

social life at **ABERYSTWYTH | UNIVERSITY**



ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY



Ask any current or past Aberystwyth University student about the social life and they will definitely say “It’s not boring!”

As a 2011 graduate I can confidently say that Aberystwyth University will give you a better range of great social life than some of the “big cities” in the UK. Just because we’re based in a town doesn’t mean that the social life you’ll encounter here is small or unexciting.

This informal guide will illustrate to you the wide variety of social life at Aberystwyth University and

will hopefully prove to you that Aberystwyth’s social scene is big enough to cope with whatever you want to do!

I decided to write this little report in order to put a few urban myths that I’ve heard on some forums and social networks to rest. I can tell you from my own experiences that the town of Aberystwyth is a great place. There are not many towns or cities in the UK where you can surf, horse ride, relax, have a barbecue on the beach as well as walk around in fancy dress costume at 4am and feel totally safe without anyone so

much as blinking an eye lid at you, or your “crazy student” antics.

“Only in Aberystwyth could you get away with that...” is a common phrase used by the University’s students to describe the town’s “fun-loving” reputation.

Read on if you want to find out just a few of the reasons why Aberystwyth University has been voted the **Best Student Experience in the Country** and the **Top university for Student Satisfaction in the Country** (The Times Good University Guide 2010).

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If sports are your thing then Aberystwyth University has more than enough facilities to keep you happy. And even by university standards they are available at a very affordable price. Winner!

Aberystwyth University can boast some pretty amazing sport facilities. The sports centre has a vast array of fitness equipment, including top of the range running, rowing, cross trainer machines, along with Techno Gym equipment all of which are used with the Wellness System – and of course there are enough

machines available for even the busiest times!

Other facilities include:

- Free weights room
- Dance/Exercise studio
- Sports cage action (Indoor cricket, 2 squash courts, netball courts, 3 indoor basketball courts, indoor “5 a side” football.)
- An indoor climbing wall, which is challenging enough for all levels of ability

Recently Aberystwyth University spent over £400,000 on its sports facilities in the sports centre. The

sports centre’s swimming pool and Astroturf football/hockey pitch have been refurbished making these great facilities even better.

THE SPORTING FACILITIES ARE REALLY GOOD. I PLAY FOOTBALL AND IT’S BRILLIANT, THE CHANGING FACILITIES ARE GREAT, THE GYM’S GREAT, EVERYTHING’S ON HAND FOR YOU AND IT ISN’T EXPENSIVE AT ALL!

Emma Hampson, BA Drama, Evesham

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However, if main-stream sport doesn't get your heart pumping then Aberystwyth University can offer you a huge range of sports that other universities simply can't.

Aberystwyth University is located by the sea, and the university offers top class water sports facilities to its students. These include:

- A Sailing School, which has a large fleet of dingies including: lasers, toppers, and picos.
- The Surfing Club which has its own boards and wet suits for members to use, and

- Scuba Diving Club whose facilities include an air compression machine for really cheap tank refills.

Aberystwyth University has its very own equestrian centre, with stables, yard, and ménage so if you like to horse ride what could be better than to do it at Aberystwyth with its beautiful countryside and unspoilt beaches.

All of these sport facilities are located within Aberystwyth's beautiful countryside which has

superb and idyllic walkways and cycling paths perfect for an active and healthy lifestyle.

The best part is that you won't need to catch a bus or train to access these. They are literally on your doorstep.



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CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

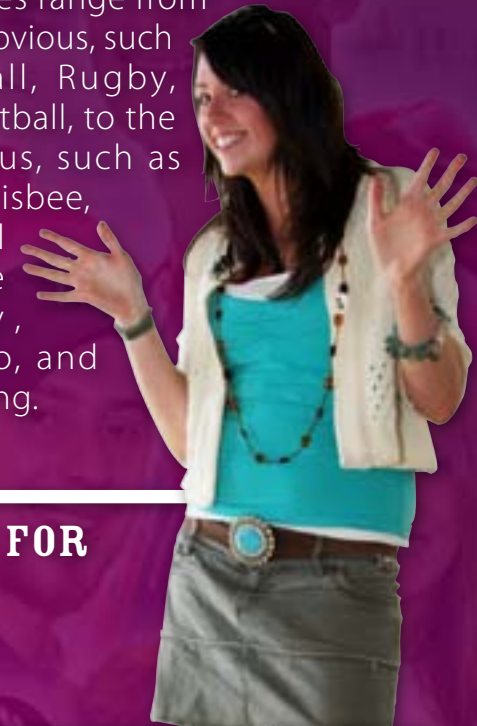


THE PEOPLE HERE IN ABERYSTWYTH ARE REALLY FRIENDLY. I LOVE THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND I'M A MEMBER OF THE WALKING GROUP AND CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS. I GO OUT WITH THEM ON WEEKENDS. IT'S GREAT.

**Catherine Hooper,
BA Geography and
Politics, Great Ayton,
North Yorkshire**

From my personal experience one of the best ways to make friends at university is to go out and join the clubs and societies that interest you. Aberystwyth University has a combined total of 106 sport and social clubs which cover a massive variety of interests and if the club you want to join does not exist, then just set it up. Some of these clubs

and societies range from the more obvious, such as Football, Rugby, Hockey, Netball, to the less obvious, such as Ultimate Frisbee, Musical Theatre Society, Water Polo, and Trampolining.



**TOP UNIVERSITY IN THE COUNTRY FOR
STUDENT SATISFACTION**

- THE TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2010



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SOCIAL FACILITIES ON CAMPUS



As you may already know, Aberystwyth University is campus based, which means all the social facilities are easy to get to and you are never very far away from finding some more fun.

The Student's Union

The Student's Union is the nucleus of student life and it can be argued that it's the social epicentre of the university and has everything that any student might need. It was recently voted in the UK's top 10, it delivers just what you want. During the day the Student's Union

is a social gathering place where students can relax in an atmosphere which is perfect for you to put your feet up and let the day float away. If you feel like shooting some pool, playing on the arcade machines, watching the massive projector TVs or you just want to sit chatting in the engulfing sofas – day life in the union is always relaxed... until the evening that is!

Like all good Student Unions every night there's an event. This is no exception at Aberystwyth's Student's Union. Every night of the week you will find an experience.

My personal favourites include "Re-load" and "Quids In." Both nights guarantee great prices, awesome music, and a whole lot of good looking people.

**BEST UNIVERSITY IN
THE COUNTRY FOR
STUDENT EXPERIENCE**
- THE TIMES GOOD
UNIVERSITY GUIDE 2010

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The Arts Centre

The Arts Centre is adjacent to the Student's Union, and like the union delivers stunning views over the town of Aberystwyth and along the coastline of Cardigan Bay – sipping a cappuccino and viewing the panoramic view of the bay is an experience not to miss.

Recently the Arts Centre completed a major £4.3 million redevelopment and now has facilities unrivalled throughout much of the UK and is recognized as a "National Flagship" for the arts.

For all interests, tastes and life styles, there will be something that appeals. From live classical music events to dance nights hosted by top DJs to comedy nights. Famous acts performing at the Arts Centre include Duffy, Jimmy Carr, Cerys Mathews, Michael McIntyre, Rob Brydon and many more.

However, the Arts Centre doesn't just host famous acts, being a "National Flagship" and hub for cultural development; it brings to you the best of emerging and creative talent from around the globe. It is the heart and soul of

culture for not only Aberystwyth but Wales too.

Cwrt Mawr Bar and Snooker Room

Cwrt Mawr Bar is located in the Cwrt Mawr Halls of Residence and is another awesome bar that has massive projector and LCD TVs, comfortable chairs and most importantly good beer. It's a great student pub, designed by Aberystwyth University's students for you.



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The town of Aberystwyth is geared to the needs of students just like you. During term time 35% of Aberystwyth's population are students. So, that means every single night in Aberystwyth is a student night, with bars and clubs offering "special" student prices all week long!

The town itself has 31 pubs or clubs with another 24 pubs in close proximity to Aberystwyth (within a 4 mile radius). All these choices combined with the Student's Union and Art Centre create an entertainment

and social scene that is hard to beat.

One of the great things about Aberystwyth is that you will always bump into friends around town which means you're never on your own. And an added bonus is that you're always about a £3 taxi ride from home.

However, Aberystwyth isn't all about pubs and clubs. The town has some great shops too, all of which will cater for your interests and tastes; you will find pretty much anything you want or need in Aberystwyth.

AS A SHOP-O-HOLIC, A GOOD HIGH STREET IS ESSENTIAL. WITH A MIX OF MAINSTREAM HIGH STREET STORES, AND CUTE, ORIGINAL BOUTIQUES, ABERYSTWYTH NEVER FAILS TO SATISFY.

Laura Graham 2nd year undergraduate Geography Student

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It's also important to mention that Aberystwyth is probably one of THE safest places you can study in the UK. According to the Home Office Statistical Bulletin (Crime in England and Wales 2008/9) the County of Ceredigion has a 50% lower crime rate than England and Wales.

As luck would have it Aberystwyth is also located in one of the most beautiful spots in the United

Kingdom and has great beaches, rolling hills, and unspoilt scenery wherever you look. You really can't ask for a better place to study. Your quality of life at Aberystwyth will be seriously hard to beat; in fact many students don't want to leave Aberystwyth University even when they have completed their degree!

Home Office Crime Statistics from 2003-2009 showing offences per 1000 of population.



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EVERYTHING IS MORE LAID BACK HERE; THE SUN SHINES AND THINGS SLOW DOWN; ITS LIFE WITHOUT THE BIG CITY STRESSES

- VIRGIN GUIDE TO BRITISH UNIVERSITIES





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The aim of creating this informal but informative account of the social life at Aberystwyth University was to dispel the myths that the social scene at Aberystwyth and Aberystwyth University is boring. Aberystwyth has evolved perfectly for the students at Aberystwyth University and has so much to offer you.

Would you be interested in finding out for yourself why Aberystwyth University is the Top UK University

for Student Satisfaction? Come to one of our **Open Days** and discover the best student experience in the country.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/open-days

For a closer look into the social life you'll experience at Aberystwyth order a copy of the **Alternative Prospectus**; and while you're there check what our **current students** have to say about it!

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"Most Liked University"**



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