

Parents' Guide

For entry in 2018



TOP 5
IN THE UK
AND 1st IN WALES

★★★★★
NSS 2017 ★★★★★
FOR STUDENT
SATISFACTION

Aberystwyth University's rankings are compared against the HE institutions listed in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2018**
**UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
FOR TEACHING
QUALITY**

Welcome to Aber

Choosing where to go to University and what to study is one of life's big crossroads. As a parent myself, I know that such decisions can often involve the whole family as well as friends, so I hope you'll find this booklet useful as you consider the advantages of an Aberystwyth University education.

First and foremost, we are a University with a reputation for academic and research excellence dating back to 1872. Our teaching staff includes many who are leading experts in their field and whose aim is to provide innovative and inspiring learning in a stimulating environment. We've invested in high-quality teaching spaces which harness the latest technology and where lectures are recorded so that students can watch them again as they revise.

Our staff also know their students. We're not a big, faceless institution. We're a supportive, welcoming and diverse community not only on campus but also across the wider town of Aber, which plays such a big role in student life here. It's a stunning coastal location and an extremely

safe environment, where students can thrive and develop as they embrace the challenges of higher education and independent living.

To help ease the transition between home and campus, all our first year students are guaranteed a place in university accommodation. It's a great way of making new friends and there's a wide choice to suit different needs and budgets. We offer an excellent package of scholarships, bursaries and awards too - recognising achievement, providing support and helping with the costs of studying.

We're also proud that six months after getting their degree, a record 95% of our graduates were in employment and/or further study. Equipping our students with the skills they need for their future careers is built into a range of our degree programmes, with many offering a year in industry or workplace experience. The University has a structured programme of paid part-time jobs for students during term or holidays too.



The quality of the student experience we offer was reflected in the 2017 National Student Survey, which gathers the opinions of final-year undergraduates. I'm delighted to tell you that Aberystwyth was one of the top five mainstream universities in the UK and the best in Wales for overall student satisfaction.

Read on to find out more and if you have any questions or queries, please let us know. My staff and I are here to help you and your daughter or son make informed choices for their future, and we look forward to meeting you on campus.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice-Chancellor

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Top 10
University of the Year
What uni Awards 2017

Helping your son/daughter to make their decision

With such a wide choice available, choosing which subject and course to study is probably one of the hardest decisions facing students today.

The parents section of our website (www.aber.ac.uk/en/parents) offers more detailed information, tips and advice on how to help your son/daughter choose their university and course.



Top in Wales
for teaching excellence

Times and Sunday Times
Good University Guide 2017

At Aberystwyth, the main subject areas we teach 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; Agriculture and Rural Sciences; Sport and Exercise Science; Veterinary Biosciences; Welsh; Professional Welsh; Celtic Languages and Celtic Studies.

- Visit the universities that interest your son/daughter most, if you can. Most universities have Open Days, which give you a chance to get a feel for the university and the area, and to speak with staff and current students.
- Be sure to find out about scholarships and bursaries available at the university. 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.

Top tips on how you can help

- Make sure that your son/daughter takes their time to research and gather information about all of their choices.
- Visit the UCAS website (www.ucas.com). It has a fantastic course search that lists all the courses available in the UK by subject.
- Look at the university websites and their prospectuses.

100% of our Art, Law,
Education and Welsh and Celtic
studies graduates were in
employment or further study
6 months after graduation

(DLHE 2017)

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.

Why Aberystwyth?



Within the **top 50** UK institutions for research power and intensity.

Research Excellence Framework 2014)



Be supported by our **Customer Service Excellence** standard Information Services department



Top 5 university in the UK and **Best in Wales** for student satisfaction

National Student Survey 2017



2nd in the UK for assessment and feedback

National Student Survey 2017



Top 10 in the UK and **safest place in Wales** to study

Complete University Guide 2016



Top in Wales and **10th** in the UK for teaching excellence

Times and the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017



"I am running a web and mobile app design and development company with more than 20 staff. My degree gave me the knowledge needed to start the company and I have loved seeing it grow year after year."

Richard Glover-Davies, BEng Software Engineering
Founder and Managing Director of Gloversure



"I am working on Blas y Tir, the largest fresh produce brand in Wales. I am responsible for the day-to-day running of the brand, but am also involved in the strategic direction of the brand, using the skills I gained at university to analyse and promote products in the category."

Megan Tye, BSc Marketing with Management
Marketing Executive for Puffin Produce

Your step-by-step guide to applying to university

Key dates for entry in 2018

Early September 2017

UCAS open for applications for entry in 2018.

15 January 2018

Main scheme deadline for applying via UCAS. All applications received after this date will be considered on a case by case basis.

15 & 18 January

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

30 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.

16 August

A level results day.

20 September

Final deadline for applications to 2018 courses.

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

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

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.

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.

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)*

Results day

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

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 18)

Undergraduate Admissions Office:

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

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.

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.



Some terms explained...

Conditional Offer	Details the conditions your son/daughter will need to meet for entry onto their chosen course (e.g. BBB, to include a B in Biology).
Unconditional Offer	An offer of a place of study without conditions.
Firm Choice	Of the offers your son/daughter receives, this is effectively their preferred choice of course/provider.
Insurance Choice	From the offers received, this would typically be your son/daughter's second preference if they failed to meet the conditions of their Firm choice.
UCAS Apply	This is the online application system used for submitting applications via UCAS.
UCAS ID	When your son/daughter applies for a place at University through UCAS at the very beginning of the process, they will be given a 10 digit UCAS ID number that is unique to them. Keep it to hand as you will need it several times throughout the application process, and if your son/daughter enters Clearing or Adjustment.
UCAS Track	Once your son/daughter registers and completes their application online through UCAS, they will be able to view the progress of their application, view and respond to offers, and add clearing choices through UCAS Track.
Deferred Entry	If your son/daughter has completed the process of applying to university and has been accepted onto a course, and then decide that they don't want to start in September, they can defer their course (effectively put it on hold) for a year. This could be done to enable them to go on a gap year, or work experience, for example.

Visit us

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

Once you've been offered a place at Aberystwyth, you will be invited to attend an Applicant Visiting Day. These days focus specifically on your department and allow you to gather more detailed information about the course of interest to you. You'll have a chance to speak with our lecturers and current students, as well as having a tour of the department, University and some accommodation.

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.

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 Open Day

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

Fees and financial support

Here we highlight the student fees, and main financial provision available for students entering higher education in 2018. The content isn't exhaustive, but it will provide you with a useful starting point.

Tuition fees

For new Home/EU students enrolled on full-time undergraduate and PGCE courses starting in 2018, Aberystwyth University intends to charge a tuition fee of £9,295 for 2018/19. Our undergraduate tuition fees will rise for each successive year of study, mapped according to the inflation-linked maximum tuition fee permitted by the Welsh Government.

This means that for a new student entering in 2018/19 the fee for the first year of study will be £9,295; it will be higher by inflation in the second year of study and higher by inflation again in the third year, and similarly for each subsequent year of study. These increases will also apply for the proportional fees charged for Year Abroad and Year in Industry.

The tuition fee increase is subject to the Welsh Government's amendment of existing higher education regulations and approval of the University's Fee & Access Plan. It is anticipated that the required regulatory changes being undertaken by the Welsh Government will be finalised in December 2017.

Further information regarding UK and EU domicile undergraduate full-time tuition fees from 2018/19 will be confirmed by Aberystwyth University at the earliest opportunity and published online: www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/fees-finance/tuition-fees/#2018-19.

Please note that the Welsh Government's Tuition Fee Grant is also changing. Visit the Student Finance Wales website for further information.

You can also contact the relevant student finance organisation from the list below:
Students from Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
England: www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance
Scotland: www.saas.gov.uk
Northern Ireland: www.studentfinanceni.co.uk

Help with living costs

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

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

Sponsorship

Some companies and the armed forces will sponsor students through university or college, and will usually guarantee work during vacations or even after completion of the course.

Scholarships and Bursaries

At Aberystwyth, we offer a generous package of Scholarships and Bursaries for undergraduate applicants. Our awards provide valuable financial support to ensure that students of all backgrounds can enjoy the benefits of higher education. Further information can be found online: www.aber.ac.uk/scholarships or you can contact the Scholarship Team on: 01970 622065, or by email: marketing@aber.ac.uk

Jobs and part-time work

Some students have holiday jobs or find part-time work during their studies. It is important to ensure that any job does not interfere with your son/daughter's academic work. Remember, that their earnings could affect their grant, or tax refund. The University operates an online database to help students find suitable part-time work.

Enhancing employability

Working within the University and beyond

In addition to all the opportunities available through your course and our Careers Service, we also offer the AberWorks and AberForward schemes. These enable you to gain practical paid work experience within the University that will develop your self-awareness, employability and the skills employers want.

AberWorks offers part-time, casual work through a range from catering and administrative work, to ambassador roles and more. During term-time, if work is available, you may choose to work up to 15 hours per week, with more hours possible during vacation periods. Work could be based on any of the University's campuses including the Old College and our Farms.

What's great about the scheme is that you can accept work that fits around your schedule, so that you're not disrupting your studies but are still gaining experience, and additional cash that you may need.

The AberForward programme combines full-time paid internships within an Aberystwyth University academic or professional service department, and includes professional development workshops and one-to-one careers guidance and support.

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.

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. You can also visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers



Accommodation

At Aberystwyth, we're proud of the vibrant community that our students experience within our residences. By choosing university accommodation, you will receive a warm welcome from our Campus Life Team and become a member of a much bigger, supportive, fun and vibrant community of like-minded people.

Our accommodation is situated within easy reach of the campus so that there is no need for costly commuting. We offer a wide range of accommodation including catered, where meals are provided, and self-catered accommodation, with prices ranging from approximately £85-126 per week. Whatever your requirements, we aim to provide you with an option that will suit you best.










Each residence is a vibrant community with its own distinctive character offering you a safe and secure environment in which to socialise, study and relax. Whilst living in our accommodation, there is no need to worry about fluctuating bills as the accommodation fees include utilities, internet (plus Wi-Fi) and a high level of personal contents insurance.

Fferm Penglais



360° tours of our halls
available online

www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/accommodation-tour

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Restaurant/
Catered Residence |  Dedicated Welsh
Residences |
|  Café |  Social and
Study Areas |
|  Shower en-suite |  Parking |
|  Laundry Rooms |  Learning Centres |
|  Wi-Fi | |

Our halls at a glance...

Penbryn



- single rooms, in flats of 12-25 students
- shared communal facilities
- award-winning TaMed Da Restaurant

Pantycelyn-Penbryn



- residence dedicated to Welsh speaking students
- single rooms, in flats of 12-25 students
- shared communal facilities
- award-winning TaMed Da Restaurant

Fferm Penglais



- single en-suite rooms (with double beds), in flats of 6-8 students with shared kitchen/living area
- single self-contained studios
- has an area dedicated to Welsh speaking students
- on site shop, café, with social and study areas
- 5 minutes' walk from Penglais Campus, 10 minutes from Llanbadarn Campus

Our halls at a glance

continued...

Pentre Jane Morgan (student village)



- single rooms, in houses of 5 or 6 students
- shared communal facilities
- use of The Lounge@PJM
- 5 minutes' walk from Penglais Campus, 10 minutes from Llanbadarn Campus

Rosser



- single en-suite rooms, in flats of up to 8 students
- shared communal facilities
- use of The Lounge@Rosser
- on Penglais Campus, 10 minutes' walk from Llanbadarn Campus

Cwrt Mawr



- single rooms, in flats of 6-10 students
- shared communal facilities
- use of The Lounge@Rosser
- on Penglais Campus, 10 minutes' walk from Llanbadarn Campus



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.

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.

Our halls at a glance

continued...

Trefloyne



- single rooms, in flats of 7 students
- shared communal facilities
- use of The Lounge@Rosser
- on Penglais Campus, 10 minutes' walk from Llanbadarn Campus

Seafrost Residences



- single rooms (some en-suite), in flats of 2-10 students
- shared communal facilities
- use of learning centres on Penglais Campus
- 15 minutes' walk from Penglais Campus

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

Here are some things you can do to help your son/daughter prepare for their next adventure...

prepare for university

Before they go...

Have they sent their student finance application and information to the relevant student finance body (e.g Student Finance Wales). Not doing so 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

Can your son/daughter use a washing machine? Can he or she cook a few simple dishes?

Does your son/daughter have a bank account? 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/)

Ensure that the catering arrangements suit your son/daughter. Self-catering can be traumatic for students who have never previously boiled an egg!

Does your son/daughter need any additional student support? If so, have they/you already been in touch with our Student Support Services? If not, please contact them by email (disability@aber.ac.uk) or phone (01970 621761)

Make sure your son/daughter has activated their Aberystwyth University account, and that they have applied for their AberCard (see page 16) online

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 they need to take with them (including birth certificate, original examination certificates – these may be asked for). Don't forget to bring plenty of passport photos

Advise them on what and how many personal effects to 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/movingin/checklist/

Students must have a Television License to watch programmes on TV and some iplayers.

They will need to bring their Key Release Form for the accommodation with them. They will get this when they complete their online accommodation induction programme.

Encourage them to take some homely effects with them - pictures, 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 from www.Click2Campus.co.uk; and a few shops in town also offer Click and Collect services, including Matalan, M&Co, Argos, M&S, Accessorize, Monsoon and Next.

Remind your son/daughter that they can approach members of our A-Team. They are all current students and will be wearing 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!

Aberystwyth...

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.

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 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.

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.



91% student satisfaction

National Student Survey 2017

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.

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!

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.



youtube.com/aberystwythuni

Find us elsewhere:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/social-media

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

"Moving away from home for the first time was quite a daunting experience. Aberystwyth is such a friendly place that I felt at home almost instantly; everyone in the University and in the town was so welcoming and friendly, it has a real community feeling. Like a lot of people I liked it so much that I came back after graduating to do a Masters!"

Rhodri Lewis, Llanelli

"I was so nervous about moving so far away from home but I'm really pleased I stayed here because I've had such a great time and made lifelong friends. The events in Fresher's means you get the chance to meet students on your course and lecturers. Everyone is really friendly and understand what you're going through. There are so many different sports and societies to experience too, so it becomes easy to make friends with similar interests and get involved with something completely different!"

Savannah Robinson, Cumbria

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, or 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.

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. 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) includes our mental health and counselling 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 the Student Welcome Centre.

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 (based at the Student Welcome Centre) 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*

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 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 5 sports clubs@Aber

1. **DIGS 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**

Top places to visit

Aberystwyth and the area is a 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 barbecue, 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 watch 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.

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.

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 2018-2019

Michaelmas Term (1)

Monday 24 September 2018 - Saturday 15 December 2018

Welcome Week/Registration

Monday 24 September 2018 - Friday 28 September 2018

Semester 1 Teaching

Monday 01 October 2018 - Saturday 15 December 2018

Christmas vacation

Monday 17 December 2018 - Saturday 05 January 2019

Lent Term (2)

Monday 07 January 2019 - Saturday 06 April 2019

Semester 1 Examinations

Wednesday 09 January 2019 - Tuesday 22 January 2019

Feedback/Marking/Preparation for Semester 2

Wednesday 23 January 2019 - Saturday 26 January 2019

Semester 2 Teaching

Monday 28 January 2019 - Saturday 06 April 2019

Easter vacation

Monday 08 April 2019 - Saturday 27 April 2019

Easter Term (3)

Monday 29 April 2019 - Saturday 01 June 2019

Semester 2 Teaching

Monday 29 April 2019 - Saturday 04 May 2019

Reading/Revision Week

Monday 06 May 2019 - Saturday 11 May 2019

Semester 2 Examinations

Monday 13 May 2019 - Saturday 01 June 2019

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 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 622984
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 2017) but some of it may be subject to change. Please check online or with us for the latest information.



www.aber.ac.uk

- Flexible choice for students
- Exceptional support for student learning, with over 140 years excellence in teaching and research
- Guaranteed first year accommodation
- A valuable package of bursaries, scholarships and awards
- Access to the National Library of Wales
- Best in Wales and top 5 in the UK for student satisfaction, National Student Survey 2017

