What are the Aberystwyth University Scholarships and Merit Awards?

The Aberystwyth University Scholarships and Merit Awards are entirely optional online exams that provide an opportunity for our undergraduate applicants to secure a financial award and/or unconditional offer.

Candidates must apply online to sit one exam lasting 1.5 hours (the closing date for applications is **Tuesday 26 January 2027**). With the Exam Officer's permission, the exam will take place in schools / colleges on **Tuesday 2 February 2027**. Candidates are asked to get their exam officer's permission before they apply and are required to provide their Exam Officer's contact details (name and email address) on their application.

Exams are usually completed on a school/college computer using Microsoft Word, and submitted electronically to the University's virtual learning environment, Blackboard. Further details can be found in this document.

Exam Timetable

We are flexible regarding exam start times, as long as the exam takes place on **Tuesday 2 February** and the exam is uploaded the same day. Unfortunately, we are unable to change the exam date. Candidates are asked to consult with their Exams Officers in good time so that they know when and where their exams will be held.

Before exam day

Please ensure that candidates are aware of the location and start times of their exams, that they have activated their Aberystwyth University account (details on how to activate will be sent to them via email following the deadline for applications), and have submitted a practice submission by **4pm, Friday 29 January 2027**. Details on how to upload a practice submission will be sent to applicants following the deadline for applications. Please also ensure that candidates have familiarised themselves with the exams process (see 'Candidate information' below).

Exam Officer Portal, Accessing Exam Papers and Recording Attendance

To make things easier, we have created an Exam Officer portal for you to access exam papers and record attendance. During the week before the exam, we will send you guidance on how to access the Exam Portal, download papers and record attendance.

Exam arrangements

After the application deadline, Exams Officers will receive the following via email from Aberystwyth University:

- A list of candidates, with their exam subjects and details of any special exam requirements they have specified
- Login details to access the portal containing exam papers and register

On the day of the exams, a printed copy of the relevant exam paper should be provided to each candidate at the start of each exam session. Candidates may be given lined paper if they wish to make additional notes.

Candidates have 1.5 hours (plus any additional time they are entitled to – for instance, candidates who qualify for extra time during school exams, see our policy on reasonable adjustments for further guidance) to complete each exam. All exams should be completed in a Word document (please see exceptions below). Papers should be saved as: Surname_First Name_Subject.

Exceptions – Maths and Physics

Maths

Mathematics exams will be completed on lined paper, rather than on a computer. Please provide candidates with A4 lined paper to complete the exam. Statistical Tables for the Maths exam will be provided with the exam papers.

Candidates who sit the Maths exam will be required to submit their papers to 'Blackboard Assignments'. Further upload guidance will be sent out to candidates and exam officers in due course.

Physics

Candidates are not required to plot graphs or draw diagrams; therefore, they can complete their exam on a Word Document. However, due to the complexity of writing solutions, candidates are welcome to complete their exam on lined paper if they prefer and submit papers to 'Blackboard Assignments'. Further guidance will be sent out to candidate and exam officers closer to the exam date.

Invigilation

Candidates must be invigilated by a member of staff under normal exam conditions.

Additional exam requirements and special circumstances

Candidates are entitled to the same considerations they receive for normal school exams and our policy on reasonable adjustments is available on our website. Where candidates have informed us of any requirements on their application form, we will email you to let you know. This will also be noted in your candidate list in the Exam Officer portal. We ask that Exams Officers email scholarships@aber.ac.uk to confirm the special considerations candidates are entitled to receive.

If any issues arise which we need to be made aware of (e.g. disruptions or illness during an exam) please email details to scholarships@aber.ac.uk and we will ensure the relevant Examiners are informed.

Subject-specific requirements

Candidates are not permitted to take mobile phones, smart watches, or any similar digital devices into the Exams. Unless specified otherwise below, no texts, dictionaries, atlases or other documents or equipment may be used. Candidates are required to sit 1 exam paper, unless they are submitting a Fine Art Portfolio as their exam paper, where they can upload a portfolio they have prepared in advance of the day of the exam.

Calculators - non-programmable calculators (provided they are silent, self-powered, without communication facilities, and incapable of holding text or other material that could be used to gain an unfair advantage) may be used for: **Accounting, Economics and Finance, Business, Management and Marketing, Biology 1: Molecules to Organs, Biology 2: Organisms to Ecosystems, Chemistry, Maths and Physics**. Candidates should provide their own calculator.

- **Fine Art Portfolio** – candidates that have chosen to submit a Fine Art Portfolio will need to submit their portfolio on the date of the exams. Further information for these candidates can be found on our Subject Overviews webpage.
- **Chemistry** – a periodic table is provided as part of the exam paper.
- **Mathematics**– candidates may take any 'Information Booklets' approved by their examining board for use in the examinations, however, Statistical Tables will be provided which contain all the information required.
- **Physics** – all relevant information will be contained within the paper, but candidates may take any 'Information Booklets' permitted by their Examining Boards for use in the examinations if they wish.

Submitting exam papers

After the exam has been completed, candidates may access the internet and submit their paper via Blackboard – a submission link will be shared with applicants prior to the exam date.

Please note, Internet access is only permitted once the exam has ended, and candidates are ready to submit their paper.

Any written papers will need to be scanned and saved as a PDF and uploaded to Blackboard. Please ensure that any scanned papers include the student's full name, UCAS ID and exam subject title, and that the pages are numbered and in the correct order.

If you're experiencing difficulties with the Blackboard portal, please save a copy of the completed exam paper on an USB and send it to scholarships@aber.ac.uk.

Candidate information

A copy of the Mini Guide for Applicants can be found on our website. We will be sending all candidates a more in-depth version via email after the application deadline.

After the application deadline, candidates will receive:

- An email reminder of the subjects they have opted to sit prior to the exams. They are also encouraged to notify us and their exam officers of any changes to their chosen papers.
- An email activation login request to Blackboard so they can activate their account ahead of the day of the exams and submit a practice paper by **4pm, Friday 29 January.**
- An in-depth instructional guidance document that outlines how to upload practice and exam day submissions to Turnitin and Blackboard Assignment. Turnitin and Blackboard Assignment are e-submission tools used by students to submit their work electronically.

Please ensure candidates have taken the steps to activate their Aberystwyth University account before the exams so that they can log on to our virtual learning environment and submit their completed exam papers. If candidates have forgotten their login details, they can email scholarships@aber.ac.uk and ask for their password to be reset. Please note that it may take up to an hour for this change to take effect.

IT requirements

1. A school/college computer/laptop with Microsoft Word (or similar word processing package) installed (if possible, please enable the autosave function). It is not necessary to disable spellcheck but candidates may not access the internet or other software packages during the exam.

2. A stable internet connection and either Chrome, Firefox or Edge web browser in order to submit the exam papers upon completion.

3. Please ask your IT Support Team to ensure that the Firewall settings allow candidates to access Blackboard.

Results

We will contact all candidates and Exams Officers 4-6 weeks of the exams taking place to notify them whether they have been successful, or unsuccessful in their attempt to secure a University Scholarship, Merit Award, and/or Unconditional Offer based on their performance in the exams.

FAQs – please also refer to our webpage

Q: What if we are unable to provide a computer for the exams?

Please provide candidates with A4 lined paper. Once the exam has finished, scan and save document and send to scholarships@aber.ac.uk

Q: What should I do if a candidate cannot access Blackboard, or submit their exam paper using the Turnitin submission point in Blackboard?

1. Please check the web address: https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk
2. Ensure the candidate has checked their username and password and typed them in correctly.
3. Ask the candidate to close their web browser completely (not minimise) then restart and try to submit again.

4. If none of the above work, candidates or exam officers should e-mail the completed paper to scholarships@aber.ac.uk. Please ensure that each paper is labelled with the student's name and subject. e.g. *Evans Sam Biology 2.*

Q: What if a candidate was absent for the exam?

Please record all candidate attendance on the online attendance form that can be accessed through the Exam Officer Portal. If a candidate's absence is of a sensitive nature, please email us on scholarships@aber.ac.uk.

Guidelines and Policies which may be useful:

Exam guide for applicants
Policy on reasonable adjustments
Policy on Good and Unfair Academic Practice for the Exams

Further information:

If you have any questions, please visit the website or contact the Scholarships Team at scholarships@aber.ac.uk.