1872 PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY | School of Education

Undergraduate studies in

Education and Childhood Studies

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (September 2026) 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

Education and Childhood are aspects which touch every part of society — every child, every family, every community — and those who study them play a vital role in shaping fairer, healthier and more hopeful futures with tools to analyse complex social issues, influence policy, support communities, and advocate for children's rights and wellbeing.

You can do so at the School of Education at Aberystwyth University, established in 1892, and one of the oldest Education departments in the UK — and today we continue to blend our long standing academic excellence with innovative, research informed teaching that prepares students for a rapidly changing world.

When you join us, you become part of a department that is consistently recognised for outstanding student experience, teaching quality and satisfaction, reflecting our commitment to placing learners at the heart of everything we do.

At Aberystwyth, you will be **Connected** — to a vibrant, global community of educators, researchers, practitioners and partners. Our students work alongside experts in digital learning, child development, educational policy, wellbeing, linguistics, leadership and more. Through collaborations with schools, local authorities, national organisations and international networks, your learning will always be rooted in real world practice and meaningful impact. You will see how education shapes lives, communities and futures, and how your studies can contribute to positive change in Wales and beyond.

You will be **Supported** — not only academically, but personally and professionally. Our lecturers, personal tutors, peer mentors and specialist support staff work closely with every student, ensuring you are never alone on your learning journey. Whether you study full time or part time, on campus or through flexible pathways, you will benefit from small-group teaching, accessible staff, and a department culture built on care, encouragement and belonging. Our Welsh ethos and bilingual opportunities mean you can study in the language that feels most natural to you.

And you will be **Empowered** — to inform, influence and inspire. Our degrees in Education and Childhood Studies develop critical thinkers, skilled practitioners and confident leaders. You will gain transferable skills, deep disciplinary knowledge, and the ability to analyse, question and shape educational practice and policy. Whether your future lies in teaching, early years, youth work, psychology, social care, research or educational leadership, you will graduate ready to make a difference.

We look forward to welcoming you to our connected, supported and empowered community at Aberystwyth.

Mr Prysor Davies
Head of Department, School of Education

Undergraduate courses

Single Honours

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Childhood Studies

BA (Hons) | X324 | 3 years

This course will enable you to develop the knowledge and understanding needed to excel in child-related professions. Our degree in Childhood Studies explores a diverse range of areas and factors that influence a child and that are pivotal to a child's later development.

The course will draw upon a variety of disciplines including sociology, psychology and educational studies to broaden your knowledge and promote critical thinking. You will explore some of the factors that influence the development of children, as well as developing an understanding of the political and legislative background to childhood and its implications for children and their families.

Within the course, there are opportunities to undertake placements to gain observational experience of work within an educational/childhood setting. In the past, these have included health settings, nurseries and schools.

You will benefit from:

- a wide variety of assessment techniques including posters, games, essays and presentations allowing you to work to your strengths
- module choices that enable you to specialise in areas which interest you
- support from our employability co-ordinator, who will keep you up to date about a range of opportunities in the field (both paid and voluntary) to help you develop the skills you will need obtain employment after university.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or equivalent check may be necessary in order to undertake some modules for this degree.

Module list

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

First year:
- Children's Development and Learning *
- Language Development in the Early Years *
- Professional Practice *

Second year:
- Safeguarding and Professional Practice *
- Literacy in young Children *
- Research Methods *

Final year:
- Major Dissertation *
- Mathematical Development in the Early Years *
- Equity, Diversity and Social Justice in Education *.

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

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

Key Facts

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

Assessment weighting:
90% coursework, 10% exams.

Early Childhood Studies with Early Years Practitioner Status

BA (Hons) | X325 | 3 years

With over 700 hours of placements in Early Years settings, this degree is intended to help you to become a skilled and employable graduate. It does this through the development of knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

University study will provide the academic background to your experiences on placement, which will involve working in a team with staff to care for and educate young children. In the first year, these placements are observational and in the second and third years these placements are assessed. You will also be able to be involved in the School of Education's well-established employability programme.

You will explore:

- children's play, development, learning and well-being
- partnerships: working with parents, carers, external agencies and in teams with other practitioners
- safeguarding and equality
- the early years curriculum, including communication, language, literacy and mathematical development
- leadership skills.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or equivalent check is necessary in order to undertake this degree.

Module list

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

First year:
- Children's Development and Learning *
- Education, Sustainability and Ethical Citizenship *
- Health and Wellbeing in the Early Years
- Play Matters: Understanding and Supporting Learning and Play
- Language Development in the Early Years *
- Professional Practice *.

Second year:
- Safeguarding and Professional Practice *
- Literacy in Young Children *
- Leadership
- EYP Placement.

Final year:
- EYP Placement
- Mathematical Development in the Early Years *
- Equity, Diversity and Social Justice in Education *
- Emotional and Social Development.

There are placement modules in every year of this course. There may be travel expenses associated with placements.

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

Key Facts

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

Assessment weighting:
100% course work and practice.

Education

BA (Hons) | X304 | 3 years

A degree in Education at Aberystwyth enables you to explore the development of children and adolescents, covering issues which are central to an understanding of educational systems. Our course aims to excite and stimulate you through the study of curriculum design and educational policy, with further insight into the disciplines of sociology, psychology and linguistics. A particular focus includes supporting learners throughout the education system.

An Education degree is an ideal basis for work in industry, policy or the charitable sector, or for entry to Primary PGCE teacher education programmes. Degrees with other subjects may qualify you for Secondary PGCE courses. The study of education involves aspects of psychology, sociology, politics and history. It delves into how people learn, how their surroundings influence their learning, how decision-making happens and how our understanding of learning and teaching has developed over the years. Observational placements available during the degree will also help you to see the theory in practice and a particular focus includes supporting learners throughout the education system.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or equivalent check may be necessary in order to undertake some modules for this degree.

Module list

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

First year:
- Children's Development and Learning *.

Second year:
- Safeguarding and Professional Practice *
- Research Methods *
- Educational Blueprints: Insights into Curriculum and Assessment *.

Final year:
- Major Dissertation *
- Equity, Diversity and Social Justice in Education *.

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

Key Facts

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

Assessment weighting:
90% coursework, 10% exams.

Also available:
X34F Integrated foundation year.

Combined schemes with Education

These schemes are ideal for students who love their subjects and wish to study something new. They are offered by the School of Education in collaboration with other departments in the University. Students have Personal Tutors in both of their academic departments.

These are of three types:

Degrees with Education as a Major subject

These are BA degrees where two-thirds of your studies will take place in the School of Education. This means that one-third of your course will involve studying a subject of your choice. Following one of these courses will enable you to apply for Primary PGCE courses

Joint Honours degrees with Education

These are BA or BSc 'half-and-half' degrees where each subject takes up 50% of your time. If you are thinking of teaching your subject in Secondary schools, you can apply for Secondary PCGE courses from these degrees. You can also apply for Primary PGCE course.

Degrees with Education as a Minor subject

These are BA or BSc degrees where two-thirds of your studies will take place in another University department, with one-third in the School of Education. If you are thinking of teaching your subject in Secondary schools, you can apply for Secondary PCGE courses from these degrees. You can also apply for Primary PGCE course.

Core module list

Core modules for all of these schemes include:

- Policies and Issues in Education
- Psychology of Learning and Thinking.

These are also available in Welsh:

- Polisiau a Materion mewn Addysg
- Seicoleg Dysgu a Meddwl.

For Secondary PGCE, at least 50% of your degree must be in the curriculum subject you wish to teach.

For more information, please visit
www.aber.ac.uk/en/education/study-with-us/undergraduate/courses

Joint Honours & Major/Minor

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
Education	Drama and Theatre	W4X3	
	English Literature	Q3X3	
	History	VX14	
	Mathematics	GX15	GX14
	Psychology	C8X3	
	Spanish		XR04
	Welsh/Cymraeg	Q5X3	

Studying through the medium of Welsh

We are strongly committed to teaching through the medium of Welsh and we are dedicated to developing our Welsh-medium provision. Our core modules and an increasing number of optional modules are offered in Welsh. Welsh-medium students have their own academic representative who acts as an advocate for their interests in staff-student meetings.

We encourage students to choose Welsh-medium modules. Some choose one or two and others choose as many as possible. All assignments and exams on either Welsh or English-medium modules can be written in Welsh or English and all work written in Welsh is marked by Welsh-speaking tutors. We can also ensure that all Welsh-medium students are assigned a Welsh-speaking personal tutor to guide them through their studies.

Studying through the medium of Welsh is advantageous in many ways, including increased job prospects, being taught in smaller groups and being part of a friendly and welcoming Welsh-speaking community.

All students studying Welsh medium modules will also be eligible for the University's Welsh medium study scholarship, worth up to £400 per year. Furthermore, many of our degree courses are eligible for Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol undergraduate scholarships worth £1500 over three years.

For more information about these scholarships and for a list of the eligible degree schemes please see the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website:

colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/students/university

Employability

School of Education graduate outcomes

We centre our courses around employability to ensure that you have a smooth transition from campus to career. One of our lecturers acts as Employability Co-ordinator, organising conferences and regular sessions with speakers from a variety of careers. We also encourage our students to volunteer, at home or in the local area, as practical experience is always valuable in deciding on a future career and for job applications.

The University operates a Year in Industry Scheme. Students wishing to complete a year in industry may do so between the second and third year of studying. Another option is to study abroad for a period of time. You could, for example, choose to take part in the International Exchange Programme.

We know that many of our students are contemplating a career in teaching, either Primary or Secondary. If a career in teaching isn't for you, these are some of the careers our students have followed: Social care; Nursing; Speech therapy; Social work; Child welfare; Play therapy; Child Law.

Student profiles

Annabel

Originally, I wanted to pursue a business venture after graduating. However, engaging in the numerous modules encouraged a curiosity for learning that I could not ignore.

I decided that continued study in educational research was the path I had to follow. I am now a postgraduate doctoral student. My PhD is focused on peers adopting 'prosocial' behavioural strategies, I hope to develop and pilot my prevention/intervention strategy for improved wellbeing across schools and for better social outcomes in Wales.

Katherine

Going to Aber was one of the best decisions of my life. Moving away from home gave me a sense of independence that I needed. The university is very supportive of anything that you are going through, and your personal tutors are there for you every step of the way! Without the support of the friends I made in Aber and the staff I would never be where I am now.

The friends you make here are friends for life and the department staff are just the best. It is a great gateway course for a lot of jobs with children, which is fantastic.

Michelle

I originally wanted to train as a child psychotherapist. However I loved my time at Aberystwyth University and during my dissertation discovered a love for research. I then decided to enroll on a postgraduate course. I am now engaged in my own long-term research project. I am researching the values and self-beliefs that enable children to succeed. With this research I will be designing an intervention to encourage children in Wales to develop a love for learning and discover their potential.

I feel that the skills I developed as an undergraduate student have provided me with the foundations to study at this level. The course and all of the staff have been and continue to be brilliant, encouraging, supportive and welcoming.

Sophie

I graduated with a degree in Childhood Studies. I thoroughly enjoyed my three years at University and am grateful for all the support and encouragement from not only my lecturers but from the department as a whole. I am currently working as a Language Support Officer for the Basic Skills Team for my local council. My job has given me the opportunity to put my knowledge from the degree into practice.

Research

in the School of Education

The School of Education research focuses on three key areas:

1. Research in teaching, learning and pedagogy:

- How learners learn
- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Technology-enhanced learning
- Teachers and professional learning
- Curriculum development
- Assessment for learning
- Generative Artificial Intelligence and Digital Education
- Bilingual education.

2. Childhood Studies:

- How children develop and learn
- Gender studies
- Language acquisition and development
- Health and wellbeing
- Healthy schools
- Cynefin framework
- Additional learning needs.

3. Educational policy:

- Partnership and collaboration in education
- Rural education
- Workforce development in education
- Leadership in education
- Community education
- National and local educational policy and the impact on small schools.

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 at one of our partner universities. Our partners include the United States, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Canada, Austria and Spain.

If you choose to study with an integrated year abroad, the University enables you to study 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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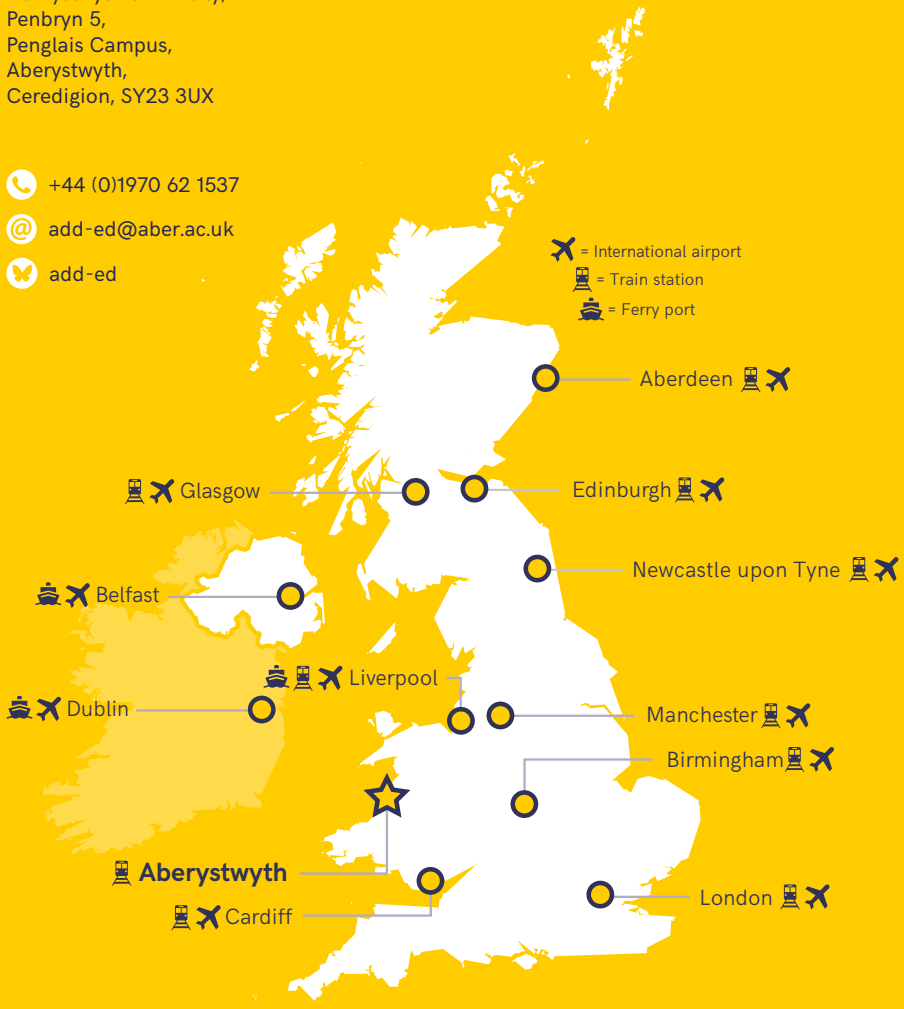

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