



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

Bangor International

April 2019



No. 1 in the UK for Clubs and Societies

WhatUni 2019



Bangor figures in Global University Impact Rankings

A new league table just published gauges how universities are making a real impact on society outside their research and teaching.

The **global ranking**, compiled by the Times Higher Education magazine, measures how universities are working towards 11 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include academic freedom policies, efforts towards gender equality and taking action against climate change.

The University Impact Rankings results reveal a brand new line-up of institutions, **and place Bangor University among the world's 200 top performing institutions.** 23 other UK universities join with Bangor University among the top 200, with Bangor being the only University from Wales represented.

This comes as no surprise to the institution which was again recently cited the **eighth greenest University worldwide** in the UI Green Metric but it also underlines



Bangor University's Main Arts Building

how important it is for us to ensure that we can demonstrate clearly how our activities contribute towards the United Nation's SDGs and also Wales' well-being goals.

Welcoming the news, Professor Jo Rycroft Malone, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research at Bangor University said:

"We know that universities have an effect way beyond their immediate environment and activities of educating students. We have set ourselves an ambitious challenge to become a sustainable university for Wales and the region and to be an exemplar of the sustainable university.

This means a consideration of sustainability, in all its aspects, in all that we do. We are pleased with these results and will continue to strive for further improvement."

In this issue of our newsletter...

- WhatUni Awards
- Research News
- Take a look at our International Student Newsletter here:

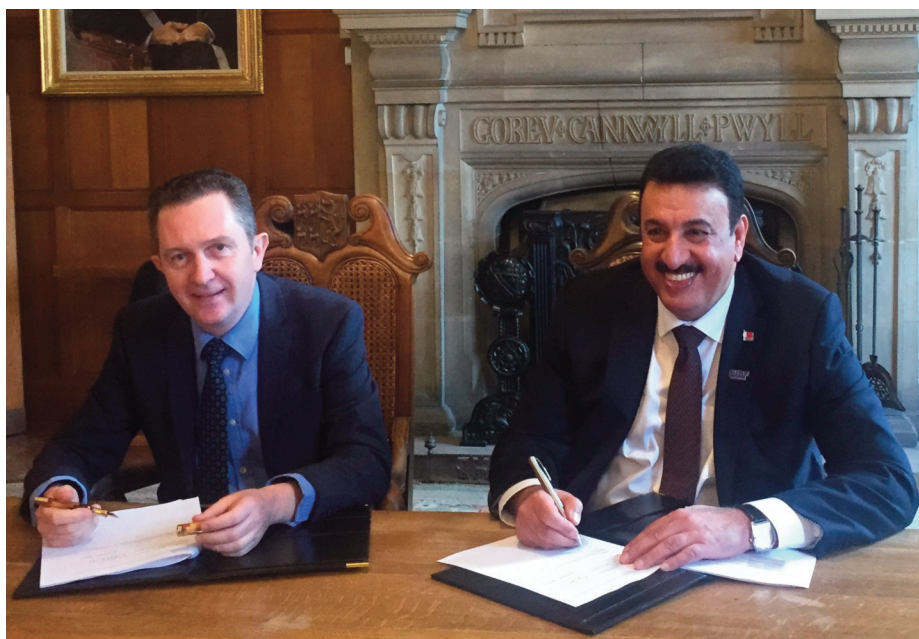
www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support/news/international-student-newsletter-april-2019-40373

Further 5 year agreement signed between Bangor University and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance

During Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance's visit to Bangor in March, an agreement was signed that will continue for a further five years the long-standing, strong and effective partnership between both institutions. This will involve continuation of Bangor University validation of Diploma programmes in **Accounting, Banking and Islamic Finance** delivered in Bahrain.

A new component of the agreement will enable students on completion of the Diploma in Bahrain to either progress onto a Bangor validated degree in Bahrain or transfer to **Bangor Business School** to complete the degree in either Accounting and

Finance or Banking and Finance. Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance provides education and training for the banking and finance sector in Bahrain. Its board of directors is comprised of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and chairpersons and CEOs of banking and finance organisations.

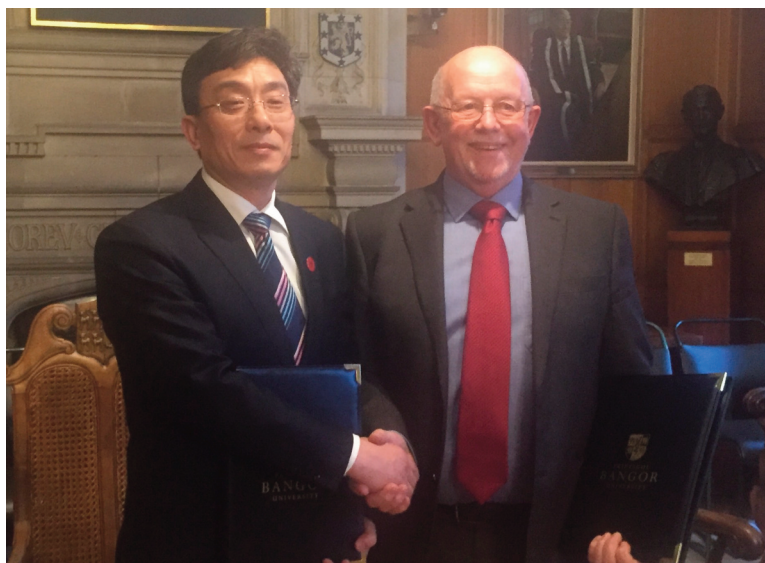


L-R: Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Oliver Turnbull and Director Dr Ahmed during the agreement signing ceremony

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Bangor University and Chengdu Sport University in China

Following Bangor University staff members: Professor Hong Fan and Professor Tim Woodman's visit to Chengdu Sport University in China, a delegation from Chengdu paid a visit to Bangor in March 2019 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between both Universities, with the aim of developing collaborative educational programmes in the field of Sport Science at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Subject specialisms at Chengdu Sport University include physical education, sports medicine, gymnastics, martial arts and weightlifting and facilities include their own hospital dealing with injuries and rehabilitation and other medical matters. Meetings took place with staff at the **School of Sport, Health and Physical Education** including Dean of the College of Human Science Professor Nicky Callow and Head of School Dr Jamie Macdonald.



Pictured L-R are Chengdu Sport University Vice President Prof Pan Xiaofei and Interim Vice Chancellor Professor Graham Upton during the MOU signing ceremony

Bangor University wins 'Best Clubs and Societies' at WhatUni Student Choice Awards 2019



Bangor University has been chosen as the **best in the UK for its Students' Union Clubs & Societies** in this year's WhatUni.com Student Choice Awards. The University was also placed third in the UK in the Accommodation category and third in the UK for the International award.

The latest accolade is a further endorsement of students' place at the heart of the University's extracurricular experiences. Taking part in activities improves students' employability, giving them opportunities to develop a range of skills. It also creates communities and networking opportunities.

The Award follows another successful year which has also seen the University in the top 10 in the UK in the National Student Survey for student satisfaction and maintaining its **Gold standard in the UK Government's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)**. Professor Graham Upton, the University's Interim Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the news saying:

"I'm delighted that the University has received this Award and i'm extremely proud of the partnership between the University and the Students' Union. Bangor University



prides itself on providing not only an excellent education but also an all-round student-centred university experience. I would like to thank all the students for their support and positive feedback. Our students appreciate their time in Bangor University and it is brilliant to see that so many choose to take such an active part in the life of the University."

Professor Carol Tully, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) said:

"It is absolutely amazing to see our Clubs and Societies win this award for the third year in a row. It is a huge achievement and



testament to the hard work and enthusiasm of our students and of the great staff in the Students Union. Our Clubs and Societies are one of the many things which make Bangor so special. Congratulations to everyone who works so hard to make the student experience at Bangor University so wonderful."

Bangor University was nominated for Awards in the following eight categories: University of the Year, Accommodation, Clubs & Societies, International, Giving Back, Job Prospects, Student Support and Postgraduate.



The Bangor team, representing all eight areas nominated for Awards, celebrate their success with the Award night's celebrity host, comedian, Omid Djalili

Research News

Bangor University secures £9m EU funds to expand research scheme

Counsel General and Brexit Minister Jeremy Miles has announced that a major research and innovation project that brings together postgraduate students and businesses in Wales is set to expand with more than £9m of additional funds from Europe.

Led by Bangor University in partnership with other Welsh universities, the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS II) scheme has operated in North, West Wales and the South Wales Valleys over the past three years, and partners businesses with postgraduate research students to develop innovative research aimed at driving business growth.

The additional £9m of EU funds will see the scheme expanded to cover the whole of Wales and will support research collaboration in key sectors of the Welsh economy.

Professor Graham Upton, the Interim Vice Chancellor at Bangor University, said:

"In KESS we have a very highly successful collaboration that's put Wales on the map and we're building on the talent and knowhow in our Universities, businesses, and other organisations to take forward innovative and inspiring ideas.

"This significant investment provides us with an opportunity to further contribute to the development of Wales' knowledge economy and future prosperity, whilst having a very real impact on the individual lives of those participating as students".

Professor John Ashton elected to BAFA executive council

An academic member of staff at **Bangor Business School** has been appointed to the executive council of one of the oldest finance-related academic societies in the UK.

Professor John Ashton, a Professor of Banking, was afforded the honour following his election to the Chair of the Financial Markets and Institutions Special Interests Group within The British Accounting and Finance Association (BAFA).

His new role will see him represent all 240 members of the Financial Markets and Institution Special Interest Group within BAFA – itself an organisation with over 750 academic members.

Professor Ashton's appointment was welcomed by Professor Jonathan Williams, Head of Bangor Business School, who said:

"The appointment of Professor John Ashton to the executive council of BAFA is testament to his expertise and reputation as a scholar par excellence. It reflects the influence of Professor Ashton's work in both academic and practical circles and is excellent news for Bangor Business School."



Professor John Ashton of Bangor Business School

Kuwaiti Alumni Event

The first Bangor University alumni gathering in Kuwait took place on the 8th March in the Symphony Hotel in Kuwait.

The event was organized by Bangor alumni Abdullah Almahous, who studied for his BEng followed by an MSc in Electronic Engineering.

Dr Mohammed Mabrook from our **School of Electronic Engineering** and Noor Al-Zubaidi, Country Manager, at Bangor University were both presented with gifts at the event.



Abdullah Almahous with Noor Al-Zubaidi, International Officer at Bangor University

A big thank you to Abdullah Almahous for organising the event!

New study by Bangor University shows Microplastic pollution is widespread in British lakes and rivers

New research by Bangor University and Friends of the Earth has found microplastic pollution in some of Britain's most iconic and remote rivers and lakes.

This research story has had **worldwide coverage**, including Chile, India, USA, Colombia to name a few, due to major concerns worldwide about the negative effects of plastics on the environment.

The study, believed to be the first of its kind, looked at ten sites - including lakes in the Lake District, waterways in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, a wetland and Welsh reservoir - and found microplastics in all of them.

Friends of the Earth and **Dr Christian Dunn, of Bangor University, who led the research**, say the findings suggest that microplastics should now be considered as an emergent contaminant - and that routine monitoring of all UK waters must now take place.

Friends of the Earth is also urging MPs to support new legislation, currently before Parliament, to phase out plastic pollution within 25 years - including an end to non-essential single-use plastic by 2025.

Using a fluorescence lighting



Samples from the river Thames headed for analysis at Bangor University

system, researchers were able to identify and count microplastic pollutants (less than 5 mm in size) per litre of water, such as plastic fragments, fibres and film.

The preliminary findings revealed microplastic pollution levels ranging from over a 1,000 pieces of plastic per litre in the river Tame in Greater Manchester [3], to 2.4 pieces per litre in Loch Lomond.

Dr Christian Dunn, of Bangor University, said: *"It was more than a little startling to discover microplastics were present in even the most remote sites we tested, and quite depressing they were there in some of our country's most iconic locations. I'm sure Wordsworth would not be happy to discover his beloved Ullswater in the Lake District was polluted with plastic.*

These initial findings, from our team at Bangor University with Friends of the Earth, show that we have to start taking the issue of plastic in our inland waters seriously.

Plastic is polluting our rivers, lakes and wetlands in a similar way as pollutants such as so-called 'emerging contaminants' like pharmaceutical waste, personal care products and pesticides.

As with all emerging contaminants we don't yet fully know the dangers they present to wildlife and ecosystems, or even human health, and to what levels they occur in all our water systems.

But it's now clear that microplastics should be considered a serious emerging contaminant and there needs to be a concerted effort to regularly



Dr Christian Dunn collecting samples in Ullswater, UK monitor all our inland waters for them.

Our method provides a straightforward and low-cost way of doing this so we now need to roll it out and see if our preliminary results are just the tip of the iceberg.

*Producing this data was real team effort and it's great that an absolutely vital part of that team was a group of MSc students in the **School of Natural Sciences.***

*The group, from the **Bangor Wetlands Group**, were instrumental in the method development, sample collection and analysis, and it shows that Masters students at Bangor University really get stuck-in to some cutting-edge research during their studies," Dr Dunn added.*

Read the full story here:

www.bangor.ac.uk/news/university/microplastic-pollution-widespread-in-british-lakes-and-rivers-new-study-40043

Research News

Solving one of the great mysteries surrounding the moon

Dr Mattias Green of Bangor University, in collaboration with researchers from Royal Holloway, University of London, have netted a research grant worth £520K from the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to tackle a major question in the understanding of the history of the moon.

Since the Apollo 11 space mission landed on the surface of the moon 50 years ago, observations have been made about how old the moon is and at what rate the moon is moving away from Earth each year and these two observations lead to an obvious paradox: the geological age of the moon and the rate at which the moon is moving away from the Earth don't add up!

Mattias Green of the **School of Ocean Sciences**, thinks he has the answer:

"The reason the moon is moving away from the Earth is due to the friction associated with the flow of the tides. In effect the tides are dissipating energy, the impact of which is to gradually increase the length of the day (by slowing the Earth's rotation rate) and to push the moon away from the Earth. Using simulations on state-of-the-art supercomputers we have shown that as the continents move around, in response to continental drift, the global tides change.

In the new project we will combine new supercomputer simulations of tides, over the past 600 million years of Earth History, with data from bore holes, made by the oil industry, to develop a new history for the rate at which the moon is moving away from the Earth, and so solve the moon-age paradox generated 50 years ago when we first landed on the moon."

Two Bangor University Professors shortlisted in the inaugural Welsh Women's Awards

Two Professors at Bangor University have been shortlisted in the inaugural Welsh Women's Awards 2019. Both Clare Wilkinson and Debbie Roberts of the **School of Health Sciences** have been shortlisted for the Services to Education Award.

A Professor of General Practice at Bangor University, Clare leads the North Wales Centre for Primary Care Research and conducts research into improving primary care and early cancer diagnosis for people in Wales.

Professor Clare Wilkinson played a vital leadership role in bringing in the original funding for the North Wales Clinical School to train more Doctors in North Wales. She is a recent past Chair of the Primary Care Panel for the National Institute for Health Health Technology Assessment Programme, and has won over £13M in peer reviewed research grant capture, and £6M research infrastructure, and has contributed to over 150 peer reviewed research publications.

She said: *"I am honoured to be nominated amongst such outstanding women in Wales, it is a delight to see all the categories and the women who populate them."*

Professor Debbie Roberts joined Bangor University in 2016 taking up the post of Foundation of Nursing Studies Chair in Practice Learning. Her unique role, supported by the Foundation, straddles both clinical practice and learning. Professor Debbie Roberts is able to work with Bangor University's students and with qualified nurses and other health professionals at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. Her focus is to enhance and develop learning

environments for the student nurses at Bangor University and to support continuing professional development within the NHS across North Wales. During her nineteen year career in academia Debbie has published widely in the field of nurse education writing papers and nurse education textbooks, one of which is used as a core text in Japan.

Debbie said:

"I am extremely humbled to have been nominated amongst such eminent women across Wales for services to education."



Professor Clare Wilkinson



Professor Debbie Roberts

Worldwide media coverage for new research that calculates alcohol cancer risk in cigarette equivalents

Professor Mark Bellis of the **College of Human Sciences** has been involved in a piece of research which is widely covered in the media today.

He had this to say on the significance of the research findings:

“For many years clear health messages on every advert for cigarettes and every packet sold made the public aware that they are a major cause of cancer. We are yet to see any equivalent for alcohol, so most people drink with little or no knowledge about its cancer-causing effects. Many people may be surprised that a woman drinking about half a bottle of wine each night carries a similar cancer risk to one with a smoking habit of 23 cigarettes per-week......

We hope that by expressing the risks of cancer from alcohol in terms of cigarettes smoked this will act as a simple but effective method to make sure people are better informed about the cancer risks associated with the drinks they are sold.”

The well-established link between cancer and tobacco may provide a way to help communicate the links between moderate levels of alcohol and cancer, and raise public awareness of alcohol-associated cancer risks, according to a study published in the open access journal BMC Public Health.

Read the full story here:

www.bangor.ac.uk/news/university/new-study-calculates-alcohol-cancer-risk-in-cigarette-equivalents-to-help-communicate-risk-40302

Bangor Law School welcome students from the University of Toulouse

Professor Dermot Cahill, Head of Bangor University **Law School** (pictured left) and Li Ling Tang from the **College of Arts, Humanities and Business** (pictured 2nd row, 2nd from the right) welcome new University of Toulouse 1- Capitale Double Degree Students in the LLB in English Law and French Law to Bangor in September 2019 entry. Bienvenue a Bangor!



Music Summer School

22 July - 2 August 2019

Bangor University's **School of Music and Media** is delighted to announce its first Summer School programme for international students.

The programme includes:

- English classes every morning.
- Daily academic lectures on a different music topic.
- Instrumental and vocal workshops and 1:1 lessons with world class performers and professors.
- Ensemble sessions for all instruments, including Chinese instruments, pipa, guzheng, erhu etc.
- Evening activities: games, sports and events.
- Sightseeing / shopping trip.

Course requirements

This Summer School is suitable for enthusiastic current or prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students who wish to get inspired about music in the breathtaking surroundings of the prestigious Bangor University.

This course will focus on three areas of activity:

- Music Performance Skills
- Core Musicianship Skills
- Developing English Language Skills and Experiencing Bangor

Apply now:

Early bird deadline:

17 May 2019

Final deadline to apply:

28 June 2019

Apply online at:

www.bangor.ac.uk/music/summerschool

One World Gala 2019

Imagine an evening of traditional instruments, vibrant dances and beautiful voices from all over the World.

Bangor University recently held its annual One World Gala concert, where students, and performers from the local community showcased their particular cultures via song, dance and instrumentals. Twenty performances by students from China, Japan, Singapore, Africa, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Korea and Wales took part in, what has become, a lively and colourful annual celebration of diversity at Bangor.

The University's main Hall was full with students, staff and members of the local community, all who enjoyed the evening and raised nearly £700 for a local charity. The One World Gala is an annual event organised by the International Student Support Office to celebrate and promote the cultural diversity at Bangor University and the local community. It gives students from all over the world an opportunity to showcase their cultural and traditional identities to other students and residents of Bangor.

Angharad Thomas, Director of International Recruitment and Development, said:

"The One World Gala has become an established highlight within the University social calendar. It never fails to demonstrate the talent amongst our international students, and the pride they have in their various national cultures. The range of songs, dances and instrumentals demonstrate the diversity we have here at Bangor University and reminds us how important it is for us to celebrate and embrace each other's cultures particularly at times of turmoil elsewhere in the world."



Bangor University student ambassadors with Marcel Clusa from the International Student Support Office



The Confucius Institute performing a dance



Aditi (Dot) Saigal from India



Bangor University student Arpita Gargesh performing Bharatanatyam



African Society



The Japanese Society



The Folk Society



The drummers who started off the evening with their amazing entrance

Meet us in your country in 2019

We shall be visiting the following countries between April - July 2019

Slovakia	- April	India	- May & June
Czech Republic	- April	China	- July
SE Asia	- April - June	Hong Kong	- July

If your country is not listed above then you may contact the relevant **Country Manager** listed below, OR visit our country visits page for more information: www.bangor.ac.uk/international/visits

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Please do contact us if you would like one of our international officers to visit your school or if you need any advice.



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