

Dear

Update on joining Bangor University in September

Our Vice-Chancellor wrote to you recently to update you on our planning for the start of the new academic year in September. It is our intention to keep you as up to date as we can, although I am sure that you understand that we are still having to respond to a changing situation.

Our planning to enable you to start your course with us in September is going well. Academic staff are busy working on everything that will be needed to give you the best possible experience if online teaching is necessary. Plus, we are doing detailed planning around how we can open University buildings and facilities whilst enabling social distancing. Our over-riding aim is to give you the very best student experience that we can, whilst keeping you and your fellow students as safe as possible.

The two most common questions from students at the moment are,

- should I apply for accommodation in University halls, and
- should I be applying for my student loan?

The answer to both of these is **yes**. Apply for your accommodation with us now, it is risk free. If the campus isn't able to open straight away in September, we won't charge you. Bangor was one of the first universities to refund students' halls fees when we went into lock down – you will not be charged for a room you can't use. The same applies to your student loan, you aren't committed to the loan until you enrol at a university, so there is no risk in applying now.

We know that another concern is how you will get to know people and make friends if the year starts partly or fully online. This is why staff are already planning **Welcome Week**. Plans are being developed for a socially distanced on-campus Welcome Week, but a lot of work is also going into developing a fully online version as well. The priority is to enable you to meet new people, make friends and settle into being part of the Bangor University community as quickly as possible. We know that this is just as important as your academic experience.

This week we have started the first of a series of **Virtual Open Days**. As well as recorded videos and other content, there are also live chat sessions. We know that often our offer holders like to visit a last open day before starting with us, so you will be very welcome to join in on one of these, especially if you didn't manage to make one of our Visit Days for applicants. To book just go to bangor.ac.uk/openday/

I hope that this information is helpful. We are really excited to have you join us in September and although it may be a different experience than what has been normal for many, many years, it is really exciting to see the university respond in creative and innovative ways, and you will be the first to have the opportunity to experience this.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kevin Mundy
Chief Operating Officer
Bangor University