

Part Two: Fee and Access Plan (required for publication)

Fee and Access Plan	
Name of institution	Aberystwyth University
Duration of the fee and access plan	1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027
Section 1 - Fee levels	
Section 1.1 – Fee levels or the determination of a fee level at each location (Guidance paragraphs 85-92)	
Fee level	Location of course
Maximum regulated fee	<p>Aberystwyth for 2025/26 and 2026/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home (including Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) undergraduate • Home Integrated Master's <p>We will inform all applicants and students of the regulated fee levels for 2025/26 and any inflation-linked increases for successive years of study as soon as confirmation is received from Welsh Government, and will publish updates on our website. Up to date details of the relevant fees will be set out in our offer documentation.</p>
15% of the maximum regulated fee in line with HEFCW guidelines	<p>Aberystwyth for period 2025/26 and 2026/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Study Year Abroad

	<p>We will inform all applicants and students of the fee levels for 2025/26 and any inflation-linked increases for successive years of study as soon as confirmation is received from Welsh Government, and will publish updates on our website.</p>
<p>20% of the maximum regulated fee, in line with HEFCW guidelines.</p>	<p>Aberystwyth for period 2025/26 and 2026/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated year in industry • Integrated year in professional practice <p>We will inform all applicants and students of the fee levels for 2025/26 and any inflation-linked increases for successive years of study as soon as confirmation is received from Welsh Government, and will publish updates on our website.</p>
<p>Fee specified in Franchise partner agreements</p>	<p>Fees for UG programmes offered by our Franchise Partners are determined in agreements with our franchise partners.</p> <p>For courses subject to the regulated fee, these are subject to the increase limits on regulated fees set out by the Welsh Government. Where these are offered at less than maximum they may be subject to annual review.</p>
<p>Section 1.2 - Aggregate fee levels (Guidance paragraphs 98-101)</p>	
<p>Aberystwyth will charge the maximum regulated fee level for Full-time Home Undergraduate and Integrated Masters students covered by this plan. The maximum fee is governed by the Welsh Government. For 2024/25 this will be £9,250. Any increase in the FT Home UG and Integrated Masters fee for 2025/26 and future years of the course will be tied to the maximum fee rise, to be set by Welsh Government. Aggregate fees for the whole duration of the course will depend on the length of the programme (most of our UG programmes are three or four years long), and whether or not the programme includes a Study Year Abroad (currently charged at 15% of the maximum regulated fee) or a Year in Industry/professional practice (currently charged at 20% of the maximum regulated fee), and whether there are inflation-linked increases as outlined above.</p> <p>Information about our fees can be found at Fees and Finance : Study With Us , Aberystwyth University</p>	

Applicants receive information from us in a variety of forms, mainly email & post. Specific information relating to fees is included in the offer letters & Successful Applicant Packs, as well as within a series of applicant emails. We signpost to the AU website which contains further information. In addition, information is provided during events such as Open Days and Visiting Days.

Section 2 - Student Partnership (Guidance paragraphs 102-105)

Aberystwyth University engages with its Students Union and the wider student body throughout the year in a wide range of ways, both formal and informal. All students are encouraged to feed back on their experiences and contribute ideas and suggestions to help shape their education. Our Strategic Plan 2018-23 commits to 'further improve the student experience in close partnership with the Students' Union, putting the student voice at the heart of our activity.' We uphold the core principle of the *Wise Wales Statement on Partnership for Higher Education (2014)* that '*students should be active participants in the learning process, rather than passive recipients of knowledge*'.

The Student Charter

The annually updated Student Charter encapsulates the importance of effective student representation, with a commitment to involve student representatives as full partners in our committees and structures.

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student/charter/>

Additionally, the Students' Union and University sign a Relationship Agreement, based on ten agreed principles. Principle 4 states that 'AU recognises that AberSU is the primary voice of students and will ensure that AberSU is consulted in a timely fashion before decisions are taken with impact on students'. Embedding the student voice within our governance processes is a way to ensure that the University adheres to this principle.

[2023-11-08---Relationship-Agreement-1.pdf \(aber.ac.uk\)](#)

The Student Voice in Quality Assurance, Quality Enhancement and Governance

At the highest level, regular meetings between the University Executive officers and Students' Union officers take place. These provide opportunities for the Students' Union to ensure that the student voice is being heard by senior management and ensure that there is close collaborative working on issues which contribute to student success. As well as these meetings of the two executives, there are informal frequent meetings between the Vice-Chancellor and the Students' Union president.

Within the University's formal structure there are student representatives appointed by the Students' Union on most of our major committees, including:

- Council and its sub-committees,
- Senate (which is the main body responsible for Learning and Teaching Strategy)
- Faculty-level representatives who participate in discussions of key elements of quality assurance (including approval of new study schemes and their annual monitoring and review)
- Departmental representatives who participate in the Staff Student Consultative Committees, where student concerns can be raised and addressed in discussion with departmental staff. The academic representatives' work is an important part of the work of the Students' Union in ensuring the student voice is fully heard.
- Academic Representatives receive training and support for their role from the Students' Union. They are responsible for representing students at course, year group or subject area level, or may have responsibility for representing specific cohorts such as Joint Honours students or Mature students.

The Student Voice in the Fee and Access Plan

Your Voice Matters is a university-wide approach to student engagement which encourages students to suggest ways in which activities and processes at the University can be improved. *Your Voice Matters* comprises two elements:

- *Tell Us Now* - an anonymous online portal through which students can contribute ideas and comments. This is essential to monitor the realisation of initiatives.
- *Module Evaluation Questionnaires* - centrally-coordinated surveys are run for each undergraduate and integrated masters module, enabling a wealth of data and information to inform both departmental and the overall AU approach to improving the student experience.

The SV Group analysis, and recommendations from the Group, is provided to all staff involved in academic leadership and planning, and feeds up to senior management. The analysis informs strategic decisions about levels of investment, including Fee and Access Plan expenditure. The feedback loop to the student (about action taken) is closed through a regular communications campaign which keeps students informed on how their voices are driving change.

More about *Your Voice Matters* can be found here - <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student/your-voice-matters/>

The Student Voice in agreeing the Fee and Access Plan

Members of our Students' Union are members of the Fee and Access Plan Monitoring Group, which approves the content and priorities of plans and receives reports on activity and spend.. Meetings with the Student's Union over the next two year will enable continued clarity on where the Fee and Access Plans align with the priorities, campaigns and concerns of the Students' Union.

The Students' Union President and Welsh Culture Officer/UMCA President also sit on the University's Council, which approves the final version of our Fee and Access Plans.

The University works with a number of partners to deliver Undergraduate provision across Wales and recognises its responsibilities towards those students. We work closely with all our partners to ensure the quality of both the provision and the student experience. The requirement to engage appropriately with the student voice is embedded in our partnership agreements and we are assured that their processes for student representation are robust and that students have a mechanism through which their needs can be expressed and met. We are also confident that the level of investment at the Partner Colleges meets Fee Plan requirements. Partners participate, for example, in our Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQ's), as well as having other ways of engaging with the student voice. At both Colegs Cambria and Gwent, the students meet with the Link Tutor from AU twice a year to discuss how they are finding the programs and to raise any issues directly.

Additionally :-

At Coleg Cambria this takes the form of student representation on the Higher Education Operational Group. Student feedback is also received via the Module Evaluation Questionnaires.

At Coleg Gwent students can provide feedback through the Learner Voice forum which is held twice a year. Additionally, students have a campaign "Together we've" where changes or new implementations introduced at the Coleg as a direct result of student feedback are promoted. Students are also invited to a forum with the Coleg Vice Principal and Head of Learner Services.

Section 3 - Under-represented groups (Guidance paragraphs 106-116)

Groups recognised by HEFCW as under-represented in Higher Education :

We recognise the following groups as under-represented in higher education and/or requiring additional support. Some of these groups are recognised by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) as under-represented in Higher Education. The rationale for including these groups is that Fee and Access Plan work to improve recruitment and retention of individuals from these groups contributes to national recruitment priorities and addresses inequalities which are recognised across Wales.

- Students within the bottom quintile of lower super output areas in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Welsh medium students.
- Students from UK low participation areas.
- Students who are identified as a priority under the Reaching Wider Programme :

- Post-16 young people in the bottom two quintiles of Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Adults without level 4 qualifications in the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation to provide progression to level 4 provision
- Care experienced applicants and carers in all age groups across Wales.

Other groups recognised as under-represented in Higher Education

Additionally, we have included a number of groups in our plans which we have, traditionally, found difficulty in recruiting, including:

- Students with disabilities, including specific learning disabilities and those living with long-term mental health challenges
- Mature Students
- Students from a minority ethnic background
- Care leavers, young carers and estranged/unsupported students
- Students from low income backgrounds

First in family to attend Higher Education

We also recognise our responsibility to all students with protected characteristics, and will carefully monitor the progression and attainment of these groups in line with the stated aim of our Strategic Equality Plan to ‘foster an inclusive learning and working community which is free from discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and where all our staff and learners are supported, feel respected and can realise their potential.’

Fee Plan investments support these students in two ways:

- Through activities targeted at groups under-represented in higher education and intended to widen participation and improve retention.
- Through activities accessible by all students but where the specific needs of students from under-represented groups are given additional attention to ensure that all potential barriers to access are removed and where the potential benefits to students under-represented in higher education are emphasised. There are also activities which, though accessible to all students, are more likely to be accessed by students who need additional support (e.g. our Student Support services activities).

Section 4 – Objectives as they relate to supporting equality of opportunity and the promotion of HE
(Guidance paragraphs 117-135)

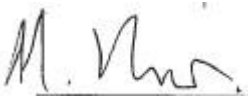
Section 4.1 - Equality of Opportunity

Objective 1	<i>Promote wider and fairer participation in higher education, raising educational aspirations and helping to prepare students from under-represented groups for higher education.</i>
Objective 2	<i>Improve the retention of students from groups under-represented in higher education and support their progression and completion through the provision of high quality academic, welfare and financial support</i>
Objective 3	<i>Improve the higher education experience for students from under-represented groups</i>
Objective 4	<i>Improve the employability prospects of students under-represented in higher education through targeted programmes to increase skills, skills awareness, ambition and confidence</i>
Objective 5	<i>Expand bilingualism through the provision of additional academic and service provision through the medium of Welsh</i>

Section 4.2 - Promotion of higher education

Objective 1	<i>Promote the student voice, ensuring that our students are active partners in the development of our activities, curricula and processes</i>
Objective 2	<i>Improve the quality of learning and teaching, including technologies to improve the learning and teaching experience and invest in the development of alternative pathways to improve student choice in access to Higher Education</i>
Objective 3	<i>Strengthen graduate employability</i>
Objective 4	<i>Raise academic aspiration through partnership working with schools and colleges and the provision of a package of scholarships that reward academic excellence</i>

Objective 5	<i>Improve the student experience through initiatives to enhance wellbeing</i>
Objective 6	<i>Improve fee plan delivery, monitoring and awareness of impact</i>

Fee and access plan application submission to HEFCW¹	
Date of Governing Body approval:	4/07/2024
Governing Body authorised signature:	
Date:	04/07/2024
Final fee and access plan submission once HEFCW has confirmed it has no further issues (where applicable)	
Date of Governing Body approval:	
Governing Body authorised signature:	
Date:	

¹ Fee and access plans published on the institution's websites must only include versions approved by HEFCW.