

Guide for incoming
International Students
2019-2020





Foreword by *Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Treasure*

I am delighted to welcome you to Aberystwyth University as you begin your exciting journey towards graduation. I know that many of you will have travelled far to study with us and may be living away from home for the first time. Let me reassure you that you are joining a welcoming, friendly community where there are plenty of people to make sure you get the support you need.

As you will see in this booklet, the University organises a series of special welcome events and orientation activities to help you settle in quickly and make new friends. Do look out for our wonderful 'A Team' heroes and Global Ambassadors - these are fellow students in their second or third year at Aberystwyth who are here to offer advice and help during your first week.

Aberystwyth University has a reputation for providing high quality teaching and research, as well as an excellent student experience. During your time here, I hope you take the opportunity to get involved in all aspects of student life - not only through your studies but also by joining one of the many clubs and societies offered by the Students' Union. As a campus university, we have a huge range of facilities on site including a busy Arts' Centre with a theatre, cinema and cafes and a Sports Centre with a swimming pool, gym and a range of fitness classes.

The historic town of Aberystwyth is also on your doorstep so take time to explore your new home. We are fortunate that we learn and live in a safe and friendly environment, located in beautiful unspoilt scenery on the shores of Cardigan Bay in Ceredigion, Mid Wales.



You will be part of a vibrant bilingual community with an outward-looking, global outlook and we truly value the contribution our international students make to our academic life, knowledge and culture. I wish you success with your studies and I am confident that your time at Aberystwyth University will be both enlightening and enjoyable.

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Checklist

Before you arrive

- Activate your Aber student account
- Apply for University accommodation
- Apply for your Tier 4 or Short-term Study Visa (if applicable)
- Book a place on our Meet & Greet service (September arrivals)
- Ensure you are vaccinated (if applicable)
- Plan your budget
- Prepare for your studies
- Pack your suitcase and hand luggage

When you arrive

- Tell your family you have arrived
- Get your student Aber card
- Pick up your BRP (visa) (if applicable)
- Attend International Welcome Ceremony
- Attend International Students Document check session (if applicable)
- Register with the police (if applicable)
- Attend any induction events in your academic school
- Complete registration on-line
- Open your bank account
- Register with a doctor
- Complete residences induction tasks

NEED HELP?

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

- 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/international-exchange/
- All other International students should visit www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/student-experience/

Pre-departure Information

Application

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

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS

All applications for undergraduate courses can be submitted on-line via 'UCAS' or directly via our 'Apply Directly' portal. Step by step instructions on how to apply to Aberystwyth University can be found on www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/apply-now/

POSTGRADUATE APPLICATIONS

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

ERASMUS AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT NOMINATIONS

Applications cannot come directly from a student. They must come through the Study Abroad Office of a partner university. In order to be nominated to Aberystwyth, please contact your home University's Study Abroad Office for information on our application process. All partner universities will be notified in advance of nomination/application procedures and deadlines.

More information is available here:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/

or email:

studyabroad@aber.ac.uk

erasmus@aber.ac.uk

STUDY YEAR ABROAD STUDENTS

Students wishing to spend a semester or a year at Aberystwyth University as a fee-paying Visiting student can apply directly to the Study Abroad Office. Application forms are available online: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/sya-jya-programme/

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

If you are interested in coming to Aberystwyth and you want to find out more about a specific academic department, please email us on studyabroad@aber.ac.uk

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

Students who apply from countries where English is not the first language will have to provide evidence of an English language qualification. Further information is available from www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/apply/english-language/.

Visas & Immigration

'BREXIT' – IMPLICATIONS FOR STUDENTS

If the UK leaves the EU and a withdrawal agreement has not been reached, there will be new immigration rules affecting students from the EEA and Switzerland from the date that the UK leaves the EU. As there is uncertainty as to when this will be, we advise EEA and Swiss students to refer to our Brexit advice pages, which will be updated on a regular basis, please see www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/brexit-advice/.

FOR NON-EEA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY

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

- To study at Aberystwyth University you must hold a valid visa which entitles you to study at this University.
- 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 a Tier 4 or Short-term Study visa.

Information on how to apply for a visa can be found here: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice/

“WHICH VISA SHOULD I APPLY FOR?”

There are two types of visa that will allow you to study at Aberystwyth University, they are: **Tier 4 (General)** visa or **Short-term Study** visa.

Tier 4 (General) visa

Most international students need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa. A Tier 4 (General) visa will allow you to enrol on a below-degree level course such as an English Language course, an Undergraduate, or Postgraduate degree course. Provided that you can demonstrate academic progression, you will be able to extend your Tier 4 visa in the UK. You are allowed to work on a Tier 4 visa (limits apply).

If you are 16 or 17 years old you must apply for a Tier 4 visa for “adult students” and not a visa for a “child student”. Under the “adult” Tier 4 visa you will receive a visa for the full length of your course and also be allowed to extend your visa, (this may not be the case if you apply under the “child” route).

To apply for a Tier 4 visa, please go to:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES

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

www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa

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

Find out if there is an Educational Advisor or Agent in your country who will be able to help you apply for your student visa but please note there may be a charge for this service. You will need to complete an on-line application form and make an appointment to submit your supporting documents at your nearest Visa Application Centre. To find your nearest visa application centre, please consult www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre

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

You can apply for your Tier 4 student visa up to three months before the start date of your course. Applying for your visa is likely to take around two months, so you must start the process early. For information on visa processing times see:

www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times

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

“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! It will need to have 6 months of validity left on it.

2. ATAS Certificate - Postgraduate Courses (if applicable)

You must obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) clearance certificate if you are coming to Aberystwyth for a postgraduate research or postgraduate taught course in certain science, engineering or technology subjects in the areas listed by the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). To find out if you need an ATAS certificate see: www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme. 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.

3. Tuberculosis Testing and certificate required (if applicable)

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

4. Immigration Health Surcharge

Students applying for a visa for a course of 6 months or more, will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge. The IHS is calculated on the length of your leave, at £300 per 12 months. The IHS will be paid as part of your visa application process.

5. Your CAS number

You will need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number to apply for a Tier 4 visa. You will receive your CAS number by email after you have met all the conditions of your offer to study at Aberystwyth.

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

- been accepted for a course at Aberystwyth University
- passed all your exams and sent the University copies of your qualifications or transcripts
- checked that all the information on your CAS e-mail is correct
- sent financial evidence (if requested)
- signed a financial declaration
- paid a course fee deposit

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 Adviser:

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.

All documents that you are submitting with your visa application must be in English. If any documents are not in English, the original must be accompanied by a professional translation. This translation must include the following:

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

For more details on how to find a translator see: www.iti.org.uk and click on "Find a Translator".

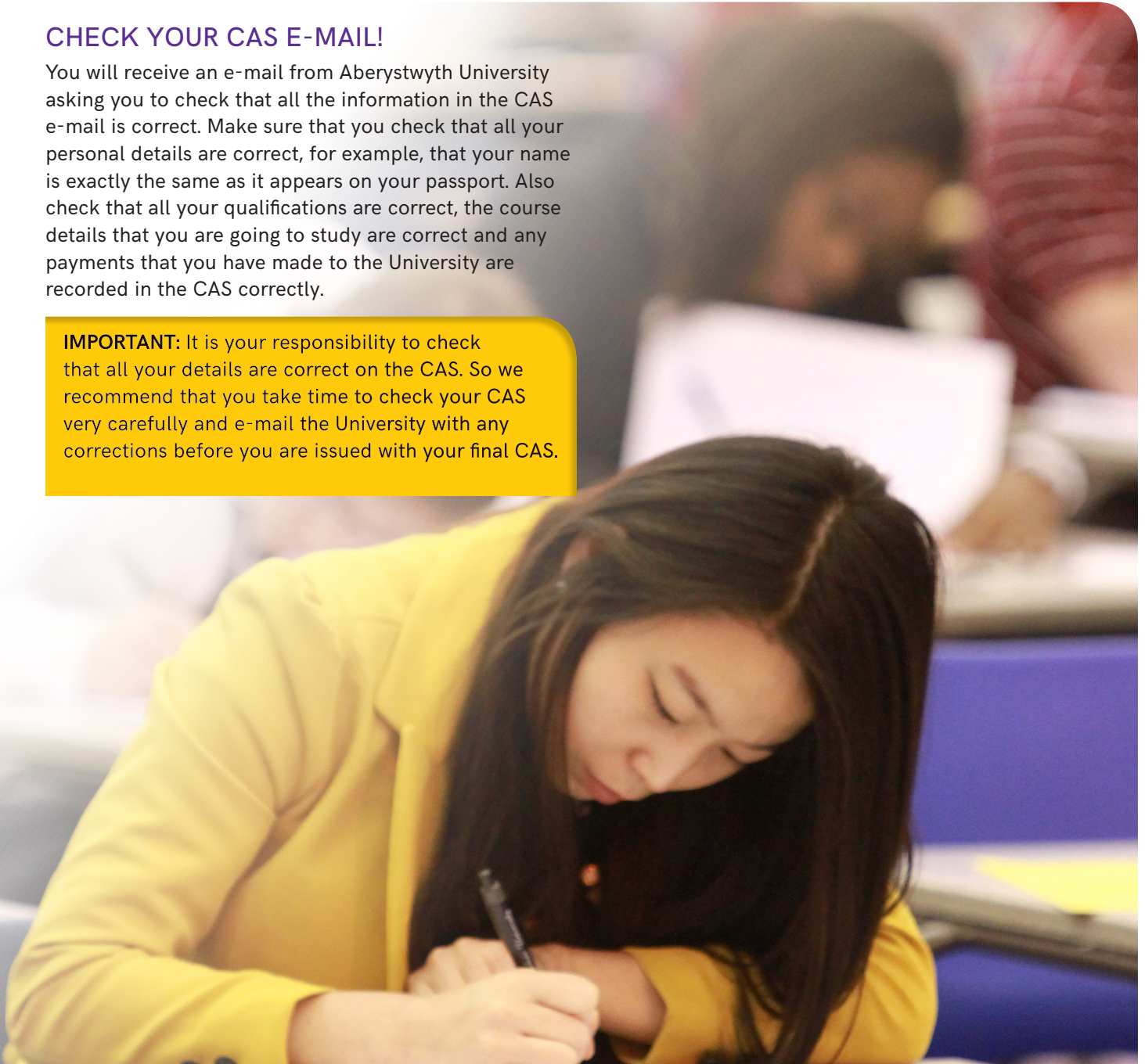
7. The transcripts/exam certificates/references listed in the CAS e-mail

You need to submit your transcripts/qualifications to UKVI with your Tier 4 visa application showing that you have satisfied the entry requirements for your course at Aberystwyth University. Details of your qualifications/ transcripts 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 certificate showing: your name, the date and title of the award and the awarding institution. For each transcript listed you must provide the transcript showing: your name, name of the academic institution, course title and confirmation of grades.

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.

IMPORTANT: It is your responsibility to check that all your details are correct on the CAS. 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 final CAS.



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

You need to prove that you have enough money to cover course fees **PLUS** living costs. To check how much money you will need as financial evidence, please refer to

www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice

There are very strict conditions on the financial evidence that you can submit, please read the section 'FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR VISA' in this Guide, and if there is anything that you are not clear about please contact the International Student Adviser, email immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

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

Please visit www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice and read the section “Applying for a Tier 4 Visa – Outside UK”.

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

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

- Australia
- Bahrain
- Barbados
- Botswana
- Brazil
- British National Overseas
- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- The Dominican Republic
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Oman
- Peru
- Qatar
- Serbia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan (*those who hold a passport issued by Taiwan that includes the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan*)
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America

Further guidance on applications from 'low risk' students can be found on the UKCISA website www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Tier-4-eligibility-and-requirements#layer-5347

CREDIBILITY INTERVIEW

Students who are not low risk nationals will be required to attend a Credibility Interview carried out by the UKVI as part of the Tier 4 application process.

You will be invited to attend a Credibility Interview via e-mail invitation from the UKVI Home Office – **Please note that you must have regular access to your e-mails to check if you have received an invitation to attend a Credibility Interview** - check your 'spam'/junk folder in your e-mail account. **Failure to attend these interviews will result in an instant application refusal.**

The aims of the interviews are for the UKVI to be satisfied that you are a genuine student and that your level of English is at the correct level. Guidance on how to prepare for the interviews is available from our webpages, please go to www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice/tier-4-visa-outside-uk/#do-i-need-to-attend-an-interview-as-part-of-visa-process?

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

For a guide to the visa processing times for your local visa application centre see:

www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times

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

Make sure that:

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

If there is anything wrong with your visa, please contact the International Student Adviser, email: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

“HOW LONG CAN I COME TO THE UK FOR?”

Your visa will last for the duration of your course plus additional time to spend in the UK after the end of your course. The additional time that you will be granted will depend on the length of your course:

- If the course dates on your CAS cover a period which is more than 12 months, you should have been granted an additional four months after the end of your course;
- If the course dates on your CAS cover a period which is less than 12 months but more than six months, you should have been granted an additional two months after the end of your course.
- If the course dates on your CAS cover a period of less than six months, you should have been granted seven days after the end of your course; (unless your CAS makes it clear that your course is a pre-sessional course, in which case you should have been granted one month after the end of your course).

Please check your visa carefully when you receive it and if you think that you have been granted the incorrect length of leave then please contact the International Student Adviser, email: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

“WHEN CAN I COME TO THE UK?”

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

“WHEN CAN I COLLECT MY BRP (Visa)?”

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

Your final visa will be issued as a biometric residence permit, also known as a BRP. You must collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of arrival in the UK.

“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 Standard Visitor Visa. For more information on applying please see: www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa

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, **PLUS**
2. Your living expenses. To check current amounts please refer to www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice

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

UKVI are very specific about the financial documents they accept as proof that you meet the maintenance requirements. Below is a list of the financial evidence that will be accepted by the UKVI.

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

BANK ACCOUNT DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- 1. Bank statement from your personal or your parents' bank account** Your money must be held in cash and must not be held in a bank or a financial institution which the UKVI view as untrustworthy. To check if your bank is viewed as an unsatisfactory financial institutions by UKVI see: www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-p-lists-of-financial-institutions

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 31 days 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 a continuous 28 day period before you submit your visa application

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:

- 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.
- Signed and dated letter from your parent(s) or legal guardian which confirms your relationship and that they have given their consent to the money being available to you to study in the UK.

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

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

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.

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

UKVI define an official sponsor as:

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

The letter must show:

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

If your sponsor only pays some of your costs, you will need a letter from them (as above) and proof that you have enough money yourself to meet the rest of the financial 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?”

No. Your visa application will be refused if you do not provide evidence showing that you have enough funds to cover tuition fees plus maintenance costs.

“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 £1,265 paid towards your future Aberystwyth University residences fees

We do not recommend that you pay any fees between receiving your CAS e-mail and applying for your visa.

If any money you have paid for tuition fees or University residences fees is not shown on the CAS e-mail, then you must provide receipts from the University when you submit your visa application. Official receipts can be requested from fees@aber.ac.uk.

REGISTERING WITH THE POLICE

“DO I NEED TO REGISTER WITH THE POLICE?”

Some international students are required to register with the police when they arrive in Aberystwyth. If you have dependants and they are 16 years or older, they will also be required to register with the police.

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

Aberystwyth Police Station
Boulevard Saint Briec
Aberystwyth
SY23 1PH

To check opening times, please refer to www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/your-area/ceredigion/aberystwyth-town-and-university/

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, FOR SIX MONTHS OR MORE, ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE POLICE:

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Belarus
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- China
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- 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

If you are from one of the countries listed above, it is vital that you register with the police, as it is a legal requirement of your entry into the UK. Failure to do so will be recorded on your immigration record and will affect your ability to obtain future visas 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 (a photo booth is located in the Students’ Union)
- Your passport
- Your BRP
- Your Student ID card
- Registration fee of £34.00 (cash only)
- A completed police registration questionnaire (you can request one from the International Student Adviser)

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

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

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

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

The International Student Adviser at Aberystwyth University can help you through the visa extension process. For more information see: www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice/

Tel: +44 (0)1970 621548
 E-mail: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

“HOW TO APPLY FOR A SHORT-TERM VISA”

If you are coming to study to Aberystwyth University for a maximum of 6 months (or 11 months for English Language course students) you may choose to come on a Short-term Study Visa, you will be much more restricted than if you come on 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.

You should only apply for a Short-term Study visa, if you are certain that you will not need to extend your stay in the UK, you do not wish to work, and meet one of the following criteria:

1. You will be studying on an English language course that is a maximum of 11 months.
2. You are a Study Abroad student studying for less than 6 months (one semester) who will be returning home after their course finishes.
3. You are coming to the UK to resit an examination.
4. You are registered on a distance learning course and need to come to Aberystwyth University for an examination or to attend a short course of less than 6 months.
5. You are a PhD student coming to Aberystwyth University for your viva voce and to complete corrections for a maximum of 6 months.
6. You are a 'Non-Qualification' visiting student who is registered at an overseas higher education institution who is coming to Aberystwyth University for a maximum of 6 months.

To apply for a Short-term Study visa, please go to: www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa

Please contact the International Student Adviser on immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk if you are not sure which visa to apply for.

Information on Short-term Study Visas can be found on the UKCISA web pages: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Short-term-student-visa

“HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN THE UK ON A SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA?”

As an international student on a Short-term Study visa, you will need to ensure that you leave the UK within 30 days of the end of your course, or, before the expiry date of your Short-term Study visa - whichever is sooner. If you do not leave the UK within this time, it could affect future visa applications to the UK.

NON-VISA NATIONALS

If you are a non-visa national and you are coming on a course of a maximum of 6 months, you can choose whether to apply for a visa in advance of travelling, or to wait until you arrive at the port of entry, i.e. airport, to the UK, and make your request to enter as a short-term student there.

If you do not obtain a visa before you travel, you will need to produce all the documents to support your application to enter the UK as a short-term student to the Border Force Officer when you arrive at the port of entry to the UK. This includes evidence of your unconditional offer to study in the UK and evidence of your finances. It is important you ask to be admitted as a short-term student (rather than as a visitor) - you will need to make a special effort to talk to the Border Force Officer to explain that. Make sure that they look at your short-term student visa letter (which confirms your unconditional offer and acceptance on the course), and ask that the stamp you get in your passport indicates you are a short-term student.

To check whether you are a non-visa national please contact the International Student Adviser on immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk. A list of visa nationals can be found here (if your country of nationality is not on this list then it means that you are a 'non-visa national': www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules)

Travelling into Dublin, Republic of Ireland

If you are a non-visa national and travelling to Aberystwyth via Dublin, you must apply for a Short-term Study visa before you leave your home country. This is because there is no border control in Dublin and you will therefore not be able to apply to enter the UK as a Short-term student at the port of entry, i.e. airport. Please note that you will not be able to register at Aberystwyth University unless you have the correct study visa.

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

Accommodation

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

Each residence has its own distinctive character offering you a safe and secure environment in which to socialise, study and relax. Whilst living in our accommodation, there is no need to worry about fluctuating bills as the accommodation fees include utilities, high speed internet connection including Wi-Fi and a high level of personal contents insurance. For your health and wellbeing free Sports Centre Platinum Membership is also included in your Accommodation Fees!

Whether you desire an en-suite or a standard room with shared bathroom facilities, catered/ part-catered or self-catered facilities, we have a variety of options to suit your budget and preferences with prices ranging from approximately £85-£142 per week. Whatever your requirements we aim to provide you with an option that will suit you best.

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

SELF-CATERED RESIDENCES

This accommodation is arranged in either flats or individual houses to accommodate between 2 and 10 people, with fully fitted kitchens to offer you the independence to cater for yourself. Apart from our en-suite accommodation, all self-catered residences offer shared facilities including bathroom (toilets, wash basins, showers and/or baths) and kitchen facilities. However, for those who do not want to share wither bathroom or kitchen facilities we have available studio rooms in Fferm Penglais which provides self-contained accommodation.

PART-CATERED RESIDENCES

This accommodation is only available in Cwrt Mawr Price Band 2, which offers you all the shared bathroom and kitchen facilities as in our self-catered residence; however, with the benefit of using our award winning restaurants. Part-catered accommodation is a good choice if you do not want to worry about cooking your own food.

Aber Card

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

Further information on our accommodation options, including costs, photographs and virtual tours can be found at: www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation

APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

We offer guaranteed University owned or managed accommodation for International students, including Erasmus and Exchange students for academic year 2019/20*.

Undergraduate Applications:

If you have received a conditional or an unconditional offer to study at Aberystwyth University and are holding us as either your firm or insurance choice, from the beginning of April, we will send you an invitation to apply for accommodation both by e-mail and post.

Postgraduate Applications:

Once you have received an offer to study at Aberystwyth University, from the beginning of April, we will send you an invitation to apply for accommodation both by e-mail and post.

Erasmus and International Exchange Applications:

As soon as your place to study at Aberystwyth University is confirmed by the Study Abroad Office we will send you an invitation to apply for accommodation by e-mail.

We advise that you complete your application as soon as possible, as we offer accommodation on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

THE ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

Telephone - +44 (0) 1970 622984

Web - www.aber.ac.uk/accommodation

E-mail - accommodation@aber.ac.uk

Facebook - Aberystwyth University Accommodation Office

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

Private accommodation in Aberystwyth

“WHERE CAN I FIND PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION IN ABERYSTWYTH?”

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

www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/private-sector

HELP AND HOUSING ADVICE

Students may approach the Accommodation Office or the Students Union if they require any information, help or advice regarding private sector accommodation. Staff 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.

“HOW MUCH DOES PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION COST IN ABERYSTWYTH?”

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 accommodation, where 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 further information on typical costs of living visit:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/prospective-students/typical-costs/.

“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.

If you decide to live in University accommodation then a high level of personal contents insurance is included in the accommodation fees.

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. We also have useful information on our Accommodation Moving In webpage about what to bring and what to leave at home. For further information visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/new-students/moving-in/.

“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.

“SHOULD I BRING MY OWN BEDDING?”

No, do not bring bedding. You can pre-order essential packs, which include items such as bedding, kitchen equipment and if you order using Uni Kit Out we will arrange for the pack to be put in your room ready for your arrival. Please note that this is subject to order dates. For further information please visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/new-students/moving-in/uni-kit-out/. Alternatively, you can buy bedding cheaply from shops locally in Aberystwyth.

“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 £500.

Do not bring large amounts of cash, as cash can easily be lost and the University cannot guard it for you. Make sure that you will be able to use your bank card in the UK.

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. If your electrical items are over 1 year old they will need to be PAT tested.

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

For further information please visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/current-students/living-residences/pat/

“SHOULD I BRING MY OWN COOKING UTENSILS?”

No, do not bring cooking utensils with you. Your case will be too heavy for you to carry! You can buy saucepans, plates and other cooking utensils very cheaply from shops in Aberystwyth. Information on moving into your accommodation can be found here:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/moving-in/

“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

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.

“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/AberErasmusSociety/

Documents to put in your hand luggage:

- Passport/ EU identity card
- Entry clearance 'vignette' visa (in your passport)
- Home Office visa decision letter
- Visitor letter and/or CAS e-mail from Aberystwyth University (if applicable)
- Financial information – letter from your sponsor (if applicable), or photocopies of the financial documents you submitted with your student visa application
- Original transcripts or qualifications
- University Residences Agreement (if you have received it)
- Copy of tuberculosis 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)

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 for September arrivals. When you arrive in Aberystwyth the first thing you should do is pick up keys for your accommodation.

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

The majority of students coming to Aberystwyth arrive at 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 please refer to:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/further-travel

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

“WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE?”

Unless you are using the 'Meet & Greet' service, you should arrive on Friday 20 or Saturday 21 September. If you are starting at a different time of year you will receive information for when you should arrive nearer the time. If you have not received information, please contact: studyabroad@aber.ac.uk (International Exchange students) or erasmus@aber.ac.uk (Erasmus students).

“SHOULD I BRING MONEY FOR TRAVELLING?”

Please remember to bring some cash (Sterling) with you for your immediate expenses such as travel fares, 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 but find out how much it will cost you to withdraw money in the UK.

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

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



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.cardiff-airport.com/

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

By bus: The Megabus Company runs a bus service from Cardiff Station to Aberystwyth, to check times please go to uk.megabus.com/.

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 journey to Aberystwyth will take approximately 8 hours 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 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. www.eurostar.com/uk-en

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 Union, and have nothing to declare.

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 gov UK website: www.gov.uk/uk-border-control

IMMIGRATION

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

Even if you already have a visa, the Border Force 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 £8,700) or more to customs officers. Cash not only means currency notes and coins but also banker's drafts and cheques of any kind, including travellers' cheques. You will find the relevant forms to fill out at ports and airports. For more information, please go to the HM Revenue and Customs website:

www.gov.uk/bringing-cash-into-uk

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 Adviser at Aberystwyth University.

Tel: +44 (0)1970 621548

Meet and Greet 2019

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

COACH COLLECTION FROM BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Aberystwyth University will be at Birmingham International Airport on Wednesday 18, Thursday 19 and Friday 20 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 the Arrivals gate (opposite Costa café in the Arrivals lounge) where you should be able to see the 'A' team volunteers from the Students Union wearing red t-shirts and holding signs. We will be departing promptly at 11.30 am and 5.30 pm.

To book a place please go to:
www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/travel/

N.B. There will be a charge of £25.00 for this service to be paid in advance at the time of booking.

Deadline for booking is Monday 16 September.

“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 Freshers' Weekend, 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 outside of the station entrance can take you to your accommodation. The cost of a taxi to the University should only be about £5.00 to £6.00.

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

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



Your time in Aberystwyth

The First Week

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

BIG WELCOME WEEKEND AND ORIENTATION WEEK

The Big Welcome Weekend, starting on Friday 20 September at the Arts Centre, is your first point of contact to pick up your keys and find information on registration, social activities, sports centre inductions, and much more. There is always a warm and friendly atmosphere so do make sure to go along! Further information from www.aber.ac.uk/en/new-students/freshers/.

IMPORTANT TASKS

Collection of BRP

For those studying at Aberystwyth University under a Tier 4 Visa, you will need to collect your BRP from the Post Office within 10 days of arrival in the UK. The International Office will make arrangements to help students with this.

Police registration

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

Bank letter service

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

Registration and student ID card

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

INTERNATIONAL WELCOME CEREMONY

The International Welcome Ceremony will be held in the Arts Centre, Penglais Campus from 10:30am on Sunday 22 September. You will be provided with documents and information that you will find useful for your time in Aberystwyth.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DOCUMENT CHECK

New Students requiring a Visa

As a new student at Aberystwyth University you will be required to attend a pre-enrolment sessions (referred to as the International Student Document Check) prior to your registration. **These sessions are compulsory for all students outside of the EEA and Switzerland.**

The International Student Document Check will take place between 23 and 25 September 2019. You will be sent, by e-mail, further information on the venue and times of this document check at a later stage closer to your registration. This information will also be available online from www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/compliance-information/.

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

- Current Passport and Biometric Residence Permit
- Visa decision letter from the Home Office
- Original transcripts or degree certificates as mentioned on your CAS (if applicable)
- Proof of English Language proficiency as mentioned on your CAS (if applicable)
- ATAS (if applicable)

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

Students Starting Outside September

Any international students commencing their studies outside of the main September intake are required to contact the Compliance Office (compliance@aber.ac.uk) prior to their registration so as to make the necessary arrangements for their Document Check.

Returning Students

Returning students who have not provided the most up to date passport and/or visa, will not be able to complete the on-line registration. Please attend the International Student Document check as stated above. Once you present us with your up to date immigration documents, you will then be allowed to register for the continuation of your course. Failure to show any such documents will prevent you from continuing with your course and you will only be allowed to return to your studies once you can present us with the appropriate immigration documents that give you a legal right to stay and study in the UK.

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 23 September, information will be sent by your academic department. 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 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 on-line 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/new-students/freshers/registration/

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

COURSE/MODULE INFORMATION

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

JANUARY STARTERS

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

Money and Finances

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

TUITION FEES

Financing your tuition fees is a major consideration for all students and their families. Please make sure that you are aware of all the tuition loans, bursaries and scholarships available and their eligibility criteria by going to www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/fees-finance

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 Accommodation:

Expenditure	Cost per annum
Standard single room in a Self-catered Residence [energy inclusive] for 39* weeks	£3,331 - £4,321
Food (depending on taste)	£1,800
Social	£1,170
Telephone Calls	£200
Extras	£390
Books, equipment, stationery	£100
Clothing	£200

*Please note: different lengths of licences are available.

For further information on typical costs of living visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/prospective-students/typical-costs/.

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

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

“HOW DO I OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?”

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

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

Staying Healthy

REGISTERING WITH A GP

In the UK, non-emergencies are dealt with in a surgery by a doctor known as a General Practitioner (GP). You need to register with a doctor before you are treated, so you must do this within the first week of your arrival in the UK. 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, such as 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: faqs.aber.ac.uk/index.php?id=1942

WHERE CAN I FIND A DENTIST?

If you are entitled to NHS treatment, you may still have to make a contribution towards the cost of your dental treatment. If you are not entitled to NHS treatment, or the dentist you choose does not take NHS patients (some dentists will only accept private patients), you will have to pay for the full cost of your treatment. 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 NHS dentists near the University see: www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/directory/dentists/

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

EEA nationals

EEA nationals are eligible to access free NHS services. You should however obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) from your home country before coming to the UK to show you are eligible for free health treatment. Visit the European Commission's website for more information on how to apply for an EHIC card at ec.europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/education/university/health/index_en.htm .

WARNING - The EHIC card is free of charge, please take care to only use an official website to avoid the risk of using a website that will charge you a fee.

Non-EEA nationals

Non-EEA nationals who are coming to study for six months or more will need to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge as part of their visa application process. If you paid the Immigration Health Surcharge for your current period of immigration permission then you will qualify for free NHS treatment on the same basis as anyone who is ordinarily resident in the UK.

Non-EEA nationals who are coming to study for less than six months and have not paid an Immigration Health Surcharge should take out private medical insurance for the duration of their visit to the UK.

Family members and friends of students who are not travelling to the UK on a dependant type visa will also need to take private medical insurance for the duration of their visit to the UK, as they may not be eligible for free NHS treatment.

International students can also seek medical advice for less serious conditions directly from a pharmacist. The 'Choose Well' campaign exists to help you decide the best source of medical advice and treatment, please see: www.choosewellwales.org.uk/home.

For further information on the NHS services that are available free of charge, please go to: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare.

Access to health services will be affected when the UK leaves the EU. For up to date information on this please go to: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare



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

E-MAIL

University staff will use e-mail as the main way of communicating with you. You will be 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

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

“WHERE CAN I USE OR RENT A COMPUTER?”

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

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



MOBILE PHONES AND TELEPHONES

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

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

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

Contracts for mobiles

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

To buy a contract mobile phone you will need a “proof of enrolment” letter stating that you are a Aberystwyth University student and giving your term-time address. You can obtain this “proof of enrolment” letter from your Student Record: studentrecord.aber.ac.uk/en/

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.

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.



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.

“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-learning-support/

“WHERE CAN I ACCESS ENGLISH SUPPORT?”

Student learning support and the International English Centre

Support is available for all students to help with academic writing, participation in seminars and lectures, presentation skills, and use of the University's network based academic resources. This includes semester-long courses in writing, communication and information skills (non-credit bearing); modules in academic writing and communications (credit bearing); and individual consultations on aspects of your writing.

The University also offers a variety of in-session English language and study skills courses specially designed to help international students succeed. If English is not your first language, you may find you need extra support understanding lectures, seminars and completing assignments. Please visit the following webpage for further information:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/english/

What are the semester dates 2019-2020 at Aberystwyth University?

To check dates of term, please go to
www.aber.ac.uk/en/dates-of-term

“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.

Prepare for Success is an interactive web learning tool for international students who are getting ready to come to the UK for study in further or higher education. It contains learning resources which are activity-based to help you find out about different aspects of academic life in the UK and the skills needed for effective study. As well as preparing you for what to expect during your studies, the activities provide scope for English language improvement. If you would like to try this out please go to www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk/.

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

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

1. Lecture

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

2. Seminar

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

3. Tutorial

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

4. Practical work

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

5. Independent study

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

“HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?”

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

- written examination; normally essays rather than multiple choice questions

- course work, including written essays, reports and dissertations
- group work projects
- presentation to a seminar
- practical assessments

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

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

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

ORGANISING YOUR STUDIES

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

PLAGIARISM

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

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

Help and Advice

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

EXCHANGE STUDENT SUPPORT

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

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

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

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

Tel: 01970 621548

E-mail: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

You can also contact your local British Council Office - www.britishcouncil.org/ click on 'Choose your Country' which provides contact details for the British Council Office from where you are based.

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

www.ukcisa.org.uk

SUPPORTING YOU

Our Student Support Services are friendly and approachable. Working with you, they can achieve solutions for most of the challenges of student life. The team aim to offer student-centered support that is responsive to your needs, and is confidential and nonjudgemental.

Student Welcome Centre

The Student Welcome Centre is your one-stop shop for a range of advice and information including: student finance and money management, disability and specific learning differences and guidance on a range of health matters, including emotional and sexual wellbeing.

The Centre houses our Advice Information and Money Service; our Accessibility Service and our Wellbeing Service. Our Welcome Desk is your first port of call for general enquiries about our services.

Advice, Information and Money Service

The Student Advice, Information and Money Service provides information, advice, support and referral on a wide range of issues. If you are unsure about where to go for advice or assistance please contact us. No issue is too big or too small. Our service is confidential, non-judgemental and free of charge. We have a drop-in service or you can make an appointment with an Adviser by contacting our Student Welcome Desk.

The student advisers are accredited with The National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA) and are able to offer professional advice on money management or any issues with Student Finance. They can also give advice and guidance on any queries relating to accommodation, academic progress, University procedures or eligibility for Hardship funds.

Accessibility Services

The University welcomes applications from disabled students and those with specific learning differences, and considers them on the same academic grounds as those for other candidates. We advise you to consider, before applying, the requirements of your chosen course, identifying any elements that might present particular difficulties. We recommend that you visit the University campuses and your department of choice to investigate the support that may be available, explore facilities and discuss specific needs.

Our Student Accessibility Advisers are happy to help before you apply. It is important that you contact your department and our advisers as early as possible as it may take time to arrange adjustments and organise support. We also recommend that you contact our Student Accessibility Advisers to discuss a study needs assessment and to get advice on (1) how/whether your support needs can be funded and (2) advise on arrangements such as support workers, including for one-to-one study skills support, note-takers, mentors and library assistance. Individual examination arrangements may be available for students with a range of impairments including specific learning differences such as dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Signpost Mentoring

Our Accessibility Service also includes the Signpost Mentoring Scheme which offers friendly, confidential, one-to-one advice on any aspect of university life. Signpost is a peer-mentoring scheme for all new undergraduates to help you achieve your potential, settle down in university life, plan for the future, and make the most of your time at university.

Resident Assistants

All halls of residences have a support network of Resident Assistants, who will contact you on your arrival to welcome you to your residential community. Their role is to help you settle in and make the most of your opportunities beyond the classroom and, where needed, enable you to access the entire range of support services within the University.

Student Wellbeing Services

01970 622087 / 01970 621761

studentwellbeing@aber.ac.uk

aber.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/aberystwyth-university-student-wellbeing-service-online-re-6

The Student Wellbeing Service provides our wellbeing health and counselling provision. The Student Wellbeing Service can support you with a range of academic life related issues, or signpost you to the most appropriate support and is in addition to, but not a substitute for, your own GP. Although we work closely with local GPs and hospital services to ensure that you get good care and attention when needed, it is important that you register with a local GP practice on arrival in Aberystwyth.

Extra Support for you

ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION WITH THE STUDENTS' UNION

www.abersu.co.uk/

The Students' Union runs an Advice Centre, staffed by a professional advisor providing independent support and representation whether academic, housing or financial, for students who may find themselves needed representation support whilst at university. .

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



Living in Aberystwyth

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

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

“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.

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 International Office. We will pass you on to people who can help understand the problems you are facing.

“HOW DO I GET AROUND ABERYSTWYTH?”

Aberystwyth is a small town so you will find that you will be able to walk or cycle to most places. University Campus and Halls of Residence are within a short walk of one another. There are regular buses between Aberystwyth and all three University campuses. Details of timetables and fares can be obtained from:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/maps-travel/bus/

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/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Driving

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

If you want to travel to certain countries in the European Economic Area you may need to apply for a Schengen visa. 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 please refer to:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/visas-support-advice/schengen-visa/

Other information

Shopping

Aberystwyth is a market town and the administrative centre of the west coast of Wales. The town centre offers a variety of shopping with a range of indoor, outdoor, old, modern, and independent 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. Many shops are also open on Sundays for a shorter time.

FOOD SHOPPING

You can buy traditional and local produce, including organic and vegan products at the outdoors Farmer's Market Aberystwyth on the first and third Saturday of every month. There are also independent butchers, bakers and a fishmonger in town.

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, Iceland and Tesco supermarket are located near the train station. There is a relatively small supermarket called CK's which is on the top of Penglais hill, near to the University's halls of residence.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD STORES

There are some food stores in the town where you will be able to find specialist foods. We have shops that sell Asian food and Chinese medicine. More specialist foods are easily ordered on-line and delivered. Supermarkets in the UK provide a wide range of international food items that should cater for your needs.

Religion and Faith

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

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

You will find that there is a wide range of religious organisations and places of worship in and around Aberystwyth.

There are faith spaces available for prayer on the Penglais Campus. The Penglais Campus prayer room is situated in the Faith Centre, Arts Centre.

Further information is available from www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/faith-provision/

HALAL PROVISION

Our catered establishments offer a selection of hot and cold dishes that are suitable for a Halal diet. All food is clearly marked for ease of identification.

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.

THE 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.

STUDENT SOCIETIES

Within the Union, there are over 100 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 Freshers 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/teamaber/societies/

THE GLOBAL STUDENT SOCIETY

The Global Students Society is a new society that aims to bring international and home students together to create a culturally diverse community of young people from around the world. Their emphasis is to make students

welcome and help them to settle into Aberystwyth University life. The Global Student Society organises a wide range of social and fundraising events throughout the academic year. You can follow them on www.facebook.com/groups/932054753660547/.

ERASMUS AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE 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 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

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/teamaber/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

International 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/teamaber/sports/clublist

As part of our health and wellbeing drive, Aberystwyth University is delighted to offer all students staying in University accommodation use all of the Sports Centre activities for free - this includes the gym, free weights rooms, group exercise classes, spinning, BoxRox climbing wall plus the pool and saunarium. From the start of term, once you have activated your card at the library, your membership will be current and active. All new students will get a free induction, further information is available from here:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/sportscentre/membership/students/.



Working in the UK

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

Students from the EEA are able to work with the same restrictions that apply to UK students.

Students from outside the EEA coming to study on a Short-term Study visa cannot do any kind of work, work placement or work experience during their time in the UK.

Students from outside the EEA coming to study on a Tier 4 visa (General) will have their work conditions noted on their BRPs. As a Tier 4 (General) student, you will normally be 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

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.

If you have any doubts about how many hours or what kind of work you are allowed to do, please contact the International Student Adviser on:
immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk.

“WHAT SORT OF WORK CAN I DO ON A TIER 4 VISA?”

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

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

“HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK CAN I WORK?”

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

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

“WHERE CAN I FIND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?”

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

“APPLYING FOR A NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER”

You will need a National Insurance Number to work in the UK. You will be able to do this on campus during the first week of term. At other times you will need to make an appointment via Jobcentre Plus, telephone 0345 600 0643.

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 2018. However, the UK Government often change the immigration rules about working in the UK, so you **MUST** check the following websites for the most up-to-date information:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student

For more information about working during your studies see:

www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Can-you-work

www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/compliance-information/

www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers

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

It is important to be realistic about the job opportunities available. In the UK, generally students obtain part-time relatively low paid casual work.

The university offers employment to students through the AberWorks scheme. AberWorks aims to help students gain practical work experience within the University. Its key aims are to increase your skills and self-awareness to develop your employability.

AberWorks includes opportunities for students who wish to earn while they learn. The opportunities available range from Catering, Administrative work, Ambassador roles and more. During term-time if work is available, you may choose to work up to 15 hours per week, with more hours possible during vacation periods. Further information is available from www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/aberworks/.

“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 Students' Union. They have a volunteer office run by a team of officers and 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 student experience as you can meet the local community.

For more information, please visit the Students' Union 'Get Involved and Volunteer' webpages here: www.abersu.co.uk/teamaber/volunteering/.



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 in 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 to study 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 to be seen in Aberystwyth, such as bottlenose dolphins, seals, red kites and bats!

PLACES TO VISIT IN ABERYSTWYTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Library of Wales



Wales and the UK

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.

International 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.



Contacts

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

ACCOMMODATION OFFICE

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 622984

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INFORMATION SERVICES

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 622400

E-mail: is@aber.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 622367

E-mail: international@aber.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISER

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 621548

E-mail: immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk

STUDENT FEES OFFICE

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 621583

E-mail: fees@aber.ac.uk

STUDENT SUPPORT

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 621761

E-mail: student-support@aber.ac.uk

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

Telephone: +44 (0)1970 622364

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