Undergraduate studies in

International Relations and Politics
Welcome

Welcome to the world’s first Department of International Politics.

The study of International Politics is indispensable for understanding a rapidly changing world. In a time of political and ideological uncertainty, social and economic transformation and increasingly diverse forms of conflict and violence, everyone has a stake in how these crucial global challenges are confronted. The Department’s teaching and research remain true to its founding ideals:

- to seek greater security, peace and justice
- in a disordered world.

A vibrant student community, working together with a dedicated staff of leading researchers and teachers, provides a dynamic environment in which to study international politics across all levels from the local to the global. As a student in the Department you will be well placed to gain a deep, diverse understanding of these challenges and how we can manage them in the coming decades.

You will explore the big questions and concepts of our time, such as the changing distribution of power, conflict, security, democracy, populism and authoritarianism, climate change, inequality and sustainable development, ethics, gender and human rights.

The Department’s learning environment welcomes staff and students from all over the world, creating a lively interactive community that makes a vital contribution to the department’s innovative research that underpins new developments in the discipline. The department is renowned for providing excellence in teaching and research, demonstrated by both its position as a top-ten department for research in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework and its position as seventh in the UK for satisfaction with teaching in the subject of Politics (Guardian League Table 2019). Aberystwyth University was also named University of the Year for teaching quality by The Sunday Times Good University Guide in both 2018 and 2019.

Our degree schemes provide an outstanding education and excellent preparation for a successful career. Some of our graduates embark on politics-related professions such as those found in the civil service, local and national government, international organisations, non-profit and NGO sectors, and the armed forces. Other graduates pursue positions in journalism, the financial sector, the legal profession, business, and teaching.

So if you are interested in exploring the challenges facing international politics, do come and study it in the home of the discipline.

All of us in the Department of International Politics look forward to welcoming you in our Department.

Patrick Finney
Head of Department
Our courses

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International Relations

BA (Hons)
With integrated year in industry (642L)
With integrated year studying abroad (242L)

International politics is entering a turbulent and fascinating era. The global order is being reshaped by the emergence of new powers and the increasing complexity of politics at the local, national, regional, international and global levels.

In studying International Relations at Aberystwyth, you will engage in debates about the key issues and most significant challenges in international politics in the 21st century. You will study the concepts, practices, policies, histories and regions that are central to international politics as a discipline and explore the ways in which all these factors are undergoing radical transformation.

Opportunities for International Relations students at Aberystwyth include:
- participating in our renowned ‘Crisis Games’ - a 3-day role playing exercise in political, economic and diplomatic manoeuvres which will develop your negotiation and communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills
- taking part in our prestigious Parliamentary Placement Scheme, which enables you to gain valuable experience working alongside an MP (House of Commons, Westminster) or an AM (Welsh Assembly, Cardiff) for a period of 4-6 weeks during the summer.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have been successful in securing roles in the development sector, local and national politics, the Civil Service; Government research; social research; roles in the third sector such as with NGOs; work with international organisations; and journalism, for example.

Key Facts

Degree type: BA.
UCAS Code: 142L, (642L, with integrated year in industry); 242L, with a year studying abroad.
Duration: 3 years (642L, and 242L are 4 years).

Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.

First year:
- Exploring the International Central Concepts and Core Skills *
Second year:
- International Relations Perspectives and Debates *
Final year:
- Dissertation *
Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
- US Foreign Policy
- International State Building
- Justice and Human Rights
- International Relations Perspectives and Debates
- Economic Diplomacy and Leadership
- Fear, Cooperation and Trust in World Politics
- Contemporary Latin America *
- The Middle East in the 20th Century
- The Making of National Security Policy
- The European Union: Politics, Policies, Problems *
- Trade Wars and the Liberal Order
- Justice, Order, Human Rights *
- For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.
* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.
Climate change is the single most significant and complex challenge facing human social, political and economic systems. International politics is key to understanding this complexity and confronting this global crisis.

You will develop a distinct multidisciplinary approach to the international politics of climate change, reflecting on ways that states and societies struggle with managing the planet’s resources and ecological systems and developing effective political and societal solutions. You will also explore through simulations the experience of decision-making processes, negotiations and the politics surrounding contemporary climate governance.

Opportunities for International Relations and Climate Change students at Aberystwyth include:
- participating in our renowned ‘Crisis Games’ - a 3-day role playing exercise in political, economic and diplomatic manoeuvres which will develop your negotiation and communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills
- taking part in our prestigious Parliamentary Placement Scheme, which enables you to gain valuable experience working alongside an MP (House of Commons, Westminster) or an AM (Welsh Assembly, Cardiff) for a period of 4-6 weeks during the summer.

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Key Facts

- **Degree type:** BA
- **UCAS Code:** 27LF (37LF with integrated year in industry)
- **Duration:** 3 years (37LF is 4 years)

Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.

First year:
- Exploring the International: Central Concepts and Core Skills *
- Globalization and Global Development *
- Climate Change: Impacts, Perceptions, Adaptations *
- The Science of Climate.

Second year:
- The Governance of Climate Change: Simulation Module *
- International Relations: Perspectives and Debates *

Final year:
- Dissertation *

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
- International Politics in the Anthropocene
- People, Progress, Environment: Theories and Histories of Environmental Politics
- Refugee Simulation
- International Politics and Global Development
- Global Inequality and World Politics
- Contemporary Security: Theories and Threats.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.
International Relations and Global Development

Core module list
Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.
First year:
- Exploring the International Central Concepts and Core Skills
- Globalisation and Global Development
Second year:
- International Politics and Global Development
Final year:
- Dissertation
Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
- Global inequality and World Politics
- The BRICS in World Politics
- Women and Global Development
- Religion and Politics in the Middle East
- Global Politics and the Refugee Regime
For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.
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Key Facts
- Degree type: BA (Hons)
- UCAS Code: 13LL
- Duration: 3 years.
- Also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

International Relations and Military History

Core module list
Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.
First year:
- Exploring the International Central Concepts and Core Skills
Second year:
- War After Waterloo: Military History 1815-1918
Final year:
- Dissertation
Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
- A Military History of the United States
- A Century of Conflict: Global Warfare from 1918-2018
- Military History Campaign Study
- War Crimes
- Churchill’s Wars: From the Age of Empire to the Cold War
- The Second World War in Europe.
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Key Facts
- Degree type: BA (Hons)
- UCAS Code: H2VL
- Duration: 3 years.
Politics

BA (Hons)

Studying Politics at Aberystwyth will develop your understanding of political regimes and systems, political actors and governments, and processes of political decision-making. You will learn about key political concepts and how they are contested in contemporary politics: power, democracy, freedom, inequality, rights, citizenship, representation and legitimacy.

The modules that you take will introduce you to current political debates such as the future of the UK after Brexit, dilemmas of modern migration, the rise of populist nationalism, and the future of democracy.

The exploration of different political forces and relationships will draw on examples from the practice of politics in different parts of the world, and you can therefore develop your knowledge of politics in the UK, Europe, North and Latin America, Russia and Asia.

Opportunities for Politics students at Aberystwyth include:

• participating in our renowned ‘Crisis Games’ - a 3-day role playing exercise in political, economic and diplomatic manoeuvres which will develop your negotiation and communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills
• taking part in our prestigious Parliamentary Placement Scheme, which enables you to gain valuable experience working alongside an MP (House of Commons, Westminster) or an AM (Welsh Assembly, Cardiff) for a period of 4-6 weeks during the summer.

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Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.

First year:
• Exploring the International: Central Concepts and Core Skills *
• Politics in the 21st Century *

Second year:
• People and Power: Understanding Comparative Politics Today *

Final year:
• Dissertation *

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
• UK Politics: A Union under Strain?
• Nationalism in Theory and Practice *
• Gender and Sexuality in the Americas
• Politics in Russia
• The EU Politics, Policies, Problems *
• Multiculturalism in Theory and Practice *
• Political Theory *

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

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* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Key Facts

Degree type: BA.
UCAS Code: L203.
Duration: 3 years.

Politics and International Relations

BA (Hons)

On this course, you will examine the political landscape past and present, learning about key political concepts such as power, democracy, freedom, inequality, rights, citizenship, representation and legitimacy, and how these are contested in contemporary politics.

The degree in Politics and International Relations at Aberystwyth will explore different political systems and global institutions. You will learn about the driving forces behind political, economic and socio-cultural changes across the world, and explore the challenges facing the international system, such as globalisation, international security, the environment, inequality, global health, conflict and post-conflict environments.

Throughout the course, you will explore different arguments, rival theories and alternative explanations - thereby building up the analytical skills that are important in the workplace.

Opportunities for Politics and International Relations students at Aberystwyth include:

• participating in our renowned ‘Crisis Games’ - a 3-day role playing exercise in political, economic and diplomatic manoeuvres which will develop your negotiation and communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills
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Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.

First year:
• Exploring the International: Central Concepts and Core Skills *
• Politics in the 21st Century *
• Behind the Headlines *

Second year:
• International Relations: Perspectives and Debates *
• People and Power: Understanding Comparative Politics Today *

Final year:
• Dissertation *

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
• War, Strategy and Intelligence
• The Making of the Modern World: War, Peace and Revolution since 1550
• A War on the Mind: Propaganda and Secret Intelligence From the Great War to the 21st Century
• Britain and the Islamic World: From 1857 to the Iraq War
• International Politics and Global Development *
• Multiculturalism in Policy and Practice *
• Trade Wars and the Liberal Order
• Contemporary Latin America *
• Justice, Order, Human Rights
• The Second World War in Europe
• The EU Politics, Policies, Problems *
• Nationalism in Theory and Practice *

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

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Key Facts

Degree type: BA.
UCAS Code: L248.
Duration: 3 years.
Strategy, Intelligence and Security

BA (Hons)

In an increasingly interconnected, contested and complex world, international actors face a range of security challenges. These include inter- and intra-state conflict, international terrorism, cyber threats, nuclear proliferation, global health pandemics, transnational crime, population displacement, natural disasters and climate change. You will draw on ideas from strategic, intelligence and security studies to understand and analyse these challenges from different perspectives and explore innovative and holistic responses to them.

You will explore the complexities of how intelligence is gathered and assessed before it is disseminated to decision-makers and examine how this process and its products influence responses to security threats. You will also evaluate the importance of information, secrecy, and surveillance while considering the ethical, moral and legal implications that arise from engaging in intelligence activities through historical case studies.

Opportunities for Strategy, Intelligence and Security students at Aberystwyth include:

• participating in our renowned ‘Crisis Games’ - a 3-day role playing exercise in political, economic and diplomatic manoeuvres which will develop your negotiation and communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills
• taking part in our prestigious Parliamentary Placement Scheme, which enables you to gain valuable experience working alongside an MP (House of Commons, Westminster) or an AM (Welsh Assembly, Cardiff) for a period of 4-6 weeks during the summer.

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Key Facts

Degree type: BA.
UCAS Code: L252.
Duration: 3 years.

Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course:

First year:
• Exploring the International: Central Concepts and Core Skills *
• War, Strategy and Intelligence.

Second year:
• Strategy, Intelligence and Security in International Politics.

Final year:
• Dissertation *.

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
• NATO: From Cold War to Hybrid War
• The Making of National Security Policy
• Spies at War
• Propaganda and Secret Intelligence
• Russian Intelligence from Lenin to Putin
• Terrorism and Counter Terrorism.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

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Joint Honours

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<td>Economics</td>
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<td>Politics</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>L113</td>
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Key Facts

Degree type: BA.
UCAS Code: L252.
Duration: 3 years.
Key Facts

**International Relations**

- **Degree type:** BSc.
- **UCAS Code:** F42L.
- **Duration:** 4 years.

**International Relations and Military History**

- **Degree type:** BSc.
- **UCAS Code:** F2VL.
- **Duration:** 4 years.

Core module list

**BA (Hons)**

- **Designated for prospective students who do not have a sufficient or relevant academic background, the integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. The foundation year provides a solid base for you to go on and enjoy the full undergraduate degree in your second year.**

- **Employability** is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. Our graduates have been successful in securing roles in the development sector; local and national politics; the Civil Service; Government research; social research; roles in the third sector such as with NGOs; work with international organisations; and journalism, for example.

- **For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.**

- *Also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

- **If you are interested in studying one of our courses but do not have the required qualifications, you may be eligible for the Foundation in Liberal Arts.**

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Research

International Politics at Aberystwyth is renowned not only for its teaching but also for its research activities. For almost 20 years we have been a leading research department in the UK and globally. Aber Interpol is well known around the globe as a place where exciting new understandings of national, international and global challenges are being developed.

From analyses of humanitarian intervention to the future of EU security, from study of new forms of global harm to imagining new planetary politics, from study of military history to the study of latest challenges in nuclear proliferation and intelligence gathering, from analyses of the role of Britain in a changing world to understanding the role of Wales in the world, the department's world-leading research expertise has been at the forefront of developing new thinking and new policy practices.

This cutting-edge research expertise at Aberystwyth influences the teaching at the department. Staff are encouraged to teach on the latest research findings in their varied fields of expertise and students thus benefit directly from the latest research developments.

And important new research of course is also produced by the students! Students graduating from our PhD programme for example have won numerous national and international prizes for their research theses. Undergraduate students and Masters students too contribute to research intensity at Aberystwyth through their own research work on their dissertations and participation in research seminars and events.

In sum, the department is a vibrant environment to study and to explore new ideas. Each year we host dozens of talks by world-leading experts and opinion formers which students, staff as well as local citizens regularly attend. And we host a number of exciting research centers, such as the Centre on the International Politics of Knowledge, the David Davies Memorial Institute, the Centre for Intelligence and International Security Studies and the Planetary Challenges and Politics Centre.

At Aberystwyth Interpol you will be at the center of latest thinking, exploring and testing of new ideas on international politics!

Studying through the medium of Welsh

The Department offers two specific Welsh-medium degree schemes: Cysylltiadau Rhyngwladol 142L and Gwleidyddiaeth L201. It is also possible to study modules through the medium of Welsh on any of our other degree schemes.

The Department's commitment is to ensure that students have the option of studying at least 80 credits a year through the medium of Welsh. In practice, this means that four of the six modules that students are expected to complete each year can be studied through the medium of Welsh. The Department also ensures that all Welsh speaking students are allocated a personal tutor and dissertation tutor who can speak the language.

Students are welcome to opt for the Welsh-medium versions of modules every time, if that is their wish. However, it is also possible to be flexible and vary the medium of study from module to module. There is also flexibility in the language that can be used when completing assessed work. Students have the option of presenting their work through the medium of Welsh or English, regardless of the module's medium of instruction. These teaching arrangements mean that our Welsh-medium provision is open to students from a different range of Welsh language backgrounds.

Many of the Department's degree courses are eligible for Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol undergraduate scholarships. There are two different types of scholarship: the Main Scholarships are open to students who commit to study at least 80 credits (i.e. 4 modules) through the medium of Welsh each year, while the Incentive Scholarships are open to students who commit to studying at least 40 credits (i.e. 2 modules) through the medium of Welsh each year. For more information about these scholarships and for a list of the eligible degree schemes please see the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website: www.coleg.cymraeg.ac.uk/en/study/mediumofwelsh.

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Parliamentary and Assembly Placement Scheme

The House of Commons/Welsh Assembly Placement Scheme provides an exceptional opportunity for some second year students to obtain insight into the practice of politics.

There are limited places, so students apply and attend a departmental interview. We select students who have proven that they are enthusiastic and passionate about the business of politics, can work hard and diligently under pressure, who have good interpersonal skills and who are capable of adapting quickly to working in this very different environment.

Successful applicants are placed with an MP (House of Commons, Westminster) or an AM (Welsh Assembly, Cardiff) typically for a period of 4–6 weeks. Work undertaken may involve drafting reports and speeches, drafting press releases, working with Parliamentary committees, research projects, and assisting with constituency casework. Students have also been involved in election campaigning and responding to various political events.

Departmental funding is available to help with costs.
Crisis Games Simulations

The Department of International Politics was the first university in the UK to use crisis simulations to connect classroom learning with the real-world complexities of international politics. The Crisis Simulations are held once a year at Gregynog, near Newtown, which was the family home of Lord Davies, the founder of the Department of International Politics.

A crisis game is a political role-playing exercise or simulation. Students are given a crisis ‘scenario’ and allocated to one of several teams representing: national leaders, government departments, transnational corporations, NGOs, international organisations, paramilitary groups and media organisations. These teams simulate, as realistically as possible, the interactions of the participants in an international crisis. The aim of the exercise is to provide insight into the complexities of national and international politics and a greater appreciation of the difficulties faced by decision-makers when confronted with an international crisis.

The Crisis Games are among the most popular activities in the Department. During the course of the simulation students learn about aspects of international politics that cannot be taught in lectures and seminars and foster non-academic skills. They provide a more direct perspective on the decision-making processes under the pressures of a crisis situation.

Finally, the crisis games help you to develop and improve careers-oriented skills such as project management, diplomacy and negotiation, team-building and leadership, information management, problem-solving, public speaking, presentation, communication and media skills.

In recent years, the Crisis Games have been based on the humanitarian crises in Darfur, North Korea’s nuclear weapons, Syrian civil war, US Presidential Elections, the Northern Ireland peace process, war between Russia and Georgia, NATO Operations in Afghanistan, environmental politics of the Arctic, and the UK’s decision to leave the EU.
Student societies and events

International Politics Society: Organising an array of academic and political activities, debates, social events, formal dinners and other events. The International Politics Society (IPS) at Aberystwyth are a group of students with a keen interest in, and diverse views on, local national and international affairs.

Interstate Journal of International Affairs is an undergraduate-run academic journal. It focuses on issues of international and current affairs, and it aims to allow students an opportunity to comment on and analyse world affairs in depth alongside contributions by academics and practitioners in the field. The journal allows students to develop their writing style for different audiences, publish work and become involved in the editing and managing of a publication. Today, Interstate publishes twice a year online and in print, and is available at the National Assembly for Wales.

Aberystwyth Crisis Game and Model United Nations Society seeks to understand the workings of international crises and the UN system as well through political simulations. It runs simulation events during which students, representing different states, debate contemporary global issues as would happen in the UN or other international fora. Members of the society also participate in the annual Model UN events and can apply to go on UNA study trips.

This does not only apply to the student community, but also to the department, as lecturers are always willing to help out with any questions a student could have about their modules and assignments - especially the dissertation.

Teaching in the large range of modules on offer has been of a constantly high quality and very engaging, especially in seminars, which give more room for discussion. Modules I would definitely recommend are for example "Spies at War", "Russian Intelligence from Lenin to Putin" and "NATO: From Cold War to Hybrid War", as all of them are not only taught well, but in a way that sparks the student's curiosity and makes you want to learn more about the topic in your own time.

However, studying in Aber means much more than just staying within your department. With a wide range of clubs and societies on offer, there is a community for everyone and many friendships waiting to be made. Having been part of the Basketball Team for all of my time here and having coached them for two years now, a personal highlight of my time here was definitely this year's Varsity against Bangor Uni - to see the community come together and cheer your team on is simply an amazing feeling.

After my graduation I will be leaving Aber and gaining some new experiences while studying for a Master's Degree elsewhere, however with the range of expertise on offer in the department I might very well return to study for a PhD afterwards!

Student profile

Sarah Lehmkuehler

My name is Sarah Lehmkuehler, I am 20 years old, originally from Bochum in Germany and I am a Third Year Student in the Department of International Politics. In July 2019, I will be graduating with a BA International Politics and International History. When I was deciding which university to go to more than 3 years ago now, I first picked Aberystwyth due to it having a good reputation and being by the sea. I was not my first choice amongst the universities I had selected, but that changed once I came to Aber for an applicant visiting day. The friendliness of students and staff instantly made me feel right at home, and the sample lecture was exciting and informative. Having much preferred this experience to other open days I went to, I made Aber my first choice and have not regretted it since. The same feeling of community I got during my visiting day has been a constant throughout my three years in Aber, making settling in easy.

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Global opportunities

Aberystwyth’s Global Opportunities team offer an exciting range of options for you to go overseas as part of your degree: from short courses and volunteering opportunities in the summer, to a full semester or year abroad studying your chosen subject at one of our partner universities.

The University also offers a number of courses which include an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to study at one of our European or international partner universities for one or two semesters during your third year, returning to Aberystwyth for your final year and graduation.

Reports have shown that students who study abroad are more attractive to employers and earn more than their peers. Take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime while improving your critical skills by choosing to study abroad.

Language students

Students who study one or more languages at Aberystwyth spend an additional year studying or working abroad. Time spent abroad improves fluency and confidence in the languages chosen and immerses students in the host culture.
How to apply

Once you’ve decided what course you want to study and where, you’ll be able to start the university application process. Here’s a brief overview of the process and our procedures here at Aberystwyth.

1. **Apply through UCAS.com**
   - Top tip: You’ll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you’ll be asked for it many times.

2. **The University will consider your offer**
   - Top tip: Use UCAS Track to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within four weeks.

3. **The offer will show on UCAS track**

4. **Decide where to go**
   - Once you’ve received all your offers, you’ll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you’ll need to note which universities will be your firm and insurance choices.

5. **Accommodation**
   - Once you’ve chosen your firm/insurance choice you’ll be able to apply for your accommodation (April onwards).

6. **Results day**
   - UCAS Track will confirm your offer of a place. If you’re not clear what the offer is, contact the university directly. Make sure you’re not on holiday on results day. If you don’t get the grades you’ve hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7. **Start packing!**
Aberystwyth

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