Undergraduate and Postgraduate studies in

Welsh and

Celtic Studies
Welcome

Welcome to the most established Welsh Department in Wales. Founded in 1875, Aberystwyth’s Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies has always led the way with innovative courses in language and literature, creative writing, Professional Welsh, translation studies and Celtic Studies.

In today’s devolved Wales, in which the Welsh language has official status, we prepare our graduates for a broader than ever range of careers and look forward to playing a crucial role in ensuring a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The Department is close-knit yet outward looking and offers a supportive environment to all its students, from absolute beginners to confident and fluent speakers. Our students join us from all parts of Wales and the world which makes for dynamic exchanges, both academically and socially.

We are committed to delivering engaging courses that unlock your potential. The academic staff in our department are experienced and respected researchers and we produce world-class research that feeds directly into the courses we teach.

The broad research interests of our staff mean that Aberystwyth offers you a complete learning experience. Our innovative and stimulating courses encompass Welsh in the professional workplace, translation studies, contemporary poetry and fiction, literary criticism, creative writing, medieval literature, and women’s writing. We also specialise in Celtic Studies, and so our students can also choose to study Irish, Breton, and Scottish Gaelic language and literature. Further opportunities are available through exchange schemes with universities in Europe and North America. The choice is yours!


We complement lectures and seminars with innovative teaching techniques, group work, and electronic resources. For language students, we have pathways in Welsh and Irish that are tailored for students at all levels, and students can also study Scottish Gaelic and Breton.

Aberystwyth is located in the heart of mid Wales, and so our students, from beginners to fluent speakers, can use their language skills in the community as well as on the University campus. We also provide a dedicated Second Language Tutor, peer mentoring and regular informal meetings over coffee, and Aberystwyth’s Welsh Students’ Union, UMCA, brings Welsh speakers together in a wide range of social, sporting, musical, and charity events across the academic year.

Some of the highlights of the year include the popular quiz held during Welcome Week, the Christmas literary evening and annual literary magazine coordinated by our students.

To learn more about our Department and our courses, come along to an Open Day and discover for yourself why our students have rated us 100% for overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey (NSS).

Dr Cathryn A. Charnell-White
Head of Department.

Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (June 2022) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.
Celtic Studies

BA (Hons)

Aberystwyth is renowned for its dedicated exploration of the Celtic languages and their associated cultures, histories and literatures. Our four-year Celtic Studies degree will provide you with a unique opportunity to learn about Celtic languages and their cultures.

This is an English-medium course. The equivalent Welsh-medium course is Cymraeg a’r Ieithoedd Celtaidd (Q562).

The first year will enable you to consider the broad questions of identity, culture and literature, while introducing you to a modern Celtic language. In subsequent years you will concentrate on expanding and consolidating your knowledge of modern and historical Celtic languages, as well as the literature and culture of Celtic speakers from the earliest history to the present day.

Welsh and Irish remain at the core of our language provision, but the range of modules available allows you to explore other linguistic and literary interests such as Breton and the wider Celtic culture.

Opportunities for Celtic Studies students at Aberystwyth include:
• hearing and using Welsh in a Welsh-speaking community
• joining the only academic department in Britain that teaches all the living Celtic languages: Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Breton
• an international and diverse academic community and stimulating research environment
• living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, with the option to stay in the refurbished Pantycelyn hall of residence
• access to the National Library of Wales - a stone’s throw away from our Penglais Campus - and its unrivalled collection of literary, audio and visual resources
• the ability to apply for a scholarship, courtesy of the Irish Government, to follow an intensive language course in Ireland.

Employability
Career opportunities include translation (including simultaneous translation), transcribing, journalism and broadcasting, publishing, copywriting, administration and management.

Key Facts

Degree type: BA
UCAS Code: Q500
Duration: 4 years

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

First year:
• Beginning Modern Welsh 1 & 2
• Introduction to the Literature of Gaelic Ireland
• Introduction to Welsh Literature
• The Celts: A Contested Legacy

Second year:
• Cwrs Cymraeg Llafar (Learn Welsh summer school in August)
• Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg: Cyfoes a Hanesyddol
• Ysgrifennu Creadigol
• Introduction to Modern Irish Language or Modern Irish Language and Literature for Non-Beginners.

Third and final year:
• Optional modules, but there are specific modules for the Welsh and Irish pathways.
• Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
  • Rhyddiaith y Dadeni
  • Y Cynfeirdd Diweddar
  • Y Gynghanedd: Cwrs Trochi
  • Rhyddiaith Tri Chwarter Canrif, 1900-79
  • Traddodiad Benywaidd? Merched a Barddoniaeth 1400-1800
  • Y Chwedl Arthuraidd cyn 1200
  • Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle
  • Y Golygydd a’r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
  • Testunau Bob Lliw
  • Y Cyfieithydd a’r Sector Cyfieithu
  • Llydaweg: Cyflwyniad.

You will also be able to choose from a wide range of optional modules each year on this course.
• also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.
Cymraeg (Welsh) (First & Second Language)

By studying a Welsh degree at Aberystwyth, you will be part of an established department that is sector-leading in areas such as literary theory, translation studies and Welsh in the professional workplace. Our Department is home to a vibrant and enthusiastic community of students and researchers from Wales and beyond that share the aim of promoting a wider understanding of the Welsh language, its history, its literature and its place in the modern world.

This degree scheme includes First Language and Second Language pathways. Studying for the BA Welsh degree will give you the opportunity to improve your written and spoken Welsh, to study a comprehensive range of literature from all periods, and to deepen your understanding of the language and how it continues to evolve in a global environment.

This course is only available through the medium of Welsh.

Opportunities for Welsh students at Aberystwyth include:
- being taught by specialists in Welsh language and literature who are all active in research and have extensive teaching experience
- living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, with the option to stay in the refurbished Pantycelyn hall of residence
- the opportunity to learn Irish, Scottish Gaelic or Breton alongside Welsh if desired
- a wide range of modules to choose from: language, literature, critical, professional and creative
- access to the National Library of Wales - a stone’s throw away from our Penglais Campus - and its unrivalled collection of literary, audio and visual resources

Employability
Our graduates are employed across the private and public sectors in areas such as teaching, translation, administration, the media and publishing, social work, law, tourism and the police.

Welsh language legislation and the development of a Welsh Parliament have led to a growing demand for civil servants with a good command of the language.

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

First Language
First year:
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Cymraeg Llafar
- Themâu a Ffigurau Llên c.550-1900
- Beirdd a Llenorion o 1900 hyd Heddiw

Second Language
- Yr Iaith y Beirdd Cw’r cyntaf (first language)
- Cymraeg a Gwyddeleg: Prifysgolwyr (second language)

Second year:
- Cymraeg Yr Iaith
- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith
- Themeâu a Ffigurau Llên c.550-1900

Final year:
- Cymraeg
- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
- Rhyfel y Daeder
- Y Cynghanedd: Cwrs Trochi
- Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle
- Y Chwedl Arthuraidd cyn 1200
- Rhyddiaith Tri Chwarter Canrif, 1900-79
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Y Gymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar
- Sgiliau Astudio Iaith a Llên

Key Facts
- Degree type: BA
- UCAS Code: G560
- Duration: 3 years

Cymraeg a’r leithoedd Celtaidd (Welsh and the Celtic Languages)

BA (Hons)

Studying Welsh and the Celtic Languages at Aberystwyth provides you with an opportunity to learn Irish, Scottish Gaelic or Breton alongside Welsh. This Welsh-medium course will help you gain a deeper understanding of the Celtic Languages and their literatures (past and present), and of their cultural and creative dynamics.

The English-medium equivalent course is Celtic Studies (Q500).

This course is designed to facilitate your linguistic development, and you will usually spend a semester of your third year at a university abroad. This experience gives you the opportunity to develop your language skills and your confidence, whilst also acquiring a life skill much admired by employers — the ability to live and work independently.

Opportunities for Welsh and the Celtic Languages students include:
- studying in a department that has been teaching and inspiring generations since 1875
- living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, with the option to stay in the refurbished Pantycelyn hall of residence
- joining the only academic department in Britain that teaches the broadest range of Celtic languages: Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Breton
- benefiting from the close proximity of the National Library of Wales and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies
- the chance to compete for Irish Government Scholarships to follow an intensive language course in Ireland.

Employability
Employers consistently tell us that a degree in Welsh and the Celtic Languages from Aberystwyth is a sign of high-level achievement. Our graduates are employed across the private and public sectors in areas such as teaching, translation, administration, the media and publishing, social work, law, tourism, the police and the Civil Service.

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

First Language
First year:
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Cymraeg Llafar
- Themâu a Ffigurau Llên c.550-1900
- Beirdd a Llenorion o 1900 hyd Heddiw

Second Language
- Yr Iaith y Beirdd Cw’r cyntaf (first language)
- Cymraeg a Gwyddeleg: Prifysgolwyr (second language)

Second year:
- Cymraeg Yr Iaith
- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
- Rhyfel y Daeder
- Y Cynghanedd: Cwrs Trochi
- Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle
- Y Chwedl Arthuraidd cyn 1200
- Rhyddiaith Tri Chwarter Canrif, 1900-79
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Y Gymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar
- Sgiliau Astudio Iaith a Llên

Key Facts
- Degree type: BA
- UCAS Code: G562
- Duration: 3 years
Cymraeg Proffesiynol (Professional Welsh)

BA (Hons)

We understand the importance of providing our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a professional bilingual workplace. Aberystwyth is the home of Professional Welsh, the first degree of its kind in Wales, and this sector-leading degree is popular with students and employers who seek a ‘gold standard’ in Welsh.

Cymraeg Proffesiynol hones skills that will enable you to use the Welsh language confidently in professional contexts as varied as Welsh government, journalism, the media, and the publishing industry. We also offer you the opportunity to apply these skills through work experience in one of 30 institutions and businesses in the public and private sector, enabling crucial networking opportunities.

This course is only available through the medium of Welsh.

Our bespoke core modules introduce a range of essential skills: writing reports and press releases, taking minutes and simultaneous translation, adaptation for radio/television/film, copy-editing, and adapting texts from other languages. You can also study a wide range of optional modules that focus on language, literature or creative writing, or you can add another language to your professional CV by studying another Celtic language.

Opportunities for Cymraeg Proffesiynol students at Aberystwyth include:

• having the support of a designated lecturer in Professional Welsh
• being part of a department that has many well-established industry links with private businesses and public-sector institutions
• travelling and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, with the option to stay in the refurbished Pantycelyn hall of residence
• our proximity to the National Library of Wales, with its invaluable resources
• the opportunity to study another Celtic language alongside Welsh: Irish, Scottish Gaelic or Breton.

Employability
Career opportunities include translation (including simultaneous translation), transcription, journalism and broadcast media, publishing, copywriting, administration and management.

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

First year:
• Cyfhydraul i Gymraeg Proffesiynol
• Cymraeg Llif a Cymraeg Llafar

Second year:
• Astudiaethau Troi ac Addasu
• Bro a Bywyd: dehongli treftadaeth lenyddol y Gymry
• Gloywiaith
• Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle

Final year:
• Prosiect Hir

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
• Rhyddiaith y Dadeni
• Y Cynfeirdd Diweddar
• Y Gymnhwadd: Ceri Trochi
• Rhyddiaith Tri Chwarter Canrif 1900-79
• Y Gymnhwadd: Ceri Trochi
• Y Gymnhwadd: Ceri Trochi
• Y Gymnhwadd: Ceri Trochi
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For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

Key Facts

Degree type: BA
UCAS Code: Q5P0.
Duration: 3 years.
Cymraeg y Gweithle Proffesiynol (Professional Welsh in the Workplace)

BA (Hons)

Our innovative course, Professional Welsh in the Workplace, is available to study as part of a joint honours BA course with Accounting and Finance (QNS4) or Business and Management (QNS1).

On these two courses, you will have the opportunity to learn about administration, editing, translation, marketing, management, presentation, leadership and collaboration. On the QNS1 course, you will also learn about entrepreneurship and developing your own business, and on QNS4 you will specialise in accounting and finance.

This course is available to first and second language students, and you can follow the course even if you haven’t studied Welsh first language A level. Our unique course which combines Welsh language, literature, with Accounting and Finance / Business and Management modules will equip you with the skills and knowledge that are highly sought after by the public and private sector.

Opportunities for Professional Welsh in the Workplace students at Aberystwyth include:

• hearing and using Welsh in a Welsh-speaking community
• the opportunity to learn another Celtic language alongside Welsh
• being taught by specialists in Welsh language and literature who are all active in research and enthusiastic community of students and researchers from Wales and beyond that share the aim of promoting a wider understanding of the Welsh language, its history, its literature and its place in the modern world.
• benefiting from the experience of teaching staff in the world of Professional Welsh and translation, publication, administration, the media and publishing, social work, law, tourism and professions. Our graduates are employed across the private and public sectors in areas such as translation, administration, the media and publishing, social work, law, tourism and the police. In addition, Welsh language legislation and the establishment of a Welsh Parliament has led to a growing demand for civil servants with a good command of the language.
• benefiting from the proximity of the National Library of Wales.

Employability
Career opportunities include translation, publishing, administration and management.

A growing number of our graduates have begun careers with partner companies and organisations where they have completed work-based training as part of the course.

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

First year:
- Fundamentals of Accounting and Finance
- Corporate Finance and Financial Markets
- Understanding the Economy
- Training a Chwarae a Chymraeg Llyfr
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Testunau Bob Lliw
- Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
- Intermediate Management Accounting
- Hanfodion Rheolaeth a Busnes
- Rheolaeth Marchnata
- Rheolaeth Adnoddau Dynol
- Corporate Finance
- Intermediate Management Accounting
- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith
- Rheolaeth Adnoddau Dynol
- Intermediate Management Accounting
- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith

Second year:
- Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
- Rheolaeth Marchnata
- Rheolaeth Adnoddau Dynol
- Corporate Finance and Financial Markets
- Intermediate Management Accounting
- Hanfodion Rheolaeth a Busnes
- Training a Chwarae a Chymraeg Llyfr
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Testunau Bob Lliw
- Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
- Intermediate Management Accounting

Final year:
- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith
- Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
  - Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
  - Intermediate Management Accounting
  - Hanfodion Rheolaeth a Busnes
  - Corporate Finance
  - Intermediate Management Accounting

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

Welsh (for beginners)

BA (Hons)

By studying a degree in Welsh at Aberystwyth, you will be part of an established department that is sector-leading in translation studies and Welsh in the professional workplace. Our Department is home to a vibrant and enthusiastic community of students and researchers from Wales and beyond that share the aim of promoting a wider understanding of the Welsh language, its history, its literature and its place in the modern world.

On this four-year course for Welsh beginners, you will have an opportunity to improve your written and spoken Welsh, to study a comprehensive range of literature from all periods, and deepen your understanding of the language and how it continues to evolve in a global environment.

Opportunities for Welsh students at Aberystwyth include:

• being taught by specialists in Welsh language and literature who are all active in research and have extensive teaching experience
• living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, with the option to stay in the refurbished Pantycelyn hall of residence
• the opportunity to learn another Celtic language alongside Welsh
• a wide range of modules: language, literature, critical, professional and creative
• access to the National Library of Wales - a stone's throw away from our Penglais Campus - and its unrivalled collection of literary, audio and visual resources.

Employability
Employers consistently tell us that a degree in Welsh from Aberystwyth is a sign of high-level achievement, and there is evidence of an impressive demand for our graduates in a range of professions. Our graduates are employed across the private and public sectors in areas such as teaching, translation, administration, the media and publishing, social work, law, tourism and the police. In addition, Welsh language legislation and the establishment of a Welsh Parliament has led to a growing demand for civil servants with a good command of the language.

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

First year:
- Introduction to Welsh Literature
- Fundamentals of Accounting and Finance
- Corporate Finance
- Intermediate Management Accounting
- Hanfodion Rheolaeth a Busnes
- Training a Chwarae a Chymraeg Llyfr
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Testunau Bob Lliw
- Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
- Intermediate Management Accounting

Second year:
- Fundamentals of Accounting and Finance
- Corporate Finance and Financial Markets
- Intermediate Management Accounting
- Hanfodion Rheolaeth a Busnes
- Training a Chwarae a Chymraeg Llyfr
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Testunau Bob Lliw
- Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
- Intermediate Management Accounting

Third year:
- Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:
  - Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
  - Intermediate Management Accounting
  - Hanfodion Rheolaeth a Busnes
  - Corporate Finance
  - Intermediate Management Accounting

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

Key Facts

Degree type: BA
UCAS Code: QNS1
Level: 4 years

Key Facts

Degree type: BA
UCAS Code: QNS2
Level: 4 years
The Creative Writing and the Publishing Industry degree at Aberystwyth University is a dynamic and unique course. Taught through the medium of Welsh, it will give you a detailed understanding of the field.

You will have the opportunity to try your hand at many different creative forms, from poetry to short stories, from micro fiction to ekphrastic literature, and in so doing develop the ability to use them purposefully during the creative process. In addition, you will be introduced to the broad world of the publishing industry in Wales and beyond, with particular emphasis on publishing houses and key agencies such as Literature Wales and the Books Council of Wales.

Writing creatively is a key skill that enriches all our lives. In Aberystwyth, you will have the opportunity to develop and refine your creative writing in a Department that has a long tradition of leading in this field.

Opportunities for Creative Writing and the Publishing Industry students at Aberystwyth include:

- being taught by academic staff who are active researchers and specialists in their respective fields, including creative translation, editing, proof reading and publishing
- benefitting from strong links with publishers and local literary bodies in Wales and beyond, eg Literature Wales and the Books Council of Wales
- being able to undertake a relevant work placement, for example, with an editor or an editorial service, a publishing house or independent publisher
- being able to learn another Celtic language as well as Welsh – Irish, Scottish Gaelic or Breton.

Employmability

By the end of the course, you will have high-level creative, research and communication skills and the ability to think critically, and will be ready for a career in the broader writing and publishing industry.

Key Facts

- Degree type: BA (Hons)
- UCAS Code: W840
- Duration: 3 years

Core module list

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

First year:
- Cyflwyniad i Ysgrifennu Creadigol
- Sgiliau Astudio Iaith a Llên
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Cymraeg Llafar
- Ysgrifennu Cymraeg Graenus.

Second year:
- Gweithdai Ysgrifennu Creadigol
- Glywyr Iaith.

Final year:
- Y Golygydd a'r Diwydiant Cyhoeddi
- Portffolio Ysgrifennu Creadigol Annibynnol.

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:

- Y Cyfieithydd a'r Sector Cyfieithu
- Testunau Bod Llafar
- Rhedegiaeth y Dadeni
- Federa Caron y Mathnog
- Cymraeg Ddiso a Heddir: Cyflybiaid i loftdrobath

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

Joint Honours

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For more details on the Joint Honours degrees, please see the current list on our website, or contact us.
Astudiaethau Cyfieithu Proffesiynol (Professional Translation Studies)

MA, PGDip, PGCert

Taught through the medium of Welsh, the Professional Translation Studies degree is suitable for anyone seeking to develop a career in professional translation.

Funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, this national postgraduate degree is led by Aberystwyth University and involves collaboration with the University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD), who provide and teach the optional interpretation and subtitling modules. The scheme is flexible and students can choose to follow one of three pathways: Certificate (60 credits), Diploma (120 credits) or MA (180 credits).

The modules are taught by experts in this field, and there are work experience opportunities available. This is therefore an opportunity to work alongside professional translators in the translation sector in Wales. You will have the opportunity to study translation techniques and theory, translation technology and resources, as well as the role of the translator in the workplace. It is very much a skills-based course with a strong focus on practical sessions and workshops.

You will be introduced to all aspects of translation, including general, legislative and specialist translation; translation technology; and international creative translation. Interpretation and simultaneous translation are delivered by UWTSD. You can also opt to complete a research project.

Employability
The Professional Translation Studies MA will give you an opportunity to develop the skills that are necessary to forge a successful career in written translation and simultaneous translation. As language experts, this qualification will provide you with a solid foundation to confidently enter the translation industry in Wales, by supporting you to engage fully with the wider aspects of translation as well, such as subtitling.

You will also be a strong candidate for any job that requires editing and proofreading skills and, due to your solid language skills, you will be a great asset to the bilingual workforce in Wales.

Key Facts

| Degree type: MA. | UCAS Code: Q596. |

Modules

Core modules that you will study on this course include:

- Datblygu Sgiliau Cyfieithu
- Cyfarpar Cyfieithu
- Portffolio Cyfieithu 1 (Cyffredinol)
- Portffolio Cyfieithu 2 (Arbenigol)
- Cyfieithu ar Waith
- Cyflwyniad i Gyfieithu yn y Prydain

Diploma and MA students can choose from the following optional modules:

- Meistroli Mynegiant yn y Gweithle Proffesiynol
- Prosiect Arbenigol
- Cyfieithu Creadigol Rhyngwladol
- Portffolio Cyfieithu 2
- Uwch Sgiliau Golygu
- Hanfodion Isdeitlo
- Ymuser y Cyfieithu a Golygu
- Cyfieithu a Byd Iaith
- Cyfieithu a'r Prydain ar ymuser ymuser
- Polisi a Chynllunio Iaith yng Nghymru
- Dulliau Darllen

MA students will undertake a 60 credit dissertation, Prosiect Estynedig.

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.
Welsh and Celtic Studies

MA

The MA in Welsh and Celtic Studies degree is a unique course that enables students to explore the full range of Celtic languages and literatures, from the earliest period to the modern day.

Celtic Studies is a fascinating discipline, and this degree will give you the chance to study individual Celtic languages, as well as their literature and culture with expert tuition. Whether you are interested in language, literature or culture, you will be able to choose from a wide variety of subjects that appeal to you. Comparative modules will prepare you to critically examine the origins of the Celtic-speaking peoples and the intriguing historiography of Celtic Studies. In the dissertation module, you will work under the guidance of an expert to develop a research project which speaks to your own specific research interests.

You don’t have to be fluent in Welsh or Irish to study this course. Its flexible structure makes it suitable for those who are entirely new to Celtic Studies as well as those who have studied Celtic languages and literatures at undergraduate level.

Employability

Every element of the MA in Welsh and Celtic Studies enhances your employability. Alongside the development of your subject-specific knowledge and experience, an especially noteworthy strength of this course is the emphasis on personal development. As an emerging language specialist, your research and critical faculties will make you a strong candidate for any post where ideas and topics need research, analysis, discussion, expansion and classification. Employers value the skills of creativity, research, analysis and discussion encountered on this course, which will stand you in excellent stead for entry into the competitive jobs market.

Modules

Core modules that you may study on this course include:

- Dissertation

You will also choose from a range of optional modules, which currently include:

- Comparative Celtic Literature
- Comparative Celtic Philology
- Cyfieithu Creadigol Rhyngwladol
- Early Medieval Welsh Poetry
- Introduction to Scottish Gaelic Language and Literature
- Medieval Saga Literature of Ireland
- Old Irish for Beginners
- Reading Early Modern Gaelic Prose Texts
- The Mabinogion: Legendary and Arthurian Literature in Middle Welsh
- Welsh Language 1
- Welsh Language 2
- Women’s Poetry in Ireland, Scotland and Wales 1400 – 1800
- Gerald of Wales
- Language Revitalisation in a Global Context
- Latin for Postgraduate Study
- Medieval and Post-Medieval Palaeography and Diplomatic
- Meistroli Mynegiant yn y Gweithle Proffesiynol
- Post Medieval Palaeography and Diplomatic

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.

Key Facts

- Degree type: MA
- UCAS Code: Q506
- Duration: 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time)
MPhil, PhD, DProf

We encourage applications for MPhil, PhD and DProf qualifications, and will work with you to develop your research questions, from the initial application through to the completed thesis.

The MPhil is a one-year course (or two years part-time) where you will be expected to produce a thesis of around 50,000-60,000 words.

A PhD is awarded upon the satisfactory completion of a thesis of about 80-100,000 words followed by a viva voce examination. The normal period of registration is three years (full-time) and it is expected that the thesis will be submitted within four years of your initial registration.

The Professional Doctorate or DProf is designed to allow qualified professionals to study towards a doctorate while maintaining their employment. A DProf will be awarded in recognition of the successful completion of an approved taught programme of study, together with the successful completion of further study and research. This research can be directly linked to your organisation and may be of benefit to it.

For research degrees any subject may be chosen from the whole field of Welsh language and literature, or the languages and literatures (ancient, medieval and modern) of the other Celtic countries. Researchers in recent years have worked on scholarly editions of Medieval and Early Modern texts, and on topics as varied as personal names of men in Wales, Cornwall and Brittany, 400-1500AD; masculinity and medieval Welsh literature; costume in medieval literature c1300-c1600; the early poetry of Guto'r Glyn; the Red Bandits of Mawddwy in folklore and literature; the poetry of Lewis Morris; recusant literature; women and gender in Breton ballads; developing digital archives; the cultural and literary significance of contemporary pop songs; Welsh language science fiction; and the contribution of Myrddin ap Dafydd as a cultural figure.

We also supervise practice-based projects and encourage applications for MPhil and PhD qualifications in translation and creative writing.

Students can draw on the wide range of academic expertise provided by the Department’s staff in both Welsh and other Celtic languages.

Aberystwyth University is part of the AHRC’s South West & Wales Doctoral Training Programme (SWW DTP). This Research Consortium funds PhD scholarships in the arts and humanities and provides opportunities for cross-university supervision and training. Please contact us to discuss possibilities or visit the AHRC’s website for further information about scholarships and the application process: www.sww-ahdtp.ac.uk.

For further information see our How to Apply pages, or contact us.
Anne Robbins
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Course: Celtic Studies

The great thing about the course is... It’s absolutely everything I wanted to study all balled into one, as if it were made for me, and the class sizes are wonderfully small so you get to know your lecturers and peers, and the material itself very well, very quickly.

The great thing about studying at Aberystwyth is... The area. Everything about this town (with the exception of the big hill!) is wonderful. The National Library is the most beautiful, glorious place I’ve ever seen... As soon as you arrive in Aberystwyth you feel as if you’ve come home.

Veronika Todorova
Bulgaria
Course: Celtic Studies

The course appealed to me because... it’s designed in a way that allows me to learn and explore everything about the Celtic culture from different perspectives including the learning of two new languages - Welsh and Irish.

The great thing about studying at Aberystwyth is... That it’s a quiet, beautiful place with magnificent views, kind people, an international community and vast resources of information concerning every possible area.

Jan Zajec
Course: Celtic Studies

The course appealed to me because... it offers a wide range of interesting modules that suit my interests in historical linguistics and philology. I also like the fact that it is possible to learn all the living Celtic languages at the Department.

The great thing about the course is... that it takes place in a Welsh-speaking environment. It is an amazing opportunity for students like me who have no previous knowledge of Welsh to be able to put their new gained knowledge into practice as soon as possible.

The great thing about studying at Aberystwyth... The support offered by the University staff is excellent and studying here is simply a fantastic experience.
Employability

With excellent communication skills in Welsh and an understanding of Welsh culture, you can expect to enjoy a wide variety of jobs.

The Welsh Language Act and the creation of the Welsh Assembly Government have created a huge demand for civil servants, administrators, translators, social workers, marketing officers, as well as teachers, writers, typographers, editors, proofreaders, publishers, journalists, and researchers and presenters in the Welsh media.

A degree in Welsh from Aberystwyth University prepares students for a wide range of rewarding employment opportunities in both the private and public sectors in Wales and beyond. The Department’s employability rate speaks for itself: 100% of our graduates were in employment or further study six months after graduation (HESA 2018).

Employability is embedded in the curriculum that we offer to all our students. We aim to nurture your critical, analytical and creative skills through our wide range of modules. Our modules will reinforce your written and spoken Welsh, and prepare you for the competitive job market by honing your ability to analyse, communicate and work with others. Through the module ‘Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle’ (Welsh in the Workplace) we offer work experience with 30 institutions and companies of national and local standing. Furthermore, the innovative degree scheme Cymraeg Proffesiynol (Professional Welsh) is now the standard qualification for prospective employers who are looking for competent bilingual employees – a number of our students have been offered full-time employment on the strength of their work placements.

The Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies also participates in a scheme offered by the Careers Service over a period of three years that offers students guidance on practical aspects such as writing a CV and how to conduct oneself in an interview. Guest speakers from outside the University also come to give talks about the opportunities available for Welsh speakers in the workplace.

Research

The Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies is a research-led department specialising in the language and literature of Wales and the other Celtic countries: Ireland, Scotland and Brittany.

Our research on aspects of Welsh and Celtic Studies extends from the ancient period to the twenty-first century, and encompasses the following specialist fields:

- textual scholarship and editorial skills
- manuscript and literary culture
- translation and literary adaptation
- (theory and practice, including medieval
- linguistics and philology
- critical theory, notably feminism and
- gender studies
- eco-criticism, reader response theory
- literary history and criticism
- creative writing
- biography and life writing
- women’s writing and literary culture
- literature of the landscape and the environment
- regional and national identity in early
- modern and contemporary Welsh
- literature and culture
- ‘four nations’ and ‘archipelagic’ literature;
- comparative Irish and Welsh literature.

We welcome applications from MPhil and PhD candidates.

In the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF2014) the Department maintained its reputation for research publications of world-leading and internationally excellent standard. 42% of the department’s publications were deemed world-leading (4*) and a further 30% was judged ‘internationally excellent (3*)’.

The following subject-defining journals are edited by members of staff:

- Dwned (Dr Bleddyn Owen Huws): a journal dedicated to the study of medieval Welsh literature
- The Journal of Celtic Linguistics (Dr Simon Rodway):

For research interests of individual members of staff, please see the staff profiles.

Over the years the Department has received external grants for collaborative projects. These include:

- A transcript of the Welsh Law manuscript that escaped the 1858 Wynnstay fire
- Llenyddiaeth Cymru ac Ewrop (The literature of Wales and Europe)
- ‘Women’s Poetry in Ireland, Scotland and Wales 1400-1800’ (Leverhulme Trust)
- ‘Gohiwaeth Carneidd a Rha i Gofodion’ (the Correspondence of Carneidd and some of his contemporaries).

We also have another great advantage. Aberystwyth is home to many key institutions, not least of which is the National Library of Wales, one of only five copyright libraries in the UK that is a five-minute walk from the Department.

Dr Bleddyn Owen Huws’s book on T H Parry-Williams was winner of the 2019 Ellis Gruffydd Memorial Award.

Dr Rhiannedd Jewell, winner of the 2018 Dillwyn Medal and Ellis Gruffydd Memorial Award 2019 for her volume on Saunders Lewis’s literary translations.
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!