



Department of
Modern Languages

Undergraduate studies in

Modern Languages

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (June 2022) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.



Welcome to the Department of Modern Languages

In the Department of Modern Languages we offer a range of courses in the study of French, Spanish, German and Italian, either as single or joint honours degree programmes in the case of Spanish and French, or joint honours in the case of German and Italian. We are one of a handful of universities in the UK that offers you the opportunity to combine the study of three languages, two of which can be taught from beginners' level. You can also combine your language study with a wide range of other subjects including History, Marketing, Maths, English, Drama and Theatre, and many others.

Studying Modern Languages at Aberystwyth will allow you to develop as a linguist across four years of BA study so that you graduate with high-level proficiency in your language(s) of choice. We place particularly strong emphasis on employability and the value of developing language skills for professional life. Combined with specialised language study, at Aberystwyth you will also follow courses

that develop your understanding of national societies and cultures and the place of these in the world. As you progress in your studies, you will have the choice to follow a number of specialist modules, which will deepen your knowledge of national and transnational topics in society and culture.

Our teaching is informed by our high-quality research and innovative ways to engage and excite the learning of languages in the classroom. Most recently we were ranked in the top 10 in the UK for Student Experience and Teaching Quality for the subjects of French and Hispanic Studies, and also Italian (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022). We also perform consistently well in the annual National Student Survey (NSS).

As well as being surrounded by the language in the Department, the year abroad in your third year of study will ensure that you'll also be fully immersed in the culture of your

chosen language, and will provide you with insights, knowledge and confidence.

The experiences our students gain during their year abroad (which they may spend as students in a partner university, as language teachers with the British Council, or on a range of work placements) are a central feature of our modern languages degrees. The year abroad provides a transformational experience that equips students very effectively for a global future. We work hard to support you as we prepare you for your time abroad so that you can make the most of the experience in every way.

We would be delighted to welcome you on a visit to the Department, to tell you more about our degrees and to introduce you to our vibrant community of teachers, scholars and students.

Dr Guy Baron
Head of Department

My experience

as a language student at Aberystwyth...

Tanisha Jayne Warner

Studying a language in the Department of Modern Languages at Aberystwyth University is wonderful. The staff are friendly and only an email away if you have any questions. The friends you make are great, both in Aberystwyth and on your Year Abroad.

The Year Abroad is an amazing experience. University staff are extremely helpful with the preparations for the time abroad, ensuring that you secure the right placement, whether that's studying at a university, doing an internship with a company or teaching English through the British Council English Language Assistant scheme.

Many students in the Department study more than one language or a language with another subject. This means

that you meet and learn with students who study a variety of subjects during your time at University. You also get to study with students from other countries who are spending their year abroad in Aberystwyth, which is the perfect chance to practise the language in a familiar setting.

The Department teaches the majority of classes through the target language. Through the range of core and optional modules you also get the opportunity to explore and learn about the history, politics and cultures of the countries related to your chosen language or languages.

The Department of Modern Languages at Aberystwyth University is wunderbar!



Teaching Structure / Language Areas

A degree from the Department of Modern Languages will allow you to focus on three broad aims of development:

- proficiency and a high level of proficiency in the language(s) studied
- an in-depth understanding of the culture, society, politics, economics, history and literature of the countries of the languages being studied
- exceptional transferable skills that include problem solving, written and oral communication, and analytical skills that will make you highly attractive to prospective employers.

Our modules are taught using a combination of lectures, seminars and practical workshop sessions, providing you with core knowledge and relevant, up-to-date information.

Our seminars are an opportunity for you to ask key questions and discuss important ideas in a small group environment. Our language classes are separated into the following areas:

- listening
- grammar/writing
- translation
- conversation.

The language classes are intense and are taught in small groups, designed to ensure maximum impact of linguistic development during the four years of your degree scheme.

All our members of staff are passionate about their subject and are keen to share with students their enthusiasm and research-led knowledge. Their expertise spans a wide range of subjects creating flexibility to specialise or mix and match options. Language provision is also supplemented by meetings with Language Assistants for further oral practice, as well as opportunities to join one of our language societies.

Languages

taught in the Department



French

French is hugely important in the world of international relations today. It is used in a large number of institutions such as the United Nations, and it is the official language of 29 countries with 220 million native speakers.

Why study French at Aberystwyth University?

French is spoken across the globe as a native or second language by up to half a billion people. The French-speaking world extends across the globe from Europe to Africa, Asia and the Americas. French is more important than ever before and the ability to communicate in the language is an invaluable skill.

At Aberystwyth, studying French will enable you to develop your linguistic competencies further but at the same time explore and develop your knowledge of French culture, literature, art, film and the practical use of language in a business context. Our wide range of modules for you to choose from will develop your communication and analytical skills, which are highly desired by multinational organisations worldwide.

Upon completion of a four-year course in French, you will have acquired a high level of proficiency in the French language, as well as critical understanding of key aspects of modern and contemporary French and Francophone culture.

German

German is the language of business and finance and is the most widely spoken language within the European Union.

Why study German at Aberystwyth University?

Language, culture and history are inseparable, and studying German at Aberystwyth University will show you that there is more to German culture, language and history than you might have expected.

German language skills are highly desirable for employers in international business in a wide range of fields including finance, marketing, translating, teaching, media, arts, publishing, and the civil service. There is an alarming shortage of people in the UK with the ability to speak one of the ten most important foreign languages for the country's prosperity and global standing. To speak German will provide you with a real competitive edge in the job market.

Taught by native speakers, all our German courses provide comprehensive language training combined with the opportunity to explore the cultures, literatures and intellectual histories of German-speaking countries.

Spanish

Spanish is the mother tongue of an estimated 400-450 million people, making it the world's second most spoken language.

Why study Spanish at Aberystwyth University?

Spanish is one of the three most important international languages in the world, spoken as a first language in Europe, Latin America, Africa and increasingly in the USA.

At Aberystwyth University, you will have the opportunity to discover Spanish and Latin American culture and history through the variety of core and optional modules available to you during the four-year degree. By the end of the course, you will have a fluent command of the Spanish language as well as a solid grasp and knowledge of Spanish and Latin American culture.

There is a high demand for Spanish graduates from multinational employers who value the communication and intercultural skills that are developed through language degrees. A Spanish course can open up many exciting opportunities in fields such as international politics, business, finance, marketing, teaching and translating/interpreting.

Italian

Italian is a major European language and is spoken by approximately 85 million people. Its influence is widespread in the arts and in the food and luxury goods markets.

Why study Italian at Aberystwyth University?

Studying Italian provides you with the opportunity to explore careers within teaching, fine arts, banking, the media, tourism and law to name a few.

Italy is a major political partner in the European Union; it is a leading force in fields such as engineering and architecture. Italy is also the home of design and fashion industries. Understanding and developing fluency in Italian will mean that you can explore some of the major contributions to European cultural life, including film and literature, in their native language.

At Aberystwyth University, Italian can be studied from beginners' level. We apply our unique and innovative approaches and methodologies to our teaching, which include small group activities and the support of native Italian teachers and exchange students.

For more details on courses offered, please visit our website: www.aber.ac.uk/en/modernlangs/study-with-us/undergraduate/

Our courses

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French

BA (Hons)

This degree is perfect for you if you're interested in the French-speaking world, and are driven to learn more in a collaborative environment. You will be guided through various aspects, themes and periods of French language, socio-political history, literature, film and culture. No previous knowledge of the language is required as you can study from complete beginners' level to a high level of fluency.

During the four-year degree scheme, your linguistic capabilities will be improved and enhanced through weekly classes in listening, reading/writing, translation and conversation, as well as grammar, translation and linguistics. In Year One, Beginners (without an A level or equivalent in French) follow an intensive language course. All students follow a module introducing them to key questions and texts of the history of France and French-speaking countries. You will also be able to choose from a range of relevant cultural, literary and historical optional modules on literature (covering a range of genres as well as historical periods); film; the history of ideas and artistic movements; and current affairs.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will almost certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partnered universities
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

Employability

Modern linguists are statistically among the most employable graduates, and our degrees take our students across the world. Our graduates enter diverse professions, including teaching, administration, management, marketing, and many more. This degree opens the door to a wide variety of careers, including in the Civil Service, tourism, social work, publishing and broadcasting, and academia. It also provides an excellent foundation for postgraduate study.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.

 UCAS Code: R120.

 Duration: 4 years.

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Beginners French 1 & 2
- French Language Advanced
- Images of France: The French Family
- Introduction to French Studies.

Second year:

- French Language.

Third year:

- Year Abroad Assessment.

Final year:

- French Language
- Dissertation (single Honours French).

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:

- Gender in Modern and Contemporary French Culture
- Humour and Literature
- Introduction to European Film
- Language, Culture, and Identity in Europe
- Narrating and Visualising French Colonialism
- Self-writing, 18th-21st Centuries
- The Language of Business and Current Affairs.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.



Modern Languages

BA (Hons)

Aberystwyth is one of a few universities in the UK that offers the opportunity to combine the study of three languages, two of which will not require prior knowledge. You can choose from among French, Italian, German and Spanish. You will not only gain practical knowledge of and fluency in three languages, but you will also learn to understand the position of these languages in a wider global context.

Beginners follow an intensive course in the first year, consisting of an intensive language module and general introduction to European civilisation and culture. After the first year, all students on the beginners' course will join students in the advanced level class. If you are joining us at advanced level, the first year will build on and further develop the principles taught at A level, preparing you for the next three years.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will almost certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partnered universities
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

If you are studying more than one language, your time on the year abroad is normally split between the two countries to facilitate total immersion in more than one language and culture.

Employability

Modern linguists are statistically among the most employable graduates, and our degrees take our students across the world. Our graduates enter diverse professions, including teaching, administration, management, marketing, and many more. This degree opens the door to a wide variety of careers, such as the Civil Service, tourism, social work, librarianship, marketing, publishing and broadcasting.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.

 UCAS Code: R990.

 Duration: 4 years.

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Beginners (French, German, Spanish, Italian)
- Advanced (French, German, Spanish)
- Exploring German Cultural Identity
- Hispanic Civilization
- Images of France: The French Family.

Second year:

- Language (French, German, Spanish, Italian).

Third year:

- Year Abroad Assessment.

Final year:

- Language (French, German, Spanish, Italian).

Spanish and Latin American Studies

BA (Hons)

This four-year degree scheme is designed to provide you with a profound practical knowledge of the Spanish language and will equip you with the much needed tools to reflect on past and contemporary literature, society, cinema, translation and politics both in Spain and Latin America. No previous knowledge of the language is required as you can study from complete beginners' level to a high level of fluency.

This degree has two pathways in the first year only. Beginners (without an A level or equivalent in Spanish) follow an intensive course in the first year, consisting of an intensive language module and a general introduction to Hispanic civilisation and culture. After the first year, all students on the beginners' course will join students in the advanced level class. If you are joining us at Advanced Level, the first year will build on and further develop the principles taught at A level, preparing you for the next three years.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will almost certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partnered universities across Europe
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

Employability

As a Modern Languages graduate, you can pursue careers in many different areas including business and commerce, law, teaching and academia, journalism and the media, culture and heritage, the civil and uniformed services. This course also provides an excellent foundation for postgraduate study.

Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Beginners Spanish 1 & 2
- Brazilian Portuguese (basic)
- Hispanic Civilization
- Spanish Language Advanced
- Study and Research Skills in Spanish and Latin American Studies.

Second year:

- Brazilian / Portuguese Language II
- Research Project
- Spanish Language.

Third year:

- Year abroad assessment.

Final year:

- Spanish Language.

Optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests include:

- Introduction to European Film
- Language, Culture, and Identity in Europe Spanish American Cinema
- The Spanish Avant-garde
- Actualidades
- Reading Late 19th Century Literature.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.



Key Facts



Degree type: BA.



UCAS Code: R401.



Duration: 4 years.

Joint Honours with a Modern Language

BA (Hons) / BSc (Hons)

Aberystwyth provides the opportunity to study Spanish, French or German alongside a variety of other subjects in a joint honours programme. This gives you the benefits of developing profound skills and knowledge in one of these languages alongside another subject you enjoy. No previous knowledge of your chosen language is required as you can study from complete beginners' level to a high level of fluency.

This degree has recognised employability benefits as learning any language can also give you transferable skills, which are useful in any line of work - including intercultural awareness, communication, confidence and teamwork.

Beginners will follow an intensive course in the first year, designed to quickly reach A level standard. After the first year, all students on the beginners' course will join students in the advanced level class. If you are joining us at advanced level, the first year will build on and further develop the principles taught at A level, preparing you for the next three years, including your year abroad.

During the four-year degree scheme, your linguistic capabilities will be improved and enhanced through weekly classes in listening, reading/writing, translation and conversation, as well as grammar, translation, and linguistics.

Your year abroad

For all students, this is a highlight and will almost certainly be one of the most memorable experiences of your life. We offer the following options:

- studying in one of our partnered universities across Europe
- studying in a private language school
- undertaking an English Language Assistantship with the British Council
- undertaking a work experience placement in your chosen country that is relevant to the choice of language degree.

Core module list

Below is an indicative list of core (language) modules that you may study on this course. There will be additional core modules in your chosen joint honours or major/minor subject.

First year:

- Beginners Language
- Advanced Language.

Second year:

- Language.

Third year:

- Year abroad assessment.

Final year:

- Language

For more details on the optional modules available for both subjects of your joint honours degree, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

Employability

Modern linguists are statistically among the most employable graduates, and our degrees take our students across the world. Our graduates enter diverse professions, including teaching, administration, management, marketing, and many more. This degree opens the door to a wide variety of careers, such as the Civil Service, tourism, social work, librarianship, marketing, publishing and broadcasting.

Key Facts



Degree type: BA.



Duration: 4 years.

Joint Honours & Major/Minor - language with other subject

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
French	Business and Management	NR11	
	Creative Writing	WR81	
	Drama and Theatre	RW14	
	English Literature	QR31	
	Film and Television Studies	RW16	
	International Relations	1FRL	
	Law	RM11	
	Marketing	NR59	
German	Mathematics	GR11	
	Business and Management	NR12	
	History	RV21	
	International Relations	22LR	
	Law	RM21	
	Marketing	NR52	
Spanish	Tourism Management	NR82	
	Accounting & Finance	NR44	
	Adventure Tourism Management	RN44	
	Business and Management	NR14	
	Creative Writing	WR84	
	Drama and Theatre	RW44	
	Education		X3R4
	International Relations	4FRL	
	Law	RM41	
Marketing	NR55		
Tourism Management	NR84		

Global opportunities



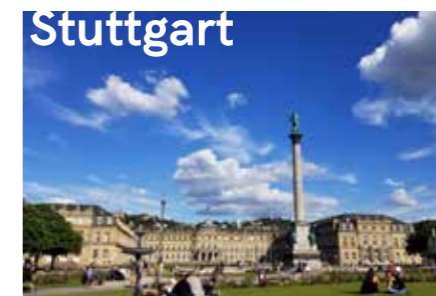
Aberystwyth's Global Opportunities team offer an exciting range of options for you to go overseas as part of your degree: from short courses and volunteering opportunities in the summer, to a full semester or year abroad studying your chosen subject at one of our partner universities.

The University also offers a number of courses which include an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to study at one of our European or international partner universities for one or two semesters during your third year, returning to Aberystwyth for your final year and graduation.

Reports have shown that students who study abroad are more attractive to employers and earn more than their peers. Take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime while improving your critical skills by choosing to study abroad.

Language students

Students who study one or more languages at Aberystwyth spend an additional year studying or working abroad. Time spent abroad improves fluency and confidence in the languages chosen and immerses students in the host culture.



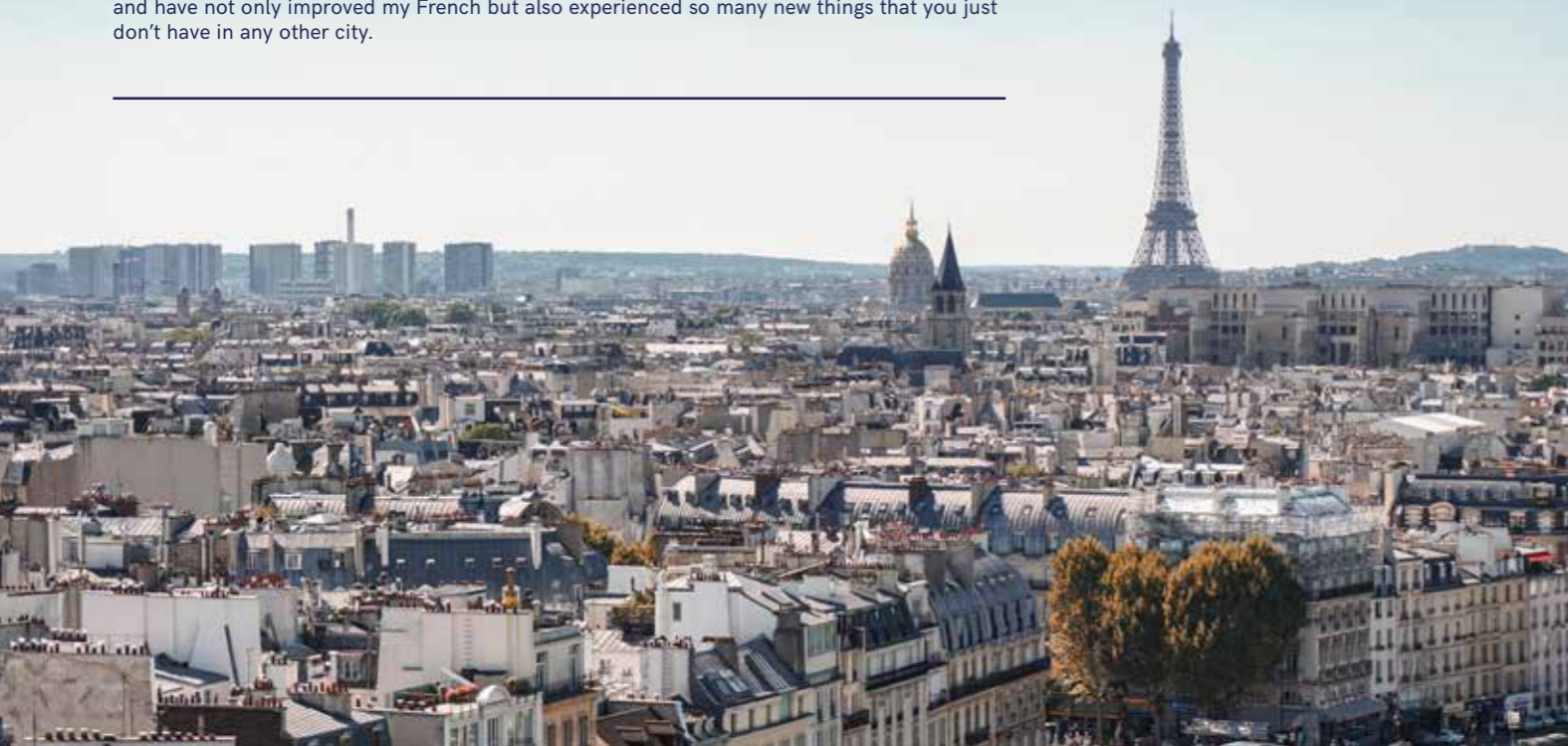
Student profiles from the Study Year Abroad

Leszek Ekert

Paris, France

Paris, one of the world's best known and adored cities certainly lives up to its name. All the clichés are there. From the accordionists, and the businessmen running with baguettes down the boulevards, to the disgruntled strikers, living in the city is a unique chance of a lifetime that should not be missed. I went to Paris-IV La Sorbonne University, which offers a diverse, if bizarre, selection of subjects. I chose Philosophy and History. Obviously, studying gives you the opportunity to learn plenty of new facts, words, and other things in between.

The first semester was hard, going from a little Welsh town to a city of 2.5 million (with 10 million in the suburbs) was a shock but with time I adjusted just fine and enjoyed the hustle and bustle of city life. Living abroad puts things in a different perspective and I am glad to say that I have had this opportunity. I have met some wonderful people from all over the world and have not only improved my French but also experienced so many new things that you just don't have in any other city.



Martyna Mista

Córdoba, Spain

Córdoba is located in Andalusia, the region of Spain where the vivid culture and tradition form part of the everyday life of its inhabitants. I spent a year there as an Erasmus student. Córdoba is an amazing city with a very long history. In the 10th Century it used to be the biggest city in the world while at that time Paris and London were only villages! It was a melting-pot of peoples and cultures. Romans, Muslims, Christians and Jewish people - they all left their marks in the architecture and culture of Córdoba. Today it is a medium sized city with lots of beautiful monuments and some exciting events too! They reach their climax in May, the month of ongoing festivals and

'fiestas'. They give you a chance to listen and see live flamenco and to party a lot as well! The Andalusian people are very open and they lead quite a relaxed lifestyle. It's very common to socialise in the outdoor cafes or to go out for 'tapas'. If you look, you'll find some bars that offer you 'tapas' for free!

Living abroad for a good length of time is truly a great experience and a real eye-opener. I spent a wonderful year in Córdoba, studying, working as an English teaching assistant and simply immersing myself in Spanish culture. I made friendships that I'll never forget. Remember - it's up to you how you spend your year abroad, so make the most of it!



Employability

Modern linguists are statistically amongst the most employable graduates and our degrees take our students across the world. Many of our graduates find themselves working in the areas of finance, business, consultancy, education, social welfare, health and the media. After further training, many language graduates pursue careers in interpreting, translation and teaching.

Careers and Employability Service

The University offers a careers and employability service for all students and graduates. You can access careers information, explore your options and speak to a consultant who can advise you about opportunities relating to your degree or preferred field. The service offers guidance on CV preparation and job applications, and it is also a great opportunity for you to do some networking with top graduate recruiters at Careers Fairs and events.

In addition, if you're looking for work experience, the careers service can assist with planning and organising your placement.

Research

Our research forms the basis of our teaching and our research is broad and dynamic.

This means that you, our students, will have access to the very latest information during your studies.

The Kindertransport 1938/39: History and Memory of a British Phenomenon

This project by Dr Andrea Hammel investigates the history and memory of the former members of the Kindertransport who are, according to the historian Tony Kushner, the most comprehensively documented group of refugees who have entered Britain.

The term Kindertransport is usually applied to the rescue of nearly 10,000 unaccompanied minors with Jewish backgrounds from Germany and Austria, and their transport to Britain between December 1938 and the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939. Employing sociohistorical methods as well as cultural criticism, this study looks at archival records, autobiographical material and media representations and brings together several strands of research.

Contemporary Cuban Cinema: Nes Spaces, New Histories

This research project is aimed at achieving a greater understanding of the link between Cuban film and society post-1990, a time when Cuba has suffered the worst crisis in its revolutionary history. With the collapse of European communism, many points of ideological reference shifted and therefore new expressions of that shift were developed in Cuban cinema to come to terms with the enormous economic and social changes that took place.

It has been twenty years since the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe had such a profound effect on Cuba's economic, social and cultural wellbeing. During that time Cuban cinema has developed in a distinct way, operating both within and without the official state film institute to express both its satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the continuing revolutionary process. In Cuba, cinema has always been, and still is, part of the cultural foundation of the revolution and continued research in this area is necessary in order to continue to understand such a globally significant process.

Anglo-Norman Dictionary (AND)

The Anglo-Norman Dictionary (AND) project studies and documents the Anglo-Norman language – a dialect of medieval French which was introduced in Britain after the Norman Conquest in 1066. This language was used extensively in all areas of medieval life in Britain, such as literature, law, religion, commerce, science, education and administration, until the end of the Middle Ages. As a result, Anglo-Norman had a major impact on the development of the English language which cannot be overstated.

The Anglo-Norman Dictionary was conceived eighty years ago as a comprehensive account of the vocabulary of this language and culminated in a series of volumes printed in the period 1977-92. A programme of digitization and revision started at Aberystwyth University in 2003 to produce a widely expanded, online second edition of the dictionary (<https://anglo-norman.net/>), which is still ongoing. Since 2006 the resource has been freely accessible to the general public.

Colonial influencers: The Forgotten History of a Student Expedition to Indochina

This research project, funded by the British Academy, explores a 'forgotten' moment of French colonization. In 1924, in order to promote colonial ideology, several groups of elite students were sent to various parts of the French Empire, to witness the excellence of France's 'colonizing mission' and to become its promoters upon their return. However, the expeditions failed to reach their aim, and had no tangible results. These expeditions were ultimately forgotten, and were previously unknown to scholarship as well.

Dr Gelléri discovered archival evidence of one of these expeditions, an all-female group travelling to Indochina, today's Vietnam and Cambodia. Subsequently, he identified the participants of the expedition, and met their descendants, who shared with him a variety of unpublished materials: several travelogues, and hundreds of photographs. Through these accounts, we discover a fascinating story, including the darker sides of colonialism discovered by the organizers and the students.

This unique case study provides an insight into a variety of topics. We gain a better understanding of the experience of colonialism and of its afterlife, and of the early days of colonial tourism. But the project also offers an insight into what it meant to be a female student in the 1920s, in France itself and in the colonies. The project's aim is to create, beyond scholarly publications, an exhibition and a documentary film.

How to apply

Once you've decided what course you want to study and where, you'll be able to start the university application process. Here's a brief overview of the process and our procedures here at Aberystwyth.

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Deadline 15 January. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40.

Top tip: You'll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you'll be asked for it many times.

2 The University will consider your offer

Top tip: Use UCAS Track to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within four weeks.

3 The offer will show on UCAS track

4 Decide where to go

Once you've received all your offers, you'll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you'll need to note which universities will be your firm and insurance choices.

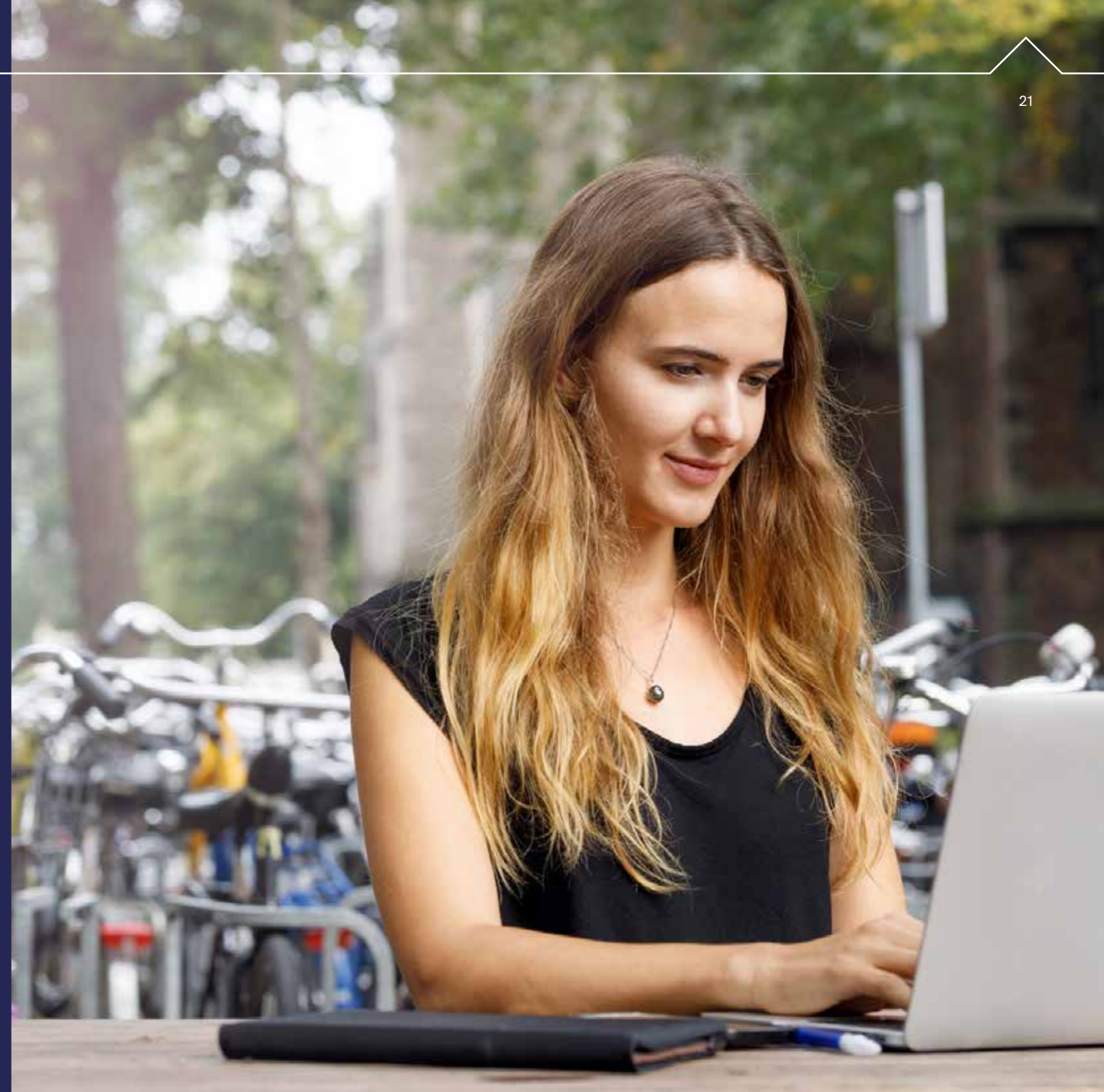
5 Accommodation

Once you've chosen your firm/insurance choice you'll be able to apply for your accommodation (April onwards).

6 Results day

UCAS Track will confirm your offer of a place. If you're not clear what the offer is, contact the university directly. Make sure you're not on holiday on results day. If you don't get the grades you've hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!





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