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Department of
Information Studies



Teaching
Excellence
Framework

Department of Information Studies

P5, Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth University
Wales
SY23 3UX

+44 (0) 1970 622189
dis-dept@aber.ac.uk

Informationstudies
@infostudiesaber

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.

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Welcome

Welcome to the Department of Information Studies (DIS).

The Department has over 50 years' experience in offering education and training for the information profession, including 30 years' experience in distance learning. We offer a range of postgraduate courses including Information and Library Studies, Archives and Records Management, Digital Preservation and Digital Curation.

There is a range of study options including:

- Undergraduate degrees, Master's and PhDs;
- Distance learning degrees. You can study for a professional qualification while in the workplace (over 2-5 years);
- Online short courses for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

All of our postgraduate degrees are professionally accredited by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and/or the Archives and Records Association UK and Ireland (ARA). We are also a recognised Learning Provider for CILIP in the delivery of CPD courses. This means that you can have confidence in receiving excellent teaching, top academic support and a professionally accredited qualification at the end of your studies.

Staff expertise is complemented through close professional links both locally and nationally. Contributions to teaching, practical work and research projects are made by the National Library of Wales, local record offices, the University's library services, and national memory organisations such as The Wellcome Collection and the British Library, as well as fellow members of the Digital Preservation Coalition.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Department in the future.

Dr Anoush Simon
Head of Department.



Why study with us?

There are many benefits to being a student with us, including subject and professional expertise and an inclusive, supportive study environment, regardless of how you choose to study.

Campus-based students:

- Guaranteed first year accommodation;
- The National Library of Wales next to the campus, a copyright library that also leads the way in digitisation of archival material;
- Professional links with many other local information-related organisations such as the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Ceredigion Archives and Ceredigion Museum;
- Extensive computing facilities, some with 24/7 access;
- The Aberystwyth Arts Centre on campus, one of the largest venues in Wales with its own theatre, cinema, gallery and more;
- Excellent sports facilities, including a free platinum membership to the university sports centre for those living in University accommodation;
- A safe, friendly and vibrant place to study;
- A coastal location, surrounded by the great outdoors.

Distance learning students:

- Significant experience and an international reputation for expertise in providing distance learning
- Flexible, student-centred courses designed to fit in with busy working lives
- Specialist Open Learning team to support students and develop high quality distance learning programmes
- Dedicated Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
- Short residential study schools which provide an excellent grounding and start to your studies
- Library and electronic resources tailored to distance learning; including access to electronic and print resources provided by the Library.
- Access to all University services such as the Student Support Services, the Career's Service and Student Wellbeing Service



Degree Schemes

From 2019, we are offering a range of new Undergraduate full time schemes (subject to approval):

- > BA Cultural Heritage Studies: Libraries, Archives and Museums
- > BSc Computer and Information Sciences
- > BSc Information Management
- > BA Information Studies (Joint Honours)
- > BA Information and Library Studies (Distance Learning)

Cultural Heritage Studies: Libraries, Archives and Museums

BA (Hons)

This degree seeks to introduce you to the cultural heritage aspects of the library, archive and information professions.

If you are interested in:

- How information is organised, used and the role it plays in society
- Looking for information and helping others find information
- How our heritage and knowledge is stored, shared and preserved
- Understanding how to deal with the massive amounts of information being generated in the digital world
- History and especially the documents, objects and artefacts that bring history to life
- Reading and research

...and want to build these interests into your future career, then Cultural Heritage Studies could be the degree for you.

This is an integrated degree in collaboration with the Department of History and Welsh History. You will learn about the management and use of information, heritage resources, archives and records in both digital and physical formats. You will be taught by experts in their field, in departments with well-established international reputations in teaching and research. Aberystwyth is a town with a rich information heritage and range of cultural organisations with which the Department has close links including: the National Library of Wales (one of the UK's five copyright libraries), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Welsh Books Council, Ceredigion Archives, and Ceredigion Museum.

This new scheme will give you a solid grounding in the theory and study of history, as well as a broad introduction to the field of Information Studies. Studying for a degree in Cultural Heritage Studies will put you in a very good position to pursue a range of careers in the library and archive sectors but also in information related roles in the business, cultural and the not-for-profit sectors. You may wish to go on to further study, especially on to one of our professionally accredited Master's qualifications in Information and Library Studies, Archive and Records Management or Digital Curation.

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course includes:

Year 1

- > Foundations of Information Studies
- > The Cultural Heritage Landscape
- > Human Communication
- > The Archival Inheritance
- > Introduction to History

Year 2 & 3

- > Information in a Changing World
- > A Cultural History of Record Keeping
- > Resource Discovery and Digital Information Management
- > Collection Management and Heritage Organisations
- > Making History
- > Local Studies and Community Heritage



Degree type: BA.



Duration: 3 years.

Computer and Information Sciences

BSc (Hons)

Information and the impact of technology are rapidly changing the world we live in. This new degree has been designed to meet the challenges of a world in which the creation, use, management and impact of digital content and information technology are increasingly important. The changes brought about by networked digital and social media are creating many new job opportunities in the business, private, public sectors and information sectors. In these areas the skills and knowledge of computer science, digital media and information management intersect. The understanding and analysis of the dynamics of social media, digital publishing and curation are needed in many careers.

This is an integrated degree in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science. Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Computer and Information Sciences students include being taught by experts in their field, in departments with well-established international reputations in teaching and research; studying in a town with a rich information history and range of cultural organisations with which the Department has close links; access to state of the art equipment in our Department of Computer Science. This degree will equip you to start out on a career in a range of professions in the world of business or information management in the private or public sectors. Graduates from this programme will benefit from knowledge of the technical, practical and managerial aspects of digital information technology within information environments.

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course includes:

Year 1

- > Foundations of Information Studies
- > Introduction to Programming
- > Human Communication
- > Programming Using an Object-Oriented Language
- > Web Development Tools
- > Introduction to Computer Infrastructure

Year 2 & 3

- > Information Behaviour and Digital Literacy
- > Modelling Persistent Data
- > Programming for the Web
- > Social Informatics and Digital Ethics
- > Resource Discovery and Digital Information Management
- > Web Design and the User Experience or Software Engineering for the Web
- > Knowledge and Information Management
- > Digitisation and Digital Preservation



Degree type: BSc.



Duration: 3 years.





Information Management

BSc (Hons)

This degree seeks to introduce you to the information and digital aspects of the management and business environment. It aims to meet the challenges of a world in which the creation, use, management and impact of digital content and information technology are increasingly important. Information and data are key to life in the 21st century - in the workplace, in business, in the public and private sectors and in the management of everyday life issues such as education and health. In the online world, understanding the different types of information available, how it is organised, discovered, used and evaluated, is key to any successful endeavour in the realm of business and beyond.

This new degree scheme will introduce you to fundamental aspects of Information Management as an important subject area and career path in its own right. It is combined with a solid grounding in Business and Management, giving you core skills and understanding in the areas of business and organisational environments, and the management of people, resources and organisations.

This is an integrated degree in collaboration with the Aberystwyth Business School. Information Management students will be taught by experts in their field, in departments with well-established international reputations in teaching and research; studying in a town with a rich information history and range of cultural organisations with which the Department has close links. This integrated degree draws on two strongly related subject areas and will equip you to develop a career in a range of professions within the world of business or information management in the private or public sectors. Or, you may feel inspired to go on to further study, and take one of our professionally accredited courses in Information and Library Studies or Digital curation.

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course includes:

Year 1

- > Foundations of Information Studies
- > Fundamentals of Management and Business
- > Fundamentals of Accounting and Finance
- > Human Communication
- > Marketing Principles and Contemporary Practice
- > Data Analytics or Principles of Tourism Management

Year 2 & 3

- > Information Behaviour and Digital Literacy
- > Social Informatics and Digital Ethics
- > Resource Discovery and Digital Information Management
- > Digitisation and Digital Preservation



Degree type: BSc.



Duration: 3 years.

Information Studies (Joint Honours)

BA (Hons)

This degree will be available as a Joint Honours course with a choice of other subjects. Are you interested in a career in the information, library or archive sectors? This degree will provide you with the broad base of knowledge and skills to:

- understand how information is organised and used and the role it plays in society;
- be able to evaluate if information is reliable or 'real';
- understand how to deal with the massive amounts of information that are generated in the digital world.

If you also love reading and research, and want to build these interests into your future career, using these skills to help other people find information, then this could be the degree for you.

This new scheme will give you a broad introduction to the field of Information Studies, along with your other Joint Honours subject. You will be in a good position to go into a range of careers or further study, especially onto professionally accredited Master's qualifications in Information and Library Studies, Archive and Records Management or Digital Curation. Information Studies students are taught by experts in their field, in a Department with a well-established international reputation in teaching and research in information studies; studying in a town with a rich information history and range of cultural organisations with which the Department has close links including: the National Library of Wales (one of the UK's five 'copyright' libraries), the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Welsh Books Council, Ceredigion Archives and Ceredigion Museum.

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course includes:

Year 1

- > Foundations of Information Studies
- > Effective Communication
- > The Archival Inheritance

Year 2

- > Information in a Changing World
- > Information Behaviour and Digital Literacy
- > Record Revolutions: a Cultural History of Recordkeeping

Year 3

- > Collection Management and Development in Heritage Organisations



Degree type: BA.



Duration: 3 years.

Information and Library Studies (Distance Learning)

BSc (Hons)

This course is professionally accredited by CILIP, The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

This unique programme was established in 1994. It recognises the value of work-based experience of library and information staff who do not have a degree or a professional qualification, but who are committed to a career in library and information services. The programme is structured to encourage potential students into higher education and to give them the academic and pastoral support they need in order to succeed. All students accepted on the scheme are awarded the first 120 credits of the degree, through 'accredited prior experiential learning' based on workplace experience and any previous academic qualifications (such as GCSEs, A-levels, NVQ and other professional qualifications/courses).

You can combine your wealth of practical experience with the latest theoretical knowledge across a broad spectrum of related subject areas. The programme equips you with the skills and knowledge to organise, handle, and retrieve information within the context of today's society, and prepares you for managing information sources and services.

The degree scheme:

- provides access to a professional qualification for those with an appropriate level of work-based experience who face barriers to entering traditional education, such as work or family commitments and geographical location;
- allows for flexible progression, enabling you to work in your own time, at your own pace but with structured support, and to relate your learning to the workplace;
- is an excellent introduction in Information Studies theory and practice for those new to Higher Education, that is a professional qualification in its own right.

Degree Schemes – Postgraduate

All of our postgraduate degree schemes lead to professional qualifications and are fully accredited by CILIP and/or the ARA. They are all available as either full time or distance learning courses (please see p18 for further information about distance learning).

MA Archives and Records Management

You will learn professional principles and techniques and acquire the core skills which will enable you to play a part in the preservation, management and exploitation of an invaluable informational and historical resource. This course is designed to prepare you for work in any archive or records management environment. It provides the education which is required for entry into these professions.

Subjects you may study on this course include: management of archives and associated services, the development and description of archives collections, medieval and post-medieval palaeography and diplomatic, records and information governance, management and preservation of digital information, and rare books and special collections.

This course is available both full time on campus, and via distance learning.

MSc Digital Curation

This degree is designed to train you in the skills required for collecting and curating digital information and preparing it for use by individuals and organisations. This includes the complexities of digital asset management and digital preservation over the long-term. You will master the policies, procedures and governance required to ensure the integrity of digital material over time, and you will graduate with the skills and experience to handle digital information for any size of organisation, be it national, governmental or international. In addition to subject-specific instruction, you will also be trained to manage the dialogue between stakeholders in the new digital information ecology. Subjects you may study on this course include: management studies, management and preservation of digital information, the development and description of archival collections, information systems in organisations, knowledge and information architecture, and records and information governance.

This course is available both full time on campus, and via distance learning.

MA Information and Library Studies

This is an ideal professional qualification for those wishing to start out in, or further develop, a career as an information professional. You may be already working in a library, resource centre or information service and want to consolidate your knowledge and work experience with an accredited qualification. Or you may have recently graduated (in any subject area) and are thinking about possible career paths. Records and information management, research, the impact and challenges of the evolving online environment and helping others to find information may be part of your previous work experience or developing career interests.

This degree will prepare you for a career in a range of library and information services, and related roles in information and records management. On the course you will study how social and political contexts including issues such as censorship, intellectual freedom and the digital divide, affect the flow of information between organisations and individuals. You will learn core principles of information retrieval and collection development, and also understand how technology impacts the delivery of information and library services. You will acquire skills that are highly desirable to all employers who rely on the organisation of information including public, academic and specialist libraries, and information services across the public and private sectors.

This course is available both full-time on campus, and via distance learning.

Online Short Courses

We offer a select range of 10 and 20 credit Short Courses for continuous professional development (CPD) by online Distance Learning.

Our current offering is as follows but please check our Department website for the latest list;

Undergraduate

- > Focus on the Child: Libraries and Literature (10 credits)
- > Information Literacy (20 credits)
- > Archive Management: Principles and Techniques (20 credits)
- > Digital Information: Discovery to Delivery (10 credits)
- > Knowledge and Information Architecture (20 credits)
- > Introduction to Rare Books Librarianship (10 credits)
- > Advanced Rare Books Librarianship (10 credits)

Postgraduate

- > Rare Books Librarianship 1 (10 credits)
- > Rare Books Librarianship 2 (10 credits)
- > Archive Management: Principles and Techniques (20 credits)
- > Manuscript Skills: Post Medieval Palaeography & Diplomatic (10 credits)
- > Digital Preservation (10 credits)
- > Knowledge and Information Architecture (20 credits)
- > Digital Information: Discovery to Delivery (10 credits)
- > Information Organisation and Retrieval (20 credits)
- > Compliance Law & Ethics (20 credits)
- > Focus on the Child: Libraries and Literature (10 credits)

- These courses are flexible with three enrolments each year - January, April and September. Students can also work at their own pace within the sixth month course registration period and choose whether to complete the credit-bearing assessment.
- Each Short Course is professionally relevant and designed to develop your knowledge and skills for specialist information workplaces.
- Course materials are made available through a dedicated VLE, together with access to study skills advice and support, plus a wide range of University online resources. Course tutors are also available for consultation.
- At the end of the course you may receive either a 'record of course participation' or a credit-bearing 'record of course completion', depending on whether or not you successfully complete formal assessment for the Short Course. In some instances, it is also possible to transfer a number of Short Course credits to other Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses within the Department.





Distance Learning

Distance learning courses are clearly structured but flexible, allowing students to combine work, caring responsibilities and education, and to progress at a pace that suits them, completing their studies within 2-5 years. Residential study events offer an excellent start to the courses, and dissertation preparation support, whilst providing an additional forum for involvement in the University's central activities.

You are provided with subject materials and learning exercises that you can work through at times that suit you. There is no need to be available for online classes at particular times. Students can post questions or contact module coordinators online via our online virtual learning environment, Blackboard, and also access advice about assignments both at Department and University level.

All courses start with a residential school where you meet department staff and fellow students. You will be given information about how to progress with your studies, how the courses are supported and administered and an introduction to the core modules for your programme. There are also sessions from the University information and library services for distance learners, study skills and career support. There are social events and guest speakers. Students have individual meetings with a personal tutor who will help them plan and complete their studies.

All distance learning applications including short courses and the undergraduate BSc ILS are administered by Postgraduate Admissions - see www.aber.ac.uk/en/imla/distance/ or contact pg-admissions@aber.ac.uk

Studying Abroad Opportunities

The Department strongly encourages students to consider taking up the opportunity to study abroad as part of their degree, either one semester in Year 2 or as part of any of our three-year degrees.

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



