Computer Science Welcome Week 2023

Year one

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Computer Science Department and to Aberystwyth University! You are now a member of our department, and we hope you will soon feel at home here. We are a friendly and supportive department, and if there is anything you are unsure of as you settle into university, or at any time during your studies, please contact your personal tutor or any other member of staff (including me) and we will do our best to help you.

This guide is intended to introduce you to the main points of contact for your first year and to let you know what is going on in the first few weeks. One of the first and most important points of contacts is your personal tutor, not only in the beginning but through you whole time at Aberystwyth University. Your personal tutor will often be the best person to speak to when you have any questions or problems. In particular in the beginning other important people for your induction are the First Year Coordinator (Edore Akpokodje), and the Academic Advisors (Patricia Shaw and Andy Starr), and the First Year Activity Weekend Organiser (Thomas Jansen). In the Welcome Week you will be introduced to the department and will need to select your modules.

We believe an important element in succeeding at university is having a network of supportive peers within the department. This is even more true in Computer Science, a discipline where working together with other people is very important. The first-year activity weekend is designed to help you to get to know the other first year students, while having fun tackling some team-based problem solving activities. Teamwork and problem solving are both crucial skills for computer scientists.

We are moving back towards teaching how it was before the pandemic, but we will keep the things that proved to be useful. Among them is the use of Discord, in particular a community Discord server that our students have set up during the pandemic. It has become an important part of the life in our department, for students and staff alike. Join it, introduce yourself and use it as an additional opportunity to stay in touch. Arguably more important than online contact is face to face contact. Make sure you have as much as you can and, most importantly, please make sure you do not miss any face to face teaching sessions. While we create recordings that you can watch if you have to miss a session they are only a poor replacement for actually being in the room and participating.

Like most things in life that are worth doing, gaining a good degree from the Computer Science department in Aberystwyth is not easy to achieve and you will have to work hard to succeed. It will be worth it because it is a fantastic asset that will give you important transferable and specialised skills, valued by employers in a range of future careers. And also like most things in life, the more you put into your time here the more you will get out of it. Please, engage with your studies, pester your lecturers for more information or when you need help, join clubs and societies, make friends and embrace everything the town has to offer.

Wishing you a happy and successful time with us in Aberystwyth,

Thomas Jansen
Head of Department
t.jansen@aber.ac.uk

Dear Student,

Welcome to the department! My name is Edore Akpokodje and I'm the First Year Coordinator. Congratulations on being accepted onto the course in our department at Aberystwyth. I am sure that, like thousands of others before you, Aberystwyth will provide you with some of the happiest years of your life. Computer Science is proud to be one of the friendliest departments on campus and we look forward to meeting you on **Monday 25th September**.

One of my main roles as First Year Coordinator is to help with any issues you experience whilst settling into your academic work. If you have problems attending lectures, labs, tutorials or workshops, and for whatever reason, then do please come and speak to me and we could then talk about the best source of support from our specialized counsellors.

I will also be happy to write references for job applications or further studies. Whilst jobs might seem a long way off please do try to keep me up to date with how things are going since it is easier to write a good reference for someone I know.

You should shortly be contacted by your assigned peer guide. A peer guide is a volunteer student who already knows what it's like to be a fresher. They will be able to answer many of your questions and will be someone closer to your own age.

If you do have any questions, which you would like answered before you arrive at Aberystwyth, then please don't hesitate to contact me or indeed your assigned peer guide. I very much look forward to meeting you and getting to know you during the next academic session.

With best wishes,

Edore Akpokodje
First Year Coordinator

eta@aber.ac.uk
01970 621619

Dear Student,

We (Patricia and Andy) are your Computer Science Academic Advisers. That means that we are the people who will make sure, once you arrive, that you have all the necessary information and advice to help you make the best choices about what you study here.

One of the purposes of this letter is to reassure you that there will be plenty of written material, presentations and one-to-one discussions to ensure that you have every opportunity to make well-informed choices about the modules you take in the first year. The choices are partly determined by the degree scheme for which you are registered and partly by your own interests and previous qualifications. While it is quite natural to want to make these choices as soon as possible, we recommend that you wait until you are in Aberystwyth when we can present the whole story to you and your fellow students.

Though you have to make the choices about modules during the first week, it is possible to alter them reasonably easily over the following 2 weeks. If you have questions about this, please raise them as early as possible in the advising and registration process that begins on 25th September 2023.

Our second purpose is to emphasise the importance of attending the advising meeting organised by the Department for 11.30am on Monday 25th September. This is where we will present details of the module choices available to you. If you are following a Joint Honours scheme or taking a Minor in Computer Science, meetings for your two departments may clash. We are running a repeat session at 3pm, for those unable to attend at 11.30am.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

With best wishes,

Dr. Patricia Shaw and Dr. Andy Starr
Lecturers in Computer Science
CS Undergraduate Academic Advisers
cs-exam-advice@aber.ac.uk
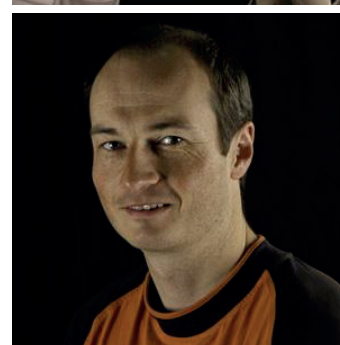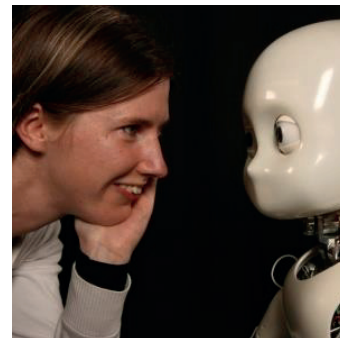
Welcome Week

Monday 25th September 2023

The Computer Science Department is organising a number of sessions to introduce you to the department and its teaching.

First Year Students

Time	Activity	Activity type / Location
Monday 25 September		
10.15 – 11.15	Faculty Talk	Great Hall, Arts Centre
11.30 - 13.00	Registration advising talk	Compulsory In-person MP-0.15 (Physical Sciences Building)
13.00 – 14.00	Meet your personal tutor[1]	Compulsory In-person (rooms to be announced)
14.30- 15.00 - before you complete your online registration	Meeting for students repeating year 1 (compulsory for those students repeating the year).	Online
15.00 – 16.00	Registration advising talk (repeat session for those who missed the 11 – 12 session)	Compulsory MP-0.10

Tuesday 26 September

9:00 – 17.00	First year registration and advising	Compulsory Online
10.00 – 11.00 *(for first half of the students)*	Meet your personal tutor[1]	Compulsory In-person (rooms to be announced)
11.00 – 12.00 *(for second half of the students)*	Meet your personal tutor[1]	Compulsory In-person (rooms to be announced)
16.00 – 17.00	Social Event: Pizza and Games	In-person: Medrus Mawr

Wednesday 27 September

10.30 - 11.00	Meeting for female students	In-person: GR-0.30
11.00 - 11.30	Meeting for overseas students	In-person:GR-0.31
11.30 – 12.00	Meeting for mature students	In-person:LL-C26
12.00 – 12.30	Meeting for Foundation-year returners entering year 1	Compulsory Online
14.00 – 14.30	Familiarisation session for first year students[2]	Compulsory HO-A12 (Hugh Owen Library)
14.30 – 15.30	Extra-curricular activities talk	HO-A12 (Hugh Owen Library)
15:30 – 16:00	Student Support Talk - Support, Experience and Opportunity	HO-A12 (Hugh Owen Library)
16:00 – 17:00	Online drop-in sessions: Q&A run by peer guides and staff	Online

Thursday 28 September

09.00 – 18.00 *(90-minute sessions but staggered start times)*	Introduction to programming for first year students	Compulsory In person

		LL-B23 (Llandinam)
16:00 – 17:00	Online drop-in sessions: Q&A run by peer guides and staff	Online
Friday 29 September		
16:00 – 17:00	Online drop-in sessions: Q&A run by peer guides and staff	Online

1. You do not need to do the evaluation if you have AS or A level Mathematics. You must not register for CS10410 (The Mathematics Driving license) if you have A or AS level maths.

2. You will only need to attend one session. You will be informed by email about which session to attend and in which room.

Clear instructions regarding how to access/join events will be provided at least 24 hours in advance. Closer to the start of term you will be advised directly by your department of the orientation and induction resources that will be available prior to the 25th of September.

<u>**Teaching starts on Monday 2nd October 2023**</u>

Useful Telephone and Email Contacts

Responsibility		Room	e-mail	Ext
Head of Department	Dr. Thomas Jansen	B47	thj10	2445
Director of Teaching	Prof. Bernie Tiddeman	C60	bpt	1777
Director of Research	Prof. Tossapon Boongoen	E45	tob45	8531
Departmental Advisors	Dr. Andy Starr and Dr. Patricia Shaw	csxstaff@aber.ac.uk		
Foundation Coordinator	Dr Emmanuel Isibor	C52	emi3	2434
Year 1 Coordinator	Dr. Edore Akpokodje	C41	eta	1619
Year 2 Coordinator	Dr. Angharad Shaw	B44	ais	2215
Year 3 and 4 Coordinator	Mr. Neil Taylor	B46	nst	1528
MEng (Year 5) & MSc Coordinator	Dr. Myra Wilson	C53	mxw	2928
Tiwtor Cymraeg / Welsh Tutor	Dr. Wayne Aubrey	C50	waa2	2421
Mature Students' Tutor	Dr. Edel Sherratt	MP-1.40	eds	2448
Overseas Students' Tutor	Dr. Fred Labrosse	MP-1.03	ffl	2388
Faculty Registrar	Mr. Alan Macmillan	C54	anm	1774
Staff/Student Committee	Dr. David Hunter	C35	dah56	8404
Academic Registry Officer	Mrs. Jackie Hedley	fbrstaff@aber.ac.uk		
Timetable Officer	Mrs. Jackie Hedley	fbrstaff@aber.ac.uk		
Library Representative	Dr. David Jones	C42	dej35	2455
Industrial Placement Coordinator	Dr. Neal Snooke	MP-1.42	nns	1782
Employability Coordinator	Dr. Neal Snooke	MP-1.42	nns	1782
Health and Safety Coordinator	Mr. Dave Smith	E46b	dhs	2446
Exam Board Chair(UG)	Dr. Christine Zarges	E38	chz8	2452
Exam Board Chair(PG)	Dr. Neil Mac Parthalain	C43	ncm	2869
Disability Coordinator	Dr. Nina Bulanova	MP-1.04	nib62	2997

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Main
Entrance

A487

15

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30

18

25

3

26

6

5

IBERS
New Building

27

Computer
Science

4

Maths &
Physics

7

Arts Centre

2

8

24

12

Students'
Union