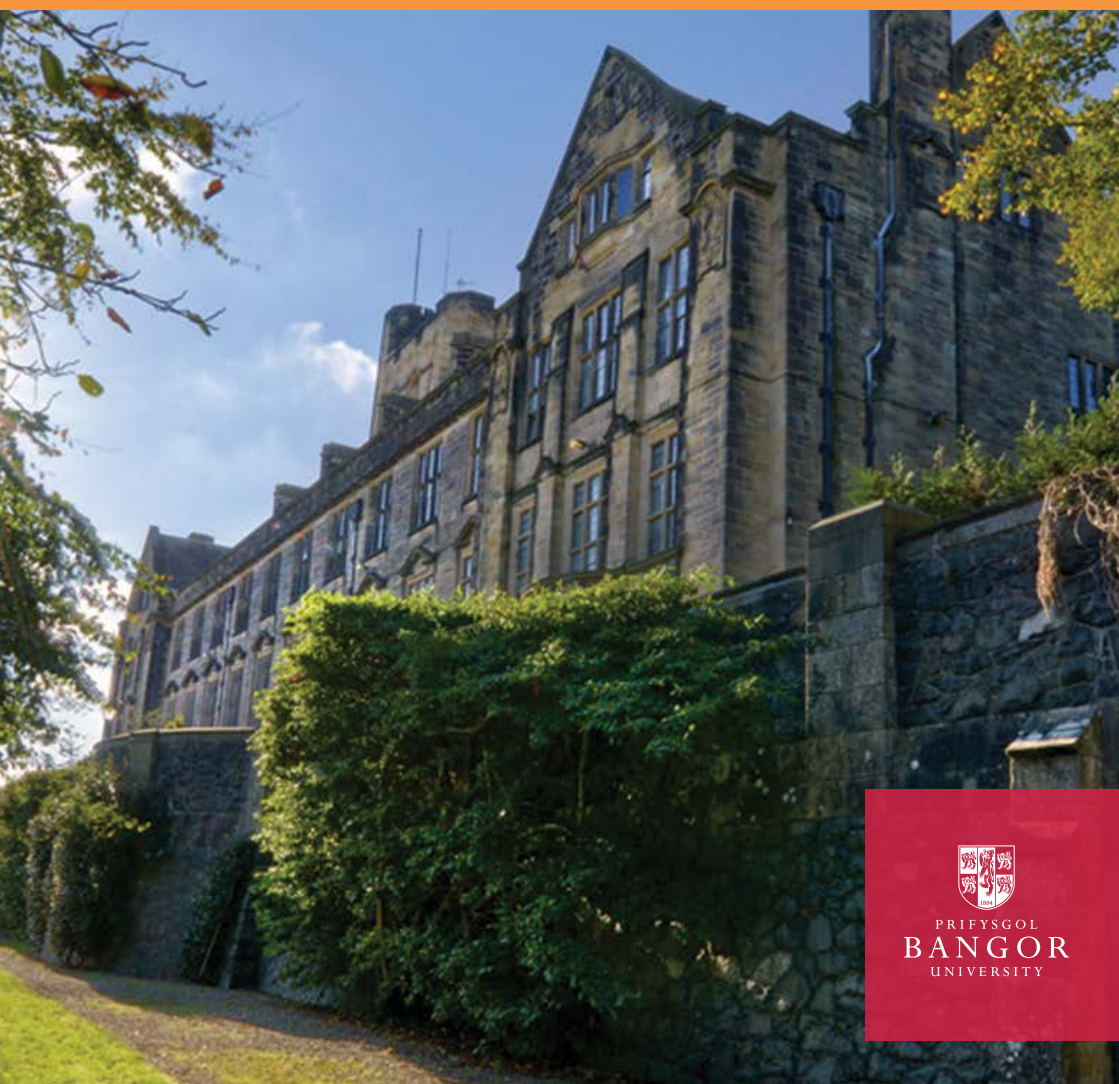


ERASMUS +
GUIDEBOOK

2016 / 2017



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY



Congratulations on being nominated to attend our institution as an Erasmus+ student

We hope to see you soon in Bangor!
This guide has been prepared to help you plan your time when you get here.

Please read this guide carefully – it contains important information you will need to organise your study placement.

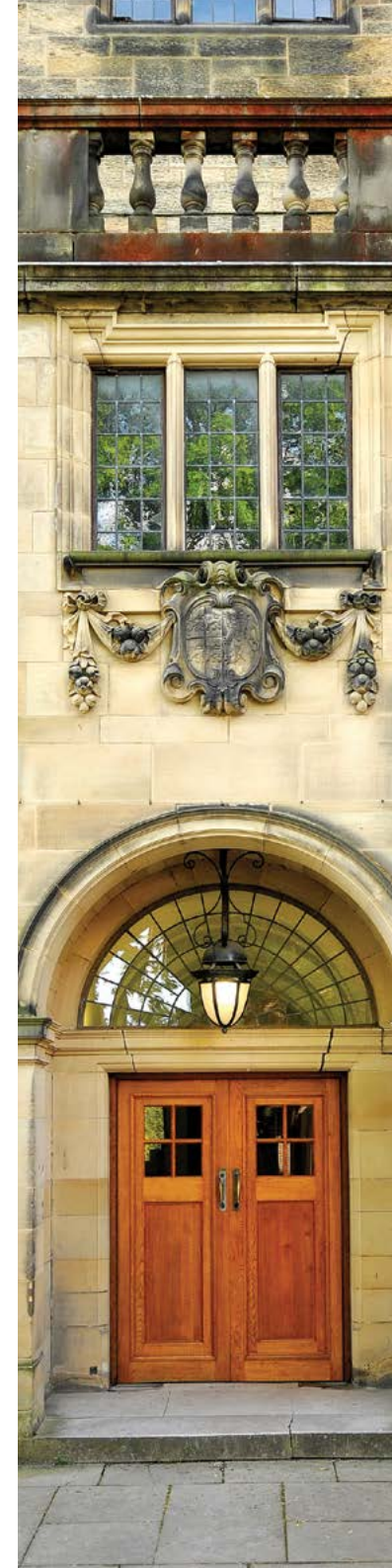
All matters concerning student exchanges are handled centrally by the:

International Exchanges Office
Bangor University
Bangor, Gwynedd
LL57 2DG, UK

Tel: + 44 (0) 1248 382936

Email: exchanges-incoming@bangor.ac.uk

Website: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/exchanges



ORGANISER

When should you arrive in Bangor?

SEMESTER 1

Wednesday, 14th September 2016 ready for International Orientation and Welcome Week, which starts on Thursday, 15th September 2016.

SEMESTER 2

Monday, 16th January 2017 ready for International Orientation and Welcome Week, which starts on Tuesday, 17th January 2017.

Reminder!

You must attend the Compulsory Welcome Meetings identified below. You will receive further details of this meeting before you arrive:

	SEMESTER 1 ONLY	SEMESTER 2 ONLY	SEMESTER 1 AND 2
ARRIVAL DATE	14/09/2016	16/01/2017	14/09/2016
WELCOME MEETING & INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION	15/09/2016	17/01/2017	15/09/2016
SEMESTER START DATE	19/09/2016	23/01/2017	19/09/2016
MINI-GRADUATION	07/12/2016	26/04/2017	26/04/2017
CLASSES FINISH	16/12/2016	05/05/2017	Please see adjacent columns
EXAMS START	09/01/2017	08/05/2017	Please see adjacent columns
SEMESTER END DATE	13/01/2017	02/06/2017	02/06/2017

Help! I'm doing a research placement/project work!

If this applies to you, you should negotiate placement dates with your supervisor here in Bangor and let the exchanges team know as soon as possible.

MORE SERIOUS STUFF

Online Enrolment & Registration

Before you arrive in Bangor, you must complete 'online enrolment'. This process activates your student account and you'll need to confirm your personal details. You will receive an email invitation, normally 2 weeks before your arrival date with a link to the online system. On arrival in Bangor, you will be asked to attend an ID checking event where your identity is verified and this step completes your registration as a student.

Arriving in the UK

I have an EU/EEA passport:

You are entitled to enter the UK freely and have the right of residence for the duration of the course.

I have a non-EU/EEA passport:

If you are from a country outside the EU/EEA, you will need to contact the British Embassy or High Commission in your country immediately for immigration and entry information.

If you need a visa to enter the UK as a student, please inform the International Exchanges Office as soon as possible. You can determine if you need a visa by answering the questions on this website:

www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa

For further information, please visit:

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support



HOW TO GET TO BANGOR



You will probably arrive in the UK at Manchester International Airport, Birmingham International Airport, Liverpool Airport or one of the London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted or Luton. Manchester International Airport is the most convenient international airport for Bangor.

Please use these websites to help plan your onward journey to Bangor:

By Train: www.nationalrail.co.uk

By Coach: www.nationalexpress.co.uk

I'm arriving in Manchester

There will be a "Manchester Airport Meeting Service" on Wednesday, 14 September 2016. This service will meet students arriving at Manchester International Airport and transfer them to the University's accommodation site. Please see the link below for details of booking this service, which currently costs £14:

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

There are also regular train services from Manchester Airport to Bangor via Manchester Piccadilly, Manchester Oxford Road, Chester or Crewe train stations. The journey takes approximately 2.5 hours.

I'm arriving in Liverpool

A shuttle bus runs from the airport to Liverpool city centre every 15 minutes. Rail services to Bangor operate from Liverpool James Street train station via Chester.

I'm arriving in London

You have two main options for travelling: by train or by coach.

Trains to Bangor depart from London's Euston Station. There are a number of direct and indirect services daily. Direct services are very convenient and take approximately 3.5 - 4 hours. The cheapest rail tickets for the Bangor-London route can be booked online at www.virgintrains.co.uk. To secure the cheapest fares, book as early as possible.

Coach Information and Timetable

The National Express website address is: www.nationalexpress.co.uk

Train Information and Timetable

You can search for train timetables and fares on www.nationalrail.co.uk

I'm in Bangor, what do I do now?

Once you arrive in Bangor train station, taxis should be available to take you to your accommodation. If you have been given a room on-campus, the journey should only take approximately 5-10 minutes. You may find it useful to have your Bangor address/final destination written on paper to help your taxi driver.

INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION & WELCOME WEEK

International Orientation is very important: all students will visit their schools, select modules, register, attend meetings and organise student ID cards. It will be followed by 'Welcome Week' during which there are a number of activities arranged by Schools and the Students' Union to help you adjust and make friends. It is great way to meet new people and join clubs and societies.

For more information about International Orientation: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/welcome_week_programme

Information on Welcome Week is available at: www.bangor.ac.uk/welcomeweek

Please note that you MUST attend our compulsory Welcome Meeting at the beginning of your placement with us during International Orientation:

Semester 1: 2pm, 15/09/2016 in Main Arts lecture theatre

Semester 2: 10am, 17/01/2017 in Main Arts lecture theatre



ACADEMIC

You will probably notice a difference in the way courses are taught at British Universities compared to your home country. Time spent in formal lectures each week might be less, but don't let that fool you!

Each module is assessed according to its content: by assignments, practical work, laboratory projects, seminar work, orals and examinations.

Students are expected to spend a greater amount of their time with independent study such as reading, research and working on assignments.

For more advice on studying in the UK, please visit the following websites:

UKCISA

www.ukcisa.org.uk

The British Council

www.britishcouncil.org

Modules within Bangor University

Every degree programme is made up of numerous modules. Each module has a credit value, learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

How many credits can I take?

I'm here for the whole academic year You can take a maximum of 120 Bangor credits for the year with a split of 50/50, 50/60, 60/50 respectively for each semester.

I'm here for one semester You can take a minimum of 50 Bangor credits, and a maximum of 60 Bangor credits.

Remember, your home university may give you additional requirements. Please contact us if there is a conflict between your university's expectations and our regulations.

What modules can I take?

As an Erasmus+ student, you should take the majority of your modules from the host academic school you've chosen here in Bangor. You are eligible to take modules from all levels of study.

Modules can be found online:

www.bangor.ac.uk/ar/gazettes

Credits

Modules are available at different credit values and the following table shows the relationship between Bangor and ECTS credits:

	Bangor Credits	ECTS Credits
Half Module	5	2.5
Single Module	10	5
Double Module	20	10
Quadruple Module	40	20

I want to write my dissertation in Bangor

It is possible for exchange students to receive supervision for their dissertation. Students wishing to attend Bangor in order to undertake dissertation work must liaise with the relevant schools in Bangor and their home university before arriving. The agreement of the host school at Bangor must be finalised before completing our application form and you should tell the International Exchanges Office as soon as possible. Please note that this can be a very difficult and lengthy process, so please keep timings in mind when making the arrangements.

I want to do a PhD/research project in Bangor

It is possible for students of undergraduate and postgraduate status at their home universities, who are seeking practical research experience, to attend Bangor to undertake project work. Students join a team of researchers including university staff and research students, and are allocated a project relevant to the research programme. Students wishing to undertake this option must liaise with the relevant school in Bangor and with their home university. You must have a clear agreement with your host school in Bangor before completing our application form and this information must be shared with the International Exchanges Office.

Various levels of module codes:

- ABC 1000: 1st year Undergraduate Modules**
- ABC 2000: 2nd Year Undergraduate Modules**
- ABC 3000: 3rd Year Undergraduate Modules**
- ABC 4000: Post-Graduate Modules**

Some modules will last one semester, and some will last one academic year. You can only take a module if you are here for the duration of that module. For example, if you are here for semester 1 only, you can only take modules available for semester 1. If you are here for semester 2 only, you can only take modules available for semester 2. We can't offer any flexibility with this.

Students must attend lectures, seminars, tutorials, examinations or other prescribed activity, and must complete and submit the prescribed coursework and assessment by the set date and to the satisfaction of the schools concerned.

How do I register for modules?

Official module registration will be on arrival only. You will select a host School in Bangor on your application form: it must be the school linked with your university. You can still take modules from other Schools and at different levels. Your choice of modules will be authorised by the relevant Schools during the Module Registration process, and this will depend on availability, timetabling and suitability. This will happen during International Orientation & Welcome Week.

We will also advise you in advance of your arrival of any known module restrictions. Normally, undergraduate modules from the School of Linguistics & English Language and the School of English Literature are oversubscribed and may therefore be capacity restricted.

Although you will finalise your module choices after you arrive, it is very important that you know which subjects and modules you need to take. You must, therefore, visit our school pages and online module catalogue before you arrive. For information on Schools, please visit:

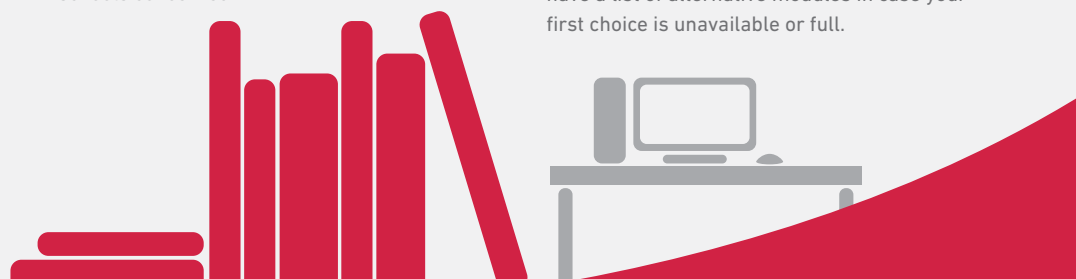
www.bangor.ac.uk/corporate/informationabout/depts

For modules, please visit:
www.bangor.ac.uk/ar/gazettes/

For information on research, please visit:
www.bangor.ac.uk/research

To prepare a mock timetable, please visit:
www.bangor.ac.uk/itservices/admin/timetable/

Please note that we cannot guarantee that every module will be available or that there will be space for you on every module. We suggest you have a list of alternative modules in case your first choice is unavailable or full.



EXAMINATIONS & ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS

There are examination periods at the end of each semester: January (two weeks) and May/June (four weeks).

Alternative assessments are not permitted in Semester 2 and are only provided in Semester 1 for certain students in certain circumstances as clarified for **Semester 1 Only-Students**.

Semester 1 Only-Students

If you have exams scheduled in the second week of the examination period in January, 16-20 January 2017 (inclusive), you will be asked to arrange Alternative Assessments for those exams. Schools determine the precise arrangements and contents of these alternative assessments individually. Such arrangements are made during Welcome Week and you will receive further guidance during the compulsory Welcome Meeting.

	Undergraduate Degree Level	Master's Level	Equivalent % mark	Range of Mark
A*	First Class	Distinction	95	90-100
A+			87	84-89
A			80	78-83
A-			74	70-77
B+	Upper Second Class	Merit	68	67-69
B			65	64-66
B-			62	60-63
C+	Lower Second Class	Pass	58	57-59
C			55	54-56
C-			52	50-53
D+			48	47-49
D	Third Class	Fail	45	44-46
D-			42	40-43
E			37	35-39
F	Fail/Pass Degree	Fail	33	30-34
F(1)			20	10-29
F(2)			5	1-9
F(3)			0	0

But I use ECTS / European Credit Transfer System!

That's not a problem! You can use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) to transfer your Bangor credits back to your home institution. ECTS is based on student workload, including self-study, and awards 60 credits for one complete year of study, equating to 120 credits in Bangor.

The ratio of ECTS to Bangor credits is simple:

1 ECTS = 2 Bangor credits

Students taking a whole semester abroad in their period of study and registering for 60 Bangor credits will, on successful completion of the modules, be awarded 30 ECTS credits. Provided you complete all academic requirements, the appropriate ECTS credits will be awarded for a module. If, however, you fail to meet the required academic levels for a course, then no ECTS credits are awarded. Individual performance in a module does not affect the number of ECTS credits awarded.

Each country has its own system of grading student performance and there may be different systems used within the same establishment. To overcome this problem, ECTS has a common evaluation scale and presentation of individual performance. On your transcripts ECTS credits and grades are shown next to the UK marks. Grades are assigned as follows:

- A** Excellent (10%)
- B** Very Good (25%)
- C** Good (30%)
- D** Satisfactory (25%)
- E** Sufficient (10%)

A 'g' grade will be printed where there is an insufficient number of students taking the module to calculate an ECTS grade. The % of successful students normally achieving the grade shown is in brackets. The University requires a minimum number of 50 students sitting a module before an ECTS grade is calculated.

For more information on ECTS credits and grades please visit:
ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html

Learning Agreement/ Erasmus+ Paperwork

Erasmus+ paperwork can be very long and repetitive which is why it's important that we get it right!

Your study programme in Bangor must be approved by yourself, your home institution and Bangor. This approval is confirmed by using a Learning Agreement. A blank Learning Agreement should be given to you by your home university before you arrive in Bangor.

If your home institution requires a signed Learning Agreement before you arrive in Bangor, please note that our signature does not mean you've registered for the module, nor does it guarantee access to those particular modules when you arrive.

We recommend you create a list of back-up modules agreed by your university before coming.

Changing the Study Programme

Students can change their choice of modules in the first two weeks after classes start. We will explain this process during the Welcome & Registration Meeting for exchange students.



TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are certificates that show your modules and your results. They are prepared by the University's Academic Registry at the end of the academic year.

Semester 1 only-students receive a certificate of interim marks, normally by mid-March.

Information provided in this guidebook will enable you and your home university to convert your credits and grades to your home University's credit system. Your official transcript will be sent to you in the summer of 2017 regardless of your semester of attendance.

We will send you and your home university a copy of your interim marks (if relevant) and transcript automatically.

Please Remember...

- Modules & grades will only appear on your transcript if you are registered for them.
- If you need the credits, you must complete the modules and all assessments including exams.
- We cannot provide certification for "attendance-only" modules. You must register for a module to receive certification.
- We cannot give you more than 30 ECTS credits per semester and you must register for at least 25 ECTS credits per semester.
- Your transcript will be sent to you in the summer of 2017 regardless of your semester of attendance.

Colleges & Schools

Bangor University has 23 schools grouped into 5 colleges:

College of Arts & Humanities

- School of Creative Studies & Media
- School of English Literature
- School of Welsh
- School of History, Welsh History & Archaeology
- School of Linguistics and English Language
- School of Lifelong Learning
- School of Modern Languages
- School of Music
- School of Philosophy & Religion

College of Business, Law, Education & Social Sciences

- Bangor Business School
- School of Law
- School of Education
- School of Social Sciences

College of Natural Sciences

- School of the Environment, Natural Resources & Geography
- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Ocean Sciences

College of Health & Behavioural Sciences

- School of Healthcare Sciences
- School of Medical Sciences
- School of Psychology
- School of Sport, Health & Exercise Sciences

College of Physical & Applied Sciences

- School of Chemistry
- School of Electronics
- School of Computer Science

Each school has a dedicated Exchanges Coordinator listed on our website. Should you need additional academic guidance before coming to Bangor, please contact them directly using the link below:

www.bangor.ac.uk/international/exchanges/incoming/contactus

English Language Courses

If you want to improve your English during your time at Bangor, the English Language Centre for Overseas Students (ELCOS) offers a range of courses. ELCOS runs credit-bearing, in-session English language support modules for students. These modules run in Semester 1 & 2, and include: Writing & Grammar, Speaking & Listening, Vocabulary, Integrated English, Near-Native English and Business English.

Additionally, ELCOS offers preparatory classes for the Cambridge FCE; Cambridge CAE; Cambridge CPE and IELTS examinations. ELCOS offers writing support classes (elective and free of charge) two evenings per week. ELCOS

also offers a range of short, summer courses including General English and English for Specific Purposes – see website for details of dates and fees. Please note that as well as providing preparation classes, we are a registered examination centre for all the above exams.

If you would like further details, please contact:

Tel: +44 (0) 1248 382252

Email: elcos@bangor.ac.uk

Web: www.elcos.bangor.ac.uk



BANGOR UNIVERSITY LIFE

Library and Information Services

Wifi is available via eduroam throughout the university's buildings. You can access our network after completing online enrolment as described previously in this guidebook.

Additionally, there are Computer Rooms throughout the campus and most are open during the evenings and at weekends, and some have 24-hour access. During term time the libraries are open 24/7.

For more details about Information Services, please see: www.is.bangor.ac.uk.

Disabilities and Additional Needs

You are invited to give details of any disability, health condition or specific learning difference you may have. This will enable Bangor to liaise with you prior to your arrival to discuss your support needs regarding Health and Wellbeing, Mental Health, Disability support and Counselling. Many services are provided free of charge. More information can be found here:

www.bangor.ac.uk/studentsservices/

Here to help

We hope your visit to Bangor will be a very happy and productive time for you. Should you, however, experience any difficulties during your stay, a number of people from the International Education Centre and Student Services will be available to offer assistance and provide advice and support.

For further details, please visit:
www.bangor.ac.uk/studentsservices/international

International Student Support Services

IEC, Rathbone, College Road
Tel: +44 1248 388430
Email: internationalssupport@bangor.ac.uk
Our International Student Services Team is available to guide, assist and advise on a wide range of matters prior to your arrival and throughout your time at Bangor, including immigration and visa advice. The centre 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/international/support

Health & Insurance

For information on accessing Health services in the UK, please see the following link:
www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/health

You need to organise your own travel and personal insurance cover for your period of study at Bangor before departing from your home country. Bangor University cannot accept responsibility for students who do not adhere to this requirement.

Students' Union

The Students' Union organises a wide range of clubs and activities, and all students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

For more information visit:
www.bangorstudents.com

Bangor's 4 Seasons

The weather in Britain, although mild, can be unpredictable. You will therefore need warm clothing and a waterproof coat whatever time of year you visit. We can, however, enjoy wonderfully clear and dry weather anytime during the year. Generally, the weather becomes warmer around April/May and can last until the end of September, during which time you may need lighter clothing.

Ready, Steady, Go!

The Canolfan Brailsford Sports Centre provides students with modern sport and leisure facilities including weight and fitness rooms, a climbing wall, squash courts and sports halls which incorporate activities such as badminton, five-a-side football and aerobics classes.

Students who live in University Halls have free access to the Brailsford gym facilities! 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: rock-climbing, paragliding, kayaking, sailing or surfing to name a few possibilities - and all of them on your doorstep. The Students' Athletic Union has around 45 different sports clubs. Please visit their website for more information: www.undeb.bangor.ac.uk.

Bangor and the Arts

Our new Pontio Building opened in 2015. This is home to different theatres as well as teaching spaces and venues to eat and drink.

Find out more at: www.pontio.co.uk.

Around and about Bangor

Bangor is a compact city so you can walk everywhere. Most University buildings and city facilities are within a 15-minute walk. There is a good network of bus routes as well as a regular rail service should you wish to travel outside of Bangor and into the surrounding areas.

Situated in the County of Gwynedd, Bangor is an ancient cathedral city that serves as the region's main cultural and shopping centre. It is situated by the Menai Straits and is only 8 kilometres from Snowdonia National Park. To the north-west lies the Island of Anglesey.

Bangor is a 15-minute journey from the royal town of Caernarfon, which is famous for its 700-year-old World Heritage Site castle. An hour away is the historic city of Chester, one and half hours away is Liverpool.

Holyhead, which is a ferry port for Dublin, is only 30 minutes by train.

Please remember that Wales has its own, unique, cultural identity and language. You will find that many people are bilingual, speaking both English and Welsh and that official signs in the university, the city and surrounding area are also bilingual.

For more information on the area, please see the following websites:

Bangor and the County of Gwynedd:
www.gwynedd.gov.uk/tourism

Isle of Anglesey:
www.visitanglesey.co.uk

Wales:
www.visitwales.com

