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Department of  
History and Welsh History



Teaching  
Excellence  
Framework

## Department of History and Welsh History

Aberystwyth University

Aberystwyth.

UK

SY23 3FE

+44 (0) 1970 622662

history-enquiries@aber.ac.uk

@historyaber

### 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



Hello and welcome. My name is Professor Phillipp Schofield and I am Head of the Department of History and Welsh History here at Aberystwyth University.

Students choose to study history at Aberystwyth for several reasons. Aberystwyth is a beautiful seaside town with excellent resources for historians, such as the National Library of Wales, one of only five copyright libraries in the United Kingdom and only a few minutes' walk from the department. Our teaching and research covers a wide range of specialisms, including Medieval and Early Modern History and Modern History.

Our lecturers also conduct world-class research which feeds into all our undergraduate degree programmes. This means that you can learn directly from experts who are undertaking the latest historical research. We currently have a number of exciting research projects under way in the department. One of these, the Imprint Project, a project on Medieval seals, sees our researchers working in conjunction with forensic scientists to investigate fingerprints on seals, bringing together science and history to better understand the past.

"Why should I choose Aberystwyth?" The simplest answer is that we will nurture your passion and enthusiasm for history and allow it to grow so that it sustains you intellectually and in the world of work. A History degree from Aberystwyth University will provide you with the skills you need to enter the career of your choice. Beginning in the first year, we offer modules, work placements and experiences that will help prepare you for work. Studying for a degree in History will develop your

critical thinking, communication, research, interpretation and analytical skills, making you a competitive candidate for a range of careers. Our graduates have gone into professions such as the police force, the heritage sector, journalism, broadcasting, the civil service, education and politics. In addition, all the students in our department may undertake a study abroad or work experience placement during their degree. If you would like to study abroad for part of your degree, you can choose from any of our partnered universities across Europe and internationally in the USA, Australia, Canada and Hong Kong. We also offer support to students who wish to undertake a work experience placement in a variety of sectors.

At the heart of our degrees we offer a choice of modules that reflect our research specialisms across a wide range of periods and themes throughout History. We offer a 'hands on' approach to the study of History, and engagement with primary sources is central to our teaching. Alongside lectures your modules will offer workshops and seminars allowing you to explore a topic from a variety of angles and teaching styles, as well as offering you opportunities for guided independent research. Information on our modules and degrees can be found here.

If you have any questions about our courses or our department, do please get in touch. I look forward to meeting you in Aberystwyth.

**Professor Phillipp Schofield**  
Head of Department



# Student Profiles

Chris Dale

**Second Year History Student**

Hi, my name is Chris Dale and I am a second year History student in the Department of History and Welsh History at Aberystwyth University. For me studying with the Department of History and Welsh History has been a fascinating journey of discovery led by a team of knowledgeable and highly supportive staff. One of the great things about the Aber History course is that you're able to choose from a wide range of modules spanning the ages with lecturers specialising in medieval history through to the early modern and modern periods. Being able to choose from such a diverse range of expertise means that you can really tailor the course to your interests but also try areas of history that you have not perhaps tried before. The lecturers at Aber are hugely supportive and are always on hand to assist with coursework or exam preparation, so definitely make good use of their expertise. The department has a good balance of staff to students, meaning that you will quickly get to know your lecturers. This has made the whole university experience easier to navigate

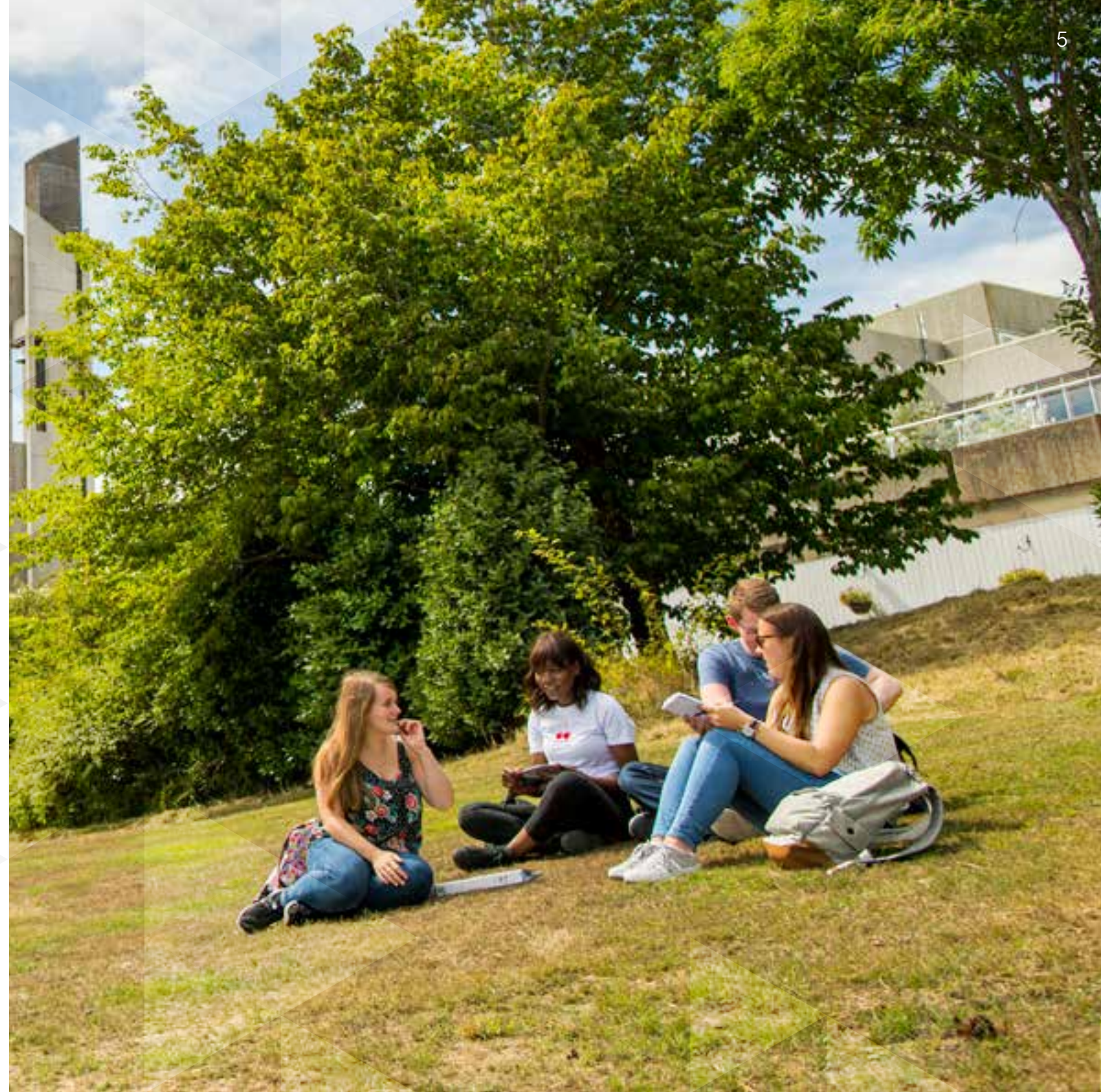
and more personal. Overall the course is intellectually challenging and really allows students a great deal of freedom to study in a way that suits their own style and interests.

The Hugh Owen library is where we History students spend a lot of our time studying. It is located in the heart of campus, is easy to navigate, and has superb staff who ready to help with anything from finding niche sources to fixing a laptop. We are also very lucky to have access to the National Library of Wales, one of the five copyright libraries in the UK and Ireland, which is conveniently located right next to the campus. At the National Library students can get access to a copy of anything ever published in the UK which is super-helpful for topping up on primary and secondary sources... and it is free of charge!

Leaving the best till last, I now come to the social life of an Aberystwyth history student. Whilst you will be working hard it is also important to enjoy the social life here. That could be by getting involved in the

many societies and sports or enjoying the vibrant life of Aber town - hopefully both! The History Society is an important part of the History department and brings together students from all academic years. The Society takes multiple trips throughout the year to museums and castles and organises a big summer tour abroad as well. On a weekly basis they hold themed socials which are great fun, with lots of laughs and socialising. There are many other societies available to join, from various sports to arts, politics, gaming and many more. Throughout the day you can kick back and relax in the Students Union, and sample some of the food at Nosh-Da, which is great, particularly, I have to say, the Posh-Nosh burger!

Overall the experience of the Aberystwyth History student is fantastic one, and I would encourage you to make use of the department and its resources as much as you can, as well as getting involved in the social side of things through societies such as the History Society.





# Our Degree Schemes

The Department offers degree programmes that cover a range of historical themes and periods. These include History (3 years, or 4 years with an integrated year studying abroad), Welsh History, Medieval and Early Modern History, Modern and Contemporary History, and Politics and Modern History (with the Department of International Politics). In addition, the Department also offers Joint Honours and Major/Minor combinations with other subjects in Life Sciences (Geography), Arts, and Social Sciences.



# History


BA (Hons)


A degree in History enables you to place the past in perspective, gain a deeper understanding of society and the world, and develop the analytical skills of interpretation, analysis and communication that are so vital in the workplace. The interests of our lecturers at Aberystwyth span the medieval to the modern world, so you can choose from a wide range of political, social, economic and cultural history modules across different periods and continents.


During your degree, you will develop the skills of a historian by learning the methods by which we examine and engage with the past. As you explore the Department’s wide range of modules, you will become familiar with thought-provoking historical theories, up-to-date research methods and fascinating historical sources, ranging from medieval manuscripts and early modern ballads to modern mass media, oral history and material culture. These modules will prepare you to undertake your own research for your final year dissertation as well as for the world beyond university.


Opportunities at Aberystwyth for History students include:


- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, with over a hundred years of world-class scholarship and teaching;
- 96% student satisfaction for the Department of History and Welsh History (NSS 2019);
- a wide range of history modules, taught by experts in the field;
- innovative teaching methods, with emphasis on primary sources;
- full student access to the books, manuscripts and archives of the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Department), one of the five copyright libraries of the UK, the national archive depository of Wales, and one of the principal historical archive collections in the UK;
- study abroad opportunities for all students in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and beyond;
- extra-curricular activities including field trips and student-led conferences;
- history-related work placements and internships.


 **Degree type:** BA.


 **UCAS Code:** V100 (V102 with integrated year of studying abroad).

 **Duration:** 3 years (V102 is 4 years).

 **Assessment weighting:** We use a mixture of essays, exams, short projects and other assignments in our module assessment.

 **Study abroad opportunities:** Yes.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

 **You can study this course (as joint honours and some as major/minor) with:** Drama and Theatre Studies, Education, English Literature, French, Daearyddiaeth, German, International Politics, Mathematics, Spanish, Welsh and Welsh History.

**Modules**  
The course is structured around a set of key core modules that will develop your historical skills and understanding through your degree.


- Year 1
- > Introduction to History\*;
  - > History for Life.

- Year 2
- > Making History\*.

- Year 3
- > Dissertation\*.

You will also have a choice of optional modules which vary year to year. Current modules include: East and West in the Age of Crusades; The Tudors: a European Dynasty; Science, Religion and Magic; Asian Migration in the Modern World; and the Third Reich. For more details of the full range of modules we offer, please see our current list on our website, or contact us.

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

 Subject to approval, this degree will also be available as a four year course with a foundation year. The first year of this course will bring you up to university entry level, preparing you for the final three years.

# History and Welsh History

BA (Hons)

Aberystwyth is a leading centre of Welsh and Celtic scholarship and the Department of History and Welsh History has played a prominent role in the development of historical studies in this area. This degree allows you to study key elements of Welsh history whilst also gaining a broader knowledge of history.

The course enables you to take a range of modules in Welsh history, from the medieval period through to the modern day, culminating in your own final year dissertation. You may also choose from the wide range of modules we offer on other regions and time periods. Students on this degree scheme benefit from the opportunity of studying at a specialist centre for Welsh history and also developing their interests in history more widely.

- Opportunities at Aberystwyth for History and Welsh History students include:
- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, where Welsh history has been taught since the 1880s;
  - 96% student satisfaction for the Department of History and Welsh History (NSS 2019);
  - a wide range of history modules, taught by experts in the field, with emphasis on primary sources;
  - use of the University library’s unrivalled collection of Celtic literature and historical works, as well as the National Library of Wales, one of the five copyright libraries in the UK and the national archive depository of Wales;
  - access to our wide range of study abroad opportunities both in Europe and the wider world; the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities such as student conferences and field trips;
  - opportunities for history-related work placements and internships.

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


- Year 1
- > Introduction to History\*;
  - > History for Life.


- Year 2
- > Making History\*.


- Year 3
- > Dissertation\*.


You will also have a choice of optional modules which vary year to year. Current Welsh history modules include: Conquest, Union and Identity in Wales 1250-1800; Society, People and Politics in Wales. 1800-1999; and Crime, Riot and Morality in Wales 1750-1850. Other history modules include East and West in the Age of Crusades; The Tudors: a European Dynasty; Science, Religion and Magic; Asian Migration in the Modern World; and the Third Reich. For our full range of option modules, please see our current list on our website, or contact us.


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


 **Degree type:** BA.


 **UCAS Code:** VVC2.

 **Duration:** 3 years.

 **Assessment weighting:** Please see individual modules for details.

 **Study abroad opportunities:** Yes.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

 **Related courses:** History, History and Welsh History, Medieval and Early Modern History, Modern and Contemporary History, Politics and Modern History.

# Medieval and Early Modern History

BA (Hons)

The Medieval and Early Modern History degree scheme enables you to pursue and develop your interests in history, both in Britain and globally, in the period between the Vikings and Napoleon Bonaparte. Themes such as war, religion, conquest, power and gender are amongst the many topics covered on this degree scheme.

In this degree scheme you will be working with staff who are internationally recognised experts in their fields. You will get the chance to work in small groups, with original medieval and early modern documents, in a first-class research environment that prides itself on its dedication to teaching. You will also write a final year dissertation based on themes and primary sources encountered through your degree.

- Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Medieval and Early Modern History students include:
- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, with over a hundred years of world-class scholarship and teaching in medieval and early modern history;
  - 96% student satisfaction for the Department of History and Welsh History (NSS 2019);
  - a wide choice of modules, taught by experts in the field, with emphasis on primary sources and their interpretation;
  - use of the University library’s unrivalled collection of online early modern history resources, and full student access to the medieval and early modern manuscript collections of the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Department), one of only five copyright libraries of the UK, and one of the principal historical archive collections in the UK;
  - study abroad opportunities for all students in Europe and beyond;
  - extra-curricular activities including field trips and the Aberystwyth medieval history student conference;
  - history-related work placements and internships.

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


- Year 1
- > Introduction to History\*;
  - > History for Life.


- Year 2
- > Making History\*.


- Year 3
- > Dissertation\*.


You will also have a choice of optional modules which vary year to year. Current medieval and early modern modules include: Age of Magna Carta: England and its Neighbours; The Reign of Edward II; The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Travel Writing; and The Atlantic World. For our full range of option modules, please see our current list on our website, or contact us.


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


 **Degree type:** BA.


 **UCAS Code:** V190.

 **Duration:** 3 years.

 **Assessment weighting:** Please see individual modules for details.

 **Study abroad opportunities:** Yes.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

 **Related courses:** History, History and Welsh History, Modern and Contemporary History, Politics and Modern History.

# Modern and Contemporary History

BA (Hons)

Our degree in Modern and Contemporary History is designed to illuminate the recent past and how it shapes the world today. On this degree scheme you will engage with new and exciting insights about modern historical research, exploring new sources, challenging accepted truths, and offering new interpretations.

On this degree scheme you can follow modules on the history of Britain, Europe, the Americas and Asia from the 1750s to the present day. You will explore eras marked by mass participation, whether in politics, war or culture, and assess the contradictions of modernity, from the growth of democracy and the rise of welfare states to world wars and genocides, and from the promise of reason, science and technology to the realities of globalisation and media overload. In your final year dissertation you will have the opportunity to pursue for yourself some of the historical questions and sources you have encountered over your degree studies.

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for History and Welsh History students include:

- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, with over a hundred years of world-class scholarship and teaching;
- 96% student satisfaction for the Department of History and Welsh History (NSS 2019);
- a wide choice of modules, taught be experts in the field, with emphasis on modern and contemporary primary sources and their interpretation;
- use of the University library’s unrivalled collection of online modern history resources, and full student access to the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Department), one of the five copyright libraries of the UK, and one of the principal historical archive collections in the UK;
- study abroad opportunities for all students in Europe and beyond;
- extra-curricular activities including field trips and the Aberystwyth modern history student conference;
- history-related work placements and internships.

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




- Year 1
- > Introduction to History\*;
  - > History for Life.




- Year 2
- > Making History\*.


- Year 3
- > Dissertation\*.

You will also have a choice of optional modules which vary year to year. Current modern and contemporary history modules include: the Victorians; America, Britain and the Great Depression; Modernity and the Making of Asia; Media and Society in Twentieth Century Britain; and Britain at War 1939-45’. For our full range of option modules, see our current list on our website, or contact us.

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

	<b>Degree type:</b> BA.
	<b>UCAS Code:</b> V191.
	<b>Duration:</b> 3 years.

	<b>Assessment weighting:</b> Please see individual modules for details.
	<b>Study abroad opportunities:</b> Yes.
	<b>Field trips/fieldwork:</b> Yes.

	<b>Related courses:</b> History, History and Welsh History, Modern and Contemporary History, Politics and Modern History.
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# Politics and Modern History




BA (Hons)




Our Politics and Modern History degree focuses on the study of recent political ideas and institutions in a historical context, allowing you to understand how such ideas and institutions have developed over time. At Aberystwyth, this degree combines the expertise of historians and political scientists from both the Department of History and Welsh History and the Department of International Politics, in an integrated course structure that allows you flexibility in your choice of modules.

You will learn about concepts in history and political theory through the study of new and exciting political and historical works. You will develop skills of the historian by studying how methods and the writing of history have changed over time and by a focus on primary sources and their analysis. In your final year you will also write a dissertation on either a political or a historical topic using the critical research skills developed over the course of your degree.

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for History and Welsh History students include:

- studying in the oldest history department in Wales and the oldest International Politics department in the world, each with over a hundred years of world-class scholarship and teaching;
- 96% student satisfaction for the Department of History and Welsh History (NSS 2019);
- a wide choice of modules, taught by experts in the field;
- use of the University library’s unrivalled collection of online modern history resources, and full student access to the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Department), one of the five copyright libraries of the UK;
- study abroad opportunities for all students in Europe and beyond;
- extra-curricular activities including field trips, the Aberystwyth modern history student conference and the International Politics crisis game;
- history-related work placements and internships.

	<b>Degree type:</b> BA.
	<b>UCAS Code:</b> V135.
	<b>Duration:</b> 3 years.

	<b>Assessment weighting:</b> Please see individual modules for details.
	<b>Study abroad opportunities:</b> Yes.
	<b>Field trips/fieldwork:</b> Yes.

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


- Year 1
- > Introduction to History\*;
  - > History for Life.
  - > Exploring the International 1: Central Concepts and Core Skills\*;
  - > Politics in the 21st Century.

- Year 2
- > Making History\*.
  - > People and Power:
  - > Understanding Comparative
  - > Politics Today.

- Year 3
- > Dissertation\*.

You will also have a choice of optional modules which vary year on year. Current modules include Russia in World Politics; the Third Reich; America: from Colony to Superpower; and Britain and the Islamic World. For the full range of option modules in both departments, see our current lists on our websites, or contact us.

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

	<b>Related courses:</b> History, History and Welsh History, International Politics, Medieval and Early Modern History, Modern and Contemporary History, Politics.
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## Studying through the medium of Welsh

The Department is one of the University's major providers of Welsh-medium teaching. The Department of History and Welsh History offers you the opportunity to study BA Hanes V101 purely through the medium of Welsh.

We have six members of staff who teach through the medium of Welsh and are therefore able to offer an engaging range of modules in Welsh relating to Wales, Britain, Europe and America from the medieval period to the contemporary. There is a great deal of flexibility over the choice of language and you may specifically choose a Welsh-medium degree or simply take the occasional module in Welsh. All Welsh-medium students are routinely allocated a Welsh-speaking personal tutor to help advise them on this and other matters.

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's Course Finder provides further information regarding the courses we offer partly or wholly through the medium of Welsh

[www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/study/mediumofwelsh](http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/study/mediumofwelsh)





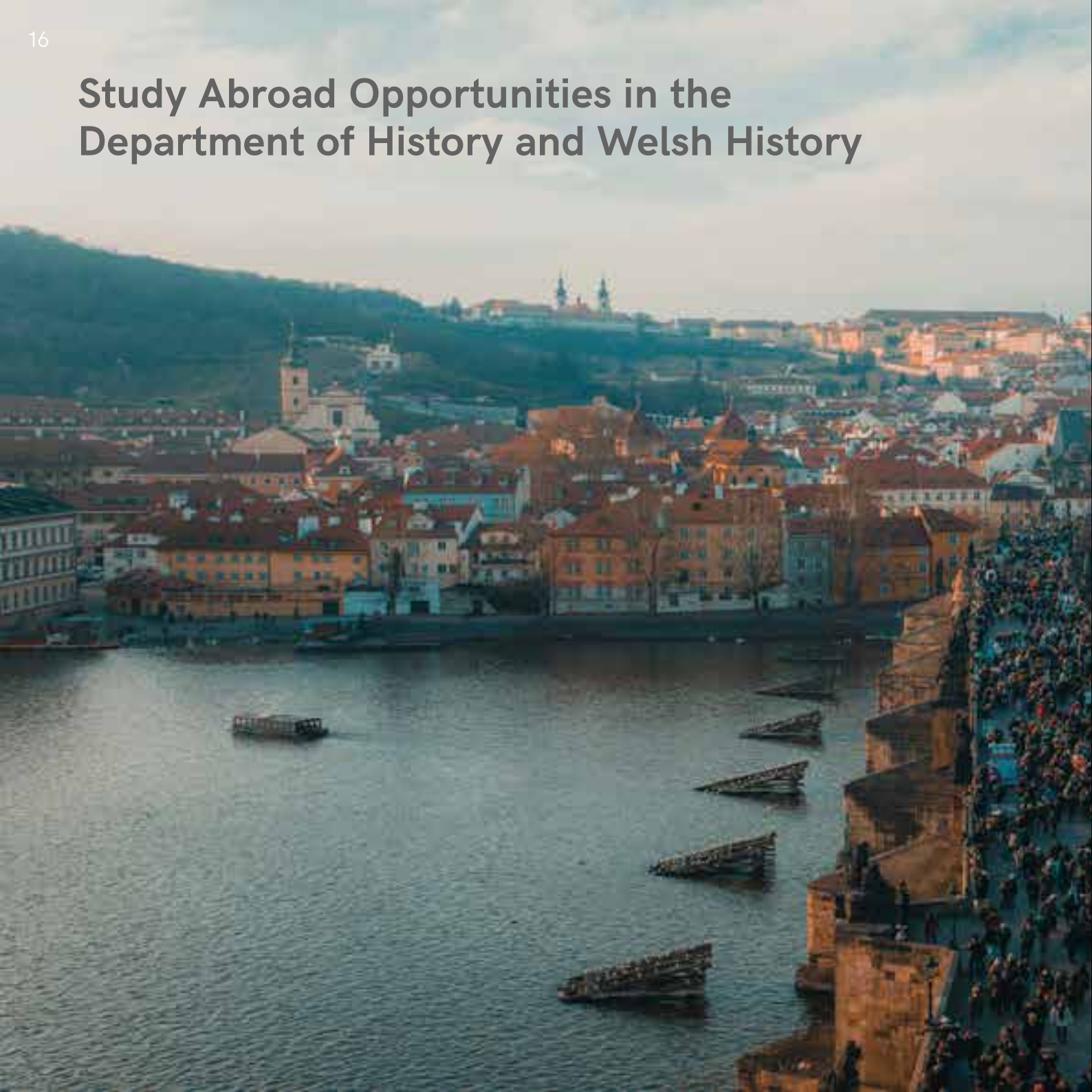
## Departmental Research

Research in the department explores the human past from the Middle Ages to the present day. It includes work on almost every aspect of history, but with a particular focus on questions of memory, political and material culture, social movements and institutions, science and medicine, and comparative histories of exchange and migration across Europe and the wider world. It includes world leading research on medieval seals, the nature of historical writing over time, the development of modern science and the changing historical experience of crises such as famine. Much of that research also feeds into the teaching delivered by the Department.





# Study Abroad Opportunities in the Department of History and Welsh History



The Department strongly encourages students to consider taking up the opportunity to study abroad as part of their degree, either for one semester in Year 2 as part of any of our three-year degrees, or for a full academic year as part of our four-year History with an Integrated Year Abroad 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 Tromsø

### Poland

- > University of Wrocław

### Portugal

- > University of Coimbra

## International Exchange Programme

### Australia:

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

### 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

### USA:

- > American University, Washington DC
- > Boise State University, Idaho
- > Bowling Green State University, Ohio
- > Carroll University, Wisconsin
- > Purdue University, Indiana
- > Queen's 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

### Azerbaijan

- > ADA University, Baku

### China

- > University of Nottingham, Ningbo

### Japan

- > Rikkyo University, Tokyo

### Hong Kong

- > Hong Kong Baptist University

### Thailand

- > Thammasat University



## Work Experience opportunities

Studying History at Aberystwyth University provides you with a firm foundation for your future career. History as a subject is valued by employers in many sectors and our graduates are successful in gaining positions across a diverse range of roles within the graduate job market.

As a Department, we place a great emphasis on work experience during your studies. We support any student who wishes to spend an integrated year in industry as part of their History degree. This enables you to undertake a year-long paid or unpaid work experience placement in between your second and third year.

## Transferable skills

The skills that you acquire in your History degree are versatile, wide-ranging and transferable and will prepare you for a wide range of professions.

These skills include the ability to:

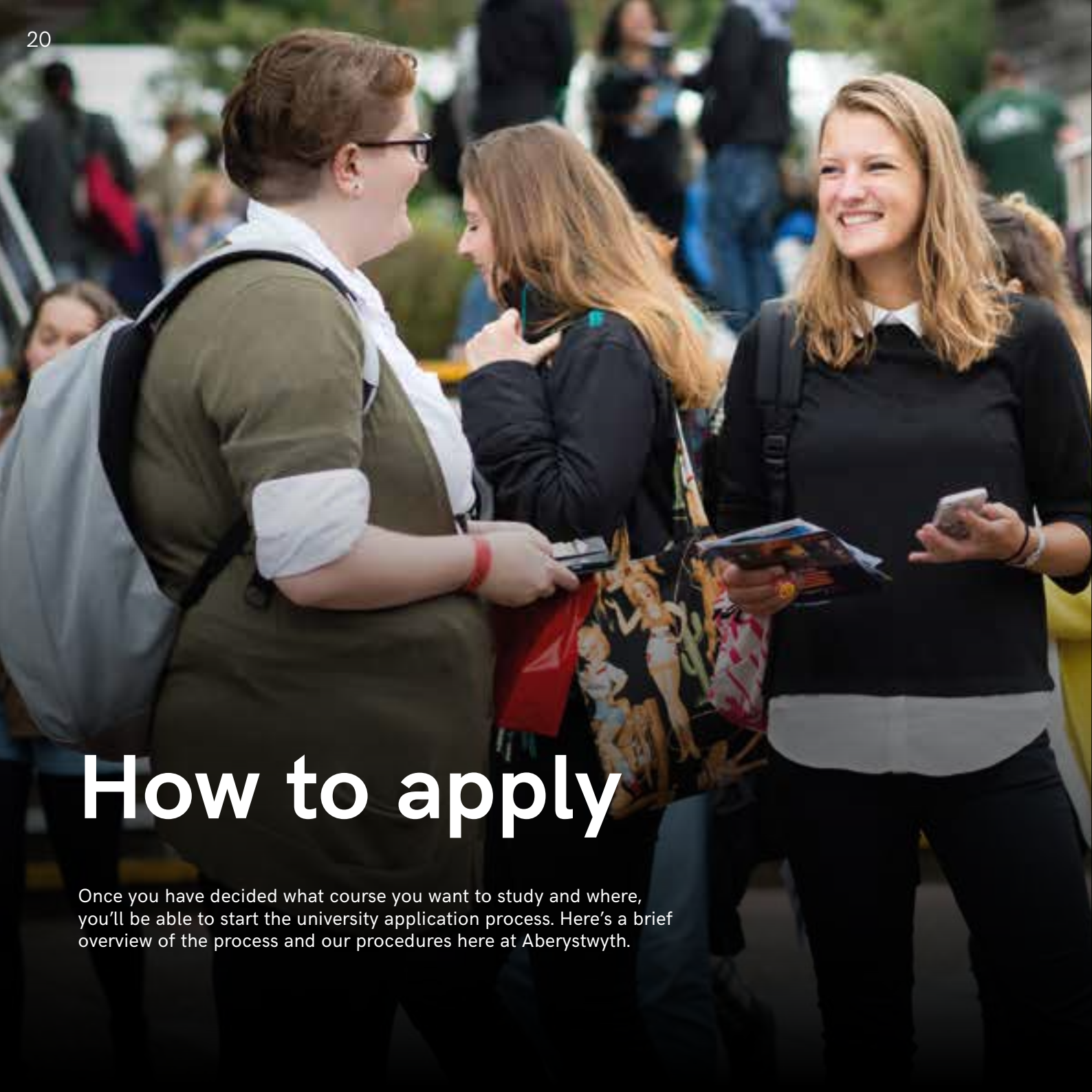
- Analyse large amounts of data;
- Communicate knowledge, ideas and arguments intelligibly and efficiently, verbally and on paper;
- Conduct independent research;
- Construct logical argument;
- Interpret different types of sources;
- Lead discussions, presentations and debates;
- Manage time and workloads;
- Think critically, imaginatively and independently;
- Work effectively in teams.

Recent graduate destinations include:

- Administration;
- Business and finance;
- Government (national and local);
- Journalism and broadcasting;
- Publishing;
- Law;
- Library and museum work;
- Non-Governmental organisations (national and international);
- Research-based careers;
- Teaching.







# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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!







Aberdeen

Glasgow

Edinburgh

Liverpool

Manchester

Birmingham

**Aberystwyth**

Cardiff

London