

Dear Student

We hope you are having a good Easter holiday and have noticed the weather is finally changing! We are looking forward to long sunny days in beautiful Wales.

We know it is a very busy time for students with many of you in the middle of assignments, dissertations soon due in and preparation for exams not far away. This month's newsletter has information on our upcoming trips in May as well as articles on our social activities from March. We wish you all the best with your continuing academic work and hope we will see you at one of our events soon.

Emma, James, Kath, Sarah, Tim, James and Amina
Immigration and International Student Advice

Free entry to Ponty Lido in 2016!

Are you interested in swimming and water sports? Well here's some good news for you, Pontypridd Lido has officially opened on 25th March.

For those of you that don't know what a lido is, it's a public outdoor swimming pool with surrounding facilities. And the best part about it is that entry to Ponty Lido is completely free in 2016!

It's open for an initial two-week period from Friday 25th March until Sunday 10th April. It will then be fully open for the summer from Saturday 28th May until Sunday 11th September. You'll be pleased to know that the renovated Lido Ponty has three heated swimming pools, external and internal showers and heated changing facilities. For those of you who want to bring children, there is an adventure play area with swings, slides and tunnels that will keep them entertained.

The Lido was originally a popular attraction in Wales during the post-war years, but closed in 1991 until the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced an investment of £2.3 million to restore it. Not only is it creating more jobs, it is going to be a major source of attraction to Pontypridd.

So why not take advantage of it while you are nearby?

Easter Treasure Hunt!

On the 25th March the IISA held an Easter Egg Hunt with a twist. In parts of the world it is traditional to have an Egg Hunt during the Easter holiday period.

Usually, families and friends hide small gifts and chocolate eggs in their homes and gardens to be found. Unfortunately the IISA couldn't hide chocolate all over campus but instead had clues leading students all across the campus, to find pictures – the quickest team to find all the pictures from the clues won chocolate eggs. The event was a great success with students racing around the campus in a bid to win a chocolate prize. You can see photos of our first and second place prize winners here. Keep your eyes on our UniLife page, USW1World.southwales.ac.uk, and the newsletter for upcoming social events, so you know when to come and join in.





Bringing in the May

On Monday 2nd May, which is known as May Day, we will be visiting St. Fagans to join in the traditional celebrations.

May Day has heralded the start of summer for many hundreds of years in Wales. The day is marked with merriment, music and what must surely be the most famous of all the folk dances, the raising of the maypole.

Tickets cost just £2 and are available from the International Zone in E001 on the Treforest Campus or on a Thursday from CA008, Atrium in the Cardiff Campus. We will be leaving Treforest at 10am and Cardiff at 10:30am so we arrive for the celebrations starting at 11am and leaving at 4pm.



Meet the Global Assistants

Have you ever wondered who and what the Global Assistants are and where they come from? Read on to meet one of them and find out...



Name: Vruti Shah

Course: MSc Chiropractic Science

What is your nationality? Kenyan

Which campus are you based on? Treforest Campus

Why did you choose to study at USW? I chose USW because it is one of the top ranked universities in UK for my course.

Why did you decide to become a GA? When I joined the university, unfortunately I was unable to attend International Welcome Week so I signed up to be a helper for the next Welcome Week to get a similar experience and I loved meeting new people and making lots of friends so I applied to become a Global Assistant. Another reason was that this counts towards the Grad Edge Award.

What do you do as a GA? As a GA, I help run various activities for Welcome Weeks, run trips and also help with activities on campus throughout the year. I also get the opportunity to participate in activities with Welsh locals which is a very important part of my cultural experience in Wales.

The best thing about being a GA is....? The best thing about being a GA is meeting new people from all over the world while gaining new skills like communication, cultural awareness and leadership.

Why should students become a GA? Students should become a GA because it is a priceless experience. It is fun and there is a lot to learn as well. It teaches you to take responsibility and mix with people from many different backgrounds – an experience that you may not get outside of university. The hours worked as a GA also count towards the Grad Edge Award which is something really valuable to have on your CV.

Any USW student can apply to become a Global Assistant. If you are interested in becoming one please e-mail the IISA team at: international.advice@southwales.ac.uk



My Home town

Our GA's met with a UK student and asked them about themselves and where they come from...



Name: Alexander Lee

Course: BA Computer Animation

Home town: Highworth, Swindon, England

Distance from Cardiff: Approximately 83 miles

Why did you choose to study at USW?

I was born in Wales but have technically been a resident of England since then, so I wanted to spend some time in my country of birth. Also, I wanted to move to Cardiff specifically so that I could experience life in a larger city; Highworth is a far more peaceful place in comparison!

Tell us a little bit about your home town

Highworth has a population of about 8000 people, according to a 2011 census. It's got a really nice church just by the middle of the high street which is beautiful to walk through on a sunny day. It's not bordered with Wales but the journey there via train is probably an hour or so.

The only colleges are nearby in Swindon, called Swindon College and New College, both of which offer a wide variety of courses. Swindon FC also trains and plays frequently at the recreational grounds in Highworth.

What is there to do and see?

The Rec centre houses an indoor pool, and there are also tennis courts and sports fields; in the summer it's great. Neighbouring Swindon town is the closest place to go for shopping or food. Naturally, being a fairly old town, Highworth has its share of old English pubs with great atmosphere.

The best thing about Highworth is...?

The countryside, without a doubt. There's nothing like spending a day with a friend walking out into the green fields surrounding Highworth, of which there are plenty. Probably not recommended in the summer if you've got hayfever, but that's never stopped me.

Why should international students visit Highworth?

If you'd like to visit a quaint, ancient market town, you can't go wrong with Highworth. There isn't a great deal to do, but with buses to neighbouring Swindon every ten minutes, planning a visit to Highworth should leave you with plenty of options and, afterwards, some wonderful memories. Recommended for people who want to completely chill out.

Travel details from Cardiff

1 hr journey from Cardiff Central to Swindon Railway Station = £20
approx 30-45 min journey from Swindon Bus Station to Highworth = £2-3 approx (Day tickets available.)

