



Gower College Swansea  
International

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Leading A Level  
College in Wales





I have really enjoyed my time at Gower College Swansea. The student support on offer and the quality of lectures are excellent and the overall atmosphere is very friendly. The Oxbridge programme helped me so much with my application to study Mathematics at Cambridge.

Fuhao 'Heinrich' Song, China  
Achieved A\* A\* A\* in Double Maths and Physics

Progressed to

**Homerton College at the University of Cambridge** to study Mathematics



# Welcome

Thank you for considering Gower College Swansea for your studies. Swansea is a beautiful and safe environment in which to continue your education.

Gower College Swansea is one of the highest performing colleges in the UK, with outstanding results and progression rates to some of the UK's finest universities. Our internationally recognised qualifications are delivered to the highest standards by qualified and specialist staff.

The College has an excellent track record of preparing students for admission to Oxford and Cambridge universities and other top flight universities (over 90% of our international students have progressed to Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge, over the last six years).

We look forward to meeting you.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Jones'.

**Mark Jones**  
**Principal and Chief Executive**  
**Gower College Swansea**

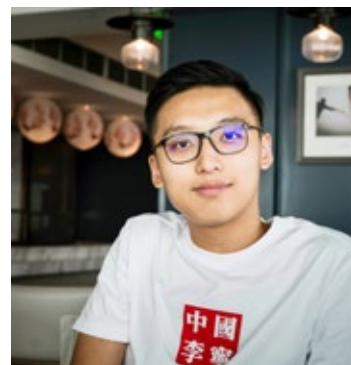


It's been a fascinating experience. I received great support with my university application, including preparation for aptitude tests and interviews. I honestly don't think I would have been accepted by Cambridge if it wasn't for the amazing support and guidance I received from staff at Gower College Swansea.

Haolin Wu, China  
Achieved 4 A\*'s in Economics, Physics, Chemistry and Maths

Progressed to

**Christs College, University of Cambridge**  
to study Land Economy



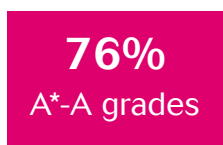
# We are a leading A Level College in Wales



Five A Level students progressed to **Oxford** and **Cambridge universities** in 2023.



Of our international students progressed to **Russell Group universities** in the last six years.



Our A Level international students **results** in 2023

2016-2022 international student university destinations			
R*	University	Subject	Nationality
2	Cambridge	Land Economy; Maths; Computer Science; Linguistics	China (3), USA
3	London School of Economics (LSE)	Economics	South Korea
4	St. Andrews	Physics, Economics	China (2)
5	Imperial College London	Geology; Medicine; Maths; Computing; Civil Engineering; Biochemistry; Mechanical Engineering, Biomaterial and Tissue Engineering	China (8)
6	Durham	Accounting and Finance	Hong Kong
8	Bath	Natural Sciences	South Korea
9	University College London (UCL)	Biomedical Sciences; Economics; Pharmacology; Engineering; Maths; Economics and Statistics; Psychology and Language Sciences; Neuroscience; Physics&Medical Physics; Geography; Biomedical Science	South Korea (4);China (10); Taiwan
10	Warwick	Economics; Engineering, Media, Maths	China (3); South Korea (2); Taiwan
11	Lancaster	Accounting and Finance	China
12	Edinburgh	History, International Business and Japanese; Architecture	China (2); Hongkong
13	Southampton	Geography; Fashion	South Korea; China
14	Birmingham	Engineering; Medicine; Economics	Thailand, Hongkong, China
15	Bristol	Aerospace Engineering; Finance and Accounting; Maths; Economics and Finance; Economics and Management	China (3); Taiwan; Iran
16	Leeds	Biomedical Sciences, Fashion Marketing	Hong Kong, China (1)
17	Manchester	Business Studies; Economics; Law; Chemistry; Management (A&F); Phycis; Mathematics &Physics; Politics, Philosophy and Economics	China (10); South;Korea (2)
19	Exeter	Business and Finance	Taiwan

\*as ranked by the Complete University Guide 2022.



Gower College Swansea has been a great experience. I have made lifelong friendships and the teachers are extremely knowledgeable. They always look to develop our passion for our subjects which transcends beyond the confinement of the textbook.

Yuzhe Zhang, China  
Achieved A\*A\* and A in Chemistry, Physics and Maths

Progressed to

**Imperial College London**

to study Geology and was awarded a £180,000 scholarship from the Rio Tinto Mining company



# A Level

Gower College Swansea is **highly regarded** for its A Level programme, the traditional route to study at university in the UK.

The great advantage of the British educational system is that students have the opportunity to specialise in their subjects of choice, rather than a general education programme like in most other countries. UK universities recognise that A Levels provide the depth of study required in preparation for UK degree courses.

Universities only require three A Level subject grades for entry. Students who wish to study more than three A Level subjects will have to meet additional entry criteria.

## A Level subjects:

- Accounting
- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Economics
- Electronics
- English Language
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- Fine Art
- French
- Geography
- Geology
- Government and Politics
- Graphic Communication
- Health, Social Care and Childcare
- History
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Law
- Mathematics
- Mathematics - Further
- Media Studies
- Music
- Music Technology
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textile Design (Fashion/Interior Design)
- Welsh (Second Language)

## Key facts:

AGE	16+
COURSE LENGTH	Two years (full qualification)
START DATE	September
HOURS PER WEEK	Approximately 20
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	<p>A minimum of five passes at GCSE (or equivalent qualification) at grade C or above</p> <p>English Language score of 5.5* in the IELTS exam</p> <p><i>*an overall IELTS of 5.0 may be considered depending on the A Level subjects chosen</i></p>
ASSESSMENT	External examination in May/June
FEE	<p>£21,000 per year</p> <p>(includes tuition fees, accommodation, bus pass, gym membership and social programme)</p>



Gower College Swansea is an excellent College with superb support for students. I discovered my interest in linguistics through the Oxbridge programme and have since been offered a place to study the subject at the University of Cambridge.

Shannon, USA

Achieved A\* A A in Mathematics, Psychology and English.

Progressed to

**Cambridge University**  
to study Linguistics





## Oxbridge preparation programme

A successful programme which, for over three decades, has provided individual advice and support for those who wish to apply for **leading institutions** throughout the UK.

The programme has given students the best possible preparation for acceptance to Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities. The Oxbridge preparation programme is a weekly tutorial programme which runs in addition to our A Level studies.

The programme also features **visits to Cambridge and Oxford universities**, where students receive application advice and guidance. Students stay in halls of residence and have direct access to university admissions tutors who can advise on what it takes to become an Oxbridge student. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the university and the local area.

Our Cambridge link partner is Churchill College and our Oxford link partner is St. Hugh's College. Our academic provision is further enhanced by our links to Oxbridge via our involvement in Cambridge's HE+ Programme and New College Oxford's Step Up Programme.

HE+ is a University of Cambridge super curricular study programme for academically gifted students. The University of Cambridge awarded Gower College Swansea HE+ status in recognition of the outstanding progression of its students to the University over the last 30 years.

The Step Up Programme is a New College Oxford Programme supporting students of high academic potential to make competitive applications to leading institutions, particularly Oxford. Gower College is only one of three institutions within Wales to be a partner institution in this programme.

There are specific entry requirements and costs associated with our Oxbridge programme. Please email **international@gcs.ac.uk** for details.

### Programme highlights:

- Preparation interviews with Oxbridge alumni
- Application workshops with Gower College Swansea alumni who are currently studying at Oxbridge
- Aptitude test preparation: UKCAT, BMAT and STEP
- Overnight visits to Cambridge and Oxford universities.



Han and Fuhao, Gower College Swansea's first Chinese students to be accepted to study at the University of Cambridge.



My experience has been very enjoyable. The teaching has been very effective and has helped me and my peers to achieve amazing academic results. The College facilities are also superb and have allowed me to reach my fullest academic potential. In addition, I would not have been able to gain offers from top universities without the outstanding support provided by the HE+ programme and its organisers. After I graduate from university, I plan to launch a tech start-up and find success in the corporate world.

Xuanyuan Han, China  
Achieved A\* A\* A\* A\* in Double Maths, Physics and Computer Science

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Progressed to  
**Churchill College, University of Cambridge**  
to study Computer Science





## Medical tutorial programme

For students interested in studying a medical science related degree course, this is a highly successful programme with **outstanding progression** rates to some of the UK's finest universities.

Typical university courses that our students progress to include medicine, dentistry, veterinary sciences, pharmacy, biomedical sciences, physiotherapy, optometry, radiotherapy, cardiology and dietetics.

### Programme highlights:

- University application workshops
- UKCAT preparation
- Work experience opportunities
- Guest lectures from Russell Group professors
- Mentoring from medical professionals
- Mock interviews with medical professionals.

## GCS Honours Programme

GCS Honours is our academic enrichment and support programme, aimed at providing students with additional skills that help to **maximise academic performance**, as well as to **produce more competitive applications** to the very best universities.

How is the GCS Honours Programme delivered?

### Academic Challenge Tutorials

These sessions are the core aspect of the programme, consisting of tutor led sessions focused on developing critical thinking, critical reading and research skills surrounding your chosen subject. The tutor will be passionate about the subject and willing to challenge your academic potential.

### Self-learning Skill Development

You will be given a Reflective Academic Journal which is to be updated with your own critical analysis and ideas concerning your subject, as a reference for discussion with like-minded peers during your Honours Programme tutorial sessions. This is the ideal preparation for seminar based learning at University, where self-learning, independent analysis and peer discussion around your subject is expected.



I joined Gower College Swansea on a short-term visa in September 2019 with limited English language skills and started a nine-month English Language programme. I successfully completed ESOL Level 3 and attended an additional IELTS preparation course. I achieved the required entry level for my A Level programmes and completed my A Level studies in 2022. I have since gone on to study Mathematics and Physics at Manchester University.

Yapeng Li  
A Level Results: A\* A\* A\*





# English Academy

Our English Academy offers several different programmes including General English, an IELTS and A Level Preparation Course and Academic English.

Our English Language programmes are mostly taught at the beautiful Llwyn y Bryn Campus, in the centre of Swansea.

## General English

This course offers entry at various levels and gives students the opportunity to expand their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Useful English is taught in realistic situations for students to learn and practice language in everyday life. The course is taught Monday - Friday for 16 hours a week.

Assessments are carried out when students have reached the required standards to achieve the City and Guilds modules in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students are able to apply for A level or higher level courses at Gower College Swansea once they have reached the appropriate competency level.

## IELTS and A Level Preparation

The course will develop a student's performance across all key English Language skills to maximise their success in IELTS exams. Its engaging content provides practice in study techniques for the transition to A level learning. Students have an opportunity to trial subjects and benefit from College buddies. Inclusive social and cultural activities complement lesson topics and give an insight into student life in the UK.

The course has three, six or nine month duration options, depending on individual learning requirements. Regular classroom hours with additional extra-curricular activities. Students are guaranteed entry onto A Level programmes at Gower College Swansea once they have met the minimum required IELTS standard.

## Academic English

Academic English is an extra-curriculum course available to Gower College Swansea A Level students who would benefit from language support. The classes incorporate one-to-one review sessions as well as generic language progressions tasks in specific development areas to enable students to succeed in both academic studies and IELTS preparation.

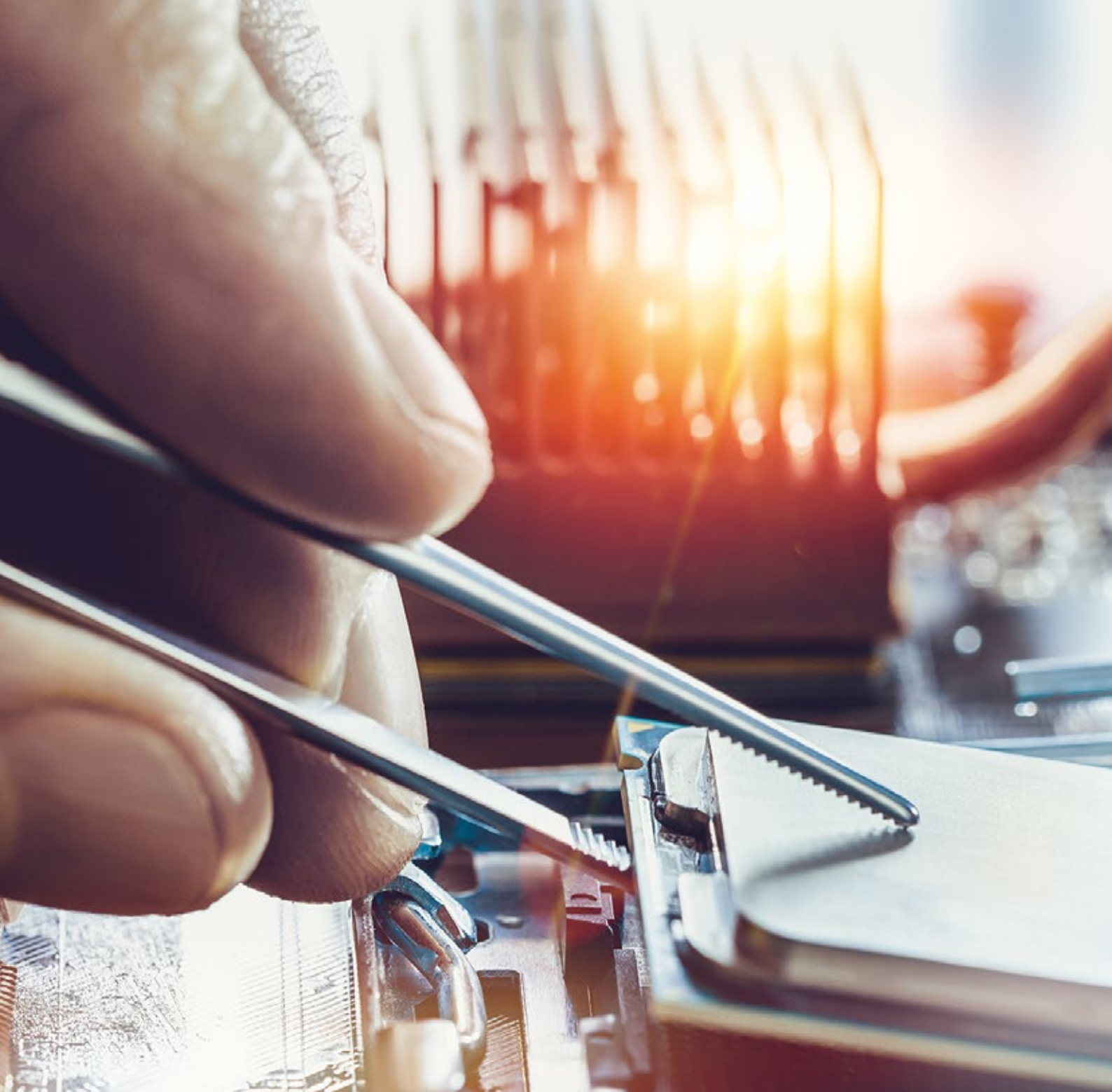
The course runs once a week for 2.5 hours throughout term times and students are expected to complete allocated self-learning tasks.

## The International Foundation Programme

This one year programme is designed for 17-19 year olds who would like to progress to university in the UK. Students will follow the Level 3 Access Programme which is available in a range of subjects including business, applied computing, humanities, law and science. In addition, students will receive English tuition, tailored to the individual's needs, ensuring students achieve the required level of English for successful progression to university.

Students attending this programme will be given excellent individual careers guidance to enable them to choose the right university to suit their particular interests. Most universities in the UK accept our international foundation programme students, however acceptance will depend on the final result, English language level and UCAS application. Students have recently progressed to Cardiff University, Swansea University and Bangor University, to name but a few.

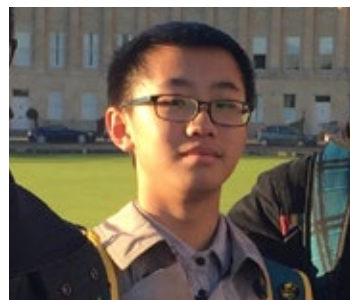
To be eligible, students should have a minimum of 5.5 IELTS.



If any international student is looking for a college in the UK, Gower College Swansea is the one to go to!

The course was really good, very interesting content and all the staff were very helpful, especially the tutors who were very friendly to us and were always there to help if we needed anything.

Hao Zhou (Joel) Business, Level 3 Extended Diploma.





## Vocational Programmes

Our vocational courses are designed to lead to specific professions. There are different levels so you can slot into the one that suits you best, with the opportunity to progress onto the next level. We offer a number of qualifications including BTEC and NVQ.

With 40 vocational subjects being offered in over 16 areas, there is something for everyone.

### Vocational areas:

- Art and Design
- Electronic Engineering
- Music
- Business
- Electrical Installation
- Performing Arts and Theatre
- Catering and Hospitality
- Engineering Electrical and Mechanical
- Public Services
- Computing and Technology
- Hair Beauty and Holistics
- Science
- Construction and Plumbing
- Health and Childcare
- Sport
- Creative Media
- Motor Vehicle
- Travel and Tourism

Courses that have proven popular with International Students include:

### Business (Level 3 Extended Diploma)

This two year course is equivalent to three A levels. Study units include:

- Exploring business
- Developing a marketing campaign
- Personal and business finance
- Managing an event
- International business
- Principals of management.

### Electronic Engineering (Level 3 Extended Diploma)

This two-year course is designed to support students to achieve a university place in an electronic engineering discipline. Students study:

- Mobile communication
- System design
- Home integration
- Engineering mathematics
- Analogue / digital electronics
- Robotics
- Artificial Intelligence AI
- PCB design
- PLC
- Skills competitions.

Entry requirements are a Level 2 vocational electronics qualification or four GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A-C, including Mathematics and English.

### Art and Design (Level 3 Extended Diploma)

This two-year course prepares students for a future in the creative industries offering a range of practical disciplines within art and design including fashion, photography, graphic design, fine art and 3D crafts. Students will be challenged with a variety of exciting briefs which will encourage them to explore their creativity and develop confidence in communicating ideas.

Entry Requirements are five GCSEs (or equivalent), grades A-C including Art and Design. Subject to interview and portfolio of work.

Progression Opportunities: Students are able to progress onto a number of higher education courses such as degree, foundation diploma or HND. Successful students have gone on to various degree courses throughout the UK, and to also win a number of prestigious art and design competitions.



My lecturers are all approachable and helpful, without whom I wouldn't have progressed so much academically. The members of the staff at the International Office are also friendly and have given me lots of support. Indeed, it is an unforgettable experience to have lived in Swansea and studied at such an amazing College.

Jiacheng 'Charles' Gong, China  
Achieved A\* A\* A in Law, Maths and History

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Progressed to  
**University of Manchester**  
to study Law



# Student support

## Tutorial programme

International students at Gower College Swansea receive comprehensive pastoral support through the tutorial programme. On commencing their studies, students are assigned a personal tutor who will look after their personal wellbeing and monitor academic progress.

The tutorial programme also features one to one sessions between the students and their tutor, where they will get advice and guidance on subject choices and academic progress.

In year two, the focus moves to university applications. Students receive detailed guidance on completing their personal statement and UCAS form. Students also receive talks from many guest speakers to help them complete their university applications.

We also have a **buddy system** for our international students, where first years are paired up with second years, according to their subject choices. Our second year international students regularly meet with their first year buddies to offer them advice and guidance regarding subjects, College life and the local area. We find that this really helps our international students settle into their new learning environment.





The teaching quality is very high and all teachers display a real passion for their subject. I met many great friends here and the international office also provided lots of support. Gower College Swansea helped me to become a more independent student and progress to a top UK university.

Harris Law, Hong Kong  
Achieved A B C in Chinese, Law and Economics

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Progressed to  
**Cardiff University**  
to study Law





## Parents zone

This has been developed following feedback from parents and guardians and features information on exams timetables, open evenings, survey results, and much more. Visit [parents.gcs.ac.uk](https://parents.gcs.ac.uk) for more details.

## Engage app

Students can download our **engage app** which will enable them to view:

- Academic progress
- Study targets
- Attendance
- Timetable
- College notices.

## International Office

The international team at Gower College Swansea are very experienced in helping international students settle into their new home and learning environment.

Before you leave home you will receive all the important information you need, including a pre arrival pack with details of your travel options to Swansea, course and accommodation.

The International Office will help you with the following:

- Visas and immigration
- Accommodation
- Opening bank accounts
- Registering with doctors
- 24 hour emergency number
- Counselling
- Registration for clubs and activities.

On your first day in College you will have a student induction, this includes:

- Meet the international team and tutors
- A tour of the campus
- Welcome lunch
- College ID card and bus pass
- Principal welcome speech.



I loved my time at Gower College Swansea. The teachers helped me to achieve the grades I needed to get into my first choice university. The International Office also gave me a lot of support which helped me to settle in Swansea very quickly. This also gave me the confidence to focus on my studies. I would highly recommend this College!

Chan Kim, South Korea  
Achieved A B B in Electronics, Geography  
and World Development

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Progressed to  
**Southampton University**  
to study Geography





## Cultural experience

Gower College Swansea runs a comprehensive **social programme** to both local and national places of interest throughout the academic year.

Previous visits include London, Bath, Stonehenge, Stratford Upon Avon and Windsor. Our social programme gives international students the opportunity to experience the uniqueness of British culture and history.



A trip to the Royal Crescent, Bath



Students visit Three Cliffs Bay, Gower



International students at Magdalene College, University of Oxford



Gower College Swansea gave me a great opportunity to experience British culture. The College lecturers are super supportive and have fantastic study materials. The Economics, Geography and Maths A Level courses were excellent. Geography was my favourite subject and allowed me to learn all about globalisation and migration.

The international team are lovely and organised trips to beautiful cities in the UK such as Cambridge and Oxford. My homestay was perfect and my caring host made my time in the UK happy. Swansea is a great city with lots of fab restaurants and it was a pleasure to meet people from all over the world.

Gieun Cho, South Korea

A\* A\* A\* A\* in Double Maths, Economics and Geography

Progressed to

**University College London (UCL)**  
to study Geography



## Activities and clubs

Gower College Swansea offers a wide range of **sports, clubs** and **activities** that you can join. Some of these include football, rugby, netball and surfing as well as dance, drama and photography.

You can also participate in other activities such as the student council and the Kenya Project. Local clubs that may be of interest include horse riding, tennis, swimming, martial arts and gymnastics.

Many of our students take part in the **Duke of Edinburgh Award**, an internationally recognised qualification. You have the opportunity to achieve an award by completing a personal programme of activities in volunteering, physical skills, expedition and residential.





I have lived in Swansea for over two years now and I am really glad I chose this College and city. Swansea is a very beautiful place and has a beautiful beach next to the city centre. It also has lots of nice shops, cafes and restaurants. When I first came here I was quite shy, but people here are very friendly and Swansea is a very safe city.

Atip, Thailand

Achieved A A B in Physics, Maths and Chemistry

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Progressed to

**Birmingham University**  
to study Engineering



Main picture © Swansea Council



## Swansea

Swansea is a modern waterfront city with plenty of shops, cafes and restaurants. It is also home to Swansea Market, Wales' largest indoor market, which was recently **voted the best** market in Britain.

Swansea bay stretches from the Blue Flag Marina to the pretty village of Mumbles and features a sandy beach, promenade, water park, museums, as well as award-winning parks and gardens. Mumbles, with its Victorian Pier and independent shops, cafes and restaurants, is the gateway to the Gower Peninsula – the UK's first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Swansea is  
only three hours  
from London



Three Cliffs Bay, 20 minutes drive from Swansea city centre.



It has been such an amazing two years studying at the College. There is a wide range of subjects available for students to choose from. The international office is always kind and helpful which made it easy for me to adapt to life in Swansea. Swansea is a peaceful city and is located by the beach, as far as I'm concerned it is one of the most suitable places to have a studying experience.

Shaoxuan 'Michael' Cheng, China  
Achieved A A C C in Maths, Chinese, Further Maths  
and Physics

Progressed to

**University of Warwick**  
to study Engineering



## Gower

Gower College Swansea takes its name from the Gower region, Britain's first designated area of outstanding natural beauty.

Gower is home to some of the most beautiful bays and beaches in the UK and has also featured in many TV programmes and movies. We regularly take our students to the Gower region for outdoor activities such as walking, climbing and surfing.



International students enjoying the beautiful Rhossili Bay, only a 30 minute drive from Swansea city centre.

Sketty Hall, which was built in the 18th century, has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment. We use this beautiful building for our International Summer Schools.



Gower is an excellent College with amazing support. I had a true British experience in Swansea. The people were very friendly and polite and the location was beautiful.

Gen Kondo, Japan  
Achieved A\* A A in Maths, Further Maths and Physics.

Progressed to

**Tsinghua University**

to study Civil Engineering  
(number 1 ranked university in China and a world top 20 university in the QS rankings)





## A brief history

Gower College Swansea was formed in 2010 by the merger of Swansea College and Gorseinon College.

Swansea College was founded in 1825 and was based in the Docklands area at a time when Swansea was known as Copperopolis as it was the biggest exporter of copper throughout the world. This building also housed the guildhall and law courts after being rebuilt in 1848. From 1960, the building was solely used as a college of further education, housing 700 students. After gradual expansion, the College relocated to a new site in Tychoch in 1971, where there is still a campus today.

Gorseinon College was established in 1955 as a mining college for the local area. However, as the mining industry declined in the 1970s, the College became a sixth form in the 1980s offering both vocational and academic pathways. It soon became known for academic excellence, with a high number of students progressing to the UK's top universities.

During the 1990s, the College saw a surge in numbers of students being accepted by both Oxford and Cambridge universities and the range of A Levels also increased at this time to over 40 different subjects.

In 2007, the College was rated as **Outstanding** by ESTYN (Her Majesty the Queens Education Inspectorate Body in Wales) with the Oxbridge programme being referred to as a *leading super-curricular programme in UK Further Education*.

After the merger in 2010, Gower College Swansea attained a licence to recruit international students and welcomed its first cohort in 2011. The College has steadily increased international students numbers over the years and in 2015, the College's first international students were accepted to study at Cambridge University.

Gower College Swansea was one of only 14 UK colleges to be awarded HE+ status in 2013. HE+ status is awarded by Cambridge University to colleges in recognition of their outstanding A Level results and progression of students to the world's leading universities. The College continues to have an outstanding track record of sending students to both Oxford and Cambridge universities, with up to 10 students progressing each year.



The teaching quality at Gower College Swansea is excellent. I developed my passion for economics through the amazing lecturers at the College. I also loved my maths teachers, who helped me achieve 100% in my Maths A Level exams.

Kiki, South Korea  
Achieved A\* A\* A in Double Maths and Economics

Progressed to  
**University College London (UCL)**  
to study Economics



## Homestay

We offer homestay accommodation for all our international students. Living in an **approved homestay** will give you a truly British experience.

You will have the support of a local family, an opportunity to improve your English language and find out all there is to know about living in Swansea, Wales, and the UK.

Living in homestay is very safe, as all our host families go through a rigorous College risk assessment and are officially checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service.



## Contact

To find out more about studying with us please contact:

Gower College Swansea

+44 (0)1792 284007

[international@gcs.ac.uk](mailto:international@gcs.ac.uk)

[gcs.ac.uk/international](https://gcs.ac.uk/international)



### ***Please note***

*The contents of this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press in **September 2023**.*

Gower College Swansea

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Main picture © Swansea Council

