## Introduction

### Hello and Welcome

We are delighted that you have decided to come to study with us at Aberystwyth. We know that you will have many things to arrange before you come to Aberystwyth and it is sometimes difficult to know where to start. This guide has been written to help you plan your exchange. This guide will assist you in your preparations for your departure to the UK; provide you with information to help you with your travel arrangements; detail your priorities in your first week at Aberystwyth; and it will explain what Aberystwyth has to offer academically, socially and culturally so you can make the most out of your exchange experience.

This guide also contains contact details of people who will be able to offer you help and support throughout your studies. Please feel free to contact any of them now or see them once you are in Aberystwyth - they are there to help you.

We hope that you have a satisfying and rewarding stay here with us at the University. We urge you to take this 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 Student Union. We wish you great success, both personally and academically, during your time here.

We look forward to meeting you!

**Aberystwyth University Study Abroad Office**

### Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before you arrive</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply for University residences or find private accommodation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obtain your visa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book transport to Aberystwyth or coach collection (in September)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure you are vaccinated (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrol online</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan your budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack your suitcase and hand luggage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare for your studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When you arrive</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tell your family you have arrived</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete enrolment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get your student ID card</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register with the police (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open your bank account</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register with a doctor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access the internet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend international induction event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend any induction events in your academic school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete residences induction tasks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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
- Incoming International Exchange students should visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/n-american-exchange/incoming-students
## Contents

**Section 1: Pre-departure Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa and Immigration</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to bring</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling to Aberystwyth</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 2: Your time in Aberystwyth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The First Week</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help and Advice</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in Aberystwyth</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Information</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 3: Other information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberystwyth</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales and the UK</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contacts</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of the Campus</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-departure Information

Application

This guide is intended for students who have been accepted to study as an exchange student at Aberystwyth University. This section gives information to any student who intends to apply to study in Aberystwyth.

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS
Students who apply from countries where English is not the first language will have to provide evidence of an English language qualification. The fulfilment of basic language requirements can be shown by one of the following:

• IELTS: a minimum of 6.0 is required (some subjects will require a higher level)
• TOEFL: a score of at least 550 (paper based) or 80 (iBT)
• Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English
• AEB test in English for Educational Purposes (pass in Band II only)
• Successful completion of the University course in English for Academic Purposes offered by the International English Centre (this may include an IELTS test)

NOMINATION
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 with the following information:

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

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 or www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/n-american-exchange/incoming-students
Visas & Immigration

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY
If you are a national of a European Union Member State, 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/support/visa

- 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 British Embassy. The following website can give you details of centres in your own country: www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/wheretoapply

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 Support Team at Aberystwyth University can help you through the visa extension process. For more information see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support/visa

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

If you are in the UK, the immigration advice in this guide is not relevant for you, so make sure you contact the International Student Adviser at Aberystwyth University for advice and help on your student visa extension.

“ KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES ”
All the advice in this guide was correct when we published it in July 2013. However, immigration law is subject to change. Please make sure that you have the most up to date information by checking the following websites: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students

“ 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/support/visa

“ 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.

Please note that your visa will be checked when you enrol at the University and pick up your student ID card. 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.
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. Study 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.
3. Students studying on the International Foundation Programme at Aberystwyth University who 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.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/student
   - www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support

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 “Making a Tier 4 (General) application” leaflet produced by UKCISA: the UK Council of International Student Affairs. You can find this at:

www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/immigration_uk.php

You should also check the UK Border Agency (UKBA) website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/apply-outside-uk

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.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/general-info/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.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/flr/photoguidance0409.pdf

3. **ATAS Certificate (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.fco.gov.uk/atas. 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. For more information see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support/visa

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 if you live in one of the following countries. Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Nepal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda or Zimbabwe. 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, because the UK Immigration Authorities have announced that they will introduce TB testing countries in some of the following countries in 2013:
   - Botswana
   - Cameroon
   - China
   - Ethiopia
   - Gambia
   - Guyana
   - Hong Kong
   - Indonesia
   - Kazakhstan
   - Korea
   - Kyrgyzstan
   - Macau
   - Malawi
   - Morocco
   - Nigeria
   - Philippines
   - Russian Federation
   - Sierra Leone
   - Uganda
   - Ukraine
   - Uzbekistan
   - Vietnam
   - Zambia

   To check whether you need to obtain a Tuberculosis certificate look at the following website and add your country, for example for China see: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/China

   If your country is not listed above but you are from the Indian Subcontinent, Africa or countries that have tuberculosis, we recommend that you have an up-to-date chest x-ray certificate and medical report that is less than three months old. If you do not have this information you may have to have a chest x-ray and medical examination before you are allowed to pass through immigration at a UK airport.

5. **Your CAS number**
   This is your unique reference number e-mailed to you by Aberystwyth University which you need to write on your Tier 4 visa application form. You will score 30 points for having a valid confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS). Total points required = 40.

   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 (see "direction")
   - 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

   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.
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
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.

6. The transcripts/exam certificates/references listed in the CAS e-mail
You need to submit your original transcripts/qualifications/references to UKBA 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.

Make sure you read the UKBA’s “Guide to supporting documents” www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/evidence

7. Finances – evidence that you have enough money to meet the UKBA 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. (Total points required = 40). For more details see the Financial Maintenance Requirements information on page 10 or see: www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/immigration_uk.php#finances
**HOW DO I APPLY FOR MY TIER 4 VISA FROM MY HOME COUNTRY?**

Please visit www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support/visa and read the section "How to Apply".

**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 (UKBA) 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/UKBA can request all your qualifications/transcripts and financial evidence at any time. Therefore you must be prepared to submit them to UKBA 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
- 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

UKBA change the list of low risk nationals annually, so please check to see if your country is still on the list: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/evidence

**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 UKBA, 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 UKBA 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. Please see the “Further Advice” section at the end of this web page for the Credibility assessment requirements/link to Paragraph 245 ZV(k) of the Immigration Rules.

For guidance regarding Credibility interviews please see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/internationaloffice/pdf/credibility-interviews.pdf

For more up to date information please check: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support/visa

**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.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/general-info/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
- It does not end sooner than you expect (see below)

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 UKBA 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 UKBA 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.

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.

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

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 £7,200. If the length of your course is nine months or less, you will need to show £800 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?

UKBA 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 with a friend or relative
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 UKBA view as untrustworthy. For example, the UKBA 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 UKBA see: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/studying/financial-institutions/%20

   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 UKBA will base the exchange rate for your country’s currency on the date of your visa application taken from: 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

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

UKBA define an official sponsor as:

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

If your “official financial sponsor” is paying all your tuition fees and living expenses, you do not have to provide separate evidence of your savings. If the details of your official financial sponsor are included on your CAS you do not need to provide any other documentation. Otherwise, you must provide a letter confirming that your sponsor will pay all your tuition fees and living expenses. The letter must be on official letter-headed paper and must not be more than six months old.

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 £1,600 (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 £1000 paid towards your future Aberystwyth University residences fees

Please note, that it is not necessary to pay any residences fees (except for the £100 deposit) until you arrive in Aberystwyth. You cannot deduct anything for accommodation fees if you have arranged the accommodation yourself (in other words, private accommodation).

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.
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. A stamp or sticker in your passport, or a stated visa requirement either in your visa or on your biometric residence permit (BRP), will confirm whether you are required to register with the police. At the beginning of the academic year, the International Student Adviser will arrange a registration session on campus with the local police. If you want to save yourself a considerable amount of time then please obtain a pre-registration questionnaire from the International Student Adviser or visit Aberystwyth Police Station directly to arrange an appointment:

Aberystwyth Police Station
Boulevard Saint Brieuc
Aberystwyth
SY23 1PH

Front counter opening hours: 7 days a week, 8am - 8pm and open Bank Holidays.

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
- Columbia
- 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 (if you are paying in cash, please ensure you have the correct amount)
- A completed police registration questionnaire

For up to date information please visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support/police-registration

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:

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

Staying in University residences will provide you with an opportunity to meet and get to know other students, make new friends and settle quickly into University life.

IS UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION GUARANTEED?

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

If you are a national of a European Union Member State, this section does not apply to you.

Aberystwyth University (AU) is able to guarantee a place in University accommodation for full-time Undergraduate and Postgraduate International exchange students for the duration of your taught courses as long as you fulfill the conditions in the next section and that your application for accommodation is received by the 1st August. This guarantee only applies to the individual student and not any dependants.

Please note that a place is guaranteed in University accommodation, but not a specific type of room or location, as long as you have applied by the 1st August.

All students wishing to remain in Residence during the summer vacation will be required to relocate to the appropriate Summer Residences.

Aberystwyth has agreements with several partner Universities where Aberystwyth is contracted to provide residential accommodation in exchange for Aberystwyth students accommodated by the hosting partner University. Incoming exchange students that come from these specific partner Universities are guaranteed a place for the academic session of the first year of their course at Aberystwyth.

The Accommodation Office priorities policy can be viewed online here: www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/accommodation/pdfs/13-14-accommodation-priorities-policy-document.pdf

ERASMUS EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Unfortunately, you are not guaranteed a place in University accommodation; however you are still able to apply for accommodation and will be invited to place your name on a waiting list for accommodation. If and when spaces become available we will be able to then offer you accommodation. Alternatively please see read about Private Sector Accommodation in Aberystwyth on page 17.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION?

STEP 1 - When can I apply for accommodation?

Once your student exchange application form is received you will have a student record created by the Study Abroad Office.

Details on how to activate your Aberystwyth University e-mail account will be e-mailed to you by the Information Services Department from early July onwards. The e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address that you provided on your application form – therefore it is important that you check this on a regular basis. If your e-mail address changes then you must notify the Study Abroad Office immediately.

You should activate your Aberystwyth e-mail account as soon as you are asked to do so; without doing this you will not be able to apply for and secure your accommodation!

Please note - Once you have activated your Aberystwyth University e-mail all correspondence will be sent to this address and it is important that you check it on a regular basis.

If you have not yet received information please contact the Study Abroad Office as soon as possible:
Telephone +44 (0)1970 628751 or e-mail studyabroad@aber.ac.uk

STEP 2 - How do I apply?

Once you have completed Step 1 by successfully activating your Aberystwyth e-mail account, you are able to apply for University accommodation by completing the online application form.

Please ensure you have your Aberystwyth e-mail username and password to hand before you attempt to login and that you have visited our web pages at www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation and that you have read our “Accommodation at Aberystwyth” brochure to help you with your accommodation selection: www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/17309-Accommodation-at-Aber-ENG-Web.pdf.

Making an online application:

1. Logon as “Current Student” using your username and password on: accommodation-online.aber.ac.uk/portal
2. Please select the relevant application period – Aberystwyth University Residences – Accommodation for Academic Year 2013/2014.
3. This will take you to the Accommodation Application Overview page – select the application form button and complete all required fields with as much detail as possible as it allows us to ensure that you are allocated the most appropriate available accommodation. Please note our self-catered and en-suite accommodation for Fresher Students is located across our accommodation portfolio which includes Town and Seafront as well as Campus accommodation. There are over 800 bed spaces in our Town and Seafront property portfolio, and over 80% of the residents are Fresher Students. We will always endeavour to allocate you your preferred category of accommodation but this is not always possible.

4. If you have any disability issues/medical information which will require specific accommodation, please ensure that you enter the details in the disability/medical details application step on the form. Medical evidence must be supplied directly to Accessibility Services (contact details can be found on the application form) as soon as possible after completing your application.

5. Once you have entered your details you will be able to review and edit your application in order to check that your details are correct. Once you have checked your details you will need to click the “submit application” button to submit your application.

### STEP 3 - What happens after I apply?

1. An e-mail confirming receipt of your application will be sent to you.

2. Your accommodation application will be processed on receipt of your completed application form and an offer of accommodation will be sent to you by e-mail.

   **Please note:** Every effort will be made to accommodate students in their preferred category of accommodation, but it will not be possible to meet these preferences in every case.

3. The accommodation offer is made subject to your successful completion of the Accommodation Licence Pack by the given deadline date.

   **Please note** - To secure your accommodation the licence pack must be successfully completed by agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement and paying £100 acceptance fee (this is to be paid also online).

### WHAT TYPE OF UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION IS AVAILABLE?

For further details of the accommodation we have available please visit our Accommodation web page: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation)

### HOW MUCH WILL UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION COST?

The accommodation fees for 2013/2014 can be found at: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Accommodation-fees-2013-14-eng.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/Accommodation-fees-2013-14-eng.pdf)

The cost of your accommodation will be included in your Accommodation Licence Agreement.

### HOW DO I INFORM RESIDENCES OF ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS?

The University welcomes applications from students with special requirements and has a number of adapted rooms available in University Residences. We will endeavour to allocate the most suitable accommodation for your requirements during each year of your study at the University provided that applications are received within the published Accommodation Office deadlines.

If you have a medical condition or sensory impairment or special requirements please give details when completing your application form for accommodation. All information will be treated with confidence and will help us to allocate the most appropriate accommodation for your needs. If you choose not to disclose your special requirements we may not be able to offer alternative accommodation at a later date. Any adapted rooms not allocated will be used in accordance with the usual University procedures.

Abertystwyth University is committed to the principles of inclusion and equal opportunities. We offer on-going advice, information and guidance to our students. Prospective students are encouraged to contact Student Support, in confidence, to discuss their requirements before making a formal application.

You may contact Accessibility Services by e-mail disability@aber.ac.uk or by calling 01970 621761.

The University will not keep rooms unoccupied; therefore you must take up your room immediately from the start date of your licence agreement or inform the Accommodation Office otherwise.
**WHEN DO I NEED TO PAY FOR MY UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION?**

**Students arriving in semester 1:**
Accommodation fees for students entering University accommodation must be paid by either a single payment of yearly fee prior to commencement of the academic session in September, or by Direct Debit in three instalments in November, January, and April. Students will not be permitted entry to University accommodation unless either a completed Direct Debt mandate or a single payment for the full year has been received.

**Students arriving in semester 2:**
Students arriving in January may pay prior to commencement or they may contact the Accommodation Office at accommodation@aber.ac.uk to discuss paying in instalments.

**ARE THERE MALE-ONLY OR FEMALE-ONLY HALLS OF RESIDENCES?**

We normally allocate a mix of male and female students to each flat. If you would like to request that you are placed in a male or female-only flat or corridor, please indicate this on your application for accommodation. We cannot guarantee to place everyone who requests it in a single-sex flat but will try to help where we can.

**WILL I HAVE MY OWN ROOM?**

You will have a choice between single and shared study rooms. If you share you have an option of a twin bed room or a bunk bed room. You will have to share a kitchen/living space with the other people in your flat or house. The University owns a small number of flats for students with families; there is usually a waiting list for these properties which is stringently adhered to. For further information about these properties please contact the Accommodation Office.

**WILL I HAVE MY OWN BATHROOM?**

If a private bathroom is important to you, you should prioritise en-suite accommodation on your application for accommodation. Other rooms have shared toilets and washing facilities; for further information regarding our different types of accommodation please see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/17309-Accommodation-at-Aber-ENG-Web.pdf
Internet connection is available in all our residences and the price is included in the accommodation fees. Bedrooms are equipped with network connection points, a network cable and instructions on how to connect to the University network.

Further information, including instructions for connecting your computer to the network can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/stunet

No, most students have mobile phones or use Skype. See page 28 for more information on buying a mobile phone and staying in touch.

All rooms have a bed and mattress, study desk, computer chair, shelving and wardrobe as standard.

All our self-catered accommodation has fully fitted kitchen/dining areas to offer you independence to cater for yourself; the facilities include: fridge, freezer, kettle, toaster, microwave, iron, ironing board, a mop and bucket, a dustpan and brush, vacuum cleaner, a notice board, dining table and chairs as standard.

In addition to your personal belongings, you will need to bring bedding and towels. Students in self-catered residences should also bring cooking equipment (i.e. pots and pans) and dining utensils (i.e. cutlery, cups, plates etc.). Students in catered residences may wish to bring a small amount of equipment for making snacks (i.e. cutlery, cups and plates). You can buy all of this cheaply in Aberystwyth or can order your essentials online, which will be delivered directly to your residence: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/postgraduates/residentialessentials

University accommodation is available for you to move into 10.00am on Friday 20th September 2013. For further details on licence periods please see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/17309-Accommodation-at-Aber-ENG-Web.pdf

If you are planning to spend some time in Aberystwyth prior to the start of term you could think about taking a room in a hotel or bed & breakfast. Bed & breakfasts charge around £20-£70 per night, and hotels charge between £30-£90 per night. Both types of accommodation can be found near the campus and the town centre. For further information on serviced and self-catering accommodation contact Aberystwyth Tourist Information Centre:

Telephone: 01970 612125
E-mail: aberystwythTIC@ceredigion.gov.uk

If you have applied for University accommodation, but have not received an offer for accommodation before you arrive in Aberystwyth, you need to contact the Accommodation Office:

Telephone: 01970 622984
Fax: 01970 622983
E-mail: accommodation@aber.ac.uk
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

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

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

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

For more information about the cost of private accommodation please see page 25.

You may be able to stay in University summer accommodation (minimum one month stay) while you search for private accommodation see Student Summer Residences: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/summer-vacation

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) 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
**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/residence-handbook-13-14-eng-web.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/residence-handbook-13-14-eng-web.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. Please see page 16 for information about what is provided in your accommodation. You can order your essentials online which will be delivered directly to your residence: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/postgraduates/residentialessentials](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/postgraduates/residentialessentials)

**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
- 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 exchange 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

**WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE IN THE UK?**

September starters should arrive on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September to take advantage of the coach collection service from Birmingham International Airport. 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

**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 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.

You may be able to buy a discount card for coach and/or rail travel when you arrive. See: www.nationalrail.co.uk
TRAVELLING TO ABERYSTWYTH FROM AIRPORTS

Birmingham International Airport
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
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: Catch the X40 Arriva bus which runs twice a day at 11:10am and 6:15pm. This runs all the way to Aberystwyth, passing through Carmarthen and Aberaeron taking approximately 4 hours.

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

Gatwick Airport
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
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
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
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
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.hmrc.gov.uk/customs/arriving

---

**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.hmrc.gov.uk/customs/arriving/declaring-cash.htm

---

**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 2013

Please note that the coach collection service at Birmingham International Airport is primarily aimed at full-time international students and international exchange students. Unfortunately Erasmus students cannot be guaranteed a seat on a coach, but Erasmus students can still apply to reserve a place.

"WILL THERE BE ANYONE TO MEET ME WHEN I ARRIVE?"

COACH COLLECTION FROM BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Aberystwyth University staff will be at Birmingham International Airport on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st 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 where you should be able to see us wearing our Aberystwyth shirts and holding signs. We will be departing promptly at 11:30 am and 5:30 pm on all days. Students who have firmly accepted the offer to study at Aberystwyth University and who will be arriving on these dates can reserve a place on our coach service. Please complete the form found at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/travel/meet-greet by Monday 2nd September 2013 at the latest and e-mail to: meetandgreet@aber.ac.uk N.B. There will be a charge of £25.00 for this service which will be collected on the coach. Please bring the correct amount with you.

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 FAMILY OR FRIENDS WITH ME ON THE COACH?"

If you are bringing family or friends with you and you want them to use the coach collection service you will have to ask the Meet and Greet team if this is possible by e-mailing: meetandgreet@aber.ac.uk
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 at The Great Hall, Penglais Campus from 10:30am on Sunday 22nd 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 23rd September.

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 23rd September 2013. 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

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 schools. 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.

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.

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 the Study Abroad Office at: studyabroad@aber.ac.uk
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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Cost per annum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room (standard single room in a Residence [energy inclusive] for approx. 36 weeks)</td>
<td>£2,565-£3,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food (depending on taste)</td>
<td>~£1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>£1170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Calls</td>
<td>£200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extras</td>
<td>£390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, equipment, stationary</td>
<td>£100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>£200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Costs</td>
<td>£800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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?"

If you are an International Student, you will need a letter of recommendation from the University in order to open a bank account in the UK. Please collect a ‘Bank Letter Request Form’ from the reception on the ground floor of the Student Welcome Centre. International exchange students may also collect this letter from the Study Abroad Office.

Please note that you must have registered with the University, and the address that you provide on the Bank Letter Request Form must correspond to the address that you have provided on your University Record before we can issue the letter of recommendation.

You should be able to collect the letter of recommendation from the Reception on the ground floor after 24 hours of submitting your Bank Letter Request Form (not including weekends).

Please present this information, 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.
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

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 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

“AM I ENTITLED TO FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE UK?”
If your course is six months’ duration or more you will qualify for National Health Service (NHS) treatment. You must also register with a doctor (see above).

This is the UK’s state health service which provides treatment on a wide range of health care services. 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**

You should have already received an Aberystwyth University e-mail address; if you have not received an e-mail address please contact the Study Abroad Office. 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:i@aber.ac.uk)

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

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 an 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

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

WHERE CAN I ACCESS ENGLISH SUPPORT?

The University offers a variety of in-sessional 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

What are the semester dates 2013 - 2014 for undergraduate courses?

- **Semester 1 (Autumn Term):**
  - Monday 23/09/13 - Saturday 18/01/14
- **Semester 2 (Spring Term):**
  - Monday 27/01/14 - Saturday 31/05/14
- **Christmas Holidays:**
  - Saturday 14/12/13 - Sunday 05/01/14
- **Easter Holidays:**
  - Saturday 12/04/14 - Sunday 04/05/14
- **Semester 1 Examinations:**
  - Monday 06/01/14 - Saturday 18/01/14
- **Semester 2 Examinations:**
  - Monday 12/05/14 - Saturday 31/05/14

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/itl/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.

HELP BEFORE YOU ARRIVE
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

THE STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE
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
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, Room C23, First Floor, Llandinam Building, Penglais Campus. Tel: 01970 621548

To book an appointment, please e-mail: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

If you are not in the UK yet, you can also e-mail from overseas to: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk and you can also contact your local British Council Office - www.britishcouncil.org/about/contact click on the ‘green square +’ icon next to ‘The British Council in your country’ top right-hand corner of the webpage, 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/student/index.php

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
The Aberystwyth University Counselling service is part of the Student Wellness Centre. You will find them on Penglais campus located just across the road on Penglais hill.

Making an appointment:
To make an appointment for Counselling you can e-mail them at: counselling@aber.ac.uk, or Tel: 01970 622087, or drop in at the Student Wellness Centre 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
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 or phone us on 01970 621761.
EXTRA SUPPORT FOR YOU

WHERE CAN I GO IF I JUST WANT TO CHAT?

www.nightline.aber.ac.uk
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
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 you 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](http://www.discoverceredigion.co.uk)

**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/student/info_sheets/driving.php](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/driving.php)

**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.

**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
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.

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: [www.abercu.org.uk/churches.html](http://www.abercu.org.uk/churches.html)

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

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

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

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

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.abersu.co.uk/freshers/sportsweek
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 UKBA. 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/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 2013. 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.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students

For more information about working during your studies see:

www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/working_during.php
www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/support/working-studying
www.aber.ac.uk/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 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.
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: Bore da
- Good afternoon: Prynhawn da
- How are you?: Sut dych chi?
- Very good: Da iawn
- Thanks: Diolch
- Yes: Ie
- No: Na
- Cheers!: Iechyd da!
- Goodbye!: Hwyl fawr!

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.
Contact

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

INFORMATION SERVICES
Telephone: 01970 622400
Fax: 01970 622404
E-mail: is@aber.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
Telephone: 01970 622367
Fax: 01970 622063
E-mail: international@aber.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR
Telephone: 01970 621548
E-mail: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

STUDENT FEES OFFICE
Telephone: 01970 621583
Fax: 01970 621501
E-mail: fees@aber.ac.uk

STUDENT SUPPORT
Telephone: 01970 621761
E-mail: student-support@aber.ac.uk

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE
Telephone: 01970 622364
Fax: 01970 622063
E-mail: studyabroad@aber.ac.uk
Facilities
1 Reception/Enquiries
2 Aberystwyth Arts Centre  
   **SY23 3DE**  
   Great Hall  
   Theatr y Wenin  
   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
Study Abroad Office Contact Details

Study Abroad Office,
Aberystwyth University,
Llandinam Building,
Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion,
SY23 3DB
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1970 622364
Fax: +44 (0)1970 622063
studyabroad@aber.ac.uk
www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad