



PRIFYSGOL
ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY

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**Department of Geography
and Earth Sciences**



Teaching
Excellence
Framework

Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (July 2019) 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.

Contents

-
- 3 Welcome
-
- 4 Our Courses
-
- 20 The Department
-
- 22 Employability
-
- 23 Studying Abroad Opportunities
-
- 24 Research
-
- 26 How to apply
-





Welcome

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences is one of the largest and most experienced of its kind in the UK, specialising in a broad range of themes across the natural, physical and social sciences. We have recently celebrated a century of Geography at Aberystwyth, and we've been teaching the Earth Sciences for even longer! We have a longstanding tradition of offering contemporary and exciting degree schemes, and have recently added Sociology to our portfolio, born out of over 100 years of cutting-edge social science research at Aberystwyth University.

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, a seminar class, a tutorial, or in laboratory or field courses. You'll 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 skillsets. 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 throughout this booklet, and I encourage you to visit us on an Open Day or Applicant Visiting Day to see for yourself what makes Aberystwyth such an incredible place to study.

Dr Tom Holt,
Director of Admissions, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences



Our Courses

Single Honours

Environmental Earth Science (BSc, 3 year)
 Environmental Science (BSc, 3 year)
 Geography (BSc, 3 year)
 Geography (with integrated year in industry) (BSc, 4 year)
 Geography (with integrated year studying abroad) (BSc, 4 year)
 Human Geography (BA, 3 year)
 Human Geography (with integrated year in industry) (BA, 4 year)
 Human Geography (with integrated year studying abroad) (BA, 4 year)
 Physical Geography (BSc, 3 year)
 Physical Geography (with integrated year in industry) (BSc, 4 year)
 Physical Geography (with integrated year studying abroad) (BSc, 4 year)
 Sociology (BA, 3 year)

Joint Honours

Computer Science / Physical Geography (BSc, 3 year)
 Human Geography / English Literature (BA, 3 year)
 Physical Geography / Mathematics (BSc, 3 year)

Major/Minor

Economics with Human Geography (BSc, 3 year)
 Human Geography with Business and Management (BA, 3 year)
 Human Geography with Economics (BA, 3 year)
 Physical Geography with Education (BSc, 3 year)
 Physical Geography with Mathematics (BSc, 3 year)

Welsh Medium *

Education with Human Geography (BA, 3 year)
 Daearyddiaeth (BSc, 3 year)
 Geography / History (BA, 3 year)
 Geography / International Politics (BA, 3 year)
 Geography / Welsh History (BA, 3 year)
 Welsh / Geography (BA, 3 year)

* Delivered partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.





Environmental Earth Science

BSc

You will study planet Earth as a unified system, exploring the interactions between the solid rocky Earth (lithosphere) and the secondary environment, which includes the hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere.

You will be taught by experts in geology, and environmental, Quaternary and physical sciences, providing a rich and rewarding degree scheme with fantastic laboratory and fieldwork opportunities. Our facilities will help you explore core skills in geology, and apply these to a wide range of contemporary global environmental problems.

Our Environmental Earth Science degree trains you to understand Earth's natural systems, how humans have exploited Earth's resources, and what can we do to manage our current environment and build a sustainable one for the future.

Key themes include:

- Earth's geological evolution
- Geohazards
- Earth surface processes and environments
- Earth's resources and sustainability
- Environmental Geochemistry
- Applied laboratory and field-based learning



Degree type: BSc



UCAS Code: F640



Duration: 3 years.



Fieldwork opportunities:

Week-long residential trips to UK destinations during years 1 and 2 of your degree, with an option of an international trip during year 3. Recent destinations have included Wales, Cornwall and Republic of Ireland. *(All fieldwork provision is subject to annual review)*

Modules on this course include:

Year 1

- > An introduction to Earth Materials
- > Earth Surface Environments
- > Fieldwork Skills
- > Global Ecology and Soil Systems
- > Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- > The Dynamic Earth
- > The Geological Evolution of the British Isles
- > Life on Earth

Year 2

- > Advanced Earth Materials
- > Earth Resources
- > Field Skills
- > Fundamentals of Geochemistry
- > Laboratory Techniques

Year 3

- > Independent Project for Environmental Earth Science

Plus specialist optional modules in Earth and Environmental Science

Environmental Science

BSc

Our Environmental Science degree explores some of the most important issues and challenges facing society. We offer the unique opportunity to study within the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, as well as the Institute of Biology, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS). You'll be taught by world-leading researchers in physical and biological sciences, providing an exciting and engaging course with a fantastic range of laboratory and fieldwork opportunities.

The degree focuses on past, present and future environmental processes and their complex interactions with human activities. You will investigate the societal response to both natural and human-induced environmental issues, and the ways in which they are managed. You will have the opportunity to explore Earth's natural environments, including its biosphere, pedosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere.

Specialist opportunities for Environmental Science at Aberystwyth include an Earth Observation Laboratory, Palaeoecology Laboratory, Luminescence Research Laboratory, aquarium systems for both marine and freshwater organisms, Advanced Microscopy and Bio-Imaging Laboratory, facilities for DNA sequencing, metabolomics and proteomics, and a Modelling Laboratory for spatial and temporal integration of biological data. You also have access to the university's farm and Pwllpeiran Upland Research Platform.

Key themes include:

- Earth surface processes and environments
- Global ecology and soil system science
- Atmospheric and hydrological cycles
- Freshwater and marine biology
- Environmental microbiology
- Palaeoenvironmental change

Modules on this course include:

Year 1

- > Climate Change: Impacts, Perceptions, Adaptations
- > Earth Surface Environments
- > Global Ecology and Soil Systems
- > The Atmosphere and the Water Cycle
- > The Biosphere
- > Evolution and the Diversity of Life
- > Level 1 Fieldwork

Year 2

- > Environmental Science Fieldwork
- > Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- > Reconstructing Past Environments
- > Geohazards
- > Earth Resources
- > Ecological Surveying
- > Climate Change: Plants, Animals and Ecosystems
- > Environmental Microbiology and Monitoring

Year 3

- > Environmental Science Dissertation

Plus specialist optional modules in Earth and Environmental Science



Degree type: BSc



UCAS Code: F750



Duration: 3 years.



Fieldwork opportunities:

Week-long residential fieldtrips to destinations in the UK during years 1 and 2 of your degree, with international options also available during years 2 and 3. Recent destinations have included Wales, Republic of Ireland, Crete, Scotland, Portugal, New Zealand and Borneo. (All fieldwork provision is subject to annual review)





Geography

BSc

Our Geography degree scheme offers the opportunity to explore key topics in human and physical geography.

Themes covered include:

- Hydrological systems
- Glacial processes
- Geomorphology
- Soil system science
- Ecosystem dynamics
- Cultural and historical geography
- Urbanisation, rural change and development
- Place and identity
- Globalization

Our Geography students also have the opportunity to study interdisciplinary themes such as environmental change, geohazards, and sustainability. You will also receive specific skills training, for example in remote sensing and GIS and social research methods.

Our flexible degree scheme structure Part 2 means you can either specialise in a particular field or maintain a breadth of interests throughout the course, allowing you to focus on themes that excite you.

You will be taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields from the first to the last week of your degree.



Degree type: BSc



UCAS Code: F800



Duration: 3 years. Four year options available with a Year in Industry (F803) or Year Studying Abroad (F802).

Modules on this course include:

Year 1

- > Climate Change: Impacts, Perceptions, Adaptations
- > Conflict and Change: the Making of Urban and Rural Spaces
- > Earth Surface Environments
- > Global Ecology and Soil Systems
- > Living with Global Change
- > Place and Identity
- > Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- > The Atmosphere and the Water Cycle

Year 2

- > Geographical Information Systems
- > Concepts for Geographers
- > Geography Fieldwork
- > Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- > Researching People and Place

Year 3

- > Geography Dissertation

Plus specialist physical and human geography optional modules in years 2 and 3

All core UK-based trips are free, including induction trips around mid-Wales in your first year, as well as a residential trip in year 2. International residential courses are offered at additional cost, and have recently included Crete, Berlin, New Zealand and Republic of Ireland. (All fieldwork provision is subject to annual review).

Daearyddiaeth

BSc

The Department has a long tradition of teaching through the medium of Welsh. Our BSc Daearyddiaeth degree scheme offers the opportunity to study two thirds of the course with our team of dedicated Welsh-medium lecturers.

We offer Welsh-medium modules on human and physical processes that affect the world, and the political and environmental issues that arise as a consequence of human interactions with the Earth. Module themes range from fluvial geomorphology, hydrology and Earth science, to political and cultural geography. Students also get the opportunity to select some modules from our English medium provision.

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Scholarships of up to £3,000 are available to students who study our BSc Daearyddiaeth degree. As part of the scholarship you will also benefit from an arranged work placement and an opportunity to work towards the Coleg Cenedlaethol's Language Skills Certificate qualifications.

Modules on this course include:

Year 1

- > Newid Hinsawdd
- > Bywyd ar y Ddaear
- > Newid a Gwrthdaro: Cynhyrchu Gofodau Gwledig a Threfol
- > Amgylcheddau Wyneb y Ddaear
- > Global Ecology and Soil Systems
- > Byw gyda Newid Byd-eang
- > Power, Place, Identity and Politics
- > Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- > The Atmosphere and the Water Cycle

Year 2

- > Lleoli Gwleidyddiaeth
- > Geomorffoleg Afonol
- > Daearybryglon
- > Concepts for Geographers
- > Gwaith Maes Daearyddiaeth
- > Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- > Ymchwilio i Bobl a Lle

Year 3

- > Traethawd Estynedig Daearyddiaeth

Plus specialist physical and human geography optional modules in years 2 and 3, many through the medium of Welsh.

All core UK-based trips are free, including induction trips around mid-Wales in your first year, as well as a residential trip in year 2. International residential courses are offered at additional cost, and have recently included Crete, Berlin, New Zealand and Republic of Ireland. (All fieldwork provision is subject to annual review).

 Degree type: BSc

 UCAS Code: F801

 Duration: 3 years.





Human Geography

BA

Our Human Geography degree addresses some of the major issues facing the world today, including: place and identity; globalization; sustainable development; inequality and poverty; geopolitics; nationalism and regionalism; urban and rural change; and migration. You will study the historical processes behind contemporary trends, drawing together perspectives from different countries and cultures, and use different sources ranging from maps and statistics, to film, art, and literature.

Our human geography course offers a flexible modular structure which allows you to develop your own particular interests, and focus on what excites you. You will be taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields from the first to the last week of your degree.



Degree type: BA



UCAS Code: L700



Duration: 3 years. Four year options available with a Year in Industry (L703) or Year Studying Abroad (L704).

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course includes:

Year 1

- > Conflict and Change: the Making of Urban and Rural Spaces
- > Living with Global Change
- > Place and Identity
- > Climate Change: Impacts, Perceptions, Adaptations
- > Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis

Year 2

- > Geographical Information Systems
- > Concepts for Geographers
- > Geography Fieldwork
- > Placing Culture
- > Placing Politics
- > Geographical Perspectives on the Sustainable Society
- > Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- > Researching People and Place

Year 3

- > Geography Dissertation

Plus specialist human geography optional modules in years 2 and 3.

All core UK-based trips are free, including induction trips around mid-Wales in your first year, as well as a residential trip in year 2. International residential courses are offered at additional cost, and have recently included Crete, Berlin, and Republic of Ireland. (All fieldwork provision is subject to annual review).

Physical Geography

BSc

Our Physical Geography degree allows you to explore the fundamental processes that shape the world in which we live. Supported by world-leading research conducted by our staff, key themes include: Quaternary environmental change; hydrological systems; glacial processes; geomorphology; soil system science and; ecosystem dynamics. As a Physical Geography student, you can also choose to study topics of an interdisciplinary nature, such as environmental management, sustainability, Earth resources, and geohazards. The structure of the degree enables you to either specialise in a particular field or to maintain a breadth of interest throughout your course.

You will develop key skills for physical geographers, including being trained to use statistical analysis packages, remote sensing and GIS software, as well as undertaking various laboratory experiments and fieldwork. You will be taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields from the first to the last week of your degree.

Modules on this course include:

Year 1

- > Climate Change: Impacts, Perceptions, Adaptations.
- > Earth Surface Environments
- > Global Ecology and Soil Systems
- > Living with Global Change
- > Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- > The Atmosphere and Water Cycle

Year 2


- > Geographical Information Systems
- > Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- > Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- > Catchment Systems
- > The Frozen Planet
- > Reconstructing Past Environments
- > Geography Tutorial
- > Geography Fieldwork

Year 3


- > Geography Dissertation

Plus specialist physical geography optional modules in years 2 and 3.

All core UK-based trips are free, including induction trips around mid-Wales in your first year, as well as a residential trip in year 2. International residential courses are offered at additional cost, and have recently included Crete, Berlin, New Zealand and Republic of Ireland. (All fieldwork provision is subject to annual review).

 Degree type: BSc

 UCAS Code: F840

 Duration: 3 years. Four year options available with a Year in Industry (F845) or Year Studying Abroad (F846).





Sociology

BA

Our Sociology degree offers an innovative and exciting set of approaches to studying the world around us; you will develop a thorough grounding in the conceptual and theoretical approaches that have been employed by sociologists.

Covering a diverse range of themes including globalization, social difference, mobility, identity politics, migration, inequality, social justice, and urban and rural change, this degree programme enables you to develop a critical awareness of, and engagement with, the social world.

Drawing on expertise of renowned social scientists, our Sociology course is characterised by field-based learning and career-oriented skills development. You will also develop your ability to analyse social phenomena through training in the collection, analysis and presentation of sociological data. At Part 2 there will be an opportunity to undertake fieldwork in a European city, enabling you to enhance field data collection and analysis skills.

During your degree you will be taught by experts in their respective fields, currently involved with research projects concerning international migration, rural change, the impact of Brexit on young people, and education and emotional intelligence, to name a few.

Modules on this course include:

Year 1

- > Understanding Sameness and Difference
- > Key Concepts in Sociology
- > Place and Identity
- > Conflict and Change: the Production of the City and the Country
- > Childhood in Society
- > Researching the Social World

Year 2

- > Understanding (in)equality and (in)justice
- > Introduction to Social Theory
- > Placing Culture
- > Quantitative Research Methods
- > Urban Sociology in Practice
- > Media and Society in Wales
- > Field Methods for Sociologists
- > Researching People and Place

Year 3

- > Sociology Dissertation
- > Everyday Social Worlds



Degree type: BA

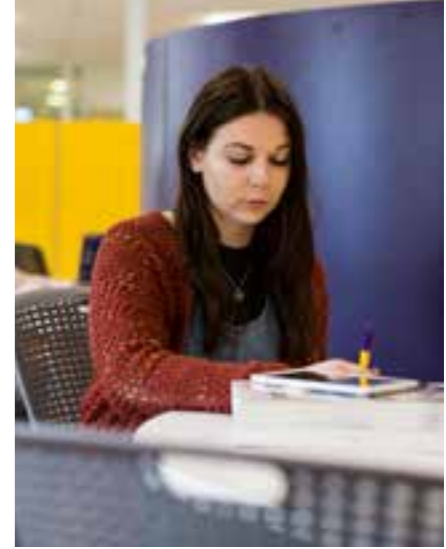


UCAS Code: L300



Duration: 3 years.

The Department



Employability

We want each and every one of our students to go on and be everything that they ever wanted to be. That's why we ensure that during your time with us every effort is made to help you get the skills to do it.

Throughout your degree we develop career awareness, and all our courses help students develop the skills needed in the modern workplace.

In addition, our integrated year in industry options on our Geography, Physical Geography and Human Geography degree schemes allow you to experience the workplace during your year in industry. Students on these courses will undertake the year industry during the third year and will return to complete the

degree at Aberystwyth University in the fourth year.

Some students will be undertaking paid work experience, however the Department can not guarantee that all placements obtained will be paid. Individual enterprise, group discussion and leadership skills are encouraged through a range of opportunities provided in lecture, seminar, tutorial, library, field and practical settings.

Recent graduates have gone into a range of careers, including regional and local environmental consultancy, planning and development, travel and tourism, local government, education and outreach, journalism, and careers in the civil service.

Studying Abroad Opportunities

The Department strongly encourages students to consider taking up the opportunity to study abroad as part of their degree.

At Aberystwyth, students have two pathways for studying abroad. The **Erasmus+** route involves studying in one of our partnered European Universities and comes with financial incentives in the form of an Erasmus+ grant. If you wish to study further afield, you can participate in the University's **International Exchange Programme**.

Erasmus+

Czech Republic

- > Charles University, Prague

France

- > Bordeaux Montaigne University, Pessac
- > Paris-Sorbonne University
- > University of La Rochelle

Germany

- > European University Viadrina, Frankfurt
- > University of Goettingen

Ireland

- > National University of Ireland, Galway
- > Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- > Maynooth University
- > University College Dublin

Netherlands

- > University of Utrecht

Norway

- > University of Tromso

Poland

- > University of Wroclaw

Portugal

- > University of Coimbra

International Exchange Programme

Australia

- > Deakin University
- > Griffith University
- > Murdoch University, Perth
- > University New South Wales, Sydney
- > University of Newcastle

Azerbaijan

- > ADA University, Baku

China

- > University of Nottingham, Ningbo

Canada

- > Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- > McGill University, Montreal
- > Thompson Rivers University, British Columbia
- > University of Guelph, Ontario
- > University of Ottawa
- > University of Victoria, British Columbia

Hong Kong

- > Hong Kong Baptist University

Japan

- > Rikkyo University, Tokyo

Thailand

- > Thammasat University

USA:

- > American University, Washington DC
- > Boise State University, Idaho
- > Bowling Green State University, Ohio
- > Carroll University, Wisconsin
- > Purdue University, Indiana
- > Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina
- > University of Alabama
- > University of Georgia
- > University of Louisville, Kentucky
- > University of Montana
- > Utica College, New York
- > Washington State University
- > Westminster College, Missouri
- > Willamette University, Oregon

Research

You will be taught by world-leading researchers during your time in Aberystwyth.

Our staff are experts across a broad range of areas of human geography, physical geography, environmental science, Earth science and sociology, working across six distinct research groups: Centre for Glaciology; Cultural & Historical Geography; Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics; Earth Surface Processes; New Political Geographies; and Quaternary Environmental Change.

In the most recent UK-wide research assessment (REF 2014) DGES was placed in the top 10 departments in the UK for research power in geography and environmental studies, signifying both the quality and breadth of research that we undertake. A key feature of the 'research-led teaching' ethos at Aberystwyth, is that you will have regular contact with acknowledged pioneers and leaders in their respective fields. This ensures that you are exposed to the latest academic thinking in undergraduate lectures, tutorials, seminars and field courses throughout our programmes.

Recent research projects:

CHERISH (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands): EU Funded Project that aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the impacts (past, present and near-future) of climate change, increased storminess and extreme weather events on the cultural heritage of reefs, islands and headlands of the Welsh and Irish regional seas, also involving the Royal Commission, The Discovery Programme and Geological Survey, Ireland. cherishproject.eu
 📘 CHERISH Project 🐦 @CHERISHproj

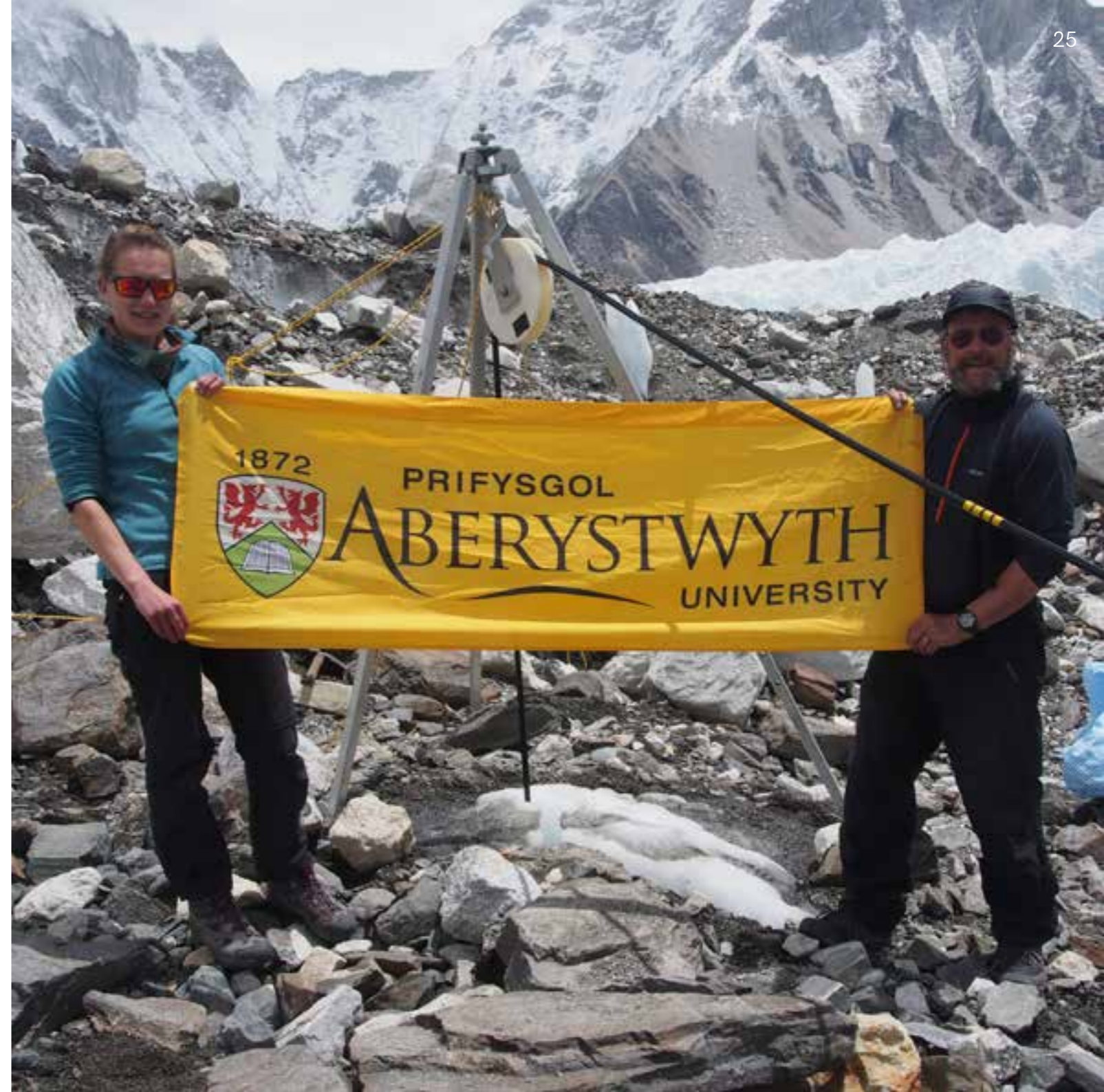
Glacial Hazards in Chile: NERC (UK) and CONICYT (Chile) funded project that aims to answer key questions concerning past, present and future glacial hazards in Chile. The project assesses the changing magnitude, frequency, and distribution of different glacial hazards in Chile under current and future global climate change. The project brings together leading researchers from Aberystwyth University (UK), Austral University of Chile, Exeter University (UK), Reynolds International Ltd (UK) and University of Magallanes (Chile). wordpress.aber.ac.uk/glacialhazardsinchile/project/ 📘 Glacial Hazards in Chile 🐦 @GlacialHazards

Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics: The Earth Observation team in Aberystwyth use ground, airborne and spaceborne remote sensing data for better understanding the

direct and indirect impacts of climate change on ecosystems and environments. The team have developed tools for identifying malaria vector habitats by exploiting information from remotely sensed data and its products. In doing so, malaria control activities can be targeted in areas where it is needed most to help eliminate this disease.

Global-Rural: This wide-ranging project aims to discover how globalization is changing rural places around the world and how different communities are responding. Research has focussed on a range of themes and sites, including studying how New Zealand has become a global dairy superpower, how businesses in Newtown (Wales) are using novel ways to compete in an increasingly global marketplace, and how the production, consumption of sugar have influenced rural economies and trade. global-rural.org 🐦 @globalrural

WISERD (Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research Data and Methods): This national multi-institution research centre undertakes cutting edge research on civil society spanning human geography, sociology and other social science disciplines. Research themes have included: migration, minorities and society; local communities and globalisation; and language, culture and identity. cwps.aber.ac.uk 📘 WISERD News 🐦 @WISERDNews



How to apply

Once you have 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

Deadline 15 January. 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 offer

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Track to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within 4 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 1st 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!





