

# STUDY ABROAD AT BANGOR UNIVERSITY



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY





# WELCOME TO BANGOR UNIVERSITY!

## University overview

Bangor is a traditional university founded over 125 years ago and located in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the north west coast of Wales. We currently have over 10,000 students, 1,400 of whom are international students from over 70 different countries. Around 200 students from the US, Canada, Europe, Japan and Asia choose Bangor each year as their study abroad/exchange destination.

The University is structured into 5 colleges:

- College of Arts, Education and Humanities
- College of Business, Social Sciences and Law
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Physical and Applied Sciences
- College of Health and Behavioural Sciences

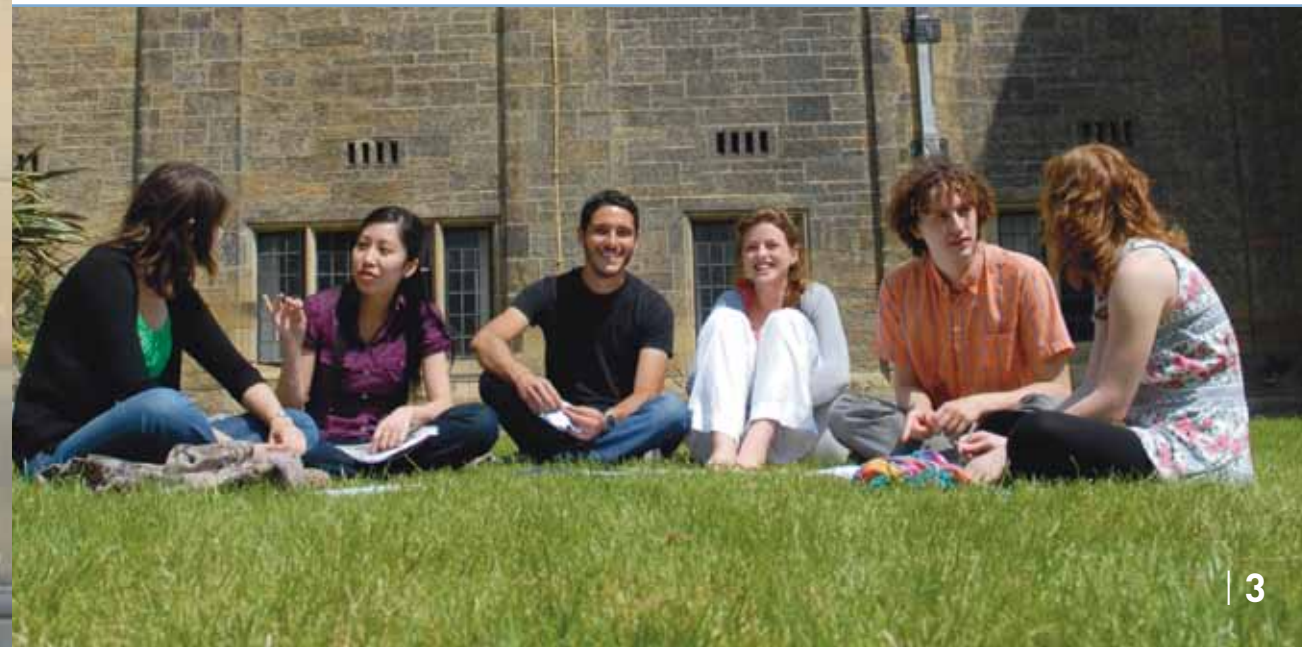
The University campus is on a hill above the city and the main University building (reminiscent of Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films) dominates the skyline. The other 3 sites that make up the University are all within easy walking distance of the city centre, main campus and University accommodation.

## Academic excellence

The University has an excellent academic reputation, both for research and teaching and learning.

The University is:

- ranked no. 1 in the UK for research in Accounting and Finance (RAE 2008)
- ranked no. 2 in the UK for research in Electronic Engineering (RAE 2008)
- ranked no. 7 in the UK for research power in Psychology (RAE 2008)
- ranked no. 4 in the UK for Celtic Studies (*Times Higher Education*, Good University Guide 2011)
- ranked no. 8 in the UK for Agriculture and Forestry (*Times Higher Education*, Good University Guide 2011)
- ranked in the top 15 in the UK for Sports Science and Music (*Times Higher Education*, Good University Guide 2011).



## Student life and support

The Bangor experience is unique among UK universities.

The University is:

- ranked 14th in the UK for overall student experience (*Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2011*)
- the top UK University for help and support (*Times Higher Education*)
- in the top 5 for accommodation quality (International Student Barometer)
- has one of the UKs largest peer guiding schemes which was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards in the Outstanding Student Support Category (2010)
- is the second most economical place to study in the UK (*The Independent*)
- is at the centre of Welsh language and culture.



Maggie Parke - originally from Lancaster, Pennsylvania US is a Student Ambassador at Bangor:

**“ I read a series of books that take place in north Wales when I was about 8 and I became fascinated with the myths and history of the area. I enjoyed a vacation here with my folks when I was a teenager, and decided to do a semester abroad in Bangor during my undergraduate study; and I absolutely loved it.**

**The area is beautiful, the professors friendly, the courses stimulating and unique, and the School well-connected, supportive and flexible. I came back to Bangor after I finished my BA, I did my MA in Arthurian Literature here, and I've stayed for my PhD!”**

## Why choose Bangor for your Study Abroad?

Bangor University tends to suit students who are looking for some or all of the following:

- a safe, intimate environment with good student support
- a beautiful study environment
- a range of outdoor activities including walking, climbing, sailing, rowing, kyaking, windsurfing
- to experience Welsh culture, language and history
- the ability to take a broad range of modules (classes)
- the ability to choose science related modules (classes)
- low living costs
- a small town feel where people know each other
- a lively student life
- easy access to London, Liverpool, Manchester and Dublin.
- easy access to London, Manchester, and Dublin.

# THE PROGRAMME

**Language of instruction:** English.

**Entry requirements:**

GPA 2.5 (GPA 3.0 for Psychology).

Supporting documents: transcripts, academic reference and a personal statement.

**Minimum credits:**

You will need to take at least 50 Bangor credits per semester. Modules are normally 10 or 20 credits.

**Internships and service-learning opportunities:**

Available through the Central College Abroad programme (see our Study Abroad Partners section).

**English Language requirement:**

For non-native speakers IELTS of 6.0.

**Programme dates:**

Fall Semester - September to December

Spring Semester - January to June

Academic Year - September to June.

**Maximum credits:**

You can take a maximum of 60 Bangor credits per semester. Modules are normally 10 or 20 credits.

**Outdoor pursuits:**

Available through the Central College Abroad programme (see our Study Abroad Partners section).

## Housing and meals:

- University residence halls have single rooms with en-suite bathroom
- no meal plan
- flats house 8 students and include a communal kitchen for cooking meals
- there are restaurants and cafes located on or near campus
- most of the residence halls are located on the main residences site which includes a sports centre with gyms, sports halls and climbing wall; all weather sports pitches and café/bar
- some cheaper accommodation (single rooms with shared bathrooms) are also available at other sites.

[www.bangor.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/accommodation)



## Academics

The Study Abroad programme at Bangor is very flexible and you have access to all academic Schools within the University. There are few restrictions on what you can study. You can choose to study all your modules within the same School or choose modules from across a range of Schools. You can also choose the course level (1 – 3) to suit your background and level of expertise in each subject.

5 steps to creating your programme:

1. Check with your home institution if there are any restrictions on the courses you can take while you Study Abroad.
2. Take a look at our online module catalogue for a full list of the modules available at Bangor <http://admint.bangor.ac.uk/gazonline>
3. Start to build up a list of modules you are interested in. You can study up to 60 credits per semester. Ensure you check which semester classes are available and if there are any minimum academic requirements for modules.
4. Check with your home institution if credits can be transferred for the modules you have selected.
5. Complete the Study Abroad application form and e-mail it to Bangor University. An application form can be downloaded from: [www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/)

We can't guarantee that each module you have chosen will be available because of timetabling and capacity issues. It is worth choosing some alternative modules as back-up. Your final module choices will be made on your arrival at Bangor during registration and orientation week.

### Subject areas available:

Accounting, Banking and Finance  
Agriculture and Forestry  
Biological Sciences  
Business, Marketing and Management  
Chemistry  
Computer Science  
Education and Childhood Studies  
Electronic Engineering  
English Literature  
English Language and Creative Writing  
Environmental Sciences  
Healthcare Sciences  
Law  
Linguistics and Modern Languages  
Media and Creative Studies  
Music  
Ocean Sciences  
Psychology  
Social Sciences  
Sports and Exercise Science  
Welsh Language

### Examples of modules

Examples of popular modules among Study Abroad students include:

An introduction to the history and culture of Wales  
Welsh writing in English  
Medieval literature  
Basic Welsh  
Language and the world  
Child language acquisition  
Music cultures of the world  
Physical oceanography  
Earth climate and evolution  
Introduction to psychology  
Developmental psychology  
Physical psychology and sports performance  
Modern theatre  
Introduction to marketing  
Economics  
Introduction to micro-biology  
Fish biology  
Introduction to film history  
Children and ethics  
Gender and education  
Micro-electronics  
Engineering analysis  
Mathematics for computing  
Web technologies

## Making an application

We welcome applications through our Study Abroad Partners. We also accept direct enrolment applications. To apply please complete a study abroad application form, which can be found at: [www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/)

To support your application we require a copy of your transcripts, an academic reference and a personal statement detailing why you wish to study abroad at Bangor and what you hope to gain from the experience. If English is not your first language we may also require evidence of your English language ability e.g. an IELTS certificate. E-mail the completed application form along with your supporting documents to [international@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:international@bangor.ac.uk)

## Study Abroad Partners

We currently work with 2 US study abroad providers:

- Arcadia - [www.arcadia.edu/abroad/](http://www.arcadia.edu/abroad/)
- Central College Abroad – [www.central.edu/abroad](http://www.central.edu/abroad)

Through these providers we have had Study Abroad students from universities all over the US including Havard University, University of Alabama, Rochester Institute of Technology, Kenyon College, The College of Wooster, Stonehill College, Belmont University, Valparaiso University, Texan Lutheran University, Cedarville University, Baker University, Washington State, Hamilton College, Moravian College, Holy Names University and Austin College.

We also have Study Abroad agreements with the following universities:

- Mary Washington University, Virginia
- Ripon College, Wisconsin
- Towson University, Maryland

In addition we are on the approved Study Abroad list of a range of other universities and welcome applications from individuals and/or universities for direct enrolment.

Study Abroad Partners in other parts of the world include:

- Waseda University, Japan
- Dankook University, Korea
- Shanghai University, China





## LOCATION

### Wales

Wales is one of the 4 nations making up the United Kingdom (UK). Wales has a unique language and culture, Welsh being the oldest living language in Europe. The city and surrounding area is bilingual, with many people speaking both Welsh and English. You'll also find that the University's official signs are also bilingual. Studying in Wales, you'll have the opportunity to live in an environment where another language is spoken around you. But you don't have to worry, you don't need to speak Welsh to fit in, as everyone also speaks English.

Wales is a small diverse country, with metropolitan cities like Cardiff, small market towns, mountains and idyllic beaches. Wales offers international students a warm welcome and a unique and vibrant culture steeped in its 3,000 year old history and over 200 castles.

The Welsh are famous for their singing and their love of Rugby. National emblems include the red dragon featured on the national flag, the leek and the daffodil. Welsh celebrities include Catherine Zeta Jones, Anthony Hopkins, Ioan Griffiths, Dylan Thomas, Ryan Giggs and Tom Jones.

Wales has old and established links with the US. Did you know that 6 signers of the United States Declaration of Independence were Welsh or of Welsh descent?

**"A wonderful position. On one side are the mountains of Snowdonia National Park, on the other side is the Menai Strait...boasts the best university setting in the UK, with parts within 6 feet of the sea."**

The Independent's A-Z of Universities and Higher Education Colleges



## BANGOR AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Bangor is an ancient cathedral city of around 15,000 people (plus around 11,000 students) set in an area of outstanding natural beauty, where the Snowdonia mountains meet the sea. It is considered one of the safest and most cost effective cities to live and study in within the UK. The area offers fantastic opportunities for students interested in the outdoors including sailing, hiking, climbing, surfing, rowing, kyaking and windsurfing.

Bangor is at the centre of the Welsh language and culture and is also surrounded by significant historical monuments including 3 World Heritage Site castles (Caernarfon, Conwy and Beaumaris). The University is set on a hill above the city and the city centre, leisure facilities and accommodation are all within walking distance of the University.

Bangor is situated by the Menai Strait, a small channel of sea water which separates the Island of Anglesey with its sandy beaches and rolling farmland, from the mainland. Eight kilometres inland is Snowdonia National Park a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. Bangor is just 15 minutes away from the royal town of Caernarfon and its 700-year-old World Heritage Site castle, and an hour away from the historic town of Chester. For students wanting to see the surrounding area there is a good network of bus routes as well as a railway service.

Bangor has good transport links to the rest of the UK and Europe. The city is 3¼ hours from London, 2 hours from Manchester by train and only 30 minutes from Holyhead where the ferry port for Dublin, the capital city of Ireland, is situated.

For more information on Wales and the area around Bangor take a look at the following websites:

[www.gwynedd.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/tourism)  
[www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)  
[www.visitwales.com](http://www.visitwales.com)





# LIVING AND STUDYING IN BANGOR

## Library and information services

Study Abroad students are provided with a Bangor email address and password to access the University network and the internet. Access to the network is available throughout the campus. Many rooms in University student accommodation also have internet access.

Students will receive a Student ID and Library Card during Registration, which will enable you to use the library facilities and borrow books. Our libraries contain an extensive collection of books and journals, databases, videos, CDs with listening and viewing facilities, micro-material and access to the internet. These are available during the day, evenings and during weekends.

For more details about our Information Services, take a look at our website at: [www.bangor.ac.uk/itservices](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/itservices)

## Student welfare and support

Our International Students Welfare team are available to guide, assist and advise on a wide range of matters prior to your arrival and throughout your time at Bangor. The team also organises a programme of events throughout the year e.g. visits to festivals and areas of interest throughout the UK.

For further information please see [www.bangor.ac.uk/student-services/international](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/student-services/international)

Each Study Abroad student will be allocated a peer guide, a second or third year student from your host School who will help you find your way around and settle in. Our Student Ambassadors are also available to support and advise you.



## Sports

The Students' Athletic Union has around 45 different sports clubs. Please visit the website for more information: [www.undeb.bangor.ac.uk/au](http://www.undeb.bangor.ac.uk/au) and the Students Union Clubs and Societies information pages are on: [www.undeb.bangor.ac.uk/clubs](http://www.undeb.bangor.ac.uk/clubs). Whatever sport you are interested in, we are exceptionally well situated and well-equipped at Bangor.

The Sports Centre provides students with modern sport and leisure facilities including weight and fitness rooms, climbing wall, squash courts and sports halls which incorporate activities such as basketball, badminton, five-a-side football and aerobics classes. We have excellent outdoor facilities, an athletics track and numerous pitches for team games such as rugby, football and hockey including a floodlit all-weather pitch.

Students at Bangor can also take advantage of the excellent natural outdoor resources - how about rock-climbing, paragliding, sailing or surfing to name a few possibilities - and all of them on your doorstep!

## The Arts

Cinema: Cineworld in Llandudno Junction  
Theatre: Y Galeri in Caernarfon stages live theatre performances and films  
Concerts: held at the PJ and Powis Halls at the University  
Night Clubs: The Octagon (in the city-centre)  
Museums and Art Galleries: Bangor Road – near bus station (in the city-centre)

## Health and insurance

If you are here for six months or more you can receive free treatment from NHS hospitals and doctors. If your course is less than 6 months long you are advised to take out adequate health insurance for the period of your stay, as treatment from the NHS is limited to emergency hospital treatment in an NHS Accident and Emergency department.

# TOP TIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD

## Academic study

You will probably notice a difference in the way courses are taught at British universities compared to the US:

- Time spent in formal lectures each week will be lower.
- You will be required to spend a greater proportion of your time pursuing independent study - reading supporting material, conducting independent research and working on assignments.
- In addition to lectures, more in-depth analysis will take place in smaller tutorial and seminar groups where you'll prepare topics in advance and discuss them with the other students and the tutor. You'll need to read extensively around the subject and you'll be encouraged to form your own ideas and opinions.
- You will be assigned your own personal tutor with whom you can review your individual progress and discuss any problems. The close contact between students and tutors is a particular strength of UK degree courses.
- Each module is assessed according to its content: by assignments, practical work, laboratory projects, seminar work, orals, and examinations.
- For some modules up to 70% of the grade will come from the final examination. It is therefore essential that students revise any topics that could be included in exam in some depth. This can involve several weeks of preparation.
- If you choose modules in a technical/science subject, you are likely to spend a large portion of your time in supervised laboratory work, designed to develop necessary technical skills.
- Discuss with some of your UK class mates about how they approach completing assignments and preparing for exams - they are used to the UK education system and could give you some useful tips!

## Get involved!

To get the most out of Study Abroad and to really experience the Welsh student life and culture you need to get involved. There are lots of ways to do this including:

- joining University clubs and societies
- trying out for University sports teams
- signing up for the visits and tours organised by the International Students Welfare Adviser
- socialising with the other students in your student flat and those taking the same classes as you
- signing up with the University volunteering bureau to do some voluntary work
- taking a class in Basic Welsh to get a taste of the language
- attend events organised by the Students' Union and the International Students Welfare Adviser
- get out and about in the local area - visit the beaches, mountains, lakes and historic monuments. Try out one of the outdoor sports available e.g. hiking, sailing, climbing, rowing, kayaking.

The best advice is just to enjoy the experience. Keep an open mind and take things as they come! There are many similarities in the cultures of the UK and US, but there are many differences as well - celebrate those!

[www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/)





Zoe from Ripon College, Wisconsin:

“Studying at Bangor University was a wonderful experience for me. It opened doors to new opportunities and refreshed my outlook on life; widening my horizons and interests. Studying abroad has given me a better sense of who I am as an individual and what I want to achieve through my education.”



David Cain from Central College:

“I joined the rugby league team here. It’s good to keep working out throughout the off-season of football, and at the same time we met some of the guys from the surrounding area. I really immersed myself in the culture and made new Welsh friends through this activity. And it was fun!”







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For further information about our courses  
and student life at Bangor, please visit:

**[www.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.bangor.ac.uk)**