



Department of English
and Creative Writing

Undergraduate studies in

English and Creative Writing

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (June 2024) 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 English and Creative Writing at Aber! We are proud that our students are some of the happiest and the best-taught in Britain. We are ranked top in the UK for teaching quality and student experience for the subject of English (Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2024) and top in the UK for satisfaction with teaching for the subject of Creative Writing (The Guardian University League Table 2024).

As the world-renowned "cultural capital" of Wales, Aberystwyth is a truly exceptional place to study. Not only is the University situated in one of the most attractive landscapes in the UK, but it also offers excellent academic resources and learning opportunities.

The education and experience we offer our students is genuinely exceptional, as our rankings show. We are ranked top in the UK for teaching quality and student experience for the subject of English (Good University Guide 2024, The Times and Sunday Times), and top in the UK for satisfaction with teaching for the subject of Creative Writing (The Guardian University League Table 2024).

We care about our students, and about helping each one of them reach their full potential and get the most out of their time with us. We are well-known for the exceptionally strong sense of community in the department, and for our friendly, supportive, and accessible staff, who care about students' progress and about them as individuals. As one of our current students puts it, "you're never just going to be another face in the crowd here."

We offer flexible courses that combine tradition and innovation, breadth and depth. From Chaucer to Twitter/X, the writing we produce and the texts we encounter have informed and challenged generations of readers. Literature has the power to effect genuine change, and at Aberystwyth you can channel your own passion for reading and writing into making your own

contributions to our literary heritage and to the literature of the future.

We have an excellent university library which, above and beyond the usual array of scholarly and critical editions, houses a fascinating collection of rare books that are a delight to anyone interested in reading and the art of textual production. In addition, we have one of the biggest libraries in the world, the National Library of Wales, on our doorstep – one of only five copyright institutions entitled to receive a copy of every book published in the UK. The Department is also home to New Welsh Review – Wales's foremost literary magazine – and the International Journal of Welsh Writing in English. Through these affiliations we offer exciting opportunities for you to get involved in a variety of writing and publishing activities, internships, and training opportunities.

We deliver exceptionally high-quality teaching on all our degree courses and ensure that your talents are fostered and nurtured. This will open up some fantastic career opportunities for you. Our students have gone on to succeed across a broad range of highly sought-after jobs and careers. Recent graduates have signed to some of the UK's major literary agents and have published with some of the world's most prestigious publishing houses, including Faber & Faber and Penguin.

Every year, we organise guest lectures and workshops, which involve a range of

well-known writers, scholars, and industry professionals from around the world. Amongst those who have visited recently are columnist and critic Caitlin Moran, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, National Poet of Wales Gillian Clarke and award-winning poet Andrew McMillan, novelists Niall Griffiths, Gareth L Powell, and Sarah Hall, and the popular author, vlogger and former social media manager for Vintage, Leena Norms (@leenanorms).

We hope that this brochure will give you a taste of the subjects we offer, but most of all we encourage you to come and visit us to find out more. We can give you further details about our degrees and introduce you to our vibrant, close-knit community of teachers, scholars and students. We look forward to meeting you.

Professor Louise Marshall
Head of School



Welcome from our students

Ivy Napp

English Literature

"My experience studying Literature at Aberystwyth University has absolutely changed my life for the better. I have gained more confidence in myself and my abilities than I ever thought I would thanks to the excellent course and people here. I've grown as an individual and formed many new useful skills in creative and critical practice that will stay with me forever. From modules on ancient texts to modules on the playful language of postmodernism, the course is varied and flexible. I was able to take modules in art and in creative writing whilst completing my literature degree -an excellent scheme that shows Aber is a university that puts its students' interests and learning first.

Above all my degree has been incredible due to the spectacular enthusiasm, kindness, and support both professionally and personally from the staff, who go above and beyond teaching to bring literature to life. With plenty of contact hours in and around seminars, a support system, and a willingness to partake in student society events, the department and its staff played the most significant part in making my Aberystwyth experience so wonderful.

Outside of the seminar room, the opportunity to be an English and Creative Writing Society committee member is one of many examples where I feel I have gained a rounded student experience in this town packed with possibilities. Before studying at Aber, I would have never considered that I could write, perform, and publish poetry, or interview authors about new books and innovative research. I would never have thought that I could get work experience on a published magazine, organise a range of charitable events, or swim in a sea that is walking distance from my home. All of these beautiful opportunities have presented themselves in Aber and I would never hesitate to recommend studying English Literature and Creative Writing here. In fact, I cannot recommend it enough!"

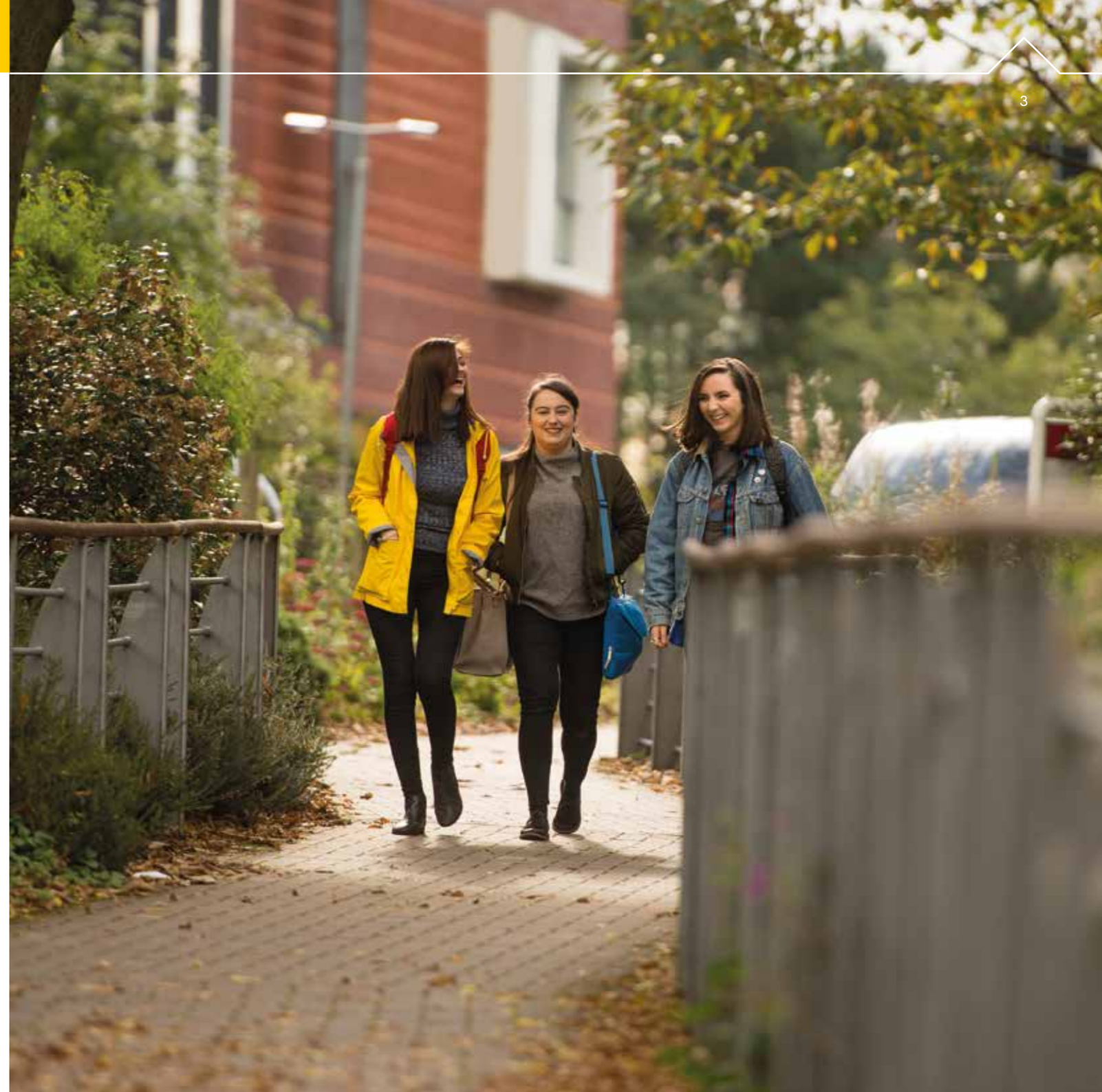
Chloe Clarke

English and Creative Writing

"I have already had a wonderful two years studying English and Creative Writing at Aberystwyth, and I am now going into my third year with a lot of excitement. Not only have I grown as a person and made amazing friends, but I have also thoroughly enjoyed my course. The Creative Writing modules have given me the skills I needed to improve my writing. As well as feeling more confident, I can see the improvement in my work. During the module 'Beginning the Novel' I learnt how to write in different styles and genres, and overall developed a wider skill set. The Creative Writing workshops allow you to share your work and get feedback from your lecturers and peers. The English modules are equally fantastic; modules like 'Place and Self' and 'Encountering Texts' have given me the opportunity to study a wide variety of interesting and compelling books. There is also a good balance between small-group seminars and large group teaching in lectures.

Not only is the degree interesting and enjoyable, but the staff are absolutely amazing. They are incredibly supportive and are always willing to help you, whether by reading through your work and suggesting how you can improve it, or by answering any questions you might have. The Department is lovely and welcoming, and if you need to ask the staff any questions, you'll probably find yourself in the charming English foyer which has a coffee machine, books, magazines and is a place to feel at home within the department. There is also the English and Creative Writing Society, which is a great way to make friends, talk about books at the weekly book club, share work at workshops and open mics and attend writers' talks where published authors share their work and experiences within the field. Authors like Gillian Clarke, Hayley Long and Kate Hamer have given talks while I've been at Aber.

Aberystwyth is a wonderful place to live, with the National Library less than five minutes from campus, the gorgeous beach where you can read, go swimming, have bonfires, visit the local castle, and watch the most beautiful sunsets. Pay us a visit and see Aber in all its glory for yourself."



Our courses

Single Honours

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Creative Writing

BA (Hons) | W801 | 3 years

Our Creative Writing course provides exciting and diverse opportunities for working in a broad variety of forms and genres. At Aberystwyth, you will develop imaginative and inventive creative skills that will enable you to work confidently and effectively in a wide range of styles, preparing you for your professional career.

This degree offers a broad curriculum that cuts across traditional subject boundaries. Over the duration of this course you will explore and experiment with genre, form, language, media, style and presentation.

Upon completion of this degree, you will be able to write with confidence, tailoring your work to a broad range of audiences. You will have a highly developed awareness of issues such as tone, structure, genre and function, and of how to utilise these effectively in your own writing.

You will benefit from:

- being taught by a team of distinguished, award-winning authors who work across a broad spectrum of creative fields
- taking part in a writing retreat at a country house in Mid Wales
- a strong tradition of specialist teaching in the fields of life writing, historical fiction, the graphic novel, contemporary poetry, crime fiction, science fiction, and writing for stage, screen and radio
- the chance to work with leading literary and cultural institutions such as *New Welsh Review* – Wales's foremost literary magazine – and Aberystwyth Arts Centre, one of the largest arts centres in Wales, recognised as a 'national flagship' for the arts.

Employability

Many of our graduates are successful writers, publishing in a wide range of fields, such as fiction, non-fiction, news media, poetry, screen writing and drama. Our graduates have also developed successful careers in publishing, journalism, marketing and public relations, finance, the Civil Service, NGOs, teaching, editing and advertising.

Module list

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

First year:

- Critical Perspectives on Creative Writing
- Creative Practice.

Second year:

- Beginning The Novel.

Final year:

- The Writing Project.


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

- Kapow! Reading and Writing Graphic Narratives
- Adventures with Poetry
- Telling True Stories
- Writing Selves
- Writing and Place
- Writing Crime Fiction
- Exploring Professional Writing
- Reading and Writing Fantasy Fiction
- Reading and Writing Science Fiction
- Shaping Plots
- Poetry for Today
- Speculative Fiction and the Climate Crisis
- Writing for Film and Television
- Scriptwriting
- Videogame Theories.

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

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120 -104
IB: 30-28.

 **Assessment weighting:**
100% coursework.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

English Literature

BA (Hons) | Q300 | 3 years

Our English Literature degree will fire your imagination by exploring the widest possible range of literary texts and cultures. We offer our students a superb choice of courses from the early medieval period to the present day.

You will discover a wide variety of approaches to literature and culture. Our course encourages you to read widely and to think critically about writing and its contexts, and the philosophical and political trends that shape the ways we read and write.

Upon completion of this course, you will have outstanding powers of expression and communication, augmented with specialist knowledge and research skills. You will discover your potential as an independent learner, while working within a nurturing and structured learning environment that will enable you to excel.

You will benefit from:


- learning alongside researchers who are recognised internationally for their contributions to knowledge and the furthering of the discipline
- a strong tradition of specialist teaching in the fields of women's writing, writing and place, children's literature, Welsh writing in English, LGBTQIA+ writing, Postcolonial literature, Medieval studies and Romanticism
- the chance to work with leading literary and cultural institutions such as *New Welsh Review* – Wales's foremost literary magazine – and Aberystwyth Arts Centre, one of the largest arts centres in Wales, recognised as a 'national flagship' for the arts.

Employability

A degree in English Literature offers a "gold standard" training for any job where communication is key. Our modules will provide you with the skills you need to develop a comprehensive C.V. that demonstrates a diverse range of skills. Our graduates go into a very wide range of careers, including broadcasting, journalism, advertising and public relations, education, the Civil Service, finance and new media.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120 -104
IB: 30-28.

 **Assessment weighting:**
A blend of traditional coursework and take-home exams, depending on module choice.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

English Literature and Creative Writing

BA (Hons) | QW38 | 3 years

Our combined course in English Literature and Creative Writing will enable you to develop as both a creative and critical practitioner. This degree will expand your range and capabilities as a writer and enable you to work with confidence in a variety of genres and forms.

You will develop a reflective writing practice informed by a wide-ranging knowledge of writing from the past and present, an understanding of the cultural and intellectual contexts in which literature is written and read, and an awareness of the range and variety of approaches to literary study and the practice of writing.

You will benefit from:


- being taught by a team of distinguished, award-winning authors who work across a broad spectrum of creative fields
- a strong tradition of specialist teaching in the fields of women's writing, writing and place, children's literature, Victorian writing, Welsh writing in English, LGBTQIA+ writing, Postcolonial literature, Renaissance drama and Romanticism
- the chance to develop your writing with practitioners who have expertise in a diverse range of genres such as contemporary poetry, the graphic novel, crime fiction, life writing, historical fiction, science fiction, and writing for stage, screen and radio
- taking part in a writing retreat at a country house in Mid Wales.

Employability

A degree in English Literature and Creative Writing offers a "gold standard" training for any job where communication is key. Many of our graduates are successful writers, publishing in a wide range of fields, such as fiction, non-fiction, news media, poetry, screen writing and drama. Our graduates have also developed successful careers in publishing, journalism, marketing and public relations, finance, the Civil Service, NGOs, teaching, editing and advertising.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120 -104
IB: 30-28.

 **Assessment weighting:**
A blend of traditional coursework and take-home exams, depending on module choice.

 **Field trips/fieldwork:** Yes.

Module list

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

First year:

- Creative Practice
- Critical Practice.

Second year:

- Literary Theory: Debates and Dialogues.


Final year:

- The Writing Project
- Undergraduate Dissertation.

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

- Ancestral Voices
- Contemporary Queer Fictions
- Kapow! Reading and Writing Graphic Narratives
- Demons, Degenerates and New Women: Fin de Siècle Fictions
- Greek and Roman Epic and Drama
- Re-imagining Nineteenth-century Literature
- Literature and the Sea
- Adventures with Poetry
- Contemporary Writing and Climate Crisis
- Telling True Stories: Ways of Writing Creative Non-fiction
- Writing Selves
- Writing and Place
- Remix: Chaucer in the Then and Now
- Writing Crime Fiction.

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

 **Also available:**
QW3F Integrated foundation year.

English Studies and Climate Change

BA (Hons) | FQ73 | 3 years

On the English Studies and Climate Change degree you will encounter texts that explore and represent climate change, and that evaluate the climate challenge and its political, economic, social and ecological impacts. By raising provocative questions about human responses to climate change (which invariably involve the written or the spoken word) this course will equip you with the skills and knowledge to analyse diverse perspectives on a global challenge.

The English Studies and Climate Change course provides subject-specialist knowledge of fictional and non-fictional responses to the climate, from Romanticism's accounts of 1816 ("the year without a summer") to radical imaginings of potential futures for our planet in contemporary speculative fiction.

You will benefit from:


- engaging with and developing a distinct multidisciplinary approach to communicating climate change informed by an understanding of the science behind the climate crisis
- analysing the causes and consequence of climate change and environmental degradation, and how literature from the nineteenth century to the present day comments upon climate change
- examining links between climate change and other global challenges (such as conflict, migration, inequality and isolationism) and the ways in which these challenges are communicated to diverse audiences
- reflecting on ways that the planet's habitats, resources, and ecological systems are reflected in and shape the stories we tell and how such stories challenge the political status quo.

Employability

Graduates will be well placed to pursue a career in climate change management, adaptation and mitigation, both in the UK and abroad. Additionally, they will be suited to careers in related areas, such as environmental education and consultancy or conservation. Further postgraduate study, either at Masters or Doctoral level, is an option.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120 -104
IB: 30-28.

 **Assessment weighting:**
A blend of traditional coursework and take-home exams, depending on module choice.

Module list

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

First year:

- Climate Change: Impacts, Perceptions, Adaptations
- Creative Practice
- Critical Practice
- The Science of Climate.

Second year:

- Literature and Climate in the Nineteenth Century
- Literary Theory: Debates and Dialogues.

Final year:

- The Writing Project
- Undergraduate Dissertation.

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

- Contemporary Writing and Climate Crisis
- Speculative Fiction and the Climate Crisis
- Crisis Writing
- Literatures of Surveillance
- Animals in Literature
- Literature and the Sea
- Contemporary Queer Fictions
- Adventures with Poetry
- Demons and Degenerates
- Writing Crime Fiction
- Telling True Stories
- Reading and Writing Fantasy Fiction
- Writing and Place
- Literary Geographies.

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.

Joint Honours & Major/Minor

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
Creative Writing	Drama and Theatre	W841	
	Film and Television Studies	WP83	
	Fine Art	WW18	
	French	WR81	
	History	WV81	
	Media		P3W8
	Photography	WW68	
	Spanish	WR84	
English Literature	Drama and Theatre Studies	QW34	
	Education	QX33	
	Film and Television Studies	QW36	
	Fine Art	WQ13	
	French	QR31	
	History	QV31	
	Media		P3Q3

Top in the UK

for Teaching Quality and Student Experience for the subject of English

(Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2024)

Top in the UK

for satisfaction with teaching for the subject of Creative Writing

(The Guardian University League Table 2024)





Gregynog Writing Retreat

and additional opportunities

In your final year you will benefit from our fully subsidised annual writing retreat held at a beautiful country manor house in rural Mid Wales. This immensely popular event allows our students to enjoy some peace away from the hustle and bustle of campus life, while developing their final year dissertation and creative writing projects.

As well as the Gregynog Writing Retreat, there are a host of opportunities for engaging with literary culture. Free trips (and free tickets!) to the world-famous Hay Festival are an annual feature of our calendar, and our students have access to subsidised performances at Aberystwyth Art Centre.

Every year our students publish an anthology of their creative and critical work. AberInk, which is written, designed and edited by students, showcases not only their writing but also their skills in a broad range of project management activities, including dealing with everything from deadlines to budget control, to promotional events and beyond.

Research

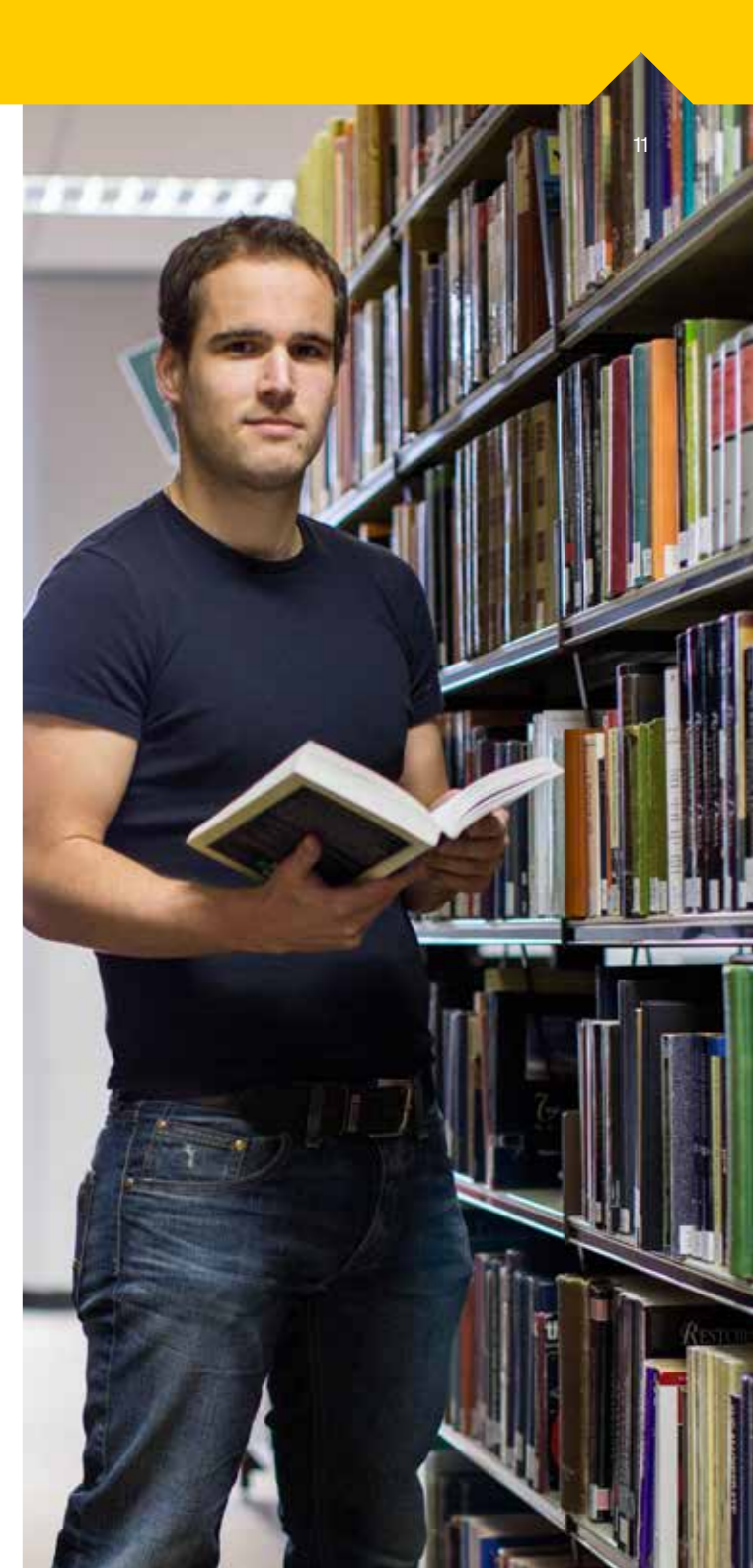
Studying with English and Creative Writing at Aberystwyth will ensure that you have access to not only the highest quality teaching in our subjects but also to a teaching and learning environment that is driven by world-class research. All our staff are active researchers in their fields and throughout your studies you will be taught by some of the UK's leading scholars in creative writing and literary studies.

Our research forms the basis of our teaching and our research interests are as broad and dynamic as our curriculum. You will be taught by the people who write the books on the subjects you are learning about, by the people who wrote the poetry, novels, short stories, non-fiction, scripts, and graphic novels that you read, and by the scholars who analyse and interrogate such works.

The University's mission is to 'contribute to society in Wales and the wider world by applying our knowledge to local and global challenges'. To achieve this, English and Creative Writing draws upon an extensive network of national and global connections and collaborations, working with academics and creative practitioners from around the world on exciting and innovative projects that our students engage with as part of the process of knowledge creation.

Two examples of this vibrant international activity are our research centres, Contempo and The David Jones Centre. Contempo is a collaborative research centre with a special (but not exclusive) interest in investigating experimental and performance poetics and their poetics. Its core activity is an exciting programme of video-linked papers, seminars, and performances given by poets and scholars of poetry from around the world. The David Jones Centre supports research on the history and impact of modernism in Wales and on the creative interaction of the textual and the visual. The Centre hosts an international conference and seminar series and seeks to promote the exciting possibilities for new research offered by the literary and artistic archives at the National Library of Wales.

Discover more about our research here:
aber.ac.uk/en/english/research



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.



The application process

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. 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 application

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.

3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub

The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.

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 invited to apply for accommodation.

6 Results day

UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!

Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.



Department of English
and Creative Writing,
Aberystwyth University,
Hugh Owen Building,
Aberystwyth, SY23 3DY

+44(0) 1970 62 1537

english@aber.ac.uk

/ecw.aberystwyth.co.uk

@AberEnglishDept

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