



School of Education

Undergraduate studies in

Education and Childhood Studies

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at time of going to print (September 2024) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.



Welcome

Established in 1892, the School of Education at Aberystwyth University is one of the oldest Education departments in the UK. Our mission is to combine the best of our traditions for academic excellence with the most up-to-date methods in teaching, student engagement and research.

This is reflected in our rankings as Top in the UK for Student Experience in the subject of Education (Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2024), Top in the UK for Student Satisfaction for the subject of Education (Complete University Guide 2024) and 2nd in the UK for Teaching Quality in the subject of Education (Good University Guide, The Times and Sunday Times 2024).

Whether you decide to study with us on a full or part-time basis, you can be confident that you will gain a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding along with transferable skills that are highly valued by employers.

We offer a wide range of courses, such as Childhood studies, Education, Continuous Professional Development courses for teachers at Masters level and research degrees in Education.

In our teaching and research, we are committed to serving the educational, cultural, linguistic and social needs of Wales and we attach great importance to contributing to the community in which we are based. In doing so, we greatly value collaboration with independent providers in the community, schools, unitary authorities and other local and national educational institutions, as well as with other partners and organisations in the UK, Europe and the wider world. Through these partnerships we are undertaking active research in the areas of health and wellbeing, international development, policies in education, Welsh-medium education and education for families in the armed forces.

This brochure gives you information about our subject areas, our modules and other useful information. This is a taste of what we can offer you, and we encourage you to visit us to find out more. Come and meet our vibrant community of students and staff. We look forward to welcoming you to our department and university.

Mr Prysor Davies
Head of Department, School of Education



Our courses

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Childhood Studies

BA (Hons) | X320 | 3 years

This course will enable you to develop the knowledge and understanding needed to excel in child-related professions. Our degree in Childhood Studies explores a diverse range of areas and factors that influence a child and that are pivotal to a child’s later development.

The course will draw upon a variety of disciplines including sociology, psychology and educational studies to broaden your knowledge and promote critical thinking. You will explore some of the factors that influence the development of children, as well as developing an understanding of the political and legislative background to childhood and its implications for children and their families.

Within the course, there are opportunities to undertake placements to gain observational experience of work within an educational/childhood setting. In the past, these have included health settings, nurseries and schools.

You will benefit from:

- a wide variety of assessment techniques including posters, games, essays and presentations allowing you to work to your strengths
- module choices that enable you to specialise in areas which interest you
- support from our employability co-ordinator, who will keep you up to date about a range of opportunities in the field (both paid and voluntary) to help you develop the skills you will need obtain employment after university.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or equivalent check may be necessary in order to undertake some modules for this degree.

Employability

This degree has an excellent track record in employability. Many of our graduates have pursued careers in teaching and education (including SEN/ALN), social care, nursing, speech therapy, social work, child welfare, play therapy, the leisure industry, child law and childhood research.

Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Key Skills for University *
- Children’s Development and Learning *
- Play and Learning: Theory and Practice
- Language Development *.

Second year:

- Psychology of Learning and Thinking *
- Safeguarding and Professional Practice *
- Working with Children *
- Research Methods *.

Final year:

- Children’s Rights *
- Major Dissertation *
- Mathematical Development in the Early Years *.

*also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

For more details on the optional modules available, see the current list on our website, or contact us.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.

 **Assessment weighting:**
90% coursework, 10% exams.

Early Childhood Studies with Early Years Practitioner Status

BA (Hons) | X322 | 3 years

With over 700 hours of placements in Early Years settings, this degree is intended to help you to become a skilled and employable graduate. It does this through the development of knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

University study will provide the academic background to your experiences on placement, which will involve working in a team with staff to care for and educate young children. In the first year, these placements are observational and in the second and third years these placements are assessed. You will also be able to be involved in the School of Education’s well-established employability programme.

You will explore:

- children’s play, development, learning and well-being
- partnerships: working with parents, carers, external agencies and in teams with other practitioners
- safeguarding and equality
- the early years curriculum, including communication, language, literacy and mathematical development
- leadership skills.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or equivalent check is necessary in order to undertake this degree.

Employability

Successful completion of this degree leads to Early Years Practitioner Status. This means that you will have a degree that allows you to work as a professional within an early years setting (subject to appropriate literacy and numeracy qualifications). Furthermore, successful completion of this degree may also lead to progression to a one-year primary school teacher training course (PGCE). The qualification is also an ideal basis for anyone wishing to work in the social work profession or within different types of educational therapy.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.

 **Assessment weighting:**
100% course work and practice.



Module list

Below is an indicative list of modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Key Skills for University *
- Children’s Development and Learning *
- Partnerships in Principle and Practice
- Health and Wellbeing in the Early Years.

Second year:

- Safeguarding and Professional Practice *
- Literacy in Young Children *
- Education, Equality and Diversity.

Final year:

- Mathematical Development in the Early Years *
- Emotional and Social Development *
- Communication.

There are placement modules in every year of this course. There may be travel expenses associated with placements.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

Education

BA (Hons) | X302 | 3 years

A degree in Education at Aberystwyth enables you to explore the development of children and adolescents, covering issues which are central to an understanding of educational systems. Our course aims to excite and stimulate you through the study of curriculum design and educational policy, with further insight into the disciplines of sociology, psychology and linguistics. A particular focus includes supporting learners throughout the education system.

An Education degree is an ideal basis for work in industry, policy or the charitable sector, or for entry to Primary PGCE teacher education programmes. Degrees with other subjects may qualify you for Secondary PGCE courses. The study of education involves aspects of psychology, sociology, politics and history. It delves into how people learn, how their surroundings influence their learning, how decision-making happens and how our understanding of learning and teaching has developed over the years. Observational placements available during the degree will also help you to see the theory in practice and a particular focus includes supporting learners throughout the education system.

Please note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate or equivalent check may be necessary in order to undertake some modules for this degree.

Employability

Employability is at the core of this course. The School of Education has a well-established connection with the University Careers Service, where a dedicated adviser with experience in the educational field can provide advice from the beginning of your first year. On graduation you will be able to apply for a PGCE in Primary Education. An Education degree with other subjects may qualify you for Secondary PGCE courses. Other graduates from the School of Education have explored careers in social care, nursing, speech therapy, social work, child welfare, play therapy, the leisure industry, child law and childhood research.

Key Facts

 **Typical offer:**
UCAS tariff points: 120-96
IB: 30-26.

 **Assessment weighting:**
90% coursework, 10% exams.

Module list

Below is an indicative list of the Education modules that you may study on this course.

First year:

- Children’s Development and Learning *
- Language Development *
- Key Skills for University *.

Second year:

- Psychology of Learning and Thinking *
- Research Methods *
- Working with Children *
- Safeguarding and Professional Practice *.

Final year:

- Children’s Rights *
- Critically Reflecting and Evaluating Learning and Skills *
- Major Dissertation *
- Emotional and Social Development *.

* also available partially or entirely through the medium of Welsh.

 **Also available:**
X30F Integrated foundation year.

Combined schemes with Education

These schemes are ideal for students who love their subjects and wish to study something new. They are offered by the School of Education in collaboration with other departments in the University. Students have Personal Tutors in both of their academic departments.

These are of three types:

Degrees with Education as a Major subject

These are BA degrees where two-thirds of your studies will take place in the School of Education. This means that one-third of your course will involve studying a subject of your choice. Following one of these courses will enable you to apply for Primary PGCE courses

Joint Honours degrees with Education

These are BA or BSc 'half-and-half' degrees where each subject takes up 50% of your time. If you are thinking of teaching your subject in Secondary schools, you can apply for Secondary PCGE courses from these degrees. You can also apply for Primary PGCE course.

Degrees with Education as a Minor subject

These are BA or BSc degrees where two-thirds of your studies will take place in another University department, with one-third in the School of Education. If you are thinking of teaching your subject in Secondary schools, you can apply for Secondary PCGE courses from these degrees. You can also apply for Primary PGCE course.

Core module list

Core modules for all of these schemes include:

- Policies and Issues in Education
- Psychology of Learning and Thinking.

These are also available in Welsh:

- Polisiau a Materion mewn Addysg
- Seicoleg Dysgu a Meddwl.

Joint Honours & Major/Minor

Subject	Available with...	Joint Honours	Major/Minor
Education	Drama and Theatre	WX43	
	English Literature	QX33	
	History	VX13	
	Mathematics	GX13	G1X3
	Psychology	CX80	
	Spanish		X3R4
	Welsh/Cymraeg	QX53	

For more information, please visit
www.aber.ac.uk/en/education/study-with-us/undergraduate/courses



Studying through the medium of Welsh

We are strongly committed to teaching through the medium of Welsh and we are dedicated to developing our Welsh-medium provision. Our core modules and an increasing number of optional modules are offered in Welsh. Welsh-medium students have their own academic representative who acts as an advocate for their interests in staff-student meetings.

We encourage students to choose Welsh-medium modules. Some choose one or two and others choose as many as possible. All assignments and exams on either Welsh or English-medium modules can be written in Welsh or English and all work written in Welsh is marked by Welsh-speaking tutors. We can also ensure that all Welsh-medium students are assigned a Welsh-speaking personal tutor to guide them through their studies.

The Key Skills for University module (Sgiliau Allweddol i Brifysgol) provides Welsh-medium students with key skills that aid them with the transition from school/college into university. In addition, the University can offer further support with developing and improving academic skills through the medium of Welsh or English.

We also work closely with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC) to try and expand and improve the range of Welsh-medium education we offer, and some schemes are eligible for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's scholarships.



Employability

School of Education graduate outcomes

We centre our courses around employability to ensure that you have a smooth transition from campus to career. One of our lecturers acts as Employability Co-ordinator, organising conferences and regular sessions with speakers from a variety of careers. We also encourage our students to volunteer, at home or in the local area, as practical experience is always valuable in deciding on a future career and for job applications.

The University operates a Year in Industry Scheme. Students wishing to complete a year in industry may do so between the second and third year of studying. Another option is to study abroad for a period of time. You could, for example, choose to take part in the International Exchange Programme.

We know that many of our students are contemplating a career in teaching, either Primary or Secondary. If a career in teaching isn't for you, these are some of the careers our students have followed: Social care; Nursing; Speech therapy; Social work; Child welfare; Play therapy; Child Law.



Student profiles

Michelle

I originally wanted to train as a child psychotherapist. However I loved my time at Aberystwyth University and during my dissertation discovered a love for research. I then decided to enroll on a postgraduate course. I am now engaged in my own long-term research project. I am researching the values and self-beliefs that enable children to succeed. With this research I will be designing an intervention to encourage children in Wales to develop a love for learning and discover their potential. I feel that the skills I developed as an undergraduate student have provided me with the foundations to study at this level. The course and all of the staff have been and continue to be brilliant, encouraging, supportive and welcoming.

Sophie

I graduated with a degree in Childhood Studies. I thoroughly enjoyed my three years at University and am grateful for all the support and encouragement from not only my lecturers but from the department as a whole. I am currently working as a Language Support Officer for the Basic Skills Team for my local council. We provide language and play sessions for pre-school children and their families. I work closely with health visitors in order to provide support plans for families. We provide everyday support for speech, language, and communication development. My job has given me the opportunity to put my knowledge from the degree into practice.

Katherine

Going to Aber was one of the best decisions of my life. Moving away from home gave me a sense of independence that I needed. The university is very supportive of anything that you are going through, and your personal tutors are there for you every step of the way! Since graduating I have been studying for my PGCE which is going well and I hope I will be teaching full-time in September. Without the support of the friends I made in Aber and the staff I would never be where I am now. The friends you make here are friends for life and the department staff are just the best. It is a great gateway course for a lot of jobs with children, which is fantastic.

Annabel

Originally, I wanted to pursue a business venture after graduating. However, engaging in the numerous modules encouraged a curiosity for learning that I could not ignore. I decided that continued study in educational research was the path I had to follow. I am now a postgraduate doctoral student. My PhD is focused on peers adopting 'prosocial' behavioural strategies, I hope to develop and pilot my prevention/intervention strategy for improved wellbeing across schools and for better social outcomes in Wales.

Research in the School of Education

The School of Education research focuses on three key areas:

1. Research in teaching, learning and pedagogy:

- How learners learn
- Subject knowledge and understanding
- ICT and learning
- Teachers and professional learning
- Curriculum development
- Assessment for learning
- Digital education
- Bilingual education.

2. Childhood Studies:

- How children develop and learn
- Gender studies
- Language acquisition and development
- Health and wellbeing
- Healthy schools
- Additional learning needs.

3. Educational policy:

- Partnership and collaboration in education
- Rural education
- Workforce development in education
- Leadership in education
- Community education
- National and local educational policy and the impact on small schools.



Global opportunities

Aberystwyth's Global Opportunities team offer an exciting range of options for you to go overseas as part of your degree: from short courses and volunteering opportunities in the summer, to a full semester or year abroad studying your chosen subject at one of our partner universities.

The University also offers a number of courses which include an integrated year studying abroad, enabling you to study at one of our European or international partner universities for one or two semesters during your third year, returning to Aberystwyth for your final year and graduation.

Reports have shown that students who study abroad are more attractive to employers and earn more than their peers. Take advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime while improving your critical skills by choosing to study abroad.



The application process

1 Apply through UCAS.com

Check the UCAS deadline on UCAS.com. Aberystwyth University institution code: A40.

TOP TIP: You'll be given a 10-digit UCAS ID number. Keep this to hand as you'll be asked for it many times.

2 The University will consider your application

TOP TIP: Use UCAS Hub to keep an eye on your application. At Aberystwyth we aim to make a decision within seven days.

3 The offer will show on UCAS Hub

The University's decision will show on UCAS Hub - if you've been made an offer, it will tell you what grades you need to achieve to secure your place.

4 Decide where to go

Once you've received all your offers, you'll need to decide which university you want to go to, within a set time. This is when you'll need to note which universities will be your Firm and Insurance choices.

5 Accommodation

Once you've chosen your Firm/Insurance choice you'll be invited to apply for accommodation.

6 Results day

UCAS Hub will tell you whether your place is confirmed at your Firm choice. If you don't get the grades you'd hoped for, you may want to consider entering Clearing.

7 Start packing!

Remember to keep an eye on your emails for information about arrival and welcome activities.

School of Education,
Aberystwyth University,
Penbryn 5,
Penglais Campus,
Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion, SY23 3UX

+44 (0)1970 62 1537

add-ed@aber.ac.uk

@EducationAtAber

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