



Department of Geography
and Earth Sciences

Undergraduate studies in

Sociology

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (October 2024) 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.



Welcome

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences is one of the most experienced of its kind in the UK, specialising in a broad range of themes across the natural, physical and social sciences. Sociology was taught at Aberystwyth from the late 1960s until the late 1980s, by academics who were renowned for their ground-breaking work in rural ethnography. The Sociology programme expands this work and looks at the intersections of age, disability, class, gender/sexuality and ethnicity, in relation to key contemporary issues of precarity (like the crisis in health care, immigration, the welfare state or the climate crisis) where sociological theory can be applied and have real world significance. These themes draw on the expertise of the sociology team, as research-driven teaching is vital in delivering quality education to students.

Our Sociology course is available with the option of an integrated year in industry or with an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to get the most out of your time at university and gain a head start when entering the competitive job market after you graduate. Our foundation year course will ensure you receive a solid grounding in the essential skills you will need to successfully complete your chosen degree path.

Our staff are passionate about what they do. They are dedicated researchers and lecturers, many of whom are at the forefront of their respective fields. Their first-hand knowledge of the world is fed into our undergraduate courses through a variety of specialist themes.

We provide you with a range of learning opportunities, whether it be in a lecture theatre, seminar class or tutorial. You will be assessed in a variety of ways,

including exams, reports, presentations, videos and essays, all of which are designed to enhance your subject-specific, personal and transferable skill sets. We are ranked Top 10 in the UK for overall student satisfaction for the subject of Sociology (National Student Satisfaction Survey 2022). As well as highly satisfied students, we have always had a strong track record of producing highly employable graduates.

Further information about our courses and other opportunities can be found in this booklet. Why not join us on an Open Day / Online Open Day or Applicant Visiting Day to see for yourself what makes Aberystwyth such an incredible place to study.

Dr Bethany Simmonds
Programme Lead for Sociology



Our courses

Single Honours

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Sociology

BSc (Hons) | L300 | 3 years

The BA Sociology degree at Aberystwyth University will train you to develop a critical awareness of and engagement with the social world.

By studying this course, you will develop a thorough grounding in the key sociological perspectives, both historical and contemporary, that have been employed by sociologists to understand society. You will also develop your ability to analyse social phenomena through training in the collection, analysis and presentation of sociological data.

You will benefit from:

- experiencing the value and significance of research methods training in sociology, with hands-on research methods supervision and an intensive supervised data collection week in the second year
- learning how to apply the key concepts associated with sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills
- learning from our research strengths to ensure that you are exposed to cutting-edge theoretical and empirical understandings analysed through a sociological lens.

Employability

Our Sociology degree provides a good foundation for you to consider a wide range of careers including the media, social work, international development, community engagement and the Civil Service among many others. Nowadays, employers are seeking graduates who possess various skills which include the ability to think analytically and laterally. This degree will provide you with a breadth and flexibility of skills, which is why Sociology graduates nationally are attractive to employers.

Module list

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

First year:

- Thinking Sociologically
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Introducing Sociological Research
- Place and Identity

Second year:

- Genders and Sexualities
- Sociological Theory
- Placing Culture
- Sociological Research in the 'Field'

Final year:

- Sociology Dissertation *
- Everyday Social Worlds

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

- The psychosocial century
- Gender and the Media
- Placing Politics *

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.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26

 **Assessment weighting:** 80% coursework, 20% exams

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** No

 **Also available:**
L302 Integrated year studying abroad
L303 Integrated year in industry
L30F Integrated foundation year

Criminology and Sociology

BSc (Hons) | ML93 | 3 years

Our Criminology and Sociology degree will enable you to learn about key concepts which help to explain how crime and deviance are perceived by society. In addition, these complementary disciplines will allow you to examine the interdisciplinary nature of crime, criminality and society as well as the relationship between society and crime.

On this course you will gain an in-depth understanding of society and criminality and will be introduced to new perspectives on social inequality and social change that are taking place both locally and internationally.

Providing insight on criminology from a sociological perspective, our degree will give you the sophisticated knowledge and analytical skills needed for breaking into the public and social sectors, as well as the criminal justice system. Alternatively, it is a great starting block for further study.

You will benefit from:

- being taught by criminologists and sociologists who are actively engaged in research
- the chance to undertake a criminal justice work placement
- our excellent working relationships with local organisations and criminal justice agencies
- undertaking supervised independent criminological research.

Employability

The Criminology and Sociology degree provides an excellent academic foundation for careers in the criminal justice sector, including the Police, HM Prison and The National Probation Service, and youth justice. Completing the degree can also provide opportunities to work in crime or intelligence analysis, community care and social work, as well as in local, regional and national government agencies.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting:
100% coursework or 50% coursework and
50% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: No

Module list

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

First year:

- Crime Control and Prevention *
- Essential Skills for Criminologists *
- Introduction to Criminology *
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Place and Identity
- Thinking Sociologically

Second and final year:

- Quantitative Research Skills
- Sociological Theory
- Genders and Sexualities
- Empirically Based Dissertation * or Law and Criminology Dissertation *
- Critical and Radical Criminology *

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

- Placing Culture
- Placing Politics *
- Geographical Information Systems
- Psychopathology
- Community Justice
- Everyday Social Worlds
- Urban Risk and Environmental Resilience
- Psychological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour
- Memory Cultures: Heritage, Identity and Power

For more details on the optional modules available to develop your specialist interests, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

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



Psychology and Sociology

BSc (Hons) | LC38 | 3 years

The Psychology and Sociology degree will enable you to engage with psychological theory and research and explore how psychology is applied to real-world personal and social issues. The course will also enable you to explore both the personal and social nature of human experience from different perspectives.

On this degree you will learn how to critically evaluate ideas, concepts and approaches across the whole of the subject areas and within particular branches of Psychology and Sociology. The course will also draw attention to the connections between human behaviour and the wider social systems (including communities, cities and nations) within which we live. You will learn how to conduct independent research and will become acquainted with a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, digital data sources, and modes of data collection, analysis and presentation. You will also learn how to apply the key concepts associated with psychology and sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills.

You will benefit from:

- a wide range of expertise among our research-active staff
- access to eye tracking, an electroencephalogram (EEG), physiological measurement equipment and behavioural measurements equipment
- a range of practical classes and data collection supervision in both disciplines
- learning from live research projects that enable you to encounter cutting-edge theoretical and empirical understandings of the social world.

Employability

The study of Psychology and Sociology provides a solid foundation for you to consider a wide range of careers including the media, social work, international development, community engagement and the Civil Service, to name a few. Our graduates have progressed on to careers in the Police force, health and social care, social work, social policy (including public housing, social work, local government administration and the voluntary sector), management, journalism, public relations, teaching and research.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting: 40% coursework, 60% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: No

Sociology and Politics

BSc (Hons) | LL32 | 3 years

Our Sociology and Politics degree will enable you to develop critical awareness of the world around you by studying both the social and political landscape. You will learn about the conceptual and theoretical methods used by sociologists to study the world. At the same time, your exploration of the political world will provide you with information about political influences on social norms and processes.

On this course you will learn how to look critically at the world, by analysing social phenomena and through learning how to collect, interpret and introduce sociological data. You will also discover how politics has the ability to change lives, about the big ideas that shape our social, economic and political worlds, and how these ideas become policies.

You will benefit from:

- experiencing the value and significance of research methods training in sociology, with hands-on research methods supervision and an intensive supervised data collection week in the second year
- learning how to apply the key concepts associated with sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills
- critically engaging with key debates about fundamental issues of politics, such as good government, the nature of the state, justice and rights, and the rule of law
- reflecting on the ways that states and societies address political problems such as the distribution of limited resources, the balance between order and justice, liberty and security, rights and opportunities, and between power at the local, national and international level.

Employability

Our Sociology and Politics graduates are well placed to enter roles in the development sector, local and national politics, the Civil Service, Government and social research, social work and social policy (including public housing, local government administration and the voluntary sector), roles in the third sector such as with NGOs and charities, work with international organisations, public relations and journalism, teaching and management.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26



Assessment weighting: 40% coursework, 60% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: No

Module list

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

First year:

- Behind the Headlines *
- Exploring the International 1: Central Concepts And Core Skills *
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Introducing Sociological Research
- Politics in the 21st Century *
- Thinking Sociologically

Second year:

- Sociological Theory
- People and Power: Understanding Comparative Politics Today *
- Sociological Research in the 'Field'
- Genders and Sexualities

Final year:

- Everyday Social Worlds
- Sociology Dissertation *

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

- Politics in Diverse Societies

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.



Studying through the medium of Welsh

Aberystwyth University offers a high level of provision for students to be able to study through the medium of Welsh - one of the highest in Wales.

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences provides all students with the opportunity to study part of their course through the medium of Welsh. We offer a number of modules which can be studied partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh. You can study some modules in Welsh, even if you are studying mainly in English, and you can choose to submit your coursework in Welsh.

There are opportunities for students who are fluent in Welsh, in addition to those who are less confident or are learners. There are variations in undergraduate course modules and the amount that can be studied through the medium of Welsh.

'Addewidion Aber' is Aberystwyth University's commitment to develop Welsh medium provisions following the University's Welsh-medium Academic Strategy. This is the most comprehensive plan of its kind by any university in Wales.

These pledges highlight what is special about Aberystwyth and how the University offers a complete Welsh experience to students, including:

- Flexible opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh in all departments
- Guaranteed Welsh-speaking Personal Tutor
- Bilingual work experience
- Guaranteed Welsh-medium accommodation
- Support for learning and improving your Welsh
- Money in your pocket for following between 5 and 40 credits in Welsh
- Free membership of the Welsh Students' Union (Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth)
- Space for Welsh-medium societies to meet.

Employability

We want all our students to achieve their ambitions. That's why we make every effort to help you gain the skills you need to succeed in the workplace during your time at university. Our courses will provide you with the opportunity to develop critical thinking, knowledge and research skills useful in government, third sector organisations and social policy.

You will graduate with the breadth and flexibility of skills needed to address some of the key challenges facing contemporary society, setting you in good stead to be in a position to consider a wide range of careers after graduating.

The emphasis placed on providing hands-on research methods supervision is a unique characteristic of the Sociology programme at Aberystwyth. For instance, in the second year, you will have a week of intensive academic supervision when collecting data in groups. This level of support in data collection also improves your transferable research skills for future careers.

Our integrated year in industry degree will allow you to gain valuable experience in the workplace during a long paid placement and improve your career prospects after graduating. The year in industry takes place during your third year, after which you will return to Aberystwyth to complete your degree in your fourth year.



Research

You will be taught by world-leading researchers during your time in Aberystwyth. Our staff are experts in sociology, examining from a variety of sociological perspectives, intersections of age, disability, class, gender/sexuality, and ethnicity, in relation to key contemporary issues of precarity (like the crisis in health care, immigration, the welfare state or the climate crisis) where sociological theory can be applied and have real world significance.

Dr Bethany Simmonds is Senior Lecturer and Programme lead for Sociology. Bethany's research expertise is in the sociology of ageing and health. She recently published a book entitled *Ageing and the Crisis in Health and Social Care* (2021) in the *Ageing in a Global Context* series by Bristol University Policy Press. It examines the impact of globalisation, neoliberalism, austerity policies and ageism on health and social care systems in the UK, Sweden and Germany. It came to the conclusion that the pandemic drew attention to some precarious systems and some which do not provide a dignified service for older people. The book discusses some of the applied health research she carried out as a Research Associate in the Department of Social and Community Medicine (and other departments) at the University of Bristol. She is currently developing some of the themes which emerged from her book, including moving towards a feminist ethics of care instead of necropolitical state decision-making of ageing/death in health and social care systems, and exploring the use of the concept of 'precarity capitalism' to galvanise intergenerational grievances around climate justice.

Dr Emma Sheppard is Lecturer in Sociology. Emma's research expertise is in critical disability studies, particularly the lived experience and sociocultural understandings of pain and fatigue. She has recently published her first book, *Chronic Pain, BDSM and Crip Time*, as a part of Routledge's *Interdisciplinary Disability Studies* series. In



this, she explores how thinking about chronic pain and fatigue with 'crip time' exposes normative, ableist assumptions underlying both how pain and the ideas of cure and recovery are understood. Her wider research encompasses disability futurities, time, and joy.

Dr Yvonne Ehrstein is also Lecturer in Sociology. Yvonne's research expertise is in the sociologies of gender, work and the digital. As a feminist sociologist, her work is animated by questions about inequalities and power relations. In her current research,

she explores what the 'digital turn' means, in particular for mothers and people with caring responsibilities. Her work on gender, social reproduction and digital parenting is published in the journals *Feminism & Psychology* and *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, and in the edited book *Neoliberalism in Context*. Yvonne's broader research interests centre around social, cultural and (post)feminist theory, the neoliberalisation of culture, conceptualisations of care and work-life balance across the online-offline spheres, as well as digital and innovative social research methods.

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.

Hong Kong



Canada



Australia



Washington, DC



Norway



The application process

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40.

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 application

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.

3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub

The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.

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

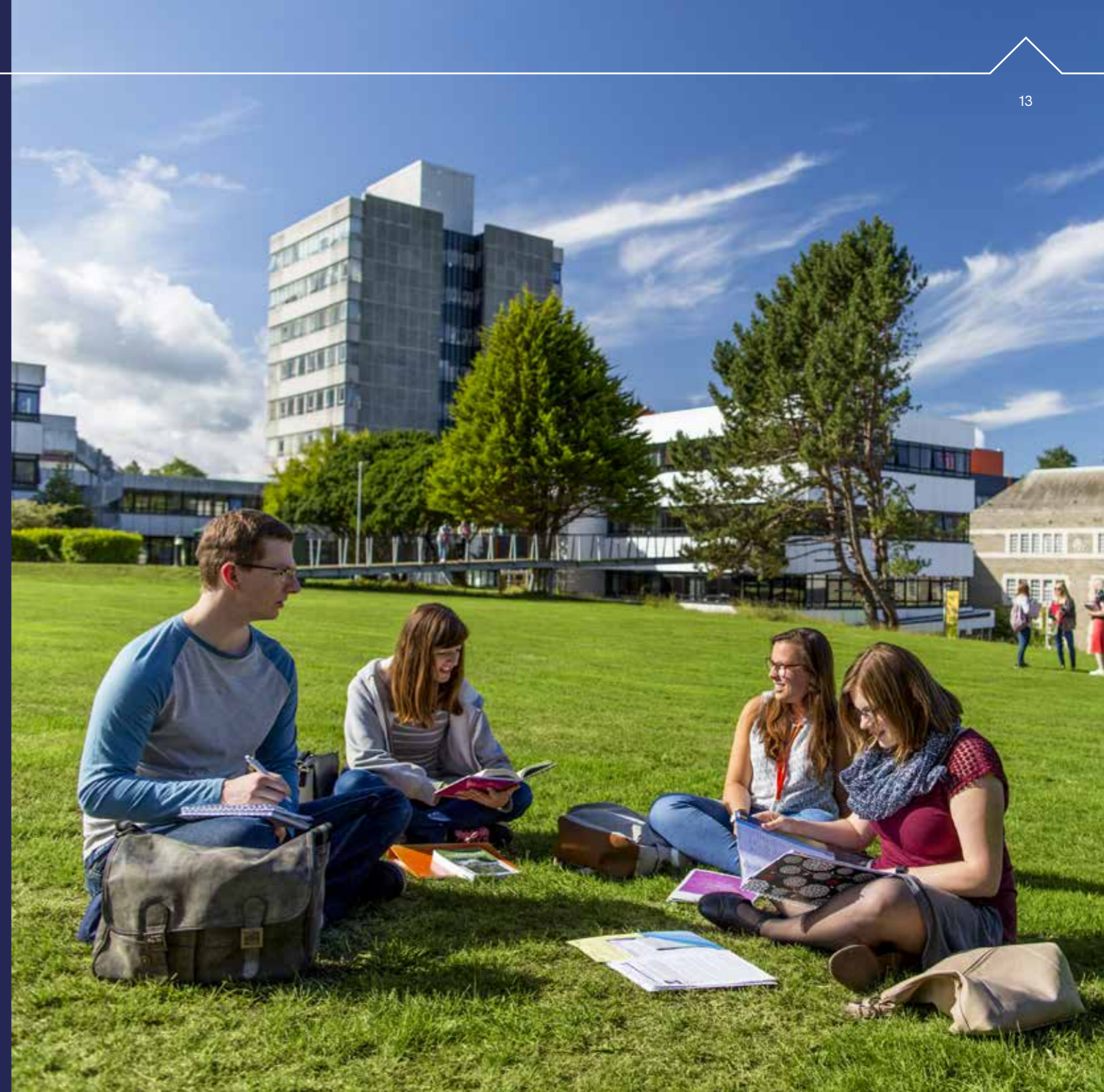
Once you've chosen your Firm/Insurance choice you'll be invited to apply for accommodation.

6 Results day

UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!

Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.



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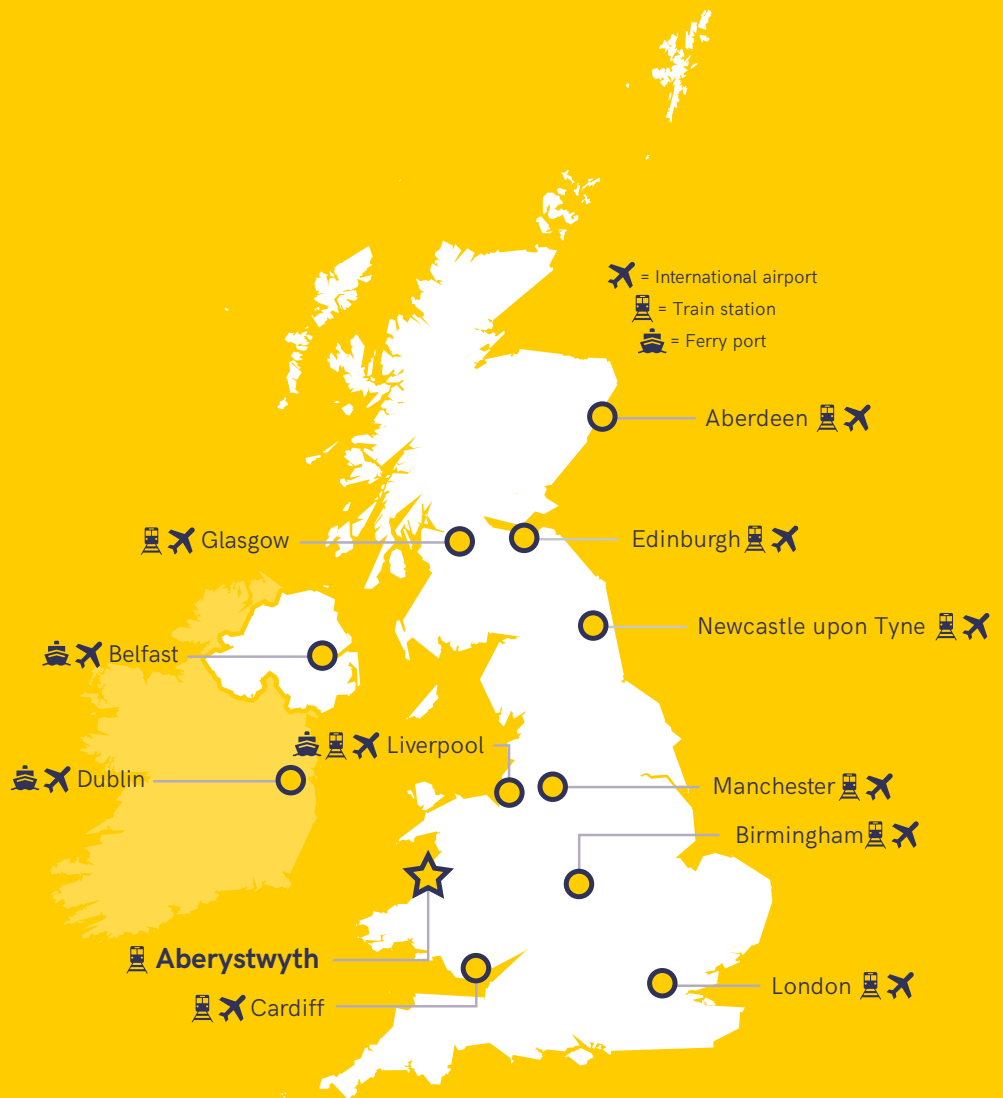
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