



Department of
History and Welsh History

Undergraduate studies in
**History and
Welsh History**

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (October 2023) 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

Welcome to the Department of History and Welsh History. My name is Professor Phillipp Schofield and I am Head of the Department of History and Welsh History here at Aberystwyth University.

Students choose to study history at Aberystwyth for several reasons. Aberystwyth is a beautiful seaside town with excellent resources for historians, such as the National Library of Wales, one of only five copyright libraries in the United Kingdom and only a few minutes' walk from the department. Our teaching and research covers a wide range of specialisms, including Medieval and Early Modern History and Modern History.

Our lecturers also conduct world-class research which feeds into all our undergraduate degree programmes. This means that you can learn directly from experts who are undertaking the latest historical research. We currently have a number of exciting research projects under way in the department. One of these, the Imprint Project, a project on Medieval seals, sees our researchers working in conjunction with forensic scientists to investigate fingerprints on seals, bringing together science and history to better understand the past.

"Why should you choose Aberystwyth?" The simplest answer is that we will nurture your passion and enthusiasm for history and allow it to grow so that it sustains you intellectually and in the world of work. A History degree from Aberystwyth University will provide you with the skills you need to enter the career of your choice. Beginning in the first year, we offer modules, work placements and experiences that will help prepare you for work. Studying for a degree in History will develop your critical thinking, communication,

research, interpretation and analytical skills, making you a competitive candidate for a range of careers.

Our graduates have gone into professions such as the police force, the heritage sector, journalism, broadcasting, the Civil Service, education and politics.

In addition, all the students in our department may undertake a study abroad or work experience placement during their degree. If you would like to study abroad for part of your degree, you can choose from any of our partnered universities across Europe and internationally in the USA, Australia, Canada and Hong Kong. We also offer support to students who wish to undertake a work experience placement in a variety of sectors.

At the heart of our degrees we offer a choice of modules that reflect our research specialisms across a wide range of periods and themes throughout History. We offer a



'hands on' approach to the study of History, and engagement with primary sources is central to our teaching. Alongside lectures your modules will offer workshops and seminars allowing you to explore a topic from a variety of angles and teaching styles, as well as offering you opportunities for guided independent research.

Information about our degrees and modules are included in this booklet. If you have questions about any of our courses or about the Department, do please get in touch. I look forward to meeting you in Aberystwyth.

Professor Phillipp Schofield
Head of Department



Student profile

Chris Dale

Second year History student

Hi, my name is Chris Dale and I am a postgraduate student in the Department of History and Welsh History at Aberystwyth University.

For me, studying with the Department of History and Welsh History has been a fascinating journey of discovery led by a team of knowledgeable and highly supportive staff.

One of the great things about the Aber History course is that you're able to choose from a wide range of modules spanning the ages with lecturers specialising in medieval history through to the early modern and modern periods. Being able to choose from such a diverse range of expertise means that you can really tailor the course to your interests but also try areas of history that you have not perhaps tried before.

The lecturers at Aber are hugely supportive and are always on hand to assist with coursework or exam preparation, so definitely make good use of their expertise. The department has a good balance of staff to students, meaning that you will quickly get to know your lecturers. This has made the whole university experience easier to navigate and more personal. Overall the course is intellectually challenging and really allows students a great deal of freedom to study in a way that suits their own style and interests.

The Hugh Owen library is where we History students spend a lot of our time studying. It is located in the heart of campus, is easy to navigate, and has superb staff who are ready to help with anything from finding niche sources to fixing a laptop. We are also very lucky to have access to the

National Library of Wales, one of the five copyright libraries in the UK and Ireland, which is conveniently located right next to the campus. At the National Library students can get access to a copy of anything ever published in the UK which is super-helpful for topping up on primary and secondary sources... and it is free of charge!

Leaving the best till last, I now come to the social life of an Aberystwyth history student. Whilst you will be working hard it is also important to enjoy the social life here. That could be by getting involved in the many societies and sports or enjoying the vibrant life of Aber town - hopefully both!

The History Society is an important part of the History department and brings together students from all academic years. The Society takes multiple trips throughout the year to museums and castles and organises a big summer tour abroad as well. On a weekly basis they hold themed socials which are great fun, with lots of laughs and socialising. There are many other societies available to join, from various sports to arts, politics, gaming and many more.

Throughout the day you can kick back and relax in the Students' Union, and sample some of the food at Nosh-Da, which is great, particularly, I have to say, the Posh-Nosh burger!

Overall the experience of the Aberystwyth History student is a fantastic one, and I would encourage you to make use of the department and its resources as much as you can, as well as getting involved in the social side of things through societies such as the History Society.



Our courses

Single honours

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History

BA (Hons) | V100 | 3 years

A degree in history enables you to place the past in perspective, gain a deeper understanding of society and the world, as well as develop the analytical skills of interpretation, analysis and communication that are so vital in the workplace.

During your degree, you will develop the skills of a historian by learning the methods by which we examine and engage with the past. As you explore our wide range of modules, you will become familiar with thought-provoking historical theories, up-to-date research methods and fascinating historical sources, ranging from medieval manuscripts and early modern ballads to modern mass media, oral history and material culture. These modules will prepare you to undertake your own research for your final year dissertation as well as for the world beyond university.

You will benefit from:


- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, with over 100 years of world-class scholarship and teaching
- a wide range of history modules, taught by experts in the field
- innovative teaching methods, with emphasis on primary sources
- full student access to the books, manuscripts and archives of the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Department), one of the five copyright libraries of the UK, the national archive depository of Wales, and one of the principal historical archive collections in the UK
- extra-curricular activities including field trips and student-led conferences
- history-related work placements and internships.


Employability

Our graduates have been successful in securing professions in many different fields, including the heritage sector; education; academic scholarship and research; archive curation and management; law; publishing; national, regional and local politics; Civil Service; the police; the military; media and the creative industries; business and entrepreneurship.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.

 **IELTS:** 6.5 with minimum 5.5 in each component. See page 227.

 **Assessment weighting:** Typically 100% coursework or 50% coursework and 50% exam.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

Module list

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

First year:

- Introduction to History *
- 'Hands on' History: Sources and their Historians *

Second year:

- Making History *.

Final year:


- Dissertation *.

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

- Knighthood and Chivalry in High Medieval England, 1066-1300
- The European Reformation
- Crime and Daily Life in Early Modern England and Wales
- The Tudors: A European Dynasty?
- The Atlantic World
- Science, Religion and Magic
- Poverty and Welfare in Modern Britain
- Between Revolution and Reform: China since 1800
- The Weimar Republic
- The 'Myth of the Blitz'
- The Third Reich
- Image Wars in Southeast Asia: Studying 20th Century Propaganda
- African-American History, 1808 to the Present
- Environmental History of the Neotropics (Latin America and the Caribbean) in the Capitalocene
- Writing about War in High Medieval Scandinavia c.1050-1264.

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

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

 **Also available:**
V102 Integrated year studying abroad.
V10F Integrated foundation year.



History and Welsh History

BA (Hons) | VVC2 | 3 years

Aberystwyth is a leading centre of Welsh and Celtic scholarship and the Department of History and Welsh History has an international reputation in this area. This degree allows you to study key elements of Welsh history while also gaining a knowledge of other countries.

This course provides you with a specialist degree in Welsh history combined with history. It enables you to take a range of modules in Welsh history, from the medieval period through to the modern day. You will also choose from the wide range of modules on other countries and time periods. As a student on this degree you will benefit from the opportunity of studying at a specialist centre for Welsh history while also developing your interests in other countries.

You will benefit from:

- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, where Welsh history has been taught since the 1880s
- a wide range of history modules, taught by experts in the field with international reputations, with emphasis on primary sources
- use of the University library's unrivalled collection of Celtic literature and historical works, as well as the National Library of Wales, one of the five copyright libraries in the UK and the national archive depository of Wales
- extra-curricular activities such as student conferences and field trips
- being taught by staff who are internationally recognised experts in their field
- history-related work placements and internships.

Employability

Our graduates have been successful in securing professions in many different fields, including the heritage sector; education; academic scholarship and research; archive curation and management; law; publishing; national, regional and local politics; Civil Service; the police; the military; media and the creative industries; business and entrepreneurship.

Key Facts

Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.

Assessment weighting: Typically 100% coursework or 50% coursework and 50% exam.

Module list

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

First year:

- Introduction to History *
- 'Hands on' History: Sources and their Historians *

Second year:

- Making History *.

Final year:

- Dissertation *.

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

- Conquest, Union and Identity in Wales 1250-1800
- People, Power and Identity: Wales 1200-1999
- Crime and Daily Life in Early Modern England and Wales
- Wales under the Tudors
- Crime, Riot and Morality in Wales 1750-1850
- The Reign of Edward II
- The Norwegian Civil Wars
- The Tudors: A European Dynasty?
- Science, Religion and Magic
- From Poor Law to Welfare State: Poverty and Welfare in Modern Britain, 1815-1948
- Modern Welsh Society, 1868-1950
- The 'Myth of the Blitz'.

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

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Field trips/fieldwork: Yes.

Medieval and Early Modern History

BA (Hons) | V190 | 3 years

Spanning around 800 years our degree in Medieval and Early Modern History unlocks the history of the pre-modern world. You will learn about exciting topics such as violence and kingship, travel and discovery, economy and trade, and the body and mind in the period 1000-1800. Take a trip to the past and learn about life in medieval Britain, the castles and courts of Europe, and the voyages across unknown seas to the so-called New World, alongside many more exciting events and themes.

On this course you will be taught by staff who are internationally recognised experts in their fields. There will be opportunities to work with a range of primary materials in small groups and you will also benefit from learning in a first-class research environment.

You will benefit from:

- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, with over 100 years of world-class scholarship and teaching in medieval and early modern history
- a wide choice of modules, taught by experts in the field, with emphasis on primary sources and their interpretation
- full student access to the books, manuscripts and archives of the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Department), one of the five copyright libraries of the UK, the national archive depository of Wales, and one of the principal historical archive collections in the UK
- extra-curricular activities including field trips and the Aberystwyth medieval history student conference
- history-related work placements and internships.

Employability

Our graduates have been successful in securing professions in many different fields, including the heritage sector; education; academic scholarship and research; archive curation and management; law; publishing; national, regional and local politics; Civil Service; the police; the military; media and the creative industries; business and entrepreneurship.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.



Assessment weighting: Typically 100% coursework or 50% coursework and 50% exam.



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes.

Module list

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

First year:

- Introduction to History *
- 'Hands on' History: Sources and their Historians *

Second year:

- Making History *

Final year:

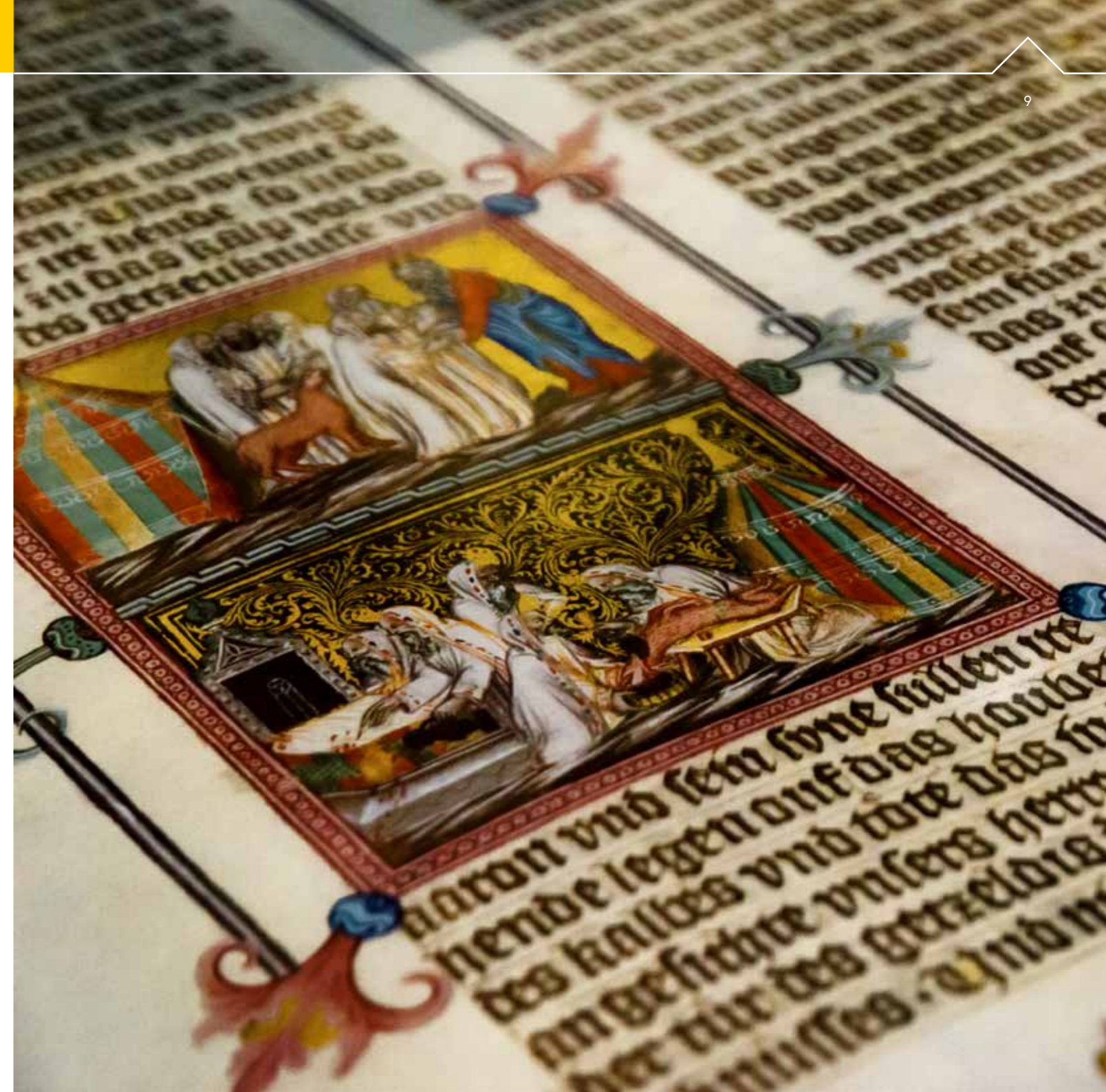
- Dissertation *

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

- Knighthood and Chivalry in High Medieval England, 1066-1300
- The European Reformation
- Wales under the Tudors
- The Tudors: A European Dynasty?
- The Atlantic World
- Medieval and Early Modern Britain and Europe, 1000-1800
- The Norwegian Civil Wars
- Famine in Medieval England
- War, Politics and People: England in Context in the Fourteenth Century
- Medieval England and Germany, c.1050-1250
- European Society and the Medieval Mind 1200-1500.

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

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.



Modern and Contemporary History

BA (Hons) | V191 | 3 years

Our Modern and Contemporary History degree covers the period from the French Revolution to the present day. It explores an era marked by mass participation, whether in politics, war or culture. It illuminates the contradictions of modernity – characterised by utopian experiments and their often nightmarish outcomes, by the proclamation of human rights, by genocide and ethnic cleansing, and by the promise of reason, science and technology.

On this course you will benefit from the broad range of expertise of our modern historians whose work spans the globe. You will learn about the impact of the two world wars, imperialism and decolonisation, Asia's journey through the modern age, and the great changes to life and society that have occurred in our recent past.

You will benefit from:


- studying in the oldest history department in Wales, with over a 100 years of world-class scholarship and teaching
- a wide choice of modules, taught by experts in the field, with emphasis on modern and contemporary primary sources and their interpretation
- extra-curricular activities including field trips and the Aberystwyth modern history student conference
- history-related work placements and internships.

Employability

Our graduates have been successful in securing professions in many different fields, including the heritage sector; education; academic scholarship and research; archive curation and management; law; publishing; national, regional and local politics; Civil Service; the police; the military; media and the creative industries; business and entrepreneurship.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.

 **Assessment weighting:** Typically 100% coursework or 50% coursework and 50% exam.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

Module list

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

First year:

- Introduction to History *
- 'Hands on' History: Sources and their Historians *.

Second year:

- Making History *.

Final year:

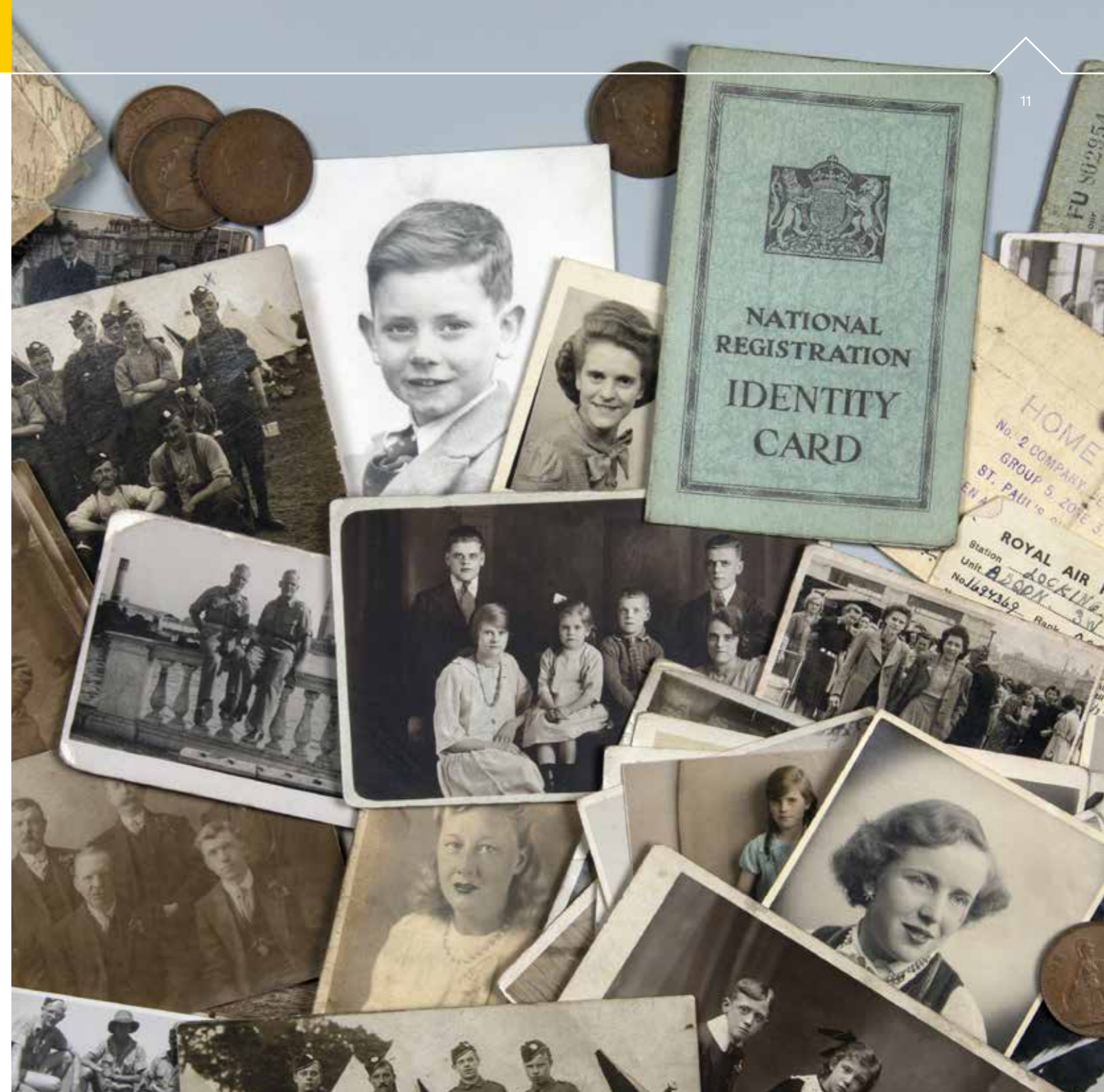
- Dissertation *.

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

- The Modern World, 1789 to the Present
- Culture, Society and the Victorians
- Exploring Nineteenth-Century Exhibitions
- From Poor Law to Welfare State: Poverty and Welfare in Modern Britain, 1815-1948
- The Rise of Modern Medicine
- African-American History, 1808 to the Present
- Media and Society in Twentieth Century Britain
- Britain at War 1939-45
- The Myth of the Blitz
- The Weimar Republic
- The Third Reich
- Environmental History of the Neotropics (Latin America and the Caribbean) in the Capitalocene
- Modern Japan: From Samurai to Salary Men
- Between Revolution and Reform: China since 1800.

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

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.



Politics and Modern History

BA (Hons) | V135 | 3 years

Our Politics and Modern History degree focuses on the study of recent political ideas and institutions in a historical context, allowing you to understand how such ideas and institutions have developed over time. This is a single honours degree in which you specialise in both history and politics.

During your degree you will learn about concepts in history and political theory through the study of new and exciting historical and political scholarship. You will acquire the skills of the historian through a focus on primary sources and historical scholarship, while benefitting from the study of political science and international politics. In your final year you will write a dissertation on either a political or a historical topic using the critical research skills developed over the course of your degree.

You will benefit from:

- studying in the oldest history department in Wales and the oldest International Politics department in the world, each with over a 100 years of world-class scholarship and teaching
- a wide choice of modules, taught by experts in the field
- the use of the University library's unrivalled collection of online modern history and politics resources, and full student access to the National Library of Wales (just a five-minute walk from the Departments), one of the five copyright libraries of the UK
- extra-curricular activities including field trips, student conferences and the International Politics Crisis Games
- history and politics-related work placements and internships.

Employability

Our graduates have been successful in securing professions in many different fields, including the heritage sector; education; academic scholarship and research; archive curation and management; law; publishing; national, regional and local politics; Civil Service; the police; the military; media and the creative industries; business and entrepreneurship.

Key Facts



Typical offer:
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.



Assessment weighting: Typically 100% coursework or 50% coursework and 50% exam.



Field trips/fieldwork: Yes.

Module list

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

First year:

- Introduction to History *
- 'Hands on' History: Sources and their Historians *
- Exploring the International 1: Central Concepts and Core Skills *
- Politics in the 21st Century *.

Second year:

- Making History *
- People and Power: Understanding Comparative Politics Today *.

Final year:

- Dissertation *.

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

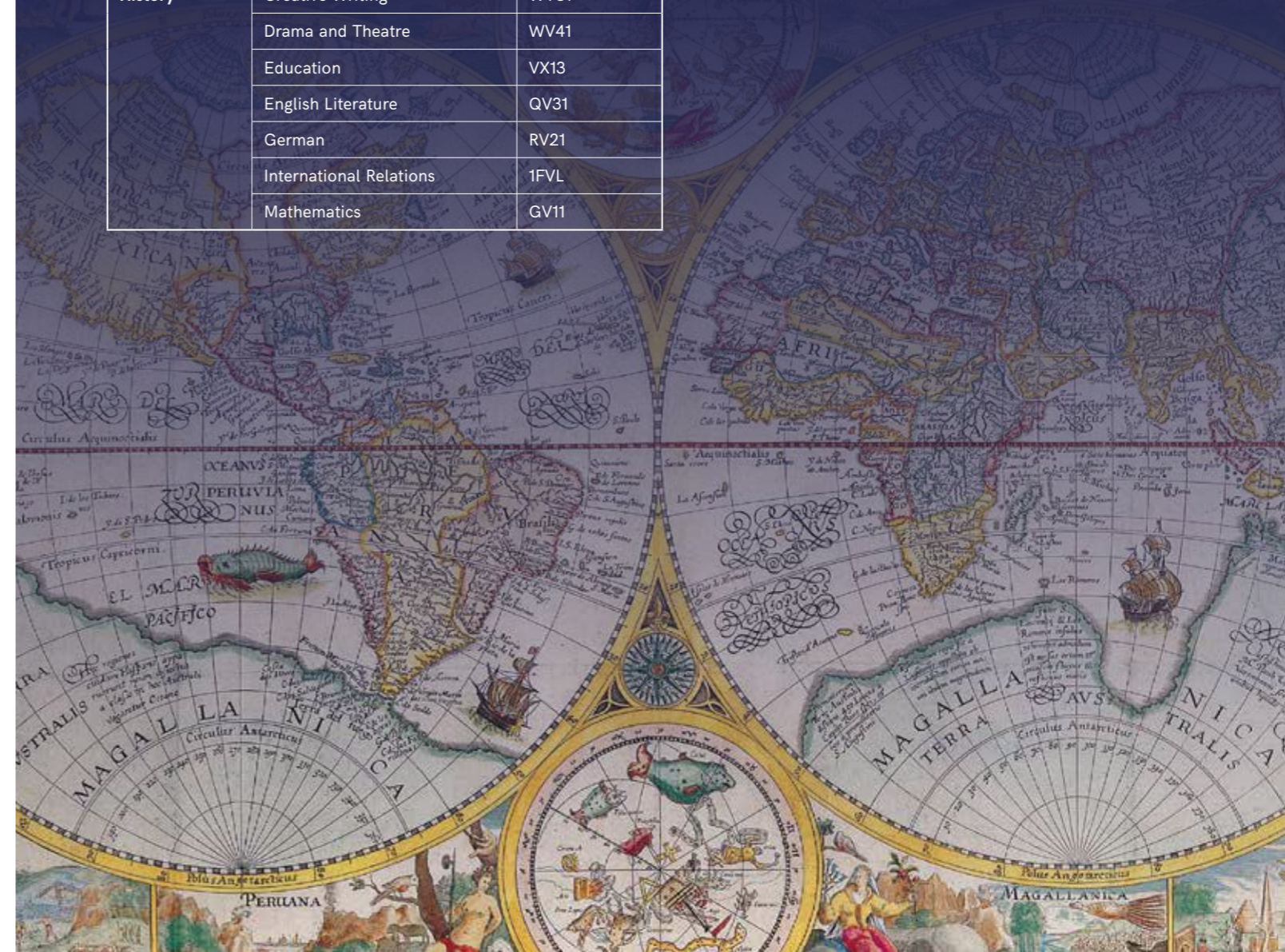
- The Modern World, 1789 to the Present
- From Poor Law to Welfare State: Poverty and Welfare in Modern Britain, 1815-1948
- Media and Society in Twentieth Century Britain
- Britain at War 1939-45
- The Vietnam War
- The Third Reich
- African-American History, 1808 to the Present
- Image Wars in Southeast Asia: Studying Twentieth Century Propaganda
- Knowing about Violent Conflict in International Politics
- Russian Intelligence from Lenin to Putin
- Nationalism in Theory and Practice
- Political Theory.

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

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Joint Honours

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours
History	Creative Writing	WV81
	Drama and Theatre	WV41
	Education	VX13
	English Literature	QV31
	German	RV21
	International Relations	1FVL
	Mathematics	GV11



Studying through the medium of Welsh

Our Department is one of the University's major providers of Welsh-medium teaching.

We offer you the opportunity to study BA Hanes V101 purely through the medium of Welsh. We have six members of staff who teach through the medium of Welsh and are therefore able to offer an engaging range of modules in Welsh relating to Wales, Britain, Europe and America from the medieval period to the present day.

There is a great deal of flexibility over the choice of language. You may specifically choose a Welsh-medium degree or simply take the occasional module in Welsh. All Welsh-medium students are routinely allocated a Welsh-speaking personal tutor to help advise them on this and other matters.

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's course finder provides further information about the courses we offer partly or wholly through the medium of Welsh.

For further information, please visit:
www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/study/mediumofwelsh



Employability

Work experience opportunities

Studying History at Aberystwyth University provides you with a firm foundation for your future career. History as a subject is valued by employers in many sectors and our graduates are successful in gaining positions across a diverse range of roles within the graduate job market.

As a Department, we place great emphasis on work experience during your studies. We support any student who wishes to spend an integrated year in industry as part of their History degree. This enables you to undertake a year-long paid or unpaid work experience placement in between your second and third year.

Transferable skills

The skills that you acquire on your History degree are versatile, wide-ranging and transferable and will prepare you for a wide range of professions.

These skills include the ability to:

- analyse large amounts of data
- communicate knowledge, ideas and arguments intelligibly and efficiently, verbally and on paper
- conduct independent research
- construct logical argument
- interpret different types of sources
- lead discussions, presentations and debates
- manage time and workloads
- think critically, imaginatively creatively and independently
- work effectively in teams.

Recent graduate destinations include:

- administration
- business and finance
- government (national and local)
- journalism and broadcasting
- publishing
- law
- library and museum work
- non-governmental organisations (national and international)
- research-work
- teaching.



Departmental research

Our research is innovative and world-class.

We lead and contribute to prestigious research projects and publications - much of which has an impact far beyond Aberystwyth University and the surrounding area - via television, radio and museum coverage, amongst other things.

All our teaching staff are active researchers who are at the cutting edge of research in the field of history, working at an international level. These are people who have an impact and make a difference - influencing ideas and thought on a wide variety of topics. Our teaching staff use their research to inform their teaching of the next generation of historians.

The main focus of our research is on four chronological periods - Medieval, Early Modern, Modern British and European, and Modern Wales - although we also undertake research on Asia. We cover a diverse range of areas that include some of the main ways in which historians these days research and write about the past. There are notable strengths, in the broadest terms, in political, cultural, social and economic history, and religious history.

A number of thematic areas stand out: how people have understood and written about history in past societies; the history of medicine, science and technology; and media history.

Our research is innovative and world-class. Examples include our world-leading research on medieval seals, the nature of historical writing over time, the development of modern science and the changing historical experience of crises such as famine.



Global opportunities

Aberystwyth University offers an exciting range of options for you to go abroad while you are studying for your degree.

Our Global Opportunities team will help you to identify the best option for you.

Benefits of study and work abroad

- Boost your confidence
- Enhance your communication, intercultural and interpersonal skills
- Grow your adaptability and resilience
- Increase your openness to international opportunities
- Benefit your career.



Year or semester abroad

We offer a range of degrees which include an integrated year studying abroad at one of our partner universities in your third year.

Students on most other degree courses can go abroad for a semester during their second year of study.

Work abroad during your industrial year

If you are studying a degree with an integrated industrial year, you can choose to spend all or part of the year working abroad, if your department approves it.

Short programmes

Spending even a short period of time overseas can give you a really valuable experience. We offer short periods of study, work or volunteering abroad, from three days to eight weeks.

Support

The Global Opportunities team will help prepare you for your overseas experience. Support includes:

- Pre-departure events to make sure that you know what to expect at your destination, and check you have all your travel paperwork in order. You will also learn how to make the most of your trip and how to access help if you need it.
- Return workshops co-hosted with the Careers Service will help you reflect on and integrate your experiences, helping you to consider how to include your experience abroad in job applications and conversations with future employers.

Funding

Funding is available to support eligible students with living and travel costs from UK and Welsh government schemes promoting study and work abroad.

The European Opportunities Fund, made possible by the very generous donation of a former student, is unique to Aberystwyth and provides financial help for short activities in the European Union.

Additional funding is available for students from disadvantaged groups.

Hong Kong



Budapest



Norway



Buenos Aires



Washington, DC



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 31 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 Hub 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 Hub

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 Hub will confirm your offer of a place. If you're not clear what the offer is, contact the university directly. 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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Designed and produced by
 Global Marketing and Student Recruitment,
 Aberystwyth University 2023.



Printed on
 100% recycled paper