



Computer Science

Student Handbook

Undergraduate Programmes

2020/21

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Disclaimer

This handbook should be used in conjunction with the Academic Quality Handbook (Part A: Policies and Procedures and Part B: Regulations)

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook>. Nothing in this handbook overrides these publications, which always take precedence. Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this handbook is accurate and current. The University does however reserve the right to amend or update the handbook during the course of an academic year. In the unlikely event of any changes you will be notified by your academic department.

University Covid 19 Statement

Like all universities, Aberystwyth is having to plan for significant adjustments to its teaching and to campus facilities and learning resources during 2020-21, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent government restrictions such as social distancing and use of PPE. Moreover, contingency plans will be needed to cover different scenarios that may occur as the situation changes. We will make all reasonable efforts to protect the student experience, and indeed to enhance it where technology or different approaches to teaching permit. We will also be responsive to student feedback and we will review our teaching and make further changes where required to protect the student experience and academic standards.

Inevitably, the student experience will be different to that in previous years. The ongoing impact of Covid-19 will require changes to our usual teaching activity and assessment. Group activities and local, national and international travel will be affected by restrictions. Where particular facilities, resources or specialist staff cannot be made available to students, we will provide alternatives or reorganise or reschedule planned activities. It is our intention to provide clear information and guidance as early as we can, and to discuss changes with student representatives wherever possible.

This handbook provides department information as of the start of the 2020/21 academic year; while much of it will remain current, some aspects may need to change from what is described here. Detailed information will be available on Blackboard, academic department and professional services web pages, and Covid-19 updates and FAQs can be found on the central University web pages at: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/important-info/coronavirus/>. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your department.

Computer Science Covid 19 Statement

Together with Aberystwyth University as a whole the Department of Computer Science has made a number of significant changes to the way we operate to adapt to the current situation. Our priority is to keep everyone as safe as possible and with this in mind deliver the best possible student experience. We will be delivering a mix of online

and face to face teaching, using different tools (most prominently Discord, Microsoft Teams and Blackboard) to provide access to all learning material where face to face teaching is not possible. We are thankful for the feedback and input provided by student representatives who continue to be present at Subject Panel meetings where we assess the situation and discuss changes to modules, schemes, and our delivery. A lot of this is new for all of us and student input will be vital to get things right. We ask students to provide us with feedback, let us know what they feel does or does not work as well as we hope and help us jointly find ways of improving.

Every student in the department has an academic member of staff as their personal tutor and it will be more important than ever that students and tutors keep in touch. Please, make sure to respond to messages from your personal tutor and do not hesitate to reach out to your personal tutor with any question, concern, or problem you might have.

Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you into the Department of Computer Science at Aberystwyth University. I want to emphasise that you are part of this department now. The department is part of a Faculty together with the Departments of Mathematics, Physics, Information Studies, and the Aberystwyth Business School. We share some resources but your home is clearly within our department.

It is my hope that you will achieve success in the degree course you have chosen and you will also enjoy your stay in this beautiful part of the world! Our degrees are intellectually challenging and require dedication and hard work to achieve success. This is one of the reasons our graduates are highly regarded and sought by employers.

Computer Science has been taught at Aberystwyth University since 1970 making us one of the first CS Departments in the UK. We will celebrate 50 years of Computer Science in Aberystwyth in 2020. What was taught when the department was founded is quite different from what is taught now. While technology keeps moving on many of the underlying principles remain the same: software and systems should fulfil their task correctly, they should be useable, efficient and easily maintained. Computer Science is a particularly fast moving subject, and we aim to equip you with skills that will still be of benefit long after graduation, such as the ability and confidence to learn new

programming languages and technology platforms, to communicate effectively and work in teams and to think logically and solve problems.

Learning is an active process. The department guides the learning process and provides the necessary resources, but it is up to you to make the most of the opportunities provided. The most important resource we provide is the lecturing staff, all of whom are either active researchers in their specialist field, or have specialised in computer science education. You can benefit most by attending the classes provided, listening, asking questions and applying yourself to your studies.

We want all our students to succeed and have a great experience, but of course we don't always get everything right. We can't fix problems we are not aware of, so if there are problems, or feel there are things we could do better, let us know and we'll do our best to fix it. Feel free to approach any member of staff directly if there is a problem. In cases where you don't feel comfortable doing this talk to your personal tutor.

Have a great time mastering the computer science that matters in the 21st century.

Dr Thomas Jansen (**Head of the Department of Computer Science**)

Section A: Introduction

Purpose of the handbook

This handbook aims to provide you with key information about your studies, and about university policies and procedures. It is not a comprehensive guide, but aims to provide you with some of the essential information you need to have a successful, and enjoyable, academic career here at Aberystwyth University.

This handbook is accompanied by further information found on the University's website: [tps://www.abehtr.ac.uk/en/student/](https://www.abehtr.ac.uk/en/student/).

Our Student Charter lays out our mutual responsibilities and aspirations. You can find it at the following web address: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student/charter/> .

A new handbook is published each academic year with up to date information. We hope that you will find this information useful. If you would like to comment on the handbook contents, or have comments about how to improve the information provided, please forward these by email to your academic department. Please note that 'academic department' is the generic term used throughout this handbook, the formal title of a department may be 'department', 'institute' or 'school'.

You are also welcome to go to the General Office of the Department of Computer Science located on the ground floor of the Llandinam Building, or email cs-exam-advice@aber.ac.uk, should you require further information or have any queries concerning any departmental matters presented in the handbook.

Students are also reminded that the Rules and Regulations of the University apply at all times including term and vacation: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/regulations/>

Equality and Diversity

Aberystwyth University is committed to developing and promoting equality and diversity in all our practices and activities. We aim to provide an inclusive culture for work and study, free from discrimination and upholding the values of respect, dignity and courtesy. Every person has the right to be treated in accordance with these values.

We are committed to advancing equality on the grounds of age, disability, sex and sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion and belief (including lack of belief), marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, and to embrace intersectionality and raise awareness between and across different groups.

Our Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 promotes equality and equality improvements across the University as required under the Equality Act 2010. Progress Reports measured against this plan will be available in our annual monitoring reports.

Our current 4 year Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 (and accompanying Strategic Action Plan) can be found on the Plans section of the Equality web pages:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/>

Should you have any questions please send an email to equstaff@aber.ac.uk.

The Department of Computer Science engages in a large number of activities around equality and diversity, particularly in the context of gender. Its Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team has been meeting regularly since 2015 to work towards improving the departmental culture for all its members. In October 2018 we were awarded the Athena SWAN Bronze award in recognition of our strong commitment to advancing the careers of women in the discipline. See <https://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/athena-swan> for more information on Athena SWAN in general.

We have a network of female staff and students who maintain a mailing list, a Facebook group and organise regular women-only as well as HeForShe socials during the semester. Staff in the department run the annual BCS Lovelace Colloquium, a national one-day conference for undergraduate women in computing, and the Code First: Girls course to teach computing to non-CS students.

The Athena SWAN process has influenced a number of policies within the department. For example, whenever possible, we provide a female personal tutor for female students and ensure that there are at least three members of the minority gender in each small group tutorial and workshop.

We invite student representation (both, male and female) on the Athena SWAN team within the department so that we can look at equality and diversity issues from the perspective of staff and students of any gender.

If you are interested in participating or have any comments, please contact the the Athena SWAN lead of the department: Christine Zarges, chz8@aber.ac.uk.

If you have any concerns or question about any equalities related issues, you can also get in touch with the departmental Equality & Diversity Champion: Angharad Shaw, ais@aber.ac.uk.

More information and news can be found on the department website:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cs/equality-and-diversity/#activities-and-events>

Important Dates

The University's academic year begins in September. It is organised into two semesters, ending in January and June, and most modules are assessed at the end of each semester. There are also three terms, with vacation periods at Christmas and Easter. **All full-time students are required to be in Aberystwyth during term time unless they have permission to study from home. Information about requests to study from home can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/current-students/study-from-home/>.** The dates of term, including when examinations are held can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/dates-of-term/>.

Section B: Department Information

Communication between the University and students

The official means of communication between the University and our students is by Aberystwyth University email. If you have yet to activate your email account, please do so by following the on-line instructions: <https://myaccount.aber.ac.uk/open/activate/>.

Communication between the Department/Faculty and yourself is very important. There may be a need to inform you of lectures, exams, welfare and so on. E-mail is the primary means of sending that information. We expect you to check your e-mail on a daily basis. It is recommended that you do so at least twice a day, once in the morning and once at the end of the day. Smartphones can be set up to link in to the University email system (see Mobile Email on <https://faqs.aber.ac.uk/>). Important letters may also be sent to your local or home address. It is important that you ensure that all addresses are correct on your student record, and you must inform the University of changes.

Should you need to contact a member of staff, e-mail is the best way to do so. As most of the staff are available in their offices during working hours, it is possible to contact them directly. However, remember that the staff are busy so make sure that you come prepared when you visit them in their office. Always bring your own notes and workings should you need help with understanding work.

You are also welcome at the Computer Science General Office situated on the ground floor of Llandinam building. Please call by the General Office should you require assistance. The staff will be able to help you.

Assistance is also available in Welsh. Various forms and literature are available on the stands and tables near the General Office.

There are noticeboards on the long ground floor corridor. They display specific University, Faculty and Departmental information for students, and also general information relevant to the discipline that may be of interest to you. You should look regularly on the displayed information.

Arranging to see a member of staff

Most members of staff in the department do not restrict the times they are available to see students to a few hours a week, but neither can they be available all the time. If you need to speak to a member of staff, the best way to arrange an appointment is to e-mail them a day or two in advance suggesting a few times which would be convenient for you. Members of staff will typically advertise, on their office door, times when they are available. Computer Science General Office will normally be able to tell you if a member of staff is expected to be away for more than a day. Do not expect an answer outside normal working hours.

Attendance and Academic Progress

The University requires students to engage with all timetabled activities, including lectures, seminars, practical classes and tutorials. There may also be additional attendance requirements as specified by the University or by your academic department.

The University is committed to a system of monitoring student attendance and progress as part of a duty of care for individual students. If your attendance and progress is not satisfactory, you will be contacted by your academic department and given the opportunity to explain the situation. While the main focus of monitoring academic progress is to offer support, there is a risk of disciplinary action where attempts to remedy a situation of poor attendance and progress have not led to improvement. In such cases, academic departments can recommend that students should be excluded from the University.

The full Academic Regulation on Academic Progress, can be found in Part B of the Academic Quality Handbook <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/regulations/academic-progress/>

Meet the staff

You can find information about the department's staff, including their roles and responsibilities on the Staff List on the department's web page:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cs/staff-profiles/>.

The department's General Office is open between the hours of 9.00am-5.00pm during term time although out of term time these hours may vary according to administrative staff availability.

Support is provided firstly by your Personal Tutor, then Year Coordinator and finally the departmental Director or Learning and Teaching. Specific information for each year can be found at the links below:

Foundation: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/~dcswww/Dept/Teaching/Year-0/>.

Year 1: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/~dcswww/Dept/Teaching/Year-1/>.

Year 2: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/~dcswww/Dept/Teaching/Year-2/>.

Year 3: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/~dcswww/Dept/Teaching/Year-3/>.

Final Year Integrated Masters: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/~dcswww/Dept/Teaching/Year-M/>.

Departmental advisors can be contacted by emailing cs-exam-advice@aber.ac.uk.

All other queries should be directed to fbrstaff@aber.ac.uk.

Personal Tutors

Every undergraduate student is allocated a Personal Tutor. Personal Tutors have an important role within the overall framework for supporting students and their personal development at the University.

The Personal Tutor should provide a first point of contact between student and academic departments, be available for consultation at reasonable times, and where appropriate refer the student for specialised advice.

More detailed information can be found in section 6.6 Personal Tutors in the Academic Quality Handbook: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/student-support/>

Students are expected to attend the tutorial meetings with their Personal Tutor. Your tutor will arrange these and inform you by email. If you are unable to attend, please let your tutor know in advance so that an alternative meeting can be arranged. You are also welcome to see your Personal Tutor for other additional meetings. If you have difficulties with studying at the University or are experiencing personal problems, do not keep it to yourself and contact your Personal Tutor immediately to arrange a meeting. In such cases, do not wait to be invited to a usual meeting.

In addition to the Personal Tutor system, the department operates a Year Coordinator system. If you are experiencing more general pastoral problems or academic difficulties that may affect your studies, and may also affect others in your year, please see your Year Coordinator (noted in the Staff List). The Year Coordinator has responsibility for a particular year, and:

- provides a single point of contact for students from a particular year to deal with all general pastoral problems as well as any general academic problems,
- adjudicates applications by students for extensions to coursework deadlines,

- pursues appropriate action following the submission of student medical/report forms,
- interviews students displaying unsatisfactory academic progress or attendance,
- follows-up on poor examination performance with the students concerned.

In cases of difficulty you are also welcome to see the departmental Director of Learning and Teaching or the Faculty Associate Dean for Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience.

It is department policy to provide a female personal tutor for female students whenever possible.

Mature Students' Tutor

We welcome the enthusiasm and commitment that mature students bring to the Department, but are aware of the particular challenges they may face in returning to education. Apart from their personal tutors, mature students may wish to speak to the Mature Students' Tutor.

Overseas Students' Tutor

The Overseas Students' Tutor is available to help any student not normally resident in the United Kingdom with any problems relating to the difficulties encountered when living and studying in a foreign country.

Welsh Students' Tutor

If you would like a tutorial through the medium of Welsh, you need to contact Wayne Aubrey (waa2@aber.ac.uk). The tutor will hold one tutorial per week in Welsh for first year students. Tutorials can be adapted to meet the student's needs and technical subjects can be discussed bilingually. In Part 2, students are assigned a personal tutor who can speak Welsh.

Students on Industrial and Sandwich Years

Undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to spend a year with an appropriate company and we help students find suitable places. This year comes between the second and the third (taught) years of the course. Students' placements vary from small software houses to multi-national engineering companies, in some cases abroad. Such a year is compulsory for some schemes, it is then known as a Sandwich Year. Most schemes have a version with, and a version without, a Sandwich Year. Each student on a year out is allocated to a member of staff of the department. Sandwich year students will normally be visited once or twice during the placement. We do our best to visit optional industrial year (sometimes called YES placement) students.

Peer Guide Scheme

The department runs a peer guide scheme where all new year 0 and year 1 students are assigned a peer guide. A peer guide is a volunteer second or third year student. They will make contact with their assigned students during the Welcome Week and then again by email during the year. They are provided with training and are able to point new students in the right direction if they have questions about where to find services and help. They will not do your work, but, for example, will tell you where to go to seek advice regarding academic work. The department scheme is run by Chris Loftus. Please contact him if you have any further questions about the scheme:

cwl@aber.ac.uk.

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

The Coleg Cymraeg is a national institution that has a key role to play in the planning, maintenance and development of Welsh medium education and scholarship in our universities. The Coleg has branches in each one of Wales's universities where Welsh medium provision is offered. Here at Aberystwyth University, the branch is under the auspices of the Centre for Welsh Language Services. You can learn more about the Branch's academic and social activities, along with the opportunities available for students by becoming members of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cccl/>

Welsh Medium Study

There is growing support for students wishing to study Computer Science through the medium of Welsh at Aberystwyth University. The Department places an emphasis on nurturing bilingual skills through the Welsh medium modules of our degree schemes. The aim of the provision is to raise students' confidence to present and deal with Computer Science bilingually, in Welsh as well as English, as is desirable for the workplace in Wales. Most of the lectures are presented in English, and the teaching reinforced in Welsh tutorials and other Welsh medium experiences. Our aim is that bilingual students are confident in handling the subject in Welsh and English by the end of the degree course. For modules offered through the medium of Welsh, look out for the 'CC' module prefix as opposed to the 'CS' prefix.

Dr Wayne Aubrey has the specific duty for Welsh-medium teaching and activities, however you will find many of the academic staff have some level of Welsh to support bilingual students, or students wishing to learn Welsh during their time here. Office and administrative support is also available through the medium of Welsh. You are welcome to contact them should you wish further information.

The Welsh medium provision within the department is supported by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol: <http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/thecoleg/>.

Submitting Assessments in Welsh

Aberystwyth University operates a bilingual policy for all written assessments, including coursework essays and examinations. Any student may choose, regardless of whether the main language of assessment of the module in question is Welsh or English, to submit examination scripts and assessed coursework in either Welsh or English (with the exception of assessments where language assessment is included in the module learning outcomes). Students pursuing modules through the medium of Welsh will be examined in that language; students pursuing modules through the medium of English are entitled to be assessed in Welsh.

The University has established a policy on the translation of assessed work aimed at ensuring the integrity of the process (i.e. that students are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged by the marking of translated work). Students who wish to submit

examination scripts or assessed coursework in Welsh on English medium modules are not required to give prior notification to academic departments of their intention to do so. However, in order to allow time for the preparation of Welsh language examination papers on English medium modules, students are asked to inform the **Centre for Welsh Language Services** by the closing dates which are published by the Centre.

Employability

Studying for a degree in Computer Science will equip you with a range of transferable skills which are highly valued by employers. These include:

- (i) research and data analysis skills;
- (ii) enhanced mathematical and computational skills;
- (iii) effective problem-solving and creative thinking skills;
- (iv) how to reduce a difficult problem to a structure comprising smaller easier problems;
- (v) a thorough grounding in information technology skills;
- (vi) the ability to work independently;
- (vii) time-management and organisational skills, including the ability to meet deadlines;
- (viii) presentation skills: the ability to express ideas and communicate information in a clear and structured manner, in both written and oral form;
- (ix) self-motivation and self-reliance;
- (x) team-working, with the ability to discuss concepts in groups, accommodating different ideas and reaching agreement.

Opportunities to Study or Work Abroad

The University maintains links with other universities throughout the world. Details may be found at the Study Abroad website (<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/study-abroad/sya-jya-programme/>). Students who wish to take up this opportunity normally do so for their second year; the application process is in the first year. Placements are

allocated through a selection process by the University. Students must discuss their plan with the Computer Science department to ensure their proposed syllabus includes all the material required for their next year of study at Aberystwyth. The departmental contact is Dr Frédéric Labrosse (ffl@aber.ac.uk).

Industrial Year placements can be taken abroad, please see information above on Industrial Year Schemes. Please note, we cannot guarantee to visit students taking this opportunity.

Schemes with integrated Sandwich Year

Schemes with integrated Sandwich Year may include:

- (i) An integrated year in industry, consisting of a period working in the UK or abroad.
- (ii) An integrated year studying abroad, consisting of a period studying at a university abroad.

During the Sandwich year, students will be expected to be in employment or studying abroad for a minimum of 30 weeks, and must comply with your academic department's requirements for maintaining contact with tutors during this period. Students who fail to make satisfactory academic progress during the Sandwich Year will receive a warning and may face exclusion from the University under the Academic Regulation on Academic Progress.

The Sandwich Year will be marked in accordance with published assessment criteria, and Senate Examination Board may require students who fail to meet the learning outcomes and achieve a minimum mark of 40% or pass the year to transfer onto a related degree scheme which does not include the integrated year in industry or integrated year studying abroad. Please note also that students are not allowed to go on exchange placements during the year prior to the Sandwich Year.

Almost all our degree schemes come with the option of an integrated industrial year. This offers you the opportunity to take a year out between your second and third year, whilst still maintaining your student status, to work in an organisation in the U.K. or overseas. IYs provides a rewarding and worthwhile experience, both personally and professionally, and can help you to stand out from the crowd in a competitive job

market. Both the department and the University's Careers Service (<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/careers/>) will help you to explore your options and find a suitable work placement. As an opportunity integrated within our degrees, the year will count towards your final degree, and be included on your transcript for future employers to see.

We also offer a degree scheme that includes a year abroad between the second and third year, maintaining your student status, studying for one year at a university outside the U.K., broadening your horizon, experiencing life in a different culture, helping you to distinguish yourself.

Your Voice: Gathering Student Feedback

Aberystwyth University is committed to providing students with a first-class student experience. Students are partners in their learning, their opinion of academic programmes and the wider student experience is highly valued by the University.

Your Voice Matters is about students and staff working together to make Aberystwyth University exceptional. You can tell us what we're doing well, where we can improve and what's important to you. Get involved by contacting Aber SU academic reps or officers, talking to your lecturers or support staff, filling in the online Your Voice Matters form, or completing a Module Evaluation Questionnaire. Your feedback helps us to continue enhancing the student experience.

Your Voice Matters, so get in touch and have your say.

Module Evaluation Questionnaires (MEQ)

Each semester, all undergraduate students will be asked to complete an online Module Evaluation Questionnaire in-class for each of the modules they are taking. All feedback via MEQ is anonymous and will be used to assess how the module is performing and make any possible changes. Each module coordinator will write a report analysing the results of the MEQs and the results of which will be provided to students via face-to-face discussions, emailed to students and published on Blackboard.

Please provide constructive feedback on your modules, complete module evaluations honestly, with consideration and respect for the teaching and support staff for each

module in accordance with the Rules and Regulations:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/regulations/>

Students are informed when submitting a comment that the University reserves the right to remove or redact comments that are deemed to be in breach of the Rules and Regulations.

Your Voice Matters

Your Voice MattersYour Voice Matters is a process by which students can provide feedback at any time about any aspect of their University experience. Student feedback helps the University to continue to enhance the student experience, by telling us what we're doing well, where we can improve and what's important to you. See <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student/your-voice-matters>. Again, please provide constructive feedback with consideration and respect for staff in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

Staff Student Consultative Committee

Students are at the heart of learning and teaching and an effective student voice, with appropriate representative structures, underpins the University's quality assurance and enhancement systems. In this, the University recognises the importance of effective student representation at many layers within the University's structure in contributing to its success in maintaining and enhancing the student experience.

SSCCs provide a formal means of discussion between the University and students on academic issues affecting their studies. They operate in accordance with the guidance on student representation set out in section 6 Student Support of the Academic Quality Handbook. More detailed information can be found here:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/student-support/>.

Elections for the student representatives on the Computer Science Student-Staff Consultative Committee take place at the start of the academic year: Staff are normally represented by the Director of Teaching, Head of Support, and each of the year coordinators. The SSCC meets once per semester, around the middle of each semester. The representatives will seek your views ahead of the meetings, but you can

contact them at any time to raise any issues. Formal minutes of the meetings are taken and posted on Blackboard, and details of any actions taken as a result of the meetings are posted. As well as the SSCC, you can also raise issues via <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student/your-voice-matters/tell-us/>.

Section C: Registration and your Programme

Registration

Before you can be known as a full-time or part-time student at Aberystwyth University you need to complete registration at the start of the session. Registration information, registration timetable and a full list of events can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/new-students/freshers/registration/>.

If you have any queries concerning undergraduate registration, please contact the Academic Registry (email: ugfstaff@aber.ac.uk, tel: 01970 628515/622787). It is important to inform the Academic Registry if you are unable to register on time. **Please note: If you do not complete registration, you will not be a registered student and your access to University facilities will be suspended.**

Tier 4 Student Visa Responsibilities

Important information for non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals in the UK on a Tier 4 student visa.

Aberystwyth University is a registered 'sponsor' under the Tier 4 Point-Based Immigration system (PBS). This gives us the ability to recruit and sponsor International students.

The Home Office, under the PBS places responsibilities on students and their University to ensure Immigration rules are followed.

As a licenced sponsor, the University has developed policies and procedures to ensure that we comply with these responsibilities. These policies and procedures are also in place to help you protect your immigration status.

To help avoid potential difficulties we have provided guidance on these responsibilities on this website and also in the resources section of the Compliance Information page.

If you have any questions, please contact compliance@aber.ac.uk.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/visa-immigration-compliance/compliance-information/>

Scheme Structures and Programme Specifications

Links to all current scheme structures can be found here:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/study-schemes/>

Links to all current programme specifications can be found here:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/programme-specs/index.html>

Your degree scheme structure will include 'core modules' which you will be required to study, and may also include a choice of 'option modules'. Please note that the choice of option modules may be limited in some cases where a minimum threshold is applied. This means that the University cannot guarantee to run optional modules with very few registrations, and students may be asked to choose again.

BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, accredits our schemes on behalf of the Engineering Council.

BCS accepts all of our single honours schemes for the appropriate level of accreditation.

Module Information

A module is a unit of study within a degree scheme with its own learning outcomes.

Links to individual module details can be found here:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/modules/>.

All modules at Aberystwyth are identified by a seven-digit code. This code tells you important information about the module. The first two letters indicate the subject area (e.g. CS for Computer Science); the first number is the level (i.e. 0, 1,2,3 and M for

Masters); the last two numbers are the credit weighting (10, 20 etc.). 00 means that it is the first semester of a long thin module taught over two semesters.

Academic Timetable

Once you have registered, you can access your personalised on-line timetable via your student record: <https://studentrecord.aber.ac.uk/en/>.

Questions about individual student timetables should be referred to your academic department in the first instance: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/timetable/departmental-timetable-officers/>

Section D: Assessment and Feedback

Blackboard / E-Learning Resources

The department makes use of Blackboard and a department Intranet for learning and teaching content. This is available at <https://blackboard.aber.ac.uk/>.

A departmental page is available in Blackboard that provides access to information relevant throughout your time here at Aberystwyth. See 'Computer Science Undergraduate Information' under the General Modules section after you log in to Blackboard.

Computer Resources

The department believes that the computing facilities available to our students are more than enough. Furthermore, the University Information Services facilities, which are closely integrated with those of the department, are available to all students. Even so, availability is not unlimited and there may be occasions when difficulties arise. Students are asked to be understanding in such cases and to comply with any requests the department may make over the use of resources. The Computer Science Department takes no responsibility for the correct functioning of any equipment or software, nor for the security or integrity of any stored program or data except as required by the Data Protection Act.

Do not leave assignments until the last minute. Computer problems are not an excuse for handing in an assignment late.

Use of Personal Computers

If you own a personal computer, you will enjoy considerable advantages of flexibility and convenience. You must, however, be careful not to let these advantages turn into a disadvantage.

After the first year, some of the practical work set by the department requires, explicitly or implicitly, the use of UNIX; unless you become thoroughly familiar with UNIX, you may have difficulty with the practical work. If you are sensible, you can gain a lot of advantage by becoming familiar with UNIX. Not only will this make you attractive to potential employers, but it will also give you a deeper understanding of a lot of the issues in software engineering.

A second danger that can arise from using your own computer is that you become isolated. You can learn a lot from working in the company of other students and discussing your work with them. If you always sit in your room working at your PC, you will lose the opportunity for doing this.

Finally, departmental facilities are maintained and backed up by support staff. If you depend on your own private machine, your work may suffer if it malfunctions. **It is your responsibility to make sure that you take adequate precautions to back up your important work.**

Printing

Information Services provides printers for students to use. You will find that, if you decide to print all the teaching materials and possibly also project and assignment work, you will need to budget a substantial amount for printing, especially at certain times in the semester.

You can look at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/computers/rooms/> to find printer locations.

Regulations for the Use of Equipment

All students are required to abide by the rules laid out by Information Services at:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/regulations/>

In addition, students are expected to abide by such further conditions concerning the use of the resources as the Department may impose.

If, in the opinion of the Head of the Computer Science Department, a user's use of the resources contravenes any University rules, or is in breach of any rules promulgated by the Department, access to the resources may be summarily withdrawn from that user.

SgiliauAber/AberSkills

SgiliauAber/AberSkills is an extensive online resource open to all students and staff of Aberystwyth University. It includes advice and guidance on a broad range of study skills. The advice is organised in sections that are closely related to assignments, exams and other forms of assessment. The information is provided at general and subject specific levels and includes advice and materials created within the university and from elsewhere. The advice includes practical guidance on academic writing, referencing, presentations, exams and a wide range of learning strategies and study resources. It is accessible from the main page of Blackboard, or directly from the following web pages: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills>.

Methods of Assessment

Modules are assessed by a combination of fixed length examinations, fixed length practical examinations, in-class tests, coursework and reports. The proportions of these elements used for each module are listed on the Module Database:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/modules/deptcurrent/?d=Computer+Science>

It is important to note that the assessment at University does not only display the range and depth of your knowledge. It is also an essential part of the learning process that helps you develop and improve your skills, for example to solve problems, construct arguments and communicate ideas that are often complex in a clear and effective manner. These skills are an important part of your degree programme, and are required

in the work-place. As you pursue your degree programme, the feedback you receive from your lecturers on assessed work will help you to improve these skills.

Various modules make use of worksheets as part of the assessment. While individually each worksheet may not contribute many marks to the module, as a set they contribute a significant component. Therefore, it is important to ensure all your worksheets are signed off during practicals so as not to miss out on the marks available.

Coursework

Coursework must be submitted to the Department/Faculty according to individual departmental/faculty requirements and published deadlines.

You will be formally assessed by a variety of means during and at the end of each module.

The precise form of assessment will vary according to the nature of the module, and are explained to you in detail at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/modules/>.

If in any doubt, ask your module coordinator, who will be happy to clarify anything you are unsure about.

It's important to note that at University, assessment is not only about demonstrating the range and depth of your knowledge. It is also an essential part of the learning process that actively helps you develop and enhance your skills in addressing problems, formulating arguments and communicating often complex ideas clearly and persuasively. These skills are a vital part of your degree programme and are in great demand in all areas of the world of work.

Assignments and Projects

'Project' is a term reserved for larger pieces of work, specifically: the group project undertaken in the second year; the final year projects for undergraduates; and the MSc project typically undertaken during the summer following the taught part of that scheme.

'Assignments' are smaller pieces of work.

Assignments and projects are a very important part of many modules offered by the Department. They contribute to your learning and they provide some element of assessment.

The description of each individual module tells you exactly what proportion of the assessment comes from coursework. It is important to realise that, if you don't submit the coursework, you will get no marks for it; this will have a serious effect on your mark for that module as a whole. It is much better to hand in coursework that is incomplete than to hand in nothing at all.

Failure to submit coursework, just like missing an examination, may be regarded as grounds for reporting your progress as unsatisfactory, in accordance with the academic regulations on academic progress.

Worksheets

Worksheets are given primarily as learning and self-assessment exercises. They may play a small part in module assessment. (If so, this will be explained in the module description).

There may be a mechanism for handing in completed worksheets or for having them “signed off” by demonstrators. Such mechanisms are designed to provide feedback to you on your progress and understanding and to provide encouragement to stay abreast of material.

The Department is anxious to strike an appropriate balance between assessed and un-assessed practical work. It is most important that you take seriously exercises such as worksheets, where you have an opportunity to develop skills and understanding without the pressures and restrictions of assessment. The Department takes a dim view of the attitude that only assessed work is worth doing.

Helping one another in coursework

You are encouraged to help one another in practicals (this does not mean doing the work for someone else), but assignments and projects are assessed on the basis that they are your own work. The department provides tutorials, workshops, practical classes, and an advisory desk to help you, in addition to members of staff. You can get

help simply by asking, and will lose no marks by doing so. Conscientious students who care enough about their work to seek help often create a more favourable impression than those who stumble on in partial understanding.

We encourage students to discuss problems and ideas, but there is an important difference between students helping each other to learn and helping each other to complete their work. If you do collaborate with someone on a piece of work, it is very important that all parties involved clearly indicate in the work submitted the extent of the collaboration.

It is regrettable that some students feel the need to copy work and attempt to pass it off as their own. Such attempts are sometimes easy to spot and if there are doubts we might decide to ask you to come and clarify which part of the work are actually yours and demonstrate your understanding of them. The Department and the University take a very serious attitude to such practices (see section on Unacceptable Academic Practice).

Coursework Submission and Deadlines

Deadlines for written work are taken very seriously by the University. Students need to manage their time responsibly so that they can submit work on time. Coursework must be submitted according to individual departmental requirements and published deadlines. Work submitted after the deadline will be awarded a zero.

Unless otherwise advised, all text-based, word-processed coursework should be submitted online.

The department follows a central policy for submission deadlines: All projects and other assessed material will be due at 1pm on regular working days, as announced by the module coordinator. (The time may be modified to fit in with teaching slots; for example, to allow the assessment of work done during a practical session).

Absence from Examinations

A candidate may be deemed absent with good cause from an examination or assessment because of documented illness, accident, close bereavement or on closely

related compassionate grounds. The Examination Board concerned shall have discretion to decide whether, on the basis of the evidence received, a candidate has been absent with good cause. A candidate who, without good cause, has been absent from any University examination or failed to complete other forms of assessment by the required date, shall be awarded a zero mark for the assessment concerned.

Extension Requests

Students must apply for an extension if for unavoidable reasons they are unable to submit coursework on time, by completing the Coursework Deadline Extension Request Form. The request form is available from your academic department and provides detailed advice on the circumstances in which extensions may be granted, the length of extensions, and what to do if an extension is not possible or permitted.

The ability to meet deadlines is something which employers value very highly; several employers have congratulated us on the fact that our graduates are better at meeting deadlines than those from many other CS departments.

If you feel you have a very good reason for handing a piece of assessed coursework in late, you must seek the permission of the Year Coordinator (see Section B), at least three working days before the deadline, using the form available at <https://teaching.dcs.aber.ac.uk/dates/Home/Extensionrequest>. You will be required to provide evidence, for example a note from a doctor, to support your request, but if this is not immediately available the request should still be made, with an indication that evidence will be forthcoming. The coordinator may ask to see you to discuss your best strategy for completion of work across all your modules. You will be told the outcome of the request within 2 working days. Note that if an extension is granted you cannot also claim that you have special circumstances for that piece of course work unless there is additional evidence.

If you miss the deadline for handing in an assignment then you should still submit it. By handing in the assignment you will also receive feedback on the work.

Special Circumstances

The University aims to assess all its students rigorously but fairly, according to its regulations and approved procedures. It does however rely on students to notify it of special circumstances which may affect their performance so that it can treat all students equally and equitably. Examples of Special Circumstances include but are not limited to: short or long-term illness, severe financial problems, major accommodation problems, bereavement or other compassionate grounds. If you do wish to let the University know of special circumstances, you must complete a Special Circumstances Form and forward it to the designated people <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/taught-schemes/stafflist/> in all your academic departments together with copies of the supporting evidence. Please note the University requires students to notify it of any exceptional personal circumstances which may have adversely affected their academic performance as soon as possible and in any case before the meetings of Examining Boards. Further guidance can be found in section 3.8 of the Academic Quality Handbook: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/taught-schemes/>

Marking Procedures and Moderation

All examinations are subject to the University's Anonymous Marking procedure as outlined in section 3.5 of the Academic Quality Handbook, with candidates retaining anonymity until the Examination Board. At that stage, the recommendations of Special Circumstances Panels are also considered to take account of medical or other special circumstances which have been reported by students under the University's Special Circumstances Procedure (section 3.8 of the Academic Quality Handbook). A similar policy applies to written coursework, subject to exemptions approved where anonymity is impractical or undesirable.

The expectation of the UK Quality Code is that higher education institutions will have in place transparent and fair systems for marking and moderation. The University needs to be assured that robust, effective and consistent internal moderation processes are being applied in all academic departments. The details of these processes are likely to vary according to local circumstances and professional body requirements, but all

academic departments work to the definitions and minimum requirements set out in the Academic Quality Handbook in applying their own internal moderation processes.

Marking Criteria

Assessment criteria are provided for individual assignments. Below is a general indication of what is expected at each level.

1st:
80-100% An outstanding body of work demonstrating a very deep understanding of the problem and presented as such. Written components will be professionally presented in both layout on the page and logical structure. They will also be excellently presented in an appropriate style and will be grammatically of an extremely high standard. Demonstrates an excellent understanding of the technologies employed and uses appropriate terminology accurately. Implementation components will be extremely well finished

1st:
70-79% An excellent body of work demonstrating a deep understanding of the problem and presented as such. Written components will be professionally presented in both layout on the page and logical structure. They will also be very well presented in an appropriate style and will be grammatically of a very high standard. Demonstrates an excellent understanding of the technologies employed and uses appropriate terminology accurately. Implementation components will be very well finished and will at least completely fulfil the functional requirements.

2(i):
60-69% A good body of work demonstrating a good understanding of the problem and presented as such. Written components will be well presented in both layout on the page and logical structure. They will also be presented in an appropriate style and will be of a good grammatical standard. Demonstrates good understanding of the technologies employed and a good grasp of the terminology appropriate. Implementation components will be complete and will usually fulfil the functional requirements in all aspects.

2(ii):
50-59% A body of work which shows understanding of the problem in most aspects. Written components will demonstrate those areas which are well understood and those areas which are not so well understood. The documents will be structured in a reasonable way which allows them to be easily read, but may be lacking in structure, clarity and grammatical quality. Displays an adequate level of understanding of technologies used and mostly uses terminology appropriately. Implementation components

	will probably be incomplete in some relatively minor aspects, and may omit some of the more advanced pieces of work.
3rd: 40-49%	A body of work which shows some understanding of the problem. Written components will show what progress has been made, and make some attempt to show which areas have not been understood. Documents may show a lack of structure, comprehensibility, clarity and grammatical quality. Documents may also be incomplete in coverage of the work undertaken. Probably fails to show understanding of the technologies used and often fails to use appropriate terminology. Implementation is likely to be incomplete and may omit some aspects of the core problem. No adequate attempt to tackle more advanced sections of the work.
Fail: 30-39%	A body of work which fails to show proper understanding of the problem or which demonstrates an inappropriate, inadequate or incomplete response. Written components will typically fail to accurately or completely describe the work done and will often contain little indication of which parts of the problem are understood and which are not. Documents often show a lack of structure, comprehensibility, clarity and grammatical quality. Failure to demonstrate understanding of the technologies used and lack of or inaccurate use of the terminology appropriate. Implementation is probably drastically incomplete, severely misguided or severely hampered by inability to use the technologies required.
Fail: 20-29%	Some work which shows little or a seriously flawed understanding of the problem, and an inappropriate, inadequate or drastically incomplete response. Written components will be poor in terms of presentation and content. They will usually fail to describe the problem, the work done, or the level of understanding reached. They will also lack structure, clarity or comprehensibility and often be of a poor grammatical standard. The work will often show a failure to understand the technologies required to solve the problem and will not use the correct terminology. Implementation is likely to be absent, drastically incomplete, severely misguided or severely hampered by inability to use the technologies required.
Fail: 0-19%	Probably very little work on either implementation or documentation, or a body of work which is very severely flawed by lack of ability to use the required technologies and/or to present the small amount of work done. Implementation absent, barely commenced or very severely misguided.

Examples of assessment criteria for different types of assignments can be found alongside the handbook on the departmental intranet at <http://impacs-inter.dcs.aber.ac.uk/en/cs-undergraduate/official-information/student-handbooks>.

Feedback

The University's requirement on the return of feedback on coursework is within 15 working days of the date of submission. In the event of exceptional and unavoidable delays you will be informed accordingly and given an amended timescale for the return of the assessment concerned.

The University operates the following Principles of Effective Feedback to students:

- (i) Feedback should be transparent, enabling students to understand it and relate it to assessment criteria;
- (ii) Feedback should help students identify areas of strength and where they need to improve;
- (iii) Feedback should be proportionate and appropriate to the type of assessment, its timing, and the size of class;
- (iv) Students should have clear and accessible information on the types of assessment and the nature and timing of the feedback they will receive associated with each type of assessment;
- (v) Students have the right to seek clarification of marks, to help them understand what they did well and less well and how they might improve.

Staff will normally mark assessed work for feedback within 15 working days of deadlines. However, any mark given to the student at this stage will be a provisional mark, which may be revised by the Examination Board.

Computer Science staff give feedback in a variety of ways. The principal form is marks and written comments on submitted work. These identify correct approaches, and in the case when the attempted argument is not valid, indicate how the argument could be modified. It is important that students study this feedback: learning from mistakes is an invaluable tool for improvement. Staff will endeavour to return marked work as soon as practicable; 15 working days from the submission date is the latest this will occur (unless there are exceptional circumstances). Some parts of lectures are devoted to discussing common themes that arose from submitted assignments. In

tutorials/problem classes/workshops/practical sessions, the emphasis is on students attempting problems; staff, which may include demonstrators, will give feedback, building towards a correct solution. Finally, Personal Tutors will wish to discuss exam performance during meetings; students can receive detailed breakdowns of their marks.

Written feedback is typically sent to students by email or provided through TurnItIn on Blackboard.

Students are encouraged to consider the general feedback on each exam that is provided on Blackboard. Individual exam feedback can be provided by the module coordinator on request. It is possible for students to arrange to look over their exam scripts in the department, such requests will be referred to the module coordinator.

External Examiners

External Examiners play a critical role in supporting the maintenance of academic standards and overseeing the assessment process. The University appoints External Examiners for all provision that leads to an Aberystwyth University award.

External Examiners ensure that assessments have been carried out fairly and consistently and that standards are in line with other UK higher education institutions and/or with relevant professional body standards. The External Examiner(s) undertake a number of tasks which are outlined in section 5 of the Academic Quality Handbook, External Examining: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/ext-exam/>. These include approving assessments compiled by Internal Examiners, reviewing a sample of assessment material, reviewing a sample of assessed work and approving the recommendations made by the Examination Board. External Examiner(s) also provide a written report on the assessment process and on the standards of student attainment which are published on the departmental modules on AberLearn Blackboard. External Examiners' reports are considered by the University and the Academic Board has oversight of the reports and external examining process as a whole.

The names of External Examiners are published under the 'staff profiles' section of academic department webpages. Annual Reports by External Examiners, with responses, are published on Blackboard and made available to students.

External Examiners are required to remain impartial at all times, and do not make selective adjustments to the marks of individual students. Students should not contact External Examiners, and clarification on provisional assessment marks should be sought through the academic department's standard feedback procedures, or through the University's appeal procedures after the confirmation of the final module mark.

Unacceptable Academic Practice

It is Unacceptable Academic Practice to commit any act whereby a person may obtain, for himself/herself or for another, an unpermitted advantage. The Regulation shall apply, and a student may be found to have committed Unacceptable Academic Practice, regardless of a student's intention and the outcome of the act, and whether the student acts alone or in conjunction with another/others. Any action or actions shall be deemed to fall within this definition, whether occurring during, or in relation to, a formal examination, a piece of coursework, the presentation of medical or other evidence to Examination Boards, or any form of assessment undertaken in pursuit of a University qualification or award.

The University recognises the following categories of Unacceptable Academic Practice. These are not exhaustive, and other cases may fall within the general definition of Unacceptable Academic Practice:

- **Plagiarism:** using another person's work and presenting it as one's own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of plagiarism include:
 - Use of quotation without the use of quotation marks
 - copying another person's work
 - unacknowledged translation of another person's work
 - paraphrasing or adapting another person's work without due acknowledgment
 - unacknowledged use of material downloaded from the internet
 - use of material obtained from essay banks or similar agencies.

- **Collusion:** when work that has been undertaken by or with others is submitted and passed off as solely the work of one person.

- **Fabrication of evidence or data:** Fabrication of evidence or data and/or use of such evidence or data in assessed work include making false claims to have carried out experiments, observations, interviews or other forms of data collection and analysis. Fabrication of evidence or data and/or use of such evidence or data also include presenting false or falsified evidence of special circumstances.
- **Unacceptable Academic Practice in formal examinations:** introduction of unauthorised material; copying from, or communicating with, any other person; communicating electronically with any other person; impersonating an examination candidate or allowing oneself to be impersonated; presenting an examination script as one's own work when the script includes material produced by unauthorised means.
- **Recycling of data or text:** recycling of data or text in more than one assessment when it is explicitly not permitted by the department.

It is important to indicate clearly in your own work where you have included the work of others. In Computer Science this could include reuse of designs and programs as well as copying or quoting text. Make sure you understand how to acknowledge the work of others in all your submissions. Ignorance of how to do this is not a valid defence.

The following simple guidelines are intended to help you avoid straying from legitimate and desirable cooperation into the area of plagiarism:

- append a bibliography to your work listing all the sources you have used, including electronic;
- surround all direct quotations with inverted commas, and cite the precise source (including page numbers, or the URL and the date you accessed it if the source is on the Web) either in a footnote or in parentheses directly after the quotation;
- use quotations sparingly and make sure that the bulk of the work is in your own words;
- even if you do not use direct quotations, important ideas should still be credited;

- remember that it is your own input that gives a piece of work merit. Whatever sources you have used, the structure and presentation of the argument should be your own. Including someone else's work in your own is readily detectable because the style will be different.

Keep a sense of proportion, and exercise common sense and judgement. For example, it is not necessary to attribute to a source, statements which have passed into the public domain and become commonplace. If in doubt, make sure that you properly quote and cite material in order to avoid any suspicion that you are trying to cheat, and ask for advice if you are not sure.

The full Regulation on Unacceptable Academic Practice can be found in section 3.6 of the Academic Quality Handbook: Academic Practice:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/taught-schemes/>

If Unacceptable Academic Practice is substantiated, the consequences can be severe, and could potentially affect progression to the next year of study or final award of a degree. Penalties are applied in accordance with a points-based system:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/taught-schemes/uap-points/>

Further information regarding good academic practice and referencing can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/aberskills/>. If you are unsure, you must contact your academic department for further guidance.

Section E: Progression Rules and Examination Conventions

Progression Rules and Examination Conventions

The Examination Conventions are used to determine progression between years of study on different types of award and the calculation of degree class at the end of degree schemes. The Conventions should be read in conjunction with the Academic Regulation on Academic Progress and can be found in section 4 of the Academic Quality Handbook: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/exam-conventions/>

The Academic Quality Handbook also contains information on the assessment of taught study schemes such as special circumstances, examinations and marking procedures.

The University may award one of the following exit qualifications where students have not acquired the credits necessary for the award of a Bachelors degree with honours. All exit qualifications are unclassified.

- Ordinary Degree (BA / BSC with no honours)
- Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE)
- Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE)

Further information about the award of Ordinary Degrees may be found in section 4.6 of the Academic Quality Handbook.

What to do if things go wrong

Resits

If you fail a module and need to resit, you will be informed by your academic department of which elements you need to resit. You will also need to register for resits.

Further advice on resit registration is available from the Academic Registry:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/students/ug-issues/>

Details of the format of resit assessments are provided in the module database:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/modules/>. Resits will normally involve repeating the assessments (e.g. essay, exam) which were failed at the first attempt.

Dates for the summer resit period in August can be found at .

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/students/ug-issues/resits/summer-resit-assessments/>

When results are released, the department will send out general advice on what to do if you have failed a module. If you are in any doubt about what you need to do to retake an assessment, or progress with your degree, you should consult:

cs-exam-advice@aber.ac.uk.

Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Academic Appeals Procedure

An academic appeal is defined as ‘a request for a review of a decision of an academic body charged with taking decisions on student progression, assessment and awards.’

Appeals will only be considered if they are based on one or more of the following grounds and are accompanied by supporting evidence that was not available to be presented to the relevant Examining Board:

- Exceptional extenuating circumstances which had an adverse effect on the student’s academic performance. Where a student could have reported exceptional circumstances to the Examining Board prior to its meeting, those circumstances cannot subsequently be cited as grounds for appeal.
- Defects or irregularities in the conduct of the assessments or in written instructions or in advice relating thereto, where a case can be established that such defects, irregularities or advice could have had an adverse effect on the student’s performance.
- Evidence of prejudice, or of bias, or of inadequate assessment on the part of one or more of the examiners.

An appeal will only be considered if the student can provide good reasons why the grounds for appeal had not previously been made known to the University and/or were not made known to the relevant Examining Board.

Appeals questioning academic judgement shall not be considered.

Before making an appeal, you must read the full Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Academic Appeals Procedure which can be found here:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/appeals/>.

Advice about this Procedure may be obtained from the Academic Registry (caostaff@aber.ac.uk) or from a Student Adviser in the Students’ Union (union.advice@aber.ac.uk).

Student Complaints Procedure

Aberystwyth University is committed to ensuring a high quality educational experience for all its students, supported by appropriate academic, administrative and welfare support services and facilities. However, there may be occasions when students are dissatisfied with the teaching and learning facilities, or services, provided. Aberystwyth University believes that students should be entitled to have access to an effective system for handling complaints and that they should feel able to make a complaint, secure in the knowledge that it will be fairly investigated. The University's Student Complaints Procedure can be found at: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/handbook/complaints/>

Section F: Student Support Services

Student Welcome Centre

The Student Welcome Centre is your one-stop shop for advice and information on a range of support. Our Welcome Desk is your first port of call for general enquiries about these services.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/our-services>

Advice, Information and Money Service

The Student Advice, Information and Money Service provides information, advice, support and referral on a wide range of issues. If you are unsure about where to go for advice or assistance, please contact us. No issue is too big or too small. Our service is confidential, nonjudgmental and free of charge. We have a weekday drop-in service (see website for details) or you can make an appointment with a Student Adviser by contacting the Student Welcome Desk.

The student advisers are accredited with The National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA) and are able to offer professional advice on money management or any issues with Student Finance. They can also give advice and guidance on any

queries relating to accommodation, academic progress, University procedures or eligibility for hardship funds.

Accessibility Service

The University welcomes applications from disabled students and those with specific learning differences, and considers them on the same academic grounds as those for other candidates. We advise you to consider, before applying, the requirements of your chosen course, identifying any elements that might present particular difficulties. We recommend that you visit the University campus and your academic department of choice to investigate the support that may be available, explore facilities and discuss specific needs.

Our Accessibility Advisers are happy to help before you apply. It is important that you contact your academic department and our advisers as early as possible as it may take time to arrange adjustments and organise support. We also recommend that you contact our Accessibility Advisers to discuss a study needs assessment and to get advice on grants, such as the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). Our advisers can arrange support workers, including for example, one-to-one study skills support and mentors. Individual examination arrangements may be available for students with a range of impairments including specific learning differences such as dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Our Accessibility Service also supports care leavers and can arrange support from a peer mentor for those student who are finding settling into University challenging.

Student Wellbeing Services

The Student Wellbeing Service provides advice and guidance on a range of health matters, including emotional and sexual well-being, and includes support for mental health, and counselling provision. The Student Wellbeing Service is in addition to, but not a substitute for, your own GP. Although we work closely with local GPs and hospital services to ensure that you get good care and attention when needed, it is important that you register with a local GP practice on arrival in Aberystwyth.

In addition to the services located in the Student Welcome Centre, support is also available from:

Student Learning Support and the International English Centre

Student Learning Support and the International English Centre provide a range of undergraduate modules, free undergraduate and postgraduate writing and information skills courses and one-to-one consultations for writing and language support. These are open to all students in the university who are studying for degree courses. Further details are available from: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-learning-support/> and <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international-english/>

International Office

The International Office offers a comprehensive range of services to international students from organising welcome events to specialised immigration advice. Further information is available from our international pages <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/international/>.

Visa and Immigration Advice

Our International Student Adviser can help with all types of study visa applications, Schengen visas for those that are travelling to Europe as well as provide information and advice on other immigration issues, email contact immigrationadvice@aber.ac.uk.

International Office Trips

The International Office organises a social programme which allows students to enjoy trips and events all year round. Day trips are organised to places around Wales at the weekends, such as Cardiff, St Davids, Portmeirion and Harlech Castle. We also offer short afternoon trips to beauty spots close to Aberystwyth, and in the past have included visits to Aberaeron, Nant yr Arian and the Elan Valley. All trips are very low cost and give our students a chance to enjoy visiting places outside Aberystwyth while meeting new friends. The trips are open to all students, home and international, and are very popular so early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment.

One World Week

One World Week is an annual Aberystwyth University event celebrating the diverse culture of our university. Previous celebrations have included the One World Gala Evening, with traditional dancing and music, political debates, international film afternoons and a World Fair with food and drink samples from student's home countries, with traditional menus served in our University restaurant TaMed Da. This is a student driven event held in collaboration with the Students' Union and requires your input! Meetings to organise One World Week will be held from October onwards so come and join in and make sure that your country and culture is shared by us all.

Halal provision

Our catered establishments offer a selection of hot and cold dishes that are suitable for a Halal diet. All food is clearly marked for ease of identification.

Multi-faith and prayer room spaces

There is a faith space available for prayer on the Penglais Campus, in the Faith Centre, Arts Centre.

Students' Union Advice Service

The Students' Union Advice Service offers free, confidential and independent advice to all Aberystwyth students. Students' Union Advisors are trained staff that can help you with a range of issues and specialise in providing advice and support on University processes and procedures. SU Advisors can also act as an independent advocate for you in meetings and hearings.

You can just drop in to speak to an Advisor – just ask at the Students' Union reception or head to the back offices on the ground floor or you can contact us online or via email: union.advice@aber.ac.uk Check out <https://www.abersu.co.uk/advice/> for more information.

Help and Assistance with Accommodation

If you have any problems in your room or flat, e.g. you are locked out, are unwell, need a repair or have a problem with a neighbour, we have staff on hand 24 hours a day to help. All Residences are served by the Residences Team, and you can also contact our friendly porters out of office hours. For more information please refer to the following webpages: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/current-students/living-residences/help/>

Residence Assistants

Your Residence Assistants (RAs) are fellow students who are here to provide you with support and guidance, while aiming to create a positive living and learning environment and to foster a sense of community across the university. This may include guidance on resolving flat disputes, how to combat exam stress, information on events and activities around the area, or simply where to find the best cup of tea in Aber! If they can't help, they will signpost you to someone who can.

Throughout the year, the RA team will be arranging small-scale events in the communal spaces around your accommodation, giving you the opportunity to meet new people and perhaps try something new. They will also stop by your flat or house regularly to see how things are going, provide you with up-to-date information on all the events and activities that are going on around campus and within your residence, and check if you have any worries or concerns that they can help with. Further information can be found here: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/accommodation/current-students/living-residences/res-support/>

Section G: University Information

Undergraduate

Comprehensive information for undergraduate students can be found here:

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/academic-registry/students/ug-issues/> and includes:

- Examination and Assessments Information

- Resit Information and Resit Fees
- Registration Information
- Financial Help
- Rules and Regulations
- Academic Quality Handbook

Good luck with your studies!