

International Student Handbook

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support

Your arrival checklist

Before you arrive

- Organise your tuition fee payments
- Apply for a visa
- Arrange your accommodation
- Plan your journey to Bangor
- Plan your budget
- Tell us about any disabilities

When you arrive

- Tell your family you have arrived
- Attend Welcome and Orientation events
- Register at the University
- Register with the Police
- Find accommodation
- Open your bank account
- Get your timetable
- Register with a doctor
- Find out about clubs & societies
- Find out about the Library and University services
- Learn how to use your IT account e.g. Bangor email, Blackboard, myBangor etc.
- Ask us any questions you have

Need help?

If you are uncertain about what to do, have any worries in the first few weeks of term or if you want advice before you come to Bangor, we will be very happy to help you.

International Student Support Office

Email: internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0) 1248 38 2882

For full updated information you should regularly visit the website: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support



www.facebook.com/BangorUniversityInternational

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Important advice to prepare you for your studies, including information on travel, visas and accommodation.

Arriving in Bangor

Information for your first few weeks in Bangor and details of Orientation in our 2015-16 Programme.

Student Life at Bangor University

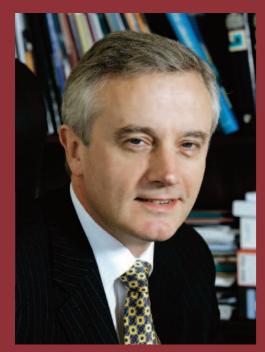
All you need to know about student life in Bangor. Practical information, including work, local amenities, Bangor University services and local places of interest.

After Your Studies at Bangor

How we keep in touch with you once you leave Bangor and practical things to remember before you leave.

Hello and Welcome





Professor John G. Hughes Vice-Chancellor

I was delighted to learn that you will soon be joining us at Bangor University. You will be arriving here with students from all over the world and you will be sure of a very warm welcome.

Founded in 1884, Bangor University has an established tradition of excellence across a broad range of academic disciplines. We are now building on this tradition by ensuring that Bangor's students have the best possible quality of teaching and research supervision from highly qualified academic staff, who are involved in leading-edge, international research programmes. We have a long tradition of welcoming international students to Bangor and we will do all that we can to support you in your studies.

I am therefore confident that your stay at Bangor will prove to be academically rewarding. In addition, your social life will be enriched by the opportunities to make friends from many different backgrounds within a small, friendly city.

The University has close links with the local community and plays an important part in the social and cultural life of the region. Also, the countryside around Bangor is exceptionally beautiful and the mountains and the sea will offer you a wide range of outdoor pursuits to choose from.

I now look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you personally to Bangor.

Professor John G. Hughes Vice-Chancellor

International Student Support Team

The International Student Support Team provides advice and guidance on a range of issues, including:

- Employment Regulations
 - Immigration Visa Applications
- General Welfare Issues • Travelling Abroad
- Health Care
- Living & Studying in Bangor
 - Financial Matters

We also arrange trips and events throughout the year for students and their families. Highlights include a 'Twmpath' (a traditional welsh dance night) and an international gala. We offer regular trips to explore the beautiful local area of North Wales, along with trips to Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and new for 2015/16 -Paris!

Contact Details

E-mail: internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk Telephone: +44 (0) 1248 38 2882 Web: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support









Alan Edwards Head of International Student Support

Kate Linck International Student Support Officer

Ekaterina Videnskaya Clerical Officer





Pre-arrival information

After accepting your offer there are lots of things that you should prepare before coming to Bangor: you will need to apply for accommodation, apply for your visa, even decide what clothes to bring! You will find it useful to make these arrangements before you leave home.

Organise your tuition fee payments

You can pay online using the Pay to Study online payment system, by credit card or bank transfer. You can also receive a discount of £350 if you pay your tuition fees in full before 1st September 2015.

To pay your tuition fees, go to: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/future/payment.php and click on 'Pay your deposit'.

Apply for a visa

In order to study in the UK, students of most nationalities outside the EU will need a visa. Before travelling to the UK, 'visa nationals' must apply to the UK Visa and Immigration Service (UKVI) for a visa or 'entry clearance'. Then, once you are in the UK, you will need to have a valid visa for the duration of your stay. For more information about visas and immigration, see:

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/visa_ immigration

If you will be applying for a Tier 4 visa, you will need a CAS letter from Bangor University. You will receive your CAS letter once you have:

- Accepted your offer
- Paid your tuition fee deposit
- Met any conditions of your offer to study at Bangor University (i.e. you have 'unconditional firm' status)

UK Visas and Immigration have screening rules for tuberculosis. Nationals from certain countries must have a chest X-ray before being granted a visa for more than six months. To see if your country is on the list, go to: www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa

Health

From the 6th April 2015, anyone who applies for a visa to come to the UK for more than six months, has to pay an 'Immigration Health Surcharge' (IHS) which is a contribution towards the National Health Service (NHS). Once you have paid the IHS you will be entitled to NHS treatment.

If you apply for a visa for six months or less, you will not need to pay the IHS but you will not be entitled to free NHS treatment. You can register with a doctor but you will have to pay for any (non-emergency) medical treatment. Therefore, we strongly advise that you arrange suitable medical insurance.

EEA nationals can receive National Health Service (NHS) treatment while in the UK. You should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) before coming to the UK. You should also consider taking out additional medical insurance for situations not covered by the NHS, e.g. repatriation.

For more information, including what treatment is provided by the NHS and how to buy medical insurance, see: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/health.php.en



Arrange accommodation

Undergraduate international students are guaranteed a place in University accommodation for their first year of study provided that they make an application for a room before 31st July 2015.

If you make an application after this date we will still try to find you a room but cannot guarantee that your application will be successful.

Please do not wait until you have received your visa before making your application and apply for a room as soon as you are invited to do so.

When you make an application for accommodation you will need to pay a £300 deposit. If you decide not to come to Bangor, you may be able to get a refund provided you notify the halls office.

Postgraduate international students may also apply for a room in University accommodation. If you make your application before 31st July and your offer of a place to study becomes Unconditional Firm (UF) before 7th August, we will guarantee to find you a room in Halsl. if you apply later, or if your place to study is made UF after 7th August, we will try our best to find you a room but there is no guarantee.

For information about applying for a room in University accommodation, go to:

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/alreadyapplied and click on 'Apply for your accommodation'.

More details of University Halls are available at: www.bangor.ac.uk/accommodation

Private accommodation

If you will be staying in private accommodation in Bangor, the Student Housing Office can help you find a room after you arrive:

www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices/studenthousing It is advised that you do not pay any money or sign a contract before you arrive in Bangor and see the property first.

Important: Students who intend to live in private accommodation should ensure that they have accommodation for at least the first two or three nights after arriving in Bangor. This is because it may not be possible to move into private accommodation immediately.

- The Student Housing Office can provide a list of hotels in the area by email if required. It is recommended that students arrive at least a few days before registration to allow enough time to find private accommodation.
- Please note that the standard price of private accommodation in Bangor varies but an average rent for a room in a shared property will be approximately £75-80 per week plus bills.
- The Housing Office has an online search facility for privately rented accommodation, where you can search a database of available properties. This facility is called Studentpad and can be accessed via www.bangorstudentpad.co.uk/accommodation

Plan your journey

We offer an Airport Pick-Up service for international students arriving at Manchester Airport on Wednesday 16th September 2015, in mid-January and throughout the summer months. The charge for this service is £14 in September 2015, and £20 at all other times. To book your place you need to follow the booking procedure at www.bangor.ac.uk/international/ support/airportpickup'

If you will not be traveling on these dates, please see the 'All other Arrivals' section on the airport pick-up webpage.

If you will be arriving in Bangor out of university working hours and you have arranged to stay in University Halls of Residence, please go to the Security Lodge on Ffriddoedd Site (no. 30 on map) to collect your key. If you have not arranged to stay in Halls of Residence but need assistance when you arrive out of university working hours, please go to Reception in Main Arts Building on College Road (no. 51 on map).

Do not forget to book your place on one of our Airport Pick-Up services

06-07



Plan your budget

Cost of living would depend on the type of accommodation you live in and your lifestyle. For further information and a living costs calculator, please visit:

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support /cost_living.php.en

Get packing

Before travelling, please ensure that you have the following documents with you in your hand luggage:

- Valid passport or identity card
- Visa (if required)
- Acceptance letter/CAS letter from the University

Please also remember to bring:

- Receipts for any tuition or accommodation fee payments
- Cash in GBP. (If you will not be able to access your home bank account in the UK, you should bring enough cash or traveller's cheques for at least two weeks as you will not be able to open a bank account instantly. We recommend that you have access to approximately £500 in your first weeks in Bangor.)
- Electrical adapters
- Warm and waterproof clothing
- If you are staying in University accommodation, check with the Halls Office to see what supplies you will need to bring (e.g. bedding).

We have arranged shopping trips for international students to go to a local supermarket to buy essential supplies (food, cooking equipment, etc.). For more information, see the Orientation and welcome week Programmes on pages 13 - 17.

Tell us about any disabilities

The Disability Team at Bangor University will be able to assist you if you tell us about any disabilities that you have. Please email:

disabilityservice@bangor.ac.uk You can also find some useful information at www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices/disability

Check out useful websites

For all the information you need about student life in Bangor, have a look at the International Student Support Team's website:

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support

Bangor University's new mobile website has been launched to provide you with instant access to information when you are 'on the go'.

Scan the QR code here to access the website on your smart phone.



The British Council has created a number of brochures aimed at giving information to international students coming to study in the UK, including obtaining a visa, preparing for coming to the UK and settling in safely once arrived. See the following web page for a full list of their brochures ('First Steps' is particularly useful for new international students):

www.britishcouncil.org/eumd-immigration.htm

You could also try this fantastic interactive learning tool, which will help you find out about different aspects of academic life in the UK and the skills needed for effective study: www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk

Facebook is one of the most popular social networking sites in the UK. Students often use it to communicate with each other and plan events. Visit the below link to see our page:

www.facebook.com/BangorUniversityInternational

you can use this page to communicate with us and other students before coming to Bangor as well as during your studies. Do not worry if you cannot access Facebook in your home country. It is easy to set up an account once you arrive in the UK.

Ask us any questions you have

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk

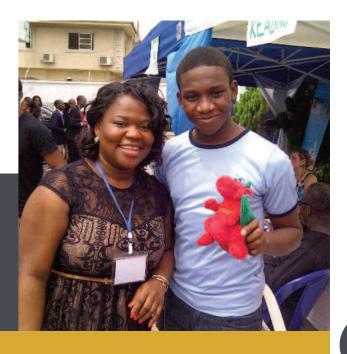
Monalisa, International Student Ambassador with a student at an Education fair in Nigeria

International Student Ambassadors

Starting university can be a daunting experience to say the least but for international students it doesn't just mean leaving home. Students from over 85 different countries choose to study at Bangor and therefore have to leave their native homeland, their families and friends and move to a foreign country.

They not only have to adjust to a new culture and surroundings but in many cases face the challenge of adjusting to a new language. Bangor University strongly believes in looking after their students and making sure that everyone is made to feel welcome and settles in with ease. That's why Bangor has over 40 International Student Ambassadors to support international students from the application process right up to their graduation day. For more information about the International Student Ambassadors, please see

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studentprofiles/ ambassadors



Arriving in Bangor

There are a few important things you must do during your first week in Bangor. You will need to register at the University, view your lecture timetable, open a bank account, and more. To help you, we have a Welcome Room for international students (see pages 13-17) where you can ask any questions you may have.

Important Dates

Wednesday 16th – Sunday 20th September: Orientation for international students

Monday 21st - Friday 25th September: Main University Welcome Week for all students

Orientation and Welcome Week Events

The International Orientation Programme and the general University Welcome Week give new international students a chance to get to know Bangor, the University and other students. Go to page 13 to 17 to see our Orientation and Welcome Week Programme.

Registration

All new students must formally register at Bangor University.

Step one: Before you arrive you must register online. Please see www.bangor.ac.uk/registration for full details. You will be notified by email when the system becomes available. Once you have completed the online registration, you will receive a 'Confirmation of Registration' email (within 24 hours) and you will then be able to access 'MyBangor' which provides details of your academic timetable and other important information.

Step two: After you arrive you must complete your registration by providing your identification document. "ID checking" opens Saturday 19th September, the sessions are listed on the Orientation and Welcome Week Programmes. Failure in doing this may result in delaying your university registration and access to university resources.

Acceptable forms of 'proof of identity' can be found at: www.bangor.ac.uk/rewgistration/proof-of-identity. If you need to collect your BRP (see next section), you should do this BEFORE you complete your ID check.

The Student Admin team from the Academic Registry will be available to help you if you have any problems. They can be contacted at student-admin@bangor.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1248 388484.

Important Immigration Dates

Within 10 days of arriving in the UK- Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (if required) from your designated collection point.

Within 7 days of receiving your BRP: Register with the police (if required)

Within 7 days of any change of address: Notify the police (if required)

Collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

You should have a visa for Bangor University before you arrive. If you applied for your visa from outside the UK, you will have been issued with a temporary 30 day 'entry clearance' visa in your passport. You must collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) within 10 days of arriving to the UK. The letter that you were given by the UKVI will give details of where to collect your BRP and what documents you need to take with you. If you have lost the letter, or you are not sure about what you need to do, contact the International Student Support Office as soon as possible.

Register with the Police

If registering with the police is one of the conditions of your stay in the UK (this should be written on your visa), vou must do so within 7 days of first arriving in the UK. You must also notify the police within 7 days if your visa, address or circumstances change. If you are unsure, please come and see the International Student Support Team in Rathbone Hall. The following nationalities must register if noted on the visa:

Iraq

Israel

Jordan

Kuwait

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

• Lebanon

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Belarus
- Bolivia Brazil
- Moldova Morocco

• Libya

- Oman
- Palestine
- Peru
- Georgia • Iran

China

• Cuba

Egypt

Colombia

Holders of Stateless Documents

Open a bank account

Get your timetable

https://www.bangor.ac.uk/itservices/admin/timetable





If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the International Student Support Team. You can visit us in the Rathbone Building on College Road (no. 70 on map) or email us at: internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk.

- Russia Saudi Arabia
- Sudan

Qatar

- Syria
- Tajikistan

- UAE
- - Uzbekistan
 - Yemen
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- North Korea

Find out about the Library/Bangor University services

up to 25 books for up to 10 weeks as a research student.

during Welcome Week and speak to a volunteer. www.bangor.ac.uk/library

www.bangor.ac.uk/itservices

Register with a doctor

on map). These forms will also be available in our Welcome Room during Orientation.

www.wales.nhs.uk



Things you must do as a Bangor student







Explore Anglesey's beautiful coastline





Visit Caernarfon

International Registration & Orientation Programme Wednesday 16th September to Sunday 20th September

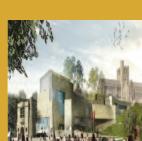
We look forward to welcoming you to Bangor and have put in place a programme where you will have an opportunity to meet other students, and teaching staff, at the University. You will also be able to complete your registration and collect information on many aspects of studying and living in Bangor.

| Wednesday 16th September | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Time | Activity | Location |
| Various times | Airport Pick-Up from Manchester Airport. For more information and to book a place, see: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/airportpickup | Manchester Airport |
| All Day | Bar Uno Cafe open for refreshments and luggage storage. | Ffriddoedd Village |
| 3pm | Walking Tour of Bangor (1 hour) plus supermarket trip. | Meet outside Bar Uno, (Ffriddoedd Village) or Outside the St Mary's Village Halls Office |
| From 7.00pm | Welcome Cafe – Meet the International Student Ambassadors and your Hall Wardens. | Bar Uno Cafe, Ffriddoedd Campus |
| 8pm | Supermarket trip – Let our International Student Ambassadors walk you to the nearest supermarket. | Meet outside Bar Uno, (Ffriddoedd Village) or Outside the St Mary's Village Halls Office |
| Thursday 17th S | September | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| All Day | Contact Centre – Computers available to contact home. | ELCOS Computer Room, Neuadd |
| All Day | Welcome Room – Drop in to collect useful information. | Rathbone Powis Hall, Main Arts Building (next door to PJ Hall) |
| 9am – 10am | Welcome Breakfast Reception – an opportunity to meet other students and collect information from staff. | Powis Hall, Main Arts Building |
| 10am - 12pm | Living & Studying in Bangor – an information session for all international/overseas students. | PJ Hall, Main Arts Building, College Road |
| | Welcome from Head of International Student Support | |
| | Opening a bank account English Language Support Police Registration Finding a place to live Registering with doctor Visas and immigration Working during studies General Safety & Welfare Navigating the University web pages | |
| | Welcome from Director of Student Experience | |
| | Careers & Employability Money Support Unit | |

| Wednesday 16th September | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Time | Activity | Location | |
| Various times | Airport Pick-Up from Manchester Airport. For more information and to book a place, see: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/airportpickup | Manchester Airport | |
| All Day | Bar Uno Cafe open for refreshments and luggage storage. | Ffriddoedd Village | |
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| 10am - 12pm | Living & Studying in Bangor – an information session for all | PJ Hall, Main Arts Building, | |
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| | international/overseas students. Welcome from Head of International Student Support Opening a bank account English Language Support Police Registration Finding a place to live Visas and immigration Working during studies General Safety & Welfare Navigating the University web pages | College Road | |

- Mental Health Team

Cathedral



Catch a show or film at Pontio

Take the Llandudno Great Orme

Thursday 17th September

| Time | Activity | Location |
|---------------|---|---|
| | Welcome from Head of Careers & Employability Welcome from President of Students' Union: Find out what the "S.U." offers all students Meet the International Student Ambassadors. The Ambassadors will be available at the end of the session to answer any questions you may have. | |
| 12.00pm – 2pm | Free time for lunch - You could ask the International Student Ambassadors where is good to go? | |
| 2pm | **This is repeated tomorrow ** Walking tour of Bangor (approx.1hr) plus supermarket trip Free, but you must sign up in advance. OR Bus tour of the local area (2 hours max.) Tickets = £3. ** Buy tickets or sign up at the International Student Support Office, Neuadd Rathbone ** | Meet outside Main Arts Building Reception, College Road. |
| 2pm – 4pm | Exchange students and 'Study Abroad Programme' students only - Welcome and information meeting . | Main Arts Lecture Theatre (near Main Arts Reception) |
| From 4pm | Library Tours & IT Services – Sign up in advance at International Student Support Office, Neuadd Rathbone. | Meet outside Main Arts Building Reception |
| 7pm | Bingo Night! Win prizes! Free entry. | Bar Uno Cafe, Ffriddoedd Village |

Friday 18th September

| Time | Activity | Location |
|---------------|---|---|
| All Day | Contact Centre – Computers available to contact home. | ELCOS Computer Room, Neuadd Rathbone |
| All Day | Welcome Room – drop in to collect useful information. | Powis Hall, Main Arts Building (next door to PJ Hall) |
| 10am – 3pm | Police Registration (if required) | Powis Hall, Main Arts Building (next door to PJ Hall) |
| 10am | BRP collection information session -You only need to come to this session if you have a 30 day visa in your passport and you need to collect your BRP (visa card). Please bring your passport and visa letter. | |
| 12.45pm – 2pm | Welcome lunch with College and School representatives – Come and meet staff and students from your College or School. Free lunch! | PJ Hall, Main Arts Building |
| 2pm | Walking tour of Bangor (approx.1hr) plus supermarket trip Free, but you must sign up in advance OR Bus tour of the local area (2 hours max.) Tickets = £3 | Meet outside Main Arts Building Reception, College Road |
| | ** Buy tickets or sign up at the International Student Support Office, Neuadd Rathbone ** | |
| 4pm | "Croeso i Gymru!" – A presentation on the history of Bangor, the culture of Wales and local places of interest. | Dining Hall,Neuadd Rathbone (Or meet outside Main Arts Reception at 3.45pm) |
| 7pm | TWMPATH - Traditional Welsh dancing with live music. Free. | PJ Hall, Main Arts Building |

| Saturday 19th September | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Time | Activity | Location |
| All Day | Various events welcoming new students: • Students' Union fun activities • Bar Uno Cafe open for food and drink | Ffriddoedd Village |
| 11am – 4pm | ** This is repeated tomorrow ** House-Hunting Day – The Student Housing Team can help you if you need to find private/off-campus accommodation or if you need housing advice. | Braint Common Room, Ffriddoedd Village |
| 11am - 7pm | Registration event for ALL students : Online Enrolment/ID Checking/Fee payment Complete your registration and collect your student ID Cards. * There may be long queues at times, so try again later - you can register at any time on Saturday & Sunday. * | Brailsford Sports Centre, Ffriddoedd Village |
| Sunday 20th Sej | otember | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| 10am - 7pm | Registration Event for ALL students : Online Enrolment/ID Checking/Fee payment. Complete your registration and collect your student ID Cards. * There may be long queues at times, so try again later - you can register at any time on Saturday & Sunday. * | Brailsford Sports Centre, Ffriddoedd Village |
| | | |

Library Tours for International Students

Getting to know the library can be one of the most useful things a new student can do in their first few weeks of studying in Bangor. We will be arranging tours during the international orientation programme, and the Library itself will be running information sessions and tours during the first two weeks of the academic year.

The tours are expected to last 45 minutes and will give information on searching for books and paper journals, photocopying and printing, study areas and computer rooms, plus other library resources that are available to students. The sessions are free of charge but the number of spaces is limited, so if you are interested in signing up, please visit the International Student Support Office in Rathbone Hall to book your place as soon as possible.

The details of the library tours will be released nearer the time.

How to contact the International Student Support Team...

Email: internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk **Web:** www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support **Telephone:** 01248 382882

Main University Welcome Week Programme 2015 – International Students

Sunday 20th September to Saturday 26th September

This welcome week programme runs in parallel to the central welcome week programme for ALL new students at the University. Please check the University web pages and the relevant Welcome Week Diary. For any more information please see the International Support web pages - www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support

Sunday 20th September

| Time | Activity | Location |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 12noon & 2pm | International Student supermarket trip | Meet outside Bar Uno, Ffriddoedd site |
| Monday 21st Sej | ptember | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| 9am – 4pm 3.30pm - 5pm | International Student Welcome Room, open daily Information and Advice session for new International Students (Repeat of the session on 17th September) | Neuadd Rathbone, College Road Lecture Room 2, Main Arts Building |
| Tuesday 20rd C | | |

Tuesday 22nd September

| Time | Activity | Location |
|-----------|---|---|
| 9am – 4pm | International Student Welcome Room, open daily | Neuadd Rathbone, College Road |
| 11am | Walking Tour of Bangor for International Students | Meet outside main entrance, Main Arts Building |

Wednesday 23rd September

| Time | Activity | Location |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 9am - 4pm 10am - 11.30am | International Student Welcome Room, open daily Studying in the UK: your questions answered | Neuadd Rathbone, College Road Lecture Room 3, Main Arts Building |

Thursday 24th Septembe

| Time | Activity | Location |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 9am – 2pm 11.30am | International Student Welcome Room, open daily Bus Tour of Bangor and the area for international and home students. (Tickets to be purchased from the International Student Support Office at £3) | Neuadd Rathbone, College Road Meet outside Main Arts entrance, College Road |
| Friday 25th Sept | tember | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| 9am - 2pm 2pm - 3.30pm | International Student Welcome Room - open daily Neuadd Rathbone Information session for new international students | Lecture Room 2, Main Arts Building |
| Saturday 26th September | | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| 10am | Bus Tour of Snowdonia National Park (Tickets to be purchased from the International Support Office, Rathbone Hall or online at shop.bangor.ac.uk under 'International Education Centre at £10) | Meet outside Main Arts Building |

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| 10am | Bus Tour of Snowdonia National Park (Tickets to be purchased from the International Support Office, Rathbone Hall or online at shop.bangor.ac.uk under 'International Education Centre at £10) | Meet outside Main Arts Building | |

Studying in the UK – Orientation event

Depending on what course you are studying, and at what level, the teaching methods you experience in the UK may be slightly different to those you have encountered before in your home country. Assessment methods may also be different to what you are used to.

We have therefore organised a Teaching & Learning Orientation session on Wednesday 23rd of September at 10am – Lecture Room 3, Main Arts Building.



Student Life at Bangor University

Whether you are at university, at home, 'out and about' or at work, this section tells you all you need to know about student life in Bangor

Semester Dates

Here are the semester and vacation dates for the 2015/16 academic year:

| International Orientation Programme | 16 September – 19 September 2015 (4 days) |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Welcome Week | 21 September 2015 (1 week) |
| Semester 1 | 28 September 2015 (1 week) |
| Vacation | 21 December 2015 (3 weeks) |
| Return & Assessment | 11 January 2016 (2 weeks) |
| Semester 2 | 25 January 2016 (8 weeks) |
| Vacation | 21 March 2016 (3 weeks) |
| Return | 11 April 2016 (4 weeks) |
| Assessment | 9 May 2016 (4 weeks) |
| End | 3 June 2016 |

Find out more...

View a list of our Clubs and Societies here: www.bangorstudents.com/societies/index.php.en

An important note on attendance

Residency: It is expected that full-time students at Bangor University will normally live in Bangor or in the immediate vicinity. All students must provide an up to date address and contact telephone number while studying at the University.

Attendance: Students will be expected to attend ALL timetabled teaching sessions for their degree programme. As an international student, if you miss a succession of timetabled teaching sessions, your school will contact you to discuss why you have been absent. If the reasons for your unauthorised absences are not satisfactory, the University is obliged by UK law to inform the Home Office. This may have consequences for your student visa and your ability to continue studying in the UK.

Therefore, it is extremely important that you attend all of your timetabled teaching sessions and inform the school if you have any planned absences.

If you plan to be absent from the University at any point during your studies as a registered student, you must inform your school of any plans well in advance of your absence and ensure that your contact information is up to date.

Please remember that you must have a valid student visa for the whole duration of your university course. If you need help with your visa application, please contact the International Student Support Team.

For more information on monitoring attendance, please see: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/documents/AttendanceMonitoring.pdf



Bangor University Student Services Centre

Located in Neuadd Rathbone (no. 70 on map), Student Services deals with general welfare enquiries and specific enquiries on financial issues, counselling, student health, disability matters, finding work and accommodation. www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices

The Students' Union (SU)

Bangor Students' Union (SU) (currently no. 79 on the map but may be moving to Pontio, number 48 on the map in 2015/16 academic year, check **Bangorstudents.com** for updates) provides representation, information and entertainment to students. If you want to get to know other students, you can join one of the many SU sports clubs or societies.

www.bangorstudents.com

Canolfan Brailsford Sports Centre / Treborth Site

The University's Canolfan Braisford Sports Centre (no. 18 on map) has a range of indoor gym and sports facilities as well as a floodlit synthetic pitch, tennis courts, two grass football pitches and a rugby pitch. Treborth Site has four full size football pitches, a pavillion and an eight-lane athletics track.

www.bangor.ac.uk/brailsford

Study Skills Centre

Bangor University's Study Skills Centre (No.70 on map) provides a drop-in advisory service for help with taking notes in lectures, planning and writing essays, oral presentations and preparing for exams and a drop-in advisory service offering help with Mathematics, Statistics and Numeracy and IT Study Skills sessions. studyskills.bangor.ac.uk

English Language Centre for Overseas Students (ELCOS)

ELCOS (located in Neuadd Rathbone—no. 70 on map) provides a range of English language and study skills courses to overseas students at Bangor University and free language classes for their spouses and families. www.elcos.bangor.ac.uk

The International Student Support Office

The International Student Support Office (located in Neuadd Rathbone—no. 70 on map) is able to offer you information relating to visas and other important issues during your time at Bangor

- University:
- Visa & immigration advice
- \bullet Social events and trips
- Advice for families
- General welfare matters
- Money matters
- Employment
- Healthcare

Peer Guides

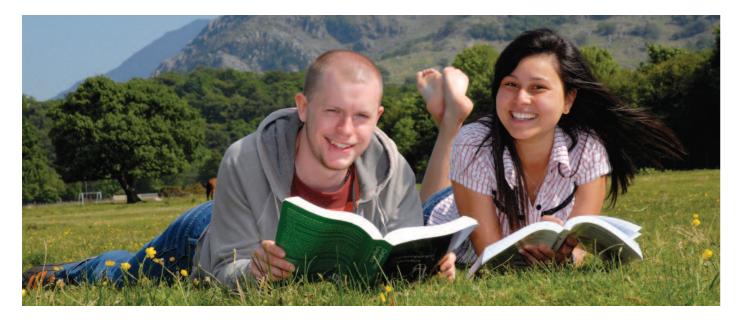
Peer guides are current students who volunteer to help new students settle in to University life. Each academic school has its own peer guides and you are likely to see them out and about in bright T-Shirts during Welcome Week. You can ask them questions you may have about the University or living in Bangor such as where lecture rooms are or which shops are open late. Peer Guides and International Student Ambassadors (see page 6) are here to help, so ask them any questions you have!

PONTIO - Arts and Innovation Centre

Bangor's new art and innovation centre Pontio (no. 48 on the map) will open its doors in 2015/16 academic year. Once open it will be home to a mid-scale theatre, a studio theatre, a cinema, design and innovation centre, Students' Union, social learning spaces, bar, café and more!

For more information about the centre and the current programme, please see: www.pontio.co.uk

Bangor University International Student Handbook



At home in Bangor

TV Licence

Each address where a television (TV) is being used must have a TV Licence. Students living in Halls of Residence must have a TV Licence for individual bedrooms if they own a TV or watch live television via the internet. Using a television without a TV Licence is illegal and you can be fined up to £1,000 for doing so. The current cost for a TV Licence is £145.50 per year and this can be paid in instalments.

www.tvlicensing.co.uk

Council Tax

Council tax is a tax collected by the local Council which contributes to local services such as rubbish collection, Police and Fire services. It is calculated based on the value of your property. **You will not need to pay council tax if you live in University Halls of Residence**. If you live in privately rented accommodation off campus, you will not need to pay council tax if:

- You and everyone else living in the property are fulltime students
- You are a full-time student
 - AND you are living in the UK with your spouse and children, who are not from the European Economic Area
 - AND your spouse and children have been admitted to the UK as your dependants
 - AND no other non-student lives in your property

You may still receive a bill, but the bill should be for zero pounds. If you have received a bill which you think is wrong, please come and see us at the International Student Support Office.

Telephone and Internet Services

If you live in University Halls of Residence, you will benefit from access to free wi-fi. If you are living in private accommodation in Bangor and want a fast and reliable broadband service, you may need to install a home phone line.

Have a look at our website:

http://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/welfare .php.en under the 'Communications' section for useful information.

Local Transport

Buses

Bangor Bus Station is located on Garth Road in the city centre. Each bus route has a number, which is displayed at the bus stop and on the bus itself. You can plan your journey using the Traveline Cymru website: www.traveline-cymru.info. Day saver tickets, weekly and monthly passes are available and can save you money. The local council also has a webpage giving details of bus services in the area: www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Trains

You can buy train tickets at the train station on Holyhead Road or online at either www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.thetrainline.com.

Ticket prices tend to be cheaper if you book them in advance, but please note that these tickets are usually restricted to specific trains. You can also save 1/3 off rail travel if you are a full-time student by buying a Young Person's Railcard

www.railcard.co.uk

Coaches

National Express coaches depart from Bangor Bus Station on Garth Road and travel to a number of large cities throughout the country such as Manchester, Birmingham and London. www.nationalexpress.com



Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all public buildings and on public transport in the UK. Many buildings have outdoor designated smoking areas. At the University, smoking is not allowed in any of its buildings, including Halls of Residence. On University land, smoking is prohibited within five meters of any building and on some campuses there are further restrictions. Signs are displayed reminding staff and students of the nonsmoking rule.

Driving in the UK

Driving on an international licence

For non-EEA nationals, if your driving licence was issued in a designated country, you may use it to drive in the UK for up to 12 months.

You have up to 5 years after becoming a resident of Great Britain to exchange your licence for a UK driving licence (without having to take a test). The designated countries are Andora, Australia, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Hong Kong, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.

If your driving licence was issued in any other country, you may use it to drive in the UK for up to 12 months. To continue driving, you must then apply for a UK provisional driving licence and pass a test to obtain a full UK driving licence.

www.dvla.co.uk

Legal obligations as a motorist...

Before you drive your own vehicle, you must have car insurance and road tax. All vehicles over three years old must pass an MOT test annually which confirms that the car is safe to drive.

British Police Officers regularly patrol roads to ensure that motorists are driving within the law. You are likely to incur strict penalties if you do not comply with driving legislation. The Police can confiscate your vehicle, fine you and ban you from driving in the UK.

www.gov.uk/browse/driving

For more information visit: www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Study-work--more/Otheruseful-information/Driving/

20-21



Shopping in Bangor

Bangor has a variety of supermarkets that are conveniently located for students:

- Asda (Farrar Road)
- Morrisons (Holyhead Road)
- Marks & Spencer (Garth Road)
- Lidl (Caernarfon Road)
- Aldi (Deiniol Road)
- Tesco Extra (Caernarfon Road) open 24 hours

You can also buy groceries from specialist food shops such as Zam Zam Food (253 High Street), T2 Oriental Store (7a Holyhead Road), Oriental Grocery Food Store (25-27 Holyhead road) and G Williams and Son Butchers' Shop (238 High Street), which sells both non-Halal and Halal meat.

Most shops selling general goods (clothes, books, mobile phones, pharmacy/beauty, electrical goods, etc.) are located on the High Street or on Caernarfon Road. Buses run regularly from Bangor City Centre to Caernarfon Road.

Shop opening times in the UK vary across different types of shops. Many of the smaller stores are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday, while larger shops, e. g. supermarkets and clothing stores, stay open later and on Sundays. Most shops close on certain public holidays, such as Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

University Eating Places

If you want somewhere to pop into for a quick coffee or snack, or a hearty lunch, we have a number of catering outlets onsite open to staff, students and visitors. There is also a small shop on Ffriddoedd Site where you can buy food, magazines and university merchandise. Visit: baruno.bangor.ac.uk/venues





Working during your studies

Employment Regulations

Many students take up part-time work to help pay some of their living expenses. You are advised not to rely on finding part-time work in order to fund your studies in full because job vacancies are limited and the pay may be at 'minimum wage' rate. There are also strict regulations which stipulate the number of hours per week an international student can work:

EEA Nationals may usually work unrestricted hours in the UK without permission.

Students from outside the EEA will normally have a restriction on the amount of hours they are entitled to work and the type of work they can do. These restrictions will be written on the Entry Clearance visa in your passport or on your BRP visa card. A non-EEA national will usually be subject to the following restrictions:

- The student is usually limited to work no more than 20 hours per week during term time, (except where a placement is a necessary part of their studies and is undertaken with the education institution's agreement)
- The student must not engage in business, selfemployment or provide services as a professional sportsperson or entertainer.
- The student must not pursue a career by filling a permanent full-time vacancy.

If you are unsure whether you are entitled to work in the UK, please ask for further advice from the International Student Support Office by emailing: internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk For more information on working in the UK, see our website:www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/volunt eering_work.php.en

Bangor University Careers & Employability Service

This service provides Bangor University students and graduates with resources and practical advice to do with working during and after their studies. They can help you with a range of services such as CV writing workshops, job searches and information about volunteering placements.

For more information visit: **www.bangor.ac.uk/careers** You can access their services for up to three years after you graduate from Bangor University.

National Insurance

If you want to work in the UK, you must obtain a National Insurance (NI) Number in order to pay National Insurance contributions. To apply for this number, you must call 0345 6000 643. If you are required to attend an interview, you will be asked about your background and circumstances. You may need to travel to the interview. We suggest that you request an appointment in Liverpool. You can get more information on National Insurance from the Careers & Employability Service (see above).

Bangor Prospects

Bangor Prospects is Bangor University's vacancy database, advertising the following opportunities:

- Graduate jobs (local and national)
- Full-time, part-time, permanent and temporary jobs
- Work experience/internships
- Voluntary opportunities

To access the database, you need to register with the Careers & Employability Service (see above).

For more information visit: www.bangor.ac.uk/careers/students/jobmart.php.en

Make the most of your time in Bangor

Go on University trips and events

The International Student Support Team, and other departments, organise various trips and events throughout the year. These provide a great opportunity to meet other students and to find out more about the area. Events we offer include: the Culture Challenge student competition, an international gala, a traditional Welsh dance evening, and much more! We also run local trips to allow you to get to know Bangor and the local area, historical tours, days out to Liverpool and Manchester, as well as overnight trips to Cardiff and Edinburgh and new for 2015/16 – Paris!

For up-to-date information about the trips and events check our website and Facebook page: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support www.facebook.com/BangorUniversityInternational

Your School, the Students' Union and other departments also offer different trips and events, so keep an eye out for notices and posters around the campus.

Explore the local area

Although the University provides a range of organised trips and events throughout the year, we want to help you visit even more places by giving you information about 'Do It Yourself' trips, or "D.I.Y. Trips", so you can go on your own adventures! The 'D.I.Y. Trips' webpage provides useful links, travel information and ideas about where you can visit and things to do.

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/diytrips

For more information on places to go and things to see speak to your Peer Guide / International Student Ambassador / Students' Union Rep / Course Rep / Hall Warden / Postgraduate Ambassador...Or better still, sign up to be one!

Postgraduate Students' Forum

The Postgraduate Students' Forum is the official representative group for postgraduate students at Bangor University. They voice postgraduate concerns and interests at various university groups. They also organise events thoughout the year, including informal food and drink evenings. For more information, visit pgsf.bangor.ac.uk

Your Student Advisors

Students' Union Representative

The 'Sabbs' (or Sabbatical Officers) are students who have chosen to take a year out and have been democratically elected in a cross-campus ballot to run your Students' Union and represent you. www.bangorstudents.com/yoursu/sabbs.php.en

Hall Wardens

If you live in University accommodation, there will be a live-in warden available to support you at any time during your stay in Halls. www.bangor.ac.uk/accommodation/halls/wardens

Course Reps

During the first few days of your course, your Course Coordinator will usually ask for a volunteer to represent and to help voice the opinion of the class.

Postgraduate Ambassadors:

Your School will introduce you to your Postgraduate

Get involved with the 'Learning Lounge'

The Learning Lounge is a series of free events to help all students make the most out of their time in Bangor. The events are informal, social and focused on personal development. The Learning Lounge aims to offer a diverse range of topics, with different hosts for each session. Topics will cover: new skills, personal development, general interest, current affairs and more... www.bangor.ac.uk/learninglounge

Go to extra-curricular workshops

In addition to your course modules the University offer workshops for students

Study Skills Centre studyskills.bangor.ac.uk

Academic Development Unit (Postgraduates): www.bangor.ac.uk/adu/

English Language Centre for Overseas Students www.elcos.bangor.ac.uk

Student Services www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices

IELTS www.ielts.bangor.ac.uk



Bangor Employability Award (BEA)

The BEA is designed to help you develop your skills through the extra-curricular activities you choose to take part in throughout your university life. Whatever your interests, the BEA can help you understand how to promote yourself to an employer, and will also recognise those employability enhancing activities that you are already taking part in. All registered students are eligible to take part in the BEA, please contact the office for further information.

www.bangor.ac.uk/employability/FAQH

Volunteering, Internships and job opportunities

Volunteering, or having a part-time job, are great ways to meet people and experience British culture. Internships are a good route to get work experience. To find out how Bangor University can help you find a role to suit you, see

www.bangor.ac.uk/careers/students/ workexperience

Follow your Faith

Bangor caters for a variety of faiths. The Chaplaincy Team at Bangor University has representatives from local faith groups and offers activities open to all, irrespective of belief, race, gender, sexuality and politics. www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices/faith

There are many churches and religious groups in and around Bangor. For a full list of churches and faith groups in the area, see: www.bangor.ac.uk/studentservices/faith/local-faith

A dedicated Quiet Room is available for drop-in use by students along with a bookable meeting room that is prioritised for faith-based activities. Both rooms are based in Rathbone Annexe (next to Rathbone Dining Hall) which also has toilets with ritual washing facilities.

Clubs & Societies

Joining a club or a society is an ideal way to make new friends and try new things. Have you ever tried Ultimate Frisbee or Underwater Hockey? There are over 100 different clubs and societies to choose from, varying from societies such as film, photography and drama, to sport clubs including canoeing, football and surfing. www.bangor.ac.uk/studentlife/clubs_societies

During Welcome Week Bangor Students Union (SU) host an event called Serendipity where students can meet representatives from each club and society and join them. For more information on the Students' Union visit: www.bangorstudents.com



Useful information about Bangor and the UK

Wales has its own native language, Welsh. It is spoken by around 20% of the population. Gwynedd, North Wales has the highest proportion of Welsh-speakers. Bangor University has its own bilingual policy, which requires service literature to be provided both in Welsh and English. Don't be suprised to see public signs and notices in both Welsh and English.

Average Temperature

Winter: 5-10C, Summer: 15-25C The weather is quite unpredictable and a waterproof coat and warm shoes are a must in winter!

Measurements

In the UK, both metric and imperial measurements are used for describing weight, volume and length. (1 pint = 568 ml, 1 inch = 2.5 cm). You will find many conversion charts online to help you.

Electricity

Electricity sockets in the UK are usually for 3-pin plugs with a 13 amp fuse. It is a good idea to buy adapters for British plugs before travelling to the UK as they will not be available in all UK shops.

Mobile Phones

There are many phone shops in Bangor that provide services via the major operators (02, EE, Vodafone, 3), and you can either buy a phone on a contract or on 'pay as you go' basis. It is well worth shopping around for the best deal. You can also buy cheap phone/sim cards in local newsagents. Lebara and Lycamobile have cheaper tariffs for calling abroad.

Nurseries and Schools

Students with children under 4 years of age may wish to send their children to local nurseries. There is a charge for nursery care and fees vary between nurseries. A list of nurseries in Bangor can be found at: www.daynurseries.co.uk/day_nursery_search_result s.cfm/searchtown/Bangor

Education is compulsory for all children resident in the UK between the ages of 4 and 16 years. Children who are in the UK as dependants of international students will be able to attend a state school free of charge. The Local Education Authority will provide school places in the catchment area where parents live. School places cannot be allocated until you have a permanent local address.

For students with children in local state schools, teaching is undertaken bilingually – both in English and Welsh. Children will therefore, naturally, pick up some Welsh during their time in Bangor. For more information about schools and childcare visit www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/ families.php.en

For further information about childcare please contact the International Student Support Office at internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk or Gwynedd Local Education Authority main switchboard on 0044 1286 672255 or the department directly on 0044 1286 679904. Further information on schools in the Bangor area can be accessed via: www.gwynedd.gov.uk





To check timetables for trains across Britain and to buy tickets online visit www.nationalrail.co.uk



Megabus.com is another option for coach services travelling to and from most Britishcities. uk.megabus.com



traveline

Find out it you are permitted to drive in the UK by using Direct Gov's interactive tool:search'motoring interactive tools' on direct.gov.uk

www.traveline.info gives information on public transport in Britain. View bus timetables and plan your journey online or, if you are ever lost and don't know how to get home, call 0871 200 22 33 to speak to a Traveline adviser.

national express

Visit www.nationalexpress.com for coach services travelling to and from most British cities.

Railcard

A 16-25 Railcard saves 1/3 on train fares across Britain. You can also get a 16-25 railcard if you're over 26 but in full-time education. Visit www.16-25railcard.co.uk or go to Bangor Train Station to buy yours.

Driving in the UK

Motorists in the UK drive on the left-hand side of the road and overtake on the right-hand side only. The speed limit is 70 miles per hour on motorways but varies on all other roads. It must be obeyed and you should always check speed limit signs when driving. Seatbelts and special car seats for children are a legal requirement. If you plan on driving in the UK, it is a good idea to read the Highway Code. As a motorist in the UK, you are legally obliged to buy valid car insurance, pay road tax, register your vehicle and obtain an MOT certificate (for vehicles over 3 years old).

Find out more...

Visit www.wales.com and select 'international' to see if Wales has links with your Country





After your studies at Bangor

international student here, but don't forget to continue to keep in touch

Bangor University Alumni

want to contact old classmates, organise reunions or send photos and memories of your time at Bangor, you can alumni@bangor.ac.uk or join them online by searching for

www.bangor.ac.uk/alumni/international

Bangor University widened my career choices and provided me with a strong academic background."

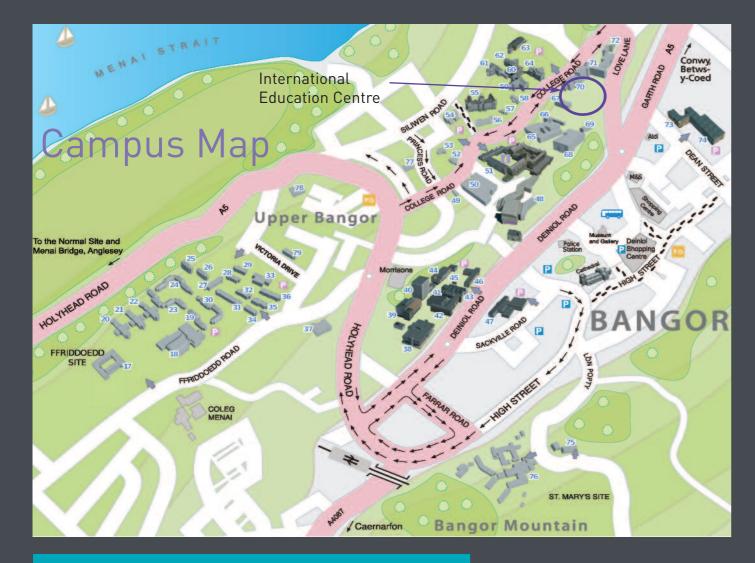
Anthony Albuquerque, Electronic Engineering graduate



We hope you enjoyed your time in Bangor!

Before you leave Bangor, don't forget to...

- Provide us with student feedback. The University might request that you fill in a survey about your experiences of studying here. Each response is invaluable to us so please don't forget to complete yours.
- Pay outstanding tuition fee payments to Bangor University. (Remember you can't graduate until you have paid your tuition fees in full).
- Close your bank account
- Pay any outstanding utility bills
- Contact your landlord about leaving the property
- Dispose of unwanted items. (Donate your items to new students or to charity shops on the High Street).
- Register with the Bangor University Development and Alumni Relations Office by visiting: www.bangor.ac.uk/alumni/keepintouch



ACADEMIC

of Business, Law, Education and So s Administrative Centre 56: Business School *95*, 59 9, 60, 61, 62, 64 EW 57, 58

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OTHER CENTRES AND RESEARCH

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ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

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Buildings 1-16 are shown on the Normal Site map overleaf Buildings A and B are shown on the School of Ocean Sciences map overleaf.

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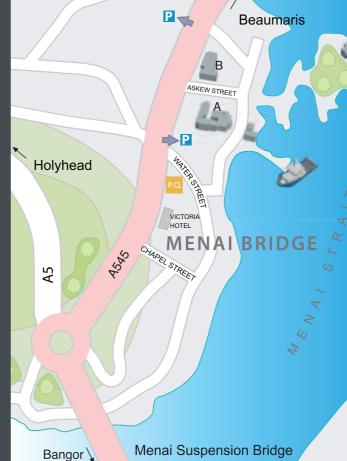
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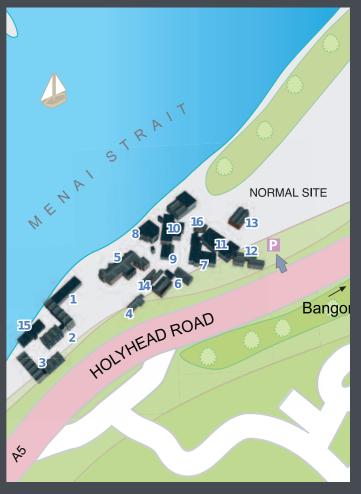
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School of Ocean Sciences Map



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Normal Site Map



Useful Contacts

International Student Support Office Bangor University Tel: +44 (0) 1248 38 2882 Email: internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support

International Education Centre Bangor University Tel: +44 (0) 1248 388633 Email: international@bangor.ac.uk www.bangor.ac.uk/international

English Language Centre for Overseas Students (ELCOS) Tel: +44 (0) 1248 382252 Email: elcos@bangor.ac.uk www.elcos.bangor.ac.uk

International Exchanges Office Tel: +44 (0) 1248 388156 Email: erasmus@bangor.ac.uk / exchanges@bangor.ac.uk www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange Bangor University Security (Emergency) Internal Tel: 333 External: +44 (0) 1248 382795

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) Advice Line : +44 (0) 2077889214 (open Monday - Friday, 1.00 - 4.00pm) www.ukcisa.org.uk

UK Visas and Immigration Tel : +44 (0) 3001232241 www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

The British Council Tel : +44 (0) 1619 57755 Contact form: **www.britishcouncil.org/contact**



www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support

