**Aberystwyth University**

**Applying to University – FAQ**

**What is a semester?**

There are 2 semesters, the 1st is September to January and the 2nd is January until May or June.

For example, this student has chosen to study these 6 modules in the first year of their English Literature degree.

In Semester 1, they will be taught these three modules between September and December and then they’ll sit any exams that might have in January.

Then in Semester 2, they will typically be taught their remaining three modules between January and April and then sit their exams in May.

Simply put, you’ll do half the modules you’ve chosen in Semester 1 and then the other modules you’ve chosen in Semester 2.

**What is a seminar?**

Seminars are small groups where students can discuss and analyse a variety of new topics, research material, ideas and concepts alongside a tutor.

In a lecture, the whole class attends and mainly listen to the lecturer; a *seminar* is an opportunity for smaller groups of students to explore the ideas presented in the lecture, in greater detail.

The content of your seminar depends on your subject but usually students have the opportunity to take a more active role in the session, developing their communication skills as well as deepening their academic understanding.

**What is a module?**

A module is essentially a class that you take whilst at University.

Some are core modules which are mandatory, and some are optional where you get to choose.

Each year, a student has to complete a combined total of 120 credits & each module is worth a certain amount of credits.

For example, each one of my modules were worth 20 credits, so I did 3 modules, worth a total of 60 credits in the first semester and another 3 20-credit modules in the 2nd semester. Overall I had 120 credits and completed the year.

**What is catered accommodation?**

Catered accommodation is a good choice if you do not know how to cook or you do not want to worry about cooking your own food.

A portion of your rent is loaded onto your student card in termly instalments and you’ll be able to spend it when and where you like on campus in any of our award winning range of restaurants and cafes.

Our only catered residence is actually part-catered which means there are also kitchenettes available to you to prepare basic meals and snacks in addition to the refectory where you can get a variety of great meals, 3 times a day.

**Will I have the opportunity to carry on with ‘fun stuff’ during my Degree?**

There is no course that makes you too busy to socialise, so I can guarantee that you’ll be able to do fun stuff alongside your studies BUT it all depends on Time Management.

Aber Uni has over 100 different societies and sports for you to take part in so it’s important that you plan accordingly so that you can study as well as socialise.

For example, as exams and essay deadlines approach, it’s a good idea to socialise less.

Alternatively, you could create a revision timetable to ensure that you spend enough time studying without missing out on social events.

Just make sure that you plan your time accordingly.

**What’s a Fresher/Freshers’ Fayre**

A Fresher or Freshman, is a first year undergraduate student.

The first week of University is called Freshers week and it’s basically a welcome week before lectures start for new students to get used to their new home whilst making new friends, attending social events and completing admin tasks such as registering for your course and picking your modules.

A Freshers Fayre is a fair that takes place during Freshers week for the university to showcase what societies and sports there are for new students to join. More than likely there’ll be some local organisations there too, such as bookshops or bus companies, and of course there’ll be loads of freebies too.

**How may I be assessed on my course?**

Most courses will assess you via essays and exams but there are also many different forms of assessments, depending on your subject.

Art might require you to create a portfolio or exhibition, Scientific subjects might need supervised lab work, Creative Writing will need creative writing, Film might need a film, Theatre could require a performance and many subjects will want you to work on a project or a presentation.

The best thing to do is to head to the webpage of your module so you’ll be able to see the methods of assessment. For example, if you hate exams, you could always choose modules that only ask for essays.

**What is a core/optional module?**

A core module is a mandatory module where you will be taught the fundamental skills necessary to progress within your course, as such, everyone on your course will attend these core modules.

In computer science, core modules will include coding skills, however in English Literature, core modules will teach you research skills and literary theory. Whatever your subject, core modules will give you the tools to succeed on your course.

Alongside your core modules there are also a range of Optional modules, where you can simply choose to study the modules you’re most interested in.

**Is there a difference between a lecture and a seminar?**

The main difference between a lecture and a seminar is that a lecture is for a large group where you primarily listen to the lecturer where as a seminar is for smaller groups where it’s more of a discussion with your fellow students.

Although the lecturer might encourage questions and discussion, lectures a generally a monologue where they’ll introduce a topic. Generally all the students on the module will attend that lecture.

A seminar is then an opportunity for smaller groups of students to discuss the topic of the lecture in greater detail with each other, often having been given further reading to do beforehand.

**How many hours a week will I spend in a classroom?**

On average, a student spends between 15-25hours per week attending lectures and seminars at University.

This Business students’ timetable shows that they are expected to attend Uni 18 hours per week. That being said, it’s a good idea to spend time in the library between lectures to study, so the amount of hours this student spends at University per week might end up being a bit more than 18.

Remember, you won’t spend all your time in a classroom, some of those hours could be spent in lecture halls, labs, programming suites, studios and so on. At University, you won’t just be restricted to a classroom.

**Will I have to sit lots of exams?**

It depends entirely on your course.

Some subjects such as Maths tend to have more exams, whereas arts subjects such as English Literature are likely to have more essays instead.

In fact, there’s a wide variety of different ways that can be assessed on your course like presentations, projects, supervised lab work and for arts subjects portfolios, exhibitions, performances and film.

You can always find out how you’ll be assessed during your course by checking out the webpage of our different modules. That way you can potentially avoid modules that have a method of assessment that you’re not fond of, like exams.