



Department of Law  
and Criminology

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Postgraduate studies in

# Law and Criminology

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## Important information

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

Law has been taught at Aberystwyth since 1901. The Department has a proud tradition of scholarship and research, and has prepared generations of people from all over the world for professional careers and for life in general. Some of the most distinguished lawyers, politicians and academics in Wales, the UK and further afield have studied here.

The Department has always been dynamic and forward-looking. The addition of Criminology to the mix has enabled us to establish the thriving Department of Law and Criminology which is here today, at the University's Penglais campus, set against the stunning background of Cardigan Bay.

Study here and you will find a stimulating, supportive and rewarding environment within a department that has a distinctive identity, a wealth of experience, excellent teaching and dynamic research activity, backed up by superb library and IT provisions.

Above all you will be taught and guided by a community of scholars whose main focus will be helping you to succeed and to fulfil your potential. It is not by accident that Aberystwyth University has been awarded University of the Year for teaching quality two years consecutively (Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2018 & 2019) and has also been honoured with Welsh University of Year in The Times and Sunday Times, Good University Guide 2020.

In addition to the exceptional teaching quality, Aberystwyth University offers a student experience that is regarded highly by its students. We are rated Top in Wales for Teaching Excellence and Student Satisfaction (Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2023) and Top in England and Wales for Student Satisfaction (National Student Survey 2022).

We offer taught postgraduate degrees in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Business Law, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Youth Justice and also MPhil, LLM and PhD degrees as research opportunities.

Having been a legal practitioner for over 30 years, I understand the value of students acquiring practical skills and hand-on experience during their time at university. As well as excellent academic learning, the Department offers opportunities for you to acquire the practical skills in a legal setting. These include our Family Law Clinic, where students can do casework under the guidance of a qualified solicitor, our very active mooted society where students can acquire and practise advocacy and case preparation skills, and the opportunities to volunteer at our ground-breaking Dewis/Choice research project, which is focused on addressing the increasingly high-profile issue of abuse of elderly people.

The interests and expertise of our staff cover a wide range of subjects. Many participate in debate and policy-making at both domestic and international level. This includes working with the European Union, United Nations, Council of Europe, central and devolved governments and corporations. Human Rights and diversity are a strong focus, and we offer courses in human rights at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Issues of gender, culture, language, youth, military

veterans and their families, and old age are important themes in the department's work. Business and commercial law are also strong components of our teaching, including a specialist LLM course in International Business law.

Choosing a University can be a perplexing experience. There is a wide choice, and it's not always easy to select the one that's right for you. Having said that, if you are interested in studying Law or Criminology at an established University in a beautiful and unique part of the world, Aberystwyth can offer you a dynamic and friendly department with a focus on teaching quality.

I look forward to welcoming you at Aberystwyth.

**Professor Emyr Lewis**  
Head of Department



# Why study Law at Aberystwyth?

Law has been taught at Aberystwyth since 1901. The Department has a proud tradition of scholarship and research, and has prepared generations of people from all over the world for professional careers and for life in general.

From the start of your law degree, you will benefit from access to our established connections with local legal professionals and be encouraged to engage with real clients and case work under the guidance and support of our esteemed academic team. You will also be able to take advantage of unrivalled resources such as those of the National Library of Wales (one of only five copyright libraries in the UK), just a few minutes' walk away.

## Why Aberystwyth?

With over 100 years of teaching experience, we combine modern approaches to learning and will encourage you to develop professional skills throughout the duration of your degree. This is one of the reasons why the University has been awarded University of the Year for Teaching Quality two years consecutively by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide (2018 and 2019).

In addition, you will also learn from internationally renowned lecturers who are actively engaged in cutting-edge research. The research undertaken within the Department creates a stimulating learning environment and offers you the chance to contribute to wider law and policy debates. You will also benefit from our strong links with alumni all over the world.

## The Family Legal Clinic

The Clinic, which was shortlisted for the 'LawWorks Cymru Award 2018' offers free confidential legal advice in family and child law, an area where people may find it difficult to source or afford other legal services. At the same time, the Clinic provides an opportunity for students to gain valuable real-life experience and put theory into practice. Everything that the Clinic does is overseen by an experienced solicitor, ensuring a consistently high standard of legal advice throughout.

## The Veterans Legal Link project

Veterans Legal Link was established in 2015 to address the legal advice deficit in Wales. The project invites lawyers and law students to assist veterans and their families in receiving free legal advice. The service supports the reintegration of veterans and their families by providing a comprehensive signposting and referral service to legal advice and non-legal advice services. The project is run nationwide via online, telephone, Skype and face-to-face delivery methods.



# Why study Criminology at Aberystwyth?

Criminology at Aberystwyth is taught by a team of dedicated and enthusiastic scholars with extensive backgrounds in criminological research and scholarship and local, national and international links with the criminal justice sector.

Aberystwyth University offers you the opportunity to explore an exciting blend of criminology and criminal justice subjects at postgraduate level. Staff research expertise in areas as diverse as miscarriages of justice; serious crime investigation; environmental harm; arts, antiques and heritage crime; victims and victimisation; youth justice; international criminal justice; and rural crime underpins our optional modules and means that you will be guaranteed a quality degree experience. Studying in a lively intellectual environment, you will address criminological theory alongside key contemporary questions and debates. You will develop an advanced understanding of the social and personal aspects of crime as well as the practical operation of criminal justice and how the state responds to criminality and victimisation. Additionally, you will be equipped with a broad range of learning opportunities in research design and methodology, enabling you to conduct an independent piece of critical research in a related area of your choosing. Our postgraduate criminology and criminal justice degrees employ a range of innovative and stimulating assessments, such as podcasts, seminar facilitations and portfolios, which will challenge you to produce your best work.

## Why Aberystwyth?

Demonstrating excellence in research, teaching and practice, our multi-disciplinary academics provide a world-class learner experience. Student testimonials confirm that Aberystwyth is the leading place to study if you want the opportunity to be part of a dynamic scholarly community that puts the needs of its students first. As stated by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Elizabeth Treasure, "We are small enough to know our students as individuals and big enough to have an international reputation." Studying in the Department of Law & Criminology at Aberystwyth University will give you the best foundation from which to start your professional journey, or elevate it to new heights.

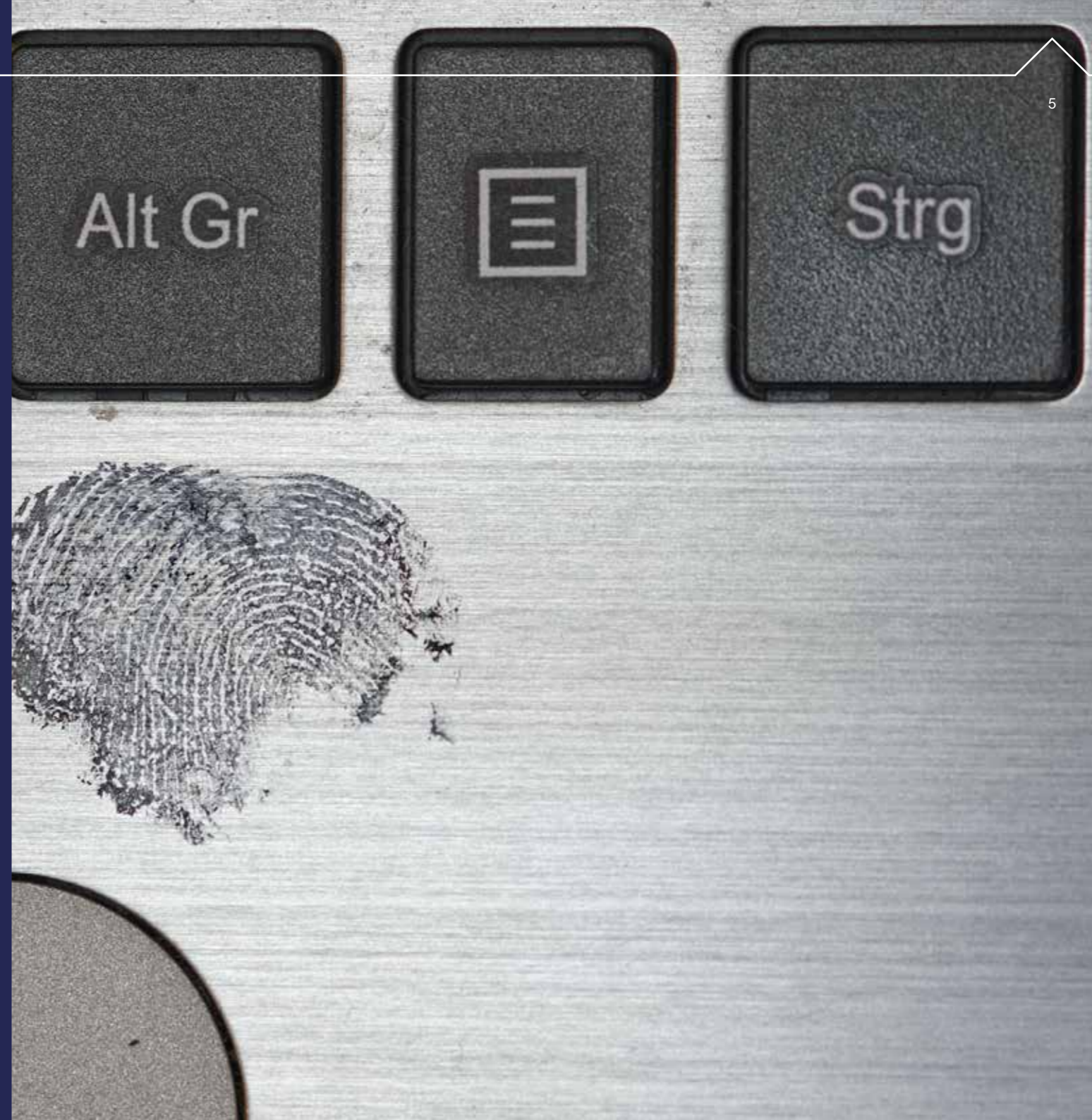
## Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice

Established in 2015, this is the first dedicated service that addresses issues pertaining to domestic abuse for older and non-binary people. Undertaking participatory action research, the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice is unique in that it combines service delivery with a research project. The Centre's research has highlighted the need for specialist training for organisations, to recognise the prevalence, nature and complexity of domestic abuse in later life. Many victim survivors have described this service as lifesaving. The Department works closely with this initiative, providing volunteering opportunities and training for our students, many of whom have benefited greatly from its provision.

## Your Future – Employability

The Department of Law & Criminology puts employability at the heart of the curriculum, with students gaining essential skills and knowledge for the workplace throughout their degree scheme. We work closely with our bespoke Careers Service which supports students to recognise their interests and maximise their potential. Our aim is to prepare our students for a wide range of professional careers, further study and for life in general. Students wishing to gain first-hand work experience can benefit from one of our credit-bearing work placement modules.

A postgraduate degree in Criminology provides a range of career opportunities. Whether you would prefer to work hands-on as a practitioner in the criminal justice system or think that you would be better suited to a career in research or policy making, studying with us means that you can begin to put the fundamentals that you have learned from your degree into practice.



# Our courses

## Taught degrees

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## Research degrees

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# Criminology and Criminal Justice

## MA, MSc

Aberystwyth University offers two Criminology and Criminal Justice degrees at Masters level – MA and MSc. Both pathways will equip you with fundamental skills in research design and a critical understanding of the theoretical foundations of research and its application in Criminology and Law.

MA Criminology and Criminal Justice approaches criminology and related subject areas from a literary perspective, enabling you to gain an in-depth understanding of a wide range of contemporary areas related to criminology, including criminal justice policies and practices. You will have the opportunity to gain a critical understanding of the most important theories of criminal behaviour, assess their current relevance and analyse their implications for controlling crime. The MA is particularly suitable for students coming from a non-social science background, but will also enhance and develop the learning of criminology graduates or students from a related discipline.

MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice provides you with the opportunity to develop advanced analytical knowledge of criminological theory and criminal justice processes and outcomes. It promotes and enhances a critical awareness of social science research methods and the skills used to undertake real-world research on crime, disorder and deviations from social norms. The MSc is a stimulating and demanding programme, involving intensive learning in small groups, overseen by subject specialists and experts in the field and is suitable for criminology graduates or students from a related discipline.

### Employability

Graduates from this scheme will leave with the professional knowledge and capacity to independently practice, reflect, review and build upon disciplinary expertise and judgement. You will develop ethical practice, critical analytical skills, research skills and presentation skills which will enable you to share your criminological expertise in both academic and professional settings. Graduate career opportunities include (but are not restricted to) government departments and criminal justice agencies, voluntary organisations / non-governmental organisations in the crime and justice field, international organisations such as the UN, and research and academia.

## Modules


Both MA and MSc students will take Principles of Research Design as a core module along with others (depending on your chosen pathway).


You will also choose from a range of optional modules which currently include (depending on your chosen pathway):


- Miscarriages of Justice
- Understanding and Investigating Serious Crime
- Arts, Antiques and Heritage Crime Around the World
- International Criminology and Criminal Justice
- International Perspectives of Green Criminology
- Critical Youth Justice
- International Comparative Youth Justice
- Law and Gender
- Migration and Asylum Law
- International Criminal Law
- Philosophy and Sociology of Human Rights Protection
- International Environmental Law.

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.

## Key Facts

 Degree type: MA, MSc.

 Course Code: M984 (MA), M983 (MSc).

 Duration: 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time).

# Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

## LLM

This degree offers you the opportunity to engage with the distinct yet complementary regimes of human rights law and humanitarian law and to study an area of law with urgent contemporary significance and practical relevance.

By studying this course, you will tackle traditional subjects as well as new and emerging issues, such as the regulation of international society and the legal mechanisms of human rights during international and non-international armed conflicts. Your study will reflect the local, national and international nuances of this complex subject matter.

This course balances the academic with the urgently practical – for example, combining the necessarily comprehensive detail of human rights legislation in conflict with the harsh reality of the threats posed to human rights and the conflicts and tensions within the system of human rights protection.

Students studying Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Aberystwyth will enjoy:

- strong human rights expertise
- a wide range of modules on human and humanitarian law subjects
- a mixture of practical and theoretical study.

### Employability

This course will be particularly attractive to those seeking careers in government departments, think tanks, international organisations, humanitarian and human rights advocacy, business organisations, international law firms and a range of non-governmental organisations.

## Modules

Core modules that you may study on this course include.

- Legal Studies
- The Dissertation.

You will also choose from a range of optional modules, which currently include:

- Aspects of Commercial Contracting
- International Commercial Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Human Rights Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- International Trade Law
- Law and Gender
- Migration and Asylum Law
- Negotiated Study Module
- Philosophy and Sociology of Human Rights Protection.

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.

## Key Facts



**Degree type:** LLM.



**Course Code:** M198, M198D (Distance learning).



**Duration:** 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time) or 2-5 years (Distance learning).

# International Commercial Law

## LLM

This degree offers you a professional and firm academic programme that will provide a solid foundation in the current global market.

On completion of this course you will have a professional knowledge of international business law that will reflect the changing environment and realities of the current global economy. Through this course we deliver the skills and knowledge required for any high-level career in a legal environment whether it be an international law firm, government organisation or a private company.

Students studying International Commercial Law at Aberystwyth will enjoy:

- a combination of commercial and IT law
- the focus on many regulatory aspects of global commercial activity
- the exploration of intersections of commercial and human rights law.

### Employability

Combining both theoretical and practical perspectives, the content of this degree covers the growth areas of the future as well as subjects and skills of traditional importance. The course also aims to impart knowledge of legal rules relevant to the business field and emphasis is placed on the practical implications of the rules and the economic and political context in which they have evolved.

## Key Facts



**Degree type:** LLM.



**Course Code:** M190, M190D (Distance learning).



**Duration:** 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time) or 2-5 years (Distance learning).

## Modules

Core modules that you may study on this course include:

- Legal Studies
- The Dissertation.

You will also choose from a range of optional modules, which currently include:

- Aspects of Commercial Contracting
- International Commercial Law
- International Criminal Law
- International Environmental Law
- International Human Rights Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- International Trade Law
- Law and Gender
- Migration and Asylum Law
- Negotiated Study Module
- Philosophy and Sociology of Human Rights Protection.

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.

# Law

## LLM

Upon graduating from this degree, you will have an impressive level of expertise in the latest developments in a range of law specialisms.

This course will allow you to tailor your study of law entirely to your needs and interests and direct your own study amid a wide array of options, choosing from areas of law such as the environment, human rights, international business, commerce, and technology.

You will be given a thorough grounding in legal theory and practice to make you ready for the rigorous demands of the modern legal workplace. This study of legal theory is balanced with the investigation of an array of fascinating case studies to illuminate your study and put you in touch with an authentic experience of legal cases.

Students studying Law at Aberystwyth will enjoy:

- a wide range of subjects on commercial and IT law, environmental law and human rights and humanitarian law
- a strong international focus
- enthusiastic lecturers, many of whom are renowned in their area of expertise.

### Employability

This course will be attractive to those who want to improve their career prospects and who will be seeking employment in the public sector, including transnational, regional and international governmental organisations and NGOs, as well in the private sectors, particularly commercial or technology companies.

## Key Facts



**Degree type:** LLM.



**Course Code:** M172, M172D (Distance learning).



**Duration:** 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time) or 2-5 years (Distance learning).

# Youth Justice

## MSc

MSc Youth Justice offers you a unique opportunity to study the youth justice system in England and Wales. You will adopt a focused and critical standpoint in the study of relevant issues from within England and Wales and will be supported throughout to become an independent researcher and writer in the realm of youth justice.

In considering emerging critical youth justice research you will develop a sophisticated understanding of current policy and legislation and its historical development. You will look at current and rapidly developing changes in conceptions of 'children' and their treatment within and beyond current systems. You will also have the opportunity to engage in a comparative analysis of the approaches adopted in other jurisdictions in order to provide further critique of the current and developing picture in England and Wales, and evaluate the impact of research on practice and policy.

Students studying Youth Justice at Aberystwyth will enjoy:

- a wide range of modules on law and criminology topics
- being taught by enthusiastic lecturers, many of whom are renowned in their area of expertise.

### Employability

Graduates will leave with the professional knowledge and capacity to independently practise, reflect, review and build upon disciplinary expertise and judgement. You will develop ethical practice, critical analytical skills, research skills and presentation skills which will enable you to share your criminological expertise in both academic and professional settings.

Graduate career opportunities include (but not restricted to):

- government departments and criminal justice agencies
- voluntary organisations / non-governmental organisations in the crime and justice field
- international organisations, such as the UN
- research and academia.

## Key Facts



**Degree type:** MSc.



**Course Code:** M985.



**Duration:** 1 year (full-time) or 2 years (part-time).

## Modules

Core modules that you may study on this course include:

- Critical Youth Justice
- International Comparative Youth Justice
- Principles of Research Design
- Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis.

You will also choose from a range of optional modules which currently include:

- Miscarriages of Justice
- Understanding and Investigating Serious Crime
- Arts, Antiques and Heritage Crime around the World
- Criminological Theory and Perspectives
- International Criminology and Criminal Justice
- International Perspectives of Green Criminology
- Law and Gender
- Migration and Asylum Law
- International Criminal Law
- Philosophy and Sociology of Human Rights Protection
- International Environmental Law.

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.



## Research degrees

### MPhil, LLM by research

The MPhil and LLM are both one-year courses where you will be expected to produce a thesis of around 50,000-60,000 words.

You will work under the direction of one or more supervisors but are not required to attend any classes. After the year spent at Aberystwyth you will have up to two years to write up your research. Part-time study is also available.

Studying for a Research Masters offers many of the attractions of studying for a PhD. A Masters thesis should provide a detailed overview and critique of any area of law but it is not intended to provide an in-depth analysis in the same way as a PhD. The main advantage of the Research Masters, therefore, is that it enables you to complete a piece of research and obtain a qualification for it in a relatively short period of time.

### PhD

A PhD is awarded upon the satisfactory completion of a thesis of about 80-100,000 words followed by a viva voce examination. The normal period of registration is three years (full-time) and it is expected that the thesis will be submitted within four years of initial registration.

Part of the first year is spent undertaking research training, leaving the second and third years for full-time research into your chosen topic. A PhD enables you to become expert in your chosen subject and to explore the intricacies of your subject, be it in law or criminology, in context. In order to satisfy the examiners, you must demonstrate originality of thought as well as detailed analysis.

A PhD is regarded as a major stepping stone in academic and academic-related careers. It signifies that you are capable of undertaking detailed research and of presenting the results of that research in an understandable way.

### DProf

The Professional Doctorate or DProf is more appropriate for those pursuing professional rather than academic careers and is designed to allow qualified professionals to study towards a doctorate while maintaining their employment.

A DProf will be awarded in recognition of the successful completion of an approved taught programme of study, together with the successful completion of an advanced piece of research. The collaborative aspect provided by a work-based research project provides an ideal opportunity to embed new knowledge in the workplace and ensure that your research is relevant to your sector.

For further information see our website, or contact us.



# Our research

We have a wide range of research expertise in both law and criminology. Areas of focus include people marginalised because of youth or old age, human rights, migration, law and gender, international law, youth justice, policing, legal theory, commercial law, constitutional law, devolution and the changing constitution of the United Kingdom. We have successfully attracted a significant amount of external funding in recent years, including nearly £1,500,000 for the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice and £500,000 for research into access to justice for military veterans and their families.



Three staff have won Welsh Crucible Awards in recent years, aimed at early-mid career researchers, to develop their research leadership potential. We currently have around 30 PhD students - many from overseas.

Our staff contribute significantly to the research base of Law and Criminology. Such contribution comprises both the supply of subject expertise and work which feeds into the development of academic and professional infrastructure, networking and significant impact activities. Other contributions have been made at the national, UK and international levels through refereeing and reviewing, guest lectures, external examining, development of collaborative projects, advising on research policy, as well as participation in and organising conferences and research meetings.

We have engaged consistently with aspects of devolution in Wales, contributing oral expert evidence to the Silk Commission on Devolution in Wales, the Commission on Justice in Wales and the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee of the National Assembly for Wales. Staff members were also on panels of academic experts addressing the provisions of the Wales Act 2017, convened both by the Welsh Government and the Wales Office and the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales.

Our staff have advised nationally and internationally on research policy and standards (including for the AHRC Peer Review College; the ESRC and the Ministry of Justice Research Consultation Group; the Italian Ministry of Research; the Polish National Science Centre, the Austrian Research Council, the Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium) and the Australian Research Council). Engagement with the professional sector in carrying out or reporting on research is an established part of our activity, which enhances our individual and institutional impact.

Research staff put their expertise to use as members of public sector and international advisory bodies, including the Law Commission's Welsh Advisory Committee, National Advice Network Wales; the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA); and the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group.

There has also been active engagement with civil society organisations, public bodies and international organisations through providing reports and opinions and engaging in international collaboration and law and policy development. Examples include working with International Institute of Humanitarian Law and OIDEL - Geneva; Age International, the Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Parliament, Migration

Studies Delegation-Sweden, International Organization for Migration, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, British Institute of International and Comparative Law; Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

There has been extensive outreach and engagement activity by staff. In addition to those already mentioned, our staff have, for example:

- participated in a joint project with the Wales Governance Centre at Cardiff and the Constitution Unit at UCL which produced two papers which were influential in preparing the way for establishing a reserved powers model of devolution for Wales (*Delivering a Reserved Powers Model of Devolution for Wales (2015)* and *Challenge and Opportunity: the Draft Wales Bill 2015 (2016)*)
- worked with The Youth Justice Board, Swansea Youth Offending Service, and Gwynedd and Monmouth Youth Justice Service
- worked with the National Citizens Service Trust
- collaborated with People and Work on the programme Invest Local by Building communities Trust
- delivered training to specialist domestic abuse workers on behalf of Safe Lives
- mentored early career researchers working in refugee law under a scheme run by the Refugee Law Initiative at the University of London
- mentored early career researchers under an initiative of the Learned Society of Wales
- provided training sessions for the judges of the Welsh Language Tribunal
- provided training sessions on human trafficking for relevant professionals, throughout Europe (judges, prosecutors, police, advocates, NGOs).

# Employability

## Career prospects

Our postgraduate degrees will give you the opportunity to develop a deeper knowledge of the law, either through a general LLM programme, or through a specialised programme of study in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, or International Commercial Law. Whether you want to work in a specific area of legal practice or want to enter a more general field, there will be a course at Aberystwyth University that is suitable for your next steps and your future career.

Whatever course you decide is the right one for you, you will develop skills that will serve you well in your professional career. These include: critical analytical skills, research and presentation skills, planning and project management skills, problem solving, creative thinking and the ability to assimilate information and new ideas, applying legal methodologies, and working effectively with others.

While most graduates enter the legal sector, others gain employment in areas such as finance, government, lobbying, public administration, real estate, manufacturing and defence.

## Additional career development

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to gain work experience while studying with us, on schemes such as 'The Family Legal Clinic' and 'The Veterans Legal Link project' - see details on page 2.

## The Aberystwyth Law and Criminology Journal

This is another exciting initiative which aims to provide a platform for displaying the highest quality works produced by students. For more information, visit <https://auslcj.wixsite.com/aberlawjournal/about>.

## Reasons to get involved

"As Managing Editor I had a number of challenges which forced me to improve my ability to communicate effectively with others, co-ordinate a great number of people and tasks, to manage my time effectively, and to contribute to the ongoing improvement of the Journal and its running. It is my strongly held belief that this has aided my development and ultimately made me a much more rounded student and person. Accordingly, I would not hesitate in encouraging driven individuals to get involved with the Journal and ensure that it carries on for much longer!"

**Andy Hall, Managing Editor 2013-15**

## Employability talks and research seminars

We offer a number of employability talks that postgraduate students are able to attend. We also organise a series of weekly research seminars for postgraduate research students, with research students invited to give a presentation on their research once every academic year.



# Student profiles



## Chloe Coleman

After completing an undergraduate degree in LLB Law in 2020, I decided to return to Aberystwyth University to study a Masters in Criminology & Criminal Justice. I chose to return to Aberystwyth because the department offers a high level of teaching that covers a broad range of interesting modules. The range of topics on offer within the department makes my education more varied, allowing me to engage with various aspects of the law. And who doesn't love to study in a university that overlooks the sea!



## Sioned Davies

I began my studies at Aberystwyth University in 2015. I graduated with a BSc (Hons) degree in Criminology before completing a LLM Masters degree in Law. I decided to pursue my PhD education at Aberystwyth due to the excellent quality of teaching I received over the previous four years as well as the very high standard of supervision and friendly environment within the department. The opportunity to participate in the weekly staff seminars as well as having the chance to present my own research allows me to gain invaluable experience and receive useful feedback on my own work. I would encourage anyone wanting to pursue their studies to a postgraduate level to choose Aberystwyth as their first choice.



Department of Law and Criminology  
Hugh Owen Building  
Aberystwyth University  
Penglais  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3DY

+44 (0) 1970 621 537

law@aber.ac.uk

/AberystwythLawandCriminology

@ALSABerUni

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