Hello Swansea
*Shwmae

Your Student Guide to Swansea
CROESO I ABERTAWE*

Make yourself at home

FUTURE SCIENTISTS, HISTORIANS, ENGINEERS, INNOVATORS AND THE AS-YET UNDECIDED…

You’ve read all about the award-winning teaching and world-class research that happens at Swansea University. This guide is here to show you around the city that 20,000 students from all over the world call home. Discover the city by day and by night, top tips of where to eat, not to mention the beautiful beaches and incredible scenery right on your doorstep.

So turn the page to start exploring because whoever you are and whoever you want to be, you’ll find yourself right at home in Swansea.

Swansea Marina at sunset

OPEN DAYS

16 NOV 2019
25 JAN 2020
15 FEB 2020

13 JUN 2020
17 OCT 2020
7 NOV 2020

2-3 – Your Journey to Swansea
4-5 – Why Choose Swansea
6-7 – Map of Swansea
8-9 – Where you’ll be living
10-11 – Working while studying
12-15 – Swansea by day
16-19 – Swansea by night
22-25 – On the menu
26-27 – Hidden Gems
28-29 – Your bucket list
30-33 – The great outdoors
34-37 – Sporting pride
38-39 – Students’ Union
40-43 – Arts & culture
44 – Students’ thoughts
45 – Top tips
46-47 – Key dates
48 – The perks of studying here

*Croeso i Abertawe
That’s welcome to Swansea in Welsh!
YOUR JOURNEY TO Swansea

01 OCTOBER – APRIL
RECEIVE YOUR OFFER
You’ll find out if you have been offered a place to study on your chosen course(s).

02 ALL YEAR ROUND
OPEN DAYS
This is your opportunity to learn more about your course, how you’ll be taught and what opportunities are available to you. Swansea University offers great study and work abroad programmes, where will your degree take you?

Book your place at: swansea.ac.uk/opendays

03 BEFORE 1ST MAY
ACCEPT OFFER
You can accept your offer by logging in to UCAS Track.

04 JANUARY – JUNE
GET READY
Apply for your accommodation and student finance. Your accommodation is guaranteed if you apply before 30th June*.

*for new full time undergraduate students

05 AUGUST
RESULTS
Your exam results will be released in the summer and if you meet the terms of your offer your place to study at Swansea University will be confirmed. You will also find out if you are eligible for an academic scholarship worth up to £3,000.

06 SEPTEMBER
ENROL
You’ll receive your enrolment pack and start your life as a Swansea student! Freshers’ Week is a great way to make new friends and join the clubs, societies and sports teams that interest you!
**TOP 5 REASONS TO CHOOSE Swansea**

1. **SMALL CITY, BIG PERSONALITY.**
   From the Maritime Quarter and Uplands to nearby Mumbles, discover a city with plenty of charm and bags of character.

2. **ALL JOINED UP.**
   Town, beach, campus... it’s quick and easy to get where you need to be. Plus, we’re just two hours by train from Bristol International Airport.

3. **BREATHING SPACE.**
   Swap city streets for Instagram-worthy scenery with Three Cliffs Bay, Rhossili and the Brecon Beacons for starters.

4. **IT TAKES ALL SORTS.**
   Whether you’re a sports fanatic, culture vulture or outdoor adventurer, you’ll find plenty to keep you busy between lectures.

5. **TRUST THE EXPERTS.**
   Why come to Swansea? Just ask the students. They love living and studying here so much the university was voted the University of The Year 2019 as voted for by students.
WITH TWO GREEN CAMPUSES ON THE EDGE OF ONE VIBRANT CITY, THIS IS YOUR FIRST STEP TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

GOWER PENINSULA
Blue flag beaches – from chilled out coves, perfect for revision, to beach barbecue hotspots. Gower is the ideal playground for outdoor adventures.

MUMBLES
Bike, jog or just amble along the promenade from Singleton Park all the way to this quirky, quaint seaside village… and the best ice creams in town.

SINGLETON PARK CAMPUS AND BAY CAMPUS
Scientists and social scientists, artists and linguists, aspiring doctors and inspiring engineers; no matter which campus you’re based on you can experience the great student facilities at the Bay and at Singleton Park.

MARINA & MARITIME QUARTER
When the sea calls, there’s nowhere better. Come here for big night out bars and even bigger ‘morning after’ breakfasts.

SWANSEA IS:
4hrs from Manchester
3hrs from Birmingham and London
2hrs from Bath and Bristol
1hr from Cardiff
Cardiff and Bristol airports are easy to get to from Swansea too!
When the time comes, you can apply for:

• Self-catered (if you fancy bringing your own toastie maker) or pre-paid dining in certain residences
• A single ensuite, twin room or shared flat
• Flexible ways to pay – online, by direct debit or one-off

So where do you fit into all of this? Well, budding engineers and management students in particular tend to live on or near the Bay Campus and medics-in-training go for Beck House, for example. Everything’s on a bus route, but some halls come with parking too. If you’re not into all-night partying, there are also quiet and alcohol-free spaces.

For more information visit swansea.ac.uk/accommodation

GUARANTEED ACCOMMODATION IF YOU APPLY BY 30TH JUNE

FOR NEW FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

CARTREF!*

The fact that I’m so close to the beach from Bay Campus means I can go there any time I want to watch the sunrise or the sunset.”

Radhika, Chemical Engineering

IT’S YOUR CHOICE

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Singleton Park Campus
£125 – £158 a week
(self-catered and pre-paid dining options)

Bay Campus
£91 – £202 a week

Hendrefoelan Student Village
£93 a week
(with free bus pass)

Beck House
£108 – £210 a week
If you are interested in working while studying we have plenty of opportunities for you!

We host a part time careers fair where you can meet over 25 companies with part-time roles and volunteering opportunities.

Every year we host an annual careers fair, which includes over 70 local, national and international organisations offering graduate roles, internships, placements, and further study.

We offer support all year round with our Swansea Employment Academy including a programme of employment workshops including part-time jobs, internships and graduate opportunities, careers guidance and much more.

For more information visit: swansea.ac.uk/sea

Note down what you want to achieve by the time you graduate from Swansea University

SET YOUR Goals
The beauty of Swansea is that you can walk or cycle to most places in the city (and the coast for that matter) from the campuses. But if it’s raining or yesterday was ‘leg day’ at the gym, hop on a blue Unibus. They run seven days a week plus a season ticket gets you free bus travel between Swansea and Cardiff.

Launched in July 2018, Santander Cycles Swansea University provides 55 bikes located at 100 docking stations based at six hubs along the city’s main cycle route for you to hire and use at your leisure.
DISCOVER THE
HISTORIC
HOME OF
Dylan
Thomas

FOR A BIT OF CULTURE . . .

You can’t beat the Maritime Quarter for coffee (or cocktails) by the sea. As well as budget bites and bars, it’s home to the National Waterfront Museum, which is free!

Go old school at the Victorian pier in Mumbles playing the penny slots or chilling on the pebble beach with a ‘99. Bracelet Bay is just around the corner too.

On rainy days, duck into Glynn Vivian and Mission Gallery in town or Taliesin Arts Centre and the Egypt Centre on Campus. Literature lovers should pay at least one visit to local boy Dylan Thomas’ home too.

Dylan Thomas’ Boathouse at Laugharne
He worked in the Writing Shed above the Boathouse with its remarkable and inspiring views of four estuaries.
Start the evening at **Croeso Lounge** – a quirky, vintage-style café bar that’s got sea views from Oyster Wharf. The food’s cracking, the wine’s reasonable and some cocktails come in pitchers. Speaking of wine, **Cru 42** isn’t far away – with on-tap beers and Fizz Friday too. For an old-fashioned pub, try the **White Rose** a short walk from the pier. It’s got real ales, live music nights, a great beer garden and a buzzing atmosphere on match days.

**ON CAMPUS**

Rebound is your Student’s Union nightclub with cheap drinks and classic tunes. Wednesdays are big for sports teams and Fridays are all about Tooters. In JC’s you can watch big-screen matches, do the Sunday pub quiz or take part in the open mic night on Tuesdays. If you are on the Bay, Tafarn Tawe is the place to be with a Sunday night pub quiz.
The Unibus runs 24 hours during term time.

WIND STREET

Wind Street is student heaven. Get cocktails in speakeasy-style Prohibition or drinks from a 1950s truck-turned-bar, Flickering Light. No Sign Wine Bar has history (Dylan Thomas famously drank here) and daily changing beers, or you could go to No.6 for burgers and pints. Li’l London has bookable booths and even a bar bus or go to Bambu for a karaoke night. If you like DJ tunes with your drinks, it’s Idols on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays for you.

UPLANDS

Just outside the centre, Uplands has heaps of student favourites. Fun, friendly Noah’s Yard features a daytime café and gallery as well as a bar. Uplands Tavern is the place for live music – and outdoor summer drinking. While Brewstone stands for craft ale and cracking gin. Afterwards, head to Whitez, it’s got three levels: a terrace bar, pool hall and garage with live music events (and mega mosh pits).
Beachfront Campuses

5 BLUE FLAG BEACHES IN SWANSEA

FOLLOW US @SWANSEAUNI
BEST FOR SUNNY DAYS:
It’s a tough choice between iconic Joe’s and its secret recipe or Verdi’s 30 ice cream flavours. Both are lush – as they say round here.

BEST FOR BIG APPETITES... AND SMALL BUDGETS

BEST FOR:

WEEKEND BRUNCH
Start your weekend right with a proper brunch with a delicious shakshuka from Hoogah or the Works Benny from Rag and Bone. Or why not try the pancakes at Bar No.6, the brunch options are endless.

MEAT-FREE
If you’re tired of tagged-on vegetarian options, you’ll love Canteen 18 and Boo’s Kitchen in Mumbles. There’s a whole menu dedicated to delicious veggie and vegan food.

CURRIES WITH HOUSEMATES
Whether you live with korma devotees or vindaloo fanatics, Rasoi is spot-on for Indian food. Despite winning Best Spice Restaurant in Wales at the British Curry Awards, it’s still a budget bestie.

MEAT-FREE
Follow up match day at the Liberty Stadium with fish and chips from Rossi’s. Just don’t forget the curry sauce! Or, go full native with ‘half and half’ and a rissole on the side.

A MAN V. FOOD CHALLENGE
Take on the Mega Beast at Uplands Diner: 10 bacon rashers, 8 sausages, 5 eggs, 4 toast slices, 4 buttered bread slices, 4 fried slices, 2 hash browns, 2 black puddings, chips, bubble & squeak, mushrooms, tomatoes and beans. Oh, and a burger.

MEETING THE PARENTS
Book ahead at popular La Parilla, or the award winning brasserie by the sea at Langland Brasserie in Gower, or show off at foodie favourite The Rake and Riddle.

LOCAL FLAVOURS
You can’t beat Swansea’s Indoor Market for Welsh staples. Pick up cockles from a seafood stall and the best Welsh cakes from the Bakestone – including the beloved ‘jammy’.
EIGHT TOP SPOTS ON SINGLETON PARK CAMPUS

1. **BLAS** – from a pre-lecture caffeine fix to tasty burgers and jacket potatoes. Breakfast is served daily until 11:30.

2. **CAFÉ GLAS** – convenient grab & go sandwiches, Freshers’ flu-busting smoothies plus Starbucks coffee.

3. **FUSION** – dawn to dusk global food to bring back all those gap year travel memories.

4. **TALIESIN** – the perfect catch-up café serving homemade cakes as well as salads and pizzas.

5. **CALLAGHAN’S** – ideal if you need to revise over a sandwich.

6. **HOFFI COFFI** – roll right out of the library and into COSTA heaven.

7. **ROOT** – the ideal place for you to grab a healthy snack or take home a meal from the hot and cold food range.

8. **MUCHOS BURRITOS** – Join the fiesta with a customisable burritos, churros and nachos.

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FOUR OF THE BEST ON BAY CAMPUS

1. **THE CORE** – get home-grown classics at Cegin, Mexican flavours at Muchos Burritos and Asian-inspired plates from Fusion.

2. **TAFARN Tawe** – grab a beer, glass of red and tasty treats from this café bar with a warehouse feel.

3. **COFFEEOPOLIS** – frappes, lattes and all those Starbucks favourites, plus paninis.

4. **GH CAFÉ** – for sharing platters and tapas, beer and wine... with a view.

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*Hoffi Coffi
The name says it all... It’s Welsh for “I like coffee.”*
GOWER SEAFOOD HUT
This little gem is rated number 1 on Trip Advisor for places to eat in Swansea. They offer delicious locally sourced seafood including fritto misto, crispy chilli prawns and plenty more. You can also grab other local treats from there such as Gower Brownies and Selwyn’s Seaweed Snacks.

GRAPE AND OLIVE AT MERIDIAN TOWER
If you are looking for spectacular views, just take a visit to the Grape and Olive. Sat at the very top of the Meridian Tower, the tallest building in Wales, stunning views of Swansea Valley, the City Centre and even Devon across the water surround you. Choose a booth seat for floor-to-ceiling window views across the ocean.

MARINA, UPLANDS AND MUMBLES MARKETS
The home of local, fresh Welsh produce, monthly markets take place in the Marina, Uplands and Mumbles. A great place to explore local Welsh food, beautiful handmade crafts and gifts, as well as the local areas.

THE COPPER JACK RIVER CRUISE
Take a historic trip down the River Tawe on the Copper Jack and learn about the industrial history of Swansea. Take in the scenic wildlife, learn about Swansea’s history as a worldwide copper production hub, and enjoy the laid-back atmosphere.

DONE AND DUSTED
A student favourite! A walk from Singleton Campus through the park will take you to Done and Dusted. This place makes a cracking sandwich! From Holy Frijoles (nachos in a toastie) to Mac and Cheesus, yes pasta in a sandwich! They also serve great coffee, cake and smoothies plus regular specials.

As a Swansea University student you will have the opportunity to explore some of the city’s best kept secrets! Our city may be small, but its home to some great hidden gems.
If you never did you should. These things are fun and fun is good.

– Dr. Seuss

YOUR Bucket LIST

TEN THINGS I WANT TO DO IN MY LIFETIME

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

WHICH CAN I REALISTICALLY DO IN THE NEXT ONE TO FIVE YEARS?
Hop on the Gower Explorer bus, drive along to more remote beaches or lace up your walking boots and take to the coast path.

**HOW TO GET THERE**

Swansea is right on the beach – and further along the coast it just gets better. Gower has the kind of bays that postcards will never do justice.

Epic Three Cliffs and Rhossili grab the spotlight, but there are also countless coves to explore. Cwtch up on the sand with a picnic or grab a beer and a burger at a beachside pub.

**SURFING**

Bring your own board or rent from surf schools at beaches like Langland and Caswell.

*Cwtch*

A national favourite, meaning “cuddle”.

**KAYAKING**

Spot seals up close and discover ’secret’ coves like Pwll Du.

**COASTEERING**

Climb, dive and climb again as you work your way around the cliffs.

**GO EXPLORE**

THE GORGEOUS GOWER PENINSULA

UK’S FIRST AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
TAKE TO THE HILLS  
DISCOVER THE Brecon Beacons

STARGAZE  
1 OF ONLY 5 PLACES in the world granted international dark sky reserve status.

As if award-winning beaches weren’t enough, in Swansea you’re also just a short journey from one of Wales’ most treasured landscapes: the Brecon Beacons National Park.

With walking and biking trails up mountains, over moorland and through forests, here’s where you’ll make memories to last a lifetime. Why not pitch up at a campsite with your mates? The dark skies are made for stargazing (or games of ‘never have I ever’ round the campfire).

CAVING
Venture underground and discover amazing cave systems with stalactites and below-ground rivers.

HIKING & GORGE WALKING
Go chasing waterfalls in the Neath Valley, or scale Pen-y-Fan for views right over to England.

HOW TO GET THERE
It takes an hour if you’ve got your own car, or two hours if you bus it to Brecon. Keep an eye out for societies running weekend trips.
If you love rugby, you’ll fit right in here. Swansea’s home to the Ospreys and you can get concession tickets as a student.

Swansea City FC play at the Liberty Stadium – a quick bus ride from campus. Get ready to join the ‘Jack Army’.

Swells Like
Team Spirit

Real Rugby

Championship Football

Get Involved

Become a Sport Swansea member and you can join any of the university sports teams – from American Football and Dodgeball to Ultimate Frisbee and Water Polo. Plus it gets you a whole bunch of discounts.

Budding Colin Jackson or Jazz Carlin? You’ve got to see the Sports Village. It’s home to an international athletics track, the 50m Wales National Pool, AstroTurf pitches and even a climbing wall.

World-Class Facilities
Swansea v Cardiff is the biggest student sports event – and grudge match – in Wales. Whether you fancy being in the stands, in the cheerleading squad or even part of the scrum, it’s an unmissable date.

TEAM SWANSEA!
Wear your Varsity shirt with pride and join the #GWA (Green and White Army).
GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR Students’ Union

The whole point of your Students’ Union is to make your university experience the best it can possibly be. Think 120 societies, 50 sports clubs and 12 months of must-see events. Whether you want to get into media, pick up a new hobby or have your voice heard on something that matters to you, there’s a way for everyone to join in.

They run the shops are bars on campus - JC’s, Tafarn Tawe, Rebound, Root, Costcutter, and Fulton Outfitters. So if you fancy a cheap pint, a quick game of pool, or a hot, home-cooked meal, hit them up! P.S. all the money you spend here goes straight back into your student experience and organises more top-notch events for you.

They organise the fun parts too. They’re the brains behind Freshers’ Fortnight (including the Fresher’s Fayre!) Summer Ball, Varsity, Tooters, and all the other great events.

For more information visit swansea-union.co.uk or search Swansea Union on social media.
From the Manics to Charlotte Church, South Wales has never been short of musical talent. So it’s no surprise Swansea is up to its ears in live music – with regular sessions at Sin City, The Bunkhouse and The Garage to name a few!

For an eclectic mix including classical and world music, there’s the Taliesin Arts Centre on Singleton Park Campus and the Great Hall at the Bay Campus. Or Swansea Jazzland – a stalwart of the local scene that draws international acts. For big shows, the Principality Stadium and Motorpoint Arena are just a train ride away in Cardiff.

FOR FILM BUFFS
Get your blockbuster fix at nearby Vue and Odeon. Catch recent releases at Taliesin film nights. Or drop by Cinema & Co to see indie flicks, and classic and foreign films in a quirky setting. Think deckchair-sofas instead of cinema seats, and craft beer as well as popcorn.
WHERE TO WATCH, LISTEN, LAUGH AND PERHAPS GET UP ON

Stage yourself

FOR THEATRE AND COMEDY LOVERS

You guessed it... **Taliesin** is the place to go for performances from student societies through to touring theatre and dance companies. You might catch fringe comics honing their shows for Edinburgh at the **Swansea Grand Theatre**, whose Comedy Club has hosted household names like Rhod Gilbert and Sarah Millican.

FOR THE BRAVE ONES

Perhaps you’ve been working on your own stand-up material, a blinding covers set or some original songs? Whatever you’ve got to share, now’s the time to shine.

You’ll find open mic nights at one place or another throughout the week. Work the circuit in town – from the laid-back **Bay View Bar** and the friendly crowd at the **Uplands Tavern**.
DON’T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

Hear from the people who matter most – students studying right here, right now:

“Very good experience so far, enjoyed my course thoroughly and gotten involved in uni life. The city itself is my favourite aspect, having everything at my fingertips makes life so much easier and more enjoyable.”
Connor Mackey, Business Management

“Overall my uni experience has been great, the city is incredible, my course is interesting and it’s everything that I hoped it would be. I’m doing a year abroad next year in America, something that has always been a dream of mine and the support that you get from the uni is great.”
Rachel, Criminology and Psychology Neuroscience

“An extremely enjoyable experience from freshers through to 3rd year. The city is a great city to be a student in, with a vibrant city centre for nights out, and beautiful beaches to explore. The teaching has always been great and I have been able to perform to the best of my ability.”
Ben Garrad, Law

University can be one of the most exciting times of your life. So where do you start with making the most of it? Here’s what other Swansea students recommend:

1. BRING YOUR FLIP-FLOPS
Havaianas or old faithfuls – either way you’ll need them for the beach…whatever the weather.

2. GO TO FULTON OUTFITTERS
Bag yourself a Swansea University hoodie for walking back from the beach in, or a tote bag for carrying books to your lectures. You’ll treasure them long after graduation – we promise.

3. SIGN UP TO SOCIETIES
There’s something to suit everyone – from sports and arts to the downright quirky. You can even grab your broomstick and join the Quidditch Society!

4. PICK UP DISCOUNT CARDS
Whether it’s a Campus catering YOYO app for on-campus lunches or a TOTUM card for student discounts in hundreds of retail and food outlets, Freshers’ Week is the time to grab those budget-boosting tools.

5. LOVE THE LINGO
You can’t help it. In no time at all you’ll be saying “fair dos”, “now in a minute” and “cwtch”.

TOP TIPS
LOCAL EVENTS
Gower Chilli Festival, Beer & Cider Festival, Swansea Half Marathon, Holi One Colour Festival are just some of what’s on the calendar this year in Swansea.

MAKE A Date WITH SWANSEA
There’s something happening every day (and night) here. But you’ll want to pop these key dates in your diary:

SEPTEMBER:
Move in! Grab your new flat mates and head out to enjoy the hundreds of events running throughout Freshers’ Week. Don’t forget to pick up some great freebies from local shops and bars at the Freshers’ Fayre too.

OCTOBER:
You don’t need to travel to Munich to experience the fun of Oktoberfest – dress in your finest dirndl and lederhosen and enjoy the Bavarian Beer Festival at the Brangwyn Hall.

NOVEMBER:
Try ice skating and enjoy a glass of mulled wine at Swansea’s Winter Wonderland – open until January.

JANUARY:
Kick off your second semester with Refreshers’ Week, the perfect way to unwind after exams and coursework deadlines.

APRIL:
Welsh Varsity – go Swansea! #GWA

JUNE:
Swansea University’s famous Summer Ball – it’s like a mini Glastonbury right on campus.

JULY:
At the Wales National Air Show, watch the world-famous Red Arrows fly over Swansea Bay.
YOU WANT TO BE

You’ll hear it all the time, but it’s not an exaggeration to say going to university is life-changing. It’s often your first experience of living independently, your time to make incredible memories and lifelong friends. And, of course, a chance to study that one subject that really inspires you.

AWARD-WINNING ACADEMIA

You’ll be joining a university with top academic credentials. Swansea is in the top 300 of universities in the world in the Times Higher Education World University rankings, and 2019’s University of the Year as voted for by Swansea University students.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

The new Bay Campus is just one of the ways Swansea has been evolving and expanding. It provides the perfect setting for students to work and play in an innovative, inspiring environment.

A SERIOUSLY SOCIAL STUDENTS’ UNION

The whole point of your Students’ Union is to make your university experience the best it can possibly be. Think 120 societies, 50 sports clubs and 12 months of must-see events. Whether you want to get into media, pick up a new hobby or have your voice heard on something that matters to you, there’s a way for everyone to join in.

AMBITIOUS CAREER PROSPECTS

Keep one eye on your future with support from the Swansea Employability Academy. Get advice on everything from networking to writing the perfect CV. Swansea is in the top UK top 5 for career prospects*. Coupled with the largest increase in UK ranking for research – 26th University in the UK, having Swansea on your CV will make a big impression to employers.

A HELPING HAND

Campus Life is the name for our student support services – offering friendly, professional advice and information on everything from money to well being. If ever you need it, help is at hand.

*The Guardian University League Table, 2020

#SwanseauUni

UK TOP 10 MOST AFFORDABLE UNIVERSITY TOWN

(Totallymoney.com, 2019)