



PRIFYSGOL

ABERYSTWYTH  
UNIVERSITY

[www.aber.ac.uk/international](http://www.aber.ac.uk/international)

*Guide for*  
Incoming  
International  
Students 2015-2016





# Introduction

## Foreword by Pro Vice Chancellor John Grattan



May I take this opportunity to wish you a warm welcome to Aberystwyth University. We have ensured there is plenty of support available to help you settle into your new life here. I

hope you take the opportunity to get really involved with Aberystwyth student life – not only through your studies, but also by taking part in the many activities offered by the Students' Union. Welcome events and orientation activities are provided to our international students to help you to settle in quickly and make new friends. Please look out for the A Team heroes to advise and support you during your first week.

I am proud to say that Aberystwyth is a safe and friendly place to study, located in beautiful unspoilt scenery on the shores of Cardigan Bay in Ceredigion, Mid Wales. By coming here you are helping to create a truly international community and I hope that you have a satisfying and rewarding stay with us. I wish you great success both personally and academically, during your time here and I hope that you will have a valuable and enjoyable experience at Aberystwyth University.

## Checklist

Before you arrive	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activate your Aber student account
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apply for University residences or find private accommodation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pay the Immigration Health Surcharge and apply for your visa (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book a place on our Meet & Greet service
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure you are vaccinated (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan your budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare for your studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pack your suitcase and hand luggage
When you arrive	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tell your family you have arrived
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pick up your BRP (visa) from the post office (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend International Welcome Ceremony
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend International Students Document check session (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register with the police (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete registration on-line
<input type="checkbox"/>	Get your student ID card
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open your bank account
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register with a doctor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Access the internet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend any induction events in your academic school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete residences induction tasks

### NEED HELP?

If you are uncertain about what to do, have any worries in the first few weeks of term or want advice before you come to Aberystwyth, we will be very happy to help you; in which case you can contact the Study Abroad Office or the International Student Advisor whose details are provided at the back of this guide.

If you haven't done so already you should visit the Study Abroad Office website where you can view student profiles, find out who your academic department contact is and download application documents.

- Incoming Erasmus students should visit:  
[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/erasmus/incoming-students/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/erasmus/incoming-students/)
- Incoming International Exchange students should visit:  
[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/international-exchange/incoming-students/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/international-exchange/incoming-students/)
- All other International students should visit  
[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice/)

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# Pre-departure Information

## Application

**This guide is intended for students who have been accepted to study as an Undergraduate, Postgraduate or Exchange student at Aberystwyth University.**

### UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS

All applications for undergraduate courses must be submitted on-line via UCAS (the 'Universities and Colleges Admissions Services'). Step by step instructions on how to apply to Aberystwyth University can be found on [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/howtoapply/ug-how-to/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/howtoapply/ug-how-to/).

### POSTGRADUATE APPLICATIONS

Applications for postgraduate courses can be made on-line using the UKPASS on-line system. Further details are available from [www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/howtoapply/apply-now/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/howtoapply/apply-now/). Applications received by post are also considered.

### ERASMUS AND EXCHANGE STUDENT NOMINATIONS

Applications cannot come directly from a student. They must come through the Study Abroad Office of a partner university. In order to be nominated to Aberystwyth, please contact your home University's Study Abroad Office for information on our application process. To nominate students, our partners should contact the Study Abroad Office via [studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk) with the following information:

- Student name
- Subject of study
- E-mail address
- Desired period of study

### STUDY YEAR ABROAD STUDENTS

Students wishing to spend a semester or a year at Aberystwyth University as a fee-paying Visiting student can apply directly to the Study Abroad Office. Application forms are available via email - [studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk)

We can accept Study Year Abroad students regardless of whether your home university has a partnership with us or not.

Further information is available from [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/sya-jya-programme/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/sya-jya-programme/)

### APPLICATION

Once we have received your nomination from your home university, our Study Abroad Officer will send you an e-mail with more information. If you are interested in coming to Aberystwyth and you want to find out more about a specific academic department, you should ask our academic departmental coordinators. Once students have been nominated to Aberystwyth University, they will need to complete and submit an application form accompanied with an academic transcript; the application forms can be downloaded from [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/erasmus/incoming-students/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/erasmus/incoming-students/) or [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/international-exchange/english-requirements/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/international-exchange/english-requirements/)

### ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

Students who apply from countries where English is not the first language will have to provide evidence of an English language qualification. Further information is available from [www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/howtoapply/before-you-apply/english-language/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/howtoapply/before-you-apply/english-language/).

## Visas & Immigration

### FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY

If you are a national of a European Economic Area state or Switzerland, this section does not apply to you.

To study at Aberystwyth University you must hold a valid visa which entitles you to study at this University. For more information see:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice)

- If you are currently in the UK on a Tier 4 visa for another university or college then you must make an application for a new Tier 4 visa before you enrol at Aberystwyth University.
- If you are currently in your home country you must make an application for "entry clearance" or for a Tier 4 (General) student visa at a Visa Application Centre. The following website can give you details of centres in your own country:

[www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre](http://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre)

You should wait until you have obtained your visa before you book any non-refundable travel tickets. Apply for your Aberystwyth University Tier 4 student visa as soon as you have all the required information and documentation. It can take longer than you think, often around two months.

### “I AM CURRENTLY IN THE UK. WHO CAN HELP ME APPLY FOR MY ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY TIER 4 STUDENT VISA?”

The International Student Adviser at Aberystwyth University can help you through the visa extension process. For more information see:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice)

We strongly recommend that you contact the International Student Adviser to discuss your visa application.

**Tel:** +44 (0)1970 621548

**E-mail:** [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk)

**Please note** that your passport, visa and original academic transcripts and qualifications will need to be checked before you register at the University. You will only be able to start studying at Aberystwyth University if you can prove that you hold or have applied for a valid visa that entitles you to study here.

### KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES

Immigration law is subject to change. Please make sure that you have the most up-to-date information by checking the following website:

[www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa)

### “I AM CURRENTLY IN MY HOME COUNTRY. WHO CAN HELP ME APPLY FOR MY ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY TIER 4 STUDENT VISA?”

Find out if there is an Educational Advisor or Agent in your country who will be able to help you apply for your student visa but please note there may be a charge for this service. If you are applying from outside the UK, you will need to contact your nearest visa application centre for details of their visa application process. Some visa application centres accept applications online. If you are not in the UK, and you cannot apply online you will need to fill in a visa application form (VAF 9). You can get a form, free of charge, from your nearest visa application centre overseas that offers a visa service.

For more information please see:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice)

### “WHICH VISA SHOULD I APPLY FOR?”

Most international students need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa.

Even if you are 16 or 17 years old you must apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa and not a Tier 4 (Child) student visa.

If you are coming to study an English language course that is for a maximum of 11 months, or a degree course for a maximum of 6 months, you may hear that you can come to the UK on a "student visitor visa" instead of a Tier 4 student visa. If you choose to come as a "student visitor", you will be much more restricted than if you apply for a Tier 4 student visa. You will not be allowed to do any paid or voluntary work (even if it is part of a course) and you cannot extend your stay in the UK or bring your family with you. For these reasons, it is not usually appropriate to come to the UK as a "student visitor". We recommend that you apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa.

The exceptions to this are:

1. Students studying on distance learning courses who need to come to Aberystwyth University for an examination or to attend a short course of less than six months and do not want to work in the UK.
2. Exchange or Study Year Abroad students studying for less than six months (one semester) who will definitely be returning home after their course finishes and do not want to work in the UK.

If you want to find out about coming to the UK as a student visitor, see: [www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa](http://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa)

You should apply for your visa as soon as you have all the required information and documentation. It can take longer than you think.

## BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR YOUR VISA

Before you apply for your visa, you should carefully read the "Applying for a Tier 4 (General) visa" guidance on the UKCISA UK Council for International Student Affairs website. You can find this at:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/Visas-and-immigration/Applying-for-a-Tier-4-General-visa/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/Visas-and-immigration/Applying-for-a-Tier-4-General-visa/)

You should also check the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website: [www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa)

## “WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR MY TIER 4 STUDENT VISA?”

You can apply for your Tier 4 student visa up to three months before the start date of your course. Applying for your visa is likely to take around two months, so you must start the process early. For information on visa processing times see: [www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times](http://www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times)



## 👉 WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR MY TIER 4 STUDENT VISA? 👈

To apply for a Tier 4 general student visa you will need the following:

### 1. Valid Passport

You will need to submit your passport with your student visa application. Check that it is not about to expire!

### 2. Passport Photograph

Two passport-sized colour photographs, not more than one month old. The photographs you provide with your application must be in a specific format. If they are not, your visa application will be rejected by the immigration officials. For more information see:

[www.gov.uk/photos-for-passports](http://www.gov.uk/photos-for-passports)

### 3. ATAS Certificate - Postgraduate Courses (if applicable)

You must obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) clearance certificate if you are coming to Aberystwyth for a postgraduate research or postgraduate taught course in certain science, engineering or technology subjects in the areas listed by the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). To find out if you need an ATAS certificate see: [www.gov.uk/guidance-on-how-to-apply-for-an-atas-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/guidance-on-how-to-apply-for-an-atas-certificate). The ATAS certificate is issued by the UK Government and gives you security clearance to study certain subjects where the knowledge gained may be used in the development of weapons of mass destruction. If your course requires an ATAS certificate, it will state this in your CAS email. You must have your ATAS clearance certificate before you apply for your Tier 4 student visa. It can take two months to get this, so you must apply early.

### 4. Tuberculosis Testing and certificate required (if applicable)

Before applying for a visa you will need to be tested for tuberculosis (TB) and obtain a certificate that states you are free from infectious tuberculosis. The test includes having a chest x-ray at an accredited clinic or hospital run by the International Organisation for Migration. It is very important that you check to see if you need a TB certificate to apply for your visa, for an up to date list of countries that need TB test to enter the UK please go to [www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk)

### 5. Immigration Health Surcharge

All students applying for a visa after 6th April 2015 for a course of 6 months or more, will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge, the IHS is calculated on the length of your leave, at £150 per 12 months. The IHS must be paid by following this link [www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application](http://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application). You will need to provide your IHS reference number in your visa application. IMPORTANT: Your visa application will be refused if you have not paid the IHS.

### 6. Your CAS number

You need to obtain 40 points to apply for a Tier 4 visa. You will score 30 points for having a valid confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS), the CAS is a unique reference number e-mailed to you by Aberystwyth University after you have been accepted onto a course.

To get your CAS e-mail from Aberystwyth University you must have:

- passed all your exams and sent the University copies of your qualifications or transcripts
- been accepted for a course at Aberystwyth University
- checked that all the information on your CAS e-mail is correct (see below)

If you still have an unconditional offer to study at Aberystwyth University and need help or advice on uploading and sending your qualifications to the University, please contact the International Student Advisor:

**E-mail:** [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk)

Your CAS e-mail will include your personal details, Aberystwyth University licence number: CMRTYMH23 and address, your qualifications that you have shown Aberystwyth University to gain entry onto your course and details of your course.

Your CAS must not be more than six months old when you apply for your student visa. If you use it after this date, your visa application will be refused.

All documents (apart from your CAS e-mail) that you are submitting with your visa application must be original. If any documents are not in English, the original must be accompanied by a professional translation. This translation must include the following:

- confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- the date of the translation
- the translator's full name and signature
- the translator's contact details
- translator's qualifications

For more details on how to find a translator see: [www.itl.org.uk](http://www.itl.org.uk) and click on "Translators".

## 7. The transcripts/exam certificates/references listed in the CAS e-mail

You need to submit your original transcripts/qualifications /references to UKVI with your Tier 4 visa application showing that you have satisfied the entry requirements for your course at Aberystwyth University. Details of your qualifications/ transcripts/references that Aberystwyth University used to assess your suitability for entry onto your course at the University will be listed in your CAS e-mail. For each qualification listed you must provide the original certificate showing: your name, the date and title of the award and the awarding institution. For each transcript listed you must provide the original transcript showing: your name, name of the academic institution, course title and confirmation of the award. Scanned copies, faxes or e-mails are not acceptable.

## CHECK YOUR CAS E-MAIL!

You will receive an e-mail from Aberystwyth University asking you to check that all the information in the CAS e-mail is correct. Make sure that you check that all your personal details are correct, for example, that your name is exactly the same as it appears on your passport. Also check that all your qualifications are correct, the course details that you are going to study are correct and any payments that you have made to the University are recorded in the CAS correctly.

**E-mail:** [compliance@aber.ac.uk](mailto:compliance@aber.ac.uk) if any changes are needed to your CAS.

**IMPORTANT:** It takes the University a long time to change the CAS information and e-mail it to you again. So we recommend that you take time to check your CAS very carefully and e-mail the University with any corrections before you are issued with your CAS.



## 8. Finances – evidence that you have enough money to meet the UKVI maintenance requirements

You need to prove that you have enough money to cover course fees and monthly living costs. You will score 10 points in your Tier 4 student visa application if you have sufficient funds. For more details see the Financial Maintenance Requirements for your visa information on page 13 and 14 or see: [www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/Visas-and-immigration/Applying-for-a-Tier-4-General-visa/Requirements-and-evidence/Your-finances/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/Visas-and-immigration/Applying-for-a-Tier-4-General-visa/Requirements-and-evidence/Your-finances/)

### “HOW DO I APPLY FOR MY TIER 4 VISA FROM MY HOME COUNTRY?”

Please visit [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice/) and read the section “Applying for your Visa”.

### “AM I A LOW RISK NATIONAL AND IF SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?”

If you are considered to be a low risk national by UK immigration officials (UKVI) you will not normally need to provide all the supporting documents used to obtain your CAS and evidence of money to cover your course fees and living costs. However, the Immigration Officials/UKVI can request all your qualifications/transcripts and financial evidence at any time. Therefore you must be prepared to submit them to UKVI with your visa application just in case. To be considered a low risk national, you must be applying from your country of nationality and you must be a British national (overseas) or a national of one of the countries below.

- Argentina
- Australia
- Barbados
- Botswana
- Brunei
- Canada
- Chile
- Croatia
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan (*if you hold a passport issued by Taiwan that includes the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan*).
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

Further guidance on applications from ‘low risk’ students can be found on the UKCISA website [www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/Visas-and-immigration/Applying-for-a-Tier-4-General-visa/Requirements-and-evidence/Low-risk-students/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/Visas-and-immigration/Applying-for-a-Tier-4-General-visa/Requirements-and-evidence/Low-risk-students/)

## CREDIBILITY TESTING

From 8 April 2013, students who are not low risk nationals may be required to attend a Credibility Interview carried out by the UKVI, either overseas or upon their arrival (e.g. at the airport) as part of the Tier 4 application process.

You will be invited to attend a Credibility Interview via e-mail invitation from the UKVI Home Office – **Please note that you must have regular access to your e-mails to check if you have received an invitation to attend a Credibility Interview** - in particular your ‘spam’/junk folder in your e-mail account. **Failure to attend these interviews will result in an instant application refusal** under paragraph 245 ZV (k) of the Immigration Rules (i.e. Credibility assessment).

If you are issued a refusal after attending a Credibility Interview you can request that the decision is reviewed by an Entry Clearance Manager. You have 28 days from the date of the refusal notice to request an Entry Clearance Manager review. The request must be sent in writing and should include full details of the reasons you believe you meet the conditions in paragraph 245 ZV(k) and why the visa should have been issued.

If you are not successful in appealing to the Entry Clearance Manager, it is possible for you to ask for administrative review. However the chances of you succeeding at Administrative Review are fairly low because of the subjective nature of the decision making. The International Student Adviser in Aberystwyth University will liaise with you should this route be chosen.

For guidance regarding Credibility interviews please see: [www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/65/Tier-4-student-visa-interviews](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/65/Tier-4-student-visa-interviews)

### “HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO GET MY VISA?”

For a guide to the visa processing times for your local visa application centre see: [www.gov.uk/visa/processing-times](http://www.gov.uk/visa/processing-times)

## “WHAT SHOULD I CHECK WHEN MY TIER 4 STUDENT VISA IS ISSUED?”

Make sure that:

- Your name and date of birth are correct
- It is a Tier 4 student visa
- You have Aberystwyth University sponsor licence number on the visa: CMRTYMH23
- It starts on or before the date that you want to travel to the UK

If there is anything wrong with your visa, ask the Immigration Officials to have it changed before you travel. It is more difficult to make changes after you have arrived in the UK.

## “HOW LONG CAN I COME TO THE UK FOR?”

In April 2012, the UKVI introduced time caps that limit the amount of time a student can study in the UK. It is very important that you are aware of this rule as it could affect your studies in the UK. Your visa should last for the duration of your course. Immigration Officials in your home country should comply with the UKVI guidance on how long your visa should be issued for. If you require further information please see [www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Tier-4-Handbook-proof-3.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Tier-4-Handbook-proof-3.pdf).

## “WHEN CAN I COME TO THE UK?”

You will be able to come to the UK up to one month before your course start date if you are coming to study a course that is six months or more in duration (undergraduate or postgraduate), or for a pre-sessional English language course of less than six months. You will only be able to come to the UK up to seven days before the course start date if you are coming for a course that is less than six months and is not a pre-sessional English Language course. Your course start date is shown on your CAS e-mail.

## “WHEN CAN I COLLECT MY BRP (Visa)?”

If your visa application is successful, you will be issued with a temporary ‘vignette’ visa on your passport which is valid for 30 days. The vignette is proof only of your permission to enter the UK. If you do not travel to the UK within this 30 day period, your visa will expire and you will need to apply and pay for another 30 day visa. You will also be issued with a decision letter from the Home Office which will give you instructions on how to collect your biometric residence permit.

Your final visa will be issued as a biometric residence permit, also known as a BRP. You must collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of arrival in the UK from the main Post Office in Aberystwyth, the address for the post office is 8 Great Darkgate Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1DE.

## “CAN MY FAMILY COME TO THE UK TO HELP ME DURING MY FIRST FEW DAYS IN ABERYSTWYTH?”

If your parents or any other family member will be accompanying you to Aberystwyth for a few days to help you settle into your new life, they will need to obtain a visitor visa. For more information on applying for a visitor visa contact: [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk)

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR VISA

### “HOW MUCH MONEY DO I NEED TO SHOW FOR MY TIER 4 STUDENT VISA?”

You need enough money to cover:

1. Your tuition fees for your first period of study. The amount will be shown in your CAS e-mail.
2. Your living expenses. If the length of your course is more than nine months (all undergraduate and postgraduate courses) you will need to show £7,380. If the length of your course is nine months or less, you will need to show £820 for each month of the course.

You will score 10 points if you provide evidence that you have enough money to pay your course fees and living costs. (Total points required = 40).

### “WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I PROVIDE AS PROOF THAT I MEET THE FINANCIAL (MAINTENANCE) REQUIREMENTS?”

UKVI are very specific about the financial documents they accept as proof that you meet the maintenance requirements. These include:

1. Bank statements or letters from the bank showing you have sufficient funds for a continuous 28 day period ending no more than 31 days before the date you submit your student visa application in a personal bank account in your name, or in the name of your parent(s) or legal guardian
2. Bank statements or letters from the bank from a joint account
3. A loan in your name
4. Official financial or government sponsorship

## BANK ACCOUNT DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

### 1. Bank statement from your personal or your parents' bank account

Your money must be held in cash and must not be held in a bank or a financial institution which the UKVI view as untrustworthy. For example, the UKVI have identified a list of financial institutions in India, Ghana, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Philippines and Cameroon that do not satisfactorily verify financial statements. To check if your bank is viewed as an unsatisfactory financial institutions by UKVI see: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-rules-appendix-p](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-rules-appendix-p)

You must provide one of the following documents:

- Your personal bank statement or your parent(s) bank statements, which must cover a 28 day period.
- The date of the closing balance on your bank statement must be no more than one month before the date you submit your visa application.

The bank statement must show:

- your name or your parent(s) or legal guardian
- the account number
- date of statement
- the name and logo of the bank
- that your bank balance has not fallen below the required amount for the full 28 day period

**The required funds must be in your account up until the closing balance of the statement. If the balance has dropped below the required amount for even one day your visa application will be refused.**

**You can only use electronic bank statements for an online account if they include all the information above. Each electronic statement should bear the bank's official stamp on every page, or you must provide a supporting letter from the bank, on company headed paper, confirming the statements' authenticity.**

**If you are relying on money held by your parents or legal guardians, you must also provide the following:**

- Original legal document (or a notarised copy) stating your relationship to them. This would be either your birth certificate or certificate of adoption or court document stating the name of your legal guardian.
- Original signed and dated letter from your parent(s) or legal guardian which confirms your relationship and that they have given their consent to the money being available to you to study in the UK.

**Bank statements from a joint bank account** are acceptable as long as you are named as one of the account holders. You must provide joint account holder bank statements or a bank letter which includes all the same information as mentioned for your personal bank statement or your parents' bank statements.

The UKVI will base the exchange rate for your country's currency on the date of your visa application taken from: [www.oanda.com/currency/converter](http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter)

### 2. A letter from your bank

This letter will show money available to you for your visa application. This bank must be regulated by your country's official financial regulator. The bank letter must show that you have held the money for a consecutive 28 day period ending no more than 31 days before the date you submit your student visa application. It must contain the following:

- your name or your parents/legal guardian's name
- the account number
- the date of the letter
- the financial institution's name and logo
- the money in your account
- that there is enough money in the account (to cover your course fees and living costs)

### 3. If I am using a bank loan to finance my education, what evidence do I need to provide?

The loan must be in your name from your national government, the state or regional government, or a government-sponsored student loan company; or part of an academic or educational loans scheme.

You must provide a letter from the bank confirming the loan. The loan must be in your name (you cannot use your parents' loan as evidence of funds). The letter must be dated no more than six months before you apply for your student visa. The letter must show:

- your name
- the date of the letter
- the national government, the state or regional government, or name of the government-sponsored student loan company; or
- the name and logo of the financial institution that is providing your loan as part of an academic loan scheme

The loan funds must be available to you before you travel to the UK, unless the loan is an academic/student loan from your country's national government and will be given to you or Aberystwyth University when you arrive in the UK.

If you are an American student who is applying for a US Federal loan, you will need to submit a "Notification of Student Loan" letter with your visa application. For more information please see: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/funding-fees/overseas/us-federal-loans](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/funding-fees/overseas/us-federal-loans)

#### 4. What evidence do I need from my Official Financial or Government Sponsor?

UKVI define an official sponsor as:

- your country's government or the UK government
- British Council
- any international organisation
- any international company
- any University

The letter must show:

- your name
- the date
- name and contact details of your official financial sponsor
- length of your sponsorship (start and end date)
- the amount of money they will give you or confirmation that they will cover all your tuition fees and living expenses
- the official stamp of the organisation

If your sponsor only pays some of your costs, you will need a letter from them (as above) and proof that you have enough money yourself to meet the rest of the maintenance requirement (e.g. personal bank statements).

## DEDUCTIONS TO FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

### “CAN I SHOW A REDUCED AMOUNT OF MONEY IF I WAS STUDYING RECENTLY IN THE UK?”

Yes, but only in very limited circumstances. You only have to prove you have one year's tuition fees and £1,640 (i.e. living costs for two months) if:

- you have a current Tier 4 student visa that has not yet expired, and
- your new course at Aberystwyth University starts within 1 month of the expiry date of your current visa, and
- the course you have just finished was 6 months or longer

Please note that if your visa has expired on the date of your new visa application you will not benefit from this reduction.

### “CAN I MAKE A DEDUCTION IF I HAVE PAID SOME OF MY COURSE FEES, OR FEES FOR UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION?”

Yes, you can deduct the following from the total amount of money you need:

- the amount you have paid towards course fees, and
- up to a maximum of £1020 paid towards your future Aberystwyth University residences fees

We do not recommend that you pay any fees between receiving your CAS e-mail and applying for your visa. If you wish to do so however you can request that your CAS statement is updated. Please note that this could result in a delay of two weeks or more.

If any money you have paid for tuition fees or University residences fees is not shown on the CAS e-mail, then you must provide original paper receipts from the University when you submit your student visa application. Online receipts are NOT acceptable and will be ignored by the Immigration Officer. Official receipts can be requested from [fees@aber.ac.uk](mailto:fees@aber.ac.uk).

## REGISTERING WITH THE POLICE

### “DO I NEED TO REGISTER WITH THE POLICE?”

Some International Students are required to register with the police when they arrive in Aberystwyth. The conditions in your visa approval letter from the Home Office will confirm whether you are required to register with the police. If you have dependants they will also be required to register with the police.

Police Registration sessions will be arranged by the International Office on campus during the first week of term, if you cannot attend these sessions you will need to visit Aberystwyth Police Station.

Aberystwyth Police Station  
Boulevard Saint Brieuc  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 1PH

Front counter opening hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm. Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays 10am to 2pm, and 2.40pm to 6pm.

If you change address, or if you are granted further leave to remain with an extension to your student visa, you must notify the police of these changes.

STUDENTS COMING FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE POLICE:

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Belarus
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- China
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Moldova
- Morocco
- North Korea
- Oman
- Palestine
- Peru
- Qatar
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- U.A.E
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen

It is vital that you attend your police registration appointment, as it is a legal requirement of your entry into the UK for you to register with the police. Failure to do so will be recorded on your immigration record and will affect your ability to obtain entry clearance/visa to re-enter the UK.

“WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED WHEN I REGISTER WITH THE POLICE?”

To register with the police you must bring all of the following:

- 2 passport-style photographs (passport photographs may be obtained from a machine in the Sports Centre or the local Post Office in Aberystwyth town centre)
- Your passport including your current visa
- Your Student ID card
- Registration fee of £34.00 (cash only)
- A completed police registration questionnaire

“I’VE PREVIOUSLY STUDIED IN THE UK AND HAVE A POLICE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE; DO I NEED TO SEE THE POLICE?”

Students holding Police Registration Certificates must make an appointment with the police to renew their certificate if any of the following have changed:

What’s changed	What documents/evidence required: <i>Passport and Police Registration Certificate</i> , plus one of the following documents
Change of address	<b>University Accommodation</b> = Residence card only; <b>Private Accommodation</b> = tenancy agreement, or accommodation contract, or gas/electric/water bill that shows your new address
Change of University	Print out of CAS e-mail from Aberystwyth University, or your Aberystwyth University student ID card
Change of marital status	Marriage certificate, or Divorce certificate
Extension to visa granted by UKVI	Biometric card and passport
Change of passport	New passport

EXTENDING YOUR TIER 4 VISA

**When to extend your visa:** Please check when your current visa is due to expire – ideally you should submit your Tier 4 visa extension application 3 months before expiry date of your visa.

**Preparation:** Initially you will need to speak with the International Student Adviser to ensure you will have sufficient funds etc to make the application. Please email: [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk) at least 8 weeks before your visa expires. The Home Office charge £439 for this service.

**NB** Please do not proceed with submitting your Tier 4 application to extend your visa online as you will need advice from the International Student Adviser to make a successful application or there is the risk of your application being refused!

*Tier 4 Visa Workshops will be held on campus throughout the year – for further details please go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visas-support-advice/)*

## Accommodation

**Our accommodation is situated within easy reach of the campus so there is no need for costly commuting.**

We offer a wide range of accommodation from traditional catered residences, where meals are provided, to shared facilities and en-suite self-catered accommodation. Whatever your requirements, we aim to provide you with an option that will suit you and your budget. We also guarantee accommodation for International students, including Erasmus and Exchange students\*.

**Please note** that all costs are based on the 2015/16 academic year, with future years subject to change.

Value for money accommodation starts at just over £78 per week and many of our rooms offer spectacular scenic views. To help you with your work all of our study bedrooms have free access to the web, and most offer both wireless and hard-wired connections. The price per week also includes all energy costs and a high level of contents insurance. In order to ensure the highest standards, we have invested over £48m in new student residences at Fferm Penglais and we also have a continuing programme of refurbishment for a number of our residences. Each residence is a vibrant community with its own distinctive character, offering you a safe and secure environment in which to socialise, study and relax.

### SELF-CATERED RESIDENCES

This 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. All self-catered residences (apart from our en-suite accommodation) offer shared facilities including bathroom (toilets, wash basins, showers and/or baths).

Costs per week start from approximately £78 (budget single and standard twin), to £95.20 (standard single). We also have standard en-suite (£109.90) and Fferm Penglais en-suite (£123.20), not forgetting self-contained studios for £136.50.

### CATERED RESIDENCES

All of our catered accommodation provide single or shared study bedrooms, with shared bathroom facilities. Catered residents benefit from the use of our award winning restaurants, and access to kitchenettes in which you can prepare basic meals and snacks. Catered accommodation is a good choice if you do not want to worry about cooking your own food.

The cost per week for catered accommodation is approximately £101.85 (standard twin) and £116.20 (standard single), or £94.50 (Welsh medium twin) and £108.50 (Welsh medium single).

**Aber Card** As a catered student your Aber Card will automatically be credited with enough money for at least one main meal a day. This meal allowance is taken from your hall fees and loaded onto your Aber Card in termly instalments, giving you the flexibility of when and where to eat. All residents, whether in a catered hall or not, can use the Aber Card at any of our catering outlets and will benefit from a 10% discount. The Aber Card is also your student identification, allowing access to a number of residences, 24 hour learning centres, laundry rooms, printing and library services.

### FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

If you wish to bring your family with you, there is a limited number of places available in University accommodation. Accommodation for families is also available in the private sector and the Accommodation Office can help you locate a suitable property.

### APPLYING FOR ACCOMMODATION

As soon as your place to study at Aberystwyth University is confirmed the Accommodation Office will contact you by e-mail inviting you to apply for accommodation.

Telephone – 01970 622984

Web – [www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation)

E-mail – [accommodation@aber.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@aber.ac.uk)

\* To qualify for a guaranteed place you must ensure that your application is received by the 1st August in the year of entry and that you respond to the offer of accommodation by the deadline date detailed in the Accommodation Offer. Please note that a place in University owned or managed accommodation is guaranteed, but not a specific type of room or location.

## Private accommodation in Aberystwyth

### “WHERE CAN I FIND PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION IN ABERYSTWYTH?”

There is plenty of accommodation in Aberystwyth that is let out by private landlords to students. Such accommodation consists of shared houses and flats. Occasionally you may find a room in a house that you would share with the landlord/lady. For further information please visit:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/private-sector](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/private-sector)

### HELP AND HOUSING ADVICE

Students may approach the Accommodation Office if they require any information, help or advice regarding private sector accommodation. Accommodation Office staff, for example, are able to look over private sector tenancy agreements on behalf of students and offer support or direction in situations where students may be experiencing difficulties in their private sector accommodation. There is also a range of information leaflets available for download from the Accommodation website including our 'Top Ten Tips' for looking for private accommodation, which can be found here:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/private-sector](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/private-sector)

Accommodation talks for students are also held each year, normally around November time, to provide further assistance. You may also contact the Accommodation Office:

**Telephone:** 01970 622984

**Fax:** 01970 622983

**E-mail:** [accommodation@aber.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@aber.ac.uk)

### “HOW MUCH DOES PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION COST IN ABERYSTWYTH?”

In the private sector your rental payments are likely to be in the region of £2500 to £3500 per year, exclusive of bills. The cost of private accommodation will vary depending on the location, the size and quality of the flat or house and whether or not bills are included in the cost of rent. This is a very significant amount of money so make sure that you choose a property wisely.

Unlike University residences, where most bills are included, you will find that when you rent private accommodation you may have to pay for additional things. These are likely to include:

- a deposit/bond (make sure your landlord clearly states what the deposit covers in the tenancy agreement. You must check if the deposit is refundable, if it covers any damage to the property and if it covers rent arrears or unpaid utility bills)
- water, electricity, gas, telephone and internet bills
- insurance
- half-rent during vacations

### “DO I NEED INSURANCE FOR MY PERSONAL POSSESSIONS?”

If you are going to be living in private accommodation you should take out an insurance policy to cover at least all your personal belongings in your room. When you move into private accommodation make sure that your personal possessions are insured.

Sometimes the insurance policy may cover accidental damage to the landlord's property which is also useful. You could start by getting a quote from Endsleigh Insurance ([www.endsleigh.co.uk](http://www.endsleigh.co.uk)) and see if it can be beaten.

## What to bring

**This section will give you an idea of what to pack when coming to study in the UK and the items you should leave behind.**

### “WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHES SHOULD I BRING?”

Students dress very informally in the UK in jeans, t-shirts and jumpers. You will also want to bring a warm jumper, jacket and waterproof coat with you for the winter and wet weather. Rain showers are to be expected any time of the year, so waterproof clothing and shoes are essential.

In addition to casual clothes, you may want to bring formal clothes for special events such as a formal dinner or a ball, or perhaps if you may attend an interview for a potential job. You may also want to bring your national costume for international student events.

### “HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I BRING?”

Bring enough money to cover your costs for the first two weeks as you would if you were going on holiday. You will probably have to buy bedding, clothes and some basic essentials at the beginning of your stay, so we recommend you bring about £400.

Do not bring large amounts of cash, as cash can easily be lost and the University cannot guard it for you. We recommend you bring travellers' cheques as they are insured against loss and theft. Any bank or post office will cash travellers' cheques.

We advise you do not bring more than two suitcases and that you make sure that you can lift and carry these suitcases. At some point you will have to carry your luggage when you arrive in the UK. For example, you will have to carry your suitcase to your residence (which often includes carrying cases upstairs). Please do not bring rice cookers, food or cooking utensils with you.

### “CAN I BRING MY COMPUTER TO ABERYSTWYTH?”

Yes, you can bring your laptop with you to Aberystwyth University but you should check it can work with UK sockets (see below). It is also important to make sure that your laptop is insured for travel and your stay in Aberystwyth.

Our Information Services loan service allows staff and students to borrow items free of charge for a short period of time. Items include: laptops, netbooks, E-book readers, Flipcams and other digital photography and video equipment, as well as conference phones and the Qwizdom voting system often used in teaching. For further details see: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/loans](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/loans)



## “CAN I BRING ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS TO THE UK?”

Please only bring small items such as hairdryers, shavers and laptops. Before you bring an electrical item, you should make sure that it is safe to use and compatible with the UK voltage system: 220V. You might need an international voltage converter. You will also probably need a plug adapter that is British Standard compliant (BS1363). Usually, these converters and adapters are available in travel and luggage shops, electronic stores, and airports.

### APPLIANCE TESTING

All electrical items brought by students into University Accommodation must have an Electrical Safety Test and be labelled accordingly.

We have organised for a local contractor to visit each residences on selected dates, which can be found in the Residence Handbook: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departamental/accommodation/pdfs/Residents'-Handbook-2015-16.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departamental/accommodation/pdfs/Residents'-Handbook-2015-16.pdf)

If your electrical items are over 1 year old they will need to be tested. There will be a small fee for each item tested.

**Any items which are not tested and are found in your residence will be removed and disposed of.**

## “SHOULD I BRING MY OWN COOKING UTENSILS?”

No, do not bring cooking utensils with you. Your case will be too heavy for you to carry! You can buy saucepans, plates and other cooking utensils very cheaply from shops in Aberystwyth. Information on moving into your accommodation can be found here: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation//moving-in/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation//moving-in/)

## “CAN I BRING FOOD FROM HOME?”

Do not bring any food into the UK. There are many food items which are illegal to bring into the UK including all dairy, meat and potatoes. You will find that Aberystwyth has international food stores and large supermarkets where you will be able to find many ingredients available in your home country. For more information on banned foods see the website: [www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk/food](http://www.gov.uk/bringing-food-animals-plants-into-uk/food)

## SENDING AND STORING YOUR LUGGAGE

Unfortunately Aberystwyth University is unable to receive any of your luggage before your arrival at Aberystwyth. However, there are several companies that offer services to students who wish to transport excess luggage. As an exchange student it is unlikely you will need to send luggage.

## “SHOULD I BRING MY OWN BEDDING?”

No, do not bring bedding. You can order a bedding pack from [www.click2campus.com](http://www.click2campus.com) before you arrive. You can order many items including the following: duvet and duvet cover, single fitted sheet, pillow, pillow case, hand and bath towel. Alternatively, you can buy bedding cheaply from shops in Aberystwyth.

## “CAN I BRING MY MOBILE PHONE?”

More information about mobile phones is available on page 28. If you're not bringing a mobile phone you may find it useful to have a credit card or, if possible, a small amount of loose change, so you can call home when you first arrive.

## “HOW CAN I CONTACT OTHER STUDENTS BEFORE I ARRIVE?”

Students at Aberystwyth have set up a Facebook page where all international and Erasmus students coming to study at Aberystwyth University can make friends, discuss travel plans and talk about Aberystwyth: [www.facebook.com/groups/aberinternationalerasmus](http://www.facebook.com/groups/aberinternationalerasmus)

The Study Abroad Office has recently set up an Erasmus Society that you can join when you arrive; you can view the Facebook page for this at: [www.facebook.com/AberErasmusSociety](http://www.facebook.com/AberErasmusSociety)

### Documents to put in your hand luggage:

- Passport/ EU identity card
- Visitor letter and/or CAS e-mail from Aberystwyth University (if applicable)
- Financial information – letter from your sponsor (if applicable), or photocopies of the financial documents you submitted with your student visa application
- Original transcripts or qualifications
- University Residences Agreement (if you have received it)
- Copy of tuberculosis exemption certificate (if applicable)
- Report of chest x-ray taken in the last three months (if applicable)
- Vaccination certificates or doctor's letter detailing your vaccinations (if applicable)
- Guide for Incoming International Students

## Travelling to Aberystwyth

Aberystwyth University is within the town of Aberystwyth. There are good rail links to Aberystwyth from all the major UK airports. Aberystwyth University will be providing a Meet and Greet service at Birmingham International Airport. When you arrive in Aberystwyth the first thing you should do is to go straight to your accommodation.

### “ WHICH AIRPORT SHOULD I ARRIVE AT IN THE UK? ”

The majority of students coming to Aberystwyth arrive in Birmingham International Airport, which has the advantage of having a direct train service to Aberystwyth. Many others arrive at other major UK airports such as Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, Manchester and Cardiff. Some students will arrive by ferry or Eurostar. For further information on arrival including information on how to travel from major UK ports and airports to Aberystwyth click here:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/further-travel](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/further-travel)

You should check luggage limits with both the airline and the airport and weigh your luggage before travelling as the cost of bringing excess luggage may be high.

### “ WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE IN THE UK? ”

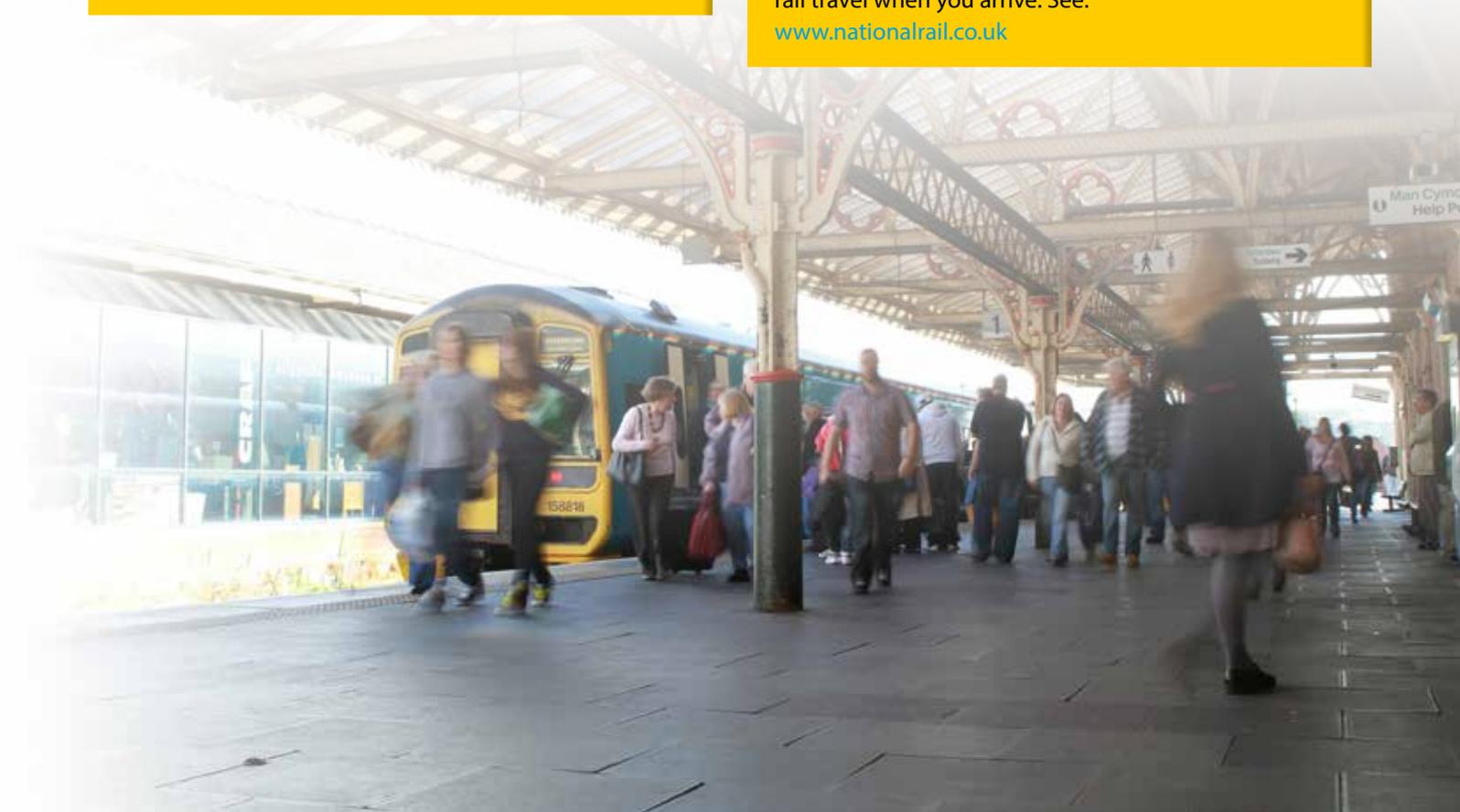
September starters should arrive on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September. If you are starting at a different time of year you should have already received information for when you should arrive. If not then please contact: [studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk) (Erasmus and International Exchange students) or [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk) (International students)

### “ SHOULD I BRING MONEY FOR TRAVELLING? ”

Please remember to bring some cash (Sterling) with you for your immediate expenses such as travel fares, accommodation and meals etc. Do not carry more cash than you need for your travelling expenses. Most cash machines will accept cards from banks with the Visa/Maestro logos. We advise that you bring the rest of your money in sterling travellers' cheques in small denominations or find out how much it will cost you to withdraw money from your home bank account in the UK.

Do not put cash in your main luggage that you will check-in at the airport; instead carry it on your person. Never leave luggage or any belongings unattended anywhere, even for short periods.

You may be able to buy a discount card for coach and/or rail travel when you arrive. See: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)



## TRAVELLING TO ABERYSTWYTH FROM AIRPORTS

**Birmingham International Airport**  
[www.birminghamairport.co.uk](http://www.birminghamairport.co.uk)

We operate a Meet and Greet service at Birmingham International Airport, you can read more on page 23. If you do not wish to take advantage of the coach collection service or if you arrive outside collection times you may have to travel independently.

There is a train station at Birmingham International Airport that has trains that go straight to Aberystwyth. Just follow the signs to the station once you are in the airport. The train journey takes about 3 hours and there are refreshments on board.

**Cardiff International Airport**  
[www.tbicardiffairport.com](http://www.tbicardiffairport.com)

Passengers who have a valid train ticket can catch the free shuttle bus from the Airport terminal to the Airport's own train station. From here, catch the train to Cardiff Central Station and then you have the choice of travelling by bus or train to Aberystwyth.

**By bus:** The Blue Bus Service Company runs a bus service (bus number 701) from Cardiff Station to Aberystwyth twice a day which takes approximately 4 hours, to check times please go to [www.bryanscoaches.co.uk/](http://www.bryanscoaches.co.uk/).

**By train:** Catch a train to Shrewsbury where you can catch another train to Aberystwyth, taking approximately four hours.

**Gatwick Airport**  
[www.gatwickairport.com](http://www.gatwickairport.com)

The train journey from Gatwick takes approximately six hours. Catch the direct train to London Victoria Station and then use the Underground's Victoria Line to reach London Euston Station for connecting services to Aberystwyth via Birmingham New Street.

Alternatively you could take the National Express coach to Birmingham and then at Birmingham switch to another coach to take you to Aberystwyth. The coach departs from Gatwick airport at 11:35am and the journey to Aberystwyth will take approximately 8 hours and 30 minutes in total.

**Heathrow Airport**  
[www.heathrowairport.com](http://www.heathrowairport.com)

The London Underground will take you from Heathrow Airport to Euston for regular onward trains to Aberystwyth.

Alternatively, you could take the National Express coach to Birmingham and then at Birmingham, switch to another coach to take you to Aberystwyth. The coach departs from Heathrow airport at 1:00pm and the journey to Aberystwyth will take approximately 7 hours and 5 minutes in total.

**Manchester airport**  
[www.manchesterairport.co.uk](http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk)

There is a train station called The Station at Manchester airport. It is possible to travel by train from Manchester to Aberystwyth via Crewe and Shrewsbury, but there are often long waiting times between connections.

**Luton Airport**  
[www.london-luton.co.uk](http://www.london-luton.co.uk)

From the airport, take the Express Coach to Milton Keynes Central Railway Station (1 hour). From there catch a train to Birmingham New Street Station and then another on to Aberystwyth. The journey should take approximately 5 hours and 15 minutes.

**Stansted Airport**  
[www.standstedairport.com](http://www.standstedairport.com)

Take the train from Stansted Airport to Tottenham Hale Station and then the Underground to Euston station. Once there, catch the train to Birmingham New Street Station. From there, switch to a train to Aberystwyth. The journey should take around 7 hours.

## TRAVELLING TO ABERYSTWYTH BY FERRY

**Fishguard**

Fishguard is the arrival port for ferries from Rosslare. If you then need to use public transport to get to Aberystwyth, take the 412 bus to Cardigan and then change onto the X50 to take you to Aberystwyth.

**Holyhead**

Holyhead is the arrival port for ferries from Dublin and Dun Laoghaire. Catch either a train or bus from Holyhead to Bangor and then the X32 to Aberystwyth if you need to use public transport.

## TRAVELLING TO ABERYSTWYTH BY TRAIN

**Eurostar**

Eurostar trains from Paris and Brussels arrive at London St. Pancras. It is about a fifteen minute walk to London Euston for onward trains to Aberystwyth via Birmingham New Street.

## Customs control

After passing through Passport Control, you need to go to the Baggage Reclaim area.

After you have collected your luggage you need to go through the Customs Hall. There are three channels.

- 1. Green Channel.** Exit the green channel if you are travelling from outside the European Union and have nothing to declare.
- 2. Red Channel.** Exit the red channel if you have goods to declare.
- 3. Blue Channel.** Exit the blue channel if you are travelling from the European Economic Area, where luggage has already been cleared through customs.

You may be asked to open your luggage for inspection in Customs control. If requested, you must open, unpack and repack your luggage. You should check before you leave home what can or cannot be brought into Britain and what you might need to declare. Such information is also obtainable from British Embassies and on the web:

[www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods](http://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods)

## IMMIGRATION

### “WHAT PAPERWORK DO I NEED TO BRING TO PRESENT AT IMMIGRATION?”

Even if you already have a student visa, the Immigration Officer may still ask you to prove that you are a genuine student coming to Aberystwyth University. Make sure you are carrying all your important documentation in your hand luggage to show to the Immigration Officer. See page 6 for a list of documents.

### “DO I NEED TO DECLARE MONEY I CARRY WITH ME INTO THE UK?”

If you are arriving in the UK from a country outside the European Union (EU), you must declare any cash that equals the value of 10,000 Euros (equivalent to £8,990) or more to customs officers. Cash not only means currency notes and coins but also banker's drafts and cheques of any kind, including travellers' cheques. You will find the relevant forms to fill out at ports and airports. For more information, please go to the HM Revenue and Customs website:

[www.gov.uk/bringing-cash-into-uk](http://www.gov.uk/bringing-cash-into-uk)

### Problems at immigration

If you are carrying the documents listed on page 6 you should not have any difficulty. However if you do, ask the Immigration Officer to contact the International Student Advisor at Aberystwyth University.

**Tel:** +44 (0)1970 621548

## Meet and Greet 2015

Please note that the coach collection service at Birmingham International Airport is primarily aimed at full-time international students and international exchange students.

### “WILL THERE BE ANYONE TO MEET ME WHEN I ARRIVE?”

#### COACH COLLECTION FROM BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Aberystwyth University will be at Birmingham International Airport on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th September to provide a coach collection service to Aberystwyth. We will arrive at 10:00 am and 4:00 pm and we will meet students at Terminal 1 (opposite Costa café in the arrivals lounge) where you should be able to see the 'A' team volunteers from the Student's Union wearing red t-shirts and holding signs. We will be departing promptly at 11:30 am and 5:30 pm. To book a place please go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/travel/meet-greet/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/travel/meet-greet/) N.B. There will be a charge of £25.00 for this service to be paid in advance at the time of booking.

Deadline for booking is **Friday 11th September**.

If you miss the coach collection service you will need to make your own way to Aberystwyth.  
See page 20 for more information.

### “WILL THERE BE ANYONE TO MEET ME WHEN I ARRIVE AT ABERYSTWYTH TRAIN STATION?”

If you do not use our coach collection service and you arrive at the train station in Aberystwyth during the last few days before the term starts, you will find someone from Aberystwyth University or the Students' Union waiting to greet you and help you travel to your Hall of Residence or other accommodation.

If there is no-one at the train station to meet you or if you arrive late, a taxi from the taxi rank to the left outside of the station entrance can take you to your accommodation. The cost of a taxi to the furthest Hall of Residence should only be about £3.50. When you arrive at your Hall of Residence go to the Reception Desk or the Cwrt Mawr Communal Block or the Porters' Lodge, then give your name and explain that you have just arrived. Halls usually require a returnable deposit before they will give you the key to your room.

### “CAN I BRING MY FAMILY OR FRIENDS WITH ME ON THE COACH?”

Places are limited but if we have spare places then it is fine for you to book the service for your family and friends.



# Your time in Aberystwyth

## The First Week

**The first week in a new place can be daunting as it seems like there is so much to organise. We can provide you with help and guidance.**

### INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CEREMONY

The International Welcome Ceremony will be held in The Theatre, Arts Centre, Penglais Campus from 10:30am on Sunday 20th September. You will be provided with documents and information that you will find useful for your time in Aberystwyth. Further induction events will be held in Fresher's Week which commences on the 21st September.

### IMPORTANT TASKS

#### Collection of BRP

For those studying at Aberystwyth University under a Tier 4 Visa you will need to collect your BRP within 10 days of arrival to the UK from the designated Post Office as per your visa application form. For most students this will be the main post office in Aberystwyth. The International Office will make arrangements to help students with this.

#### Police registration

Some International Students are required to register with the police; this must be done within 7 days of their arrival in the UK. Aberystwyth University will arrange for you to do this on campus during the first week of term. Please see page 12 for more details.

#### Bank letter service

You will need a letter of recommendation from the University in order to open a bank account in the UK. More information is available on page 25.

#### Registration and student ID card

You must complete your registration and collect your student ID card from your residence. This can be done in your first week here.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DOCUMENT CHECK

### New Students

As a new student at Aberystwyth University you will be required to attend pre-enrolment sessions (referred to as International Student Document Check) taking place at the beginning of your Academic Year, prior to your registration. These sessions are compulsory and every international student especially those holding a Tier 4 Visa must attend them in order for their Passport, Visa and other supporting documents to be checked, scanned and uploaded onto our system.

The International Student Document Check will take place between 21st September and 2nd October 2015. You will be sent by e-mail further information on the venue and times of this document check at a later stage closer to your registration. This information will also be available at our website ([www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/compliance-information/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/compliance-information/)).

During this pre-enrolment check, you are required to bring with you the following documents:

- Current Passport and Visas
- Original transcripts or degree certificates as mentioned on your CAS (if applicable)
- Proof of English Language proficiency as mentioned on your CAS (if applicable)
- ATAS (if applicable)

Please note that you will not be able to register unless you have presented us with the above documents.

### Students Starting Outside September

Any International Students commencing their studies outside of the main September intake are required to contact the Compliance Office ([compliance@aber.ac.uk](mailto:compliance@aber.ac.uk)) prior to their registration so as to make the necessary arrangements for their Document Check especially if they are holders of a Tier 4 Visa.

### Returning Students

If you are a returning student who has failed to provide us with the most up to date passport and/or visa, you will not be able to take part in the on-line registration and you will also need to attend the International Student Document

check as stated above. Once you present us with your up to date immigration documents, you will then be allowed to register for the continuation of your course. Failure to show any such documents will prevent you from continuing with your course and you will only be allowed to return to your studies once you can present us with the appropriate immigration documents that give you a legal right to stay and study in the UK.

### FRESHER'S WEEK

There will be many things for you to do in your first week in Aberystwyth. More information will be provided closer to the time of your arrival. Activities include: Welcome and information sessions, student information fairs, societies fairs, sports fairs and parties.

### REGISTRATION/ ENROLMENT

To be a registered full-time or part-time student of the University you need to complete Registration at the start of the session. For students arriving in the first semester this will take place in the week beginning 21st September 2015. The date, time and place of your session will be provided before your arrival. The times may change after you receive this information; it may be worth double checking with your department when you arrive. In order to avoid congestion it is essential you attend at the time stated. Students registering in the second semester will have the date and time of their registration confirmed before their arrival.

When you arrive at the registration, staff from your academic department(s) will be there at the Departmental Registration Desks to help you to choose your modules. Once this has been done you will be asked to complete registration online via your Student Record from a computer within the University's intranet. In order to be able to register you MUST have activated your University e-mail account. For further information on registration please see:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/applicants/post-results/freshers/registration/information](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/applicants/post-results/freshers/registration/information)

**Please note:** If you do not complete registration you will not be able to access any University facilities.

### COURSE/MODULE INFORMATION

Course and module information varies between academic departments. If you are on an exchange here you will already have registered with an academic department and chosen your preferred modules before your arrival. However, there may be an opportunity for you to choose further modules or change your current choices on arrival. These modules must be of an appropriate standard for your Home University course and you must be suitably qualified to take the module. Certain combinations of courses may not be available because of timetable difficulties and there may be restrictions due to student numbers. Where possible, you are advised to give provisional thought to the courses you may wish to follow and academic advice will be available on your final choice once you have arrive in Aberystwyth.

### JANUARY STARTERS

If you are starting in January you will be sent information about the January induction. If you have any queries, you can e-mail [studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk) (Erasmus and International Exchange students) or [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk) (International students)

## Money and Finances

You may be worried about how you will manage your money while you are in the UK. Aberystwyth University offers support to students who are struggling. For more information on money management please visit: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-finance/money-management](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-finance/money-management)

### LIVING EXPENSES

The following tables show examples of the kinds of costs incurred by an undergraduate staying at Aberystwyth. Remember, these will vary according to the lifestyle of the individual student. Costs are calculated over the academic year, which is usually around 39 weeks.

Please bear in mind that these are average costs. The residential costs at Aberystwyth are much lower than in some parts of the country. Travel costs within the town are low and general living costs are much cheaper.

#### University Residences:

Expenditure	Cost per annum
Room (standard single room in a Residence [energy inclusive] for approx. 36 weeks)	£2,988-£4,449
Food (depending on taste)	~£1800
Social	£1170
Telephone Calls	£200
Extras	£390
Books, equipment, stationary	£100
Clothing	£200

#### Private Sector:

There is a wide range of self-catering private sector accommodation available, where in most cases energy costs will be additional to the rent. The Accommodation Office advises a maximum target of £80 per week exclusive of energy for the average single study bedroom with shared communal facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms. Please allow for 40 weeks at the average rental and to cover the summer vacation, 12 weeks at 50% of the average weekly rental.

Expenditure	Cost per annum
Room (standard single room in a Residence [energy inclusive] for approx. 36 weeks)	£3,600
Food (depending on taste), toiletries, laundry and household	~£1800
Social	£1170
Telephone Calls	£200
Insurance (Contents)	£30
Extras	£390
Books, equipment, stationary	£100
Clothing	£200
Energy Costs	£800

### OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

It is not possible to open a UK bank account until you arrive in Aberystwyth. However, it is likely to be one of the first things that you do because this is the safest way to keep your money. This will take you at least a week so you must make sure you have enough money for your first few weeks in Aberystwyth.

### “HOW DO I OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?”

When opening a bank account in the UK, you may be asked to provide proof that you are a student at Aberystwyth University. This will take the form of a letter. Included in this letter will be your home and term address taken from your student record along with your full name, which should be consistent with your passport. You will need to ensure that your details are correct on your Student Record On the web ([studentrecord.aber.ac.uk/en/](http://studentrecord.aber.ac.uk/en/)) before you request this letter.

Bank letters **MUST** be requested through your Student Record on the web and will be available to print from your Student Record.

Please present this letter, and a document confirming your identity (e.g. passport) to the bank of your choice in order to open an account. Some banks may also require a further confirmation of address in the form of an official document such as your tenancy agreement. The information you need to open a bank account will differ between banks. You may also be asked to provide evidence of a previous bank account and a statement (1 month old) from your existing bank in your home country. You should also take your Aberystwyth University student ID card.

## Staying Healthy

### REGISTERING WITH A GP

In the UK, non-emergencies are dealt with in a surgery by a doctor known as a General Practitioner (GP). You need to register with a doctor before you are treated, so you must do this within the first week of your arrival in the UK. You do not pay to register with or to consult with a doctor. GP appointments are short - only five or ten minutes, but your GP will refer you to a consultant - an expert - if you need extra or special treatment, like an operation. You should receive more information on how to register with a GP when you arrive in Aberystwyth. If you have not received information please visit the following web page:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/health/doctors-dentists](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/health/doctors-dentists)

### HEALTH SERVICES

In addition to your local GP, the Student Wellness Centre can support you with professional health management. Advice is available about: stress, anxiety and mental health issues, prescriptions, sexual health, diet, smoking cessation and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. We can also put you in touch with other agencies within the community.

We offer an appointment to see the nurse, who can also refer you to a doctor who visits weekly. Consultations with the doctor are by appointment only.

A University Nurse is available between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm, Monday to Friday.

To make an appointment call in, e-mail: [nurse@aber.ac.uk](mailto:nurse@aber.ac.uk) or Tel: 01970 622087

### WHERE CAN I FIND A DENTIST?

Although dental treatment is available on the NHS, it is not always free. You may receive a dental health check-up without being charged but additional dental treatment will be payable depending on individual circumstances. You can choose which NHS dentist you want to be registered with (it does not need to be the dental practice closest to your residence), but you need to be registered with a dentist before you receive treatment from them. To find a list of dentists near the University see:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/health/doctors-dentists](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/health/doctors-dentists)

### “AM I ENTITLED TO FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE UK?”

The UK Government has introduced a surcharge to cover National Health Service treatment costs for non EEA International students. Details of who is entitled to free hospital treatment can be found here

[/www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work-more/Health-and-healthcare/Who-is-entitled-to-free-hospital-treatment-after-6-April-2015/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work-more/Health-and-healthcare/Who-is-entitled-to-free-hospital-treatment-after-6-April-2015/)

If you are entitled to NHS treatment the following services will be free of charge:

- medicine you require on prescription - this is free in Wales (but not throughout the UK)
- consulting a doctor/General Practitioner (GP) and most other GP services (e.g. visiting a doctors' surgery/clinic)
- treatment in a hospital (both emergency and non-emergency treatment)

You are likely to pay for:

- some GP services (e.g. vaccinations for travel and getting a sickness certificate)
- dental treatment
- optical treatment
- any illness or conditions which existed before you arrived in the UK

## Communications

**Remember to let friends and family know you have arrived safely in Aberystwyth! This section gives advice on how to stay in contact with people at home.**

### “ HOW CAN I GET ACCESS TO THE INTERNET WHEN I FIRST ARRIVE? ”

When you arrive in halls of residence you will receive an information pack telling you how to connect to the network. All University Halls of Residence have internet access via a wired Ethernet network socket in every study bedroom as the primary internet connection. Our wireless network (eduroam) is also available as a secondary connection in many locations such as University administrative and teaching buildings, several Halls of Residence, the Student Union building and the Arts Centre.

To connect your computer to the network you will need:

- to have an Aberystwyth University e-mail account
- a computer with a network card
- a computer running Windows XP, Vista or 7, Apple Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger) or above, Linux with 802.1x supplicant
- an RJ45 network cable (for wired connections) - these are available to buy on campus

More information on how to connect is available here:  
[www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/stunet](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/stunet)

### E-MAIL

University staff will use e-mail as the main way of communicating with you. If you already have an internet e-mail address (e.g. Yahoo, Hotmail) you will also be able to use this, but you are expected to access your Aberystwyth University e-mail account regularly to ensure you keep up-to-date with important University communications. If you need to use special programs (for example, Chinese characters), then you may have to use your own computer with software that makes this possible.

### HELP AND SUPPORT

If you have problems connecting your computer to the Halls Network you can try our troubleshooting guides which are found at: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/stunet](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/stunet)

If you are still experiencing problems please contact: Information Services, Aberystwyth University, Hugh Owen Library, Penglais, Aberystwyth, SY23 3DZ; Tel: 01970 622400; Fax: 01970 622404; e-mail: [is@aber.ac.uk](mailto:is@aber.ac.uk)

### “ WHERE CAN I USE OR RENT A COMPUTER? ”

International and Exchange students will be able to log onto computers in one of our many computer lounges. Some of these are accessible 24/7. This will be possible once you have an Aberystwyth account.

If you wish to borrow a laptop then you should know that Aberystwyth University staff and students can borrow equipment for up to 5 consecutive days free of charge. E-book readers are available for up to 14 days. You will need to have a current library account and Aber Card. Bookings can be made in advance, either in person or by phone or email. For more information please visit:  
[www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/loans/#d.en.68415](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/loans/#d.en.68415)



## MOBILE PHONES AND TELEPHONES

Mobile phones are cheap to buy, but expensive to use, especially if you are calling another country.

### “CAN I USE MY MOBILE PHONE IN THE UK?”

You will need to ensure your mobile phone is GSM compatible to roam in the UK and you will find using a UK SIM card to be much cheaper. To use a UK SIM card you will probably need to ‘unlock’ your phone. You can then use a pay-as-you-go system to pay for the calls you make.

#### Contracts for mobiles

If you choose a contract the phone will be cheaper or free but make sure you check the monthly payment and call charges before signing. There is often a compulsory monthly charge. Most contracts commit you to a 24 month contract, but if you are willing to pay more you may be able to get a 12 or 18 month contract.

To buy a contract mobile phone you will need a “proof of enrolment” letter stating that you are a Aberystwyth University student and giving your term-time address. You can obtain this “proof of enrolment” letter from the Study Abroad Office or the Student Welcome Centre.

#### Pay-as-you-go mobiles

Pay-as-you-go is the no-contract, no credit check, no-commitment, no-monthly bills way of getting a mobile phone. The biggest advantage of this is that it is impossible to run up a huge phone bill as you can only make calls once you have already paid for them. However, you always pay a lot more to buy the initial phone and calls are generally more expensive than on contract mobile phones. You can buy this type of mobile phone from a lot of shops without needing a “proof of enrolment letter” from the University.

### “WHERE CAN I BUY A MOBILE PHONE?”

You can buy phones from supermarkets or mobile phone shops. There are many mobile phone operators which have shops in Aberystwyth and it is a good idea to shop around.

#### Payphones

Most public phones accept coins of 10p, 20p, 50p and £1 and phone cards (UK and International) of £5, £10 and £20. You can buy phone cards at Post Offices and newsagents. Some phones accept credit cards but this is more expensive.

## Telephone calls and internet from private accommodation

If you decide to live in private accommodation or University-owned student house you will probably find that your house has got a telephone socket. There are different phone companies to choose from for your telephone rental. You will find that they can also supply other services like cable television and internet.

### SKYPE

A cheap way of talking to friends and family overseas is by connecting your computer to the internet and using Skype. It allows you to call, video call or instant message someone else who has Skype for free. For further information about Skype see: [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)

## RECEIVING AND SENDING POST HOME

### Sending Letters and Parcels

If you need to send a lightweight letter within the UK then you can simply affix a postage stamp and put it in any post box. If you are unsure of how much the postage should be then take your letter to a Post Office for them to weigh it and advise how much it will cost to send. Parcels should always be taken to a Post Office for weighing and dispatching. If you are sending a parcel overseas you will need to complete a customs form, available in the Post Office.

### Delivery of parcels to your University accommodation

Letters and parcels from Royal Mail are delivered to the shared post box of your University residence. If a signature is required then packages may be delivered to your nearest postal depot or to the Residences reception. Sometimes, you may have post sent to your academic department for you to collect.



## Academic support

You may find the pace and level of academic work is different than what you have been used to when you start your course, but support is available within the University to help you improve your study skills.

### ““ WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP IF I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY ACADEMIC STUDIES? ””

Your personal tutor should be your first point of contact. Your personal tutor will be a member of teaching staff within your Department who will be able to help you if you have any academic, personal or health concerns that are affecting your studies. They may also refer you to one of the other University advice staff if they feel you would benefit from speaking to a specialist. You may also approach the Study Abroad Office for advice.

### ““ WHERE CAN I ACCESS STUDY SKILLS SUPPORT? ””

You can also access online advice about improving your study skills and revision techniques at:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/study-skills](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/study-skills)

### ““ WHERE CAN I ACCESS ENGLISH SUPPORT? ””

The University offers a variety of in-session English language and study skills courses specially designed to help international students succeed. If English is not your first language, you may find you need extra support understanding lectures, seminars and completing assignments. Please visit the following webpage for further information: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/international-english/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international-english/)

### What are the semester dates 2015 - 2016 for undergraduate courses?

#### Michaelmas Term (1)

Monday 21/09/15 - Saturday 12/12/15

*Welcome/Induction/Registration*

Monday 21/09/15 - Friday 25/09/15

*Semester 1 Teaching*

Monday 28/09/15 - Saturday 12/12/15

*Christmas Vacation*

Monday 14/12/15 - Saturday 02/01/16

#### Lent Term (2)

Monday 04/01/16 - Saturday 19/03/16

*Semester 1 Examinations*

Wednesday 06/01/2016 – Tuesday 19/01/2016

*Induction/Preparation for Semester 2*

Wednesday 20/01/2016 – Saturday 23/01/2016

*Semester 2 Teaching*

Monday 25/01/16 - Saturday 19/03/16

*Easter Vacation*

Monday 21/03/16 - Saturday 09/04/16

#### Easter Term (3)

Monday 11/04/16 – Saturday 28/05/16

*Semester 2 Teaching*

Monday 11/04/16 - Saturday 30/04/16

*Reading/Revision Week*

Monday 02/05/16 - Saturday 07/05/16

*Semester 2 Examinations*

Monday 09/05/16 – Saturday 28/05/16

### ““ WILL ACADEMIC STUDY AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY BE SIMILAR TO HOW IT IS IN MY COUNTRY? ””

You are likely to find that there are some things that are similar but many things are going to be different. Many people find that studying at university is a new challenge, and they need to find different ways of working and studying effectively. As with all aspects of life in a new country and culture it is important to keep an open mind and to be flexible. If you are unsure about anything, ask your personal tutor, or someone in your Department.

## “WHAT DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLASSES WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND?”

The medium in which a subject is taught varies between academic departments. This section provides a brief explanation of different types of classes.

### 1. Lecture

This is a large class (sometimes over 100 students), that lasts for forty five minutes. The lecturer will give a general overview of a topic in the form of a presentation and you will need to take notes. There is usually little opportunity to ask questions during lectures.

### 2. Seminar

This is a small class of around 15 students or fewer and typically requires a lot of student interaction. The lecturer will normally notify you of a topic for discussion in advance and sometimes a group of students will prepare a short presentation. The aim is for the students to analyse the topic through discussion and learn from other students. Reasoned argument is encouraged; don't be afraid to speak out, to challenge others, (including the lecturer) and contribute your ideas. Seminars are more common in arts and humanities.

### 3. Tutorial

This is a meeting between a tutor and an individual student or small group of students. It can include discussions and student presentations related to a particular topic if it is a small class. If it is a one-to-one meeting between you and your tutor, it will be an opportunity for you to discuss the progress of your work, and to tell the tutor about any problems you are having with a topic or with study methods.

### 4. Practical work

On many courses you will have practical workshops, e.g. in laboratories, intended to give you practical application of the theories studied. This is more common in the sciences.

### 5. Independent study

University study in the UK is aimed at encouraging a high level of independence and self-directed study. This means that you will be given guidance and help, but you will be expected to do a great amount of work on your own. This requires lots of self-motivation. You will be expected to learn key skills such as critical analysis and problem-solving and develop your own ideas.

## “HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?”

Assessment methods vary from one school to another, but they include:

- written examination; normally essays rather than multiple choice questions
- course work, including written essays, reports and dissertations
- group work projects

- presentation to a seminar
- practical assessments

Undergraduate courses generally include a mixture of essays, projects, presentations and practical assessments.

## “WHAT DO THE GRADES 1ST, 2:1, 2:2 AND 3RD MEAN FOR ASSIGNMENTS?”

These are classes of degree. The highest grade is a 1st (or over 70%) and is roughly equivalent to an 'A' grade in other countries' Universities. This is followed by 2:1 (ranging between 60% and 69%), 2:2 (between 50% and 59%) and 3rd (40% - 49%). A 2:1 is considered a good grade and a 1st is usually very difficult to obtain.

## ORGANISING YOUR STUDIES

In the UK students often work independently, studying on their own for long periods of time. To get the greatest benefit from your course you need to organise your time carefully, as simply attending lectures will not be enough for you to pass your degree. At the start of your course you should know how much work you are expected to do and the important dates for completing it.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using another person's writing, research, work or ideas as your own. Plagiarism is taken very seriously and may result in the loss of marks or even failing your course. To be safe, whenever you use a quotation from a book, or a website, or reproduce an author's ideas (even in your own words) you must note the original source. This process is known as "referencing". Check with your tutor about how you should reference your work. You must make sure you comply with Aberystwyth University, which has a different style of referencing to International Universities.

As an international student you must be particularly careful not to plagiarise. If you do not have perfect English it is easy and tempting to copy things from books and journals. This is acceptable, but you must reference the work and, before giving the work to a tutor or for assessment, take time to check that you have referenced all your sources. For more information see: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/infoskills/plagiarism](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/infoskills/plagiarism)

## Help and Advice

Sometimes people run into difficulties and need a little extra support. Here at Aberystwyth, we have trained people at hand to offer help for a variety of situations.

### EXCHANGE STUDENT SUPPORT

If you need help before you arrive, the Study Abroad Office can provide assistance and will try to answer any questions, e-mail: [studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk)

### THE STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support>

The Student Support Centre is a dedicated facility on campus to help students with any problems or questions.

Within the Student Support Centre you will find many services; those that are not mentioned elsewhere in the guide are shown below:

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support)

The International Student Advisor provides advice and support to International students on a wide range of issues, as well as providing specialised advice and help with applying for Tier 4 student visas.

Contact the International Student Advisor at Aberystwyth University, who is based in the International Office, 2nd Floor, Cledwyn Building, Penglais Campus.

**Tel:** 01970 621548

To book an appointment, please e-mail:

[immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk)

If you are not in the UK yet, you can also e-mail from overseas to: [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk) and you can also contact your local British Council Office - [www.britishcouncil.org/](http://www.britishcouncil.org/) click on 'Choose your Country' which provides contact details for the British Council Office from where you are based.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs organisation (UKCISA) has a lot of useful advice and information, including fact sheets, for International students on their website:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/)

You can also contact UKCISA International Student Advice Line on: **Outside UK** +44 20 3131 3576 **Inside UK** 020 3131 3576 Monday - Friday 1.00pm - 4.00 pm (UK time)

### COUNSELLING SERVICE

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/health/counselling](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/health/counselling)

The Aberystwyth University Counselling service is part of the Student Wellness Centre situated within Student Support Services.

#### **Making an appointment:**

To make an appointment for Counselling you can e-mail them at: [counselling@aber.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@aber.ac.uk), or Tel: 01970 622087, or drop in at the Student Support reception between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

An appointment will be made for you as soon as possible, but please bear in mind that there is usually a waiting list for counselling appointments especially around the end of term. Our counsellors are all members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP).

#### **Disability and Dyslexia Service**

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/accessibility-advice-and-support/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/accessibility-advice-and-support/)

We aim to provide all students with an experience of the highest quality, and to make our academic facilities available to all who meet our entrance requirements.

For students with disabilities we can arrange note-taking services, adapted accommodation, and access to Green Card areas which are equipped with computers, special hardware, additional software and laptop access. We can offer you advice on enabling technology and special examination arrangements so that you can reach your full potential and get the good results you deserve.

If you would like further information about our provision for students with disabilities or have specific questions, please contact us by e-mail on [disability@aber.ac.uk](mailto:disability@aber.ac.uk) or phone us on 01970 621761.



## EXTRA SUPPORT FOR YOU

### “WHERE CAN I GO IF I JUST WANT TO CHAT?”

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/accessibility-advice-and-support/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/accessibility-advice-and-support/)

If you have a problem it is only natural to want to talk about it. However, we understand that it can be difficult to tell someone how you feel. Nightline is a confidential and anonymous service; students do not have to tell us anything about themselves, not even their name. Nightline is run by trained students on behalf of all students at Aberystwyth. Nightline is the overnight student support line for Aberystwyth University. We're here for you. We are open from 8pm to 8am, Tuesday to Saturday, during term time. You may phone us on 01970 621717.

## ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION

[www.abersu.co.uk/representation](http://www.abersu.co.uk/representation)

The Students' Union can try and help you with any issues you have. The Union is run by students for students, so they may understand your needs better than other forms of support in the University.

You can contact your Course Representative if you require academic representation. This can cover things to do with your course, studying and academic resources. These are students who are elected or selected through your departments to represent you on things relating to your degree.

There are also Halls Representatives (if you live in halls) and Community Representatives (if you live in town). They are here to represent students where they live - in town or in University halls. They're there to make your voice heard in matters related to your day-to-day life.

## Living in Aberystwyth

**Aberystwyth is an excellent town in which to live and study. As the principal holiday resort and administrative centre of the west coast of Wales, it has a large choice of social and leisure activities available. The town is nestled between three hills and two beaches, and hosts some castle ruins, a steam railway, a pier and a harbour. The surrounding hills hold the visible remains of an Iron Age fort and also a monument to Wellington, and once climbed offer stunning views of Cardigan Bay. From Aberystwyth it is easy to explore the beautiful countryside of Wales and to go and visit England.**

To find out more about the town and information about festivals and events in Aberystwyth, visit the Tourist Information website: [www.discoverceredigion.co.uk/english/pages/default.aspx](http://www.discoverceredigion.co.uk/english/pages/default.aspx)

### “HOW WILL I FEEL WHEN I FIRST ARRIVE?”

When moving to a new town or city it can be difficult to adjust to the new way of life and adapt to a new culture. You are likely to experience a whole range of emotions. Some of these feelings will be surprising, confusing, frustrating and can make you feel anxious. This is known as “culture shock” and almost everyone who studies, lives and works abroad will experience this to some degree. Differences in climate, food, dress, behaviour and language can all contribute to feelings of loneliness, disorientation, irritability, increased vulnerability and reduced confidence. Culture shock can affect anyone and is a very normal reaction for international students as they adjust to a new environment.

The best way to deal with culture shock is to try and understand the different situation you are in and how it makes you feel. In this way, you can work out how best to respond to the difference and so reduce your anxiety. Focusing on things you like in the new culture rather than the things you do not like will help keep your spirits high and enable you to be more tolerant of your environment.

These feelings will pass and you will settle into student life. However, if you do feel that you are unable to cope, ask for help from the Study Abroad Office. We will pass you on to people who can help understand the problems you are facing.

### “HOW DO I GET AROUND ABERYSTWYTH?”

Aberystwyth is a small town so you will find that you will be able to walk or cycle to most places. University Campus and Halls of Residence are within a short walk of one another. There are regular buses between Aberystwyth and all three University campuses. Details of timetables and fares can be obtained from: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/bus/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/bus/)

Taxis can be a good way to get around if you have lots to carry. They are quite expensive but less so if you share a taxi with your friends and split the cost. Please note this advice about taxis:

- Always take a taxi that is registered with Ceredigion County Council. The taxi driver should also have their licence with their photograph displayed in the taxi.
- Always find out the price of the journey before you get in the taxi. Always pay for the journey when you have reached your destination, never at the start of the journey.
- Always sit in the back of the taxi behind the driver.

### “WILL I BE ABLE TO DRIVE IN THE UK?”

If you hold a valid driving licence or international driving permit from your home country you may be able to drive a car for up to 12 months in the UK. After 12 months you must obtain a UK driving licence and pass a driving test to be able to continue to drive legally. Before you drive in the UK the car or motorbike must be registered, taxed, insured and MOT'd. An 'M.O.T.' is a test which must be carried out by a certified garage; they test that your car is safe to drive. If your car fails its MOT test then you need to pay for work to be done on your car so that it will pass the test. You must have insurance and tax on the vehicle, as driving in the UK without these is illegal. For more detailed information about driving in the UK see: [www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work-more/Other-useful-information/Driving/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work-more/Other-useful-information/Driving/)

### “CAN I TRAVEL TO EUROPE DURING THE UNIVERSITY VACATIONS?”

If you want to travel to certain countries in the European Economic Area you may need to apply for a Schengen visa. These visas are valid for three months and the International Student Advisor can help you apply (see page 4). Please make sure that you start planning for this visa at least two months before your holidays, as the application process can take a long time. For more information about Schengen visas e-mail: [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk)

# Other information

## Shopping

Aberystwyth is a market town and the administrative centre of the west coast of Wales. The town centre offers a huge variety of shopping with a range of indoor, outdoor, old, modern, high street and designer shops. Shops are usually open 09.00-17.30 Monday to Saturday, although some supermarkets are open from 08.00-22.00 and one or two places are open 24 hours. Most supermarkets are open also on Sundays from 10.00-16.00. Many large stores as well as small newsagents and grocery shops are also open for a shorter time on Sundays.

### FOOD SHOPPING

Aberystwyth has a large open air market in the town centre on the first and third Saturday of each month; it is an excellent source of fresh fish, meat, fruit and vegetables. There are a number of independent butchers, bakers and grocers who sell fresh produce.

### SUPERMARKETS

You will find that supermarkets are some of the best places to stock up on provisions, as they provide the widest range of products. Lidl supermarket, Iceland frozen foods and the Co-Operative supermarket are located near the train station. Morrisons is the largest supermarket and it is located in Parc Y Dolau Retail Park. There is a relatively small supermarket called CK's which is on the top of Penglais hill.

Many students order their groceries online and have them delivered to their University residence. You must be at home when your groceries are delivered because you need to sign for the delivery. You will need to give the supermarket company your mobile telephone number, so that they can ring you when they arrive at your residence.

### INTERNATIONAL FOOD STORES

There are several specialist international food stores in the town where you will be able to find most of the foods you are used to eating at home. We have shops that sell Asian food and Chinese medicine. More specialist foods are easily ordered from depots in Birmingham. Supermarkets in the UK provide a wide range of international food items that should cater for your needs.

## Religion and Faith

In the UK there is freedom to follow any religion and any faith. The largest faith community is Christian and there are good relationships between the major religions. The vibrant international community at the University offers great opportunities for meeting people of your own and other religions.

### “ WHERE CAN I FIND PLACES OF WORSHIP IN ABERYSTWYTH? ”

You will find that there is a wide range of religious organisations and places of worship in and around Aberystwyth. The Christian Union shows a map of places of Christian worship here: [aberchristianunion.org.uk/](http://aberchristianunion.org.uk/)

The student Union has societies for a many different religions such as Atheism, Catholicism, Christianity, Islam and Methodism. You can view these here:

[www.abersu.co.uk/societies/societieslist/](http://www.abersu.co.uk/societies/societieslist/)

## Social Life

**Life in Aberystwyth is not all about work. You need time to make friends and to develop social networks. Aberystwyth is well known for having a wide range of popular clubs and societies.**

### ERASMUS SOCIETY

The Erasmus Society is for exchange students, returning or potential outgoing Aberystwyth students, or just lovers of Europe. The society is also open to all international exchange students. If you join the Erasmus society you will be introduced to people from all over Europe and the world. You will be able to meet people from your home country so you do not feel lonely and you will be able to practise your Welsh and English language skills with Aberystwyth students. This society will be one of the largest in the University and it will allow students to socialise on the frequent socials and weekend trips. If you cannot wait until September to join, please visit: [www.facebook.com/AberErasmusSociety](http://www.facebook.com/AberErasmusSociety)

### THE STUDENTS' UNION

When exchange students enrol at Aberystwyth University you also become a member of Aberystwyth Students' Union. The Union is run by students, for students and is dedicated to the social and welfare needs of all students on campus. The Union provides a huge range of services, from the 100+ clubs and societies to the dedicated Student Advice & Representation Centre, from student media and volunteering to nightclubs, bars and shops. You can join a society or even make your own! Get involved in Volunteering with lots of great projects on offer; this will certainly improve your employability factor! You can also get confidential impartial advice and support, from welfare to representation. The Union provides a fun and exciting alternative for students outside of their academic studies. It is a great place to hang out during the day; your own 'living room on campus'. It is a place to meet friends and experience new opportunities. The Lounge in the Students' Union is a fantastic place to meet friends and relax and is very popular with International Students. It is a great place for entertainment in the evening, with low prices and its own night-club, making it a popular choice for many students.

### STUDENT SOCIETIES

Within the Union, there are over 70 cultural, social and political societies run by students for students. They provide the opportunity to try something new, almost every week. They offer a huge range of activities, from going on trips and holidays, making music, volunteering your time and energy for a worthy charity, to celebrating a national day or religious event and more. Becoming involved in a society is an excellent way to make friends, discover new interests and add to your CV.

During the first week of term there will be a Societies Fair in the Students' Union, which is an ideal opportunity to find out more about the societies and join those which interest you. But if you miss this don't worry, you can join a society at any time throughout the year, see:

[www.abersu.co.uk/societies/societieslist](http://www.abersu.co.uk/societies/societieslist)

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETIES

There are many International Societies which reflect the multicultural environment of Aberystwyth University such as the Erasmus Society. These societies are ideal for combatting culture shock, as wherever in the world you have travelled from, you are sure to find other students who share a common bond. Similarly, there are lots of religious societies that provide new students with the chance to worship and express their religious beliefs. If there is a particular culture or country you feel should be represented, you can always start one yourself by getting in touch with the Activities Officer: [www.abersu.co.uk/societies/start-up](http://www.abersu.co.uk/societies/start-up)

### DEPARTMENTAL SOCIETIES

Most courses at University have a corresponding society. Whether you study Business or Geography, History or Biology, you will find a society in which you can meet fellow course-mates. Joining a course society gives you the opportunity to make new friends who are interested in the same area of study as you, and also the opportunity to share ideas and provide helpful advice. Whatever course you study, you can join any course society, so if you have an interest outside your degree, joining one can allow you to explore new subjects.

## Sports and sports clubs

**Exchange students are free to join a sporting club or society. Sport brings together students with shared interests. It's a great way to meet new people, participate in activities and gain new skills outside of your academic environment. There is no limit to how many clubs you can join and you can also start one of your own!**

There are currently just over 50 different sports clubs here at Aberystwyth, from sports you will be familiar with like football and rugby, to dance clubs, martial arts and water sports. Many of our teams compete on a national level with BUCS, which is the British Universities and College Sports Association. You may view a list of sport clubs here:

[//www.abersu.co.uk/sports/clublist](http://www.abersu.co.uk/sports/clublist)

From the 17th–20th of September, Sports Week offers early entrance to your accommodation, two meals a day so you don't starve, and a massive range of sports to try out. Sports Week is run by the Activities Office/Team Aber of the Students' Union and it is open to all incoming students. The annual three-day event will give you the chance to try out the massive range of sports we offer. We give you a cosmopolitan day-by-day programme of morning and afternoon events; you simply slot into the sport you fancy having a go at. Sessions are continually running so you do whatever you like, whenever you like - you're given guided independence! You can read more about Sports Week here: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/applicants/post-results/before-you-arrive/sports-week](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/applicants/post-results/before-you-arrive/sports-week)



## Working in the UK

### “CAN I WORK WHILE I AM STUDYING IN ABERYSTWYTH?”

Students from European Union member states are able to work with the same restrictions that apply to UK students.

Check your passport sticker (entry clearance or residence permit) or your biometric card, as this will confirm if you are allowed to undertake any part-time work whilst in the UK. If you have a 'student visitor' visa you will not be allowed to take paid or unpaid employment.

As an adult student under Tier 4 (General), you are allowed to:

- do part-time work during term time (see below)
- do full-time work during vacations
- do a work placement as part of your course
- work as a postgraduate doctor or dentist on a recognised Foundation Programme; and
- work as a student union sabbatical officer for up to 2 years

You can work full-time during vacations, within the above limits. If you have completed your course and you apply to remain in the UK under the points-based system before your existing permission to stay expires, you can work full-time (within the above limits) until your application is decided.

Please discuss with your academic department/personal tutor, to ensure that any employment that you may wish to take up does not affect your studies.

### “WHAT SORT OF WORK CAN I DO DURING MY STUDIES?”

You can do most kinds of work without needing to seek approval from the UKVI. The work you do must not fill a full-time permanent vacancy (other than on a recognised Foundation Programme), and you must not be:

- self-employed
- employed as a doctor in training (except on a recognised Foundation Programme)
- a professional sportsperson, coach or entertainer

### “HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK CAN I WORK?”

The maximum amount of part-time work you can do during term time is:

- 20 hours per week if you are studying a course at or above UK degree level; or
- 10 hours per week if you are studying a course that is below UK degree level

### “WHERE CAN I FIND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?”

The Careers Service offers you a comprehensive website with a substantial amount of information on options, career areas, work experience opportunities, ideas and advice. For further information please visit: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers/)

### CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES ON WORKING IN THE UK

The advice in this chapter was up-to-date when we published it in Summer 2015. However, the UK Government often change the immigration rules about working in the UK, so you MUST check the following websites for the most up-to-date information:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student)

**For more information about working during your studies see:**

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/international-student/study-work-more/working-during-your-studies/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/international-student/study-work-more/working-during-your-studies/)

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/compliance-information/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/compliance-information/)

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers)

### “WHAT TYPES OF WORK WILL I BE ABLE TO GET AND HOW MUCH DO THEY PAY?”

It is important to be realistic about the job opportunities available. In the UK, generally students obtain part-time relatively low paid casual work, (paid at the National Minimum Wage rate). Typically this kind of work includes working in a shop, as a campus tour guide, in a restaurant or bar, as a cleaner, or as a computer data entry clerk. You cannot rely on securing a part-time job to pay your fees or living expenses (see page 25).

### “CAN I VOLUNTEER?”

Voluntary work is unpaid work for charities and in the local community. It gives students a great opportunity to develop new skills, meet new people and be involved in something worthwhile.

You can volunteer with the Student Union. They have a volunteer office run by a team of students who are here to make your time at university rewarding and beneficial for your future development and skills enhancement. We receive regular requests from the local community looking for student volunteers and we can help you find the opportunities you are looking for. Volunteering is a great way to get more out of your exchange experience as you can meet the local community.

To make your appointment to register, contact the office on [volunteer@aber.ac.uk](mailto:volunteer@aber.ac.uk) or drop in and see us in the Students' Union in the office located on the lower ground floor in G10.



## Aberystwyth

**Aberystwyth is a beautiful town to live in and to be a student, and it is a popular UK holiday destination. It is a cosmopolitan town which we think you will feel safe and secure in. We have a superb history of offering one of the best student experiences in the country and we are confident that you will feel welcomed and like you are part of our diverse and friendly community. Aberystwyth offers you some of the best scenery and outdoor activities in Britain as well as the vibrant lifestyle of a busy market town. Many students see it as the perfect choice for a place for their student exchange and we are sure you will also enjoy your time here in Aberystwyth.**

### THE HISTORY OF ABERYSTWYTH

The long-established history of Aberystwyth is clearly evident to all visitors, whether it is the Iron Age hill fort overlooking the town, the ruins of a castle destroyed in the English Civil War or the renaissance architecture of several popular pubs. The area was inhabited by humans as far back as the Mesolithic period when people would have used flint tools rather than laptops and books, and the nearby hill of Pen Dinas is topped by a large Iron Age hillfort. The recorded history of Aberystwyth dates from around 1109 when a Norman timber castle was constructed just over a mile outside today's town centre. This was replaced in 1277 by a stone-built castle on a different site, whose remains may still be seen today on what is now known as Castle Hill, next to Old College on the seafront. In the same year a charter was granted to the settlement adjacent to the new castle, making it a free borough with a guild of merchants, a market and fairs, and so the town of Aberystwyth was born. When you are in the town centre you are able to see well preserved buildings that are 100s of years old. Today the name Aberystwyth is associated with the meaning 'Mouth of the River Ystwyth'.



There is plenty of wildlife you can see in Aberystwyth such as bottlenose dolphins, seals, red kites and bats!

## PLACES TO VISIT IN ABERYSTWYTH

**Aberystwyth Arts Centre** is conveniently situated on the University campus. It hosts a theatre, concert hall, studio and cinema, as well as four gallery spaces, cafés, bars, and shops.

**Aberystwyth Castle** is one of the most iconic buildings in Aberystwyth and it can be easily found at the high point of the town centre dividing North Beach and South Beach. The castle dates back to 1277, although it now lies in ruins since it was razed by Parliamentarians in 1649. It now serves as an attractive place to sit and relax.

**Aberystwyth Cliff Railway** is a funicular, or cliff railway, which was opened in 1896 and it is part of Constitution Hill. When you complete your journey on the 778 feet (237 m) track you can have a meal in the restaurant at the top and you can enjoy the spectacular view. You may also be able to play ten pin bowling or you may look at the Victorian Camera obscura.

**Ceredigion Museum** is a welcoming museum packed with exhibits that celebrate the art, history and community of Ceredigion County. The fascinating collection is housed in a beautiful Edwardian theatre.

**National Library of Wales** offers access to books, maps, manuscripts, archives, pictures, photographs and electronic resources relating to Wales. As a copyright depository, it is entitled to receive a copy of every published work from the United Kingdom and Ireland. Visitors can attend one of the many exhibitions held in the library or they can relax in one of the cafés.

**Parc Penglais** is situated next to Aberystwyth University. The park is a combination of woodland and a disused quarry. Despite its small size there is a wide range of wildlife.

**The Promenade** is a pleasant, level, one and a half mile walk, stretching from Constitution Hill in the north to the harbour and the attractive new marina development in the south.

**Vale of Rheidol Railway** was opened in 1902 to carry lead ore from the mines. It now carries tourists to the beauty spot of Devil's Bridge. It generally operates between Easter and the end of October with extra services during February Half Term and Santa Specials at Christmas.

*National Library of Wales*



## Wales and the UK

**As you are studying as an exchange student you should consider making the most of your time living and studying abroad. You should take advantage of the many opportunities you have at weekends and during the holidays to explore the diversity of the British Isles.**

### THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom is a country rich in tradition, history and culture. At the same time it is a modern and cosmopolitan nation and a premiere world destination that offers superb social and cultural amenities.

Exchange students are often surprised by how diverse the UK is considering its size. There are many world-famous cities which offer first class social and cultural programmes and there are stunning natural landscapes. The country is home to some of the world's greatest historical figures, not to mention writers, poets and literary greats. The historical tradition is one of the richest in Europe, and the UK offers famous ancient towns, castles, ruins and important sites, such as the ancient monument of Stonehenge or Stratford upon Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare.

Geographically, the UK is divided into four separate countries: Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These four regions are semi-autonomous and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all have their own National Assemblies, although central power is still maintained in Westminster. The capital of Wales is Cardiff. Given the UK's mountainous and varied landscape, the changeability of the weather is one of the key defining features of the British climate. It is generally warmer in the south than in the north, but coastal towns such as Aberystwyth tend to stay at a more consistent, mild temperature all year.

### CITIES TO VISIT IN THE UK

The UK is bursting with famous cities. Historic cities such as Bath and Chester have magnificent ruins and make for pleasant trips. Manchester, Brighton, Bristol and Newcastle to name but a few are cosmopolitan and modern cities which have a world famous nightlife as well as thriving cultural scenes. Alternatively you might like to visit Liverpool, the home town of the Beatles and the European City of Culture 2008. The capital cities of London and Edinburgh are not to be missed on a visit to the UK, and if you visit it is recommended that you stay for several days.

*Cardiff Millenium Centre*



## WALES

Living in Wales will mean living in a country with a long history and a proud cultural heritage, which is home to one of the oldest living languages in Europe. About 3 million people live in Wales. The north of Wales is generally more rural and mountainous and the south is relatively more urban and industrialised. Mid Wales offers you the best combination of a beautiful environment combined with easy access to urban areas.

The landscape varies from the rolling hills of the south to the beautiful Pembrokeshire coastline to the west, the only marine nature reserve in Britain. If you hop on a train you can visit the north and the stunning mountains of Snowdonia. The landscape is dotted with historical towns and cities, from cosmopolitan Cardiff and Swansea to the Cathedral city of St Davids and the medieval town of Caernarfon.

## WELSH CULTURE

Wales is famous for the Celtic Druids and many see it as home to the legendary King Arthur and the birth-place of Merlin. In more recent times, political devolution has seen Wales consolidate its international presence on an economic, political and cultural level. Wales has created famous bands such as Feeder, Catatonia, Stereophonics and Manic Street Preachers. Many famous people can lay claim to Welsh roots such as singers Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey and Charlotte Church and actors Sir Anthony Hopkins, Michael Sheen and Catherine Zeta Jones.

## WELSH SPORT

Rugby is the most popular sport in Wales and this is celebrated in Aberystwyth with annual rugby tournaments that attract thousands of people. The surrounding Welsh countryside lends itself to a wide range of activities, from hiking and rock climbing, to surfing and kayaking. These can be done in National Parks that are only a short journey from Aberystwyth.

## WELSH PHRASES

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • Good morning   | <b>Bore da</b>       |
| • Good afternoon | <b>Prynhawn da</b>   |
| • How are you?   | <b>Sut dych chi?</b> |
| • Very good      | <b>Da iawn</b>       |
| • Thanks         | <b>Diolch</b>        |
| • Yes            | <b>Ie</b>            |
| • No             | <b>Na</b>            |
| • Cheers!        | <b>Iechyd da!</b>    |
| • Goodbye!       | <b>Hwyl fawr!</b>    |

## THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Welsh language is over 2000 years old, and today it is spoken by just over 20% of the Welsh population. The country is officially bilingual, and all road signs and official business are conducted in both Welsh and English. There are also Welsh language books, newspapers, radio and television stations. Aberystwyth and the County of Ceredigion is a Welsh-speaking heartland, so you are likely to hear Welsh spoken in the streets and shops. English is spoken in all parts of Wales, so do not worry about communication.



## Contacts

There are many contacts provided in this guide. The main ones are listed here. If you cannot find the contact you want in the guide please contact the Study Abroad Office.

### ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

**Telephone:** 01970 622984

**Fax:** 01970 622983

**E-mail:** [accommodation@aber.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@aber.ac.uk)

### INFORMATION SERVICES

**Telephone:** 01970 622400

**Fax:** 01970 622404

**E-mail:** [is@aber.ac.uk](mailto:is@aber.ac.uk)

### INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

**Telephone:** 01970 622367

**Fax:** 01970 622063

**E-mail:** [international@aber.ac.uk](mailto:international@aber.ac.uk)

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR

**Telephone:** 01970 621548

**E-mail:** [immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk)

### STUDENT FEES OFFICE

**Telephone:** 01970 621583

**Fax:** 01970 621501

**E-mail:** [fees@aber.ac.uk](mailto:fees@aber.ac.uk)

### STUDENT SUPPORT

**Telephone:** 01970 621761

**E-mail:** [student-support@aber.ac.uk](mailto:student-support@aber.ac.uk)

### STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

**Telephone:** 01970 622364

**Fax:** 01970 622063

**E-mail:** [studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk)

## Campus Map

### Facilities

- 1 Reception/Enquiries**
- 2 Aberystwyth Arts Centre**  
*SY23 3DE*  
Great Hall  
Theatr y Werin  
Visitors' Car Park
- 3 Parry-Williams Building**  
*SY23 3AJ*  
Theatre Film & Television  
Studies  
Centre for Performance  
Research (CPR)

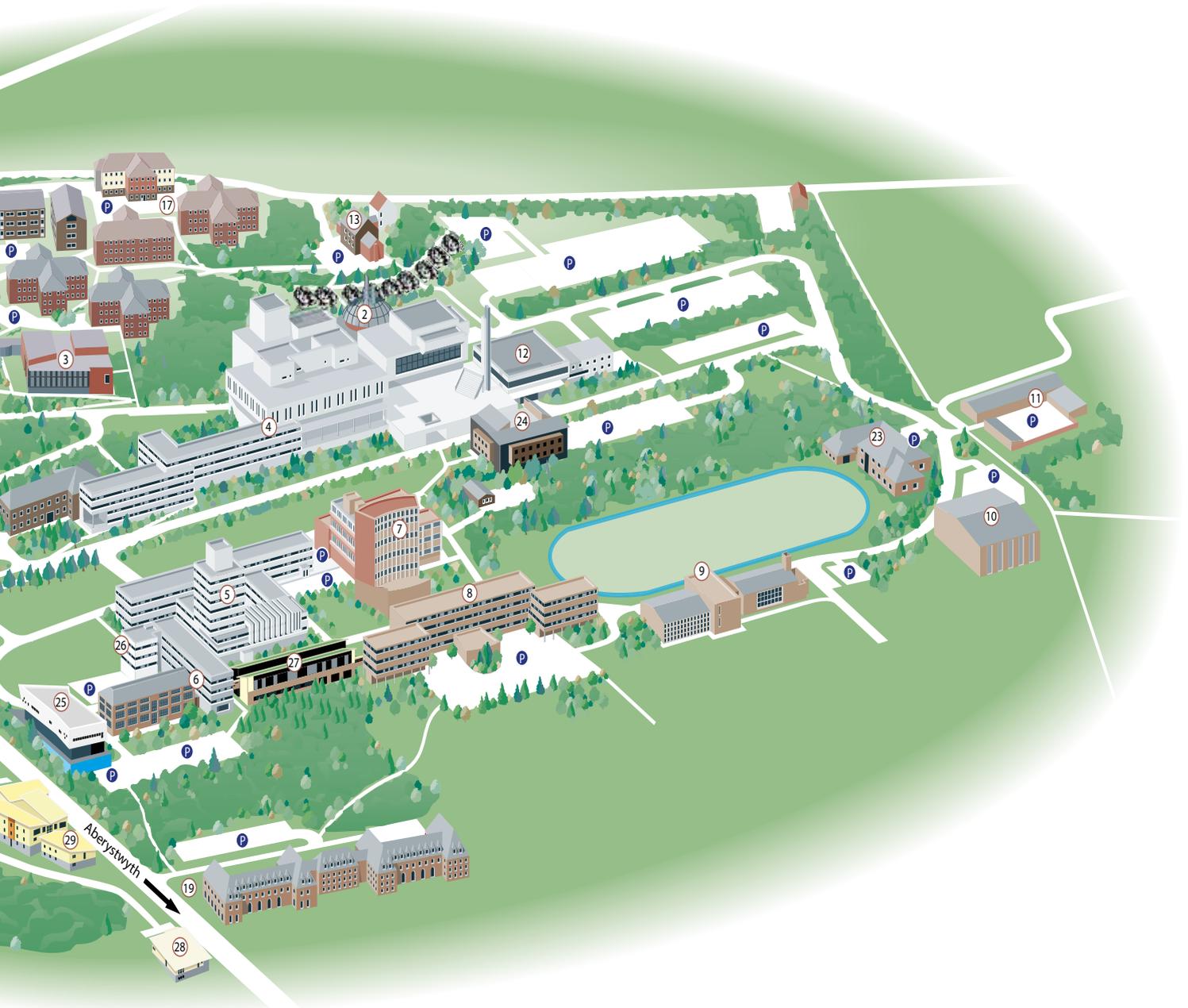
- 4 Hugh Owen Building**  
*SY23 3DY*  
Library (Information Services)  
Law  
European Languages  
History & Welsh History  
English & Creative Writing  
A12 and A14 Lecture Theatres

- 5 Llandinam Building**  
*SY23 3DB*  
Geography & Earth Sciences  
Careers Library (Careers  
Service)  
Computer Unit (Information  
Services)  
Computer Science  
International English Centre

- 6 Cledwyn Building**  
*SY23 3AL*  
School of Management &  
Business
- 7 Physical Sciences Building**  
*SY23 3BZ*  
Mathematical &  
Physical Sciences



- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>8 Edward Llwyd Building</b><br/> <i>SY23 3DA</i><br/>                     Biological Sciences<br/>                     Placement Centre (Careers Service)</p> <p><b>9 Sports Centre</b><br/> <i>SY23 3AR</i><br/>                     Sports Hall<br/>                     Swimming Pool<br/>                     All Weather Sports Pitch</p> | <p><b>10 Sports Cage</b></p> <p><b>11 Design &amp; Print Services</b><br/> <i>SY23 3UG</i></p> <p><b>12 Students Union</b><br/> <i>SY23 3DX</i><br/>                     Job Link (Careers Service)</p> <p><b>13 Brynamlwg</b><br/> <i>SY23 3AP</i></p> <p><b>23 Carwyn James Building</b><br/> <i>SY23 3FD</i><br/>                     Sport &amp; Exercise Science</p> | <p><b>24 International Politics Building</b><br/> <i>SY23 3FE</i></p> <p><b>25 Visualisation Centre</b><br/> <i>SY23 3BF</i><br/>                     CCS</p> <p><b>26 Student Welcome Centre</b><br/> <i>SY23 3FB</i><br/>                     Recruitment &amp; Marketing<br/>                     Admissions Office<br/>                     Income Services<br/>                     Student Support<br/>                     Post Room</p> | <p><b>27 New IBERS Building</b></p> <p><b>28 Penglais Day Nursery</b></p> <p><b>29 Padarn Surgery</b><br/>                     Student Health Centre</p> <p><b>30 Penbryn 5</b><br/> <i>SY23 3UX</i><br/>                     Education &amp; Lifelong Learning<br/>                     Psychology</p> |
|--|---|---|---|









## Study Abroad Office Contact Details

Study Abroad Office,  
Aberystwyth University,  
Cledwyn Building,  
Penglais Campus,  
Aberystwyth,  
Ceredigion,  
SY23 3DD  
UK

**Tel:** +44 (0)1970 622364  
**Fax:** +44 (0)1970 622063  
[studyabroad@aber.ac.uk](mailto:studyabroad@aber.ac.uk)  
[erasmus@aber.ac.uk](mailto:erasmus@aber.ac.uk)

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad)

## International Student Adviser Contact Details

International Student Adviser,  
Aberystwyth University,  
Cledwyn Building,  
Penglais Campus,  
Aberystwyth,  
Ceredigion,  
SY23 3DD  
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