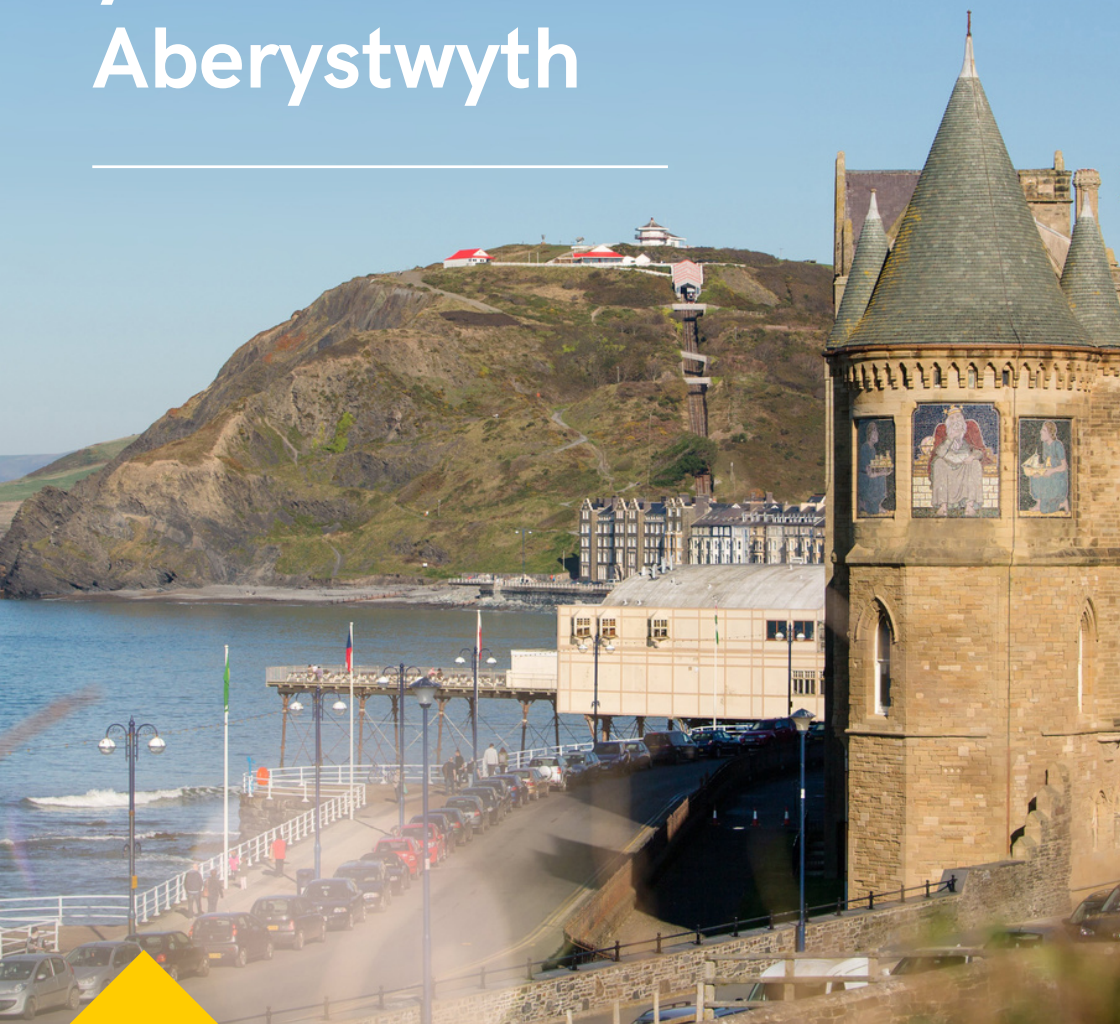


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# Preparing for your time in Aberystwyth

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# Welcome to Aberystwyth University!

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## Shw mae!\*

The Global Opportunities team is delighted you have chosen Aberystwyth for your study abroad adventure. We know you have the whole world to choose from so it means a lot to us that you are coming to our beautiful town on the Welsh coast. At Aberystwyth, you'll be part of a friendly, outward-looking community where the far horizon inspires ambition and aspiration. A place where students have been coming since 1872, drawn by our reputation for teaching excellence and an exceptional student experience, and we hope that your experience here reflects this.

We hope this guide tells you everything you need to know to prepare for your time here. Our academic and other service departments are also here to help you throughout your journey, but if you ever feel lost, the Global Opportunities Team will always be here to support you.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus soon!

\*Welsh for Hello!



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# Why Study at Aberystwyth University?

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- Founded in 1872, Aberystwyth University is the oldest university in Wales. Today, beautiful old buildings remind students of our history.
- The University is a centre of excellence for teaching and research, with many departments producing world leading research and teaching in their fields.
- Aberystwyth is one of the safest places to study in the UK (The Complete University Guide).
- Unique small town location with a fantastic community feel and vibrant culture.
- Located in a beautiful seaside town, the University is a gateway to the great outdoors. From surfing to horse riding, we have it covered.
- The cost of living is low and fees are competitive.
- You will receive a warm welcome from both staff and students. From the moment you apply, you will be looked after by our team who are dedicated to helping you make the most of your experience in Wales.



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## Best university in the UK for Teaching Quality and Student Experience

*Good University Guide, The Times and The Sunday Times, 2020*

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# Departmental Coordinators

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Your Departmental Coordinator will be your main Academic contact from your host department during your time here in Aberystwyth. Please feel free to contact them should you have any academic questions or concerns.

Department	Departmental coordinator	Contact details
School of Art	Paul Croft	puc@aber.ac.uk
Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS)	Ifat Shah	ifp@aber.ac.uk
Computer Science	Fred Labrosse	ffl@aber.ac.uk
Education	Rhodri Evans	rhe26@aber.ac.uk
English and Creative Writing	Jamie Harris	jah95@aber.ac.uk
Geography and Earth Sciences	Tristram Irvine-Fynn	tdi@aber.ac.uk
History & Welsh History	Sian Nicholas	shn@aber.ac.uk
International Politics	Jan Ruzicka	jlr@aber.ac.uk
Law and Criminology	Anel Marais	nab@aber.ac.uk
Management and Business	Kyriaki Remoundou	kyr2@aber.ac.uk
Mathematics	<u><a href="#">Gennady Mishuris</a></u>	ggm@aber.ac.uk
Modern Languages - Italian	Roberta Sartoni	rrs@aber.ac.uk
Modern Languages - German	Alex Mangold	arm@aber.ac.uk
Modern Languages - French	Julie Duran-Gelleri	jud20@aber.ac.uk
Modern Languages - Spanish	Jennifer Wood	jiw17@aber.ac.uk
Physics	Heather McCreadie	hem18@aber.ac.uk
Psychology	Trefor Aspden	tra1@aber.ac.uk
Theatre, Film and Television (TFTS)	Piotr Woycicki	piw1@aber.ac.uk
Welsh and Celtic Studies	Simon Rodway	syr@aber.ac.uk





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# Choosing your modules

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**If you are joining us from one of our Erasmus Partner institutions, please contact your home study abroad office and ask them to provide you with a Learning Agreement for you to fill in.**

**If you are joining us from one of our International Partners, or are a direct enrol student, please fill in the 'Global Opportunities Learning Agreement' Form included in this preparation pack.**

## Your Learning Agreement

It is important to discuss your Learning Agreement with your Academic Coordinator at your home university and your Departmental Coordinator here at Aberystwyth University.

Once you have completed your Learning Agreement, and it has been signed by yourself and your home coordinator, please return it to [global@aber.ac.uk](mailto:global@aber.ac.uk), and we will then arrange for it be signed by your Departmental Coordinator here in Aberystwyth.

The deadlines to submit this document to the Global Opportunities Team are:

- Semester 1/Full Academic Year: 31st July
- Semester 2: 30th November







## Choosing the right modules for your study scheme

If you have come to study on a specific study abroad programme, there might be specific modules or subjects that your home university would like you to take.

It is important that you speak to your Academic Coordinator at your home university to identify any specific modules or subjects that they would like you to take.

Once you have discussed this with your Academic Coordinator at your home university, please contact your Departmental Coordinator here at Aberystwyth University for advice on what modules you should choose.

Departmental Coordinators can offer advice and support on what modules are available to you, their content, and can even suggest modules that you might want to take based on your interests.

**You can find a full list of Departmental Coordinators on page 4 of this guide.**

## Pre-requisites

You may find that some modules require a pre-requisite. Whilst this does not necessarily mean that module is not available to you, it is important that you make sure that you have the required previous knowledge or experience to take that module.

If you are not sure if you have met a pre-requisite of a particular module, please feel free to contact your Departmental Coordinator at Aberystwyth University who will be happy to talk things through with you.

## Now you are ready to choose your modules!

You can find a full list of modules by Department by clicking the links below:

- [Current Modules by Department](#)
- [Future Modules by Department](#)

It is important that you choose modules that are taught in the correct Academic Year (either current, or future), and in the right Semester (either Semester 1, or Semester 2).





## Identifying module codes and credits

Aberystwyth University students are required to register for 120 Aberystwyth University (AU) credits per academic year and 60 per semester. This is equivalent to 60 ECTS per year and 30 ECTS per semester.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of your home university to determine how many credits are appropriate for conversion purposes, but we usually advise students to select 60 AU credits per semester.

A modules credit value is indicated in the last two digits of the module code (please see diagram to the right). Modules that are listed as having '00' credits are run over both semesters, so would not be available for students planning to study in Aberystwyth for a single semester only.

Please note that whilst it is possible to select modules from more than one department, this does increase the likelihood of timetable clashes, as does selecting modules totalling over 60 credits (per semester).

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## Breaking down module codes:

Glacial Processes and Landforms

GG <sup>1</sup>	2 <sup>2</sup>	39 <sup>3</sup>	10 <sup>4</sup>
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1. Subject code
  2. Course level
    - First Year (Part 1)
    - Second Year (Part 2)
    - Third Year (Part 2)
  3. Course identifier
  4. Credit value: 10 AU credits = 5 ECTS
-

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# Best university in Wales and one of the top 10 universities in the UK for overall student satisfaction

*National Student Satisfaction Survey 2021*

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## Why Aberystwyth?

Aberystwyth is a vibrant and welcoming university town in a stunning location on the west coast of the UK. It is both at the heart of Wales and home to a rich variety of cultures, people and entertainment.

It is home to the impressive National Library of Wales: one of few places to contain a copy of every book ever printed in the UK.

With the mountains behind you and the sea at your toes, you will not find a more beautiful place to learn new concepts, develop friendships, broaden your horizons and kick-start your career.

Our large and spacious campus not only gives you room to breathe, but also enables us to guarantee accommodation to all exchange students.





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# Choosing your accommodation

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**At Aberystwyth, we're proud of the vibrant community that our students experience within our residences. We offer a variety of styles and locations to find the space that works for you, with the majority of our residences being only a short walk away from campus.**

**Each residence has its own distinctive character offering you a safe and secure environment in which to socialise, study and relax.**

Whilst living in our accommodation, there is no need to worry about fluctuating bills as the accommodation fees include utilities, high speed internet connection including Wi-Fi and a high level of personal contents insurance. For your health and wellbeing, free Sports Centre Platinum Membership is also included in your Accommodation Fees!

Whether you desire an en-suite or a standard room with shared bathroom facilities, we have a variety of options to suit your budget and preferences with prices ranging from approximately £85-£147 per week. Whatever your requirements we aim to provide you with an option that will suit you best.

As soon as you arrive our Campus Life Team will welcome you into your new home and our campus community.

## Accommodation Options

Aberystwyth University accommodation is arranged in either flats or individual houses to accommodate between 2 and 10 people, with fully fitted kitchens to offer you the independence to cater for yourself. Apart from our en-suite accommodation, all self-catered residences offer shared facilities including bathroom (toilets, wash basins, showers and/or baths) and kitchen facilities.

However, for those who do not want to share bathroom or kitchen facilities we have available studio rooms in Fferm Penglais which provide self-contained accommodation.

**Find out more about our [Accommodation Options](#)**

## Food & Drink Packages

You can now take advantage of our fantastic value 'Eat with us, shop with us' flexible meal plan packages even if you are living in self-catered accommodation or private housing in town! Eat what you want, when you want, where you want, from hot dinners to Starbucks on the go or just pick up some ingredients to cook yourself.

Simply opt in-to our Meal Plan Offer when applying for university accommodation! The credit will automatically be credited when issues with your Aber Card. Use your Aber Card to purchase food and drink from several [University Hospitality outlets!](#)

**Find out more about our [Food & Drink Packages](#).**



## Guaranteed Accommodation

Aberystwyth University is in the fortunate position to be able to guarantee university owned or managed accommodation for all study abroad and exchange students.

To be eligible for guaranteed accommodation, you must apply for your university accommodation by the following deadlines:

- **Semester 1/Full Year: 1st August**
- **Semester 2: 1st December**

Please note that a place in University owned or managed accommodation is guaranteed, but a specific type of room or location is not guaranteed.

## International Accommodation Award

Students who are joining via direct enrolment (i.e. not through an exchange programme) may be eligible for Aberystwyth University's International Accommodation Award!

This means that the cost of your housing is included in your tuition fees.

The University has several different accommodation buildings. This scholarship is different depending on which building you choose, but is either totally free or discounted by £2,000.

Find out more about our [International Accommodation Award](#).

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"[Travelling to Aberystwyth was] very easy thanks to the Uni!"

*Elise, Exchange Student 2021*

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# Applying for your accommodation

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## Activating your student account

Before applying for university accommodation, you must first activate your student account. You should receive an e-mail from Information Services (IS) inviting you to activate your account by the following dates:

- Semester 1/Full Year: 15th July
- Semester 2: 15th November

If you have not received an invitation to activate your account by the above dates, please contact [global@aber.ac.uk](mailto:global@aber.ac.uk).

To activate your account, you will need your student number, which was given to you in your official acceptance letter.

This number should be used to activate your Aberystwyth University Student email account and to register for student accommodation.

## Applying for accommodation

Once you have met all the conditions of your academic offer and you have activated your student account, you will then be able to apply for university accommodation.

Find more about how to apply for university accommodation on the [Study Abroad & Exchange Students](#) webpages.

Here you will find a wealth of information, including:

- Why live with us?
- Accommodation options
- When & how to apply
- What happens next
- Arriving or leaving early
- Preparing for your arrival







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# Visa & immigration advice

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## Applying for a visa is simple, there are three main steps:

Step 1: Check which type of visa is needed to enrol on a course at Aberystwyth University – Visitor visa (courses 6 months or less) or Student visa (courses over 6 months). This information will be stated in your offer letter from Aberystwyth University.

Step 2: Refer to the instructions and advice on the Visa & Immigration webpages.

Step 3: Contact the International Student Advisor for help and support, email [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk).

## Visitor Visa

If you are planning to study for a single semester (up to 6 months), you will need a visitor visa.

Depending on your nationality, you may be considered a Visa National, which means you will need to apply for a visitor visa before travelling to the UK.

If you are considered a Non-Visa National (All US/EU/EEA/Swiss Nationals come under this category), you do not need to apply for a visa before you travel to the UK. Instead, you will be allowed to enter the UK as a visitor which will allow you to enrol on your course.

**Find out more about Visitor Visas and see if you are a Visa National on the [Visitor Visa webpages](#).**







## Student Visa

If you are planning to study for a full academic year (6 months and over), you will need to apply for a student visa.

To apply for your student visa you will need to supply the university with specific documents to show that you meet the universities entry requirements and that you meet UK Visa & Immigration (UKVI) entry requirements.

These documents include:

- Financial Declaration Form
- Formal Evidence of Funds\*
- Proof of English Language Ability

You will also need to provide official translations of any application documents that are not in English.

\*Students from a non low-risk countries only

**Find out more about Students Visas and see what documents you need on our [Student Visa webpages](#).**

Until you fulfil all the conditions of your offer and have been given a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Study) you will not be able to apply for university accommodation and your place will not be fully confirmed.

When you are ready to submit these documents, please email them to [global@aber.ac.uk](mailto:global@aber.ac.uk).

Once you have received your CAS from our team, you can then begin the process of applying for your Student Visa.

Useful Resources:

- [Step-by-step guide to applying for your Student Visa](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)



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# Preparing for your arrival

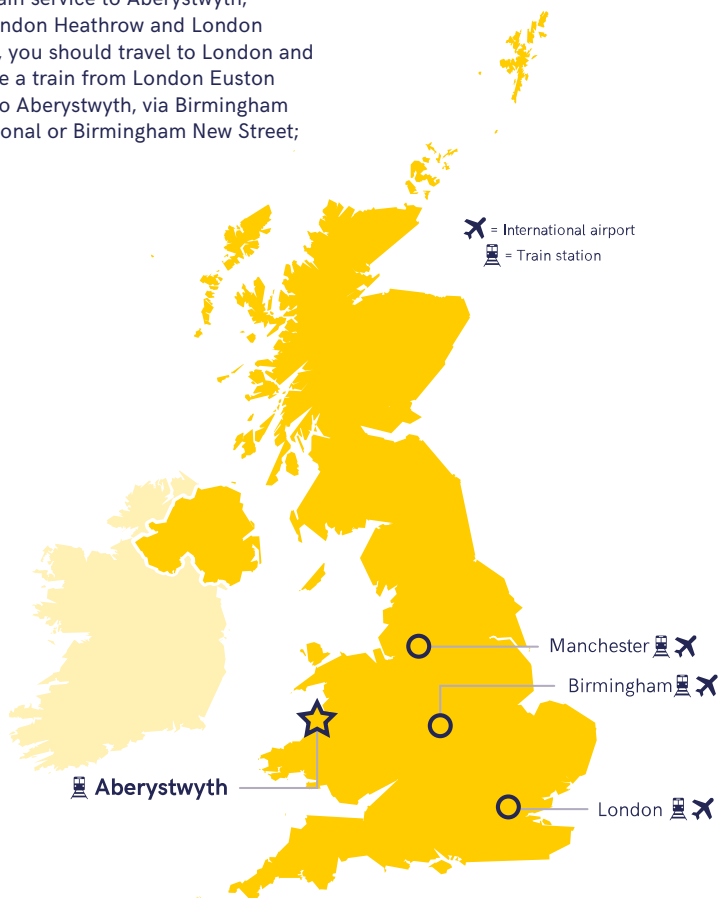
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## Getting to the UK

Most of our international students fly into the UK via the city airports at Birmingham International (BHX), Manchester (MAN), London Heathrow (LHR) and London Gatwick (LGW). Birmingham International is the nearest airport to Aberystwyth.

- From Birmingham International there is a direct train service to Aberystwyth;
- From London Heathrow and London Gatwick, you should travel to London and then take a train from London Euston station to Aberystwyth, via Birmingham International or Birmingham New Street;

- From Manchester Airport there is also a good train service. The railway station is inside the airport. You should take a train to Shrewsbury and then change for the connecting service to Aberystwyth.



## Getting to Aberystwyth

Aberystwyth University has made arrangements for international students to be picked up from Birmingham International Airport on our 'Meet & Greet' coaches.

This service includes coach transfers from Birmingham International Airport to Aberystwyth University, with onboard refreshments, a designated comfort break, accommodation key allocations and assistance in moving into university residences.

If you are arriving from another UK airport or at a time when our Meet & Greet service isn't available, there are plenty of ways for you to get to Aberystwyth University.

**Find out more about our Meet & Greet service and how to get to Aberystwyth, by train, bus or taxi, visit the [Your Arrival webpages](#).**

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"I traveled from the South of France to Birmingham, where I was welcomed by the International Airport Pick-Up Service of Aberystwyth. Many other students were there; they came from Spain, the USA, Malaysia, Japan, Australia and from so much more destinations. The adventure truly began at that moment, meeting with all the students at the airport."

*Nais Boekhd, Exchange Student 2018*  
*Read Nais' blog: ["Erasmus and Aberystwyth: An Incredible Life Journey"](#)*

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## What to bring with you

Once you have applied for and accepted your accommodation offer, you may find it helpful download and have a read over our [Residents' Handbook](#).

The Residents' Handbook provides all the information needed during your stay in University accommodation and covers a wide range of topics including: Pre-Arrival, Maintenance, Cleaning, General Safety, Fire Safety, Travel Information, Living with others, and Health & Support.

You may also find it useful to use our [Pre-Arrival Checklist](#), to make sure you have everything you need when you arrive on campus.

## Some suggested items

We asked some of our international students what items they found essential and most comforting during their time in Aberystwyth:

- Walking boots
- Raincoat
- Camera
- Family photo's
- Journal

Many international students also choose to purchase packs through [Unpacked](#), which offer Essential student Packs with 15% discount when using the code #aber15 at the checkout!

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"[Bring] walking boots or a travel book to write down all the memories!"

*Exchange Student, 2021*

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### Checklist - before you arrive

- Completed your Learning Agreement
- Applied for and accepted your accommodation offer
- Applied for your Visitor or Student Visa (if applicable)
- Applied for and packed your EHIC (if applicable)
- Taken out travel & health insurance
- Ensure you are vaccinated (if applicable)
- Booked a place on our Meet & Greet service (September arrivals only)
- Plan your budget
- Prepare for your studies
- Pack your suitcase and hand luggage

### Checklist - when you arrive

- Tell your family you've arrived
- Complete Registration
- Get your student ID card
- Register with the police (if applicable)
- Get a UK sim card
- Open a UK bank account
- Register with a doctor
- Access the internet
- Attend international & academic induction events



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# Best University in Wales for student satisfaction for the 6th year running

*National Student Satisfaction Survey 2021*

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# Support at Aber

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## Student Support & Careers Services

Our Student Support and Careers Service provides a wide range of services to assist you to develop the skills needed to make the most of your time at Aberystwyth University.

If you have disclosed a disability during your application to Aberystwyth University, our Accessibility service will contact you before your time in Aberystwyth to see what types of support they can offer you during your time in Aberystwyth.

Find out more about our services:

- [Accessibility Service](#)
- [Advice, Information & Money Service](#)
- [Careers Service](#)
- [Wellbeing Service](#)
- [Visa Support & Advice Service](#)

## Signpost Mentor Scheme

All Study Abroad and Exchange students will automatically be signed up to Aberystwyth's signpost mentor scheme. The scheme is designed to enable students to make the most of their time at university.

Signpost Mentors can help with any aspect of life at university, whether academic, social, or financial. Acting as a link to services available for students within the university, the Mentor can also help with organising your studies and finding motivation.

Your Signpost Mentor will be in touch with you via your Aber email account during the first week of teaching to introduce themselves.







## AberSU

Led by students and supported by a team of staff, the Students' Union wants Aber students to love student life and be ready for anything.

AberSU works to ensure that Aber students have an epic student journey, are happy, healthy and empowered, with lasting friendships and promising futures!

AberSU can also offer impartial and confidential advice on Housing & Accommodation, Employment, Health & Wellbeing, Money & Student Finance and University issues.

All students at Aberystwyth University are automatically a member of AberSU.

Find out more about [AberSU](#).

## Sports Clubs & Societies

Whether you want to get competitive or just have fun, with over 50 different sports clubs from Rugby League to Ultimate Frisbee, we have something for everyone.

From Art to Rock Music, we have nearly 100 student led societies waiting for you to try.

There is a vast variety of societies covering Academic, Faith, Politics, Media, Performance and Recreation and if you can't see your particular interest you can start your own society.

Societies are a brilliant way to meet people with the same interests as yourself, make friends, try something new and enhance your University experience.

Find out more about TimAber's [Sport's Clubs & Societies](#).

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# Facilities on Campus

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## Laundry Facilities

Doing your laundry in University residences has never been easier.

All AU residents will have access to laundry rooms by using their Aber Card. Laundry rooms can be found at several residences around campus.

Prices of washing and drying can be found on individual machines however to give you an idea of costs, a standard wash costs £2.50, whilst a standard dry is £1.30 for 60 minutes.

Please visit the [Laundry](#) webpage for more information.

## Hospitality Services

Hot and cold food and drinks are available in several of our hospitality outlets over the summer period. This includes groceries from the Student's Union and Sgubor shops and through Nosh Da Delivery.

Please visit the [Hospitality Services](#) webpages for more information.





## Aberystwyth Arts Centre

The Aberystwyth Arts Centre is located in the heart of the Penglais Campus.

Facilities include a theatre, cinema, concert hall and studios. In addition, there are four gallery spaces, two cafes, bars and shops.

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is a community and student hub and hosts a range of events from comedy weekends, club nights and arts festivals.

Find out more about [Aberystwyth Arts Centre](#).

## Sports Centre

Aberystwyth University's Sports Centre has a range of fitness classes including Spin, Fitness and Aerobic class as well as Pilates and Yoga.

Facilities include outdoor track and playing fields, indoor climbing wall, swimming pool and saunarium.

All students staying in University accommodation will be able to use all of the Sports Centre activities for free!

Find out more about [Aberystwyth Sports Centre](#).



## Aberystwyth Arts Centre

Award winning Aberystwyth Arts Centre is Wales' largest arts centre and recognised as a 'national flagship for the arts'.

It has a wide-ranging artistic programme, both producing and presenting, across all art forms including drama, dance, music, visual arts, film and community arts and is recognised as a national centre for arts development.

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is a department of Aberystwyth University and a member of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The Arts Centre sits at the heart of the university's campus, with stunning views over the town of Aberystwyth and along the coastline of Cardigan Bay.



For more information visit our website:  
**[www.aber.ac.uk/global](http://www.aber.ac.uk/global)**

The Global Opportunities Team  
Global Marketing & Student Recruitment  
Cledwyn Building, Penglais Campus,  
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DD