

MA Welsh Politics & Society



Canolfan Wleidyddiaeth a Chymdeithas Cymru
Centre for Welsh Politics and Society

WISERD@Aberystwyth

<http://www.cwps.aber.ac.uk>

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MA Welsh Politics & Society

This innovative scheme provides a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding contemporary Wales. The scheme will equip postgraduate students with a strong grounding in the historical, cultural, socio-economic and political context to contemporary Wales; critical engagement with key intellectual debates regarding Wales' politics, society and history; knowledge of the constitutional arrangements and institutional structures shaping devolved government in Wales, and an understanding of the broader UK and European context of trends in territorial politics and regional governance. It also places a strong emphasis on enhancing employability and work-based learning.

The scheme forms a key component of the work of the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society, WISERD@ Aberystwyth University enabling students to study in the context of a world-leading research centre on contemporary political, social and economic issues of relevance to Wales. It draws together experts from three prestigious departments, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, Department of History and Welsh History and Department of International Politics, and is housed in the latter the world's first university department of International Politics.

Key Facts

- ♦ **Duration:** One year full-time. The academic year (September to September) is divided into three semesters: September to January; January to June; June to September
- ♦ **Contact time:** During the first two semesters you will normally take one two-hour seminar per module per week. You will also have contact with academic staff through participation in Centre for Welsh Politics and Society thematic groups and workshops and the vibrant graduate culture of the departments contributing to the scheme: Department of International Politics, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences and Department of History and Welsh History. Staff also have office hours (two one hour sessions per week). There will also be additional sessions working towards developing your master's dissertation. During semester three you will arrange your level of contact time with your assigned supervisor.
- ♦ **Assessment:** This innovative scheme offers a range of assessment methods. Assessments will be through a combination of project work, short reports, essays and dissertation and may depending on the modules chosen, include seminar presentations and review essays.
- ♦ **Entry Requirements:** Good Undergraduate degree 2.2 (UK) (or above) equating to a mark of 56.5 or above. European and International applicants can find their grade equivalence on our comparability page @<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/apply/comparability/>. Those who are not graduates must satisfy the University that they are of the required academic standard to pursue postgraduate study.
- ♦ **English Language Requirements:** If you have a Bachelor's degree from a UK University, you do not need to take an English proficiency test. Non-native English speakers who do not meet this requirement must take a University-recognised test of academic English language proficiency.
- ♦ **Course Fees:** Please see the tuition fee pages for current tuition fees @ <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/fees-finance/>. Please note that all fees are subject to an annual increase.
- ♦ **Funding:** Funding opportunities may be available, please check our funding calculator for details <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/postgrad/fees-finance/calculator/>.

Overview

This degree provides students with an advanced level understanding of the context to, and contemporary developments in, politics and society in Wales. Its multi-disciplinary approach provides a strong grounding in the historical context, the making of contemporary Wales and a critical engagement with key intellectual debates regarding Wales' politics, society and history. In addition, students will develop detailed knowledge of the operation of devolved government in Wales, a critical awareness of key policy issues and debates regarding the nature of contemporary society in post-devolution Wales, and a comparative overview of Welsh politics and society in a broader European context.

The **Specialist pathway** provides the opportunity for students to pursue advanced, subject-specific study in a particular area of the discipline. Students following this pathway take two scheme core modules (that includes a core methods module), four modules from a bespoke basket of degree scheme related options from the contributing departments to the scheme: Department of International Politics, Department of Geography and Earth Studies and the Department of History and Welsh History followed by a dissertation.

The **Research Training** pathway is designed to emphasise social science or humanities research training as well as specialist provision scheme core module, a suite of research training modules amounting to 60 credits and select a smaller number of modules from a bespoke basket of degree scheme related options. Like the Specialist degree scheme, this pathway culminates in a dissertation.

Staff

The scheme draws together staff across three departments that convene and teach modules in research areas where they are research active and recognised experts. They are active within the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society WISERD@Aberystwyth launched in 2016/17.

Course content

Please note: The modules listed below are those currently intended for delivery during the next academic year and may be subject to change. They are included here to give an indication of how the course is structured.

- ♦ Core Module: *Understanding Wales in an Age of Global Transformation*
- ♦ Methods Core (for Specialist Scheme): *either Research Methods and Professional Skills in History or Geographical Research Methodologies*
- ♦ Optional Modules
 - The State through the Ages*
 - Postcolonial Politics*
 - The Making of Modern Wales*
 - Rural Economy, Society and Policy*
 - Work-based learning modules: Postgraduate Work Experience or Working with History*
- ♦ Dissertation: *Welsh Politics and Society Dissertation*

More information regarding the core module: *Understanding Wales in an Age of Global Transformation*

This multi-disciplinary module introduces students to how contemporary major global transformations play out at the sub-state level in the specific Welsh context.

- ◆ Part One : introduces students to the major global transformations and to multi-disciplinarity in the context of the main disciplinary perspectives that will be utilised in order to understand the effects of global changes in Wales.
- ◆ Part Two : engages with economic and social change and covers a number of themes from the following: the implications of far reaching economic transformation in forms such as industrialisation, de-industrialisation and post-industrial economies, urbanisation and rurality, the transformation witnessed in the nature of community life, engagement in civil society and social capital, and the revolution in communication technology.
- ◆ Part Three : examines the implications of political change such as state transformation, the implications of multi-level governance and the emerging new governance in the Welsh context.
- ◆ Part Four: turns to the implications of migration and identity addressing the trends in in trans-national migration and global migration, increased ethnic and cultural diversity and the rise in the politics of identity at the sub-state level in response to global transformations.

This degree will suit you:

- If you want to study Welsh Politics at Masters level
- If you wish to develop a critical appreciation of Welsh politics
- If you wish to nurture a career in policy and politics within Wales or in other parts of the UK and beyond
- If you desire formal recognition of skills highly sought-after by any postgraduate employer

Employability

Every course at Aberystwyth University is designed to enhance your vocational and general employability. Your Masters will place you in the jobs market as a highly-trained political specialist with a strength in depth of knowledge on vital subjects such as the political, economic, cultural and social context of politics in Wales today as well as the key institutions and actors in contemporary Welsh political life. You will also graduate with a wealth of postgraduate-level skills which are transferable into any workplace.

This scheme places a strong emphasis on enhancing the employability of graduates by offering students the option to study work-based learning modules as we know that students benefit hugely from such experiences. Past examples include working for the Political Unit BBC Wales, National Assembly for Wales, Ceredigion County Council European unit. Some of the modules associated with scheme are also innovative by including expert practitioners in the teaching.

The programme also offers tranches of modules as 5-credit CPD provision which is ideal to enhance the employability of those already in work but seeking to develop their expertise in particular areas.

The scheme's track record strongly indicates that it provides solid employment enhancement for those interested in pursuing careers related to Welsh politics and policy, from the civil service, to journalism to political lobbying and it has proven to be a valuable preparation for PhD study.