



## Aberystwyth University

**2018-2019**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
In the beginning I found the amount of forms I needed to fill in and other things I needed to do a bit overwhelming. However, I started on time, so I could have a good look at it and in the end I sorted it all out. The International Office in Utrecht helped me with it as well. Just make sure that you keep an eye on all the different deadlines.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The counselling and support at Utrecht University is good! You can always e-mail the International Office and they will respond to you really quick.
academic preparation
I didn't do any academic preparation.
language preparation
I didn't do any language preparation either.
finances
My parents paid for a bit and besides that I used my student loan, the Erasmus Grant, the public transport compensation and some of my own savings to fund my semester abroad.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
At Aberystwyth they want you to register for at least 30 ETCS per semester. I registered for 4 courses: Legal System, Criminal Law, Family and Child law and Labour law, which was a total of 35 ECTS.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality at Aberystwyth University is good. The staff is really friendly and helpful. The way of teaching in Aberystwyth University is a bit different. In Aberystwyth you will get more (usually shorter) lectures and less and shorter seminars than in Utrecht.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The counselling and support at Aberystwyth University is good. There are a lot of people where you can go to if you have a question. Besides, every student will be assigned to a mentor and a tutor. Also the International office is always willing to help you in responses really quick.
transfer of credits
I haven't received my transcript of records yet.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
I signed up for the meet and greet programme. Hereby, a bus from the university came to Birmingham Airport to pick up the international students who signed up for this and dropped them off at their accommodation. This was really nice. After you've arrived the first week is an introduction week for all international students. There are a lot of events and parties which you can attend to meet people and there are some information meetings and



welcoming talks. During this week you also need to register for your courses.
accommodation
I applied for a student accomodation through the University. In 2018/2019 all erasmus students were garantueed accomodation (if you applied for it). I stayed in Pentre Jane Morgan, which was fine. It was only a 5/10 min walk to the university. I lived there with 5 other housemates who were all Erasmus students. However, not all houses consisted of international students only. Some of my friends lived with (some) national students. I would recommend to apply for accomodation through the university, because this makes it easier to make friends and meet with them.
leisure & culture
Aberystwyth is small, but really beautifull! There is also a lot of opportunity to visit some other places around Aberystwyth and in the weekend the busses are free. The nightlife in Aberystwyth is good. There are a lot of students and many pubs and some clubs.
suggestions/tips
Go and explorer the areas around Aberystwyth as well!

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
I would definetely recommend Aberystwyth. I had a really good time there and made a lot of new friends!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just go on an exchange!

## 2017-2018

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
Well, of course you need to fill in a lot of things and stuff, but in the end it's not suuuuper much and still definitely worth it. I think that the process went fine.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
They were great, every time I had a question I emaild them and they responded really quickly.
academic preparation
I did a LEAP-course, which was helpful, but that's all I did.
language preparation
I took a LEAP-course and I'm really glad I did that, because I'm studying law and it's just really helpful, especially for me because it's based on the UK legal system. Really recommend this if you're studying law.
finances
I saved some money myself, I have a student loan and my parents transferred me money.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD



study programme (content and organisational issues)
It was really interesting. I did the courses Criminal Justice and the Penal System, criminal law and Psychology and Crime.
academic quality of education activities
It was good. It's also funny to see that they have different methods of teaching.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
My tutor was really helpful and the reception at my department too.
transfer of credits
-

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
It was a great first week, they organised a lot of things, also parties. They gave all the information you needed to know.
accommodation
My accomodation was great, I lived at seafront. The only thing I missed was a living room.
leisure & culture
Aberystwyth is perfect. There is much to do and see, also around Aber. There are also a lot of pubs and bars in Aber. Btw, I thought that the UK would be expensive but it wasn't that expensive. They have a Lidl (and more supermarkets) and that was really cheap.
suggestions/tips
Bar 46 is the best bar!!! Poundland is aslo a really good shop with a lot of cheap stuff.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, definitely!!! This university wasn't my first choice, but I'm really glad I ended up here. It was the best decision in my life so far. For such a small town, there is so much to do and see. I went out a lot, because there are so many bars and pubs. I miss it so much and I already booked a flight back to visit some friends. It couldn't be any better!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Yes, go here!!!

## 2015-2016

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
I was pretty early in deciding that I wanted to go study abroad. I wanted to go for the experience ofcourse, but also to improve my English. That is why I knew I wanted to go somewhere in the UK. My first two choices were two universities in London and my third choice was Aberystwyth. I put Aberystwyth down with the presumption



that I would be selected for one of my first choices. So when I was selected to go to Aberystwyth it was first kind of a bummer. I eventually still choose to go because of the experience. So my first lesson was, look very closely to the three places you choose. It is always a bummer not to be selected for your first choice, but eventually I don't think it really matters where you end up. When I was selected by our own international office, I visited the Erasmus information and received the general information. Next I downloaded all the required forms ( both Erasmus and the host university application forms ) and tried to find out how to complete them. It was quite clear which forms you needed to complete. The international office here in Utrecht helped me with a lot of things and they were quite fast in answering my questions and signing documents. However, the Aberystwyth university was not that fast. I had a lot of trouble getting them to sign my papers by the right people. This taught me that not everyone does everything on time, and you need to make sure yourself that everything is signed on time. Luckily everything went well and I uploaded everything on time. Another tip is to check all your documents three times to see if you have all the signatures you need.

#### counselling & support at Utrecht University

Like I said above, the International Office in Utrecht was very helpful. They answered all of my questions and even called and explained to me why I wasn't picked for my first two choices.

#### academic preparation

I haven't undertaken any special academic preparation before I went abroad, only finishing my obligated courses of course in the Netherlands. In my experience you don't really have to have an academic preparation, but that was for me because in Aberystwyth I did a course that explained the Common Law system to me quite well. If you are not planning to do a course like that, I would recommend before going to read at least something about the Common Law system as it is really different from ours.

#### language preparation

I didn't have any language preparation as well. However, this was my own fault. I would recommend to do some sort of language preparation. The University of Utrecht has a legal English course, you only need to register for that one quite early.

#### finances

I financed my semester abroad through the Erasmus grant, my Dutch student grant and my Dutch public transport compensation. Also, my parents paid for my rent so I didn't had to worry about that. Before going, take in mind that first of all the UK is quite a bit more expensive than the Netherlands. Another tip would be to take in mind to calculate more money for traveling. I did quite a bit of traveling there, not only in holidays but in weekends as well.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

My study programme included 4 modules. In Aberystwyth it is common to do 30 ECTS in one semester, as at the Utrecht university. The difference is that in Aberystwyth the semester is not divided in two parts of 15 ECTS. As a result of that you usually have to do 3 or 4 modules, to get your 30 ECTS. I did four modules which included 35 ECTS all together. I followed only law modules, these were: Legal System, Criminal Law, Human Rights and Criminal Justice and the Penal System. Because our legal systems are quite different from each other, I followed an introduction course about the English Legal System. I found this very helpful. The amount of ECTS I did, so 35, were quite a lot but it is possible. You have to take into account that studying in English will take you more time than studying in your native language.

#### academic quality of education activities

I consider the academic quality of education in Aberystwyth as good. All lecturers and seminar teachers I met are really enthusiastic about their subject and they are all really willing to help you. The teaching in Aberystwyth is a lot more personal than in Utrecht, what I experienced as really pleasant. Because everything is more personal it is easy to ask questions and they email you back really fast. The only thing I had a bit of trouble



with, was that it wasn't really clear what you had to read for your seminars and lectures. One of my lecturers was really helpful and wrote it down on our hand outs, but my other lectures kind of expected from us to figure it out ourselves.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support from Aberystwyth University is, once you're there, really good. They are really nice and explain everything really good. You can always email, call or walk in whenever you have any question and they are happy to help you.

transfer of credits

I don't have experience with transfer of credits as I didn't receive my results yet.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week there is a fresher fair to welcome all the new students, including the erasmus students. We received general information and there was a welcoming talk by some professors and students of the university. In this week you also register for your modules. During this week a lot of activities are organised by the University, for example a sports fair and a societies fair so you can get to know all the sports and society clubs.

accommodation

In Aberystwyth there are three types of accommodation; University, private and agencies. Once your application is confirmed you can apply for university accommodation. You have to apply for these accommodation before a certain deadline, so pay attention. The University accommodations are a bit expensive, but if you can afford it, I would recommend staying in one of those. You have to give your preferences to the University and they place you in an accommodation. All the erasmus students who applied for a university accommodation were placed in the same accommodation. I liked this. We all lived in a flat with your own flatmates. I lived with 8 other girls, we shared two bathrooms, a kitchen and a big living room. Living like this makes it easy to get to know people and become friends. Eventhough our accommodation was on the campus, which is a 20 minutes walk down the hill to town, it was fine. You eventually get used to all the walking.

leisure & culture

Aberystwyth is a beautiful town. The beach is amazing, you have an old castle, constitution hill and the old college. It is a really small town and you don't have a lot of shops, but you can find the essentials there. Although Aberystwyth is small, it is never boring because of all the students who live there. I fell totally in love with the beauty of this small town, but if you prefer big cities I wouldn't recommend you to go to aber as the closest proper big city is three hours away. Because of all the students, the nightlife in Aberystwyth is fun. There are a lot of pubs and two clubs, so not many. The good thing about this is that everybody is always going to the same pub on specific nights, so you always meet a lot of people that you know.

suggestions/tips

Bring a raining jacket and hiking shoes, even if you're not into hiking now I can guarantee you that you will love it in Wales. Another tip is go and join a sports club or society. This is a great way to have fun and meet more people.

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes go!! At first I was bummed that I was selected to go to Aberystwyth, but after 4 months I didn't want to go home anymore. I met incredibly nice people there and made some unforgettable memories. You are free to choose any module what you want, so you can find out more what you like and don't like. All in all going on a



erasmus exchange is amazing and Aberystwyth is the perfect place for it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Really important is to check all your documents, if everyone signed it and when you have to upload everything.



2013-2014

preparation
exchange/placement application process
<p>I started the application process, after I was selected by our own international office, by visiting the Erasmus meetings and receiving general information. Next I downloaded all the required forms ( both Erasmus and the host university application forms ) and tried to find out how to complete them. The international office in Utrecht helped me with a lot of things and they were quite fast in answering my questions and signing documents. However, the Aberystwyth university was not that fast, so I had a lot of trouble contacting them and receiving the right assignments from the right people. That was my first Erasmus lesson, namely, that not everyone is so accurate in answering questions and helping you as soon as possible as in the Netherlands. Finally everything went well and I received my documents to upload for the Erasmus grant right on time.</p>
counselling/support at home university
<p>As I mentioned above, the support of my home university was great. It was totally clear from the beginning that they are really willing to help you, but that you have to organise everything on your own and that it is your own responsibility to be on time with your documents. Although, when I got in trouble I just went to the International office and they helped me directly. For the future, I would like to recommend the international office to support students more in choosing modules at the host university. I experienced it as very confusing in the beginning that I had no idea which modules I would undertake at my exchange university, as in Utrecht, we are used to choosing our modules quite early. Finally I figured out everything and there were no problems with choosing my modules at all when I arrived in Aberystwyth, but it will make upcoming Erasmus students feel way more confident if there is more information provided about the modules and the process to apply for them in the host university.</p>
academic preparation
<p>Apart from finishing my obligated courses in the Netherlands, I haven't undertaken specific academic preparation for my Erasmus exchange. However, in the Legal English course I did at the Babel language institution in Utrecht, I gained some knowledge concerning the Common law system. I considered this as very useful, as it was easier to understand processes and institutions in my Common law modules in Aberystwyth.</p>
language preparation
<p>For approximately 3 months I was part of the Legal English for Academic Purposes course at the Babel language institution in Utrecht. During this course they taught us legal vocabulary, which is really useful when you're a law student, as many terms in English have a totally different meaning in Dutch law and are really specific. They also prepared us in having legal conversations, moot courts and presentations in English, which was also really useful and I believe it made me feeling more confident about my English language skills. I discussed this subject with my international friends in Aberystwyth, and none of them got the opportunity to do such a course in their home university. In comparison to my (legal) vocabulary, theirs was weaker, and I think that is most of all the</p>



result of the Legal English course.

#### finances

I financed my semester abroad through the Erasmus grant, my own savings ( +/- 2000 EU ), my Dutch student grant and my Dutch public transport compensation. I calculated before what was my budget and how much I would spend here, and I think I spent approximately what I was expecting. If I may give a tip to upcoming Erasmus students, I would recommend to calculate more money for traveling. Not only during holidays, but also in the weekends you will travel around to explore the country with your international friends. Public transport is in general more expensive in the UK than in the Netherlands.

#### study/placement abroad period

##### study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

My study programme included 3 modules and an additional course ( Postgraduate skills training programme ). In Aberystwyth it is common to do 30 ECTS in one semester, as at the Utrecht university. The difference is that in Aberystwyth the semester is not divided in two parts of 15 ECTS. As a result of that you usually have to do 3 or 4 modules, to get your 30 ECTS. I did three modules which included 20 ECTS all together, and an extra course, as I mentioned above, which involved academic research and writing skills in English. The law modules I did were: Medicine, Ethics and Law, Commercial law and Intellectual property law. I can recommend Erasmus students to choose modules, if possible regarding their study programme, with international/european law subjects rather than Common law modules. My modules were all common law based ( with parts of international law ) and I experienced them as quite difficult, due to my lack of knowledge about the common law system. The amount of ECTS I did, so 20, were perfect in my opinion. You have to take into account that studying in English will take you more time than studying in your native language. You spend a lot of time during your Erasmus in social activities and traveling, so although you work hard, it is really difficult to reach the 30 ECTS in one semester and achieving good results at the same time.

##### academic quality of education/placement activities

I consider the academic quality of education in Aberystwyth as good. All lecturers and seminar teachers I met are really enthusiastic about their subject and they are all really willing to help you. They propose you in the beginning of the semester to come directly to their office if you have any questions and you can always email or call them and they reply really fast. The lectures are well organised and there is a lot of additional material available on blackboard. What I didn't like in the beginning was the fact that you have to find out on your own which books and, especially, which parts of the books you have to read to prepare your seminars and lectures. They recommend you some books which you can get from the library, but still you have to choose one out of ten books and actually I had no idea which one suited me. Here I prefer the system of Utrecht, where there is a timetable available on blackboard which includes exactly the chapters and books you have to revise. Seminars are a bit different in Aberystwyth than in Utrecht. The seminar teacher won't check if you prepared yourself but on the other hand they require a high level of participation. It is not really important that you have the answers on the questions written down on your paper, their main aim is most of the time to start an interesting



discussion. For me this wasn't always understandable in the beginning, as I'm used to well organised seminars in Utrecht in which you get the right answers on your seminar questions, which you need for preparing your exams. In Aberystwyth this is not necessary at all.

In general it is more important that you are able, after finishing your modules, to set out the general knowledge you gained during the module, rather than really apply the legal knowledge in practical situations and cases. The university really puts emphasis on writing essays and discussing current problems and compare them with the law you learned during your modules.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

The support from Aberystwyth university is, once you are there, incredibly good. They have offices and supporting people for everything and they are all day available. To give an example, there is an office which helps you in getting jobs or internship, an office which helps you with your timetable and an office which helps you directly with all problems on your laptop or phone. Everything is for free and they are always friendly and willing to help you.

transfer of credits

I don't have experience with transfer of credits as I didn't receive my results yet.

**student life**

welcome/orientation programme

The first week there was an induction programme. The first day all new international students were divided in EU students and non-EU students. We received general information and there was a welcoming talk by some professors and students of the university. After there was a guidetour through the campus and we were separated in small groups of our own department ( For example, Law and Business for me ) and we went with a student of the Erasmus society to this department. The students helped us with finding our tutors who provided us with information about modules. The next day we had to register for our modules all together and that was the end of the orientation programme. To get in touch with the social activities in Aberystwyth the Erasmus society organised a lot of activities, which you could attend voluntary, in the first weeks, so it was really easy to meet new people.

accommodation

In Aberystwyth there are three types of accommodation; University, private and agencies. Once your application is confirmed you can apply for university accommodation. As they were really late with confirming in my case, I was not able to apply for this and I searched for private accomodation on several websites, and finally found one on facebook. ( there is a facebook group for Erasmus students ) I can recommend everyone to look for private accomodation as it is way cheaper than university accommodation, the conditions are usually better ( bigger room, more contact with flatmates etc. ) and university accomodation is usually established at the campus, which is a 25 minutes walk from the town centre, so in my opinion a big disadvantage. To find private accomodation I recommend new students to contact ex-erasmus students from Aberystwyth on



facebook, as there are usually a lot of rooms available but I experienced that not everything is always on the accomodation websites.

leisure/culture

Aberystwyth is a fantastic place if you are into culture. First of all it is an historical place with a beautiful old college, library and most of all the castle ruins, which are impressive. There are beautiful beaches where you can do bonfires with friends and surf in summer and a lot of pubs and restaurants to enjoy the nightlife. If you like to shop, I wouldn't recommend to go to Aberystwyth, as there are not many of them and the closest place to do proper shopping is a 3 hours drive ( Birmingham or Swansea ). However, if you love nature, hiking and sports, Aberystwyth is the perfect place for you. There are a lot of sports ( and other ) societies and everything is well organised and they are very open to international students. Moreover, the Welsh landscape itself is wonderful. I discovered a lot of places in Wales during my Erasmus as I went to the North ( Snowdonia ), to the South ( Cardiff, Swansea, Pembrokeshire ) and with our hiking team I discovered the whole westcoast, which was incredibly beautiful. The nightlife in Aberystwyth is fun, but not extremely fancy. There are a lot of pubs and two clubs, so not many. The good thing about this is that everybody is always going to the same pub on specific nights, so you always meet a lot of people that you know. That's also what I enjoyed the most about Aberystwyth. As it is so small, it's like a bubble which leads to the fact that if you're walking just to the supermarket, you already meet at least 3 people that you know ( studymates, people from your society, roommates, roommates of friends, etc. )

suggestions/tips

Bring a proper raining jacket and sport or hiking shoes because you have to walk a lot and there are hills everywhere. Start with the preperation of documents and looking for rooms early. Contact an ex-erasmus student from Aberystwyth for any specific tips.

### conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would definetely recommend the Aberystwyth University to others. I really got the time of my life in Aberystwyth and I learned a lot. The student facilities at the University are great, the University offers a lot of interesting modules which are not available at the Utrecht University and the proffessors and other teachers are really helpful and do care about their students. Furthermore the social life is fantastic and this exchange programme is a great opportunity to discover a beautiful country where you usually wouldn't go for just a holiday.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Go on an Erasmus and explore the world.



## 2012-2013

### preparation

#### exchange/placement application process

My home university had organized an information meeting where they explained what it was like to go abroad and motivated students to go (it was also possible to talk with students who already went abroad). From that moment on I was sure that I wanted to go. The website 'Studiepunt Rechten' gives guidance where to start if you want to prepare yourself to go abroad for a semester or two semesters. It was nice to read stories of other students who went abroad before me even though there was just one report about Aberystwyth University in that time. I was quite sure I wanted to go to the United Kingdom. Mainly to improve my English, but also because I like the country and I was interested in their common law system. I wrote my motivation letter (you just need to write a motivation letter for your first choice) and after a few months they announced that I had been selected for Aberystwyth! I was the only student of Utrecht University and as I discovered later on I was the only Dutch student in Aberystwyth as well (which I did not mind at all!).

After Utrecht University had announced that I had been chosen for Aberystwyth, I had to fill in some forms and send it to Aberystwyth University. It was not possible yet to register for courses, because Aberystwyth University prefers signing students up when they have arrived in Aberystwyth.

Aberystwyth University does not guarantee student accommodation, so it is important that you start looking for accommodation soon. I went the second semester, so I had some time left to search in the first semester. Some Erasmus students decided to create a Facebook group, which made it quite easy to communicate and to help each other find a place to live. It was also practical, because you started to get to know each other even though you did not see anyone yet. I found my student flat, because of this Facebook group. After all I was quite happy that I did not live in a student accommodation.

It is important that you start early with arranging everything with DUO and the Erasmus grant. There are deadlines and you do not want to stress before you leave. I started applying for Public Transportation Card compensation (this is around 80 euro per month and do not forget to stop your public transportation card, otherwise you will get a debt) and Erasmus grant (and some students have to change their 'living at home-grant' into a 'not living at home grant', but in my case that was not necessary) in October.

#### counselling/support at home university

Utrecht University had sent my application to Aberystwyth University and after they received my application, I just communicated with Aberystwyth University. Of course I had to sign some forms at Utrecht University, so if I had questions I could always go to the International Office.

#### academic preparation

I did not have special academic preparation. The only thing I had to make sure was that I passed all the mandatory courses of the first and second year, otherwise I was not allowed to go abroad.



#### language preparation

In the beginning of the year I hesitated if I wanted to attend the Legal English course. Because I had to attend another mandatory courses, I decided not to. I was not really insecure about my English and as it turned out I did not need the Legal English course.

#### finances

Before I left I made sure I had enough money on my savings account. Furthermore, my parents helped me paying my room (which was not that expensive, because I lived in a private accomodation). I also decided to take a loan from the government, which was around 400 euros per month and of course I received my study grant of Duo and my Erasmus grant. I was happy I had enough money to spend every month. If you go abroad it is not the time to be greedy, in my opinion. I took a lot of trips with my friends and we did fun stuff during the week often (cinema, going out, going for a drink etc.). If you want to join a (sport) society or you want to go to the sport centre, you have to make sure that you have enough money as well. It does not cost that much, but you have to pay a sports card (24 pounds for one semester) and everytime you want to go to the sport centre you have to pay 3 or 4 pounds entrance. Another piece of advice is: switch from bank account. I figured out that my Dutch bank charged me everytime I withdrew money in the UK. It was around 2 euros everytime I withdrew money. So I decided to switch to a British account, so I could withdraw money for free. When I returned to the Netherlands I canceled my British bank account (it was done in 10 minutes).

#### study/placement abroad period

##### study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)

Two days after I arrived I had a meeting with my tutor (that is right: every Erasmus student gets a tutor in Aberystwyth). She explained my what to expect and which courses I could attend. Before that meeting I had already received a reader with explanations and descriptions of the courses. During the meeting I had to sign up for four courses, in order to complete my minor back in the Netherlands. It would have been nice if I had known this before, because it was not really clear for me whether I had to sign up back in the Netherlands or in Aberystwyth. But it went well after all, so after the meeting I was not worried anymore. Once you have signed up for courses, make sure you do not forget to ask Aberystwyth University to sign your learning agreement. My agreement was signed after three weeks, because then I was sure I wanted to continue with the courses. The Law department of Aberystwyth University is willing to help you whenever you have questions and if you want they can fax the learning agreement and other stuff to the home university.

#### academic quality of education/placement activities

The education is quite different from the education we are used to in Utrecht. Firstly, there are a lot more lectures per week in Aberystwyth. These are not mandatory, but they are quite useful and practical for the final exams. Secondly, you do not have seminars every week like in Utrecht. Mostly you will have 3 seminars per module. You have to attend around the 3 or 4 courses, because the credits system is different than the system in the Netherlands. I really liked the lectures and the seminars. It was not just all about knowledge, but also about our opinion. If you did not understand something the teachers and professors were willing to explain it to



you until you got it. The atmosphere was informal, especially in the seminars. I have to admit that I did not feel a lot of pressure in Aberystwyth and that was nice. During the exams you had to answer two questions out of 6 (mostly). These were essay questions. For me this was quite new, since I was used to write short answers (because in Utrecht we have to answer all the six questions). I also had one course for which I just had to write an essay (2000 words). For me it was academic enough, but it is hard to compare with Utrecht because the systems are different.

#### counselling/support at host institution/organisation

If you needed help you could go to the International office or to the general office of the Law Department (it depends where your question is about). The British people are really nice, kind and helpful. They always tried to make sure you problems were solved.

#### transfer of credits

The system of credits differs from the system we are used to. If a course was worth 10 credits in Aberystwyth then you have to divide it in half to get the ECTS we are used to, so: 5 ECTS. That was the reason why I had to take 4 courses in Aberystwyth to get 30 ECTS in Utrecht.

#### student life

##### welcome/orientation programme

The day after I arrived the International Office had organized an information meeting. This was the first meeting I met all the other Erasmus and International students. Because we created a group on Facebook it was easy to meet with people and to organize activities, parties etc. The Students Union organized some parties, hikes and tours as well. It was a great way to get to know new people (Erasmus students, but the British students as well).

##### accommodation

In general, private accommodation was less expensive than students accommodation in Aberystwyth. Aberystwyth University advised me to search for a room in private accommodation, because they were not sure if there were enough rooms left in the student accommodation. As I mentioned before I found my flat via the Facebook group. There was a girl who went to Aberystwyth the first semester and she had to look for a tenant for the second semester. Otherwise it is quite easy to find a flat just via Internet. And if you cannot find anything you can always book a hostel and search in Aberystwyth. At the end I was quite happy that I lived in private accommodation, because the university was strict. The students had a fire drill almost every week (of what I can remember mostly on Fridays in the morning) and of course they had also unannounced fire drills. The students were not allowed to host parties (of course they did), because the kitchens were not that big and the university was concerned about the safety of the students. On the other hand: a lot of Erasmus students lived in the students accommodation and you can become really close with them quite easy. And of course they hosted parties and those parties were always really nice! If you do want to stay in a students accommodation, then you should know that there are students houses up the hill (near to the campus) and students flat at the seafront (near the centre of Aberystwyth). Every student is different, but my student flat was in the centre of



Aberystwyth and I was really satisfied with that. Meeting with other students, going out, going to the old college etc.: it was all in the centre of Aberystwyth. I did not mind walking up that bloody hill every day, because it was a good exercise as well and at least I did not have to carry my groceries up the hill every day.

#### leisure/culture

I did not notice that big a difference between the Netherlands and United Kingdom. I did not experience a culture shock or something like that. Of course there were some small differences, but for me they are not significant enough to mention. Although I have to say that the British people are the kindest and nicest people I have ever met!

#### suggestions/tips

- Try to arrange everything on time (so the financial stuff, but also your accomodation)
- If you are in Aberystwyth and you are planning to do trips often (if you go in the second semester you will have an Easter break of 3 weeks) then you should buy a railcard. Everytime you travel by train you get 30% off and that is really nice.
- In reference to what I said above: you should do trips often!
- Check your Aber mail every day, because the teachers are not using Blackboard that often, instead they are writing you emails all the time
- Create an Erasmus Aberystwyth group on Facebook (if someone else did not do it yet). It is an easy way to find a room and to get to know other people
- Make copies of every document you use in Aberystwyth and/or Utrecht
- If you do not understand something, ask for help immediately. The staff is really nice and willing to help you!
- Be aware of the fact that after you examinations you have to sign one form as a prove you have been studying in Aberystwyth
- Join a (sport) society
- Join all the activities the Students Union is hosting. A great way to get to know new people and to make new friends.
- Join as much parties as you can, because you will only do Erasmus once!
- Do stuff you would not normally do yourself (again: you will only do Erasmus once)
- Try not to communicate with the people at your home town that often. You are not abroad to stay in touch with them every day!
- Enjoy. Have a great time in Aberystwyth (at least I have had the time of my life!)

#### conclusions

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain



If you like small towns then Aberystwyth is the perfect place to be! Aberystwyth is a really nice town, mostly because there are a lot of students, so the students life is nice to experience. But if you are not really a party animal, then Aberystwyth is really nice for people who like to hike and enjoy the nature. Wales is very beautiful. So you can do nice hikes!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Just do it!