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Department of
Modern Languages

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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.



Welcome

The Department of Modern Languages offers a range of courses in the study of French, Spanish, German and Italian, either as single or joint honours degree programmes in the case of Spanish and French, or joint honours in the case of German and Italian. We are one of a handful of universities in the UK that offers you the opportunity to combine the study of three languages, two of which can be taught from beginners' level. You can also combine your language study with a wide range of other subjects including History, Geography, Maths, English, Drama and many others.

Modern Languages at Aberystwyth will develop you as a linguist across 4 years of BA study so that you will graduate with near-native competency in your language(s) of choice. We place particularly strong emphasis on employability and the value of developing language skills for professional life. Combined with specialised language study, at Aberystwyth you will also follow courses that develop your understanding of national societies and cultures and the place of these in the world. As you progress in your studies, you will have the choice to follow a number of specialist modules, which will deepen your knowledge of national and transnational topics in society and culture.

Our teaching is informed by our high-quality research and innovative ways to engage and excite the learning of languages in the classroom. Most recently the Department of Modern Languages has been ranked 8th in the UK in the 2019 Guardian University Guide and consistently performs well in the annual National Student Survey.

As well as being surrounded by the language in the Department, your year abroad in your third year of study will ensure that you'll also be fully immersed in the culture of your chosen language, providing you with insights, knowledge and confidence.

The experiences our students gain on their year abroad (which they may spend as students in a partner university, as language teachers with the British Council, or on a range of work placements) are a central feature of our modern languages degrees. The year abroad provides a transformational experience that equips students very effectively for a global future, and we work hard to prepare and support our students for their time abroad, enabling them to enjoy it to the full.

We would be delighted to welcome you on a visit to the Department of Modern Languages at Aberystwyth University, to tell you more about our degrees and to introduce you to our vibrant community of teachers, scholars and students.

Dr Guy Baron.
Head of Department.



My experience as a language student at Aberystwyth...

Studying a language in the Department of Modern Languages at Aberystwyth University is wonderful. The staff are friendly and only an email away if you have any questions. The friends you make are great, both in Aberystwyth and on your Year Abroad.

The Year Abroad is an amazing experience. Staff within the University are extremely helpful with your preparations for the year abroad and ensuring that you secure the right placement for you whether it may be studying at a university, an internship with a company or teaching English through the British Council English Language Assistant scheme.

Many students in the department study more than one language or a language with another subject, this means that you will meet and learn with students who study a variety of subjects during your time at the University. You also get to study with native students on

their year abroad, giving the perfect chance to practice the language in a familiar setting. The Department of Modern Languages teach the majority of their classes through the target language, but through the range of core and optional modules, you also get the opportunity to explore and learn more about the cultural and linguistic facts about the country such as international film, German politics or refugee literature.

Aberystwyth University Languages Department is wunderbar!

Tanisha Jayne Warner.





Teaching Structure/ Language Areas

A degree from the Department of Modern Languages will allow you to focus on three broad aims of development:

- Proficient and near native fluency in the language(s) studied;
- An in depth understanding of the culture, society, politics, economics, history and literature of the countries whose languages are studied;
- Exceptional transferable skills that include problem solving, written and oral communication, and analytical skills that will make you highly attractive to prospective employers.

Our modules are taught using a combination of lectures, seminars and practical workshop sessions, providing you with the key concepts, and relevant, up-to-date information.

Our seminars will provide an opportunity for you to ask key questions and discuss important ideas in a small group environment.

Our language classes are separated into the following areas:

- Listening;
- Grammar/Writing;
- Translation;
- Conversation.

The language classes are intense and are taught in small groups, small designed to ensure that you have the maximum impact of linguistic development during the four years of your degree scheme.

All members of staff in the Department of Modern Languages are passionate about their subject and are keen to share with students their enthusiasm and research-led knowledge. Their expertise spans a wide range of subjects creating flexibility to specialise or mix and match options. Language provision is also supplemented by meetings with Language Assistants for further oral practice, as well as opportunities to join one of our language or Erasmus societies.

French

The French Language is hugely important in the world of international relations today. Institutions such as the United Nations still use French regularly, and it is the official language of 29 countries with 220 million native speakers

Why study French at Aberystwyth University?

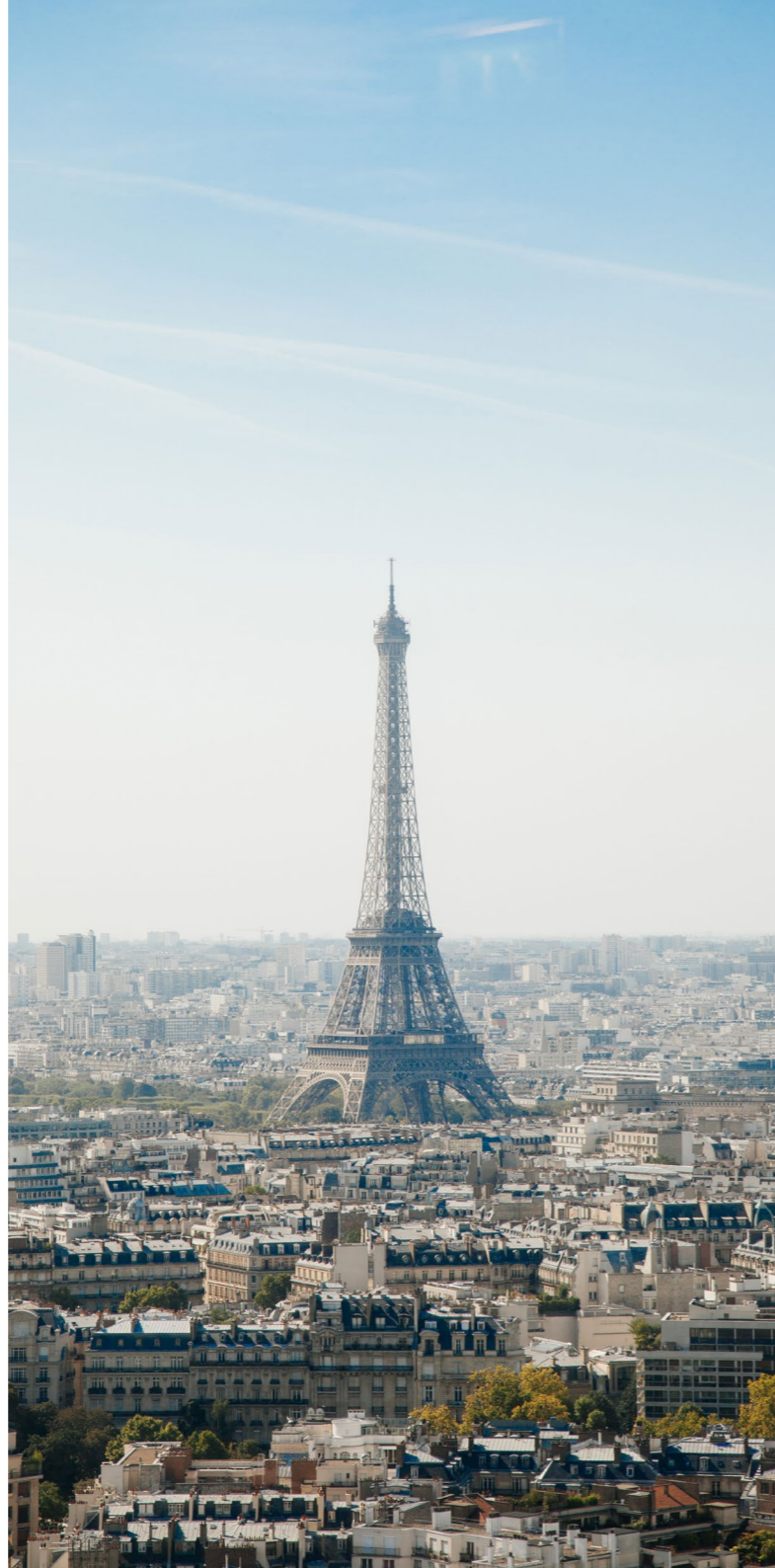
French is spoken across the globe as a native or second language by up to half a billion people. The French speaking world extends across the globe from Europe to North Africa, Asia and the Americas. French is more important than ever before and the ability to communicate in the language is an invaluable skill.

At Aberystwyth, studying French will enable you to develop your linguistic competencies further but at the same time explore and develop your knowledge in culture, French literature, French linguistics and the practical use of the language of French business. Our wide range of modules for you to choose from will develop your communication and analytical skills, which are highly desired by multinational organisations worldwide.

Upon completion of a four-year course in French, you will have acquired a high-level of proficiency in the French language, as well as critical understanding of key aspects of modern and contemporary French and Francophone culture.

For more details on courses offered, please visit our website:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/modernlangs/study-with-us/undergraduate/>



German

German is the language of business and finance.

Why study German at Aberystwyth University?

Language, culture and history are inseparable, and studying German at Aberystwyth University will show you that there is more to German culture, language and history than you might have expected.

German language skills are highly desirable for employers in international business in a wide range of fields including finance, marketing, translating, teaching, media, arts, publishing, and the civil service. There is an alarming shortage of people in the UK with the ability to speak one of the ten most important foreign languages for the country's prosperity and global standing. To speak German will provide you with a real competitive edge in the job market.

Taught by native speakers, all our German courses provide comprehensive language training combined with the opportunity to explore the cultures, literatures and intellectual histories of German speaking countries.

The Department welcomes students with GCSE or A level (or equivalent) as well as those with no previous knowledge of the language, who can enter at Beginners' level.

For more details on courses offered, please visit our website:

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Spanish

Spanish is the mother tongue of an estimated 400-450 million people, making it the world's second most spoken language.

Why study Spanish at Aberystwyth University?

Spanish is one of the three most important international languages in the world, spoken as a first language in Europe, South America, Africa and increasingly in the USA.

At Aberystwyth University, you will have the opportunity to discover Spanish and Latin American culture, history and sociolinguistics through the variety of core and optional modules available to you during the four-year degree. By the end of the course, you will have a fluent command of the Spanish language as well as a solid grasp and knowledge of Spanish and Latin American culture.

There is a high demand for Spanish graduates from multinational employers who value the communication and intercultural skills that are developed through language degrees. A Spanish course can open many exciting opportunities in fields such as international politics, business, finance, marketing, teaching and translating/interpreting.

For more details on courses offered, please visit our website:

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Italian

Italian didn't become a single, official language until 1861.

Why study Italian at Aberystwyth University?

Studying Italian provides you with the opportunity to explore careers within teaching, fine arts, banking, the media, tourism and Law to name a few.

Italy is a major political partner in the European Union; it is a leading force in fields such as engineering and architecture. Italy is also the home of design and fashion industries. Understanding and developing fluency in Italian will mean that you can explore some of the major contributions to European cultural life, including film and literature, in their native language.

At Aberystwyth University, Italian can be studied from beginners' level. We apply our unique and innovative approaches and methodologies to our teaching, which include small group activities and the support of native Italian teachers and exchange students.

For more details on courses offered, please visit our website:

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Study Abroad Opportunities in the Department

Studying Abroad

The Department of Modern Languages has developed numerous partnerships with universities, which means that you have the opportunity to study in some of the most iconic cities in Europe as well as across the world.

Students have previously studied in Paris, Frankfurt, Berlin, Madrid and Barcelona as well as many other universities across Europe.

Spanish and French students have the option to spend their third year abroad further afield in Latin America and Quebec.

Students studying Joint Honours with another language split their time between two countries of the languages studied - for example half in France, half in Spain.

Work Abroad

There are also opportunities to apply to teach with the British Council. Students offered a place on the British Council scheme are employed as teaching assistants on a part-time basis. The option provides excellent experience and enables you to earn a salary that is enough to live on while being immersed in the chosen language. Training is provided by the British Council in the destination country.

The flexibility, independence and problem-solving skills developed during this year are often cited by employers as a major attraction for hiring language students after graduation.

Leszek Ekert- Paris, France

Paris, one of the world's best known and adored cities certainly lives up to its name. All the clichés are there, from the accordionists, the businessmen running with baguettes down the boulevards, to the disgruntled strikers, the city is a unique chance of a life-time that should not be missed. I went to Paris-IV La Sorbonne University, which offers a diverse, if bizarre, selection of subjects- I chose Philosophy and History. Obviously studying gives you the opportunity to learn plenty of new facts, words, and other things in between.

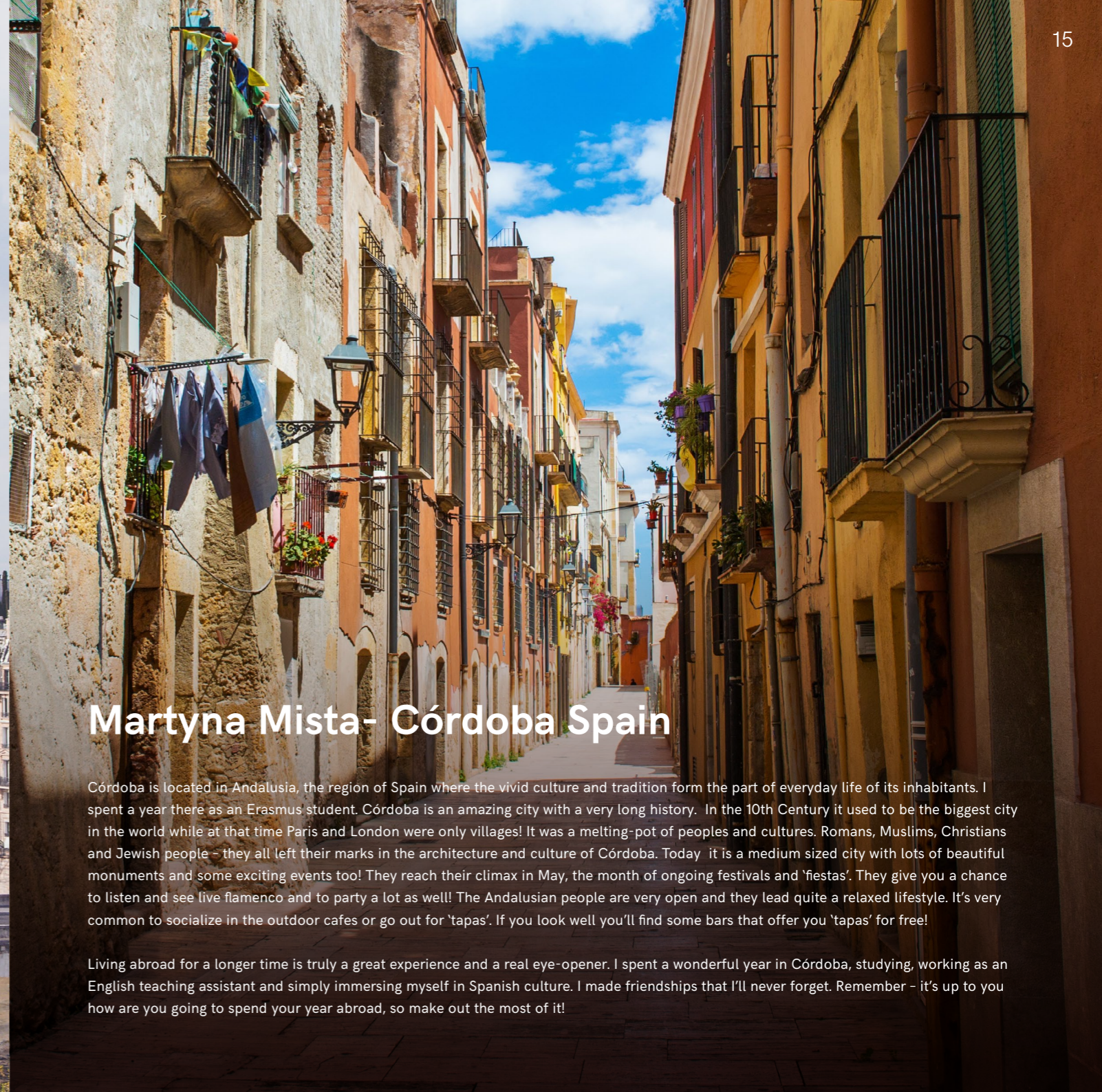
The first semester was hard, arriving from a little Welsh town to a city of 2.5 million (with 10 million in the suburbs) is a shock but with time I adjusted just fine and enjoyed the hustle and bustle of city life. Living abroad puts things in a different perspective and I am glad to say that I have had this opportunity. I have met some wonderful people from all over the world and have not only improved my French but also experienced so many new things that you just don't have in any other city.



Martyna Mista- Córdoba Spain

Córdoba is located in Andalusia, the region of Spain where the vivid culture and tradition form the part of everyday life of its inhabitants. I spent a year there as an Erasmus student. Córdoba is an amazing city with a very long history. In the 10th Century it used to be the biggest city in the world while at that time Paris and London were only villages! It was a melting-pot of peoples and cultures. Romans, Muslims, Christians and Jewish people - they all left their marks in the architecture and culture of Córdoba. Today it is a medium sized city with lots of beautiful monuments and some exciting events too! They reach their climax in May, the month of ongoing festivals and 'fiestas'. They give you a chance to listen and see live flamenco and to party a lot as well! The Andalusian people are very open and they lead quite a relaxed lifestyle. It's very common to socialize in the outdoor cafes or go out for 'tapas'. If you look well you'll find some bars that offer you 'tapas' for free!

Living abroad for a longer time is truly a great experience and a real eye-opener. I spent a wonderful year in Córdoba, studying, working as an English teaching assistant and simply immersing myself in Spanish culture. I made friendships that I'll never forget. Remember - it's up to you how are you going to spend your year abroad, so make out the most of it!





Employability

Modern linguists are statistically amongst the most employable graduates and our degrees take our students across the world. Many of our graduates find themselves working in the areas of finance, business, consultancy, education, social welfare, health and the media. After further training, many language graduates pursue careers in interpreting, translation and teaching.

Careers and Employability Service

The University offers a careers and employability service for all students and graduates. You can access careers information, explore your options and speak to a consultant who can advise you of opportunities relating to your degree or preferred field. The service offers guidance for CV preparation, job applications and it is also a great opportunity for you to network with top graduate recruiters at Careers Fairs and events.

In addition, if you're looking for work experience, the careers service can assist with planning and organising your placement.



Research highlights in the Department of Modern Languages

The Kindertransport 1938/39: History and Memory of a British Phenomenon

During the last decade and especially during the time of its seventieth anniversary the Kindertransport has received increasing public attention in Britain, manifesting itself in TV programmes, films, newspaper articles and the unveiling of public monuments. This project by Dr Andrea Hammel investigates the history and memory of the former members of the Kindertransport who are according to the historian Tony Kushner the most comprehensively documented group of refugees who have entered Britain.

The term Kindertransport is usually applied to the rescue of nearly 10,000 unaccompanied minors with Jewish backgrounds from Germany and Austria to Britain between December 1938 and the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939. Employing sociohistorical methods as well as cultural criticism, this study will look at archival records, autobiographical material and media representations. The project seeks to bring together several strands of research: (a) the history of National Socialist emigration policy and its effect on the development of the Kindertransport, (b) the history of British immigration policy and its effect on the admission of the children to Britain, (c)

the memorialisation of the Kindertransport through autobiographical documents, the organisation of events and public memorials, as well as (d) a discussion of the Kindertransport in British historiography and public consciousness.

The project is supported by the Claims Conference and the British Academy.

Contemporary Cuban Cinema: New Spaces, New Histories

This research project is aimed at achieving a greater understanding of the link between Cuban film and society post-1990. Many studies have been conducted that develop the understanding of Cuban film and society before 1990. These studies develop the link between the development of a revolutionary consciousness across Cuban arts and the attempt to deliver expressions of that consciousness through the medium of film.

However, post-1990, when Cuba suffered the worst crisis in its revolutionary history due to the collapse of European communism, many points of ideological reference shifted and therefore new expressions of that shift were developed in Cuban cinema in order to come to terms with the enormous economic and social changes that took place. It is the purpose of this investigation to examine the expressions of these changes to determine to what extent the state integrates such filmic expressions into the official ideology in a continuously evolving process. It has been twenty years since the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe had such a pro-found effect on Cuba's economic, social

and cultural well-being. During that time Cuban cinema has developed in a distinct way, operating both within and without the official state film institute to express both its satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the continuing revolutionary process. In Cuba, cinema has always been, and still is, part of the cultural foundation of the revolution and continued research in this area is necessary in order to continue to understand such a globally significant process. It is the aim of these seminars to develop that understanding and to foster a sustainable cultural relationship between Aberystwyth University and the University of Havana.

Departmental Student Society

Aberystwyth Erasmus and European Languages Society

The Aberystwyth University Erasmus Society was founded in 2013 by a group of students who had returned from their studies abroad. They decided to set up the society so that they could share their experiences and pass on their advice to future students. In addition, they wanted to establish a network for Aberystwyth Erasmus students of past, present, and future, but also for all incoming Erasmus students from across Europe.

The Aberystwyth University Erasmus Society meets regularly for socials, which will be the perfect opportunity to meet students who have come to Aberystwyth on an Erasmus exchange programme or existing students who have perhaps studied or worked in the country you wish to spend your third year in. In addition, it is also a great opportunity to practice the language(s) you learn with a native speaker!



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!





