearing choices through UCAS Track.
Deferred Entry	If you complete the process of applying to university and have been accepted onto a course, and then decide that you don't want to start in September, you can defer your course (effectively put it on hold) for a year. You could do this to enable you go on a gap year, or work experience, for example.

Visit us

Choosing a university is a life-changing decision. You will invest a great deal in studying at university and we understand that you need to know your son/daughter is happy with their choice, will be safe and supported. Visiting us is one of the best ways of finding out for yourself what Aberystwyth University has to offer...

Open Days

During the year, we host several main Open Days, where you can visit any part of the University and you'll be able to:

- look at our accommodation
- visit the departments
- tour our campus and facilities
- find out about our bursaries and scholarships
- speak to our current students and staff
- find out how studying at Aberystwyth will enhance your son/daughter's employability

For more information and to reserve a place on an Open Day visit www.aber.ac.uk/openday or contact us: 01970 622065 or openday@aber.ac.uk

Visiting Days

We don't usually insist that an applicant visits Aberystwyth for a formal academic interview, however, when we make an offer we will invite you to one of our Visiting Days, which provides a valuable opportunity for you to look around the University. You can also have any questions answered personally and in some cases, we can offer places at reduced entry requirements than those published. We are also pleased to be able to help your son/daughter with some of the travelling costs for Visiting Days.

Departmental Events

Our departments often host events for schools and groups or other specific activities to do with their work. Contact the department of interest directly to see what they may be arranging.

Events in your area

Our Schools and Colleges Liaison Team are closely involved with advising students, teachers and careers staff, as well as parents, on all aspects of applying to and studying in higher education. The team travels extensively throughout the UK offering a variety of FREE services to schools and colleges, including:

- Impartial advice and guidance on all aspects of higher education
- Broad range of presentations (e.g. researching and applying to university, student finance, and student life)
- Mock interview sessions
- Attendance at school career events and national UCAS conventions
- Subject talks from the University's academic departments

If you'd like us to come to your school/college please ask the school/college to contact us: www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/schools/, 01970 622065, or email schools-liaison@aber.ac.uk.

Try it out!

Your son/daughter can experience a taste of university life at Aberystwyth for themselves, by attending our popular day and residential programmes. During their time here we tailor a programme of activities that give them the opportunity to experience academic, social and sporting life; introduce them to our state-of-the-art facilities; and tour our main campuses and facilities. For more information contact us: www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/schools/, 01970 622065, or email schools-liaison@aber.ac.uk.

Online Virtual Open Day

Experience Aberystwyth University without the travel by joining our Online Virtual Open Days. Find out more: www.aber.ac.uk/virtual

Fees and financial support

Here we highlight the student fees, and main financial provision available for students entering higher education in 2017. The content isn't exhaustive, but it will provide you with a useful starting point.

Tuition fees

The cost of tuition fees will depend on which higher education institution you decide to study at. Aberystwyth University charged £9,000 for courses starting in 2016, but the important thing to remember is that you are entitled to apply for a Government loan to cover the cost of fees. This loan is not means-tested and will be paid directly to the University on your behalf if you choose to apply for it.

If you are a student domiciled in Wales you will be entitled to a fee grant (non-repayable) from the Welsh Government. In 2016, students were liable for £3,810 of the total fee, and a fee loan is available to cover this. Don't forget that you must apply to Student Finance Wales for this fee grant, it isn't done automatically; students who do not submit an application form will become liable to pay the full tuition fees of £9000.

For the latest information on our fees and the support available, visit our website: www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/finance

Help with living costs

In addition to the tuition fee loans, you will also be able to apply for a maintenance loan (sometimes called a living cost loan). This loan is designed primarily to assist with things such as accommodation, travel costs, books, etc.

The maintenance loan is means-tested and is being increased substantially for entry in 2017. The maintenance loan is deposited into your son/daughter's bank account, so it will be their responsibility to plan a budget and decide where the

money is spent. Contact the appropriate financial authority from amongst the list below, depending on where your son/daughter lives.

Remember:

- Student loans become repayable after you graduate and are earning over £21,000 per year
- The amount you repay is based on what you earn, not what you borrow
- Any outstanding loan is written off after 30 years

Extra support depending on your circumstances

There are further Government grants available depending on your personal circumstances.

Students living in England:
www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk

Students living in Wales:
www.studentfinance.wales.co.uk

Students living in Scotland: www.saas.gov.uk

Students living in Northern Ireland:
www.studentfinance.ni.co.uk

When you're deciding on which university to apply for, check out what scholarships and bursaries are on offer. There's a wide variety of university financial support on offer, so it's well worth spending some time seeing what's out there, and many of these are available to all of our students (see page 15). If you need any further advice on funding issues or want to ensure that your son/daughter is getting everything they are entitled to, you're welcome to contact our Student Advisers in Student Support.

Additional funds

There are a few other ways of obtaining additional funds that your son/daughter may need to consider...

Working part-time

Many students supplement their income with part-time work during term time or by vacation work and there are a range of opportunities in Aberystwyth. Trying to balance work and studies, particularly during examination periods, can be difficult. Students can earn up to the personal allowance (£11,000 for 2016/17 tax year) before being liable for income tax. Grants, scholarships and loans do not count for tax purposes. In order to safeguard our students' academic interests the University has a regulation that they must not work more than 15 hours a week in paid employment.

Working within the University and beyond

There are also plenty of opportunities to gain work experience, work or take part in university life within your department and on campus. The University's AberForward scheme offers you a range of placement opportunities across all departments during the summer period of your first and second year here as a student. We also offer AberTemps, which provides casual paid part-time opportunities across the University specifically for our own students in roles ranging from marketing, gardening and research through to silver service and being a University ambassador. There are also opportunities within the Students' Union to volunteer, work and gain work experience. For more information on any of these options and on a far broader range of part-time and holiday work opportunities outside the University on offer locally, nationally and internationally your son/daughter should call in to the Careers Service office at any time. In the meantime, visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers

Sponsorship

Although opportunities for sponsorship are currently limited, some companies and the armed forces will sponsor some students through university or college, and will usually guarantee work during vacations or even after completion of the course.

Early application directly to the company is usually required. Sponsorship often follows successful work experience in the summer vacation, or a year out following the second year.

Year in Employment Scheme (YES)

The University's YES scheme enables students, with the support of their departments, to take a voluntary paid year out between their second and third years to work in a variety of organisations both in the UK and overseas. Participating in YES is a rewarding and worthwhile experience both personally and professionally.

Financial planning

The first few days at University can appear to be hectic, with several competing demands upon a student's time and money. It is important to plan in advance and to avoid the situation in which all the grant or loan has been spent in the first few days. Every bank and building society in Aberystwyth is accustomed to providing help and guidance. The ability to organise funds in a structured way will be of great value throughout the period. In order to help, you might wish to consider discussing a draft budget with your son or daughter. Additionally, if your circumstances will allow, you may need to arrange to provide some financial assistance yourself.

Further advice and assistance

Our Student Advisers in Student Support Services can provide you with further advice on managing money, accessing additional sources of financial support and helping with funding applications.

Scholarships, bursaries and awards

We offer a generous and comprehensive package of financial rewards to our applicants. Most of our awards are open to full-time UK/EU domiciled students.

- **Entrance Scholarships** - approximately 70 awards available, worth either £1,000 or £2,000 a year. Awarded on the basis of two examinations set by the University, taken on 31st January. Examples of past papers can be downloaded from our website. Closing date for applications is 18th January for UK students and 15th January for EU/International students.
- **Merit Awards** - £1,000 during the first year; approximately 250 available. For students who narrowly missed out on receiving an Entrance Scholarship.
- **Aberystwyth Bursaries** - our means-tested bursaries, worth either £500 or £750 a year for students from households with an income below £35,000.
- **Sports Scholarships** - £500 a year plus free Club Sporty membership and other benefits. Awarded to students who can demonstrate recent achievement of a high standard in their chosen sport, as well as a commitment to developing their sporting performance whilst at university. Closing date 30th June.
- **Music Scholarships** - £500 a year plus free membership of Music Centre ensembles and other benefits for experienced players of orchestral instruments. Closing date 15th June.
- **Departmental Scholarships** - £250 to £500 a year, currently available in the Departments of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics.
- **Bursaries for Care Leavers, Young Carers and related categories** - £800 to £1,500 a year.
- **Aberystwyth International Scholarships** - an annual £2,000 discount off the tuition fees for international students.
- **International Excellence Undergraduate Scholarships** - £8,000 in tuition fee discounts over 3 years. Awarded on the basis of academic achievement. All overseas (non-EU) applicants are automatically considered.



Our funding package means that it is possible to receive over £15,000 over the duration of a 3 year course at Aberystwyth. There's no need to pay this money back, and it is in addition to any grants or loans your son/daughter may receive.

For full details of what we have to offer, and for terms and conditions for each individual award, please see our Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards brochure or our website: www.aber.ac.uk/scholarships

Accommodation

Our accommodation is situated within easy reach of the campus so there is no need for costly commuting. We offer a wide range of accommodation to provide your son/daughter with an option that will suit them and your budget.

We also guarantee accommodation for all first year students (provided applications are received by the 1st August on year of entry, and the offer has been responded to before the deadline provided). To help your son/daughter to work, all of our study bedrooms have free access to the web, and all offer both wireless and hard-wired connections. Each residence is a vibrant community with its own distinctive character, offering a safe and secure environment in which to socialise, study and relax.

Self-catering accommodation

This accommodation is arranged in either flats or individual houses to accommodate between 2 and 10 people, with fully fitted kitchens to offer you the independence to cater for yourself. All self-catered residences (apart from our en-suite accommodation) offer shared facilities including bathroom (toilets, wash basins, showers and/or baths).

Fferm Penglais (en-suite and studio)

Location:	top of Penglais Hill, opposite Penglais Campus
Rooms:	single en-suite (with double beds and walk-in shower)
Flats:	6 or 8 people
Kitchen includes:	oven with grill and induction hob, fridge/freezer, dishwasher, microwave and a kettle, and other essentials
Communal area:	lounge area in the kitchen with sofas, coffee table and TV
Central facilities:	landerettes, stores, social and sporting facilities

An area of Fferm Penglais is dedicated for students who are Welsh learners or fluent Welsh speakers, and wish to live in a Welsh speaking environment.



Pentre Jane Morgan (PJM)

Location:	top of Penglais Hill, opposite Penglais Campus
Rooms:	Single or twin
Flats:	5 or 6 people
Kitchen includes:	oven with grill and hob, fridge/freezer, microwave and a kettle, amongst other essentials
Communal area:	dining area in kitchen
Central facilities:	landerettes, learning centre (the Lounge, including PCs, Wi-fi, group study areas, photocopier, vending machines and sofas)



Rosser

Location:	top of Penglais Campus
Rooms:	single en-suite
Flats:	8 people
Kitchen includes:	oven with grill and hob, fridge/freezer, microwave and a kettle, amongst other essentials
Communal area:	kitchens include sofa and dining table or breakfast bar
Central facilities:	landerettes, learning centre (the Lounge, including PCs, Wi-fi, group study areas, photocopier, vending machines and sofas)



Trefloyne

Location:	top of Penglais Campus
Rooms:	single
Flats:	7 people
Kitchen includes:	oven with grill and hob, fridge/freezer, microwave and a kettle, amongst other essentials
Communal area:	kitchens include sofa and dining table
Central facilities:	landerettes, learning centre (the Lounge, including PCs, Wi-fi, group study areas, photocopier, vending machines and sofas)



Cwrt Mawr

Location:	top of Penglais Campus
Rooms:	single and twin
Flats:	6 to 10 people
Kitchen includes:	oven with grill and hob, fridge/freezer, microwave and a kettle, amongst other essentials
Communal area:	kitchens includes dining area
Central facilities:	landerettes, learning centre (the Lounge, including PCs, Wi-fi, group study areas, photocopier, vending machines and sofas), secure cycle storage



Seafront (some en-suite)

Location:	Constitution Hill side of seafront
Rooms:	Single (some en-suite)
Flats:	4 to 10 people
Kitchen includes:	oven with grill and hob, fridge/freezer, microwave and a kettle, amongst other essentials
Communal area:	kitchens includes dining area
Central facilities:	laundry facilities



Penbryn

Location:	Penglais Campus
Rooms:	single, some twin rooms
Flats:	12 to 25 people
Kitchen includes:	table top oven/hob, fridge/freezer, microwave and a kettle, amongst other ess
Communal area:	soft seating areas
Central facilities:	restaurant/café, laundry facilities, secure cycle storage, vending machines

An area of accommodation located within Penbryn is designated for students who are Welsh learners or fluent Welsh speakers, and wish to live in a Welsh speaking environment.



Aber Card

A catered student's Aber Card will automatically be credited with enough money for at least one main meal a day. This meal allowance is taken from the hall fees and credited to the Aber Card in termly instalments, giving your son/daughter the flexibility of when and where to eat. Meals may be taken at TaMed Da, or at any of the University's restaurants.

Whether they are staying in catered accommodation or not, you can also top up your son/daughter's AberCard with additional money online. This money can be used at any one of the University's catering outlets (except on alcohol) as well as in the Sports Centre.

All residents, whether in a catered hall or not, can use the Aber Card at any of our catering outlets and will benefit from a 10% discount. The Aber Card is also the student identification, allowing access to a number of residences, 24 hour learning centres, laundry rooms, printing and library services.



Catering Services

Our Hospitality Team offer you a wide range of choices of where to use the Aber card, from restaurants to cafes and shops:

- TaMed Da Restaurant, TaMed Bach Coffee Shop - Penbryn halls of residence
- Blas Gogerddan, Gogerddan Campus
- Arts Centre Café and Piazza Café, Penglais
- IBER Bach Café – Penglais
- SGUBORfach shop, Fferm Penglais
- Students Union shop – Penglais
- Starbucks – Penglais
- Blas Padarn - Llanbadarn Centre
- SGUBORfach - Fferm Penglais

Further information on Hospitality can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/hospitality

What's included in the accommodation fee?

Included in our accommodation fees are:

- **Insurance** - we have in place a block-cover policy protecting some of your items against theft, fire, flood and accidental damage with unlimited student room cover.
- **Energy Charges**- heating, water, electricity and lighting
- **Network connections in rooms** - all student bedrooms have a hard-wired network connection offering high-speed access via the academic computer network. In addition to this there is Wi-Fi in the majority of our residences.
- **Cycle Storage** - outdoor cycle racks and a limited number of indoor secure cycle store spaces are available at Cwrt Mawr, Fferm Penglais and Penbryn free of charge to residents. A bike wash is also available at Fferm Penglais. Spaces can be booked through the Accommodation Office
- **Learning Facilities** – Pentre Jane Morgan and Rosser Halls of Residence have learning centres which provide you with a convenient place for individual or group study

Applying for accommodation

If your son/daughter is holding Aberystwyth as their firm or insurance choice university, from 1 April onwards in year of entry, the Accommodation Office will send them a letter of invitation to their home address with information on how to access and complete our online application form.

Private sector accommodation

Although the University accommodates a large number of students in their second and third years, some opt to move into the private sector, of which Aberystwyth has plenty. The Accommodation Office offers a private sector advisory service, which includes maintaining a private sector database, answering any queries, as well as checking tenancy agreements.

Accommodation Office
Y Sgubor
Fferm Penglais
Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, SY23 3FH

Tel: 01970 622984
Email: accommodation@aber.ac.uk
Web: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation
Facebook: Aberystwyth University Accommodation Office
Twitter: @AberUni_UG



How you can help your son / daughter prepare for university

The time has come for your son or daughter to take another step towards an independent adult life. University provides an ideal springboard for the real world.

Before they go:

- Make sure they have sent their student finance application and information to the relevant student finance body (for example, Student Finance Wales, or Student Finance England). Not completing the application correctly and on time could mean that your son/daughter misses out on some of the means-tested bursaries available to them, or that they don't get their loan through in time.
- Is your son/daughter familiar with the operation of a washing machine? Can he or she cook a few simple dishes?
- Make sure your son/daughter has a bank account before starting his or her studies. Be sure to shop around and try to find one that has a gradual decrease in overdraft amount after graduation. Martin Lewis offers great advice on his website (www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/).
- If they're not used to looking after money, then try to work through a draft budget with your son/daughter.
- Ensure that the catering arrangements suit your son/daughter. Self-catering can be traumatic for students who have never previously boiled an egg! A meal loyalty card can be purchased from Hospitality Services (see page 18).
- We aim to provide all students with an experience of the highest quality, and to make our academic facilities available to all. For disabled students, those with long standing health conditions or specific learning needs, we can arrange a variety of support. For further information about our provision for disabled students or if you have specific questions, please contact us by email on disability@aber.ac.uk or phone us on 01970 621761.

- Encourage your son/daughter to change to the best mobile phone contract they can find, one which preferably has a fixed tariff including free minutes/texts/web use/data downloads, so that they don't have to face large unexpected bills.
- Once their email account has been activated, your son/daughter can apply for their Aber-Card (see page 18) online.. It can then be ready for them to collect during welcome week. They will have been emailed with details of how to do this, shortly before the start of term.
- Encourage them to have some passport photos taken before they arrive, as they'll need quite a few of them during the first week.
- Be sure to have a look through our Residents' Handbook, provided by the accommodation office (also available online) as it contains lots of useful information and some handy hints about living in halls.

Moving in:

- Remind your son/daughter of the paperwork needed on departure for university (including birth certificate, original examination certificates – these may be asked for). Don't forget to bring plenty of passport photos.
- Provide advice as to what and how many personal effects they should bring to the University and ensure that they are insured. Students in residences are covered by an integral insurance. You can find a useful checklist on our accommodation pages of what they should bring: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/moving-in/checklist/
- Students must have a Television License if bringing their own TV.
- They will need to bring their Key Release Form for the accommodation with them. They will get this when they complete their online Induction Programme.
- Encourage them to take some homely effects with them, be it pictures, a few nick nacks, some bunting, posters, bed linen, or extra cushions. It will help them feel more comfortable in their bedroom. A pinboard is provided, but bringing some white-tack might be useful too.
- You can now pre-order bedding or kitchen essentials packs to be delivered to your room, which might be useful, from www.Click2Campus.co.uk; and a few shops in town also offer Click and Collect services, including Matalan, M&Co, Argos and Next.
- Remind your son/daughter that they can approach members of our A-Team. They are all current students and will be wearing lovely red t-shirts for that first moving in weekend. They can answer any questions and show them where things are if they get lost.
- Try to make some time for taking them to buy essentials, they may be looking forward to this to mark the beginning of their adventure!
- Before you leave, encourage them to stay safe and have fun - join as many clubs and societies as they can, and really make the most of their time at uni!



Another world...

a home from home

It is perfectly natural for students and their parents to be apprehensive about the first few weeks at university. This can be the most difficult period for everybody, as students adapt to a new environment and meet new people, while parents get used to not having their son or daughter at home.

We seek to ensure that all our students settle in as quickly as possible after the start of term. We organise an induction programme that explains the way the institution operates and gives a thorough introduction to all the facilities available to our students.

Students can turn to a number of sources of advice to assist them in this settling-in period, for example, their personal tutors in academic departments, and the University and Union Services. Also our A-Team can be found around campus during the first week of term. These are all current students, wearing lovely red t-shirts, which are there to help your son/daughter with any questions at all, including how to fill in forms, get a library card, to get directions to rooms and buildings, and anything else they need to know. Nobody should feel apprehensive about using these services: they are there to support students and help them to adjust as rapidly as possible so that they can get the best out of their studies and achieve their potential.

The Student Welcome Centre, located at the heart of Penglais Campus, is also open throughout the year. At the Centre students can find the Student Support Services, and the Admissions Offices are located in the nearby Cledwyn Building.

We invite you to the Vice-Chancellor's Welcome talk, which is organized for parents and friends on the first days of the Welcome Week, and timed to coincide with the period when most students are being dropped off by their families.

It may also help you to know that we are aware of the natural anxieties you may have and do everything we can to help your son and daughter settle in here. After the initial strangeness has worn off, the vast majority of our students develop a strong attachment to the town and the University. Indeed, many of them stay in the area and within the University for years!

Don't take our word for it! Here's what some of our students have to say...

"On my last night before university I was so nervous I couldn't even sleep! But as soon as I arrived I realised everyone was in the same boat, and ended up making some of the best friends of my life. Aber is such a nice place it took me next to no time to settle in, and I would say I'd prefer it here than to my own home!"

Phil Kirby, Wolverhampton

"Just before my arrival in the UK I was a bit nervous thinking about how it was going to be to study and live in a foreign country surrounded by completely new

people. However, from the very first day at Aberystwyth I felt very welcomed. Both staff and other students were really supportive – I remember visiting the Student Welcome Centre quite often and they were all very friendly and helped me a lot with filling various forms and 'getting things sorted'. Similarly, my lecturers were always there for me in case I had any questions or just needed moral support in my new environment. Now after four years of studying here I think about Aberystwyth as of my second home where I have met amazing people and made lifelong friends - it doesn't feel like 'abroad' at all!"

Agnieszka Szalasny, Kozy, Poland

Follow us on Facebook...

You can encourage your son/daughter to join our Aberystwyth new student page on Facebook, by searching for 'Aberystwyth University New Students'. We're also on twitter /AberUni_UG. These pages provide you a chance to ask questions and chat to other new students.

Also if you have questions yourself as a parent, feel free to join the Aberystwyth Facebook page for parents:

www.facebook.com/groups/parentsofaberunistudents/

Here you can also get answers to your questions.



You Tube

youtube.com/aberystwythuni

Find us elsewhere: www.aber.ac.uk/en/social-media



92% of our students are
satisfied with their overall
student experience
2016 National Student
Satisfaction survey

Supporting your son/daughter

At Aberystwyth we pride ourselves on the good relationships we have amongst our staff and students, and the community that exists within the University where the staff knows your son/daughter by their name.

Support

Should your son/daughter have any problems they'd like to discuss with our staff, they should seek to approach their personal tutor, the head of year in the academic department in the first instance. If they need more specific or specialist advice, they can contact the Student Welcome Centre, or the Advisory Service located in the Students' Union.

Our Student Support Services have been awarded the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation's Approved Provider Standard for both its Learner Support Mentoring scheme (which supports disabled students and those with specific learning differences) and its Signpost Mentoring scheme.

Signpost Mentoring

This service is primarily for our new students. Signpost offers friendly, confidential, one-to-one advice on any aspect of university life, to help your son/daughter reach their potential, settle into university life, plan for the future, and make the most of their time at Aberystwyth.

Health and well-being

All students are required to register at a local doctors' surgery. Aberystwyth is very much a 'university town' and the local practices have considerable experience of meeting the needs of students. As the major centre of population in mid-Wales, Aberystwyth has its own District General Hospital located next to the Penglais campus.

The University's Student Wellbeing Service (located in the Student Welcome Centre) provides advice and guidance on a range of health matters, including emotional and sexual wellbeing, and includes our mental health, health promotion and counseling provision. The Service is in addition to, but is not a substitute for statutory provision.

Financial Support

The Student Advice, Information and Money Service provides information, advice, support and referral on a wide range of issues. The service is confidential, non-judgemental and free of charge. We offer a drop-in service or students can make an appointment with an Adviser by contacting our Student Welcome Desk.

The student advisers are accredited with The National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA) and are able to offer professional advice on money management or any issues with Student Finance. They can also give advice and guidance on any queries relating to accommodation, academic progress, University procedures or eligibility for Hardship funds.

Disabled students/those with specific learning differences or chronic Health Conditions

Disabled students are encouraged to contact our Accessibility Service who can advise on the range of adjustments the University can put in place to support them in their studies. The Accessibility Service can also advise regarding the Disabled Students' Allowance.



Faith and beliefs

Arrangements and facilities are available in Aberystwyth for the major faiths. The University also has two designated multi faith spaces, and there are faith groups amongst the various Students' Union societies.

Safety and insurance

Although Aberystwyth is located in the area with the lowest crime rate in Western Europe and we have a police presence on-campus, we strongly advise all students to obtain insurance cover for all of their personal effects. Our University insurance will provide some level of coverage for your son/daughter's effects whilst they're in their bedroom, but we recommend that you consider upgrading this cover, or seek additional insurance.

We suggest that students make a list of all of their belongings and calculate the full replacement value most are surprised by the result. Make sure that the amount of cover obtained is sufficient to cover the replacement value. Many household policies either give an automatic extension or the facility to extend cover to your son's or daughter's effects whilst they're away from your home.

You may also wish to consider personal accident cover, particularly if your son or daughter is likely to be involved in sporting activities. More adventurous pastimes, such as climbing, surfing or hang-gliding are usually excluded from standard personal accident policies and specific policies should be obtained.

Special circumstances

We recognise that students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and that family circumstances can change during their years of study. We are anxious

that all factors which may affect a student's ability to study and perform to the best of their ability are taken into account before marks are finalised. Your role as parents is especially important in encouraging your son or daughter to report special circumstances to their department before examination boards meet so that they can be given the fullest possible consideration.

Employability

Our Careers Service aims to provide a supportive service which enables students and graduates to realise their aspirations, make informed life choices and achieve their potential. Our Careers Service will assist your son/daughter to map out a career path and to understand the essential steps they need to take in order to achieve that goal. We arrange for a broad range of employers, alumni and organisations to visit and offer their expertise, engaging our students in workshops, presentations and curriculum developments. Our focus is also on developing as many work-related experiences as possible, to support our students as they take advantage of all the opportunities on offer. For further information visit: www.aber.ac.uk/careers/

Confidentiality

Due to the Data Protection Act, University staff are unable to give any information about a student either applying for a place at the University or a student studying at the University, to a third party, without that student's express permission. This includes parents and supporters.

Enjoying student life

Student life at Aberystwyth is hectic but very enjoyable. It is an intimate town located on the coast of Cardigan Bay.

The scenic splendour of Aberystwyth is unsurpassed by any other university in Britain. Because of our location, Aberystwyth enjoys a thriving social and cultural life which is focused around students, and often involves the town. The on-campus facilities for sport and cultural activities are also excellent as are the many bars and eating places that are found in and around Aberystwyth. These cater unashamedly to student tastes and budgets. In Aberystwyth, there is none of the tension between 'town' and 'gown' that exists in some places.



A major advantage of Aberystwyth is that all aspects of your son or daughter's life as a student here can be easily undertaken on foot. Lectures, sporting facilities, libraries, shops, supermarkets, arts events, cinema and such facilities are only a few minutes walk away from each other and students do not have to waste time on expensive commuting. Once your son or daughter is in Aberystwyth, then he or she can concentrate on those aspects that are important to a student's life - work, play and rest.



Sports and Societies

The Students' Union is home to over 100 student societies of all types, ensuring that your son or daughter will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sporting, cultural and social activities. These can range from taking part in a theatrical production, a choir performance or a musical extravaganza, to a sporting activity.

Top places to visit

Aberystwyth and the area is popular holiday with tourists, which means it's got plenty of places you can visit when you call by to see your son/daughter!

- **Constitution Hill** - Once you reach the top you will be able to witness some of the greatest views in Aberystwyth.
- **Royal Pier** - This iconic structure holds many venues such as The Amusements Arcade and also the popular nightclub Pier Pressure. The first pier to open in Wales in the year 1865, it was originally 242 metres.
- **Aberystwyth Castle** - Built in response to the First Welsh War in the late 13th century, the ruins still reside and are open to the public
- **North and South Beach** - Everyone can enjoy having a picnic or games, or if on the south side of the beach a barbeque, and if you want to go in the water you can kayak, swim and even surf.
- **Dolphin Spotting, New Quay** - With boats heading out into open waters you can spend the day watching the dolphins swim in the ocean around you.
- **Aberystwyth Arts Centre** - One of the biggest and busiest arts centres in the whole of Wales. It contains a 320-seat theatre, a 900-seat concert hall, a cinema, a studio, galleries, cafes, a bar, and a gift shop. The bookshop sells academic books as well.



Top 5 sports clubs @Aber

1. **DGS Leagues** - sports competition for all abilities
2. **Ultimate Frisbee** - Frisbee matches in teams for all abilities
3. **Harriers Club** - athletics for all abilities
4. **Rugby Union and Rugby League teams**
5. **Aber Snow** - for those who like to ski, board, or sledge!



Top 5 societies @Aber

1. **Nomadic Players** - a popular theatre society
2. **Aber Student Media** - produces a newspaper, website, TV and radio service
3. **African Caribbean Society**
4. **Tickled Pink** - raises money for and awareness of Breast Cancer Care and CoppaFeel
5. **Real Ale Society**

Term times

The academic year is divided into two semesters which are spread over three terms. Most modules are examined at the end of the semester in which it is taken. Before each examination period, departments organise a reading week to enable students to catch up with their studies and prepare for the examinations. Although no lectures or formal activities take place during these periods, students are still expected to work.

SEMESTER 1					SEMESTER 2								
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	VACATION	JANUARY	EXAMINATIONS	FEBRUARY	MARCH	VACATION	APRIL	MAY	EXAMINATIONS	JUNE
Term 1 (Michaelmas Term)					Term 2 (Lent Term)					Term 3 (Easter Term)			

Dates of term for 2017-2018

Michaelmas Term (1)

Monday 25 September 2017 - Saturday 16 December 2017

Welcome Week/Registration

Monday 25 September 2017 - Friday 29 September 2017

Semester 1 Teaching

Monday 02 October 2017 - Saturday 16 December 2017

Christmas vacation

Monday 18 December 2017 - Saturday 06 January 2018

Lent Term (2)

Monday 08 January 2018 - Saturday 24 March 2018

Semester 1 Examinations

Wednesday 10 January 2018 - Tuesday 23 January 2018

Feedback/Marking/Preparation for Semester 2

Wednesday 24 January 2018 - Saturday 27 January 2018

Semester 2 Teaching

Monday 29 January 2018 - Saturday 24 March 2018

Easter vacation

Monday 26 March 2018 - Saturday 14 April 2018

Easter Term (3)

Monday 16 April 2018 - Saturday 02 June 2018

Semester 2 Teaching

Monday 16 April 2018 - Saturday 05 May 2018

Reading/Revision Week

Monday 07 May 2018 - Saturday 12 May 2018

Semester 2 Examinations

Monday 14 May 2018 - Saturday 02 June 2018



Lifelong learning

The University has a wide range of courses available to people of all ages. Many of our students are mature students (over 21) who have decided to undertake a course in higher education because they perceive that our courses will assist them to fulfil career requirements or personal academic ambitions. All the opportunities available to your son or daughter are also available to you, and you are most welcome to enquire for details. Contact the Admissions Office for a copy of our Guide for Mature Students.

Contact us

Student Support Services:

Student Welcome Centre
Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, SY23 3FB
Tel: 01970 621761
E-mail: student-support@aber.ac.uk

Student Fees Office:

Student Welcome Centre
Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth, SY23 3FB
Tel: 01970 628434
E-mail: fees@aber.ac.uk

Undergraduate Admissions Office:

Cledwyn Building
Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DD
Tel: 01970 622021
E-mail: ug-admissions@aber.ac.uk

Accommodation Office:

Y Sgubor
Fferm Penglais
Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, SY23 3FH
Tel: 01970 622900
24hour helpline: 01970 622900
E-mail: accommodation@aber.ac.uk

Complaints procedure

We hope you will find us a friendly and efficient organisation. However, if you have a complaint about any aspect of our admissions and recruitment service please contact: Pro Vice Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Visualisation Centre, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BF. The Pro Vice Chancellor will try to deal with your complaint within 5 working days. However, if this is not possible, we will contact you to explain what the difficulties are and when we can give you a full reply.

The information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (August 2016) but some of it may be subject to change. Please check online or with us for the latest information.



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- A photograph of two female graduates in black academic gowns and caps. The graduate on the left is holding a GoPro camera on a stick, taking a selfie. She is smiling and looking at the camera. The graduate on the right is also smiling and looking towards the camera. They are standing outdoors on a paved area, with a building and other people in the background.
- Flexible choice for students
 - Exceptional support for student learning, with over 140 years excellence in teaching and research
 - Guaranteed first year accommodation
 - An excellent package of bursaries, scholarships and awards
 - Access to the National Library of Wales
 - Best in Wales and top 4 in the UK for student satisfaction, National Student Survey 2016