

GETTING THE MOST
out of a university
OPEN DAY



CONTENTS

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

1. Welcome

2. What to do before the Open Day

3. What to do during the Open Day

4. Reviewing your Open Day

5. Open Days at Aberystwyth University



WELCOME

Navigation

- [Welcome](#)
- [What to do before the Open Day](#)
- [What to do during the Open Day](#)
- [Reviewing your Open Day](#)
- [Open Days at Aberystwyth University](#)

Getting the most out of a university Open Day

Barry Watkins, September 2010

This guide has been designed for prospective students who want to get the most out of their university Open Day visits.

In this guide you will find helpful hints for what to do before you go to an Open Day, what you need to think about when you arrive, and finally what you need to do once you have returned home. As I mentioned these are just my experiences and what I found effective when I was searching for the best place to study my degree.

Before you visit a university prepare a plan of action to get your mind ready for what's about to happen. Go to an Open Day well prepared, and you'll leave knowing which institution best meets your requirements. By preparing well for an Open Day, you'll leave secure in the knowledge that the University you choose to study at will be the best one for your needs.

Read on to find the best way to get what you need from an Open Day:



BEFORE YOU VISIT

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*



Before you visit

- 1.** An Open Day is a way for you to get to know an institution; it's a no obligation tour of an institution
- 2.** It may be difficult for you to visit more than a few universities - so narrow down your options and choose the institutions which best suit both your academic and social needs
- 3.** Read up on every institution you want to visit prior to the Open Day; also look at any alternative and independent guides that are available, as they will offer another perspective – most universities have alternative prospectuses often written by students for students
- 4.** Make sure you know what you want from a university and then ensure it matches your criteria, e.g. employability, quality of teaching, student lifestyle etc

5. Some general questions you should seek to answer include:

- a. Is the university too close or too far away from your home?
- b. Do you want a campus environment or a city one?
- c. Will it have the sporting and social scene you want?
- d. Could you spend and **enjoy** three years there?
- e. What aspects of university life are essential to you?
- f. What features can you cope without?

6. Bring a friend if you can, they are more likely to give you an honest second opinion

7. Make sure you know where the departments you want to visit are located. In some universities they may be miles apart or a very confusing walk

BEFORE YOU VISIT

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*



8. Write down what you really like about the degree schemes you are interested in

9. Make sure you have a copy of the campus map and the Open Day timetable

10. Let the university know that you are visiting; most universities have a form on the website you can complete, or a slip inside their prospectus for you to fill in

11. Before your visit consider other courses at the university that you may be interested in, just in case your first choice does not prove suitable

12. Prepare some **“course related”** questions for the tutors and some general questions for the tour guides. For example:

Course Related Questions

- What is the typical number of hours per week needed to study this degree?
- How much time will I spend in a) lectures, b) tutorials, c) seminars, d) laboratory practical's, e) fieldwork?
- How many books/resources will I have to buy each semester and can I get them secondhand?
- How many course text books are held in the library?
- What the assessment methods are and how often examinations are taken?

General Questions for the Guides

- How much does it cost to live here each week?
- What are the social highlights?
- How easy is it to travel, walk around?
- Can you get the books you need from the library?
- General advice that they would give?

BEFORE YOU VISIT

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

13. Don't forget a pen and a notepad!

14. You won't be able to concentrate on what is going on if you are cold or wet so make sure you bring a coat. University's can guarantee numerous things but not the weather

15. As a rule try to visit one university on any one Open Day, as they can be long and tiring days

16. Phone ahead if you need to double check details on parking, bus and rail information etc., or if you are uncertain of anything

17. Plan your route, if you are travelling far; it's a good idea to get an idea of how long it takes to travel to or from the university

18. Leave early, give yourself time to relax before the day starts, the last thing you want to do is get out the car and go straight onto the tour.

So you've done all your prep work, now all you have to do is visit the university, fully armed with a mind full of questions and queries, and ready for everything ahead.



ON THE DAY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*



On the day

- 1.** Make sure you talk to locals and other students who can offer you a different perspective; one which may differ from the marketing messages the university is trying to communicate
- 2.** The university will have campus tours, try to go on two - one in the morning, one in the afternoon. This second tour will give you a chance to ask more focused questions as the first tour may be a bit hectic

3. Make sure you find a tutor from the department and then ask them all those questions you prepared including:

- a. How much work is involved on your degree?
- b. Will you sit a lot of exams, or write a lot of coursework, or both?
- c. Will you have assessments to do when you're away from the university?
- d. How are the modules marked?
- e. What is the employability rate for the course?
- f. What is the staff/student ratio for the course?

4. Tutors will want to see that you're interested in their institution, so if this is the 10th university you've visited try not to look too jaded even if you don't particularly relate to the tutor you're speaking to!

ON THE DAY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*



5. Take a tour of the departmental tutorial and lecture rooms. Also, look at the labs, the computing facilities and the library facilities when you are there

6. Talk to the secretaries as they have all the insider knowledge on a department – and make no mistake, the Professors may be admired but it's the departmental secretaries that make **everything** happen

7. Take a look around the available accommodation and ask questions such as:

- a. Is there internet access and is it free?
- b. What are the cooking and toilet facilities like?
- c. How secure are the rooms?
- d. How much is the rent per week, how frequently does it need to be paid and what happens during your holidays?
- e. What if I don't want a particular type of accommodation etc?

8. Some of the presentations are essential for you to attend so try not to miss these

9. Find out about financial assistance – this may be very important to you so make sure you:

- a. Ask about available bursaries and scholarships?
- b. Determine how much they are worth?
- c. Understand what are the criteria for application?

10. Try to eat in the campus refectories. When you get to college you will spend a lot of your time eating in them so make sure they are good!

ON THE DAY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

11. Don't be restricted by the official timetable, many prospective students hang on till after the day officially ends. This can be the best time to grab a tutor to ask more in depth questions, as well as a good way to soak up the university's atmosphere once all the chaos is over

Once the open day has officially finished, take a walk around the town, get an idea of what living there could be like

12. Try to see parts of the university which are not normally seen, but that you will use when you're a student, e.g. the launderettes

13. Open Days should also give you an inclination of what the social and sporting life is like, so take your time to:

- a. Look at all the sporting facilities
- b. Visit the Students Union
- c. Investigate the societies
- d. Find out what the guild of students have to offer
- e. Look at all the cafes and bars, they are the heartbeat of any university

14. Look into the shopping facilities, most university towns are built around the needs of the students



WHEN IT'S ALL FINISHED

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

When it's all finished

You should now have a lot of information to consider, so what you need to do next is follow these instructions:

- 1.** Don't feel pressured into choosing there and then; review all the information when you get home
- 2.** Your parents can offer you helpful advice, but it's down to you to choose the university that best suits your needs

3. Review the visit after a few days; look at everything with a fresh perspective. Review your notes if you have any, and chat with your mates to get their thoughts and opinions

4. Prepare some new questions if necessary, and then phone up the university. Tutors will be happy to help and they'll like the fact that you're showing a keen interest in studying with them

5. Remember, if you are really interested in a college but want to know more you can visit again once you have applied. These visits are called "visiting days" and departments will offer several every term

6. Review your options when you have your UCAS Offers



OPEN DAYS AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

Why you need to visit Aberystwyth on an Open Day

We love Aberystwyth, our students love Aberystwyth, and we think you'll love it as well but the only way you will really know if Aberystwyth University is right for you is to visit us on one of our Open Days.

Did you know that 2/3rds of all the students who visit us on an Open Day, choose to study with us.

Come and see for yourself why they love it so much.

Aberystwyth University Open Days 2013

Saturday 11th May

Wednesday 3rd July

Saturday 19th October

Saturday 26th October

If you would like to visit Aberystwyth University during one of our Open Days please register your interest in attending our Open Day here:

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/info/opr>

We respect your privacy and will hold your data in accordance with the Data Protection Act

Aberystwyth University ranks so well because first and foremost we offer our students the very highest standard of education, matched to a strong sense of community, security and fun. Add to that the great student employment opportunities, and its easy to see why we are so popular.



OPEN DAYS AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

We know that you are very busy and that you only have so much time to visit prospective universities. So to help you decide if you want to visit Aberystwyth University on one of our Open Days we have put together a few reasons why we would be the right choice for you:

What is so great about Life at Aberystwyth?

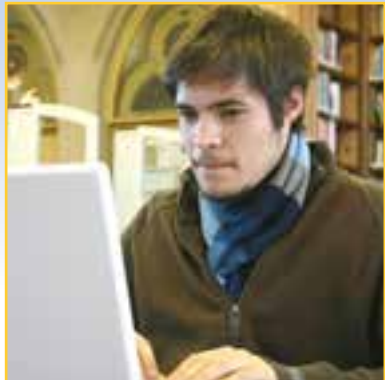
Is it the friendly, community based campus? Is it the safe environment? Is it the great choice of degrees? Or could it be the excellence of our teaching? Or is it the fact that we are one of the cheapest Universities to study at that gives you the best lifestyle for the least cost?

[Watch the video](#)

What is so great about Academic Life at Aberystwyth?

Is it because we are a well established university renowned for our academic excellence? Is it the breadth of courses we offer? Could it be our superb facilities? Or is it that we help you make the most of your qualifications?

[Watch the Video](#)



OPEN DAYS AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

What is so great about the Social Life at Aberystwyth?

Is it the 60 pubs and clubs in the town or the superb arts centre? A cultural life which is the envy of much larger cities? The concerts, theatres, craft and design exhibitions or our art festivals? Could it be the fact that we are campus based so all your friends are close by?

[Watch the video](#)

What is so great about the Sporting Life at Aberystwyth?

Is it the 4,500 active sports participants? The extensive range of indoor and outdoor sports available? Could it be the success of our teams? Whatever your preference or ability Aberystwyth will give you the chance to take part.

[Watch the video](#)

If you would like to visit Aberystwyth University during one of our Open Days please register your interest in attending our Open Day [here](#).

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/info/opr>

We respect your privacy and will hold your data in accordance with the Data Protection Act



OPEN DAYS AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*



Student Views on Aberystwyth

Still uncertain about whether you want to visit Aberystwyth University? Here are just a few quotes from our current students:

Life:

- “The thing I like most about studying in Aberystwyth is the real community spirit - you can't go anywhere on campus or in town without seeing someone you know!”

Rebecca Elliott: Marine and Freshwater Biology.

- “When you go out at night, everyone seems to be a student, so you recognise people and get to know lots of different people. I think the surroundings are so lovely here, and the people too; it's just such an easy place to live!”

Leana Hannon: BA Law.

OPEN DAYS AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Navigation

- [Welcome](#)
- [What to do before the Open Day](#)
- [What to do during the Open Day](#)
- [Reviewing your Open Day](#)
- [Open Days at Aberystwyth University](#)



Academic Life:

- “Aberystwyth is a fantastic place to learn art!”

Alexandra Jolly: Fine Art with Art History.

- “I wanted to study accounting and finance with Spanish, and it’s quite rare to offer this course, but Aberystwyth does.”

Alicia Green: Accounting & Finance with Spanish.

- “I’m not surprised at all that Aberystwyth came 1st in the country in the 2010 National Student Satisfaction Survey. I can't recommend this University enough; if I could give one piece of advice to prospective students, it would definitely be to choose Aberystwyth.”

Alexandra Bateman: Education and Geography.

- “I visited both on a general Open Day plus on a Visit Day which was very helpful. The department staff are very helpful, especially if you have any problems in tutorials, they give plenty of help and advice.”

Ceri Hassall: BA Geography.

- “The academic facilities are very good, especially the Law library – the research collection is massive.”

Emmeline Paitin: Law.

- “I chose Aberystwyth because the department is fantastic – I knew of its reputation and also, when I came to visit, everyone was so friendly. One of the top professors was chatting to me over a hot chocolate, which I thought was a good sign!”

Adam Groves: BSc International Politics.

OPEN DAYS AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Navigation

- *Welcome*
- *What to do before the Open Day*
- *What to do during the Open Day*
- *Reviewing your Open Day*
- *Open Days at Aberystwyth University*

Social and Cultural:

- “I think the atmosphere is the best thing about Aberystwyth – the easy mix between the academic and social. I’d recommend anyone to come here without a doubt!”

Layla Freeborn: BSc Biology.

- “The social life is like none other. There are also a vast range of clubs and societies to suit all interests. It is the ideal place to study and live!”

Andrew Bagchi: Business Economics.

That’s it, operation Open Days completed, and with the help of the guide and your own general level of brilliance you’ve found the course, department and university of your dreams. So that’s it, all I have to do is say one thing...**CONGRATULATIONS** on choosing to visit Aberystwyth University...you did choose Aberystwyth...didn’t you?

If you would like to visit Aberystwyth University during one of our Open Days please register your interest in attending our Open Day here.

<http://www.aber.ac.uk/info/opr>

We respect your privacy and will hold your data in accordance with the Data Protection Act

