

1872



School of Education



Teaching
Excellence
Framework

School of Education

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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.

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Aberystwyth University



LGC NLW
National Library of Wales

Academic facilities




Student accommodation




Physical Sciences Library



Library



Sports Centre



Academic facilities



Arts Centre



Students' Union



Academic facility





Welcome

Established in 1892, the School of Education is one of the oldest Education departments in the UK. Our mission is to combine the best of our traditions for academic excellence with the most up-to date methods in teaching, student engagement and research.

Whether you decide to study with us on a full or part-time basis, you will be developing from strength to strength. The School offers a wide range of courses, such as Childhood studies, Education, PGCE Primary and Secondary level, Continuous Professional Development courses for teachers at Masters' level and research degrees in Education.

In teaching and research, the School is committed to serving the educational, cultural, linguistic and social needs of Wales and attaches great importance to contributing to the community in which it is based. In doing so, we highly value collaboration with independent providers in the community, schools, unitary authorities and other local and national educational institutions, as well as with other partners and organisations in the UK, Europe and the wider world. Through these partnerships we are actively conducting research in the areas of health and wellbeing; international development; policies in education; Welsh medium education and education for families in the armed forces.

As you read this brochure, we hope it will provide you with more information about our subject areas, modules that are available to choose from, Departmental life and more about Aberystwyth University student life.

Professor Malcom Thomas
Director, School of Education



Student Welcome

Hello

We are Annabel and Michelle, we both came to Aberystwyth University as undergraduates on the Childhood Studies degree scheme. Originally, I (Annabel), wanted to pursue a business venture post-graduation; 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 (Michelle) 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 as a postgrad.

We are now both postgraduate doctoral (PhD) students, engaging in our own long-term research projects. My PhD (Annabel) is focused on peers adopting 'prosocial' behavioral strategies, I hope to develop and pilot my prevention/intervention strategy for improved wellbeing across schools and for better social outcomes in Wales.

I (Michelle) 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.

We both feel that the skills we developed as undergraduate students have provided us 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.



Childhood Studies

BA (Hons)

This degree will enable you to develop the knowledge and expertise needed to excel in child-related professions. In the School of Education at Aberystwyth University, we explore 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 (one short, one longer) to gain observational experience of work within an educational/childhood setting. In the past, these have included nurseries, schools and health settings.

Should you wish to teach, and as long as you meet the entry requirements, you will be guaranteed an interview for a Primary Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at Aberystwyth.

Specialist opportunities at Aberystwyth for Childhood Studies include:

- a wide variety of assessment techniques including posters, games, essays and presentations allowing you to work to your strengths;
- support from a specialist librarian who will provide personal advice;
- excellent student support systems, including student mentoring;
- 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 to help you into employment after university.

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

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course currently includes:

Year 1

- > Policies and Issues in Education
- > Child Development
- > Early Years Provision: Policy and Practice
- > Play and Learning: Theory and Practice

Year 2

- > Literacy in Young Children
- > Psychology of Learning and Thinking
- > Research Methods
- > Working With Children

Year 3

- > Critically Reflecting and Evaluating Learning and Skills
- > Children's Rights
- > Major Dissertation
- > Mathematical Development in the Early Years



Degree type: BA.



UCAS Code: X320.



Duration: 3 years.

Education

BA (Hons)

This single honours 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 PGCE teacher education programmes. Students who study Education as single honours or as the major subject can only apply for the Primary PGCE. If you are thinking of Secondary teaching, you will need to study a teaching subject for at least half of your joint honours degree, or as your major subject.

As long as you meet the entry requirements, you will be guaranteed an interview for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at Aberystwyth.

Specialist opportunities for Education students at Aberystwyth include:

- the support of 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 to help you into employment after university;
- a wide variety of assessment techniques including posters, games, essays and presentations allowing you to work to your strengths;
- the chance to study a favourite subject alongside Education;
- specialist subject librarians to support you in your studies;

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

Core Modules and teaching structure on this course currently includes:

Year 1

- > Child Development
- > Inclusive Learning Practices
- > Numeracy and Literacy for all
- > The Learner and the Learning Environment

Year 2

- > Psychology of Learning and Thinking
- > Making Sense of the Curriculum
- > Research Methods
- > Safeguarding and Professional Practice

Year 3

- > Children's Rights
- > Critically Reflecting and Evaluating Learning and Skills
- > Major Dissertation
- > Teaching Methodologies



Degree type: BA.



UCAS Code: X302.



Duration: 3 years.

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, with a guaranteed interview at Aberystwyth.

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, with a guaranteed interview for all subjects covered at Aberystwyth.

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, with a guaranteed interview for all subjects covered at Aberystwyth.

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

Core modules for all of these schemes include Policies and Issues in Education and Psychology of Learning and Thinking. These are also available in Welsh Polisiau a Materion mewn Addysg and Seicoleg Dysgu a Meddwl





Welsh-medium study in the School of Education

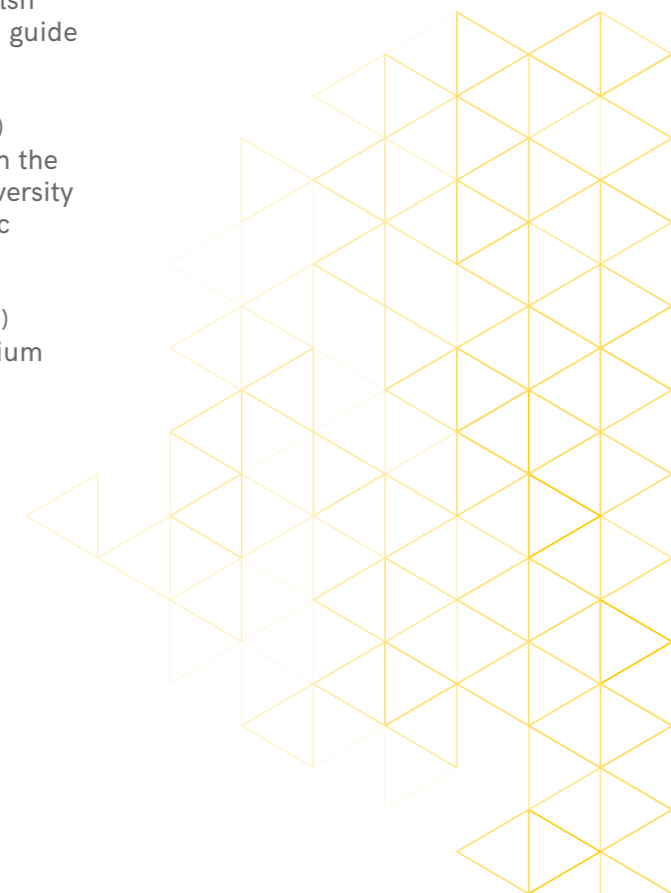
The Department is strongly committed to teaching through the medium of Welsh and we are dedicated to developing our Welsh-medium provision: our core modules and an increasing number of optional modules are offered in Welsh. Welsh-medium students have their own academic representative who acts as an advocate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

We encourage students to choose Welsh-medium modules, some choose one or two and some 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.

The Key Skills for University module (Sgiliau Allweddol i Brifysgol) provides Welsh medium students with key skills that aid them with the transition from school/college into university. In addition, the university can offer further support with developing and improving academic skills through the medium of Welsh or English.

We also work closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC) with the aim of expanding and improving the range of Welsh medium education available and some schemes are eligible for the Coleg Cenedlaethol Cymraeg's scholarships.

See www.aber.ac.uk/en/ccc/ for more details.



Initial Teacher Training (PGCE) Primary and Secondary

The School of Education at Aberystwyth University has a long-established history of delivering innovative programmes for future teachers. Since 1872, our research and practice-led approach has developed generations of students from all corners of the world to become successful teachers and inspire their pupils. Our innovative Initial Teacher Education programme (PGCE) enables you to experience teacher training at both Primary and Secondary schools and understand progressions across different phases of schooling.

We offer teacher training in subject areas that include: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Welsh, English, Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish), and Drama.

In both University and on placement you will be taught and mentored by practitioners who have a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills. As well as your practical experience, you will take the following modules: Professional Studies; Evaluating Learning and Skills, Effective Pedagogy; Pedagogy and Curriculum Knowledge. The modules are delivered by staff with specialist subject and phase experience.

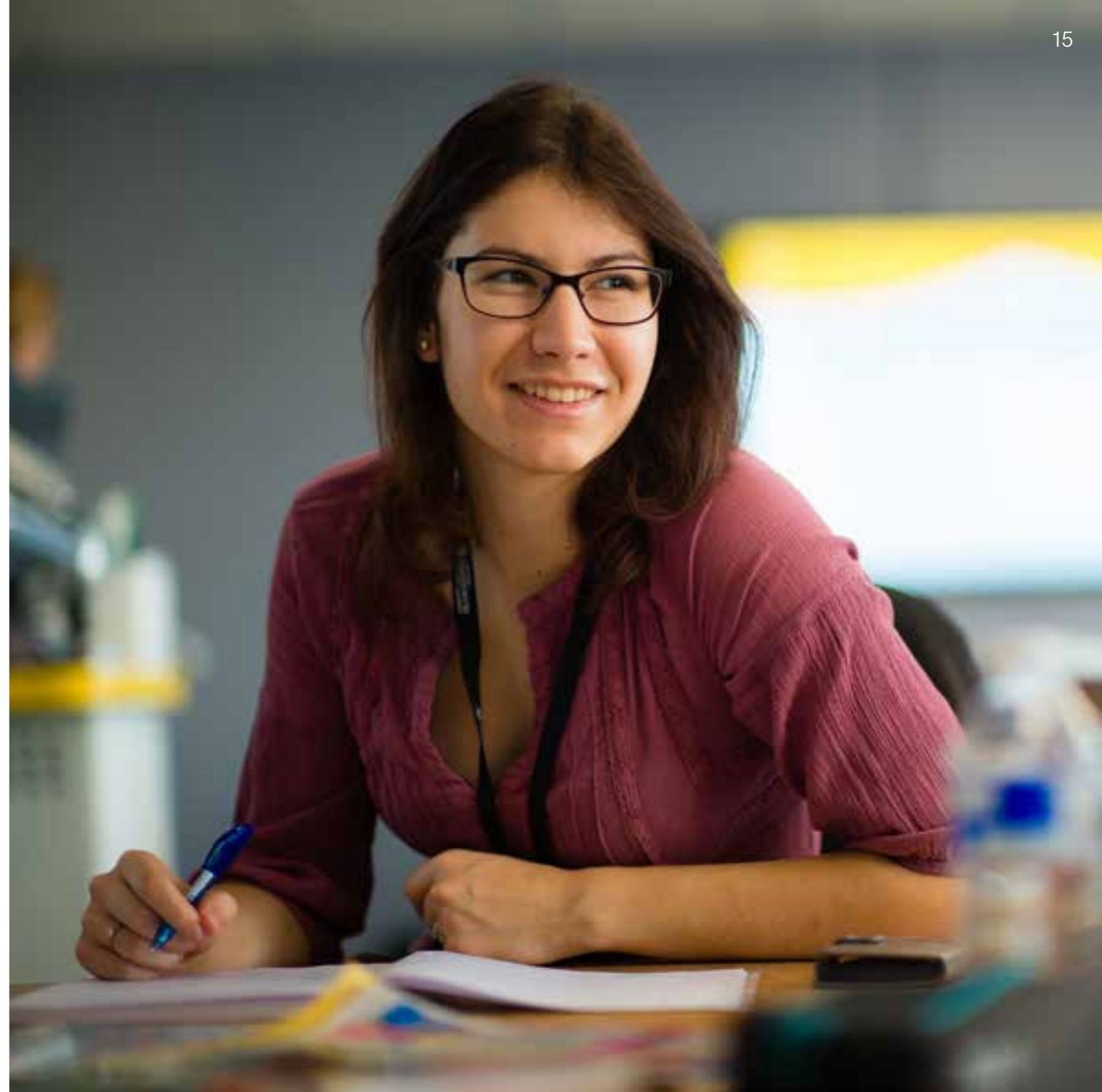
Our partners are primary and secondary schools located across Mid Wales and West Wales. Please visit our dedicated page to get to know the potential partners with whom you may be collaborating for your teacher training year. Our partners also assist us with the interview process, so you will meet one of our partners during your PGCE interview.

Equivalency tests are available to meet the current Welsh Government GCSE requirements for Mathematics, English or Welsh (for Primary and Secondary) and for Science (Primary). These tests are for students who have not achieved the appropriate grades and take place at the University. Support is available in preparation for the tests.

As part of the application procedure, all applicants will be sit entry tests which include Numeracy, Literacy (English) and a Welsh Literacy test (for those studying through the medium of Welsh only). Further information on the Entry Tests can be found on our dedicated page.

Aberystwyth University is the only university in Wales to be awarded University of the Year for Teaching Quality twice in consecutive years by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guided 2019.

The University has also been awarded Gold for Postgraduate Studies in the 2019 What University Student Choice Awards.



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 in 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 choose to take part in the Erasmus + or the International Exchange Programme.

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

Some of our graduates speak for themselves:

Sophie

I graduated in July 2018 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. We provide language and play sessions for preschool children and their families. I work closely with health visitors in order to provide support plans for families. We provide everyday support for speech, language, and communication development. My job has given me the opportunity to put my knowledge from the degree into practice.

Katherine

Hi, my name is Katherine and I graduated in 2018. 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! Since graduating I have moved onto doing my PGCE which is going well and hopefully, I will be teaching full time in September. 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



Research in the School of Education

The School of Education research focuses on three key areas:

1. Research in teaching, learning and pedagogy, such as:

- How learners learn;
- Subject knowledge and understanding;
- ICT and learning;
- Teachers and professional learning;
- Curriculum development;
- Assessment for learning;
- Bilingual education.

2. Childhood Studies

- How children develop and learn;
- Gender studies;
- Language acquisition and development;
- Health and wellbeing;
- Healthy schools;
- 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.

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!





