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# Living and Studying in Welsh

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# Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

There is no doubt that Aberystwyth University has a proud and strong history of offering excellent education and research through the medium of Welsh, and we are determined to build on this success in the future. Across the institute, we are totally committed to ensuring an environment where students can choose to live and learn through the medium of Welsh.

Our staff's commitment to Wales's unique language is a joy to behold, and it is something that we nurture and treasure on a daily basis. The result of this commitment can be clearly seen in the successes of our students. I am extremely proud that our Welsh-speaking students go on to live successful lives due to the unique opportunities and experiences that they had in Aberystwyth.

Pantycelyn Hall was completely refurbished a few years ago and re-opened its doors in 2020. It offers a 'home from home' for Welsh students. This historical development is a clear example of our continued commitment to developing and increasing Welsh-medium opportunities. Choosing to study with us provides a golden opportunity for you to learn through the medium of Welsh and to be part of a community that supports our language with pride.

**Professor Elizabeth Treasure**  
Vice-Chancellor



# Welcome from the Pro Vice-Chancellor

Here in Aberystwyth University, we are home to a lively, diverse Welsh academic community and we offer Welsh-medium courses to undergraduate students across a range of subjects from Sciences to Humanities, from Mathematics to Geography, History, Politics, Physics and Creative Media, to name a few.

We are keen to welcome you here to take advantage of a rich and varied Welsh-medium academic life. The University leads the way with a wide range of Welsh-medium provision, and the academic staff of the University produce more Welsh-medium research than any other university in Wales.

Many appropriate subject areas are eligible for the Welsh National College Entrance Scholarships and, in addition to that, Aberystwyth University has introduced a Welsh-medium scholarships scheme which is open to any student who studies some element of their course through the medium of Welsh.

We look forward with confidence to a bright future for Welsh-medium education here in Mid-Wales.

**Dr Anwen Jones**  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the University's**  
**Welsh-medium academic provision**



# Welcome to Aber!

Learning and living in a unique environment!

The friendly, vibrant, and lively Welsh seaside community extends a big welcome to students from across Wales and beyond.

Aberystwyth (or Aber to those who know it well) is a small town with a big heart, and this means that it appeals to young people from all corners of the world.

We are very proud of our close-knit community, both in the University and town. Aber is a unique place - a diverse community with a broad range of people, cultures and creeds. You will have the opportunity to try new things, make new friends and, most importantly, be yourself.

This is the ideal place to enjoy a balance between study, leisure and broadening horizons. Come to Aberystwyth University to see for yourself and to enjoy everything that Aber has to offer.



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# Studying through the medium of Welsh

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## Degrees and Modules

Here in Aberystwyth University we offer a high level of provision for students to be able to study through the medium of Welsh – one of the highest in Wales.

We offer opportunities for students who are fluent in Welsh, in addition to those who are less confident or learners. There are variations in undergraduate course modules and the amount that can be studied through the medium of Welsh. Some offer a few modules in Welsh, while others the entire course. You can also study modules in Welsh even if you are studying mainly in English.

### **Small, friendly classes**

Research shows that students who learn in small classes tend to have high marks. Small classes are also friendly. You can join a lively community of other students who are studying in Welsh.

### **Guarantee of a Welsh-speaking Personal Tutor**

Perhaps you feel more confident and comfortable in Welsh, and that being able to chat with your tutor in Welsh is important to you.

### **Financial support**

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol scholarships are available to students who study through the medium of Welsh. Also, students who study over five credits per year through the medium of Welsh will automatically receive the Aberystwyth University Welsh Medium Scholarship.

### **Innovative teaching methods**

Welsh-medium modules use a number of innovative techniques, such as recorded lectures, multi-media learning resources, video-conferencing, residential sessions with professional practitioners, and online resources that support more traditional learning methods.

### **Developing vocabulary and translingual skills**

While studying through the medium of Welsh, you will need to make use of English learning materials (and possibly materials in other languages). The process of working translingually – using information available in one language in another language – when writing notes and assessments will help you to better understand and interpret reading materials. This is also a fantastic opportunity to develop subject-specific vocabulary that will be useful to you in the workplace.

In Aberystwyth, you can study the majority of the following degrees entirely through the medium of Welsh, and one or two of them nearly entirely:

- BA Addysg / Drama ac Astudiaethau Theatr
- BA Addysg / Hanes
- BA Astudiaethau Ffilm a Theledu
- BA Cymraeg (ar gyfer Siaradwyr iaith gyntaf ac ail iaith)
- BA Cymraeg a'r leithoedd Celtaidd
- BA Cymraeg Proffesiynol
- BA Cymraeg / Addysg
- BA Cymraeg / Astudiaethau Ffilm a Theledu
- BA Cymraeg / Drama ac Astudiaethau Theatr
- BA Cymraeg / Hanes
- BSc Daearyddiaeth
- BA Drama ac Astudiaethau Theatr
- BA Drama ac Astudiaethau Theatr / Astudiaethau Ffilm a Theledu
- BA Gwleidyddiaeth
- BA Hanes
- BA Hanes a'r Cyfryngau
- BA Hanes / Hanes Cymru
- BA Llenyddiaeth / Hanes Cymru

You can study many of our other degrees partly through the medium of Welsh.

You can study:

- 80 credits per year or more in education and childhood studies, drama and theatre studies, film and television studies, geography, international politics, history and law
- 40 credits per year or more in agriculture, business and management, computer science, physics, data science, mathematics, criminology, tourism and the biological sciences
- Some Welsh provision in sports science, space science and robotics, health science and psychology

For further information, go to:  
<https://cysiau.aber.ac.uk>

You can also contact the department that appeals to you directly.



Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Penglais Campus.



# The University and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol



As a Welsh-speaking student, you can join the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol – a national institute that plays a pivotal role in planning, maintaining and developing Welsh-medium education in our universities. The Aberystwyth University branch of the Coleg is responsible for the University's Academic Welsh-medium Strategy.

You can become a member of the Colege even before starting at university. One advantage of doing this is to get hold of the membership number that you will need when applying for one of the scholarships.

## Scholarships

### ● Main Scholarship - £1,000 a year

The Main Scholarship scheme is available to students who are studying degree courses that contain at least 240 credits of Welsh-medium provision – so at least 80 credits through the medium of Welsh in each year.

### ● Incentive Scholarships - £500 a year

The Incentive Scholarship scheme is available to students who study a degree course that includes at least 120 credits of Welsh-medium provision in an eligible subject, which is at least 40 credits through the medium of Welsh in each year.

## How do I apply?

Further details are available on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website::

<http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/>

## The advantages of being a member of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

As a member, you will receive all kinds of information, from the opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh and bilingually, to the latest news about scholarships and the academic and social activities of the Branch. You will become a member of the College community as well as Aberystwyth's lively Welsh society.

You can also take lessons to improve your Welsh if you want to gain a bit of confidence.

## The Language Skills Certificate

You can opt to sit the Language Skills Certificate – an important qualification that enables students to show evidence of their practical Welsh skills and their ability to communicate confidently and professionally in Welsh, when speaking and writing. A Sgiliau Iaith tutor will provide optional sessions to support you to prepare for the Certificate by refining your professional communication skills in Welsh.

## Welsh-medium resources

The Welsh College Resources Portal includes a wide range of resources to assist with learning in Welsh – from an S4C archive to text books in subjects as diverse as Mathematics, International Politics, and Law, to Wicis on subjects such as Geography, literature and theatre. The portal also includes a dictionary of Higher Education Terms and a multi-disciplinary Welsh journal that publishes innovative research from Wales and beyond.

## Support to study in Welsh

The Language Skills Certificate Tutor and the Academic Skills Tutor are available to assist you with any different aspects of studying through the medium of Welsh, providing individual and group sessions, as well as in-module sessions on language skills and bilingual academic skills, such as using English materials when writing in Welsh, terms and academic writing. The University also provides computer resources to help you to write in Welsh on all public computers, such as a spell checker, Welsh-medium grammar, and Office programmes and interfaces in Welsh.

## Improving your Welsh

Whether you are a first or second language Welsh speaker, the University offers various opportunities for you to improve your Welsh. Along with the support sessions that are provided by the Language Skills tutor, a number of modules include Gloywi Iaith sessions. There are also a number of Glowyi Iaith modules in the Department of Welsh that are tailored for Welsh second or first language speakers. In addition to that, Learn Welsh lessons are available for Welsh-speakers who wish to improve their writing and presentation skills.

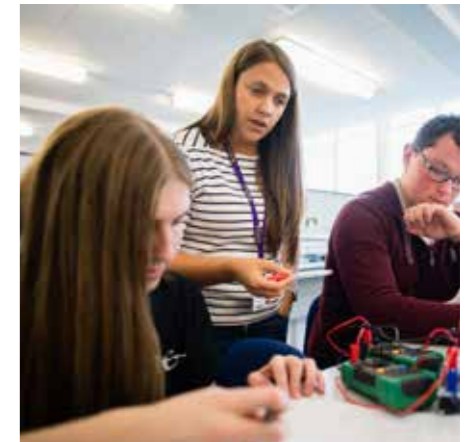
# Studying through the medium of Welsh – Employability:

The ability to communicate confidently through the medium of Welsh and English, both orally and in writing, is a very advantageous skill in the workplace. Studying through the medium of Welsh or bilingually develops these skills and can offer an advantage in the jobs market, not only over non-Welsh speaking candidates but also those who speak Welsh but who haven't developed their communication skills to a graduate standard.

99% of Aberystwyth graduates who studied some part of their course through the medium of Welsh are in employment of further study six months after graduating from their course, compared with 92% who had not studied through the medium of Welsh (Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2018). Also, the salaries for those who are able to work bilingually are higher than the national average.

## Why are bilingual skills important to employers?

- 1 In the public sector, there is a statutory requirement to provide services in Welsh.
- 2 Because the public receive services in Welsh in the public sector, they expect the same level of service in the private sector.
- 3 Customers/clients appreciate receiving services in Welsh.
- 4 Showing respect to customers/clients and the wider community by providing a Welsh experience is important to the reputation of the business or service.
- 5 Attracting new customers/clients and keeping them can increase the target market.
- 6 They feel social responsibility to support the language and culture of the community and in so doing promote equality.





# Student Profiles

There is no doubt that the skills and experiences I gained by studying History and International Politics at Aberystwyth University were greatly beneficial to building my character and creating career opportunities. Studying through the medium of Welsh was a massive boost - enabling me to nurture a close and friendly relationship with staff and fellow students.

As well as the excellent academic education, I managed to take advantage of a number of beneficial experiences, including the Department of International Politics' famous Crisis Games, as well as periods spent on work experience with local businesses and various politicians - which helped me to hone my skills that are now useful to me in my everyday work. I also benefitted greatly from the close-knit and lively Welsh society in the university and town, and the numerous opportunities provided by UMCA and similar societies.

**Aled Morgan Hughes**



I studied Genetics in Aberystwyth and decided to study some of the modules through the medium of Welsh so that I could continue to use the language in a formal way.

I went on to study Law in London and I am now working as a solicitor who specialises in Intellectual Property and I use my Genetics degree on a daily basis.

When I joined the company, which is located in London, I was surprised that one colleague spoke Welsh. We now discuss our work in Welsh. Wherever you go in the world, there is always an opportunity to use your language!

**Mari Brace**

I am now head of the Humanities Department in Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech, after studying a Geography PGCE in Aberystwyth back in 2014. Before that, I had graduated with a BA in Environmental Management and Planning at Bangor University. Throughout my studies, I completed my work through the medium of Welsh. Attending lectures and seminars and having the opportunity to have chats and discussions in my first language was very beneficial and also made me feel a lot more comfortable. In addition, I feel that studying through the medium of Welsh provides the opportunity to have a positive and natural relationship with lecturers and other Welsh speakers who study through the medium of Welsh. It gave me confidence to be ambitious when trying for jobs, knowing that being bilingual would allow me to apply for jobs across Britain, or even worldwide.

**Iolo Gwyn Jones**



I studied Animal Science in IBERS between 2009 and 2012. Although a large percentage of the course was in English, having the option to study a few modules through the medium of Welsh was very important to me. Welsh is my first language and the language that I'm most comfortable speaking. I chose to study a seminar module through the medium of Welsh in my third year, and as part of that module we had to give presentations and take part in discussions about the content of those presentations. Having the opportunity to do this through the medium of Welsh was really invaluable, and I felt more confident working in Welsh. Although I knew most of my fellow Welsh speaking students by the third year, studying this module through the medium of Welsh gave us the chance to get to know each other better. There were only about eight of us on this module (and the tutor and PhD student were also Welsh speakers) so there was a homely atmosphere to the class, and this was definitely one of the modules that I enjoyed most. I definitely felt that I was more confident and comfortable to contribute in Welsh compared to similar modules that I studied in English.

I now work as a Red Meat Technical Officer for the Menter a Busnes Farming Link, and I'm happy to say that three of my fellow students that chose to study the same module through the medium of Welsh are now my colleagues. I would really encourage any student who speaks Welsh to take every possible opportunity to study in their mother tongue.

**Elan Davies**



I studied Physical Geography in Aberystwyth. I chose to study through the medium of Welsh and that meant that I had a much more personal experience with the lecturers and, as a result, I was able to study the subject in more depth. That is to say that sitting in a lecture where there are 10-12 people compared with 100+ on the English side means that there's more opportunity to question the lecturers and get to understand the subject better. It's far easier to ask for suggestions or offer help when doing field work and so on, and it's also 'cool' to be able to study the geographical processes that have shaped Wales, and do so in your mother tongue.

It's also important to have fun when you're not studying. Pantycelyn was fantastic. I spent two years there and I would have been more than happy to spend more time there. It was a very special place since it was so sociable. I made friends for life.

After leaving university, I realised how fortunate I was that I was able to work through the medium of Welsh. If I hadn't studied geography through the medium of Welsh I would not be in my current job. Naturally, studying through the medium of Welsh doubles your opportunities when the time comes for you to look for a job in Wales, and very often working your craft in Wales can lead to opportunities that take you further afield as well - all because you have studied a specialist subject in Welsh. I'm glad and very grateful that I was able to study in Welsh, and I would suggest that to anybody. As well as gaining a number of different skills and specialisms by studying the course, I wouldn't be in my job with S4C. Geography is something that touches the lives of all of us, and collating all the geographical information and presenting the weather in a way that gives colour to the bulletins and makes them more colourful for the viewers at home gives me great pleasure.

**Steffan Griffiths**



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# Student Life at Aberystwyth University

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## Welcome from UMCA's President

I'm Dafí. I'm the UMCA President for 2022/23. I hope you're ready for a fun-packed and exciting year with us here in Aberystwyth.

We have something to suit everybody, from the Geltaidd rugby teams to Aelwyd Pantycelyn's choirs. And if you wish to set up a new club, go for it - UMCA welcomes new ideas.

One of my priorities this year is to ensure that you enjoy your time here in Aberystwyth and that you create unforgettable memories and friendships that last a lifetime. If you feel unsure about anything, come and see me. I have an office at the Union and also in Pantycelyn. Don't be afraid to come and say hello. Remember that I and the members of UMCA and the wider Union are here to support and help you throughout your time as a student.

Make the best of every opportunity. Your time as a student really does fly. I look forward to seeing you around. Enjoy!

**Dafí Jones**

**The UMCA President and the Aber Students' Union  
Officer for Welsh Culture  
[umca@aber.ac.uk](mailto:umca@aber.ac.uk)**



# Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth (UMCA)

If you want to live and study through the medium of Welsh at Aberystwyth, you won't experience the full strength of the close-knit community that we have here without joining UMCA or Y Geltaidd, or both!

UMCA is the first union of its kind in Wales, and it has a wealth of experience in campaigning for the interests of the University's Welsh students and protecting their rights. Today, it is a very influential movement that has a voice and representation on some of the University's main committees.

## Activities

UMCA supports a number of popular Welsh societies, such as *Y Geltaidd* (Aberystwyth University's main Welsh sports society), *Plaid Ifanc* (the youth branch of *Plaid Cymru*), and *Aelwyd Pantycelyn* for those of you who enjoy singing, reciting, dancing or clog dancing.

UMCA organises a variety of activities jointly with the *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol*, and the President and the UMCA Executive Committee Alternative Officer work closely with the College to ensure that we provide a variety of activities to suit all tastes.

## UMCA and Welsh

UMCA isn't only for Welsh speakers. UMCA also offers free Welsh lessons to students and by joining UMCA, members can learn about Welsh language and culture.

## The student voice

UMCA has been protecting the interests and rights of the University's Welsh students since 1973. The Union's activities range from organising entertainment and events to campaigning on educational, social and language-related matters in the University and beyond.

## Support

You will want to make the most of your time at Aberystwyth University - academically, socially and in every other way. You will have a great time here, but if you're worried about anything, you won't have to go far. Neuadd Pantycelyn is home to UMCA, and you are sure to get a warm welcome and all the support that you need.

## Eisteddfod success

Every year, Aberystwyth students feature on the stage at eisteddfodau - the Urdd Eisteddfod in particular. Our students often win, as individuals and in groups and choirs, whether in the field of literature, singing, dancing or some other kind of performance.

## Freshers' week

When you arrive at University in September, you will get the chance to experience Freshers' week - a fun-packed week of socialising that is organised by the Students' Union and UMCA. First year students will often be paired with a second or third-year student for some of the activities, which means that you will get to know a wide cross-section of students by the end of your first week!



# UMCA Societies

## Aelwyd Pantycelyn

This is one of the best known of the UMCA societies - a society that meets once a week to sing, recite and perform. It's a great way to get to know other people who enjoy performing, and a bonus that it's done through the medium of Welsh. There is something to suit everybody! The highlights of the fun are the local and national eisteddfod competitions, the yearly Christmas Concert, and a host of other concerts. If performing is in your blood, Aelwyd Panty is the place for you.

## Y Geltaidd

In essence, the Geltaidd is a Welsh sports society, and the oldest university society in Wales. If you like sports and want to continue to play while at university, you will have plenty of opportunities to do so. At the moment, the Geltaidd has Boys and Girls Rugby teams, Boys and Girls Football teams, and a Netball team. And if supporting the Wales Rugby team is important to you, you won't want to miss the year's biggest trip - five full coaches travelling to one of the games in the Six Nations Championship. C'mon Wales!



# Yearly calendar

## Main events

UMCA organises evenings of all sorts of Welsh entertainment throughout the year. Here are the main ones.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Freshers' week - September

A fun-packed week of socialising to welcome you to university.

New students are often 'paired' with students from one of the higher years and get to know a good cross-section of people by the end of the first week!

### NOVEMBER

#### The Inter-College Dance - November

The highlight of the year for any Welsh student. About 900 students from across Wales and beyond come together in one location in Aberystwyth to enjoy a fantastic evening of music, in what is one of the best weekends of the Welsh rock scene.

Sports competitions are also held before the dance, such as girls and boys football and rugby as well as a netball tournament.

### FEBRUARY

#### Inter-College Eisteddfod - around the end of February

The Eisteddfod travels between the Welsh universities - a chance for friendly competition but most importantly to make new friends.

### JUNE

#### Nefi Blŵ Week - June

A week to celebrate the end of the exams, to say goodbye to friends and bring the umca year to a close. A host of fun activities are put on to make sure that you finish the year in style!

### MARCH / APRIL

#### RAG Week - March/April

A week of fundraising for charity through a variety of events.

## DURING THE YEAR

**Sŵn - last Thursday of every month (apart from December, April and May)**

Evenings that celebrate Welsh music, from the old classics to the latest music, and a time to create memories. It lasts all night! Every evening has a fancy dress theme with the opportunity to win free entry to the sŵn evening for the group that is judged to have the best fancy dress!

# Neuadd Pantycelyn



## The main characteristics of Pantycelyn

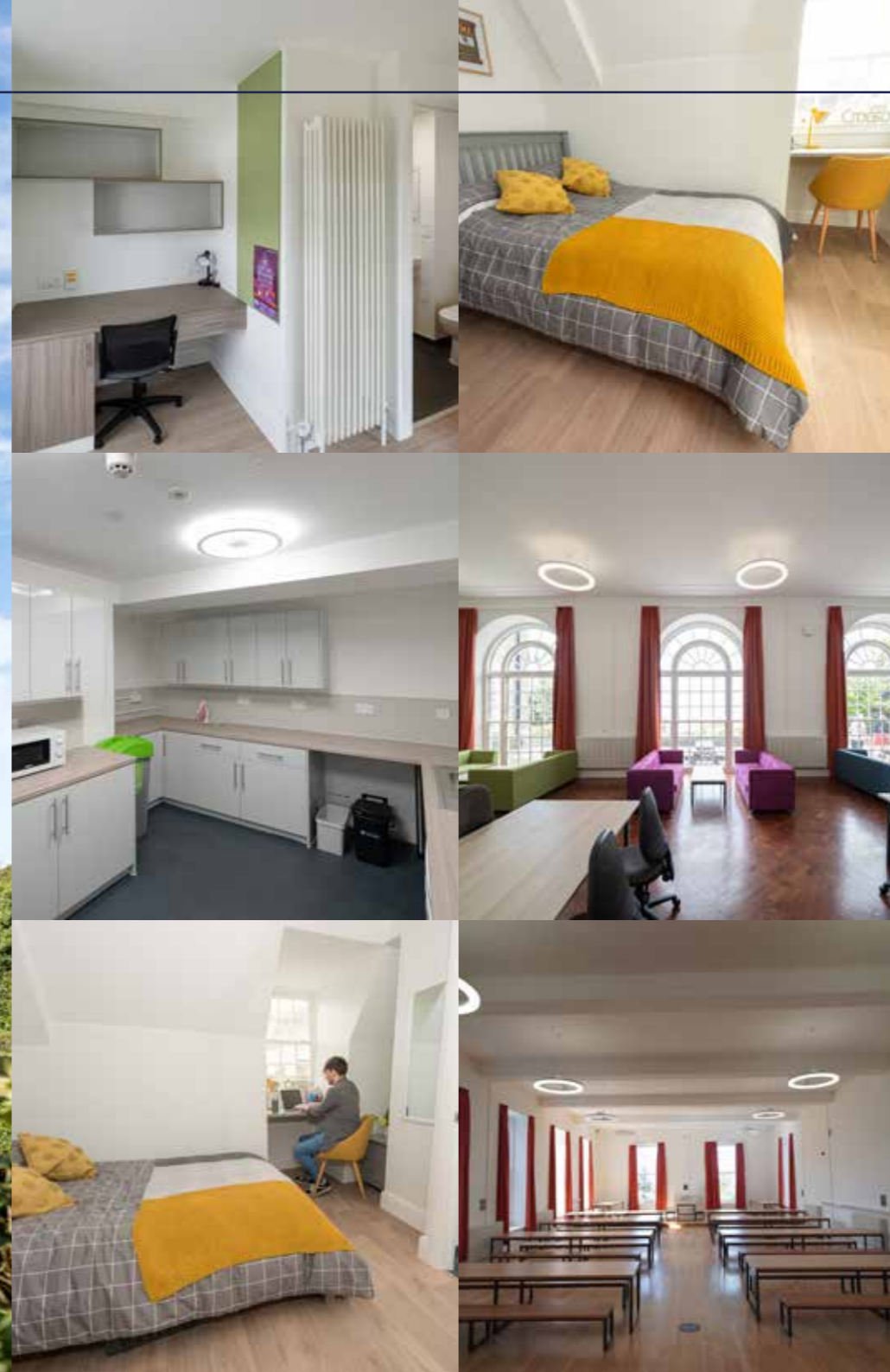
### Single en-suite rooms

Pantycelyn will cost £167.02 per week, with a resident's contract of a total of 33 weeks. The fee for the accommodation includes all bills, web connection (cable and WiFi), personal contents insurance and Platinum membership of the Sports Centre.

As a catered hall, students can have breakfast and an evening meal in the 'Ffreutur' on the ground floor from Monday to Friday. However, residents can use their catering lwfans of £50 per week at any time, and in any catering facility across the University. This will give you the freedom to use your catering lwfans in the way that suits you best.

Pantycelyn also has small kitchens that include the following equipment:

- Microwave oven
- Toaster
- Fridge/Freezer
- Sink



# Addewidion Aber

'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.

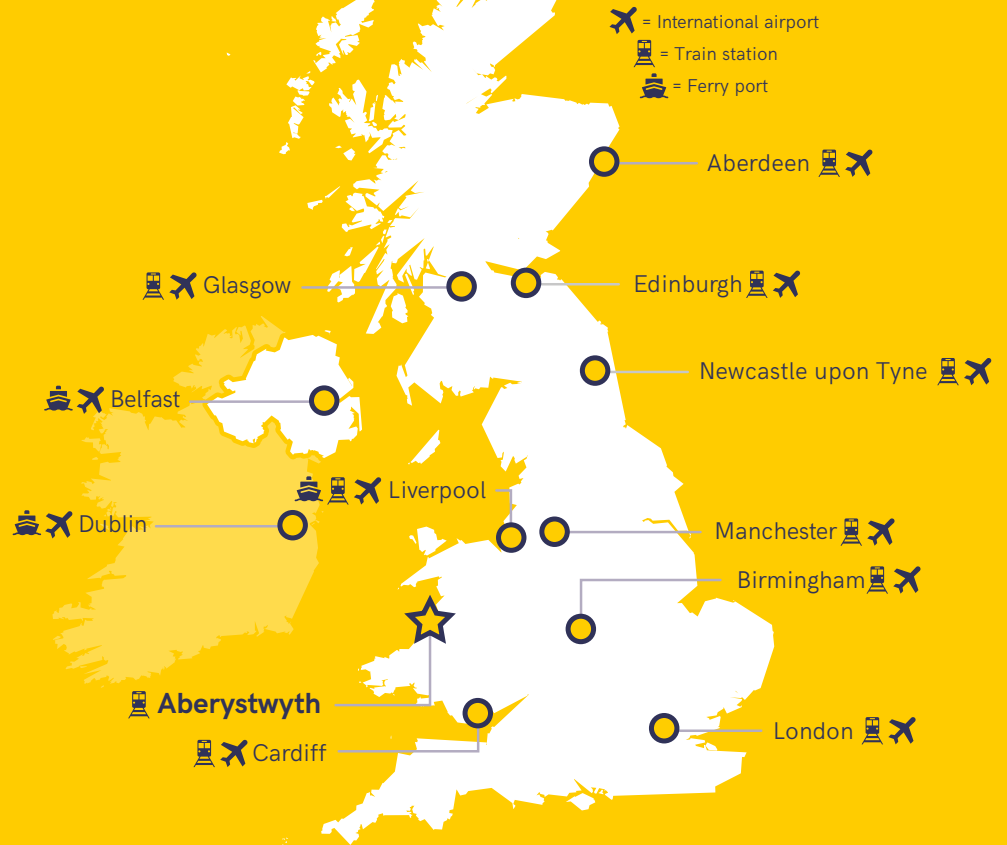
Our strategy plan lists in a single document all of the University's priorities regarding Welsh medium provisions and also reinforces Aberystwyth's commitment to promote the Welsh language and her culture.

These pledges highlight what's special about Aberystwyth and how the University offers a complete Welsh experience, including:

- **Cosy accommodation: a place to live in Welsh**
- **Money in your pocket: for following between 5 and 40 credits in Welsh**
- **Putting your language into practice: support for learning and improving your Welsh**
- **Free UMCA membership: open the door to a Welsh Society**
- **Help! a Welsh-speaking Personal Tutor to help you**
- **Space to flourish: space for Welsh-medium societies**
- **Work experience... with Welsh companies**
- **Courses of all kinds across the University- in Welsh**







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Designed and produced by Global Marketing  
and Student Recruitment, Aberystwyth  
University 2022.



Printed on  
100% recycled paper