



Living with gulls at Swansea University – advice for students and staff



Gulls are opportunistic animals, evolved to survive the harsh conditions along our coasts, and when they discover a convenient food source, they will exploit it to the full. Cities can provide rich pickings for these adaptable birds but this can lead to conflict with humans. Encouraging gulls to approach people by deliberate feeding or dropping litter has led them to mug unsuspecting people for their lunch, even occasionally causing injury. Swansea University is not unique in having this problem, but the Mall and the area in front of Fulton House are known hotspots for gull activity.



How to avoid being mugged by a gull:

- Be alert and observant – gulls are unlikely to swoop in if you are watching them
- Keep your food close to your body
- Avoid eating in open spaces overlooked by buildings – gulls will spot you from a distance and swoop down
- Try eating with your back against a wall so they can't approach from behind
- Gulls are much less likely to bother you in a wooded area such as the Botanic Garden or Singleton Park – these are great spots for a picnic
- Always dispose of food waste appropriately – ideally in a food waste bin, but if there isn't one nearby, then in a bin for general waste
- If they walk up to you, shoo them off – they might be big and scary, but you are bigger and scarier!



Teaching gulls to associate people with food is leading them to become aggressive. **Please don't feed the gulls.**

