



Department of Welsh
and Celtic Studies

Undergraduate studies in **Welsh and Celtic Studies**

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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 a dedicated language clinic for learners, 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 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 Top in the UK for Student Satisfaction for the subject of Celtic Studies (Complete University Guide 2024).

Dr Rhianedd Jewell
Head of the Department



Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (October 2025) 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.

Student profiles



Olivia Dobney

Welsh and the Celtic Languages

The course appealed to me because...

It's an excellent opportunity to study Welsh and to learn in detail about the other Celtic languages - a huge privilege!

The best thing about the course is...

The teaching. The knowledgeable and friendly support of the staff has been invaluable. I really appreciate the Department's attention and care throughout my first year.

The best thing about studying at Aberystwyth is...

The nice thing about studying in Aberystwyth is the location. The town - its facilities and its size - enables students to create connections which are crucial while living as young adults.



Nel Jones

Welsh

The course appealed to me because...

I hope to get a job as a Welsh teacher in the future and so I believe that the course will provide a good foundation for the oral and written skills I will need in the job.

The best thing about the course is...

The variety of modules available in order to learn about different aspects of the Welsh language such as grammar, poetry, prose and the other Celtic languages.

The best thing about studying at Aberystwyth is...

The scenery! I love going for a walk from the University campus to the town to the seafront and getting to see the sunset with my friends.



Rebecca Rees

Law and Professional Welsh

The course appealed to me because...

The course appealed to me because of the practical opportunities and transferable skills that Professional Welsh offers. In any job, written and verbal communication will be essential, and this course has definitely empowered me for the workplace because I learned how to write letters, memos, and how to host an event.

The best thing about the course is...

The best thing about the course is the workshops with people who use the Welsh language in their jobs, showing us that there's a demand for a qualification in the Welsh language, as well as showing the variety of industries you can use your degree for, such as journalism, the Government, publishing and much more.

The best thing about studying at Aberystwyth is...

Aberystwyth is the place to gain your degree in Welsh because the Department is a close-knit and supportive community; I'm comfortable emailing my lecturers and am quite prepared to ask a question in the middle of a lecture because everyone is so friendly.



Mirain Francis

Welsh

The course appealed to me because...

It covers all elements of the Welsh language and Welsh culture, enabling me to follow all kinds of modules, including creative, literary and professional ones, and get a taste of all aspects of studying the language.

The best thing about the course is...

Each module is different, and requires different kinds of knowledge, skills and reading work. I never get bored of having to do the same thing over and over again! It also gives me a valuable opportunity to learn about the language, history and culture of our country, enriching my understanding of all aspects of the Welsh language. The course also gave me the opportunity to meet lifelong friends who share the same interest and passion for the Welsh language, and all the elements that belong to it.

The best thing about studying at Aberystwyth is...

The close-knit Welsh community that exists here at the University. There are all kinds of events organized every week, so I can socialize with people from all over Wales through the medium of Welsh.

Our courses

Single Honours

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Celtic Studies

BA (Hons) | Q500 | 4 years

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 leithoedd Celtaidd (Q562).

In the first year, you will consider the broad questions of identity, culture and literature, while introducing you to a modern Celtic language. In subsequent years you will expand your knowledge of modern and historical Celtic languages and the literature and culture of Celtic speakers from the earliest history to the present day. Welsh and Irish are the core of our language provision, but you can explore other linguistic and literary interests such as Breton and the wider Celtic culture

You will benefit from:

- joining the only academic department in Britain that teaches Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Breton
- an international and diverse academic community
- living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language
- access to the National Library of Wales and its unrivalled collection resources
- the chance to apply for Irish Government Scholarships to study intensive language courses in Ireland.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
with evidence of linguistic ability
IB: 30-26 with evidence of linguistic ability



Assessment weighting:
40% coursework, 60% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes

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 Cymraeg Graenus
- 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.

There is also a range of optional modules that explore creative, literary, linguistic and professional topics.

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.

Cymraeg (Welsh)

BA (Hons) | Q560 | 3 years

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.

You will benefit from:

- being taught by specialists in Welsh language and literature
- living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language, with the option to stay in the 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 and its unrivalled resources.

Key Facts



Typical offer:

UCAS tariff points: 120-96 to include C in A level Welsh 1st or 2nd language
IB: 30-26 with C in A level Welsh 1st or 2nd language



Assessment weighting:

Typically, 40% coursework and 60% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes

Module list

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

First year:

First Language

- Cymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar
- Ymwneud â'ch pwnc yn Gymraeg: sgiliau dwyieithog ar gyfer y brifysgol a'r gweithle
- Themâu a Ffigurau Iaith a Llên c.500-1900
- Beirdd a Llenorion o 1900 o hyd Heddiw

Second Language

- Ysgrifennu Cymraeg Graenus
- Ymwneud â'ch pwnc yn Gymraeg: sgiliau dwyieithog ar gyfer y brifysgol a'r gweithle
- Trafod y Byd Cyfoes drwy'r Gymraeg
- Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg: Cyfoes a Hanesyddol

Second year:

- Gloywi Iaith (first language)

Final year:

- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith (second language).

There is also a range of optional modules that explore creative, literary, linguistic and professional topics. For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.



Cymraeg a'r leithoedd Celtaidd

(Welsh and the Celtic Languages)

BA (Hons) | Q562 | 3 years

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. You can develop your language skills and your confidence, whilst also acquiring a life skill much admired by employers – the ability to live and work independently.

You will benefit from:

- 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
- taking advantage of the Department's established industry links
- joining the only academic department in Britain that teaches Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Breton
- access to the National Library of Wales
- the chance to apply for Irish Government Scholarships to study intensive language courses in Ireland.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96 to include C in A level Welsh 1st or 2nd language
IB: 30-26 with C in A level Welsh 1st or 2nd language.



Assessment weighting:
 40-60% coursework, 60-40% exams.



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes.

Module list

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

First year:

First Language

- Sgiliau Astudio Iaith a Llên
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar
- Themâu a Ffigurau Llên c.550-1900
- Beirdd a Llenorion o 1900 Hyd Heddiw

Ail iaith

- Ysgrifennu Cymraeg Graenus
- Trafod y Byd Cyfoes drwy'r Gymraeg
- Llenyddiaeth Gymraeg: Cyfoes a Hanesyddol

Second and final year:

- Gloywi iaith.

There is also a range of optional modules that explore creative, literary, linguistic and professional topics.

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



Cymraeg Proffesiynol

(Professional Welsh)

BA (Hons) | Q5P0 | 3 years

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 so that you can use the Welsh language confidently in professional contexts as varied as Welsh government, journalism, the media, and the publishing industry. You can also apply these skills through work experience, enabling crucial networking opportunities. This course is only available through the medium of Welsh. Our bespoke core modules introduce a range of essential skills. 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.

You will benefit from:

- 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
- living and studying in one of the heartlands of the Welsh language
- our proximity to the National Library of Wales, with its invaluable resources.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-104
to include B in A level
Welsh 1st language
IB: 30-28 with B in A level
Welsh 1st language



Assessment weighting:
40-60% coursework and
60-40% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes

Module list

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

First year:

- Cyflwyniad i Gymraeg Proffesiynol
- Cymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar

Second year:

- Astudiaethau Trosi ac Addasu
- Bro a Bywyd: dehongli treftadaeth lenyddol y Cymry
- Gloywi Iaith
- Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle.

Final year:

- Prosiect Hir

There is also a range of optional modules that explore creative, literary, linguistic and professional topics.

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



Welsh (for Beginners)

BA (Hons) | Q522 | 4 years

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.

You will benefit from:

- 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.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points:
120-104 to include evidence of linguistic ability
IB: 30-28 with evidence of linguistic ability



Assessment weighting:
Typically 40% coursework and 60% exams



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes

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 Welsh Literature

Second year:

- Trafod y Byd Cyfoes
- Ymwneud â'ch pwnc yn Gymraeg: sgiliau dwyieithog ar gyfer y brifysgol a'r gweithle
- Ysgrifennu Cymraeg Graenus.

Third year:

- Cymraeg Llyfr a Chymraeg Llafar

Final year:

- Gloywi Iaith yr Ail Iaith

There is also a range of optional modules that explore creative, literary, linguistic and professional topics.

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

Joint Honours

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours
Professional Welsh	Law	MQ56
Welsh	Education	QX53
	Geography	LQ75
	History	QV51
	International Relations	5FQL
	Mathematics	GQ15





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, typesetters, 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.

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.

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 Wynnstey fire
- Llenyddiaeth Cymru ac Ewrop (The literature of Wales and Europe)
- 'Women's Poetry in Ireland, Scotland and Wales 1400-1800' (Leverhulme Trust)
- 'Gohebiaeth Carneddog a Rhai o'i Gyfoedion' - (The Correspondence of Carneddog 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.

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.



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!

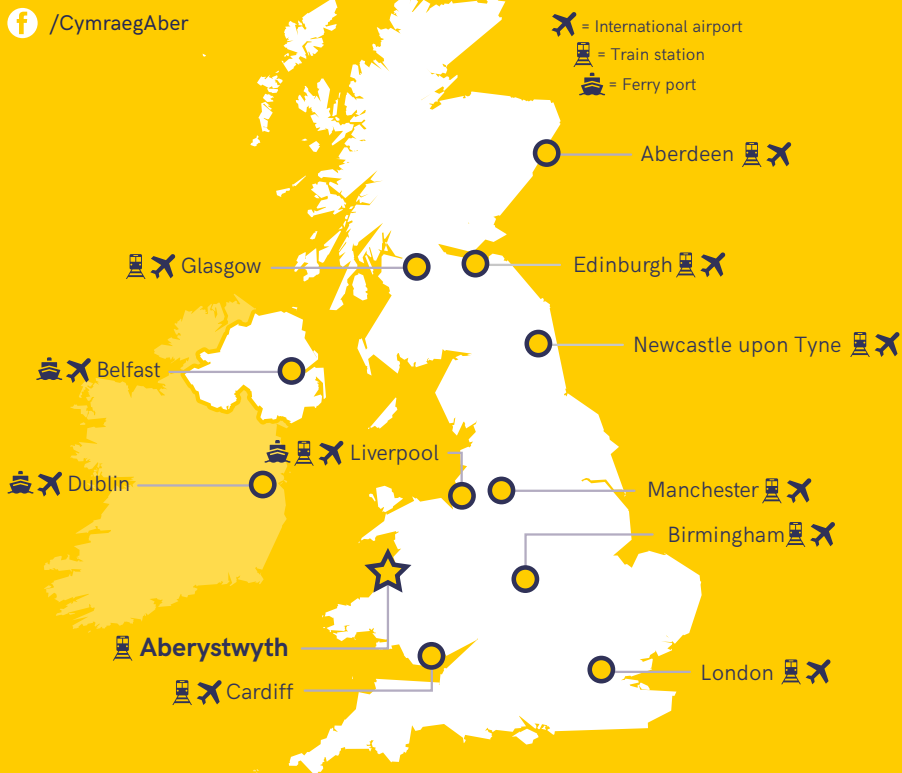
Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.

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Designed and produced by
Marchnata Byd-eang a Denu Myfyrwyr,
Aberystwyth University 2025.

This document is available in Welsh
/ Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.



Printed on
100% recycled paper