



Living and studying in Welsh

Welcome to Aber!

Learning and living in a unique environment

Our friendly, vibrant and lively Welsh seaside community extends a big welcome to students from across Wales and beyond. Aberystwyth is a small town with a big heart that appeals to young people from all corners of the world.

We are very proud of our close-knit community, both in the University and town. Aberystwyth is a unique place – a diverse community and home to people from a range of backgrounds. Here, you will have the opportunity to try new things, make new friends and, most importantly, be yourself.

This is the ideal place to enjoy a balance between study, leisure and broadening horizons. Come to Aberystwyth University to see for yourself and to enjoy everything that Aber has to offer.

A note from the Vice-Chancellor

I'm so pleased you're considering studying at Aberystwyth University. As a Welsh-speaking student, there are many reasons why you should choose to study here.

The University has a proud history of delivering Welsh-language education, and from the University's earliest days, our Welsh-language students have been at the heart of Aberystwyth's identity as an institution that champions Welsh-speaking Wales.

To this day, the University is committed to providing opportunities for students to live and learn through the medium of Welsh, in an environment in which they can access services and support through Welsh. We are committed to cultivating the talent of our Welsh-speaking students, and providing them with educational, vocational and social experiences that will assist them in developing their careers.

The University provides opportunities for students to undertake work experience at home and overseas, with institutions investing in the future of Wales, and those expanding globally. And our Welsh-speaking postgraduate students contribute to world-leading research, making a real impact on global issues in technology, agriculture and the humanities.

In choosing to study at Aberystwyth, not only do our Welsh students invest in their own development, but they ensure that the rich and vibrant Welsh-language culture we have at Aberystwyth continues to thrive, and the University continues to be a place wherein Welsh-speaking students can reach their potential and make their mark on the world.



**Professor Jon Timmis,
Vice-Chancellor**

A note from the Pro Vice-Chancellor

As a Welsh-speaking student, you can be assured that Aberystwyth University offers a student experience like no other.

Here, Welsh-language students can choose to live and study entirely through the medium of Welsh. In addition to offering a range of courses delivered wholly or partially in Welsh, the University is committed to providing Welsh-focused facilities, support and social experiences that reflect and cater for our bilingual student and staff community.

The recently refurbished Neuadd Pantycelyn offers modern en-suite accommodation specifically for Welsh-speaking students, as well as spaces in which students can socialise, study and eat together. Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth (UMCA) is also at the heart of Welsh student life, organising regular social activities and providing opportunities for our Welsh-speaking students to engage with the University formally through a number of key committees.

Aberystwyth University is a champion of higher education through the medium of Welsh, and we are committed to providing experiences that will enhance your skills and help you stand out in the job market post-graduation. We work with employers and institutions across the globe, and our study and work abroad schemes provide a platform by which you can enrich your own experiences, and introduce the world to the talents and opportunities of a bilingual Wales.

If, after reading this leaflet, you have any questions about studying at Aberystwyth, please do get in touch with us. I hope you choose to study with us, and I know you will not be disappointed in the student experience you'll discover at Aberystwyth University.



**Professor Anwen Jones,
Pro Vice-Chancellor:
Education and Student
Experience**

Why choose to study in Welsh?

Here at Aberystwyth University, we offer a high level of provision for students wishing to study through the medium of Welsh – one of the highest in Wales.

We offer opportunities for students who are fluent in Welsh, in addition to those who are less confident or learners. Students can choose to follow courses delivered entirely through the medium of Welsh, or undertake modules in both Welsh and English. This means students whose courses are mainly in English can still choose to undertake some study in Welsh.

Community and belonging

- Welsh-medium classes tend to be smaller, so it's easier to make new friends who share your interests.
- By using your Welsh in your studies, you can keep up your language skills and your connection to Wales and its culture.

Two languages – twice the choice

- You decide and choose how many Welsh modules or bilingual modules you want to study.
- There are more resources available for students studying in Welsh – along with the usual English resources, there's a digital library of Welsh resources from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, including e-books, videos and terminology.

Better learning results

- Research shows that students who learn in smaller classes, like Welsh-medium ones, get higher grades (Kara et al, 2021).
- In smaller classes it's easier to ask lecturers for help and get to know them better, which means you get support to perform at your best.
- You'll be using reading materials in Welsh and English in your studies, which is an advantage. According to research, translating, which is the process of using information in one language and using it, orally or in writing, in another language, helps you understand and interpret reading material better!

Financial support

Funding is specifically available for students studying in Welsh:

aber.ac.uk/welsh-medium-scholarships

- Scholarships from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol
- Aberystwyth University Bursary – as long as you study at least 5 credits per year in Welsh.

Personal Welsh tutor

- As part of the University arrangements, every student who is fluent in Welsh will get a personal tutor who speaks Welsh. Learners who are not fluent can also get a Welsh personal tutor by getting in touch with: colegcymraeg@aber.ac.uk

Subjects that offer teaching in Welsh:

These subjects offer modules that are taught partly or entirely in Welsh:

- Business
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- Education and Childhood Studies
- Geography and Earth Sciences
- History
- Law
- Life Sciences and Agriculture
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Physics and Engineering
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Theatre, Film and Television Studies
- Veterinary Science
- Welsh and Celtic Studies

Develop workplace skills

- The ability to communicate confidently in Welsh and English is a really valuable skill in the workplace, and employers are looking for staff with Welsh skills.
- Translation is an essential workplace skill and you'll naturally develop it as you use learning materials in English and Welsh (or maybe other languages too) on Welsh-medium and bilingual modules.
- Learning bilingual subject-specific vocabulary is also an advantage in the work world.
- Speaking, reading and writing in more than one language is great for your brain, helping you be more creative and develop thinking skills as well as improving maths skills: a big advantage in the workplace whether in Wales or beyond.

Read more about the importance of Welsh for employability on the next page.

Take a look at our list of courses to see the percentage of each course currently available to study through the medium of Welsh:

aber.ac.uk/welsh-provision



Work and Employability

The ability to communicate confidently through the medium of Welsh and English, both orally and in writing, is very advantageous in the workplace.

Why are bilingual skills important to employers?

- 1 Many public sector organisations are legally required to provide services in Welsh. To meet these requirements, staff with Welsh skills are needed, so Welsh is often listed as an essential or desirable skill in job adverts.
- 2 Getting a service in Welsh is important to a lot of people, especially in areas like education, emergency services, health and care.
- 3 Offering services in Welsh can give companies a competitive edge. It helps attract new customers – for example, in areas like law, tourism and financial services.
- 4 Some fields like the creative industries, publishing and the media produce a lot of Welsh content, so there's a need for staff who can speak Welsh.
- 5 For many organisations, promoting Welsh and bilingualism in the workplace reflects organisational values in terms of culture, identity and equality.
- 6 Between 2024-26, 25,000 job adverts required Welsh skills including in the health sector, government, media (BBC/ITV) and universities (Gyrfa Cymru).
- 7 Research shows that being bilingual improves the soft skills employers appreciate, so your Welsh skills are useful **outside of Wales**, even if the job doesn't require them. Keeping up your Welsh skills also keeps doors open if you come back to Wales in the future.

97.3% of Aberystwyth graduates who studied some part of their course through the medium of Welsh are in employment or further study six months after graduating, compared with 91.5% who had not studied through the medium of Welsh.

(Graduate Outcomes Data 2024)

Carwyn Eckley

Journalist

Studying Professional Welsh was a very solid foundation for me as I searched for a job as a journalist. During the course, we gained experience of printing a magazine, writing press releases and preparing copy – these are all practical skills that also make use of your Welsh, and they are skills I still rely on today in my daily work.

Without sounding like a cliché, being able to speak and write correct Welsh of a high standard is a big advantage when looking for work. In my experience, employers are always looking for someone they can trust in terms of language accuracy.

Aberystwyth is the perfect place to be a student. The three years I spent in Pantycelyn and then in the town itself are among the happiest times in my life. Take every opportunity during your time at Aber – you'll only regret the things you didn't get the chance to do. It's also good to put yourself in situations you're not entirely comfortable in sometimes (such as going to cynghanedd lessons!).

Emily Bennett

Barrister

I studied Law at Aberystwyth University and had an excellent experience of studying through the medium of Welsh. There was extensive Welsh provision in the department, so a number of modules were taught entirely through Welsh. As a result, I was in smaller groups for a number of lectures and seminars, which gave me the opportunity to interact more with my fellow students. I received the Main Scholarship from Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol for studying partly through Welsh, and this contributed towards buying books and goods, and reduced financial pressures to enable me to concentrate on my studies.

I have now trained as a barrister and practise in the family, criminal and civil courts. Studying through Welsh has helped me reach my dream career as I am able to discuss complex legal problems in the two legal languages of Wales, and also speak to clients in the language they are most comfortable in. I am now a tenant in the chamber that has the most Welsh speakers in Wales, and studying through Welsh has certainly helped me get to where I am now in my career.

The University and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

As a Welsh-speaking student, you can join the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol – a national institution that plays a pivotal role in planning, maintaining and developing Welsh-medium education in our universities.



You can become a member of the Coleg even before starting at university. One advantage of doing this is you'll be allocated a membership number, which you will need when applying for a scholarship.

Scholarships

> Main Scholarship - £1,000 a year

The Main Scholarship scheme is available to students who are studying degree courses that contain at least 240 credits of Welsh medium provision – so at least 80 credits through the medium of Welsh in each year.

> Incentive Scholarships - £500 a year

The Incentive Scholarship scheme is available to students who study a degree course that includes at least 120 credits of Welsh-medium provision in an eligible subject, which is at least 40 credits through the medium of Welsh in each year.

> Defi Vet Scholarship - £500 a year

The scholarship is for students studying Veterinary Science. follow at least 40 credits a year through Welsh during their time at Aberystwyth campus and undertake more than 50% of their Clinical Extramural Studies (CEMS) in Wales in a Welsh or bilingual Welsh/English environment during their time with the RVC.

How do I apply?

Further details are available on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website:

www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en

The advantages of being a member of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

As a member, you will receive all kinds of information, from the opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh and bilingually, to the latest news about scholarships and the academic and social activities of the Branch. You will become a member of the Coleg community as well as Aberystwyth's lively Welsh society.

The Language Skills Certificate

You can opt to sit the Language Skills Certificate – an important qualification that enables students to show evidence of their practical Welsh skills and their ability to communicate confidently and professionally in Welsh, when speaking and writing. A sgiliau iaith tutor will provide optional sessions to support you in preparing for the Certificate by refining your professional communication skills in Welsh.

Welsh-medium resources

The Welsh College Resources Portal includes a wide range of resources to assist with learning in Welsh – from an S4C archive to textbooks in subjects as diverse as Mathematics, International Politics and Law, to Wicis on subjects such as Geography, Literature and Theatre. The Portal also includes a dictionary of Higher Education Terms and a multi-disciplinary Welsh journal that publishes innovative research from Wales and beyond.

Support to study in Welsh

The sgiliau iaith tutor and the academic skills tutor are available to assist you with all aspects of studying through the medium of Welsh. They provide individual and group sessions, as well as in-module sessions on language and bilingual academic skills, such as using English materials when writing in Welsh, terms and academic writing. The University also provides computer resources to help you to study in Welsh, such as a spelling and Welsh-medium grammar checker, and Office programmes and interfaces in Welsh.

Improving your Welsh

Whether you are a first or second-language Welsh speaker, the University offers various opportunities for you to improve your Welsh. Along with the support sessions that are provided by the sgiliau iaith tutor, a number of modules include Gloywi iaith sessions. In addition, Learn Welsh lessons are available for Welsh speakers who wish to improve their writing and presentation skills.



Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth (UMCA)



If you want to live and study through the medium of Welsh at Aberystwyth, you won't experience the full strength of the close-knit community that we have here without joining UMCA or Y Geltaidd, or both!

Welcome from UMCA's President

Hi, I'm Gwenno and I am the President of the Aberystwyth Welsh Students' Union for 2026/27. With over 150 members, UMCA is at the heart of the Welsh community here at the university, and my role in that is to be a voice for you, the Welsh-speaking students – whether that's for your academic experience, your wellbeing or campaigning.

The UMCA calendar is packed full of all sorts of things – various trips, chances to play on rugby, football and netball teams, Welsh fancy dress nights called Sŵn and the famous Intercollegiate events where students from all universities in Wales come together.

Your time as a student really flies by, so make the most of your time and all the valuable opportunities available here in Aber! And don't forget that I, UMCA and the wider Union are here to support you every step of the way. I have offices in the Union building and in Pantycelyn Hall so don't be a stranger!

I look forward to welcoming you to the UMCA family and the University!



Gwenno Roberts

The UMCA President

@umca@aber.ac.uk

UMCA is the first union of its kind in Wales, and it has a wealth of experience in campaigning for the interests of the University's Welsh students and protecting their rights not only here in Aberystwyth, but also nationally, by taking a leading role in the campaign to establish the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol for example. Today, it is a very influential movement that has a voice and representation on some of the University's main committees.

Activities

UMCA supports a number of popular Welsh societies, such as Y Geltaidd (Aberystwyth University's main Welsh sports society), Plaid Cymru Ifanc (the youth branch of Plaid Cymru), and Aelwyd Pantycelyn (for those who enjoy singing or reciting). UMCA organises a variety of activities jointly with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, and the UMCA President works closely with the Coleg to ensure that we provide a variety of activities to suit all tastes.

UMCA and Welsh

UMCA isn't only for Welsh speakers. UMCA also offers Paned a Sgwrs (Cuppa and Chat) sessions held by UMCA's Second Language Officers and in Pantycelyn. It's the perfect opportunity for those who wish to practice their Welsh and have a chat in Welsh.

The student voice

UMCA has been protecting the interests and rights of the University's Welsh students since 1973. The Union's activities range from organising entertainment and events to campaigning on educational, social and language-related matters in the University and beyond.

Support

You will want to make the most of your time at Aberystwyth University – academically, socially and in every other way. You will have a great time here, but if you're worried about anything, you won't have to go far. Neuadd Pantycelyn is home to UMCA, where you will find a warm welcome and all the support that you need.

Eisteddfod success

Every year, Aberystwyth students feature on the stage at eisteddfodau. Our students compete as individuals and in groups and choirs, whether in the field of literature, singing, dancing or performance. You will also have the opportunity to compete against students from other universities in the Intercollegiate Eisteddfod, which is a fun-filled weekend.

Welcome Week

When you arrive at University in September, you will get the chance to experience Welcome Week – a fun-packed week of socialising that is organised by the Students' Union and UMCA. First-year students will often be paired with a second or third-year student for some of the activities, which means you will get to know a wide cross-section of students by the end of your first week! Some of UMCA's events during Welcome Week include a karaoke night, a gig with some of the best Welsh bands in Wales, and a quiz night at Yr Hen Lew Du pub – the haven of the Welsh community in Aberystwyth.

UMCA societies

Aelwyd Pantycelyn

This is one of the best known of the UMCA societies – a society that meets once a week to sing, recite and perform. It's a great way to get to know other students who enjoy performing, and it's a bonus that it's done through the medium of Welsh. There is something to suit everybody! Highlights include the local and national eisteddfod competitions, the yearly Christmas Concert, and a host of other concerts. If performing is in your blood, Aelwyd Panty is the place for you.

Y Geltaidd

In essence, the Geltaidd is a Welsh sports society and the oldest university society in Wales. If you like sports and want to continue to play while at university, you will have plenty of opportunities to do so. Currently, the Geltaidd features men's and women's rugby teams, men's and women's football teams, as well as a netball team. And, if supporting the Wales Rugby team is important to you, you won't want to miss the main trip of the year - travelling to one of the games in the Six Nations Championship. C'mon Cymru!



UMCA's main events

UMCA organises a range of social activities throughout the year. Here are the main ones:

September / October

Welcome Week - September

A fun-packed week of socialising to welcome you to university. New students are often paired with students from one of the higher years and get to know a good cross-section of students by the end of the first week!

Tregaron Trip - early October

UMCA's Tregaron Trip is an annual event and a great opportunity to visit the town.

November

The Inter-College Dance - November

The highlight of the year for any Welsh student - students from across Wales and beyond come together in Aberystwyth to enjoy a fantastic evening of music, in what is one of the best weekends of the Welsh rock scene.

January / February

Refresher Week - January

A chance to enjoy a week full of events after the exam period.

Inter-College Eisteddfod - end of February

The Eisteddfod travels between the Welsh universities - a chance for friendly competition but most importantly to make new friends. There is also a sports tournament on the Friday before the Eisteddfod.

March / April

RAG Week - March/April

A week of raising money for two charities through a variety of events, such as a car wash in Pantycelyn, Sports, a Mystery Trip, Sŵn and a darts tournament.

May / June

Aber 7s - May

Rugby teams from all over Wales are welcomed to the Aberystwyth Students' Union rugby tournament on the first Bank Holiday weekend in May.

Competing in the Urdd - May

Aelwyd Pantycelyn travels to the Urdd Eisteddfod to compete against other Aelwydydd in Wales.

Nefi Blŵ Week - June

A week to celebrate the end of the exams, to say goodbye to friends, and to bring the UMCA year to a close. A host of fun activities are put on to ensure you finish the year in style, including a beach trip to Aberaeron and New Quay, and Sŵn Last Supper.

Throughout the year

Sŵn - last Thursday of every month

Founded in 2003 by the former President of Aberystwyth Students' Union and UMCA, Meilyr Emrys (Mei), these evenings celebrate Welsh music. Each evening features a fancy-dress theme, with the chance for the best-dressed group to win free entry to the Sŵn event!





Welsh Medium Accommodation Pantycelyn

Pantycelyn is Aberystwyth University's iconic Welsh-language accommodation, offering modern en-suite study bedrooms for up to 200 students in the heart of the University's Welsh-speaking community.

Home to UMCA (Aberystwyth's Welsh Student Union), Pantycelyn provides a vibrant social and cultural environment, supporting Welsh societies, events, performances and student-led activities.

Pantycelyn offers en-suite, catered accommodation for students who wish to live through the medium of Welsh (Welsh speakers and learners alike), and includes social spaces, study rooms and laundry facilities. The fee for the accommodation includes a food allowance of over £2,000, all utilities, internet connection, personal contents insurance, Sports Centre membership along with a residence life programme.

In addition to the catering facilities available within Pantycelyn, residents can use their catering allowance at any University hospitality venue. Each flat is also equipped with a dedicated kitchenette to support with day to day living.

For more information, visit aber.ac.uk/en/pantycelyn

Alternative Welsh Medium Accommodation

For information on alternative Welsh medium accommodation, please contact the Accommodation Office on accommodation@aber.ac.uk / 01970 622984 or visit aber.ac.uk/accommodation



Addewidion Aber

'Addewidion Aber' is Aberystwyth University's commitment to developing Welsh medium provision as part of the University's Welsh Medium Academic Strategy. This is the most comprehensive plan of its kind by any university in Wales.

Our strategic plan consolidates the University's priorities for Welsh-medium provision in a single document, while also reaffirming Aberystwyth's commitment to promoting the Welsh language and its culture. These pledges highlight what's special about Aberystwyth and how the University offers a complete Welsh experience, including:

- **Cosy accommodation:**
a place to live in Welsh
- **Money in your pocket:**
for following between 5 and 40 credits in Welsh
- **Putting your language into practice:** support for learning and improving your Welsh
- **Free UMCA membership:**
open the door to a Welsh Society
- **Help!**
A Welsh-speaking Personal Tutor to help you
- **Space to flourish:**
space for Welsh-medium societies
- **Work experience:**
with Welsh companies
- **Multi-language:**
Courses of all kinds across the University offering Welsh medium modules



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