

Update on our September Reopening

Our planning for September is progressing very well and we are getting really excited about what we have planned and to welcoming you back on to campus. We would like to update you on these plans.

Start Date

We can confirm that the new academic year will begin as planned on the 28 September 2020.

Teaching and Learning

We will provide you with a Blended Learning experience. This is what you can expect:

- On-campus live sessions such as seminars, practicals and tutorials will be delivered in small groups so that you are able to socially distance. The size of the groups will depend on the social distancing measures in place at the time.
- In subject areas where it is appropriate, staff are also working on delivering practicals online, including the use of cutting-edge laboratory-based software.
- You will receive 'normal' lecture sessions online. These may be recorded or may be live. In addition, staff are working on new innovative and exciting ways of delivery, such as short recorded sessions, which would include interactive activities to develop learning communities with fellow students and high-quality learning experiences.
- Your own self-directed learning will also be part of your programme as is usually the case (e.g. reading, preparing for assignments, watching video resources, working with your fellow students on learning activities).

The amount of your programme that will be on-campus live or online will depend upon a number of things. Firstly, how much of your specific course is made up of large lectures, seminars, practicals and field work. Secondly on the rules and guidelines related to Covid-19 which we have to comply with as we go through the academic year. We are trying to ensure that we have the flexibility to increase the amount of on-campus live teaching as and when we can.

Supporting Your Learning

Our library is already in the process of trialling a click and collect service for books and we have increased access to online resources. So the library resources will be there to support you, but we will increase access to the library as soon as it is possible to do so.

We are also investing in a range of new software to support your learning experience from September. Since we closed the campus in March and moved everything online, we have learned a lot about what our students want and need, and we are using this to help us develop and improve what we will be offering from September. Our aim is to give you the very best experience possible, you will have more control over how and when you learn than has ever been possible before.

If you are a student from the UK/EU and are concerned about being able to afford the equipment to learn online, then a means tested Digital Hardship Fund is available for new and returning students. This fund can provide means tested support for unexpected costs that students are unable to cover. Contact moneysupport@bangor.ac.uk for information.

Living on Campus

If you are planning to move to Bangor and wish to live in University accommodation we have put a number of things in place to ensure that this is as safe as possible.

We will only be using rooms with *ensuite* facilities, there will be no sharing of bathrooms. The other students in your flat will be your 'bubble', therefore you won't need to socially distance within your flat.

Moving in: This will be from the 18th September. You will be allocated a specific move in slot. This may mean that you need to move in a little earlier than normal but it is to ensure that we avoid congestion and queuing. No matter what your move in date you won't be charged until the 27 September. If you have to delay moving in due to Covid-19 you won't be charged until you can move in.

Bangor was one of the first to refund students their accommodation fees when we closed in March. Therefore if you live in our Halls you can be assured that you won't be charged if you can't use your room due to Covid-19 (you may be asked to provide evidence that this is the case). If you haven't already booked accommodation we would recommend that you do as soon as possible.

On Campus

This new way of University life will also require changes on the campus to ensure that we all stay safe. As the rules and guidelines keep changing, we will be letting you know more specific details about how moving around the campus will work and what facilities will be available nearer the time. Our aim will be to enable social distancing in and around our buildings and to comply with the health and safety rules and recommendations with regards to things like cleaning and the use of PPE.

The 2020/21 academic year has had to be reimagined in every way, but the amazing team here at Bangor University, including staff and the Students' Union, are working flat out to create new ways for you to learn and enjoy every aspect of University life whilst staying safe.

To keep up to date with our developing plans keep an eye on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page on our website: www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/september-faqs

Yours sincerely ,

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