A group of people walking on a sidewalk

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**STUDENT UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCES**

**SEPTEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025**

**Uni satisfaction:**

Uni satisfaction: 81% are satisfied with their overall university experience which is an 8% reduction in 2022-23 levels of satisfaction.

While a majority of students are broadly satisfied across most elements of their university experience (including student spaces on campus, academic feedback, extracurricular activity, the library, academic support, the SU, campus accommodation, sport and exercise), reported satisfaction levels have dropped in all cases in comparison to 2022-23 with all but study spaces dropping between 10% and by 24%.

Areas with less than 50% of satisfaction include:

* Student accommodation in town – 30% satisfied (not benchmarked in 2022-23)
* Student wellbeing support - 41% satisfaction (down from 65% in 2022-23)
* Careers and employability support – 43% (down from 55% in 2022-23)
* Representation of student views – 45% (down from 72% in 2022-23)

Student wellbeing services remains the element with the highest amount of dissatisfaction (19%)

22% of students have seriously considered dropping out of university (12%) or thought about it a few times (24% in 2022-23) with another 23% having thought about it at least once.

Community: 72% of students believe there is a strong sense of community at Aberystwyth (74% in 2022-23) with only 49% feeling that there is a strong sense of community on their course.

Students’ Union: 60% of students said they were satisfied with the SU (69% satisfied in 2022-23) with slightly less students responding as satisfied with the SU building and facilities (54% with 16% of students reporting as dissatisfied)

Communications: Students are generally engaging with SU comms in a similar way to last year with 89% of students hearing from the SU by email (77% in 2022023), 66% attending events including Freshers Fair (53% in 2022-23), 57% seeing SU social media (49% in 2022-23). These remain the top 3 communication channels for students to hear from the SU.

**Satisfaction with University Experience**

How would you rate your overall university experience so far)? (n=342) (NA removed)

How satisfied are you with each of the following elements of your university experience? (n=404)

Is your work marked and have you had feedback within 15 working days of your deadlines (n=389?)

I have seriously considered dropping out of university (n=379)

**COMMENTS**

**Appendix 1: WHY DO YOU RATE YOUR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE IN THIS WAY?**

Have struggled with mental health issues and have reached out several times for help from the uni and don't feel like enough has been done to help

I have lots of good friends, part of lots of good clubs and I am enjoying my course.

Because there is no communication, no interaction or support in the distance learning program. Studying alongside on campus students is not really suitable for distance learning, as it is impossible to plan studying if one doesn't know from the start how much material there is to go through. Other students are not interested in sharing and so far none of the courses supported distance learner by creating tasks or assignment that would bring distance learners on the same course together. It is very different to the first time I did my MSc via Distance Learning and frankly, to any other distance learning courses. I wish I had known that before I enrolled.

I have understood my course content, I have joined and participated in multiple societies, I have made supportive friends.

My course is entirely online (no lectures in person) and this was unexpected

I've had a good time and have definitely learned new things -- academically, socially, and personally. Even though my time at university hasn't gone as originally planned everything has worked out for me.

I rated it good because I have received good support and I think that we have good facilities and good societies. I also think my lecturers are good at explaining new topics.

Just because of bad experience of one of module I had taken

I love university but my personal circumstances mean I cannot focus on my study

Unlike what I've heard from friends at other universities, I've managed to make lots of friends by joining various societies, my course has been challenging but in a good way, and there is a great community feel here in Aberystwyth.

My first year was the most fun due to all the freedom I had while living on my own. I lived in Pobl in my second year which hugely negatively on my grades, attendance and overall mental health, and I do not get along with my flatmates on campus for my third year. Otherwise I enjoy the Drama side of my course mostly, and the majority of my second semester third year modules look quite boring.

Because it was good. It would have been excellent but for the Undeb.

just not bothered about being at university here there's nothing particularly special about it

The teaching and the intellectual interractions are highly qualitative.

Course is great, town is beautiful, have made close friends

The education side has been pretty good but my own personal experience could improve

I have good friends, I like the town, my course is interesting, I have learnt a lot both academically and as a person, I have had opportunities to do the most random things that I wouldn't have tried otherwise

Good opportunity

I liked the university, the culture

1. Lack of accessibility to the community to meet new and good friends. (most of soc in this uni is for drinking alcohol. 2. Lack of facilities to study (due to library closing early) + lack of students acknowledging to study silent in library, 3. lack of support to students in trouble. 4. lack of job opportunities in the town.

Having a fun time

Please see my notes on previous sections and the formal cases I have been forced to raised against the university in the past three years. I walked out of my course in January after receiving definitive proof of the jaw-droppingly appalling treatment from my university. It always felt like discrimination and prejudice against me (as a returning mother? because I asked for help?). Turned out it was- for a lecturer or professor to treat a student in this damaging way and to withhold the educational support the university's policies expect all staff to give- knowing that a real person's future life and career will be badly affected....to me that is as sick as a doctor breaking the Hippocratic Oath to kill or wound their patient. I am currently negotiating with the university on options going forwards. This is the worst university I have ever attended (out of five- the other four were absolutely great). know as a

I feel as though my course (in first year) doesn’t really give you a chance to be involved in a society as the workload is so demanding

Despite the stresses and concerns i've had whilst being here, which I believe has immensely limited my ability to mix, interact and enjoy experiences, I've still generally enjoyed my time here. I've made friends with some of my flatmates, a small handful of people on my course or that i've befriended by happenstance, it does feel like a more homely home-away-home.

I've rated it fairly low because while I've found most of the 2nd semester enjoyable and I've really enjoyed the nintendo society I found the first term to be so terrible for me that I considered quitting university. Ultimately, I think this was down to being overwhelmed with a new course I had no experience in. This course has additionally caused me significant stress at times. I additionally did not get along well with certain group members in the first semester. However the second semester was much better at times so my experience was decent.

My course is really good

The main issue I have is the way everything is taught, and some lecturers giving hardly any relevant information which as a result has impacted my work. But I have enjoyed the opportunities and events held at Aberystwyth, and I do enjoy the town

All thanks to my supervisor and my labmate. They were kind and caring before I start in Aberystwyth University . I met wonderful people here and everyone from staff, students and lecturers have been great to me.

Have had an amazing time here, haven't really been disappointed by anything since being here

I have no issues with the way the university operates.

I have been let down by my course, by student support, by the counselling team. The course has no clarity, and expectations are hidden.

It's been enjoyable but I have not experienced uni life and opportunities to the fullest

Course and lecturers are amazing, the university as a whole is not.

I have had a nice time in my course and have made some nice friends. I've made the university's services which has really improved my CV. I have however also struggled with a lack of work life balance and interpersonal problems

I have thoroughly enjoyed being here, and thought not ‘perfect’, these points are minor and usually contained to specific points in time, rather than ongoing issues

I have personally struggled to make friends, but I don't think this reflects a problem with the university, which has been very accommodating to my needs.

once i am able to better manage my time it will be excellent

Of course the work and exams are difficult but I met my fiance here and I couldn't have asked for more.

The changes made by the administration have adversely affected my experience, namely the increased accommodation costs for university halls well past what the accommodation is actually worth, the shortening of library hours, and the removal of free gym membership for students who live on campus. Also the failure of the university to stop investing in fossil fuels and businesses that participate in genocide.

I’ve enjoyed being here for the majority of the academic year, asides from brief periods of immense stress.

I had a good welcome, have enjoyed my course and found new people I get along with

I have enjoyed most aspects of living away from home and studying something I am passionate about however due to my student finance I cannot afford to go out very often, if at all which has meant I spend most of my free time alone in my accommodation

Love it here

I have had no issues with the university. It has been easy to make friends and everyone has a welcoming atmosphere .

I hate a pretty bad first year outside of university work itself but this year has been better but I've still struggled with work a lot

Even though it's been a general net-positive, there have been plenty of difficult times

My time at this university has been marred by actions of utter evil, contempt and cruelty from fellow students. The support system of the university is utterly inadequate, and served only to worsen the toll this time has taken on me. In the three years I have attended this university, I have been harassed, bullied, sexually assaulted, gaslit, betrayed, endured false rumours to my name, and had my very life threatened by another student, who was carrying a blade.

Would've been Excellent, or Good- if not for the horrible accomodation system.

Less so to do with the work, and more the friends (now family) I have made with my coursemates, flatmates, and team mates. I truly feel as though I have found a place where I belong.

Everyone is friendly and it’s been easy to make friends and have fun. All my lecturers are very helpful and lovely people.

Poor departmental communications, lack of support

The uni itself is alright, but some departments and staff are very disrespectful of or overly opinionated about certain groups/belief systems (e.g., religious students, American students) that it's been harder than it should be to enjoy the full experience.

love everything

Doing well at my course and engaging in the town and community.

I feel as though the information that is put out through emails and documents is really good, but that doesn’t translate in the actual learning environment, in the classroom it feels like you’re expected to know what to do in all situations and how all the processes work

While I had a rough start personally, the routine of my classes as well as opportunities presented in clubs and societies helped me open up and make new friends in those clubs/societies as well as on my course

Feel as if I have not gained as much from my university experience as I wanted to

In the end I don't think I'd change it and go somewhere else because I have met some amazing people and I do really like not being in a city, and having the nature. But if I didn't have any of that (none of which are due to the uni), I would've had an even harder time, would've dropped out etc.

Many times have asked for support amd help with no answers

There's a lack in accessibility.

Because I am having a great time both academically and socially

Slay

Cuz my experience in this uni been good so far

Averaging out all my experiences

Ups and downs

It’s class

Some things have been great! And other things, not so great.

I've had a lot of fun and have learnt a lot in my course.

ive made great friends and enjoy my course and location

I enjoy my course very much and am now in a happy place

i feel like some areas need to improve but overall it’s good, the seaside life and public community are what make it for me. i enjoy having my friends but societies are ‘click y’ and i struggle to get into them

I have had a great time so far, academically and socially

For me, the constant challenge of transport makes it difficult to get anywhere, constant road closures or rail-replacement buses make it a struggle to do anything, as there's not much to do in Aber itself, and as such a small location, transport is important. But since being here, I've found it incredibly boring and isolating, and it's taken a toll on my mental health. the accomodation is also incredibly expensive for the location, some of the prices are almsot equivalent to those in a big city

Friends and memories

Engaging course, with creative approach, Supportive tutors. Close community

There have definitely been some speed bumps in both the academic and social aspects of university so far, but overall I've had a good time!

It’s a great course and uni however, I feel it could have more connections to world known companies. A place students can reach out to gain real life experience and make connections of their own.

my friends and life outside my course have made my uni experience more enjoyable, if I didn't have that my experience would be a lot worse

My supervisor manoeuvred to make me fail and leave

The staff are always there to assist with problems and the courses are informative/interesting.

Because I feel well supported and have made good friends to help me along the way. And there’s lots of opportunities for trying new clubs and societies.

10/10

It's been stressful but fun

Now that I have almost finished my first year of university and thinking back to all of the things I have achieved, met new friends, able to study what I always wanted. This university is full of light and excitement and support if you need it.

The biochem and DLS support staff are excellent.

Could be better, but no real complaints

It has been pretty positive

The course has been very interesting to me and the wide range of clubs and societies available to go to has been amazing.

Club and societies have aloud me to meet so many people and do so many amazing things plus the lectures on my course have been very engaging

I'm really enjoying my time at aber, but I still think there's things to improve on. I think there should be more outdoor seating with tables, and outdoor seating with rain shelters because I dislike doing classwork inside. I think there should also be more support for students living off campus

Nice to be here and have the support I need to finish my degree

I did a foundation year and it served as an excellent introduction to university level education.

I have had an enjoyable time here. I’ve learned a lot from my classes, had opportunities to do things here that I wouldn’t have had else where and have met amazing people.

I joined in 2020, so it was a little rough getting around at first with restrictions, but since then it’s been great

Lack of university time - with professors, wellbeing support, careers support

Joined a club which helped me

It’s been fine other than lack of course load (ie. I want to take more classes and I can’t)

Because it’s pretty good

People I’ve met

Had fun

Lots of support

It is hard to say excellent when I have struggled with workload and had no where to turn and when my academic support staff have all but ignored me and let me get on with It. Also with my year in industry being so poor and with no help from the university in how I was feeling with my year in industry.

Sports wise and with social opportunities it has been near excellent though!

To call it anything less than good would probably be unfair despite times where I have felt horrible and faced massive amounts of internalized struggle"

it has been great in all regards when it comes to uni itself, but my mental health has affected me. however the uni part itself has been really excellent

Because its been a very good experience

Whilst some areas are outstanding others could be up for improvement such as more support and noted support within societies

I’ve enjoyed it- met friends and societies are fun

University in Aber has been the best 3 years of my life I have enjoyed it all very throughly. We have low points but coming to Aber was the best choice I made.

The student community is really strong here so I've always felt supported and involved

Very enjoyable, good course and good social life

I love it here, but I've been bullied and victimised.

I’m learning so it’s all good

Had a great time, made some great friends and have matured and learned a lot about living by myself and as a person

Because it changed my life for the better. Despite the hardships, I've grown a lot and have a job lined up that aligns with what I studied.

i feel like i have grown a lot as a person and gained lots of confidence

Really enjoyed it but need more wellbeing support

It's been chill, the people have been nice and the course engaging.

While the university obviously has it flaws they are often more minor or not avoidable regardless of what uni one attends. For the most part I have felt I can enjoy my course and that I have a good level of freedom and variety in my module choice. And with the su clubs I have felt very easily part of a community and been able to make many a close friends with shared interests as me.

It has been good.

I haven’t met my people yet

It has slowly got worse and worse

I felt at home within a week, I’ve had the best first year

The department is poorly organised. My personal tutor met with me once in September, then left and was not replaced. This is symptomatic of the issues within the organisation

The university and department communication - especially accommodation - is actually terrible

I definitely think the university has great care for their students, but there’s definitely more that can be done.

Because it could be better.

I'm supported by staff very well and enjoy the course. Aber has a unique community aspect that many unis lack.

because it hasn't been the most amazing thing to ever be experienced in my life, but there haven't been a ton of lows either

Very good

It is such a nice community and the course is academically challenging

because I have enjoyed my time here

Terrible experience with personal tutors & dissertation supervisors, lack of support for my course (maybe because only 3 people currently take it & it's been scrapped for future years - the uni should employ more lecturers with an interest in climate change); campus is aged; few societies/sports clubs which are interesting; lectures aren't stimulating; extensions policy is ridiculous!

I have had issues with finding good friendships and feeling like I belong

Events have happened that has caused it not to be excellent

I've enjoyed my coursework and society stuff but other than that it's not been thrilling or anything, not bad either

I love the location and have met some great people, although the course falls short slightly

Because it has been good

There has been ups and downs with the uni but the experience has been good overall but working on some things

I couldn't imagine myself in any other university and have fostered a community here in my time here

1st semester was very difficult, but doing better this semester and ultimately feel I am getting more from my course and from living here

"- Not many things to do besides drinking

- Decrease of services available to students due to cost savings

- Lack of food options on campus and a variety"

I have managed to throw myself into the student community but joining and now running a society and I have been able to create my friendships group from this society

i love it here very much

Love the course and the place, not a fan of the drama but that is to be expected.

It could have been better

I have had good academic support and feedback from essays, my lecturers are engaging and it has been easy to meet people with similar interests.

i just love it, i'm very involved and i love the aber community

I've had a great time here from the beginning. I love living here.

Thr uni it's self and the societies are brilliant. But often distanced from the social side and feel belonging

I have done well in my course and learnt a lot, and I have had a lot of important experience with societies outside of my degree.

Lack of library opening times and spending money on a rebrand of the SU

Although managing the workload can be difficult, I enjoy my course. I am part of a society so I get to spend time with like minded people and have made lots of friends through this

"My first year was okay in terms of academics with many of the modules being engaging and enjoyable to progress through. However, socially, it was the opposite with continuous struggle to relate to others, make friends or even acquaintances. At the time, I was also in a far from ideal relationship causing further social grief. This lowered my experience greatly.

Following on from this, the second year has lifted my rating with great experiences in club activities, frequent work opportunities, good flatmate relationships etc. The modules have also been even more engaging."

Because I experienced alot of things and I just expressed

Was hard to make friends

Because I have had mostly positive experiences here at Aber, however I do often get caught up in my workload and financial issues with being from a much poorer family without financial support - although I understand these issues would occur at any university.

Because I'm very content with my experience, however it's has not \*exceeded\* my expectations

Because I would like there to be more of a push to help motivate people to study etc…

I have enjoyed it but not all the time

10

Uni and the su won't help me and feel rather left out

I have returned to study at Aber for my MA, so obviously I have had a positive experience overall. It has not always been smooth sailing, and at times I have struggled. I have felt supported by my university department (History/ English) and the student services were also helpful. I do think that the SU could improve their training for clubs/ societies, especially with regards to disability awareness. For me specifically, if more training was available for understanding mental illness then I think my experience within one of the sports clubs would have been better.

Because something felt not good but most of them has been effective to experience my uni life

It's a friendly town and the history department is excellent.

Honestly it has been life changing. joining Aber made my life immensely better

I had no major problems - a few small issues that have been fixed

The place is great but seems like the university don’t really care about the students just about the money

Too many health problems and too many difficulties with certain staff being receptive to them. I think if some staff were more considerate (i.e, not suggesting that diagnosed mental illnesses are not actually real), then it would’ve been a way easier and less stressful degree course altogether. However arguably, I have had some good support from my supervisor and accessibility/ autism support, so it depends which way i look at it.

I have achieved a lot because of the support from the university

I enjoyed my time at Aberystwyth University and I was able to grow and become who I wanted to be during my stay.

I have had wonderful people backing me the whole way supporting me and helping me make the best of my time here

I'm just having a great time

Really enjoying it socially and academically

I think it is a very engaging and challening course, i just dont like how many early morning lectures i have

Its not something I could really quantify

The environment is enjoyable

As I do struggle I do feel welcome at the university in the life I’ve built around it.

I have enjoyed my time at Aberystwyth thoroughly and the support I have gained as well as the opportunities I have had have only enhanced this

Have had a few issues but nothing that has effected my time at the university too much

There have been points where help or clarification has been requested and the structure of the department (DLS) and the module has prevented me achieving the most that i could out of that experience and assignment

I haven't been able to focus on my studies following job loss and illness so I am a year behind schedule

I have received excellent levels of support and have enjoyed the teaching sessions in university which have been varied and fun.

I feel the town could be more welcoming, alot of places don’t hire or welcome students warmly.

I have had many issue arise at home and has taken away from my uni experience.

This year my experience is great!

I enjoy the course and the content. However I do feel like there could be more dedicated in class work on how to wire essays, reports etc. rather than only having support with these skills being via academic support sessions and just covering content in lessons.

**CONSIDERING ALL ASPECTS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE, IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE THING TO CHANGE TO IMPROVE YOUR EXPERIENCE AT ABERYSTWYTH WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

The module survey is good but the action following should be better and need to be careful reviewed and effort from higher university management

not being able to afford my accommodation and then multiple things in the house breaking and maintenance being very slow to fix it or do nothing at all.

make a small Student Union in town such as at Joseph Parry Hall, 10 Laura Place

Many. I have written a book.

University play an important role for student's wellbeing so all the tutors and staffs needs to be well trained and informed to be there for their students as to provide time for good guidance.

it can be a lonely time, but the uni only says you will make friends and have a great time. they need to say more on how it may not be that way and what support they can offer

My feelings at the start of my time here no way represent my feelings now. At the time, I was happy and independent, but now nothing could be further from the truth.

They'd be too rude to share

Good

I wish students could make money for the SU from buying drinks

I personally believe that university is not worth the expense anymore - the complete lack of student wellbeing support, the lack of careers support, the lack of contact time with professors - it simply is not worth the tuition fee which keeps increasing.

Really I just want to be able to take more than three classes a semester. It’s the only reason I’ve thought of leaving

Overall the right decision for me to come here

I also think that there should be more studios built specifically for current/returning students and that some should be situated on campus

Fund the sports clubs better to improve student life

University needs to make better commitments towards climate change/reducing carbon footprint. Ridiculous amount of single use plastics are sold on site.

I settled into aber very quickly and never really felt home sick, but that was definitely helped by having great flat mates who have become my close friends

Accommodation office should help out more with flatmate issues and communal cleaning

the university should critique the genocide in palestine

The fact the university is in debt 8million is a massive cause for anxiety and stress. Doesn’t help with the image to attract better to Aberystwyth.

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**Wellbeing**

Student struggles: There has been a 3-percentage point increase in students struggling to keep up with workload to 55% (52% in 2022), but it remains a top struggle for students at Aberystwyth. Stress and anxiety remains the top struggle at 73% (a 4 percentage point increase from 22-23 69%). Broadly struggles have remained consistent over time.

78% of respondents report turning to their friends for help, advice and support (70% in 22-23) with 67% having turned to family (61% 22-23). The percentage of students turning to SU advice / support services dropping to 4% from 10% in 2022-23. There may be a risk of students conflating SU services with university support services, or vice versa, and 22% of students say they have turned to university support services for help (23% in 22-23)

Similarly to the last survey in 22-23, 59% of students say that they are healthy (63% in 22-23) and 61% report as happy (62% in 22-23)

52% students believe the University cares about their wellbeing (72% in 2022-23) with 25% disagreeing. 56% believe the SU cares (70% in 2022-23) with 16% disagreeing.

**Wellbeing**

Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the following statements n=376

Thinking about the things you’ve struggled with during your time at university, where have you turned to for help, advice and support? n =335

During your time at university, which, if any, of the following would you say you have struggled with to the extent that it has had a significant negative impact on your personal wellbeing? n = 325

**Student Community / Belonging**

80% of students responded to say that they felt part of a community in Aberystwyth (72% of students feel that it is important to be part of a student community (83% in 22-23), with only 8% disagreeing (2% in 22-23). However, 63% of respondents reported having a strong support network which whole lower than feeling part of a community was still 6% increase on 2022-23 ratings (57%).

Generally other belonging satisfaction rates have increased slightly from 22-23 levels, except for a 6% decrease (to 49%) of students agreeing there is a strong sense of community on their course with almost a third of students disagreeing.

Consistent with last time 76% of students felt there were plenty of opportunities to interact and make friends (73% in 22-23), 69% said it was easy to meet others with shared interests (66% in 22-23)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? n=374

**Students’ Union**

82% of respondents agreed that the SU was a positive influence for students (76% in 22-23) but only 53% of students believe the Students’ Union effectively represents their academic interests (63% in 2022-23) and 64% describe the work of the SU as relevant to their university experience (56% in 22-23)

Students still have a poor understanding of the SU with only 47% saying they have a good idea of what has been achieved (51% in 2022-23)

The majority of students, 88% of respondents, agreed that the SU promotes and supports diversity and inclusion (83% in 2022-23)

Students are engaging more than in 2022-23, with 94% reporting visiting the SU building (63% in 22-23). Clubs / socs have seen an increase in participation of 10% with 74% responding as members (2022-23 was 64%), and an 11% increase in respondents who are involvement in running a club / soc (moving from 23% in 2022-23 to 33%).

Visited spaces

In terms of communication, the majority of students still report hearing from the SU via email with 89% (77% in 22-23), events such as freshers fair with 65% (53% in 22-23) and social media with 57% (49% in 22-23), followed by posters with 54% (45% in 22-23) and the SU Website 45% (41% in 22-23).

In terms of specific engagement of respondents, 94% reported visiting the SU building (67% in 22-23), 74% reported as a student group member or volunteer (64% in 22-23) and 66% reported attending an SU event or using SU services (41% in 22-23)

Please tell us how far you agree, if at all, with the following statements regarding your Students’ Union?

Thinking about the SU specifically, which of the following have you engaged with? (tick all that apply)

How, if at all, do you recall hearing from your Students’ Union in term 1?

**COMMENTS ON SU SATISFACTION:**

I am extremely dissatisfied and dissapointed with the Undeb’s treatment of me this year.

"Make it clear what exactly the full-time officers do, rather than what they represent. For example, ""the president represents the student community"" okay but what do they actually do? How great is their power to change or add something? Again, this is for all the full-time officers.

Also, make it clear that students can always come and visit you/or not."

It would be great to read about the work done by the each officers for their committed time. Also, what were the challenges and what they achieved during the time. It will be helpful for all students to be aware of these matters related to officers without being unaware of it and useful for future officers.

I'm not entirely clear what the elected SU officials (president, etc) actually do. I've never (knowingly) seen any of them in real life.

The SU did practically nothing to prevent so many of the cuts which have directly damaged the student experience

The SU (and uni as a whole) seem to do a pretty poor job of representing religious students.

For the amount of resources available the SU provides an amazing platform to express yourselves and develop social/ life skills.

It means a lot that the student union is dedicated to putting pronouns to names, even if they are non traditional pronouns (e.g 'All') and actually using them when they are non traditional (e.g switching between them for all). It's a small detail but has made me feel much safer in the undeb as a trans student

I refuse to hear from the students union because I believe them to be a pointless overfunded and overstaffed organisation focusing on performative activism rather than making things better. Bullying isn't dealt with effectively.

The SU goes above and beyond in terms of sports provisions when considering it's size!

They've been very helpful, the one thing I would say is that it's now the end of march and I've been trying to sort out a risk assessment with them since Christmas to get back into archery for medieval reenactment. It's just a bit slow sometimes to get responses but other than that, very good.

The SU has failed to fulfil investigations involving both a society as well as several allegations against individuals as the representatives are close to those involved

Fund the sports clubs better

The SU website is quite difficult to navigate and is sometimes slightly misleading in information

Undeb Aberystwyth is a vital part of my experience and I enjoy much of what it has to offer

It would be good if the SU offered more sober day-time activies (particularly in freshers' week) as not everyone likes loud busy environments.

The SU opening hours are silly. I am aware this is because of cost but closing earlier and is pushing society's outside the SU.

I am a distance learning post-grad - so any negativity above relates to me not being on campus very often, and nothing to do with the excellent efforts of Undep Aberystwyth.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS YOU’D LIKE TO MAKE ON THOUGHTS OF DROPPING OUT?**

I think the clubs are really expensive. I understand that there needs to be a cost but I think that it limits people on what they want to do. We are always told to try new things but if we have to pay lots of money for them and can't afford them, then we can't try all the things we'd like to.

Studying aboard is one of my dream and now I have a change to study here. Everything was ok untill semester 2 started, I feel disappointed with one of Lecturer because of unfair treatment. It seems ruin all my positive feeling about here. I would not recommend any one who are in my network to study here

"Please please please make it clear that students cannot keep up with the workload if they have 2 or more deadlines placed very close together.

Besides, not everyone does a foundation year or knows how to write university-style essays, so pleeeaaase teach students from the beginning how to plan and write essays."

None

University accommodation has a huge issue with the noise from neighbours. There is lack of support to the students who are victims of the noise. The only way the students can resolve struggling with noise is moving away to another flat which is not guaranteed if it is okay. 3 strike rule can't help students either, since the security should check the noise after they said they're coming into the flat with a loud voice.

"Yes- please don't pathologise normal human emotions like being stressed or angry or devastated due to the lack of student support, education and feedback from staff, and bullying and neglect. All of these are normal healthy responses in such circumstances- and as students we don't want to be patronised or gaslit- we want staff to do the jobs our fees have paid for them to do, and not to bully us or treat us badly or withhold support- simple as. Please don't label students as having 'mental health problems and struggles' when it is the behaviour of members of staff and the senior management's lack of thoroughness and integrity in monitoring educational quality and standards, and ethical practice amongst staff, that is the issue.

I would not recommend approaching members of staff for help at the university- in some departments they will cut you off as a student from support for the rest of your course- that's what happened to me at Aberystwyth in the art department in 2019 and I'm still battling the university to take accountability for the consequences of this now. When this has happened once all the staff follow the lead and you become a social pariah and no one will help you- you're an outcast. One piece of advice to students: don't ask staff for help- they will interpret it as a threat and challenge to their authority, and cut you off utterly from educational support thenceforth. The solution? Go to a different university."

The Wellbeing capabilities of this university are dangerously bad. I had a severe mental health crisis, and I was shouted at for half an hour and blamed, because I had a social life rather than focusing exclusively on my work

Most of this year I have not had a personal tutor. One left on sabatical and another was not asigned until a month after I felt I had to request it. Had first meeting this week! The uni does not care about students, just getting their money.

deadlines for coursework, especially on joint honours, should never be within a week of each other let alone on consecutive days or the same day, it impacts on attendance.

I used students services a few times. And when I went for sexual assault, I felt very belittled. And when almost all of my flatmates had issues with 1 flatmate, student services said, in essence, we will force him to come to a meeting. He refused, so they said your options were either to deal with it or all of you love, that wasn’t fair and I feel like support was really lacking there.

N/A

I think the unis support/wellbeing team could be massively improved, and I have no clue how the su is involved with this or if they have support services too

No

No

"A time I was really not feeling great and dropping out of university crossed my mind was due to the way a university staff member treated me.

I understand this is not a very constructive or informative comment but I thought I'd mention it!"

n/a

I study astrophysics, which I believe is one of the heavier courses this uni provides. We do not get reading weeks, which usually isn't a problem (i realise there is a lot of content to cover in a limited time). However this term (semester 2 of 2024-2025) has been very very long, and my classmates and I are very tired and burnt out. The "exam de-stress" period was 2 weeks long but \*finished\* just two days after our last exam in January. So not only did we not even remotely get time to recover after the exam period, we have had a 10 week term with no break, all while being given some of the more demanding workloads any students are given here.

re Q12. Personal supervisor WAS the problem, not the solution

I've had depression for 5 years but I'm currently with Area 43 and they're helping me a lot.

No

Even though I struggled with a couple of things in the first semester, I have managed to bring everything to a balanced state and I no longer experience these. Okay maybe stress and anxiety but who doesn't.

No

"Further information on 12: Other is my dog, that poor bastard has to deal with me crying a LOT

13: I have already come back from a year of leave due to severe depression and housing issues "

The students who have the biggest smiles on their faces are always the ones struggling the most

money is always at the root of many issues

No

no

Wellbeing in both the university and SU should be better. I know many people who have reached out to try and get counselling and all they get is an email in return with no follow ups. There should be more counselling available. There should also be more wellbeing support in the SU as discrimination has not been tackled properly, and instead those discriminated against have been scrutinised. For instance, there was a very serious and incredibly upsettting issue where someone was homophobic and transphobic but this was dismissed on the grounds of religious belief which led to the victims being more isolated from the rest of the society. There should also be more support for victims of domestic abuse, and teaching about the warning signs.

Never heard from personal tutor.

No

Fund the sports clubs better to improve mental health

The well-being services at Aber are genuinely horrendous and I've actually warned people

I have had pretty much no support from any personal tutor for my subjects (no contact at all this year) and (especially from the English department). Regular meetings would be helpful especially to talk through course work and module options.

No

N/A

I took temporary withdrawal during my third year in December 2022. I returned in September 2023 and completed my BA. I have now progressed on to my MA. My mental illness does have an effect on my studying.

none

The main people that have actually helped in first semester is my personal tutor and autism mentor. wellbeing team hasn’t had anything to do with it. shout out to accessibility too, they’re also very good at getting things sorted out.

The academic pressure and workload is high at certain levels of education however it is to be expected with an undergraduate/postgraduate degree. Student support services of both the university and student union have helped a lot.

Could not tick more than one item for q11 and 12

I do not

N/A

N/A

I actually contacted my department to ask if I can interrupt and I have had no reply

I was subjected to what Uni Advice services identified as disability discrimination. The supervisor last year met me exclusively on-line. He had not noticed my disability disclosure, and treated me as a liar when I told him that I could not hear what he was saying. I blamed myself - often the case in such disability cases I have been told. When I reported this to my second supervisor, I was promptly moved to another supervisor with whom my experience is heavenly! I am finding the re-building of my confidence a challenge nonetheless.

Early Experiences: Thinking back to first few weeks here in Aberystwyth, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements n=338:

**WHY ABER?**

SEASIDE! GOOD RANKINGS! PRETTY! THOUGHTFUL STAFF! LOVE IT.

I like the location

As I live here so wouldn't have to study somewhere that involved travelling elsewhere

It was my backup as I got an unconditional and also it is in a nice location and the geography course looked good.

liked the art school building

Because first time I did an MSc via Distance Learning it was a great experience.

Course, town size, location

Liked the location and people

It has the best course for the subject I wanted to do.

I am studying marine and freshwater biology, and Aberystwyth is the only university I applied to that had an integrated placement year, and also the only program that included freshwater biology.

It’s in a really good location being close to the sea, I really like the town and I liked the look of the course.

I choosen to study here after carefully taking into consideration of: 1. study programe; 2. my budget; 3. community (small beautiful town where I can heal and enjoy atmosphere, hills, beach)

Because of the sea

CILIP accredited

Wanted to live in a rural location, not a big city, also many of the societies appealed to me, the accommodation was really nice and cheap compared to some universities, and my old sixth form teacher did her Masters and PhD here

I got clickbaited by Google and thought the university actually looked like the Old College. But I mainly moved here to live away from my family in a natural setting, where I can decide which way I want to go in my career.

It had the course I wanted to study taught by lecturer’s with good research backgrounds

Quiet

unconditional offer and opportunities for cheaper study compared to others i got into

I have been here before and I think Aberystwyth University is a beautiful school

I love the calmness of this place

It felt like the right uni for me.

I chose Aberyswyth University for its quality of studies, and the size of the city. I find it easier that is it neither too big nor too little, when it comes to getting social interactions.

It felt right at the time

Location, study scheme, price

I wanted to study both of my chosen subjects as a dual honours, but I didn't want to be in a city. This narrowed it down a lot, but I was shown some of the robotics stuff on an open day, and this cemented my decision.

I like the location over other places

Some friends recommended it

family nearby

It was on a list of best psychology universities, and when I came for the open day I really liked the campus

the 24/7 open libary

The Welsh aspect

Entrance exam allowed me to take my course without great A-level grades

Best one in wales

Learning more about university ,free accommodation

Location, resources available in the school of art (museum collections, gallery space)

only place to give me an unconditional degree

By the school's recommendation

The campus was lovely

Because I believed it was a genuine university- not a scam, as I have since discovered.

It did the course I wanted to do, and I have heard it is great for neurodivergent people

Location accessibility limited my options to Bangor, Wrexham or Aberystwyth University. Wrexham had an almost hostile atmosphere when I attempted to mix and interact, Bangor still felt rather cold and unwelcome despite the academic quality, so that left Aberystwyth as the remaining appealing option due to the homely atmosphere of the town. It felt, and now really feels more homely than home, such that I don't want to leave.

Sea side town

Seemed like it had good student support services

I was introduced to aberystwyth through my sister going here and my sixth form promoting it as a good choice. It additionally seemed good for the course I wanted and I had friends coming here which I thought might help me socially.

clearing

My MA is only offered here

I like that it’s located in a small town compared to an overcrowded big city

My supervisor was kind to guide me with the application process and they are one of the great researchers of my field

I liked the course

Loved the community feel at Aber, it being only a relatively small uni and I felt at home.

Location

I heard the psychology department was amazing. I have experienced otherwise.

Liked the location

Liked my course - good modules

Felt safe, liked beach

I liked it very much and the course

location

To become immersed in Welsh culture.

This is the only place in Wales with a counselling course with practical elements

I liked the look of the university and town, and thought I would enjoy studying here. I did not apply to any other universities

More relaxed environment than other universities. I wanted to leave the city.

I work here.

local so could afford

had the course i wanted and offered experience

I immediately felt like I would fit in here.

Exchange student

Location

I wanted to stay in wales

Course opportunities

Course and Location

Had the course I wanted to do and the department is international respected

It’s Accessible

It's in a nice location on the seafront, and the student has experience was rated highly.

Had been visiting the town my whole life

I’m studying a niche course and Aberystwyth was the best place out of only a handful

Small town, highest teaching quality, high student satisfaction, unconditional offer, the sea

The course and the town itself

I love the town and where Aberystwyth is. The university offered a range of courses that I had an interest in so I had choices.

Safe and accepting place

Good options for lifelong learning

Only university that did joint Geography/ComSci

Because it’s a lovely town and lovely people and I fell in love the moment I came

Because of the course and the landscape surrounding the town.

would let me transfer

To get away from family.

I enjoyed the remoteness, the town is cheap and picturesque, achievable conditional offer.

Sea

It seemed like a well-rounded and convenient choice

I really like the area and I liked the sound of the course

cost of accommodation, course offering

The community and support from lecturers

The uni was cheaper than most and the vibe was nice

Its close to home and I felt safer on this campus after visiting on open day

Affordable

UCAS sent a list of unis with spots left, and Aberystwyth University started with an A.

Nice town

liked the caring aspect of it and the size and being by the sea

a nice seaside town and close to home

Student satisfaction and the specific niche course.

A level results

Circumstance and ease

The course was exactly what I was looking for, and Aberystwyth as a town is the perfect environment for me

Location

Had the course I wanted

I liked that it was not a city, by the sea and has lots of nature around.

Location

The location was beautiful

Interpol Department and a 24/7 library

I got an unconditional plus a scholarship

I liked to location and lifestyle

I like my course and living by the sea

nice location, small community, looked like a good uni

Nice area

Cheaper for international students

Course

Rural, geography department is really good

I wanted to be by the sea! Also, they were one of very few universities that did my course.

I loved the location

Had originally got into Nottingham for Animal Science but on results day I didn’t want to move to England. So I went onto clearing and Aberystwyth came up. I had never been to wales or even heard of Aberystwyth but something drew me to it so I took the offer.

I wanted to stay in Wales and I don't like cities, so Aberystwyth was the best option for me.

Prof Nigel Holt did a presentation at a UCAS fair, as well as the students at that fair

location on the coast and community presence and lecturers i met before seemed friendly

The campus and closeness of everything. Staff were very friendly too on open day

easy entry grades and countryside

Location, range of sports, aber has the course I wanted

The course I chose fit exactly what I was looking for and also liked the area

Pretty town / sea / country side

The Seaside and it being a welsh University

Had an archery club and a degree I liked

Small community and lovely location

The location and strong physics department

It was close to home and looked good

I was originally going to choose my firm offer of Cardiff but decided to decline it and went into clearing. This was one of the better courses I looked at as I was interested in the modules

Close and quiet town with a reasonable cost of living.

I was going to go to Cardiff, however when I went to the Open Day I fell in love with this place. I still adore the sea view every day I can.

Family and seafront

I liked what the course offered

Seaside town

excellent printmaking course, lovely location, reports of strong sense of community in reviews

The atmosphere, the student satisfaction score, and the academic and scientific achievements of the university were all appealing, as well as the location

To be closer to home

I wanted to move away from home and try living somewhere new, I liked the look of living by the sea

Only university that accepted

I thought it would meet my needs

I liked the course

The area looked pleasant, had a friendly atmosphere and heard good things about the uni itself

Location is calm

I don’t like busy places and cities and Aber was like a home away from home. They also offered a course I was very interested in.

It's the only one I got an offer from

Because it's close to home and it has a warm environment

location

Staff for my department were extremely friendly and welcoming when I visited an open day. School felt very welcoming.

Because it has a high student satisfactory rate, and because I have heardhow beautiful the university is located and all the support that they get by staff

Close to home and a good university

best course for me

It was not too far from home and the geography department was highly recommended

The woods

Because of accomodation and course of my choice.

by chance, I changed my degree subject late and aberystwyth was one of the few places offering a specific course I wanted to take

Good module options for course

Felt safest

by chance, I changed my degree subject late and aberystwyth was one of the few places offering a specific course I wanted to take

Due to the welcoming nature when I came for open days and the promise of an unconditional offer after my entrance exam

As I lived in Aber and I got a sports scholarship here

The department for my degree and location

The course specifications and the option to complete a year abroad as part of my degree scheme.

I came on an open day when superteams was happening. I saw lots of students enjoying themselves in a way I hadn’t at other unis. Plus the sea and the enviroment

Because of the location and course

I wanted to move somewhere quiet

One of my ancestors is TH Parry Williams

Second best in my course in the country and like fuck I was going to Lincoln

The location and sports scholarship offer

The study of international relations was started here, the student happiness was way above other unis and the area was lovely. We also had family friends in the area

Nice location and it was cheap to live in

As a mature student with a disability, I contacted several universities across the UK before making my decision, and the response I received from Aberystwyth was the most supportive by far.

No math classes and it’s pretty

Location and Good Course

the lecturers are incredibly passionate about what they do and this was incredibly appealing

Because of the integrated masters opportunity for my course, and the international accommodation award

Because the Geography course was one of the better courses for me

Scholarship funding

Leaving Wales was a red line for me.

External Football opportunity

Free international accommodation

I got a merit scholarship

Recommend by friend

The location to the sea and mountains and my course

Furthest away from home

Good and engaging open day

Was easy to get into

It was a well advertised and good academic uni and did a foundation year for my course

Location

Affordability

I loved the town.

Nice location, high student satisfaction score

Beach

I wanted a change from city

I liked the town and the smaller class sizes

Cause it felt like the right choice

Beach

The tranquility of the town

Far from home, nice part of Wales and it's rural location, by the sea, to be a little bit different and adventurous

The great reviews from current and former students when it comes to student well-being.

Because I liked the atmosphere

Clearing choice

Small Town, not far from home

I love the town and I’m close to family here

High praise from teachers, and good vibes

Because it’s smaller than a city and that fit me best

Visited on open day and saw a) the beach and b) the facilities like a 24h library and affordable sports centre with lots of sports facilities for such a small uni

It had a great course that I was seriously interested in with high quality lecturers

it's only 2 hours from my hometown, my scholarship, the library and facilities

good courses

Close to home, by the seaside

Close to where I live, £9,000 tuition fee (at the time), unconditional offer from entrance exam

I live here

The location, the vibe I got of the Uni, the scholarship opportunities.

The atmosphere was so much more friendly than my other choices and my scholarship

Highly rated course that im studying and family who I didn’t see often live nearby

Location, town size, countryside, agri department

I wanted a fresh start, away from my hometown

they let me in with my grades I had and I like the course and the sea

I liked it

Cause they gave me a scholarship

Dedicated student accommodation, easy train journey from home, small town, by the sea

It wasn’t too far from home

It was one of the few unis that offered the specific course I wanted to do in the country and it placed with pretty good rankings for it. Also the year I joined Aber was placed 1st in the UK for student satisfaction which was majorly important me.

The environment around it

Nice seaside town and good student experience

Entrance exam scholarship.

Wanted to move to wales

For the dual honours course

Location, friendliness, course excellence

Wanted to live near the beach, seemed like a friendly place, low ucas entry requirements that made me feel less stressed

Cost, im an internatuonal student and the accomodation discount was really tempting

cost of accommodation, course offering

Located in a nice small town, beach perks, looked like a good community, had the course I was interested in + other benefits like societies

Free accommodation for international students and the interpol department

The many societies available, the beautiful area, and the staff are great.

Highly Ranked between other UK universities, kind of affordable compared to other universities. Convinced by Supervisor

High student satisfaction

Only uni that offers equien & veterinary bioscience. Unique degree and location

One of the only universities that offered my course, had range of scholarships

Acceptance examinations.

been to Aber many times when I was younger, me and my family know our way around

Thats a good university

The course and the location

Scholarship

couldn't get accepted at a university in london

Best place for my degree

Proximity to home

For the town

Scholarship exam

Free accommodation for international students and the statistics of the university and its rankings

I wanted to do a very specific dual course not available in many places, I wanted to go to uni in wales surrounded by the language, I really liked the area when I visited before I applied

It had the course I wanted plus it was by the sea 😁

The Interpol department

Clearing

It was one of 2 universities which offered my specific joint honour course, I liked the location and was very familiar with aber already, cheaper, and I got an unconditional offer

I liked the vibe, as well as the course. It just seemed like the right place.

I liked the look of couse and the uni felt right

The location and the variance from where I grew up

chose aber mainly because of cheaper accom, specific course that isn't taught in many places, location (sea) and access to Welsh gender services (reduced wait times compared to england)

Geographic location, its beautiful here and far away but still somewhat connected via public transport

International accommodation, good reputation, fees frozen from when you enter

Because of the department, the sense of community within the student community (you know your not just a number in the system) and location

Through clearing

i loved it here when i came to the open day

Great corse and location

I love the seaside

I love the general location and the homeliness of the town

Offered a good location, course and small size

The seaside town

the free accomodation

Because it offered modules through Welsh, which was a nice option to have. It is also a nice location.

It is my local university so I've known about it for ages. I'd also heard all the good reviews.

Interpol department is top, brilliant campus, safe town, inclusive

Only university that offered the course I wanted to do.

For my course

It was the only place in the UK offering my joint honours course, and it also is a smaller town which suits me..

Because of the town and uni being fairly small and by the sea, and my course being decent while being fairly easy to get into

Seemed fun, pretty place and good for my course

I though Aber uni can support about my financial problem.

Closer to home and a good university

Because they would take me

It is far away from home, it seemed like a nice town and has good resources for the subject I wanted to study.

The location, town size, accommodation, the course itself having listened to the talks prior to applying, entrance exam opportunity

Because of accomodation and course of my choice.

Near the beach, smaller than others so thought it be nicer.

It was rated highest for student satisfaction, it is located in a smaller town and it was one of the few universities that offered the specific course I wanted to do

I felt it had the most appropriate course for what I wanted

I've always felt at home at Aberystwyth

Couldn't afford a better one

Because I got an unconditional to do a desirable course and gave me the opportunity to experience university

Location

I wanted to be be the sea and i liked the town

It's aligned with my background and career aspiration

Unconditional offer

Only one I could go

Location, the high student satisfaction results and I had a scholarship too.

Entrance exam scholarship.

Location

Family reasons

Various reasons

because my undergraduate degree is highly-ranked one

location, subject and clubs

The great reviews from current and former students

to get away from home, and it looked nicer than other options

Liked the location

It is not far from home, it is in a beautiful area of Wales and I knew that the CU society was strong here.

Because i wanted to be by the coast; and the geography course looked one of the strongest.

Scholarship

Loved the location when I visited

Dedicated student accommodation, easy train journey from home, small town, by the sea

Good degree choice, high student satisfaction rate and beautiful seaside town

Location (by the sea) and the quality of teaching for my subjects

Area + nice sounding course through clearing

I liked that it was smaller than a city uni, but still a great area

Wanted a campus uni and sea side university applied to me

I chose aberystwyth as it was very good for my course and i didnt want to live in a big city. A uni campus rather than city campus was also a big drive

I had an unconditional offer and liked the feel of the place

Location and scholarships

For the chance to explore an educational opportunity independently and adored the little town around the campus.

Location and course

It was a different world from home, and the course was excellent

I chose Aberystwyth because it felt most like home, I felt It had people who I could resonate with and a perk is that its by the sea!

Career and postgraduate opportunities

Wanted to be by the coast and department is very good

dw i caru aber

Because it was rated very high for student satisfaction

CILIP accredited

I live in Pontrhdygroes

Course choice, liked the area

small town

the 24/7 libary

It was close, offered scholarship money, was cheaper than other unis and had the course structure I was looking for

Marine biologist, amber is a coastal town and isn’t bangor

Both geographical convenience and the fact that the University was funded by local subscription - it is of the people.

Ecology

They accepted me