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ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY



Department of Geography
and Earth Sciences

Undergraduate studies in

Earth Sciences, Geography and Sociology

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Important information

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

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences is one of the largest and 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.

Further information about our courses and other opportunities can be found in this booklet. Why not join us on an Open Day / Online Open Day or Applicant Visiting Day to see for yourself what makes Aberystwyth such an incredible place to study.

Professor Mark Whitehead

Director of Admissions

Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

Our courses

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Criminology and Sociology

BSc (Hons)

Our Criminology and Sociology degree will enable you to learn about key concepts which help to explain how crime and deviance is perceived by society. In addition, these complementary disciplines will allow you to examine the interdisciplinary nature of crime, criminality and society as well as the relationship between society and crime.

On this course you will gain an in-depth understanding of society and criminality and will be introduced to new perspectives on social inequality and social change that are taking place both locally and internationally.

Providing insight on criminology from a sociological perspective, our degree will give you the sophisticated knowledge and analytical skill set needed for breaking into the public and social sectors, as well as the criminal justice system. Alternatively, it is a great starting block for further study.

Opportunities for Criminology and Sociology students at Aberystwyth include:

- being taught by criminologists and sociologists who are actively engaged in research
- the chance to undertake a criminal justice work placement
- benefitting from our excellent working relationships with local organisations and criminal justice agencies
- undertaking supervised independent criminological research.

Employability

The Criminology and Sociology degree provides an excellent academic foundation for careers in the criminal justice sector, including the Police, HM Prison and The National Probation Service, and youth justice. Completing the degree can also provide opportunities to work in crime or intelligence analysis, community care and social work, as well as in local, regional and national government agencies.

Module list

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

First year:

- Crime Control and Prevention *
- Essential Skills for Criminologists *
- Introduction to Criminology *
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Place and Identity
- Understanding Sameness and Difference.

Second and final year:

- Quantitative Research Skills *
- Introduction to Social Theory
- Understanding (in)equality and (in)justice
- Empirically Based Dissertation * or Law and Criminology Dissertation *
- Critical and Radical Criminology *.

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

- Animal Abuse and Wildlife Crime
- Contemporary Global Migration
- Crime and the Media
- Drugs and Crime
- Everyday Social Worlds
- Police, Policing and Society *
- Urban Risk and Environmental Resilience
- Psychological Explanations of Criminal Behaviour
- Psychopathology
- Treatment and Rehabilitation of Offenders
- Victimology.

For more details on the optional modules available to develop your specialist interests, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

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

Key Facts



Degree type: BA.



UCAS Code: ML93.



Duration: 3 years.

Environmental Earth Science

BSc (Hons)

With integrated year studying abroad (F642)

With integrated year in industry (F643)

Aberystwyth is surrounded by a great natural laboratory that provides us with some excellent sites for fieldwork, and our facilities will help you explore core skills in geology and apply these to a wide range of environmental problems.

You will study planet earth as a unified system, exploring the inter-actions between the solid rocky earth (lithosphere) and the secondary environment, which includes the hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere. This degree will train you to solve problems and contribute to society, creating fantastic opportunities for your future.

You will be taught field and practical skills which can be applied to solving some of the key environmental issues facing our society such as: pollution from human activities like mining and power production, site investigation for land redevelopment or understanding volcanic eruptions.

Opportunities for Environmental Earth Science students at Aberystwyth include:

- being taught by world-leading researchers
- having access to analytical facilities which are recognised by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to support project work
- fieldwork opportunities in each year of your degree; fieldwork themes may include geological processes, environmental pollution, energy and resources, and sustainable development
- professional skills and training throughout your degree.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BSc.



UCAS Code: F640 (F642 with integrated year studying abroad), (F643 with integrated year in industry).



Duration: 3 years (F642 and F643 are 4 years).

Module list

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

First year:

- An introduction to Rocks and Minerals
- Earth Surface Environments
- Fieldwork Skills
- Researching the World
- How to Build a Planet *
- Life on Earth *.

Second year:

- Advanced Earth Materials
- Earth Resources and Environmental Impacts
- Field Skills
- Fundamentals of Geochemistry
- Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Geohazards *
- Geographic Information Systems.

Final year:

- Environmental Earth Science Dissertation
- Environmental Earth Science Level 3 Fieldwork
- Environmental Geochemistry and Biogeochemistry
- Applied Environmental Management
- Earth Observation from Satellites and Aircraft
- Glaciers and Ice Sheets
- People, Climate and Environment: a Palaeoenvironmental Perspective
- Sedimentary Environments
- Volcanic Activity: Hazards and Environmental Change
- Independent Project for Environmental Earth Science.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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



Environmental Science

BSc (Hons)

With integrated year studying abroad	(F752)
With integrated year in industry	(F753)

Our Environmental Science degree explores some of the most important issues and challenges currently facing our society. We offer the unique opportunity to study these in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences as well as the Institute of Biology, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS), where you will be taught by world-leading researchers.

The degree focuses on past, present and future environmental processes and their complex interactions with human activities, coupled with investigation into the societal response to both natural and human-induced environmental issues and the ways in which they are managed.

We offer several overseas field courses and a number of opportunities for local fieldwork, so that you can make the most of our stunning location.

Opportunities for Environmental Science students at Aberystwyth include:

- an Earth Observation Laboratory, Palaeoecology Laboratory, Luminescence Research Laboratory, aquarium systems for both marine and freshwater organisms, Advanced Microscopy and Bio-Imaging Laboratory, facilities for DNA sequencing, metabolomics and proteomics, and a Modelling Laboratory for spatial and temporal integration of biological data
- being taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields throughout your course
- professional skills and training throughout your degree.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts



Degree type: BSc.



UCAS Code: F750 (F752 with integrated year studying abroad, F753 with integrated year in industry).



Duration: 3 years (F752 and F753 are 4 years).

Module list

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

First year:

- Earth Surface Environments
- The Biosphere
- Evolution and the Diversity of Life
- Fieldwork skills
- The Green Planet *
- How to Build a Planet *
- Ecology *

Second year:

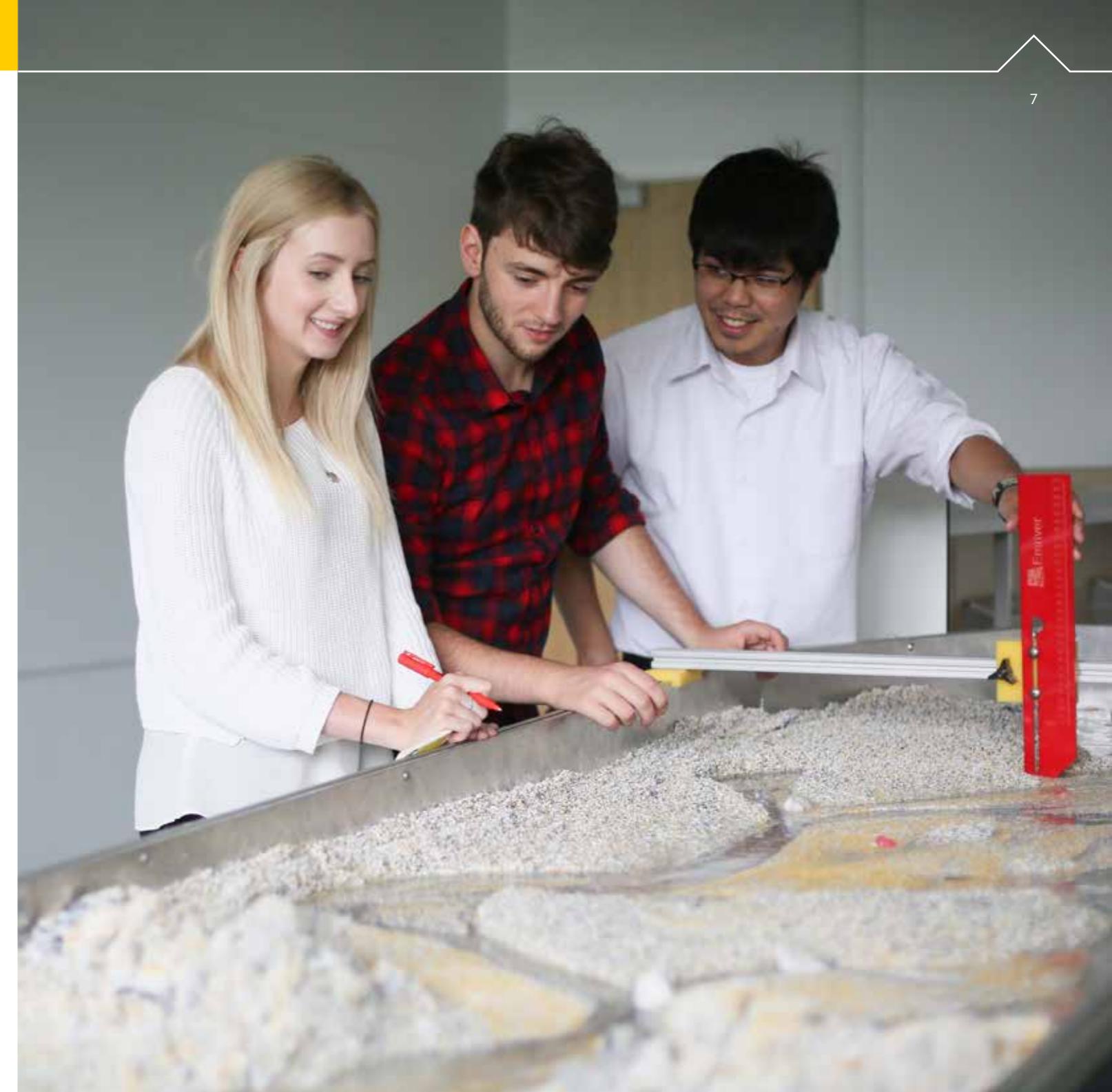
- Environmental Science Fieldwork
- Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Reconstructing Past Environments
- Geohazards *
- Earth Resources and Environmental Impacts
- Ecological Surveying *
- Climate Change: Plants, Animals and Ecosystems
- Environmental Microbiology and Monitoring.

Final year:

- Applied Environmental Management
- Glaciers and Ice Sheets
- Sedimentary Environments
- Volcanic Activity: Hazards and Environmental Change
- Environmental Regulation and Consultancy
- Global Biodiversity Conservation
- Marine and Freshwater Field Course
- Population and Community Ecology
- Terrestrial Ecology Fieldcourse
- The Agri-Environment
- Wildlife Conservation
- Environmental Science Dissertation.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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



Geography

BSc (Hons)

With integrated year studying abroad	(F802)
With integrated year in industry	(F803)

Our Geography degree offers the opportunity to explore key topics in human and physical geography. Themes covered include hydrological systems; glacial processes; geomorphology; soil system science; ecosystem dynamics; cultural and historical geography; urbanisation, rural change and development; place and identity; and globalisation.

You will also have the opportunity to study interdisciplinary themes such as environmental change, geohazards and sustainability, and also receive specific skills training, for example in remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS). Our flexible degree structure means you can specialise in a particular field or maintain a breadth of interests throughout the course, allowing you to focus on themes that excite you.

We offer a broad range of fieldwork opportunities including a free trip at the beginning of the first year. In the second year we offer a range of trips to suit a variety of specialisms and budgets. Previous destinations have included Crete, Berlin, and a free, low-carbon trip to Mid and South Wales. Optional day trips are also embedded in many modules throughout your degree.

Opportunities for Geography students at Aberystwyth include:

- being taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields throughout your course
- studying a course accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)
- use of exceptional facilities for laboratory work in chemical and physical analysis (for example, for soils, water quality and pollen work), social investigation and data processing.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts

Degree type: BSc.



UCAS Code: F800 (F802 with integrated year studying abroad), F803 with integrated year in industry.

Module list

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

First year:

- Conflict and Change: the Making of Urban and Rural Spaces *
- Earth Surface Environments
- Living with Global Change *
- Place and Identity
- Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- How to Build a Planet *.

Second year:

- Geographical Information Systems
- Concepts for Geographers
- Geography Fieldwork *
- Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Frozen Planet
- Catchment Systems *
- Placing Culture
- Sustainable Society
- Geohazards *
- Researching People and Place *.

Final year:

- Applied Environmental Management
- Contemporary Global Migration
- Everyday Social Worlds
- Glaciers and Ice Sheets
- Sedimentary Environments
- The Psychosocial Century
- Volcanic Activity: Hazards and Environmental Change
- Geography Dissertation *.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh

Accredited by:



Duration: 3 years (F802 and F803 are 4 years).



Human Geography

BA (Hons)

With integrated year in industry	(L703)
With integrated year studying abroad	(L704)

Our Human Geography degree addresses some of the major issues facing the world today, including globalisation, sustainable development, inequality and poverty, geopolitics, nationalism and regionalism, urban and rural change, and migration.

You will study the historical processes behind contemporary trends, drawing together perspectives from different countries and cultures, and use different sources ranging from maps and statistics, to film, art, and literature.

We offer a broad range of fieldwork opportunities including a free trip at the beginning of the first year. In the second year we offer a range of trips to suit a variety of specialisms and budgets, currently to Wales (free) and Berlin (at additional cost). Optional day trips are also embedded in many modules throughout your degree (destinations are subject to change).

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Human Geography students include:

- studying a course accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)
- being taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields throughout your course
- professional skills and training throughout your degree.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Graduates of this course have found employment as planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts



UCAS Code: L700 (L703 with integrated year in industry), (L704 with integrated year studying abroad).

Module list

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

First year:

- Conflict and Change: the Making of Urban and Rural Spaces *
- Living with Global Change *
- Place and Identity
- Understanding Sameness and Difference
- Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis.

Second year:

- Concepts for Geographers
- Geography Fieldwork *
- Placing Culture
- Placing Politics *
- Researching People and Place
- Sustainable Society.

Final year:

- Contemporary Global Migration
- Everyday Social Worlds
- Geographies of the Global Countryside
- Memory Cultures: Heritage, Identity and Power
- Modern British Landscapes
- The Psychosocial Century
- Urban Risk and Environmental Resilience
- Geography Dissertation *.

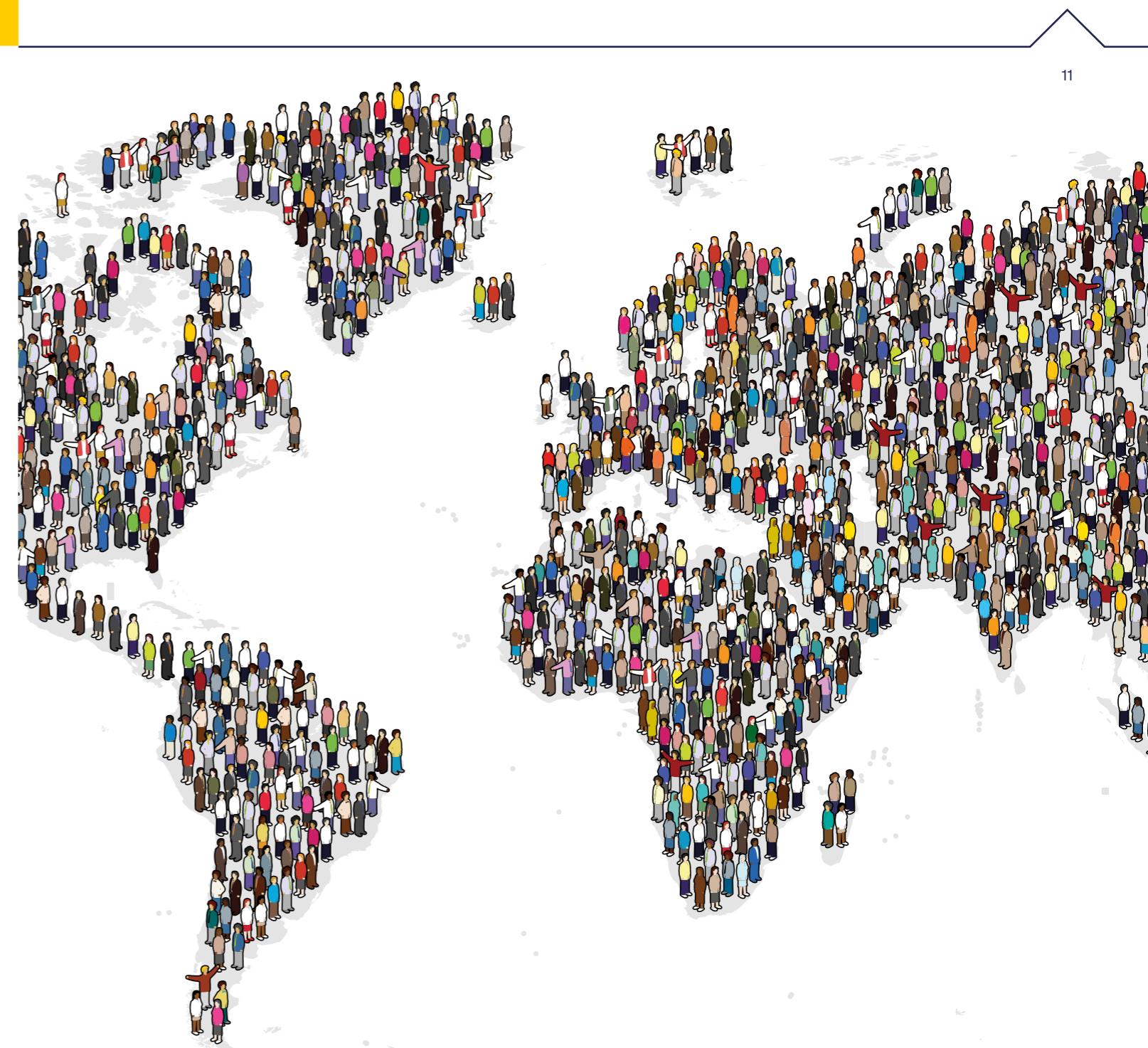
See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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

Accredited by:



Duration: 3 years (L703 and L704 are 4 years).



Physical Geography

BSc (Hons)

With integrated year studying abroad	(F845)
With integrated year in industry	(F846)

The BSc Physical Geography degree allows you to explore the fundamental processes that shape the world in which we live. Supported by world-leading research conducted by our staff, key themes include quaternary environmental change, hydrological systems, glacial processes, geomorphology, soil system science, and ecosystem dynamics.

As a physical geography student, you can also choose to study topics of an interdisciplinary nature, including environmental management, sustainability, Earth resources and natural hazards. The structure of the degree enables you to either specialise in a particular field or to maintain a breadth of interest throughout your course.

We offer a broad range of fieldwork opportunities including a free trip at the beginning of the first year. In the second year we offer a range of trips to suit a variety of specialisms and budgets, currently to South and Mid Wales (free) and Crete (at additional cost). Optional day trips are also embedded in many modules throughout your degree (fieldwork destinations are subject to change).

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Physical Geography students include:

- studying a course accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)
- use of exceptional facilities for laboratory work in chemical and physical analysis (for example, for soils, water quality and pollen work), and access to the latest remote sensing and GIS packages
- being taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts



Degree type: BSc.



UCAS Code: F840 (F845 with integrated year studying abroad), (F846 with integrated year in industry).

Module list

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

First year:

- Earth Surface Environments
- Living with Global Change *
- Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- How to Build a Planet *
- An Introduction to Rocks and Minerals
- Life on Earth *.

Second year:

- Geographic Information Systems
- Catchment Systems *
- Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Geography Fieldwork *
- Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Reconstructing Past Environments *
- The Frozen Planet Geohazards *.

Final year:

- Applied Environmental Management
- Glaciers and Ice Sheets
- People, Climate and Environment: a Palaeoenvironmental Perspective
- Sedimentary Environments
- Volcanic Activity: Hazards and Environmental Change
- Geography Dissertation *.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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

Accredited by:



Duration: 3 years (F845 and F846 are 4 years).

Psychology and Sociology

BSc (Hons)

The Psychology and Sociology degree will enable you to engage with psychological theory and research and explore how psychology is applied to real-world personal and social issues. The course will also enable you to explore both the personal and social nature of human experience from different perspectives.

On this degree you will learn how to critically evaluate ideas, concepts and approaches across the whole of the subject areas and within particular branches of Psychology and Sociology. The course will also draw attention to the connections between human behaviour and the wider social systems (including communities, cities, and nations) within which we live. You will learn how to conduct independent research and will become acquainted with a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, digital data sources, and modes of data collection, analysis and presentation. You will also learn how to apply the key concepts associated with psychology and sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills.

Opportunities for Psychology and Sociology students at Aberystwyth include:

- a wide range of expertise among our research-active staff
- access to eye tracking, an electroencephalogram (EEG), physiological measurement equipment and behavioural measurements equipment
- a range of practical classes and fieldwork exercises in both disciplines
- learning from live research projects that enable you to encounter cutting-edge theoretical and empirical understandings of the social world.

Employability

The study of Psychology and Sociology provides a solid foundation for you to consider a wide range of careers including the media, social work, international development, community engagement and the Civil Service to name a few.

Our graduates have progressed on to careers in the Police force; health and social care; social work; social policy (including public housing, social work, local government administration and the voluntary sector); management; journalism; public relations; teaching and research.

Key Facts



Degree type: BA.



UCAS Code: LC38.

Module list

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

First year:

- Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
- Introduction to Core Topics in Social and Individual Behaviour
- Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology *
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Place and Identity
- Understanding Sameness and Difference.

Second year:

- Cognitive Psychology
- Introduction to Social Theory
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods
- Social Psychology
- Understanding (in)equality and (in)justice.

Final year:

- Behavioural Neuroscience
- Developmental Psychology
- Psychology Research Project
- Everyday Social Worlds.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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



Duration: 3 years.

Sociology

BA (Hons)

With integrated year studying abroad	(L302)
With integrated year in industry	(L303)

The BA Sociology degree at Aberystwyth University will train you to develop a critical awareness of and engagement with the social world.

By studying this course, you will develop a thorough grounding in the conceptual and theoretical approaches that have been employed by sociologists to study the world around us. You will also develop your ability to analyse social phenomena through training in the collection, analysis and presentation of sociological data.

Opportunities for Sociology students at Aberystwyth include:

- experiencing a field-based approach to sociology, with field exercises being integrated into lecture modules, and a dedicated field-based sociology module in the second year
- learning how to apply the key concepts associated with sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills
- learning from live research projects that enable you to encounter cutting-edge theoretical and empirical understandings of the social world.

Employability

Our Sociology degree provides a good foundation for you to consider a wide range of careers including the media, social work, international development, community engagement and the Civil Service among many others. Nowadays, employers are seeking graduates who possess various skills which include the ability to think analytically and laterally. This degree will provide you with a breadth and flexibility of skills, which is why Sociology graduates nationally are attractive to employers.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.



UCAS Code: L300 (L302 with integrated year studying abroad), (L303 with integrated year in industry).



Duration: 3 years (L302 and L303 are 4 years).

Module list

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

First year:

- Understanding Sameness and Difference
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Place and Identity
- Conflict and Change: the Making of Urban and Rural Spaces *
- Researching the Social World.

Second year:

- Understanding (in)equality and (in)justice
- Introduction to Social Theory
- Placing Culture
- Researching People and Place *.

Final year:

- Sociology Dissertation *
- Everyday Social Worlds.

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

- Contemporary Global Migration
- Gender and the Media
- Placing Politics
- Urban Sociology in Practice.

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.



Sociology and Politics

BSc (Hons)

Our Sociology and Politics degree will enable you to develop critical awareness of the world around you by studying both the social and political landscape. You will learn about the conceptual and theoretical methods used by sociologists to study the world. At the same time, your exploration of the political world will provide you with information about political influences on social norms and processes.

On this course you will learn how to look critically at the world, by analysing social phenomena and through learning how to collect, interpret and introduce sociological data. You will also discover how politics has the ability to change lives, about the big ideas that shape our social, economic and political worlds, and how these ideas become policies.

Opportunities for Sociology and Politics students at Aberystwyth include:

- experiencing a field-based approach to sociology, with field exercises being integrated into lecture modules, and a dedicated field-based sociology module in the second year
- learning how to apply the key concepts associated with sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills
- critically engaging with key debates about fundamental issues of politics, such as good government, the nature of the state, justice and rights, and the rule of law
- reflecting on the ways that states and societies address political problems such as the distribution of limited resources, the balance between order and justice, liberty and security, rights and opportunities, and between power at the local, national and international level.

Employability

Our Sociology and Politics graduates are well placed to enter roles in the development sector, local and national politics, the Civil Service, Government and social research, social work and social policy (including public housing, local government administration and the voluntary sector), roles in the third sector such as with NGOs and charities, work with international organisations, public relations and journalism, teaching and management.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.

 UCAS Code: LL32.

 Duration: 3 years.

Joint Honours and Major/Minor

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
Geography	Welsh History	LVT1	
Human Geography	Economics		L7L1
	English Literature	LQ73	
Physical Geography	Computer Science	FG84	
	Education		F8X3
	Mathematics	FG81	

Students investigating sediment properties in the Centenary Laboratory.



Environmental Earth Science

(with integrated foundation year)

BSc (Hons)

Designed for prospective students who do not have a sufficient academic background, the integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. The foundation year provides a solid base for you to go on and enjoy the full undergraduate degree in your second year.

Following the foundation year you will move on to study planet earth as a unified system, exploring the interactions between the solid rocky earth (lithosphere) and the secondary environment, which includes the hydrosphere, biosphere and atmosphere. You will be taught field and practical skills which can be applied to solving some of the key environmental issues facing our society such as pollution from human activities like mining and power production; site investigation for land redevelopment; or understanding volcanic eruptions.

Opportunities for Environmental Earth Science (with integrated foundation year) students at Aberystwyth include:

- having access to analytical facilities which are recognised by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to support project work
- fieldwork opportunities in each year of your degree; fieldwork themes may include geological processes, environmental pollution, energy and resources, and sustainable development
- professional skills and training throughout your degree.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BSc.

 UCAS Code: F64F.

 Duration: 4 years.

Environmental Science

(with integrated foundation year)

BSc (Hons)

Designed for prospective students who do not have a sufficient academic background, the integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. The foundation year provides a solid base for you to go on and enjoy the full undergraduate degree in your second year.

The degree focuses on past, present and future environmental processes and their complex interactions with human activities, coupled with investigation into the societal response to both natural and human-induced environmental issues and the ways in which they are managed.

Opportunities for Environmental Science (with integrated foundation year) students at Aberystwyth include:

- an Earth Observation Laboratory, Palaeoecology Laboratory, Luminescence Research Laboratory, aquarium systems for both marine and freshwater organisms, Advanced Microscopy and Bio-Imaging Laboratory, facilities for DNA sequencing, metabolomics and proteomics, and a Modelling Laboratory for spatial and temporal integration of biological data
- being taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields throughout your course
- professional skills and training throughout your degree.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BSc.

 UCAS Code: F75F.

Module list

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

First year:

- Academic Skills Foundation 1 & 2
- Critical Thinking and Research Skills
- Foundation - Dialogue
- Environmental Management
- Learning Experience.

Second year:

- Earth Surface Environments
- The Biosphere
- Evolution and the Diversity of Life
- Fieldwork Skills
- The Green Planet *
- How to Build a Planet *
- Ecology *.

Third year:

- Environmental Science Fieldwork
- Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Reconstructing Past Environments
- Geohazards *
- Earth Resources and Environmental Impacts
- Ecological Surveying *
- Climate Change: Plants, Animals and Ecosystems
- Environmental Microbiology and Monitoring.

Final year:

- Environmental Science Dissertation.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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

 Duration: 4 years.

Geography

(with integrated foundation year)

BSc (Hons)

Designed for prospective students who do not have a sufficient or relevant academic background, the integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. The foundation year provides a solid base for you to go on and enjoy the full undergraduate degree in your second year.

Set on the coast of Cardigan Bay and surrounded by a great diversity of beautiful environments, including marine, moorland, mountain and grassland, the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth is uniquely placed to make the most of the stunning landscapes that surround it, providing you with a fabulous variety of fieldwork and recreational opportunities. This degree will equip you with the skills, abilities and expertise to face and engage with the challenges facing society today.

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Geography (with integrated foundation year) students include:

- many field excursions, including the option of trips to overseas destinations
- use of exceptional facilities for laboratory work in chemical and physical analysis (for example, for soils, water quality and pollen work), social investigation and data processing.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have, for example, found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education to name a few.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BSc.

 UCAS Code: F80F.

 Duration: 4 years.

Human Geography

(with integrated foundation year)

BA (Hons)

Designed for prospective students who do not have a sufficient or relevant academic background, the Human Geography with integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. The foundation year provides a solid base for you to go on and enjoy the full undergraduate degree in your second year.

Our Human Geography degree (with integrated foundation year) addresses some of the major issues facing the world today, including globalisation, sustainable development, inequality and poverty, geopolitics, nationalism and regionalism, urban and rural change and migration. You will study the historical processes behind contemporary trends, drawing together perspectives from different countries and cultures, and use different sources ranging from maps and statistics, to film, art, and literature.

We offer a broad range of fieldwork opportunities including a free trip at the beginning of your second year. In your third year we offer a range of trips to suit a variety of specialisms and budgets, currently to Wales (free) and Berlin (at additional cost). Optional day trips are also embedded in many modules throughout your degree (destinations are subject to change).

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Human Geography (with integrated foundation year) students include:

- studying a course accredited by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)
- being taught by world-leading researchers in their respective fields throughout your course
- professional skills and training throughout your degree.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BSc.

 UCAS Code: L70F.

Module list

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

First year:

- Academic Skills Foundation 1 & 2
- Critical Thinking and Research Skills
- Foundation - Dialogue
- Foundation in Liberal Arts
- Learning Experience.

Second year:

- Conflict and Change: the Making of Urban and Rural Spaces *
- Earth Surface Environments
- Living with Global Change *
- Place and Identity
- Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- How to Build a Planet *

Third year:

- Geographical Information Systems
- Concepts for Geographers
- Geography Fieldwork *
- Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Frozen Planet
- Catchment Systems *
- Placing Politics *
- Placing Culture
- Sustainable Society
- Geohazards *
- Researching People and Place *

Final year:

- Geography Dissertation *.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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

Physical Geography

(with integrated foundation year)

BSc (Hons)

Designed for prospective students who do not have a sufficient academic background, the integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. The foundation year provides a solid base for you to go on and enjoy the full undergraduate degree in your second year.

Supported by world-leading research conducted by our staff, key themes include quaternary environmental change, hydrological systems, glacial processes, geomorphology, soil system science, and ecosystem dynamics.

Opportunities at Aberystwyth for Physical Geography (with integrated foundation year) students include:

- many field excursions, including the option of trips to overseas destinations
- use of exceptional facilities for laboratory work in chemical and physical analysis (for example, for soils, water quality and pollen work), and access to the latest remote sensing and GIS packages.

Employability

Employability is embedded within all our courses. Our degrees provide a solid foundation for a vast array of careers across a range of sectors. In a rapidly shifting global economy, our graduates are adaptable and able to draw on a range of transferable skills, ensuring that they are always in demand. Our graduates have found employment as environmental consultants, planners, civil servants, surveyors, and in education, among other things.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BSc.

 UCAS Code: F84F.

 Duration: 4 years.

Module list

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

First year:

- Academic Skills Foundation 1 & 2
- Environmental Management
- Foundation - Dialogue
- Learning Experience.

Second year:

- Earth Surface Environments
- Living with Global Change *
- Researching the World: Data Collection and Analysis
- How to Build a Planet *
- An introduction to Rocks and Minerals
- Life on Earth *.

Third year:

- Geographic Information Systems
- Catchment Systems *
- Chemical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Geography Fieldwork *
- Physical Analysis of Natural Materials
- Reconstructing Past Environments *
- The Frozen Planet Geohazards *.

Final year:

- Geography Dissertation*.

See our website for the optional modules you may select to develop your specialist interests.

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



Sociology

(with integrated foundation year)

BA (Hons)

Sociology (with integrated foundation year) will allow you to develop a thorough grounding in the conceptual and theoretical approaches that have been employed by sociologists to study the world around us. Designed for prospective students who do not have a sufficient or relevant academic background, the integrated foundation year course is the perfect option to access this highly sought-after degree scheme. During the foundation year, you will gain a solid base to enable you to go on and enjoy the full course in your second year.

The course will train you to develop a critical awareness of and engagement with the social world. You will also develop your ability to analyse social phenomena through training in the collection, analysis and presentation of sociological data.

Opportunities for Sociology (with integrated foundation year) students at Aberystwyth include:

- experiencing a field-based approach to sociology, with field exercises being integrated into lecture modules, and a dedicated field-based sociology module in your third year
- learning how to apply the key concepts associated with sociology in real-world situations and develop your employability skills
- learning from live research projects that enable you to encounter cutting-edge theoretical and empirical understandings of the social world.

Employability

Our Sociology (with integrated foundation year) degree provides a good foundation for you to consider a wide range of careers including the media, social work, international development, community engagement, and the Civil Service among many others. Nowadays, employers are seeking graduates who possess various skills which include the ability to think analytically and laterally. This degree will provide you with a breadth and flexibility of skills, which is why Sociology graduates nationally are attractive to employers.

Key Facts

 Degree type: BA.

 UCAS Code: L30F.

 Duration: 4 years.

Module list

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

First year:

- Academic Skills Foundation 1 & 2
- Critical Thinking and Research Skills
- Foundation - Dialogue
- Foundation in Liberal Arts
- Learning Experience.

Second year:

- Understanding Sameness and Difference
- Key Concepts in Sociology
- Place and Identity
- Conflict and Change: The Production of the City and the Country *
- Researching the Social World.

Third year:

- Understanding (in)equality and (in)justice
- Introduction to Social Theory
- Placing Culture
- Researching People and Place *.

Final year:

- Sociology Dissertation *
- Everyday Social Worlds.

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

- Contemporary Global Migration
- Gender and the Media
- Placing Politics
- Urban Sociology in Practice.

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.*





Studying through the medium of Welsh

Aberystwyth University offers a high level of provision for students to be able to study through the medium of Welsh - one of the highest in Wales.

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences provides all students with the opportunity to study part of their course through the medium of Welsh. We offer a number of modules and courses which can be studied partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh. You can study some modules in Welsh, even if you are studying mainly in English, and you can choose to submit your coursework in Welsh.

There are opportunities for students who are fluent in Welsh, in addition to those who are less confident or are learners. There are variations in undergraduate course modules and the amount that can be studied through the medium of Welsh.

'Addewidion Aber' is Aberystwyth University's commitment to develop Welsh medium provisions following the University's Welsh-medium Academic Strategy. This is the most comprehensive plan of its kind by any university in Wales.

These pledges highlight what is special about Aberystwyth and how the University offers a complete Welsh experience to students, including:

- Flexible opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh in all departments
- Guaranteed Welsh-speaking Personal Tutor
- Bilingual work experience
- Guaranteed Welsh-medium accommodation
- Support for learning and improving your Welsh
- Money in your pocket for following between 5 and 40 credits in Welsh
- Free membership of the Welsh Students' Union (Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth)
- Space for Welsh-medium societies to meet.

Employability

We want all our students to achieve their ambitions. That's why we make every effort to help you gain the skills you need to succeed in the workplace during your time at university. Individual enterprise, group discussion and leadership skills are encouraged through a range of opportunities provided in lecture, seminar, tutorial, library, field and practical settings.

Our integrated year in industry degree schemes for Geography, Physical Geography, Human Geography and Sociology will allow you to gain valuable experience in the workplace during a long paid placement and improve your career prospects after graduating. The year in industry takes place during your third year, after which you will return to Aberystwyth to complete your degree in your fourth year.

Recent graduates have gone into a range of careers, including regional and local environmental consultancy, planning and development, travel and tourism, local government, education and outreach, journalism, and careers in the civil service.



Research

You will be taught by world-leading researchers during your time in Aberystwyth. Our staff are experts across a broad range of areas of human geography, physical geography, environmental science, Earth science and sociology, working across several distinct research groups: Centre for Glaciology; Cultural and Historical Geography; Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics; Earth Surface Processes; New Political Geographies; Quaternary Environmental Change and Interdisciplinary Centre for Environmental Microbiology and Geochemistry.

In the most recent UK-wide research assessment (REF 2014) DGES was placed in the top 10 departments in the UK for research power in geography and environmental studies, signifying both the quality and breadth of research that we undertake. A key feature of the 'research-led teaching' ethos at Aberystwyth, is that you will have regular contact with acknowledged pioneers and leaders in their respective fields. This ensures that you are exposed to the latest academic thinking in undergraduate lectures, tutorials, seminars and field courses throughout our programmes.

CHERISH (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands): EU Funded Project that aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the impacts (past, present and near-future) of climate change, increased storminess and extreme weather events on the cultural heritage of reefs, islands and headlands of the Welsh and Irish regional seas, also involving the Royal Commission, The Discovery Programme and Geological Survey, Ireland.

cherishproject.eu [f CHERISH Project](https://www.facebook.com/CHERISHProject) [@CHERISHproj](https://twitter.com/CHERISHproj)

Glacial Hazards in Chile: NERC (UK) and CONICYT (Chile) funded project that aims to answer key questions concerning past, present and future glacial hazards in Chile. The project assesses the changing magnitude, frequency, and distribution of different glacial hazards in Chile under current and future global climate change. The project brings together leading researchers from Aberystwyth University (UK), Austral University of Chile, Exeter University (UK), Reynolds International Ltd (UK) and University of Magallanes (Chile).

[wordpres.aber.ac.uk/glacialhazardsinchile/project/](http://wordpress.aber.ac.uk/glacialhazardsinchile/project/)
[f Glacial Hazards in Chile](https://facebook.com/GlacialHazards) [@GlacialHazards](https://twitter.com/@GlacialHazards)

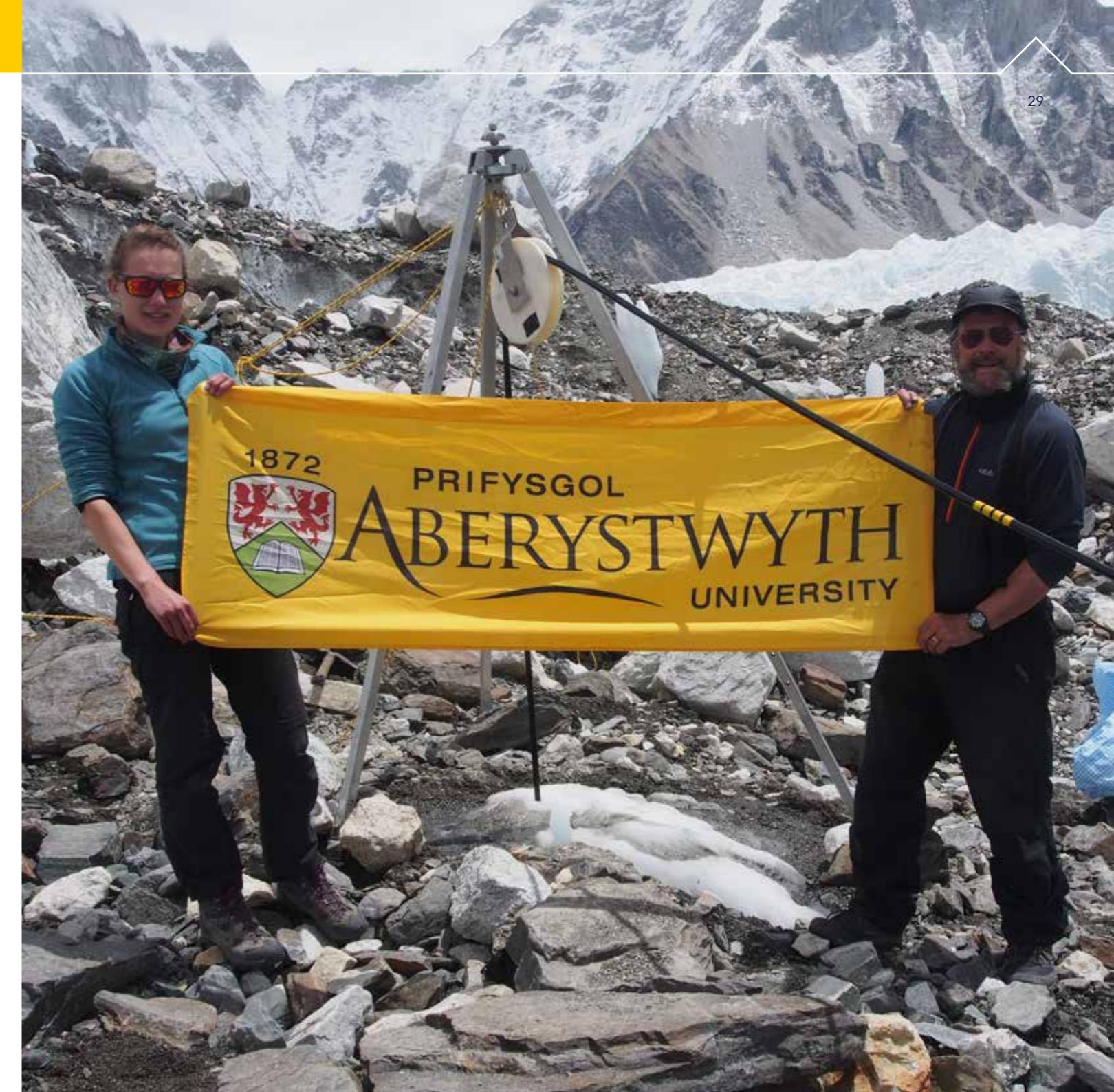
Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics: The Earth Observation team in Aberystwyth use ground, airborne and spaceborne remote sensing data for better understanding the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on ecosystems and environments. The team have developed tools for identifying malaria vector habitats by exploiting information from remotely sensed data and its products. In doing so, malaria control activities can be targeted in areas where it is needed most to help eliminate this disease.

Global-Rural: This wide-ranging project aims to discover how globalisation is changing rural places around the world and how different communities are responding. Research has focused on a range of themes and sites, including studying how New Zealand has become a global dairy superpower, how businesses in Newtown (Wales) are using novel ways to compete in an increasingly global marketplace, and how the production, consumption of sugar have influenced rural economies and trade.

global-rural.org [@globalrural](https://twitter.com/@globalrural)

WISERD (Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research Data and Methods): This national multi-institution research centre undertakes cutting edge research on civil society spanning human geography, sociology and other social science disciplines. Research themes have included: migration, minorities and society; local communities and globalisation; and language, culture and identity.

cwps.aber.ac.uk [f WISERD News](https://facebook.com/WISERDNews) [@WISERDNews](https://twitter.com/@WISERDNews)



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.



Wageningen

Sydney



Boise



St. Petersburg



Montana



Hong Kong

Washington, DC



Ottawa



Sweden

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 15 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 Track 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 track

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.

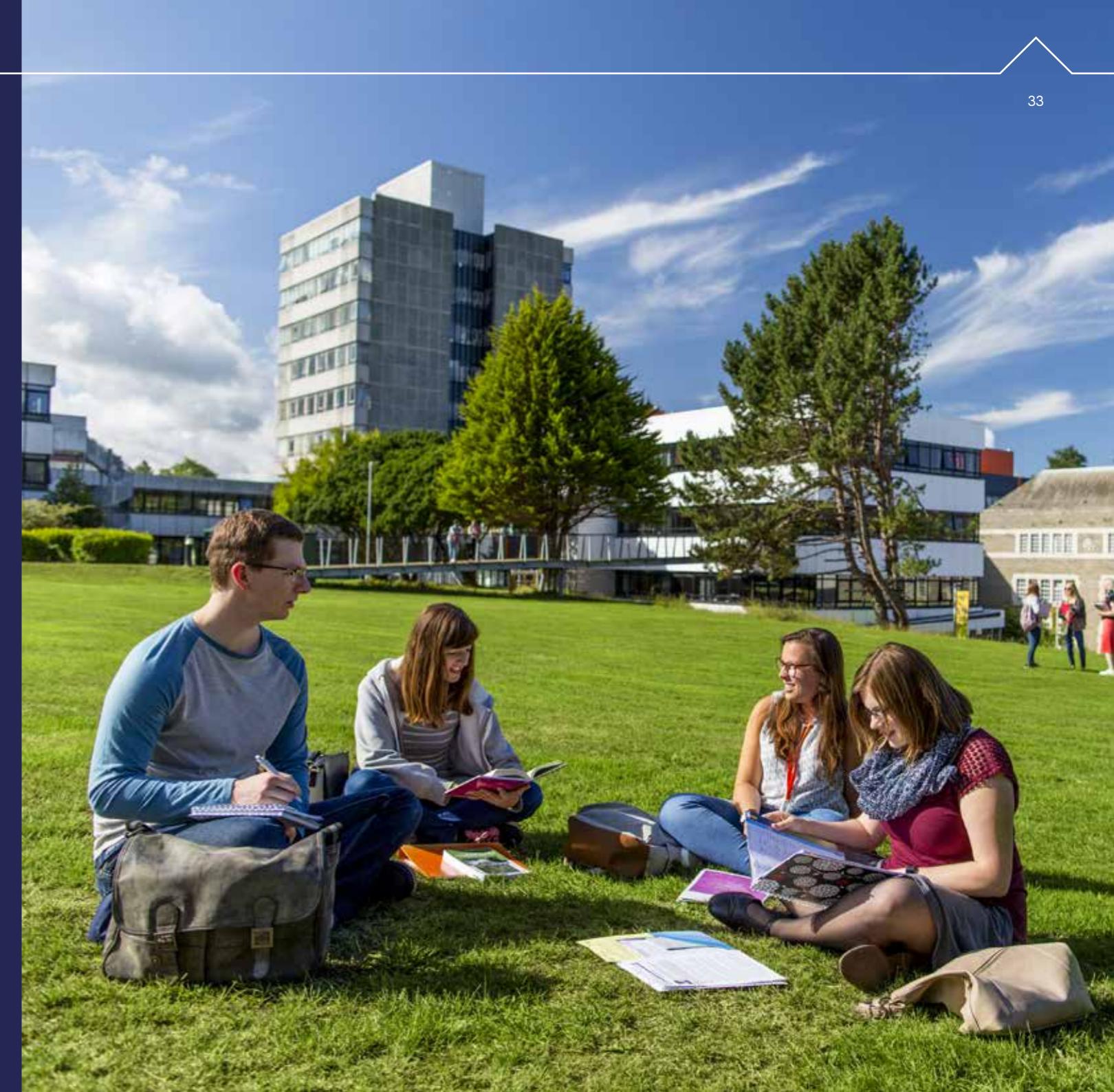
5 Accommodation

Once you've chosen your firm/insurance choice you'll be able to apply for your accommodation (April onwards).

6 Results day

UCAS Track will confirm your offer of a place. If you're not clear what the offer is, contact the university directly. Make sure you're not on holiday on results day. 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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