

Assignment 1 text

You should choose some of the text below to use for a two-page spread suitable for a magazine article. The choice is up to you to make from the text in the sections on History of the Campus, The Town of Lampeter, Student Life in Lampeter, Music, Cinema and Lampeter Café Society. Note that there are also quotes that could be treated as pull quotes if you decide to include either of them. You can use one section only, a little from each section or some other combination of text. Do not use all of the text as the font size would need to be too small to fit it in to a double-page spread. In terms of images you can use your own images or choose from those available in the Recruitment Images folder in the MCS.

Trevor Harris
8 February 2012

History of the Campus

Lampeter is a compact and intimate campus. It is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty: the rare Red Kite flies overhead and seals and dolphins are a common sight along the coastline. A tributary of the River Teifi runs through the centre of campus and students gaze out on to green fields and hills. Away from the stress of city life, Lampeter is human size, with no shuttling by bus between lectures and accommodation. We are able to accommodate all of our first year students, and most of our second and third year students on campus. Even those who live 'out' need not be more than a few minutes' walk away from campus. The atmosphere is peaceful, the air is clean, and we have the lowest crime rate in Britain.

Founded in 1822 as St David's College, Lampeter is the oldest degree-awarding institution in England and Wales after Oxford and Cambridge. It received a Royal Charters to award degrees in 1852 and 1865. In 1971 it joined the federation of colleges that formed the University of Wales, and whose degrees it now awards. The University buildings range from the St David's Building (the original St David's College) through to the specialist Media Centre that opened in 1990 and new purpose-built accommodation that Theology and Religious Studies moved into in 1998. In 2012 refurbishment is taking place of the Sports Hall and the Arts Building whilst the Canterbury Building is being completely rebuilt.

The St David's Building was designed and built on the model of an Oxford college - an accommodation quadrangle, dining hall, library and chapel. This building, of which we are very proud, is 'listed' and a constant reminder of our roots as a scholarly foundation. Students who come here enjoy a stimulating mix of old and new, large and small, traditional and modern.

Throughout its existence, Lampeter has specialised in traditional humanities subjects. However it has never failed to keep up-to-date with developments in those areas, and to contribute to new and innovative research. In each of our departments, we have colleagues with national and international reputations for their published work. One of our aims is to produce graduates who not only enjoy their degrees, but also have skills relevant to today's changing job market. The facilities and training that we offer prepare our students for a wide variety of employment opportunities: just because our degrees are not strictly vocational does not mean that they do not develop the skills that potential employers seek. All our degree programmes emphasise skills which increase employability, while a humanities degree opens up a wide range of career opportunities.

The Town of Lampeter

A small, thriving market town, Lampeter is located in the lovely Teifi Valley in the county of Ceredigion. The town has long been a market town and continues to be the centre of commerce for the area. All major high street banks are represented, together with supermarkets, clothing shops, chemists, newsagents and numerous other stores. In fact, whatever you need, you can be sure that a shop in town will be able to provide it, together with friendly service at no extra cost.

There is also a host of student-friendly cafés (just how long can you make one cup of coffee last?) as well as bakeries selling delicious patisserie, restaurants and takeaways. A Lampeter café has won the Best Sandwich Bar in Wales competition, while one of their sandwiches came second in a competition to find the best sandwich in Europe, and even the fish and chip shop has won a host of awards. Other popular student venues are the Kings Head, the Old Quarry and the Castle Tavern where local bands often play, and regular pub quizzes are hosted. However, on a more wholesome note, Lampeter is also a centre of the organic food trade and a wide selection of organic vegetables, fruits, cheeses and other quality foodstuffs are sold in the town.

The University campus is situated in the middle of the town and hence all shops, amenities and bus stops are within an easy 2-5 minutes walk. Lampeter's location in a rural area means that there are few 'bright lights' in the town, so the Students' Union has a night club with regular discos and live bands. They also organise trips to Swansea, Aberystwyth and Cardiff for shopping and the urban experience. On the whole though students create their own entertainment, participating in the clubs and societies, sharing their interests with like-minded people, or becoming involved with the many local community activities.

"Lampeter might be a small place, but small is beautiful. All you need is here on your doorstep and within easy reach. Lampeter offers a special living and working environment - where else can you look up from your walk across campus and be greeted by the sight of velvety green hills and wooded valleys bathed in sunshine? In fact, they say that the hills surrounding Lampeter ('Lampyland' as it is affectionately known) reflect the sunshine into the town, making it a very sunny place in summer!"

Sally Colman (year 3)

Student Life in Lampeter

Student life in Lampeter, as anywhere, is what you make of it. For many students in Lampeter, the Students' Union is at the heart of student life, whether to meet with friends for a coffee between lectures, or for a night out. The Students' Union Building houses a large screen TV (always a choice spot to watch the biggest sporting matches), pool tables, a games room, and (by no means last) offers the cheapest pint in town. The bar is proud of its friendly and community-like atmosphere and hosts events most nights of the week that range from comedy acts to big name bands. The Union extension, open at the weekend and on other special nights, is the venue for discos, parties and themed evenings as well as an endless variety of other events such as Tuesday nights 'Band in the Bar' sessions, karaoke, fancy dress parties and the like. Other highlights of the Lampeter social calendar organised by the Union are the Freshers' Ball, Christmas Ball and the President's Ball, which always prove to be extremely popular and fun.

The Students' Union supports an eclectic mixture of over 60 clubs and societies, which cater for a wide variety of tastes and interests. The profile of these clubs and societies is constantly changing to suit our students' interest - if there is nothing to cater to your particular need, it is easy to set up something new.

One example of the work of the Union is the Student Community Action group (SCA). The Lampeter branch of this national organisation offers students the opportunity to become involved in the local community as a volunteer, for example doing conservation work or creating a sensory garden for autistic children. The SCA has also set up a Gateway Club that provides a social setting for people with learning difficulties where volunteers act in a support and friendship capacity as well as organising activities such as discos and craft days.

Music

Whether your forte is the flute or bass guitar, there should be something to fit your musical talents in Lampeter. There is a Chapel Choir and a University Choir as well as a student-run University

Orchestra which has performed at Eisteddfods and accompanied RAG plays. Lampeter is also home to a number of student bands - the Students' Union has a practice room and offers bands a chance to play for the popular 'Band in the Bar' nights.

Lampeter has a surprising range of live music to suit virtually all tastes. One extremely popular venue is the Cwmann Tavern, where Thursday nights are folk nights (although the term 'folk' is very loosely interpreted) and on Sunday nights there is always a live blues band - an excellent evening out, even if you have a 9:00 am lecture the following day! For those more interested in late-night dancing, another popular off-campus venue is the Old Quarry.

Located on the edge of campus is 'Hags' which stocks the largest range of videos and second-hand music in West Wales. The shop, which has attained national fame through features on Radio One and in The Times, offers videos, CDs and tapes for sale or rent at lower prices than you are likely to find anywhere else in the country.

If your musical tastes are more classically inclined, then students have free admission to the Lampeter Music Club's concerts and recitals. There is an annual season of six concerts between October and March, with an additional concert by the Welsh Philharmonic Orchestra in the spring and the National Youth Orchestra of Wales in September.

Cinema

There are regular film screenings catering to a wide variety of tastes in the University's 400 tiered seat venue, which provides better viewing than many cinemas and at a much better price (entry £2!) Here, the Students' Union Cinema shows contemporary releases every Sunday and most Thursday evenings. In addition to this, the Ciné-Club presents an eclectic mixture of films on a Wednesday evening, admission free. Film screenings range from the silent comedies of the 1920s, through avant-garde European cinema to contemporary American art-house films. The screenings always prove popular and make quite a talking point afterwards.

Lampeter Café Culture?

Although more difficult to quantify than many other aspects of student life, Lampeter has a long-standing tradition of what might be called 'café culture'. The accommodating and friendly cafés in town provide a pleasant setting for both staff and students to work, talk about their work, or just simply socialise. We in Lampeter firmly believe that learning is not just confined to the class room, rather that much can be gained by talking academic issues through with like-minded people (whether that be staff, fellow students, even students from other disciplines) and where better to do this than in the convivial setting of a café with a strong cup of coffee in hand.

Drovers Arts Festival

Lampeter must be one of the few universities in the country to host its own festival held in early June. The Drovers Arts Festival is unusual and exciting, and brings together the talents of the University and its vibrant local community in a grand celebration of life and creativity.

A variety of music is performed across the campus, together with poetry, drama and dance, and children's events of all kinds. Other events include guided walks along the local drovers' ways, stimulating visual art exhibitions, and a spectacular Grand Procession through the streets of Lampeter led by giant puppets and a samba band.

The Festival makes a fine climax to the student year- but students are involved at every stage from inception and planning, through fund-raising and publicity to performance and site management. It is a stimulating and rewarding exercise in learning to work with a wide cross section of the community to produce something that is fun and unusual.

"With a healthy student population, together with large numbers of resident hippies, the small town is well geared up for young people. Furthermore, with so many ex-students still living in the area, the town boasts thriving music and arts scenes. All this youthful culture rubs shoulders with

Lampeter's more traditional agricultural base. It's a lively town, there are frequent gigs, and theatre performances and enough pubs and cafes for any visitor."

The Rough Guide to Wales