

Erasmus Exchange Experience Aberystwyth

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The Town

Aberystwyth is located on the coast of mid Wales, it has a breathtaking view of the sea amidst a small town inhabited mostly by university students. The main campus Penglais is located at the top of the hill while the town is at the bottom. University accommodation is guaranteed for incoming international students which was great. I chose to reside on campus at Pentre Jane Morgan (the student village) to make getting to seminars easier as it was a quick 5 min walk. There is also other options of student housing around town and campus such as seafront (along the beach).



Academics

Aberystwyth University formerly known as the University of Wales was the first university that started teaching International Relations as a discipline in 1919. Prior to my exchange I had read journal articles on the discipline and notable scholars that have contributed to the discipline from

the university. Thus, I was anticipating my exchange to learn more about the discipline from this famous department. The department of International politics regularly holds lectures, I attended a lecture of Stephen Walt, a notable/controversial author and academic from the United States on foreign policy that was super interesting.

As a postgraduate student, our modules are seminar based. There are many readings for each seminar to be read and discussed in class in a size of about 10 students. The small intimate class setting was great as it allowed for us to exchange ideas and discussions around the texts. Since the seminars were only once a week there was plenty of free-time to read the texts. The library is open 24/7 allowing you to do some late-night reading and paper-writing. There were no exams, all examinations were essay based on questions provided.

Social Life

Aberystwyth has over 50 student clubs, that cater to almost hobby, sport and interests. All the societies' hold social events weekly that usually involve going into town for a night out with over 50 bars to choose from. I joined the Interpol society, as it was specific to my department and studies. They had weekly themed nights out such as Halloween, pub golf, formal wear, white-shirt etc in addition to academic events and games. The Erasmus exchange society collaborating with the international office had a few events throughout the semester for the incoming international students. From those there was a Canadian and American thanksgiving as well as an end of year Christmas party. Overall even though Aber is a small town, there is always something going and it was a great time. I met great friends that were a great support network both in class and outside. Overall I had a memorable experience on my exchange semester in Aberystwyth, Wales.



Interpol Halloween party



Social night out with my classmates from the USA and England



Flatmas with my flat mates from spain and greece

I would highly recommend Aber as an Erasmus exchange student.