
AberWorkshops:

Geography, Earth
and Environmental
Sciences

Bringing our
academic experts
to your learners



What are AberWorkshops?

AberWorkshops give your learners an opportunity to learn and interact with our friendly and engaging academic staff.

Our teaching staff will deliver high quality subject content to your learners, with the aim of not only increasing students' knowledge of the subject matter, but also encouraging them to consider future study within the discipline of Geography.

We have a variety of academic-focussed lectures/ workshops in a number of different topic areas. Whilst all sessions are subject to availability, AberWorkshops are:



Flexible in duration



Suitable for small and large audiences



Deliverable to Year 10-13



Available virtually



Available face to face in school / college



Available to be delivered on Aberystwyth University campus



To make a booking or find out more, e-mail aberworkshops@aber.ac.uk

An introduction to the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth is one of the most experienced of its kind in the UK, specialising in a broad range of themes across the natural, physical and social sciences. We have recently celebrated a century of Geography at Aberystwyth, and have been teaching Earth Sciences for even longer!

We have a long-standing tradition of offering contemporary and exciting degree schemes, and have recently added a range of Sociology courses to our portfolio, born out of over 100 years of cutting-edge social science research at Aberystwyth University.

The majority of our single honours courses are available with the option of an integrated year in industry or with an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to get the most out of your time at university and gain a head start when entering the competitive job market after you graduate. Our foundation year courses will ensure you receive a solid grounding in the essential skills you will need to successfully complete your chosen degree path.

Our staff are passionate about what they do. They are dedicated researchers and lecturers, many of whom are at the forefront of their respective fields. Their first-hand knowledge of the world is fed into our undergraduate courses through a variety of specialist themes.

We provide you with a range of learning opportunities, whether it be in a lecture theatre, seminar class, tutorial, or in laboratory or field courses. You will be assessed in a variety of ways, including exams, reports, presentations, videos and essays, all of which are designed to enhance your subject-specific, personal and transferable skill sets. As well as highly satisfied students, we have always had a strong track record of producing highly employable graduates.



Geography

AberWorkshops

Earth from Space: Monitoring and Measuring Impacts of Climate Change

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This is an interactive computer workshop that explores the impact of climate change on Earth's natural environments. We will use historical satellite imagery in Google Earth Pro to observe and measure physical changes to the landscape, as well as discuss the challenges future generations face in managing the natural environment. Themes such as catchment systems and water resources; ecosystem dynamics, deforestation and wildfires; glaciers and ice sheets; sea level rise and coastal systems can all be explored. This workshop can be delivered in person or online, and requires access to Google Earth Pro.

Siccar Point (Scotland): the "birthplace" of modern geology

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This virtual field trip takes you to a particularly special geological site located on the east coast of Scotland. It was at this site in 1788 that James Hutton changed perspectives on how we understand our planet. This virtual field trip will demonstrate how we can understand the geologic record by applying the concept of uniformitarianism which states that processes that occur today have operated throughout Earth's history and will continue to do so in the future. This session will allow you to explore the outcrop yourself through an online based virtual outcrop model, enabling you to deduce the geological history of the area.

Key:

EN Can be delivered in English

IP Can be delivered in person

CY Can be delivered through the medium of Welsh

V Can be delivered virtually

Future flood archives - recording floods and their impacts

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People have recorded the floods of the past in a variety of documents and images (e.g. newspapers reports, personal diaries, creative literature, photography). As well as providing a record of when floods happened, these records are windows onto how individuals and communities in the past perceived floods, were impacted by them, and adapted to them. But what kinds of records are we creating today? How will future generations look back at our archives? Are we recording similar details today, despite the development of new technologies such as social media? This workshop will explore past and present records of flooding in historical documents and social media using searchable online platforms.

Solving the mystery of the missing carbon sink

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Discussions of climate change understandably focus on carbon in the atmosphere and on emissions from burning fossil fuels. Other important elements of the global carbon cycle are often overlooked. This workshop will focus on the importance of soils and forests drawing on examples from temperate and dryland environments across the world where human activities are leading to important changes in stores and processes of this chemical element which has assumed such prominence in our political and social lives.

Gentrification: processes of change and exclusion in the city and the countryside

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This session explores the phenomenon of gentrification. The talk begins by visiting a 'classic' example of gentrification ('East Village', New York City), and exploring the factors that led to the gentrification of the neighbourhood, as well as the role of different actors in the process. The talk then moves to explore a rural account of gentrification (Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire), exploring the motivations for moving. While both are examples of gentrification, the differences of the character of social and population changes are explored. The workshop considers the signs of gentrification, its effects, and what attributes might contribute to gentrification.

Lifestyle migration: affording a good life in 'less popular' destinations

This workshop draws on recent research undertaken at Aberystwyth University to understand the ways that ideas of living a particular lifestyle encourages migration. While longstanding counterurbanisation research has emphasized the desirability of (rural) locations, this workshop considers why people move to areas that aren't seen as so attractive. Drawing on urban (Swansea) and rural (Ceredigion) examples, the workshop draws on qualitative data to understand the attraction to areas that don't feature so prominently as 'lifestyle destinations'. It explores the way that regional inequalities allow a middle-class lifestyle that could not otherwise be afforded to be pursued. Similarly, access to the physical landscape is also an important factor, as are ties to the area (both pre-existing or made). However, there are more negative aspects, such as feeling 'stuck' in an area, or contributing to the unaffordability of local house prices.

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The hostile environment: (non-)belonging, Brexit, and borders

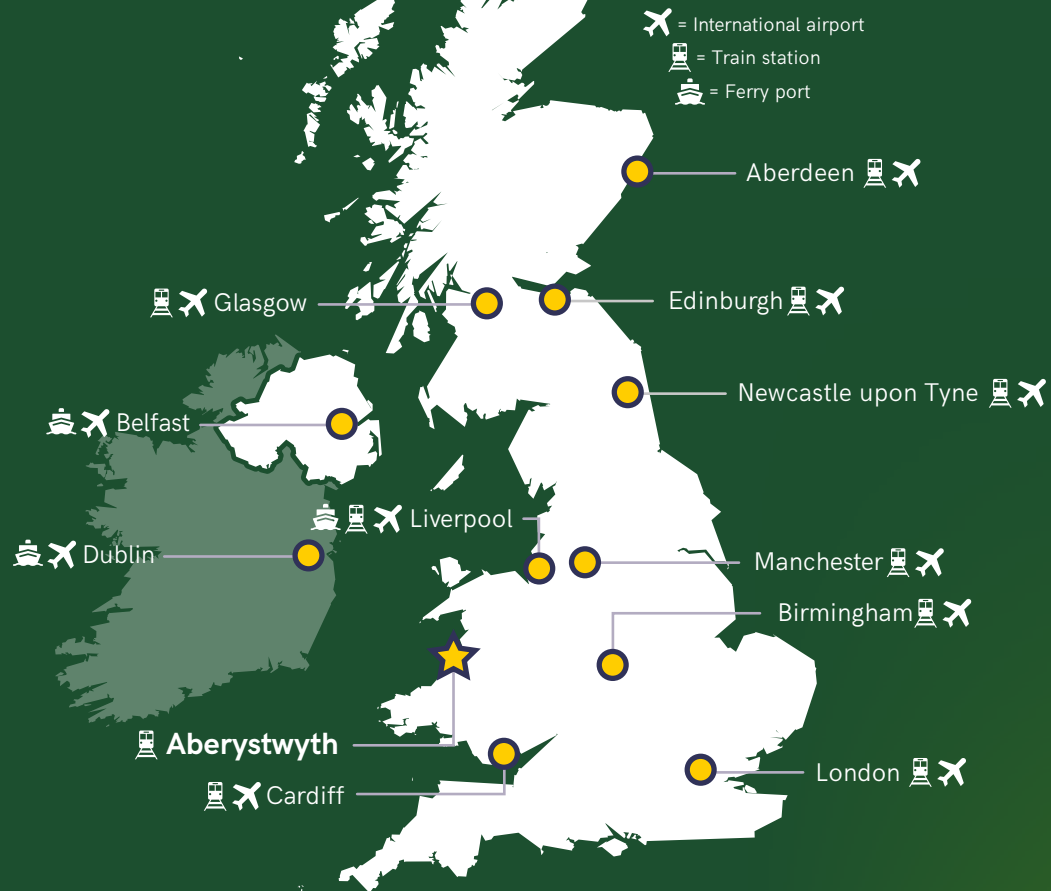
This workshop explores the strained attachments European Union citizens have of Britain in recent years. It outlines longstanding and recent policy and legal approaches by the UK state to create a 'hostile environment' for migrants. The workshop begins by exploring the different types of migration, and the context of EU migration to the UK. It then moves to focus on the Hostile Environment as a Governmental Policy supported by xenophobic media discourse. It then considers evidence from research into EU citizens' experience of the 2016 Brexit referendum and its aftermath, as well as the change in their rights. The workshop closes with some more optimistic reflection on how the Hostile Environment is challenged, such as through Wales' Nation of Sanctuary ambitions.

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