



Annual Review

2014-15



Welcome



Sir Emyr Jones Parry – Chancellor

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Aberystwyth University's Annual Review for the 2014-15 academic year.

Despite a difficult and constantly changing environment, I am pleased to report that Aberystwyth is responding to the external challenges, and taking decisions to ensure the sustainable future of the University.

As for most universities, student fees are now our main source of income. This means that student recruitment has become crucial. The expectations and opinions of students have understandably assumed particular importance. Student satisfaction levels are proving influential to student choice, when the higher education sector has become highly competitive, with Aberystwyth facing direct competition from a wider range of institutions.

Aber is therefore investing to provide the best possible student experience. The £45m Fferm Penglais residential development welcomed its first occupants in early 2015. Further rooms have since been delivered, providing sector-leading first-class student accommodation.

2014-15 also saw further investment in our teaching rooms, equipping them with the latest technology for the benefit of both students and academics. Students are now able to download videos of lectures to revisit key points they may have missed, and they can submit their coursework wholly online. Higher Education has certainly changed a lot since my day!

We have also been reviewing the courses that we offer to ensure that they remain relevant and address the issues which interest students. This, with excellent research-led teaching, offers students a high quality academic experience. The Research Excellence Framework published in 2014, concluded that 95% of the research in Aberystwyth is of an internationally recognised standard or higher. It is those leading on this research who, substantially, are teaching the students.

The traditional warm welcome on offer at Aber remains constant. Set in idyllic countryside in West Wales, we are consistently ranked as one of the safest places in the UK to be a student. The academic, social and physical environments combine to provide a wonderful experience, the impact of which is life changing and permanent. It's little wonder that our students highly-value their time at the 'Coleg ger y lli' ('College by the sea').

The University faces a challenging environment, but has been adapting to events ever since its establishment in 1872. That is why we are also ensuring that staff and students address the very real challenges which confront our world. We shall retain our resolute focus on delivering the best teaching, the best research, and the best student experience – for the benefit of Aberystwyth, Wales, and the international community.

Emyr Jones Parry



Professor April McMahon – Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to the Aberystwyth University Annual Review for 2014-15!

Universities are people businesses – so showing we are a good employer couldn't be more important. The Welsh Government awards its Corporate Health Standard to organisations demonstrating excellence in promoting health and well-being, and I am very proud that Aber has achieved both Bronze and Silver levels in less than a year. Looking after our staff and students also means prioritising equality – and during September 2014, Aberystwyth University received the Athena SWAN Bronze Award to recognise our commitment to advancing women's careers in science; and also the Equality Challenge Unit's Bronze Gender Equality Charter Mark (GEM), for progress in gender equality in arts, humanities and social science careers. We were one of just five UK universities to win the GEM Charter Mark in its first year.

Ensuring our graduates are highly employable is vital too – hence our ambitious and innovative AberForward programme offering relevant and useful work experience. AberForward now includes a year-long Graduate Internship Scheme; a Summer Scheme open to 2nd and 3rd year undergraduates for full-time, paid summer work; and the Graduate Scheme, where participants undertake paid work experience on the University's campuses and benefit from a series of workshops to develop the skills and knowledge that will help them to succeed in a competitive graduate job market. AberForward definitely contributed to our strong improvement in employability last year, with 6% more graduates in a job or further study 6 months after graduation than the previous year, and 9% more in graduate level jobs, against a UK-wide improvement of just 1%.

In December 2014, Christmas came to Aber early, with two pieces of good news for research.

First, Welsh Government Minister Jane Hutt announced that the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC) would be the first multi-million pound project of the 2014-20 European Union funding programmes. AIEC will be a £40.5m project, including £20m investment from the European Regional Development Fund, £12m from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and £8.5m from the University. The proposed new state-of-the-art facility at Gogerddan will allow companies and researchers to undertake collaborative projects to boost the bio-economy, generating innovative new products, services and spin-out companies in sustainable food, health, biotechnology and renewable energy.

Meanwhile, we also significantly improved our performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. 95% of our submission was of an internationally recognised standard or higher, with world leading research (4*) in all 17 Units of Assessment. When impact, quality of publications and research environment are combined, and the number of staff submitted is taken into account, Aberystwyth ranks in the top 50 of 154 in the UK, with particular strength in research impact. So, Aber research isn't only excellent in its own right, but it makes a real difference.

Finally, working together with our students has been vital during 2014-15, and an excellent example was the growing success of our Student Led Teaching Awards, which this year attracted an amazing 1113 nominations! On the night there was a minor Twitter war between IBERS and Geography and Earth Science about who would be crowned Department of the Year. As a humanities scholar myself, I was rather pleased to open the envelope and find that the winner was actually – English and Creative Writing! Whichever department is closest to your heart, I hope you will find good news about its progress in the pages that follow.

Governance



The Council is Aberystwyth University's supreme governing body and is responsible for the conduct of the institution's administrative, financial and other affairs in accordance with its objects, as set out in the Royal Charter.

Much of the detailed work is initially handled on behalf of the Council by several sub-committees, including: an Audit and Risk Committee; a Finance and Strategy Committee, and a Professional Development, Staffing and Equality Committee. All of these sub-committees report their decisions to the Council, and are formally constituted with their own terms of reference and a proportion of their membership is drawn from the Independent Members serving on the Council.

The University is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance, applying the core values and associated seven primary elements of governance as set out in the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) *Higher Education Code of Governance* (December 2014).

During the spring of 2015, the Council undertook a review of governance effectiveness to coincide with the CUC's new *Higher Education Code of Governance*. The Council applies an approach of continuous improvement to governance and institutional performance, and a number of the enhancements proposed as part of the most recent governance effectiveness review are now being taken forward.

During the 2014–15 academic year, the Council met on six occasions. The average attendance of all members was 84%.

Council members are not remunerated nor given any allowance as a result of their membership. However, they can be reimbursed at approved rates for out-of-pocket expenditure relating to any duties undertaken as a member of Council. During 2014–15, a total of £16,053 was reimbursed to twelve Council members.

Aberystwyth University is committed to promoting equality and diversity, and endeavours to be inclusive, valuing the diverse nature of its staff, students and community. All vacancies for Independent Members on the Council are advertised externally, with expressions of interest particularly welcome from under-representative groups.

Council membership for the 2014–15 academic year was:

Independent Members

Ex-Officio Members

Sir Emyr Jones Parry,
Chancellor and Chair of Council
Mrs Elizabeth France CBE,
Pro-Chancellor
Miss Gwerfyl Pierce Jones,
Pro-Chancellor
Dr Glyn Rowlands, Pro-Chancellor
Dr Timothy Brain OBE, Treasurer
Ms Anne Davies
Mrs Janet Davies
Mr Keith Evans
Mr Richard John
Prof Wynne Jones OBE
Mr Ian MacEachern OBE
Prof Gareth Roberts
Sir John Skehel

Staff / Student Members

Ex-Officio Members

Prof April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor
Ms Rebecca Davies,
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Prof John Grattan,
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan,
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Prof Chris Thomas,
Pro Vice-Chancellor

Senate Members

Prof Neil Glasser
Dr Joseph Ironside
Prof David Trotter †

Non-academic Staff Member

Mr Nigel Thomas

Student Representative Members

Mr Lewis Donnelly,
Aberystwyth University Students'
Union President [from 01 July 2015]
Mr Jacob Ellis,
Aberystwyth University Students'
Union President [until 30 June 2015]
Miss Hanna Merrigan,
UMCA President [from 01 July 2015]
Miss Miriam Williams,
UMCA President [until 30 June 2015]

†died August 2015

Awards and accolades

Aberystwyth was shortlisted in four categories in the Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards 2015 (THELMAs): Knowledge Exchange/Transfer Initiative of the Year, Outstanding Estates Team, Outstanding Human Resources Team and Outstanding Library Team. And the School of Management and Business was shortlisted for Business School of the Year at the Times Higher Education Awards 2014.

THE LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT AWARDS 2014
SHORTLISTED

In November 2014, as part of its participation in the EcoCampus National Award Scheme, Aberystwyth University was awarded the Silver certificate in recognition of the work taking place to improve the environmental sustainability of its campuses. EcoCampus is a UK-wide environmental management system and award scheme for the higher and further education sectors. Following its success in gaining the Silver Award, the University has been approved by EcoCampus to progress through to Gold and eventually Platinum status.



Celebrating the awarding of the EcoCampus Silver certificate; Aberystwyth University Energy Advisor Janet Sanders (centre) with colleagues Chris Woodfield (left) and James Pickerin.

In July 2015 Aberystwyth University's Penglais Campus became the first University campus in Wales to achieve the Green Flag Award. The Green Flag Award is a UK-wide partnership, delivered in Wales by Keep Wales Tidy with support from Natural Resources Wales, and is the mark of a high quality park or green space. It is judged by green space experts who visit applicant sites and assess them against eight strict criteria, including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.



2014 The CIPD People Management Awards Finalist

Aberystwyth was the only university to be shortlisted for an award at the CIPD People Management Awards. The Human Resources team featured on the shortlist in the Best Employee Relations Initiative category.



Professor Athole Marshall

The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences was shortlisted in the Economic Impact category of the Insider Business and Education Partnerships Awards 2014 for its work on oats.



The work of the team developing elephant grass (*miscanthus*) at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences was shortlisted for the Contribution to Society award at the Research Council UK / PraxisUnico 2015 Impact Awards for Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation (KEC) professionals.

Dr John Clifton-Brown in a field of miscanthus

In September 2014, Aberystwyth University was shortlisted for two awards at the Digital Preservation Awards 2014 which celebrate significant and innovative contribution to ensuring digital memory is accessible in future.

In October, the University successfully renewed its Fairtrade status with the Fairtrade Foundation. The University worked closely with Aberystwyth Students' Union to secure this status which supports the development, working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.



The University's Hospitality Services celebrated being shortlisted as finalists in the Green Gown Awards 2015. Aberystwyth was a finalist in the Food and Drink category of the Awards, which recognise the success of sustainability projects in higher education institutions across the UK.

In June 2015 the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences won the prestigious National Institute for Agricultural Botany (NIAB) Variety Cup for its AberGreen grass variety.

AberGreen first entered the industry's independent Recommended List in 2011. It is only the second forage variety ever to be recognised with the award of the NIAB Variety Cup, following on from the award made to the Aberystwyth team's first Aber High Sugar Grass, AberDart in 2003.



Professor Mike Gooding IBERS Director receiving the NIAB Variety Cup at CEREALS 2015, with Professor Athole Marshall IBERS, William Gilbert Germinal MD and Dr Tina Barsby, NIAB CEO

June 2015 saw the Centre for Research into Environment and Health (CREH) win the Software Tools award at the UK Water Industry Forum's 2015 Research Excellence Framework (REF) 'Impact' Awards.



Professor David Kay (centre) from CREH being presented with the award

CREH were presented with the award for the team's work on microbial standards for recreational waters, including real-time modelling of bacterial concentrations to deliver compliance with the new European Bathing Water Directive.

In March 2015, an image of a robot 'listening' to an unborn child won the 'People' category in this year's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Science Photography Competition.



"The Greatest Discovery" was taken by Sandy Spence at the Department of Computer Science and features mother-to-be Ayesha Jones and the Department's iCub humanoid robot.

The research of the Intelligent Robotics group at the Department of Computer Science is inspired by the development of infants during the very early stages of life. The group work with psychologists and neuroscientists to understand how children develop and learn, even from before birth.

Aberystwyth University was shortlisted for the Technology, Innovation and Application award at the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA) Awards for work in the field of research ethics.

In the media



Dr Laurence Tyler

The role played by space scientists at Aberystwyth in finding the partially deployed remains of the ill-fated 2003 Beagle2 mission to Mars was widely reported in January 2015. Dr Laurence Tyler and Dr Matt Gunn from the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science provided detailed 3D images of the area where Beagle2 was believed to have landed using powerful 'Shape from Shading' computer software and images taken by the HiRISE camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. Coverage, which also included acknowledgement of the contribution of the late Professor Dave Barnes to the Beagle2 mission, included items on the BBC, *Independent*, *Huffington Post*, *Daily Mail*, *Western Mail* and *Daily Post*.



Research by scientists at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences working in collaboration with scientists in Dijon, France to try to solve the problem of bad tasting beer was widely reported, with items appearing on *BBC Online*, *ITV*, *Western Mail*, *Daily Post*. Beer brewers face a tricky problem. The high level of activity in the yeast used to produce beer generates a lot of heat during the brewing process, raising the temperature at the bottom of brewing vats. Unfortunately yeast often suffers damage to its structure at these high temperatures, and this damage gives the beer a bad taste.



Senior lecturer in Law and Criminology, Dr Gareth Norris appeared on Channel Five's *Jack the Ripper: The Missing Evidence* in November where he profiled a new suspect in the infamous 'Jack the Ripper' Whitechapel murders. The programme looked at the three decades of research conducted by journalist Christer Holmgren, whose focus eventually fell onto a witness known as Charles Cross, whose real name was Charles Allen Lechmere.



The robotic orchestra performing at the 2014 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures

A robotic orchestra built by researchers at the Department of Computer Science featured in the 2014 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. Comprising a pipe organ, scrap components from a vacuum cleaner, various plumbing components, a child's glockenspiel modified to be played automatically and an electronic keyboard, the 'orchestra' played its part in a robotic performance of the *Dr Who* theme tune during the finale which was broadcast on BBC Four on New Year's Eve.



Ian Izett (left) and Dave Price, creators of the Aberystwyth robotic orchestra



Professor Colin McInnes

Calls for greater funding for the World Health Organisation in light of the Ebola outbreak in west Africa by members of the global health scholarly community in January 2015 were widely reported. Professor Colin McInnes, Director of the Centre for Health and International Relations, Dr Christian Enemark, Reader in Global Health and International Politics, and PhD student Clare Wenham were co-signatories to an open letter on the Ebola crisis published in the *The Lancet* with their contribution reported in the *Western Mail*.



Twelve Aberystwyth University alumni were elected to the House of Commons in Westminster in the 2015 General Election.

Mike Wood MP, Liz Saville-Roberts MP and Will Quince MP are newly elected members, whilst Guto Bebb MP, Jonathan Edwards MP, Rehman Chishti MP, Glyn Davies MP, Lady Sylvia Hermon MP, Dan Jarvis MP, Colonel Bob Stewart MP, Gareth Thomas MP and Mark Williams MP were all re-elected.



Aberystwyth University Creative Writing graduate, Kate Hamer has been tipped by the *Guardian* as one of the most promising new authors of 2015 in their 'New Faces of Fiction', a list of the first time novelists they believe will "make a splash". Kate's story, *The Girl in the Red Coat* is described as a re-telling of Little Red Riding Hood inspired by the image of a little girl, in a red coat, lost in a wood.



Aberystwyth University Computer Science Lecturer Dr Hannah Dee was named by *Computer Weekly* as the tenth most influential woman in UK computing in July 2015. Dr Dee is the highest ranked academic on the list, which is in its fourth year.

Dr Dee is deputy chair of BCSWomen, the Chartered Institute for IT's group for women, and is recognised for her work in establishing the BCSWomen Lovelace Colloquium, the UK's main conference for female undergraduates which is now in its seventh year. Her research areas are computer vision for the analysis of human behaviour, the detection of shadows and reasoning about shadows, and student attitudes to the study of computer science.

In December 2014, A J S "Bill" Williams, an Honorary Teaching Fellow at Aberystwyth University was named one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's 175 Faces of Chemistry.

The 175 Faces of Chemistry was launched by the Royal Society of Chemistry's (RSC) in 2012 to celebrate their 175th anniversary in February 2016.

Other individuals to have been listed include Joseph Priestley, who is mostly known for his discovery of oxygen, Marie Curie who was the first person to receive two Nobel Prizes in different scientific fields, and Michael Faraday, the chemist and physicist who contributed significantly to the study of electromagnetism and electrochemistry.

Bill was specifically recognised for the work he did educating more than 80,000 schoolchildren during his long career at Aberystwyth University from 1950-2011.



Creating opportunities

Breaking down barriers to access, supporting students and staff to succeed and grow, embedding employability across our curriculum and promoting experiences that allow our students to test and develop their skills, valuing people and maximising their potential, reflecting social responsibility in all we do.

ABER

Aber Forwards



In January 2015 Aberystwyth University launched an ambitious and innovative programme to offer current students and recent graduates relevant and useful work experience.

Aber Forward allows participants to develop a range of valuable transferable skills and supports the recognition of these skills so that participants feel more confident entering the job market after graduation.

The AberForward Summer Scheme is open to second year and third year undergraduates to undertake full-time, paid work experience across the University over the summer months.

The AberForward Graduate Scheme gives recent undergraduates paid work experience on the University's campuses and allows them to benefit from a series of workshops to develop the skills and knowledge that will help them to succeed in a competitive graduate job market.

The AberForward Internship Scheme provides an invaluable opportunity for recent graduates to undertake a fully paid internship that will expose them to the challenging and stimulating business of the Higher Education sector. There are opportunities across many disciplines at the University and are ideal for ambitious and talented graduates who wish to make their first inroads into a successful career in Higher Education.

In September 2014 Aberystwyth University received two awards recognising its commitment to supporting equality of opportunity for all. The first was an Athena SWAN Charter Bronze Award in recognition of its commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) in higher education and research. The second was a Bronze level in the Equality Challenge Unit's trial Gender Equality Charter Mark (GEM), recognising the University's progress in advancing gender equality in arts, humanities and social science careers in higher education.



“One of the best packages of awards, bursaries and scholarships in the UK, worth up to £15,000”

Between September 2014 and April 2015 Aberystwyth University achieved both the Bronze and Silver awards for the Corporate Health Standard, a Welsh Government run quality mark for workplace health promotion in Wales.

Speaking after the awarding of the Silver Award, Deputy Director of Human Resources, Heather Hinkin, said: “This is excellent news. To be awarded the Silver Award less than a year after being awarded Bronze, shows we are making real progress. There is a great deal of excellent work taking place here at Aberystwyth University to increase and promote health and well-being among staff and students. This work includes stress awareness, promoting healthy eating options in our cafes and restaurants, the Fit and Well initiative, and supporting people who wish to give up smoking.”



Heather Hinkin



In December 2014 the first cohort of Aberystwyth University staff successfully completed the Springboard Women's Development Programme. Over a period of four months, twenty women from academic and professional services departments followed the award-winning programme, which is designed for women from all backgrounds, ages and stages in their lives who want to make a better world for themselves at work and home, whilst building the practical skills and confidence to take these steps.



In January 2015 the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences secured five iCASE PhD Studentship grants worth £452,000, funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

CASE studentships are collaborative training grants that provide students with a first-rate challenging research training experience, allowing top quality bioscience graduates to undertake research leading to a PhD, within the context of a mutually beneficial research collaboration between academic and partner organisations.

Aberystwyth University student Miriam Elin Jones won a Scholarship through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to study for a PhD in Welsh language science fiction. Her study, *The Future, Space and Monsters in Welsh Prose*, will examine Welsh prose science fiction elements by starting with the Mabinogi legends and the history of the genre. She begins with science proto-fiction of the nineteenth century, and discusses its development in the twentieth century to the present.



Horses Inside Out

Aberystwyth University announced two new degree programmes for September 2015.

The new BA in Education and International Development was launched by the School of Education and Lifelong Learning and is aimed at those who are interested in using Education as a means for community and social development from a global perspective.

The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences launched the UK's first ever degree in Equine and Veterinary Bioscience. Students study how horses are bred for superior traits, nutrition, welfare, reproduction, exercise physiology, behaviour and wellbeing, providing the underpinning scientific theory and veterinary medicine of the animal.

Statistics released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency during July showed a significant improvement in the employability performance indicator for Aberystwyth University.

The percentage of full-time first degree leavers (i.e. full time undergraduates when they were studying at Aberystwyth) in work or further study, or both, increased from 85.5% in 2012/13 to 91.4% in the Destinations of Leavers of Higher Education Survey 2013/14.

While this step-change was against a background of rising employability for new graduates UK-wide and in Wales – up one percentage point - Aberystwyth improved well above the national trend with a six percentage point increase.

In addition, the proportion of employed Aberystwyth University graduates gaining graduate-level employment rose at an even greater rate – up nine percentage points on 2012/13.

Working in Partnership

Collaborating with other universities, with the local community and Further Education, with employers and businesses and with our alumni, building global partnerships and enriching the experience of our students, staff and our partners.



During the last week of October 2014 students and staff at Aberystwyth University wore purple ribbons to mark Philanthropy Week in Wales and to show their appreciation for those who have donated money to the University over the years. Aberystwyth University is an official partner of Philanthropy Week Wales, an initiative convened by the Community Foundation in Wales to celebrate, promote and explore philanthropy in Wales.



Official opening of Wales Veterinary Science Centre; L to R Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor Aberystwyth University, Professor Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales, Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Farming and Food Rebecca Evans AM, and Mr Phil Thomas, Director, Iechyd Da.

The new Wales Veterinary Science Centre was officially launched by Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, Rebecca Evans at the end of June 2015. Located on the site of the former Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) Veterinary Investigation Centre, the Wales Veterinary Science Centre has been established by Iechyd Da, a consortium of independent veterinary practices based in Wales together with Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd, and Aberystwyth University.



Joe Hutton preparing for the eclipse on Svalbard

Scientists from Aberystwyth University headed to the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard to study the total eclipse of the sun which took place on Friday 20 March. Researchers Joe Hutton and Nathalia Alzate are members of the Solar System Physics Group at the Department of Physics at Aberystwyth University. On Svalbard they joined an international team of scientists from the USA, the Czech Republic and Germany to study the sun's atmosphere, the corona.

And in Aberystwyth, hundreds gathered at the Arts Centre to view the eclipse at a public engagement event hosted by the Department of Physics.



Viewing the eclipse at the Arts Centre

In April 2015 researchers at Aberystwyth teamed up with colleagues at Bangor and Cardiff universities to establish a new Plants & Architecture Network. Funded via Welsh Government's Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon, Energy and the Environment (NRN-LCEE), the network seeks to revisit the relationship between plants and architecture through biomimicry, a science that studies nature's best ideas and then imitates these designs and processes to solve human problems. At its core is the idea that nature, imaginative by necessity, has already solved many of the problems society is grappling with.





Aberystwyth University Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year 2015/16: (left to right) Bethan Roberts, Chief Operating Officer Mind Aberystwyth; Fiona Aldred, Chief Executive Mind Aberystwyth; Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor Aberystwyth University; Tim Bennett, Chief Business & Finance Officer Mind Aberystwyth and Zoe Berridge, Mental Health Coordinator Mind Aberystwyth.

Mind Aberystwyth was announced as the Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year for 2015/16 during Graduation in July 2015. Now in its fourth year, the Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year seeks to raise vital funds for a worthy cause. Mind Aberystwyth provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. It campaigns to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding as latest figures show that every year one in four people experiences a mental health problem.

One of the safest places in the UK to be a student

(Daily Mail's Complete University Guide 2014)



L to R: IBERS researchers working on the sustainable packaging initiative; Abhishek Somani, Ana Winters, Joe Gallager, Sian Davies (project manager), David Bryant, Stephen Taylor, Sreenivas Ravela and David Walker.

An international consortium led by the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences is exploring the use of locally-available lignocellulosic materials, such as wheat, straw or elephant grass (*Miscanthus*), to produce bio-based, biodegradable plastic packaging for consumer markets. The consortium, ADMIT BioSuccInnovate, is an innovative Climate-KIC initiative funded by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), along with Reverdia and other European partners. The packaging is being developed in association with UK retailer Waitrose and food tray producer Sharpak.



Aber Dragons prepare to film Aber Does Dragons' Den

In November 2014 Pupils at Penglais School, Aberystwyth pitched their business ideas to a panel of Dragons as part of an initiative to promote entrepreneurship by the School of Management and Business. Five teams of year 12 and 13 pupils studying for a BTEC level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business at Penglais School developed business proposals and received expert advice on pitching ideas, marketing, finance and intellectual property from mentors at the University. In true *Dragon's Den* style, the programme was recorded and edited by staff and students at the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies.



In October 2014 the Welsh Department at Aberystwyth University hosted a Professional Welsh Conference for sixth formers to highlight a vocational BA degree that teaches valuable skills for the workplace. Presentations were made by Dylan Iorwerth, Managing Editor of Golwg, Branwen Huws, Head of Marketing at Y Lolfa, and Delyth Jewell, Head of Research for Plaid Cymru in Parliament, London, and winner of Researcher of the Year at Westminster.

Left to Right: Lecturer in Professional Welsh Rhianedd Jewell with contributors Delyth Jewell, Dylan

Iorwerth and Branwen Huws



In April Aberystwyth University welcomed young people from across Ceredigion and Powys to its GCSE Mathematics Revision Week. During the four-day residential course, over 80 young people brushed up on their mathematics ahead of their GCSEs in the summer.

Teaching that inspires

Enhancing our recognised world class student experience through investment in quality infrastructure and an excellent portfolio which emphasises employability and lifelong skills, equipping our students for future success.



Exemplary Course Awards 2014-15: Left to right: Dr Jarrett Blaustein (Law and Criminology), Mary Jacob (Exemplary Course Awards organiser), Dr Rosemary Cann (Education and Lifelong Learning), Dr Rupert Marshall (IBERS), Professor April McMahon (Vice-Chancellor), Neil Taylor (Computer Science), Professor John Grattan (Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Experience and International) and Dr Adam Vellender (Mathematics).

The winners of the Aberystwyth University Exemplary Course Awards 2014-15 were announced in March.

Launched by the University's E-learning Team in 2013 to recognise excellence in teaching, online Blackboard modules were judged on four criteria; course design, interaction and collaboration, assessment and learner support.

The overall winner in the 2014-15 Exemplary Course Awards was Dr Rupert Marshall from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, for his module 'Zoo Science'.

Dr Rosemary Cann from the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, and Dr Adam Vellender from the Department of Mathematics were both highly commended for their respective modules, 'Psychology of Learning and Thinking', and 'Partial Differential Equations'.

Neil Taylor from the Department of Computer Science, was commended for his module 'Agile Methodologies', as were Dr Jarrett Blaustein (with Kate Williams and Sarah Wydall) from the Department of Law and Criminology for their module 'Critical Perspectives on Imprisonment'.



Department of the Year, English and Creative Writing

English and Creative Writing were the winners of the Department of the Year at the Student led Teaching Awards (SLTAs) held in April 2015.

Organised by the Students' Union, with the support of the University, this year's SLTAs received a record 1,113 nominations. The awards presented included Outstanding Teaching Award; Exceptional Contribution to University Life; Support Staff of the Year; Excellence in Welsh-Medium Education; Postgraduate Teacher Award; New Staff Member of the Year; Personal Tutor of the Year; Supervisor of the Year; Student Representative of the Year and Department of the Year.

A full list of winners is available online at www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2015/04/title-166355-en.html



In September 2014, Aberystwyth University hosted a major conference looking at developments in learning and teaching.

Entitled *Inspiring Teaching: Sharing Teaching and Technology Tales*, the three day event attracted more than 90 delegates from across the University and the UK, and considered the latest research and methodologies in the enhancement of student engagement and learning.



Aberystwyth University saw a rise in student satisfaction with quality of teaching and learning resources according to the National Student Survey (NSS) which was published in August 2014.

The NSS is an annual survey of final year undergraduate students, which aims to inform the choices of prospective higher education students and to foster a culture of continuous improvement across the Higher Education sector.

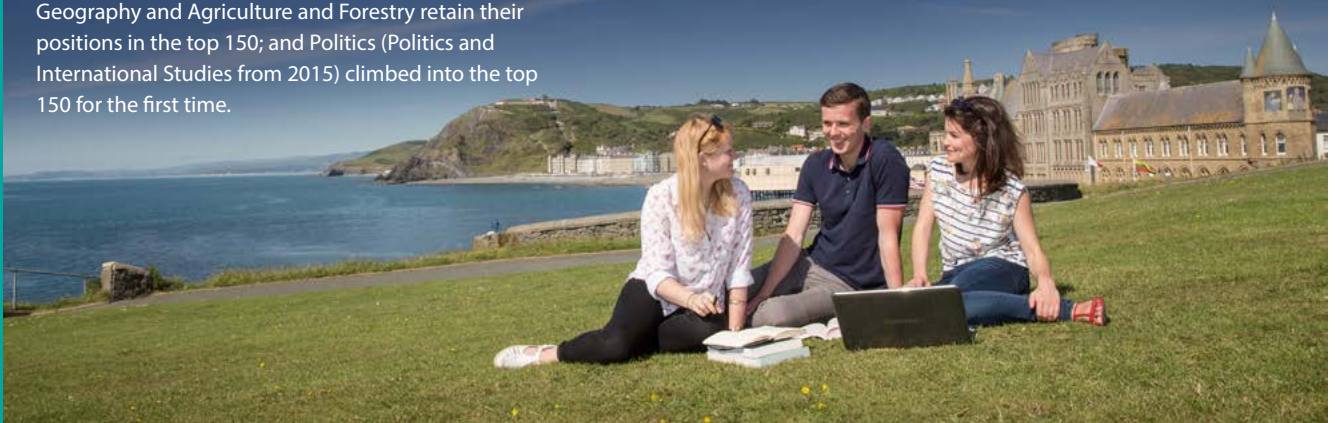
83% of Aberystwyth students responded that they are satisfied with their overall Aberystwyth student experience, and 86% said they were satisfied with the quality of teaching on their course, an increase from 84% in 2013.

86% of our graduates are in employment and/or further study six months after graduation

Five academic subjects at Aberystwyth University feature amongst the world's elite according to the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject published in April 2015.

Environmental Science, a new entry, and English Language and Literature feature in the top 300; Geography and Agriculture and Forestry retain their positions in the top 150; and Politics (Politics and International Studies from 2015) climbed into the top 150 for the first time.

Now in its fourth edition, the QS World University Rankings by Subject evaluated 3,467 universities and ranked 971 institutions. Over 82 million citations attributions were analysed and the provision of 13,132 programs verified.



Research with excellence

that makes an impact

Building on our research successes to make a difference by addressing global challenges and providing a way of understanding the future through the past.

REF2014 Research Excellence Framework

The University significantly improved the quality of its research in the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF), the results of which were published in December 2014.

The results report that 95% of the research activity submitted by the University is of an internationally recognised standard or higher, with world leading research (4*) identified in all 17 of the Units of Assessment submitted.

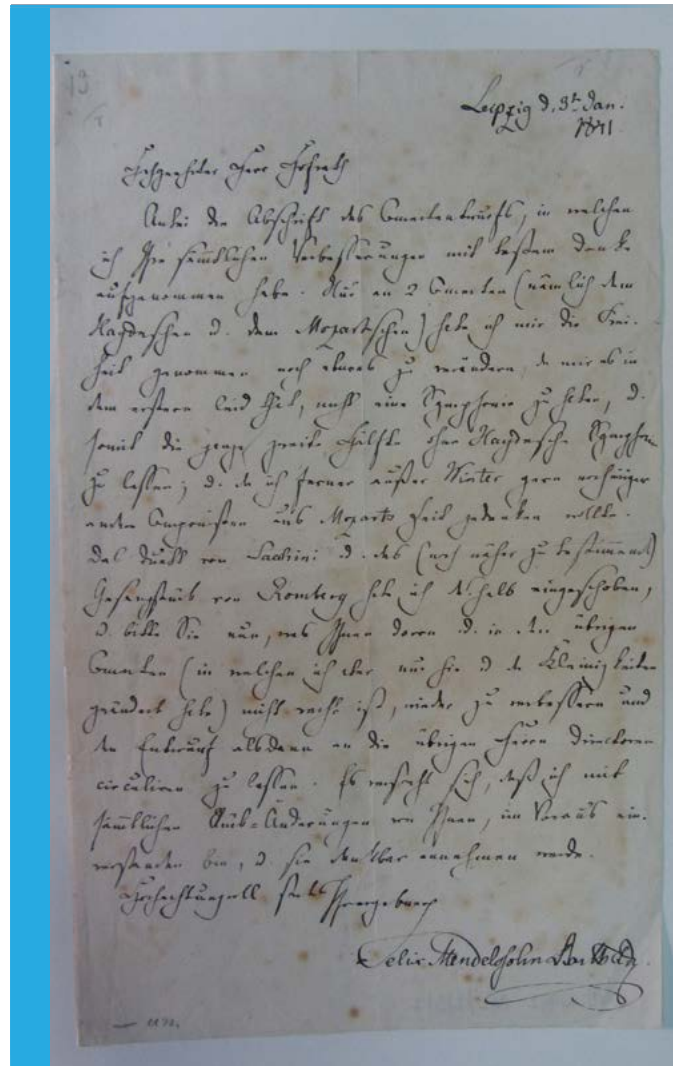
When measures of impact, quality of publications and research environment are combined, and the number of staff submitted is taken into account, Aberystwyth ranks in the top 50 out of 154 in the UK.

According to the *Times Higher Education*, Aberystwyth is 46th in the UK for research intensity. The University is also in the top 50 for the percentage of top-rated, world leading 4* research.



Welsh Black cattle

An Aberystwyth University study investigating the role of traditional and modern breeds of beef cattle in influencing methane emissions was published in the journal *PLOS ONE* in October 2014. The study was the first to quantify methane emissions for free-ranging beef cattle pastured on common grassland types in the lowlands and the uplands.



Letters written by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), best known for his Wedding March score and still the most frequently used music to wedding ceremonies today, were recently conserved and are now accessible to future generations for study and research at Aberystwyth University.

The documents, bequeathed to the University over a century ago through the generosity of Sir Hugh Owen and George Powell of Nanteos (1842-1882), include 17 letters and also two supposed autograph overture scores by the German Romantic composer, pianist and conductor.



Professor Iwan Morus with an induction coil which were in use from the 1830s. Between around 1890 and 1920 they were used to generate high voltage to create electromagnetic (radio) waves.

In January Professor Iwan Morus from the Department of History and Welsh History, along with researchers from York and Newcastle universities, was awarded £750,000 to study how science fiction writers and readers during the 20th century anticipated the future through new scientific developments.

The study, *Unsettling Science: expertise, narrative and future histories*, is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The three year project will investigate the relationships between science, fiction and popular culture over the course of the long technological 20th century (1887-2007), focusing on how innovations in science, technology and medicine have been used by writers, policy-makers and the general public to anticipate and think about the future.



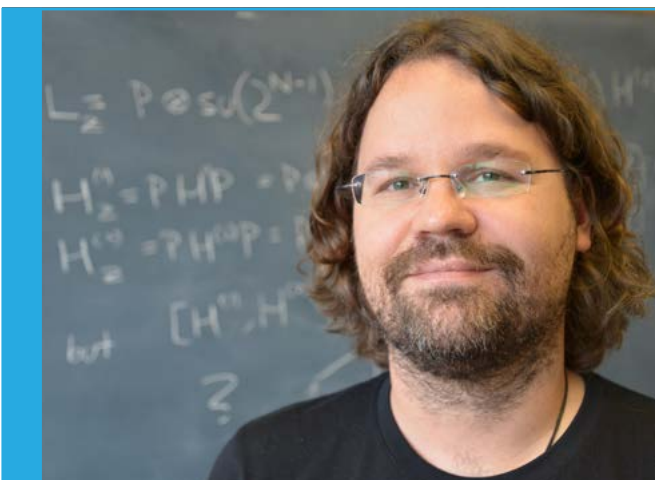
In March 2015 scientists at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences proved that growing lupins provides a viable alternative source of soya-grade protein for animal and fish feeds in the UK.

The potential for home-grown lupins to replace imported soya in livestock, poultry and aquaculture concentrate feeds has been made clear through the three year project which has revealed that livestock, poultry and fish given rations containing lupins perform equally well and in some cases better than those fed rations of comparable quality containing soya.

Following the research, which was funded by 10 industry partners and co-funded by Innovate UK and the BBSRC, farmers will now be advised that home-grown lupins have the potential to provide soya-grade protein.

“ 95% of the University's research is of an internationally recognised standard or higher ”

(Research Excellence Framework 2014)



In October 2014 a new mechanism for building quantum computers was proposed by an international team of scientists led by Dr Daniel Klaus Burgarth from the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science.

Scientists are engaged in a world wide effort to build large quantum computers which will be able to perform some very complex computations in a very short time, tasks that would take the most powerful computers in use today many thousands of years to complete.

Writing in the scientific journal *Nature Communications*, Dr Burgarth *et al* described how the frequent observation of a basic building block of a quantum system, a qubit, could lead to the creation of far more powerful computers.



In November the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) hosted the 2014 *Miscanthus* Safari and Symposium. The promising energy crop *Miscanthus* is being improved through breeding seed based hybrids at IBERS with academic and commercial partners in the UK, EU and USA.

Miscanthus, also known as Asian Elephant Grass, is a perennial grass with high energy output over input ratios which has been bred at Gogerddan since 2004, and is a crop that could be attractive in diversifying farm business in Wales, thereby increasing renewable energy without undermining food security.



Can an embryo learn? If you're a snail embryo it certainly seems so!

Pond snails are able to sense chemicals released by their predators whilst they are still embryos in the egg and alter their behaviour accordingly.

Writing in the online journal *Freshwater Biology* in December 2014, Dr Sarah Dalesman from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, along with researchers from Exeter and Plymouth, showed that when snails are exposed to predator smell during this very early developmental stage, they are better able to avoid predatory fish once they hatch.



Dr Roger Santer from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, has taken a novel approach to understanding how tsetse flies see coloured visual baits, and why they are attracted to different colours.

Tsetse flies transmit human African trypanosomiasis or 'Sleeping Sickness' in sub-Saharan Africa, which is potentially fatal. Coloured baits and traps are used to kill or catch tsetse flies, and are one of the most effective ways of controlling the spread of the disease.

The findings were published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* in December 2014.



Sarah Beynon IBERS PhD student with Beulah sheep

Sheep were domesticated 10,000 years ago, but little was previously known about the history, genetic diversity and relationship between Welsh and other European breeds. Understanding the relationships between breeds will assist breeding strategies aimed at improving production through lower costs, increased efficiency, improved livestock health and monitoring of inbreeding.

The findings of a three year study published by *BMC Genetics* in June 2015 by Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences PhD student Sarah Beynon, Dr Gancho Slavov and Dr Denis Larkin of the Royal Veterinary College in London, concluded that the genetic integrity of native Welsh breeds and the contemporary scientific techniques of genetic selection offer breeders in Wales the opportunity to develop commercial flocks that will be comparable to commercial breeds like Texel, but better adapted to the local environment.



The final film in *The Hobbit* trilogy, *The Battle of the Five Armies* went on general release in the UK on 12 December 2014. On the same day, the most ambitious research project ever undertaken into film audiences was launched by academics at Aberystwyth University.

The World Hobbit Project saw up to 140 researchers in 46 countries collaborating to seek responses in 33 different languages to a survey designed to get inside all the meanings that fantasy has for people around the world.

The project was led by Professor Martin Barker (left) and Professor Matt Hills from the department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies.



Glaciologists from Aberystwyth University have published papers in several high profile publications during the year.

Samuel Doyle and an international team of colleagues led from the University's Centre for Glaciology published the results of a study in *Nature Geoscience*, which showed the Greenland ice sheet to accelerate in response to surface rainfall and melt associated with late-summer and autumnal cyclonic weather events.

An international team of researchers including Professor Neil Glasser from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences discovered that small glaciers that end on land around the Antarctic Peninsula are highly vulnerable to slight changes in air temperature and may be at risk of disappearing within 200 years. According to the research published in *Nature Climate Change*, increased snowfall will not prevent the continued melting of glaciers in the northern Antarctic Peninsula.

A Natural Environment Research Council funded study using novel field measurements to guide a numerical model has found that the Greenland Ice Sheet is more sensitive to climate change than previously thought. The findings, based on a 3D ice sheet model developed by researchers at the University of Cambridge and constrained by detailed field measurements taken on the ice sheet by Aberystwyth University, were published in the journal *Nature Communications* in September 2014.



Dr Huw Morgan (centre) was a leading member of an international team that studied the 2015 solar eclipse

In July 2015 Dr Huw Morgan from the Department of Physics was awarded a Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship to map and forecast space weather.

The project aims to develop an automated 3-D mapping system to detect and locate Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) – solar eruptions which interact with the Earth's magnetosphere.

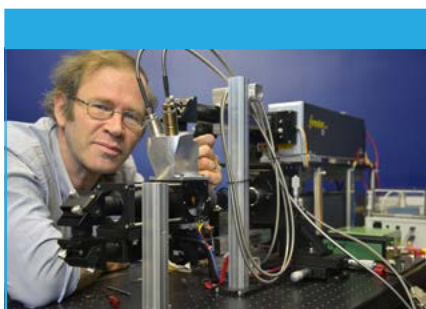
Under certain conditions, these solar eruptions are sufficiently powerful to interfere with infrastructure including satellites, and can cause widespread disruption to communication systems. Recent evidence suggests they may also have a significant effect on the climate of the Earth.

The improved detection of CMEs will enable the identification and forecasting of solar eruptions which are approaching Earth, thus providing more warning and a greater understanding of the effects.



Professor Alan Clarke, Sarah Wydall and Professor John Williams

January 2015 saw the launch of a new study into justice and elder abuse by the Department of Law and Criminology. The project is led by Professor Alan Clarke, Dr Sarah Wydall and Professor John Williams and is funded by a Big Lottery Fund research grant of £890,000. The work is being undertaken by the Centre for Ageing, Abuse and Neglect.



Dr Dave Langstaff and the levitating furnace

A levitating furnace that can reach temperatures over half that found on the surface of the Sun has been developed for a leading Chinese university by researchers at the Department of Physics. The furnace represents the first major contract to be secured by the Department with a Chinese university and was exported to Wuhan University of Technology shortly before Christmas 2014



The Chew Bahir Drilling Project: Preparing to remove a core section in its core liner from the lowermost drill rod © Verena Foerster, University of Potsda

Professor Henry Lamb from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth led a strong UK research team on an international project to drill to great depths in a dried up lake in east Africa, to establish how human evolution and migration were influenced by past changes in climate.

The Chew Bahir Drilling Project, in a remote part of south Ethiopia, will provide a sedimentary record of changes in rainfall, temperature and vegetation, spanning the last 500,000 years of human evolution.



New research by Dr Lucy Taylor of the Department of International Politics reveals how the establishment of Y Wladfa, the Welsh settlement established in 1865 in the Argentinian state of Patagonia, was entangled in the global dynamics of power, money and ideas.

The story of Y Wladfa has often been told as if it touched the lives of the Welsh alone. However, writing in the May edition of *Planet – The Welsh Internationalist*, Dr Taylor situates Y Wladfa within the context of Indigenous society and Argentine nation-building.

Drawing on diaries, memoirs and newspapers, Dr Taylor's research focuses particularly on the relationship between the Welsh colonists and the indigenous peoples whose land they went to settle.



More than 300 million people are infected each year with parasitic flatworms (helminths). Among the 17 neglected tropical diseases listed by the United Nations World Health Organization, the diseases caused by these pathogens are typically chronic and frequently deadly.

Aberystwyth University parasitologist Professor Karl Hoffmann was the lead author of *Halting harmful helminths. Vaccines and new drugs are needed to combat parasitic worm infections* published in *Science* in October 2014.

The perspective focuses on developing innovative state-of-the-art approaches to manipulate parasitic worms for advancing vaccines and drugs to control them. Professor Hoffman is working with colleagues in George Washington University in Washington DC and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge.

Engaging the World

Building our international reputation, attracting students and staff from across the globe and working in collaboration with internationally-recognised partners.



DRY (I want to be a girl again), described as “one of the most socially relevant African movie projects ever made”, was premiered at Aberystwyth Arts Centre at the end of November 2014.

Based in Aberystwyth and Nigeria and produced by Next Page Productions, the film deals with child brides and the medical condition Vesico Vaginal Fistula or VVF.

Written, directed and produced by Stephanie Linus (née Okereke), who also plays the leading role, *Dry* was made in partnership with Aberystwyth University, with technical support provided by students from the Department of Theatre Film and Television Studies.

The premiere was attended by members of the cast and featured contributions from Dr Mrs Precious Gbeneol, Special Adviser to the Nigerian President, and Victor Emanuel Smith, High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana.

Dr Mrs Precious Gbeneol, Stephanie Linus, and Professor April McMahon

In August 2014 Aberystwyth University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Polytechnic of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria. The MoU forms the basis for the development of a series of joint programmes between Ado-Ekti and the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences in areas such as food security, Schistosomiasis (a parasitic disease prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa), research into mapping Malaria and work on identifying medicinally relevant natural products.



Dr Charles Ologunde, Dr Theresa Taiwo Akande, Professor April McMahon and Mrs Adeniran Stephanie Odusade

Representatives from Google, Microsoft, the European Commission, UNESCO and academics from both sides of the Atlantic were amongst the delegates for an international symposium on censorship of the internet which was held at Aberystwyth University in September. *Internet Jurisdiction Symposium: National Law v Global Online Communications – Re-Negotiating Westphalia?* was organised by the University’s departments of Law & Criminology and International Politics.

Conference organiser Dr Uta Kohl from the Department of Law and Criminology





A woodcut by Xie Minjie

In October 2014, the School of Art welcomed four artists from Changsha, Hunan Province, China, who were visiting the Contemporary Chinese Printmaking Exhibition at the School.

Curated by Paul Croft, Lecturer in Printmaking at the School of Art, this exchange exhibition comprised of over seventy prints by 28 printmakers including members of The Hunan Printmaking Association, students from Changsha Central South University, Changsha Normal University (CNU) and the Art School at Hunan University of Science and Technology.

In May 2014 Paul Croft travelled to Changsha for the opening of the first show, 'Jie' (Borders), a joint exhibition between Aberystwyth University and Changsha Central South University at Changsha Houhu International Art Park. During his visit, Paul Croft lectured at each of the three universities and taught a four-day lithography workshop to 30 students.



With students from more than 90 countries from all corners of globe, the University marked the contribution of its international community in March 2015 with a week-long celebration under the banner One World Week, organised by the University's International Office in conjunction with the Students' Union. Events included an evening to celebrate long standing relations with Malaysia, a gala evening of international talent, and a debate on immigration and international students which featured contributions from international student representatives and General Election candidates.

Voted 2nd in the UK for language support

(i-graduate survey 2013)



Students from the Korea Wales International Christian School with the director of the University's International English Centre, Rachael Davey.

In December 2014 the International English Centre at Aberystwyth University formed a unique partnership with the Korean Wales Christian School near Seoul.

The school was founded in 2008, but the link between Wales and Korea dates back to 1866, when Welsh missionary Robert Jermain Thomas spread the Protestant teachings in East Asia.

During the first quarter of 2015, twelve students from KWICS studied at Aberystwyth University, where they integrated successfully into the University and the local community. The school also provided two cellos and two violins for its students to play in St Paul's Methodist Centre in Aberystwyth, where they are active members of the congregation.



Anna Sharad Gautam and Katharina Hopp

Following the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015, members of the International Students Association at Aberystwyth University set about raising money to support the rebuilding work.

Anna Sharad Gautam from the Nepalese capital Kathmandu, and Katharina Hopp from Oldenburg, Germany, who were studying International Politics and the Third World raised funds for the British Red Cross Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, Dr Tony Callaghan who completed a PhD at IBERS in February 2015, found himself working to secure a supply of clean water in Kathmandu and in the more remote area of Nuwakot, north-west of the capital.

Tony, who worked with German based non-profit, non-governmental organisation Arche Nova, provided chemical and biological analysis to assess the quality of drinking water before and after purification, and its suitability for human consumption.



Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences plant science student Callum Scotson spent June 2015 studying at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, having been awarded funding by the Tropical Agriculture Association to complete his undergraduate dissertation research on cacao flowers. Callum's research followed on from previous studies which found that flowers which grow from the trunk of the cacao tree yield more cacao seeds than the flowers which grow from its branches.



In July 2015 Professor Mark Macklin and his team were awarded £300,000 through the British Council Newton – Al-Farabi partnership program to develop an evidence-based water resources management strategy in south Kazakhstan.

As part of the project, fieldwork will be carried out to evaluate the effects of past and present metal mining on water and sediment quality in the region, assess current flood risk and community vulnerability to climate change, and mitigate these problems by producing policies that improve water stress resilience.

The project will involve collaboration with leading universities in Kazakhstan, and the government funded Institute of Geography in Almaty, to maximise knowledge transfer and to train the next generation of Kazakh water resource managers.

Investing in our future

Growing our resources and investing in our environment to deliver on our strategic priorities, ensuring Aberystwyth's future sustainability and growth.



In December 2014 Welsh Government's Finance and Government Business Minister Jane Hutt announced that the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC), which will be based at the University's Gogerddan campus, would be the first multi-million pound project to receive funding through the new £2 billion European Union funding programmes 2014-2020.

AIEC, which represents an investment of around £40.5m, will see the construction of a new state-of-the-art, internationally recognised facility to attract further research funding so that companies and researchers can undertake collaborative research projects to boost the bio-economy. The research is expected to generate innovative new products, services and spin-out companies in sustainable food, health, biotechnology and renewable energy sectors.

In addition to the £20m investment from the European Regional Development Fund, through the Welsh Government, AIEC receives £12m from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and £8.5m from the University.

In February 2015 Aberystwyth University held its first ever 'Green Week'. Organised by the University's Sustainability Team in conjunction with Aberystwyth Students' Union, the week featured series of awareness raising events, including film nights, campus walks, and a beach clean. Funds raised during the week were donated to WWF Cymru.



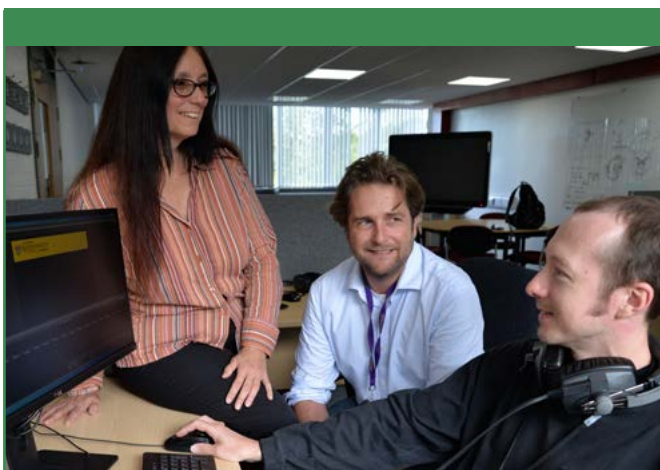
In January 2015 Aberystwyth University's new £45m student residences, Fferm Penglais, welcomed its first students.

Located immediately behind the existing award-winning Pentre Jane Morgan student village, Fferm Penglais is within easy walking distance of the University's Penglais campus and Llanbadarn Centre.

Offering accommodation for 1000 students, and inspired by the landscape and architecture of rural Wales, Fferm Penglais provides generous en-suite bedrooms, double kitchens and open plan lounge areas. To further support learning and social activities, a central hub known as *Y Sgubor* provides a range of social and learning facilities including launderettes, bike stores, a communal space for clubs and societies, and a cafe.

Y Sgubor





In August 2014 Aberystwyth University launched Aber Academy, a new centre to facilitate the creation of multimedia learning resources using audio, video and animation to improve and enrich the student learning experience.

Representing an investment of £200,000 Aber Academy provides training for members of staff on how to use technology effectively, and space to exchange ideas and share good practice in learning and teaching.



Aberystwyth University Pro Chancellor, Elizabeth France (centre) opens the new learning and teaching facilities in the Llandinam Building, with Nigel Thomas, Learning Spaces Design Development Manager and architect Nia Jeremiah

The second phase of a £8.1m investment programme to upgrade teaching and learning facilities at Aberystwyth University was completed in September 2014, in time for the new academic year.

Ten lecture and seminar rooms, and learning and study spaces in the Llandinam Building, were kitted out with the latest in audio-visual technology and new furniture which can be adapted to reflect a host of different teaching and learning requirements, from group work to more traditional seminar and lecture layouts.

▮▮ Aberystwyth was officially crowned a “Great Town” at the prestigious Academy of Urbanism 2015 Awards in November 2014. Aberystwyth won the award for its leading work in promoting its location, economy and community. ▮▮



In December 2014 the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences secured a place in InnoLife, a consortium of 144 European companies, research institutes and universities allowing access to applications for €2.1bn of European funds.

InnoLife has been selected by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) as the Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) for EIT Health. With a total fund of €2.1 billion, it is one of the largest public funded initiatives for health worldwide.

InnoLife aims to contribute to increasing the competitiveness of European industry, improve the quality of life of Europe’s citizens and the sustainability of the healthcare system. The partnership will promote entrepreneurship and develop innovations in healthy living and active ageing.

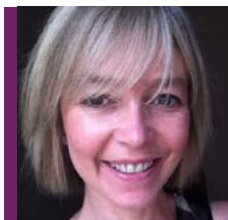
Appointments

New appointments



Daniel Benham, formerly Chief Financial Officer for the International Baccalaureate Organisation, was appointed Director of Finance in February 2015. A graduate of Imperial College London where he studied Microbiology, Daniel joined the

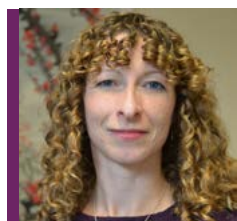
International Baccalaureate Organisation in 2006. Prior to this he had a 15 year career in business with Schick Wilkinson Sword (Energizer, Pfizer and Warner Lambert) and Oral B (Gillette).



Professor Jo Crotty joined the School of Management and Business in July 2015 as Professor of Management and Director of Post Graduate Studies. Jo has worked at University of Liverpool Management School, Aston Business School and Salford Business School in Manchester where she was UG Director,

PG Director and Head of Department respectively. Her research focuses on greening, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and civil society development across the former Soviet Union and China; and also CSR and gender.

Senior appointments



Ruth Owen Lewis was appointed as the new Director of the International Office in

October 2014. Ruth joined the University in 2001, and has held several posts in the International Office including International Officer, International Partnerships Manager, Deputy Director and for the past year, Acting Director.



Professor Mike Christie was appointed as the Head of the School of Management and Business in

January 2015. An agriculture graduate from Aberdeen University, Mike also completed his PhD in Environmental Economics at Aberdeen. In 1996, he was appointed a Lecturer in Environmental Economics at Aberystwyth University's Institute of Rural Studies before being appointed Professor of Environmental and Ecological Economics in the School of Management and Business in 2012.



Dr David Poyton, Reader in Law at the Department of Law and Criminology, has been seconded

to lead the Branch Campus of the University in Mauritius. As founding Dean, Dr Poyton is responsible for the establishment, operation and development of the campus as well as its academic portfolio. Dr Poyton studied at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at Aberystwyth, receiving a PhD on the application of legal principles and concepts to electronic commerce transactions.

Personal Chairs

The following members of staff were awarded personal chairs in 2014-15:



Professor Athole Marshall
*Institute of Biological,
Environmental and Rural Sciences*



Professor John Warren
*Institute of Biological,
Environmental and Rural Sciences*



Professor Matthew Francis
*Department of English and
Creative Writing*



Professor Peter Merriman
*Department of Geography and
Earth Sciences*



Professor Sian Eleri Pryse
Department of Physics



Professor Stephen Tooth
*Department of Geography and
Earth Sciences*



Professor Michael Humphreys
*Institute of Biological,
Environmental and Rural Sciences*



Professor Paul O'Leary
*Department of History and Welsh
History*

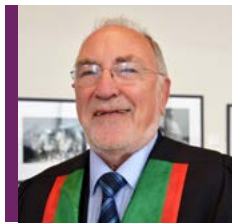
Honorary Fellowships, Doctorates and Degrees 2015

Twelve individuals were honoured by Aberystwyth University during the 2015 graduation ceremonies. Eight Honorary Fellowships were presented to individuals who have, or have had a connection with Aberystwyth or Wales, and who have made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field. Two Honorary Doctorate degrees were presented to individuals who have been outstandingly successful in their field, or who have a long record of renowned research and publication, and two Honorary Bachelor degrees were presented to members of the local community who have made a significant contribution to Aberystwyth and the area.

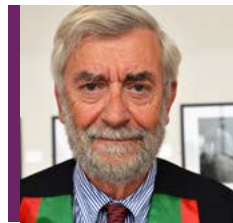
Fellows:



Eurwen Richards, former President of the Society of Dairy Technology and first female Cheese Master in the UK.



Professor Robin Williams CBE, researcher in semiconductor physics, Fellow of the Royal Society and former Vice-Chancellor of Swansea University.



Professor Miguel Alario-Franco, researcher in solid state chemistry and former President of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Spain.



Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and the Wales Office and an alumnus of Aberystwyth University.



Debbie Moon, BAFTA award-winning creator and writer of the television series *WolfBlood*, contributor to the *Hinterland* television series and an alumna of Aberystwyth University.



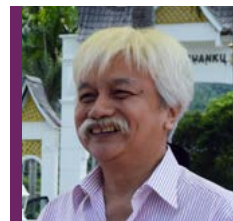
Dr Francesca Rhydderch, Award-winning novelist, former editor of *New Welsh Review* and Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Swansea University.



Dr Lyn Evans, researcher in high energy physics and leader of the team that designed, built and commissioned the Large Hadron Collider.



Iolo Williams, wildlife television presenter of more than 20 series for the BBC and S4C including *Springwatch*, *Autumnwatch* and *Winterwatch*, and former RSPB Species Officer for Wales.

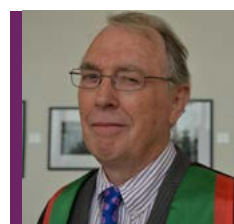


His Royal Highness Tuanku Muhriz ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, the eleventh Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia, was honoured as a Fellow of Aberystwyth University in 2014. The formal ceremony took place in Kuala Lumpur on 8 November 2014.

Honorary Doctorates:



Dylan Iorwerth, award-winning poet and author, radio and television presenter, founder and Directing Editor of *Golwg Cyf* and an alumnus of Aberystwyth University.

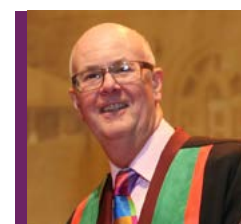


Professor Huw Cathan Davies, OBE, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, former National Academy of Science Researcher at NASA Institute in Virginia and an alumnus of Aberystwyth University.

Honorary Degrees:



Rhian Phillips, former Head Teacher of Plascrug Primary School and International Schools Learning ambassador for Wales.



Bryn Jones, co-ordinator of the Penparcau Community Forum and founding member of local arts and healthcare group 'HAUL'.

Ffeithiau a Ffigurau

Facts and Figures

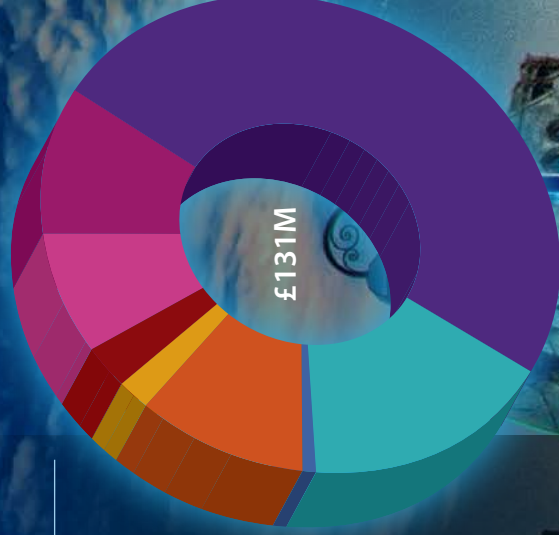
Cyfanswm y cofrestrïadau addysg uwch ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth yn 2014-15 oedd 9, 837 (7,979 cyfwerth ag amser llawn). Astudiodd 104 o'n myfyrwyr mewn sefydliadau partner dramor o dan y rhaglen ERASMUS+. Yn ogystal â hyn cafwyd 3,007 o gofrestrïadau ar gyfer cysiau Addysg Bellach a ddarparwyd yn Aberystwyth ac mewn colegau Addysg Bellach ledled Cymru.

The total number of higher education student registrations with Aberystwyth University in 2014-15 was 9, 837 (7,979 full-time equivalent). 104 of our students studied with partner institutions overseas under the ERASMUS+ programme. There were also 3,007 student registrations for FE level courses delivered both at Aberystwyth and at FE colleges across Wales.













Incwm / Income

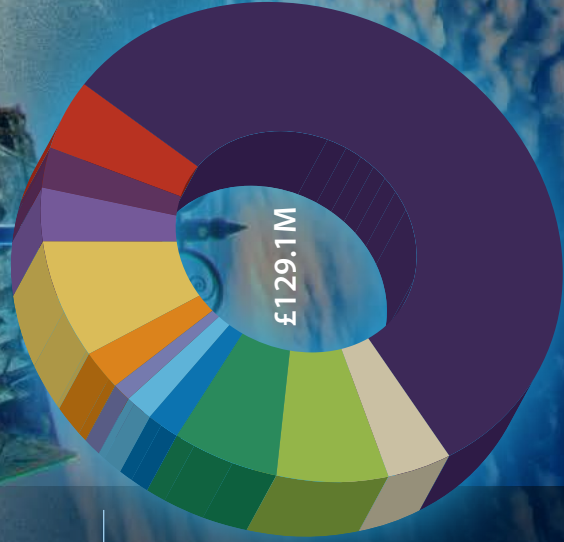
£13,629,000	Grantiau'r Cyrff Cyllido Funding Body Grants
£64,685,000	Ffoedd Dysgu Tuition Fees
£21,627,000	Grantiau a Chontractau Ymchwil Research Grants and Contracts
£995,000	Incwm Gwaddolion a Budsoddiadau Endowments and Investment Income
£13,579,000	Neuaddau Preswyl, Arlywyo a Chynadledau Residences, Catering and Conferences
£2,580,000	Gwasanaethau a Ddarparwyd Services Rendered
£3,489,000	Canolfan y Celfyddydau Arts Centre
£10,501,000	Incwm Arall Other Income

CYFANSWM / TOTAL = £131,085,000



Gwariant / Expenditure

	Adirannau Academaidd Academic Departments	£5,001,000
	Gwasanaethau Academaidd Academic Services	£3,303,000
	Grantiau a Chontractau Ymchwil Research Grants and Contracts	£6,486,000
	Costau Staff Staff Costs	£72,406,000
	Neuaddau Preswyl, Arlwygo a Chynadleddau Residences, Catering and Conferences	£5,412,000
	Adelldau Premises	£9,235,000
	Addysg Gyffredinol General Education	£8,170,000
	Gweinyddu a Gwasanaethau Canolog Administration and Central Services	£2,356,000
	Gwasanaethau Eraill a Ddarparwyd Other Services Rendered	£2,060,000
	Canolfan y Celfyddydau Arts Centre	£1,616,000
	Treuliau Eraill Other Expenses	£3,337,000
	Dibrisiant Depreciation	£9,727,000
CYFANSWM / TOTAL =		£129,109,000



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