



A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY



A guide to Bangor University's study and work abroad programmes

INTRODUCTION

Thanks for showing an interest in studying or working abroad. The purpose of this guide is to advise you on the options and programmes available to you. International activities are always subject to change, sometimes at quite short notice, especially when it comes to listing our destinations. This guide was prepared in August 2012, so keep an eye on our website for the latest updates:
www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange

If you need any additional help, please contact the International Exchanges Office which is based on the Ground Floor of the International Education Centre in Rathbone. You can also reach us via:

Telephone: 01248 388156 or Email:
exchanges@bangor.ac.uk

If you're a student from the School of Modern Languages, some of the information in this guide will not be applicable to you. Please contact us if you're in any doubt.



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THE BASICS

What does going abroad mean?

Going abroad means spending a summer, semester or a year studying at one of our international partner universities or doing a work placement in a company in another country. It can be either a compulsory part or an optional part of your degree. There are important considerations to think about if you're interested in going abroad and this guide will take you through them:

Destination	• Europe or International?
Activity	• Work or Study?
Duration	• Summer, Semester or Year?
Timing	• International Experience Year or Traditional 2nd Year Abroad?

Why should I go abroad?

Bangor University has made a strong commitment to send students abroad because we recognise and value the benefits you can gain directly from the experience.

Going abroad on exchange is a wonderful opportunity. It can be a real adventure and it can have a huge impact on how you see the world and what you do after you complete your studies. It all comes down to two main areas which influence each other: personal benefits and professional benefits. People who go abroad can...

- Develop a global network of friends
- Learn new languages and skills
- Become global citizens with greater understanding and openness
- Appreciate their subject area from a different perspective
- Have greater confidence
- Be more employable

We've noticed that students come back with a greater sense of independence, a more mature and considered approach to their subject area and an enthusiasm for their experience which really inspires others. Your life will change forever.

What's really important to remember is the difference going abroad can make to your career after you graduate. More and more people are graduating, the job market is increasingly competitive and you will need something to give you a competitive edge...and going abroad can give this to you.

Keep in mind:

- 66% of graduates who went abroad claim that their international experience was a 'significant factor' in securing their first and subsequent employment¹
- Multinational companies taking on UK graduates aren't looking for just the standard 'teamwork, communication skills', but also other vitally-important characteristics which you can learn from going abroad: 'a global mind-set, global knowledge, cultural agility, adaptability, flexibility, resilience' and above all 'an ability to work collaboratively with teams of people from a range of backgrounds and countries'²

1. Survey from ThirdYearAbroad.com

2. Global Graduates into Global Leaders (2011)



Can I go abroad?

We want to send as many students abroad as possible and most students can apply for our programmes – undergraduates and postgraduates. There are a few ground rules and exceptions you should keep in mind:

- You need to be in good standing with Bangor University – this means you have to be up-to-date with your university payments (tuition and accommodation fees, for example) and passing your modules successfully.
- We're looking to send good ambassadors – you don't have to be an A+ student.

- If you're already in the final year of your degree, it'll be difficult to send you abroad and we suggest that you come to see us personally to discuss your situation.
- Your degree might have professional accreditation (for example, from the British Psychological Society) or other restrictions which affect what opportunities we can offer you. Again, it's best that you come to see us so we can chat about your individual situation.
- Although we want to send as many of you as possible, some of our opportunities can have limits on the number of students participating.

www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange



THE DESTINATIONS

Where can I go?

We have a range of destinations and programmes available to you and this is the section that will change most regularly, so check our website for the latest information.
www.banor.ac.uk/studentexchange

There are opportunities in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and the Far East. These can vary from shorter summer placements to semester and full-year placements to include cultural programmes, student exchanges or work placements.

Most destinations are available to students from most academic areas, however, some of our exchanges are exclusive to certain schools and subjects, which will be indicated in the list below.

Here's a list of what and where is available:

Summer Programmes

CHINA

Renmin University of China: International Summer School,
<http://iss.ruc.edu.cn>

A Beijing-based, four-week summer programme in July which immerses participants in Chinese language, life and culture. International students are mixed with local Chinese students to share the experience.

Shanghai University - SILC Summer School
www.shusilc.shu.edu.cn/Default.aspx?tabid=20054

Shanghai University's Summer School is a two-week programme at the end of June which focuses on the economic and business aspects of China but also includes languages classes together with Chinese student volunteers.

SOUTH KOREA

Pukyong National University – Pukyong Cultural Exchange Program
http://oireng.pknu.ac.kr/eng/html/03_pknu/pknu_03.asp

PKNU offers a three week intensive Korean language and cultural programme in July with a range of field trips and workshops. A very prestigious scholarship is made available to

participants that covers accommodation, board and the cost of flights up to US\$1,500 per person.

Dankook University – International Summer Program
www.dankook.ac.kr/web/eng/overview1

Similar to the PKNU programme, Dankook offers a cultural and academic experience which introduces you to a range of Korean features including language, history and tradition through classes, field trips and group activities. Your accommodation and some meals will be free and you can even have your flights reimbursed if you choose to apply and be accepted to their 'English Village', where you'll help teach English to local Korean students. This is an excellent opportunity if you're interested in a teaching career after you graduate.

One-Semester & One-Year 'International'

USA

University of Maine, Orono
Oregon State University (priority given to School of Biological Sciences)
University of West Florida
Pace University, New York
Central College, Iowa (priority given to Sports Science students)

CANADA

University of British Columbia, Vancouver (for Forestry students)
St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia

AUSTRALIA

La Trobe University, Melbourne
RMIT, Melbourne
Deakin University, Melbourne
Victoria University, Melbourne

SINGAPORE

Nanyang Technological University

KOREA

Korea University

JAPAN

Tokyo Metropolitan University

EUROPE & ERASMUS

You can choose to study in one of our many partner institutions in Europe. The choice of institution will depend on the subject you are studying. We have over a hundred agreements; for an up to date list of institutions please visit www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange

Remember, Erasmus and Europe isn't just for students who are studying Modern Languages in Bangor – although they are the largest participating group.

For destinations in Europe, your exchange will normally be funded by the Erasmus programme, which gives you funding in the form of a study grant. The grant rate changes every year but, as a guide, the grant was worth €372 per month in 11/12 and will be worth €370 per month in 12/13.

You can apply for additional funding if you have a disability and there's also extra money if you go to a 'priority country' (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey). If your household income is less than £25,000 per year, you can also receive an extra grant payment

Most students are eligible for Erasmus grants, but there are a few rules which control who can and can't receive the grant. For example, you can't be a first-year student and you must go abroad for at least three months. If you're interested in going to Europe, we'll ask you a few questions to assess your eligibility.

If you're going to a country other than France, Germany, Italy or Spain, you might also want to apply for 'Erasmus Intensive Language Courses' (EILCs) which are free and take place in the first few weeks before the beginning of your placement. You need to apply separately for EILCs and we'll help you to do so.

Can I work abroad?

We recognise that some students might prefer to work abroad rather than study abroad. At the moment, we don't have a specific network of work placements to offer you, but we're happy to help and support you in finding a suitable placement yourself.

Work placements inside Europe can also be funded through the Erasmus programme at the same rate and with the same conditions as the Erasmus study grant. Keep in mind that if you don't have an EU passport, you will probably need a work visa, which might be difficult and expensive to secure. If you have an EU passport, you won't face any restrictions working in the EU.

If you would like to work outside of Europe, there are a few more challenges – there will be no Erasmus funding and almost everyone will need to apply for work permits.

Generally speaking, if you want to do a work placement you have two opportunities:

1. During the summer vacations between your first and second or second and third year
2. Change to the International Experience Year...see the next section for further information



www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange

THE PLAN

Once you've thought about where you want to go and whether or not you want to study or work abroad, you'll need to think about when and for how long. This part of the guide explains what options are available to you.

International Experience Year

Traditionally, most UK Bachelor degrees are only three-years long. You can't normally go abroad in your first or last year, so that leaves the second year as the only chance you have, which is quite a narrow window. On top of this, the home university has to control what you're studying while you're abroad because it transfers back home. This is quite restrictive. So, Bangor has developed the 'International Experience Year' to give you more flexibility.

The 'International Experience Year' is an extra year which you spend studying or working abroad and you can take it between your first and second year or between your second and third year. This means you have more time to decide if you want to go abroad and because you still study in Bangor for three years, the year abroad doesn't interfere with your degree in Bangor. This point is really important for two reasons: it means there is more flexibility on where you can go and you have more freedom what to do: study or work. We'd always encourage you to explore your home subject area whilst abroad, to benefit from what might be available there that's not available here, but – in theory – you might be a biology student here in Bangor and when you get to Australia you could take History or Psychology, for example.

You could also think about working abroad for a year, but we'd happily work with you to help find a suitable placement for you.

The idea of the International Experience Year is to give you the opportunity to have a meaningful international experience – it's the living and experiencing of a different life abroad that we want you to focus on.

We think the International Experience Year is a great opportunity and to support you we won't charge you any tuition fees whatsoever for that year abroad. We will also add 'with International Experience' to your degree title so that future employers will clearly see that you are a globally-aware and globally-experienced student.

Traditional Three-Year Model

Spending your second year abroad and staying on the traditional three-year programme is still available. This option is really attractive for people who don't want to commit to an additional year and are happy to focus on their normal subject areas whilst they're abroad. Students on this programme agree to a significant change to the degree: the final degree classification will be based solely on the marks from their final year. Also, keep the following in mind:

- You will pay a tuition fee to Bangor during your year abroad, but this is normally at a discounted rate of 50%
- You can only apply in your first year



Going abroad for just one semester

This is possible, but you can only go abroad for one semester in your second year and it is easier if you go to a European destination. If you're thinking about applying to the USA or Australia, for example, we'd normally prefer you to go for a whole year.

Going abroad just for the summer

There are normally no major issues if you want to go abroad in the summer between your academic years. Just keep in mind that you'll have exams in Bangor until early June and you'd need to be back before late September to continue in Bangor.

All our Summer Programmes in the Far East are timed perfectly and generally don't cause any conflicts. This is useful because you can still benefit from the opportunity of going abroad and still be back home to work over the summer. If you're interested in doing an Erasmus placement over the summer, keep in mind that you need to complete a minimum of three months and that some continental universities will close over a part of the summer months.

Timing

There are a number of different chances for you to go abroad, check below to see when you can go abroad:

I'm doing a Bachelor degree and I am in my.....**first year:**

1. Apply this year to do a Summer placement in 2013
2. Apply this year to spend 13/14 abroad
3. Apply next year to do the 'International Experience Year' in 14/15
4. Apply next year for a summer placement in 2014

...second year:

1. Apply this year for a Summer placement in 2013
2. Apply this year to do the 'International Experience Year' in 13/14

...final year:

Unless you're staying at Bangor to complete your postgraduate studies, there are unfortunately no programmes currently available to you

www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange



THE FINANCES

Costs

The cost of going abroad varies depending on the destination and your lifestyle, but there are some basic points we can clarify.

Our partners won't charge you a tuition fee, however, you may still be required to pay an application fee or a placement deposit. Accommodation and board costs vary depending on the programme but if you do have to pay for accommodation and board, some countries will be more expensive than others. You may also need to pay for a study or a work visa.

Depending on your personal situation, you may be eligible for a higher Maintenance Loan and/or a Travel Grant from Student Finance, but keep in mind that this extra support is only generally available if you're going abroad for a whole year. We suggest you contact Student Finance to discuss your plans to see what financial help they can make available to you.

An Erasmus grant can make a real difference in helping to finance a European experience, but keep in mind that it is there to help offset the additional costs of going abroad. An Erasmus grant won't be enough to cover all of your costs and expenses. If you go beyond Europe, you can't apply for the Erasmus grant.

With the exception of the PKNU Summer Programme in South Korea, you will need to pay for (and organise) your own travel to and from your destination.

Always remember there can be unexpected costs when you go abroad: visas, compulsory insurance policies, accommodation deposits and so on. For many countries outside of Europe, you will probably need to demonstrate that you have enough money (or have access to enough money) to cover your costs whilst you're abroad. This is a normal part of applying for study visas and we will help you to understand the process.

Tuition Fees

The partner institution you visit will not charge you any tuition fees. The tuition fee that Bangor will charge you for your time abroad will depend on when and for how long you go:

- Summer Programmes – Bangor will not charge you any tuition fees to participate
- 1 Semester Only – If you are abroad for one semester only, in any year of your Bachelor's degree, Bangor will charge you 50% of the normal tuition fee
- Year 2 of 3 – If you are going abroad for your second year and then returning to Bangor for your third and final year, we will charge you 50% of your normal tuition fee
- International Experience Year – If you are going on the extra year abroad (and changing to the four-year course), we will not charge you any tuition fees
- Postgraduates – Please contact us to discuss your individual situation

FAQs

How many places are available?

Generally speaking, we normally send up to two or three Bangor students to each partner university. Sometimes it can be higher and sometimes it can be lower...it varies from year to year.

Can I go abroad in my first year?

The earliest you can go abroad is the summer vacation period at the end of your first year.

I'm in my final year already, can I go abroad?

Probably not. Your student registration with Bangor will come to an end in June if you're a Bachelor student, so you won't be eligible for our programmes. If you're a postgraduate, please get in touch as you might be able to participate in a summer programme.

Do I have to be an A-Grade student?

No. We're not looking to only send the students with the highest marks. We're looking to send the best ambassadors, people who are interested in learning and experiencing new challenges.

I'm an international student in Bangor, can I still apply?

Yes, absolutely. There are extra considerations for you, for example, you would probably need a study permit or a work permit if you wanted to go abroad in Europe, and we would try to support you 100%.

Can I go more than once?

You can apply to go more than once and it is theoretically possible. Keep in mind that we'll want as many people as possible to go abroad and so if you've already been on one of our programmes we might prioritise other students first.

Information for Disabled Students

(including those with long-standing health conditions, medical health difficulties and specific learning differences)

We welcome applications from disabled students. We would need to discuss the additional support/particular adjustments you would require if you went abroad and verify if our international partners were able to accommodate them should your application be successful. Please keep in mind that provision varies considerably from country to country and you may find that not all our partners are able to match the support you receive in Bangor.

I'm a part-time student...can I still go?

Yes, but you will need to study or work full-time when you are abroad.

I have children or other dependents – can they come with me?

Generally, yes, but you'll probably find that our partners couldn't give you family accommodation and we couldn't guarantee the same level of support that you may receive from Bangor.

Can I get a part-time job whilst I'm abroad?

If you have an EU passport and you are studying in a European Union country, yes, and there will be no legal restrictions on the number of hours you can work. If you don't have an EU passport, there will be restrictions on your right to work in Europe. The majority of destinations outside of the EU will have restrictions on working and this will vary considerably from country to country.

I'm on a four-year Masters degree (e.g. MChem), am I eligible to apply for the International Experience Year?

Yes, and you can normally request to take it between years 1, 2, 3 or 4! You will eventually be studying for 5 years in total.

Can I apply for more than one programme?

Yes.

I've only just heard about the opportunity... can I apply late?

If there are still spaces available, yes, though keep in mind that almost all of our places are filled after the first round of interviews take place.

I want to go to a specific university but you don't have an agreement with them – what can I do?

Come in and have a chat with us. If you want to propose a new link, we're happy to consider it.

What do I pay?

You won't pay any tuition fees to the partner university but you might still pay tuition fees to Bangor, depending on your programme. Generally speaking, you'll pay for your own accommodation and travel, although some programmes (such as Dankook and PKNU) offer some amazing scholarships for Bangor students.

www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange

THE APPLICATION

How do I apply?

If you're interested in applying, come in and have a chat with us. We can discuss your options and put you in touch with people who have already taken part in our programmes. When you're ready, we'd love you to submit an application form, which you'll find at the end of this guide. It's also available online at www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange.

There's only one application form which we use for all programmes and you can apply for more than one...tick as many boxes as you need.

You'll need to ask your school's study abroad coordinator to counter-sign your form before you submit it to us. A list of coordinators is available from: www.bangor.ac.uk/exchanges/contactus. After we receive your form, we'll be in touch to arrange an interview.

The deadline to apply is Friday, 7th December 2012 and interviews will be held in February 2013.

Where can I go for more information?

Come to the International Exchanges Office in Rathbone to see us for more information, or take a look online at www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange. You'll find links to all our partner universities and a growing library of Fast-Facts for each one including semester dates, number of places available and approximate costs. We're also developing a Data Mine which lets you compare the options against each other...that will be available here: www.bangor.ac.uk/studentexchange.

If you'd like to call into the office, you might want to make an appointment to make sure we're here for you. The kettle will be on and biscuits at the ready...

STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION FORM FOR 2013/2014

PERSONAL DATA

First Name:

Mobile No:

Surname:

Student ID No:

Permanent Home Address:

Preferred Email Address:

CURRENT COURSE DETAILS

Which course are you following in Bangor?

What is your current year of study?

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

Please provide details of your personal tutor and your school's Study Abroad Coordinator's signature. To find out who is your coordinator, please see: www.bangor.ac.uk/exchanges/contactus.

Name of Personal tutor:

Study Abroad Coordinator Signature:

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME (Please select your preferred programme/s)

Do you want study or work abroad?

Study

Work

Summer Programme

S. Korea

China

1-Semester European Placement (Erasmus)

Please specify which country:

1-Semester International Placement

USA

Canada

Australia

1-Year European Placement (Erasmus)

Please specify which country:

1-Year International Placement

USA

Canada

Australia

Japan S.Korea

What are your motivations for studying abroad and how would you hope to benefit from participating?

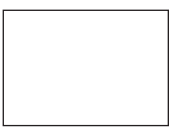
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 7TH DECEMBER 2012 TO:

Andrew Griffith, International Exchanges Officer, IEC - Rathbone, College Road, Bangor, LL57 2DG.
Tel:01248 388269, Email: andrew.griffith@bangor.ac.uk

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