

SINCE 1884



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

Congratulations

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS
CLASS OF 2023



Vice-Chancellor's Welcome

Congratulations!

Graduation is a significant milestone in every student's life and today we are delighted to celebrate your achievements here at Bangor University!

Your university experience has taken you on a journey of growth and transformation. You had to address the unique and unparalleled challenges of studying for a degree during the Covid-19 pandemic and I would like to pay special tribute to you for your commitment and dedication to learning.

Graduation is the most important date in the higher education calendar. As Vice-Chancellor, I take great pleasure in attending these ceremonies, witnessing your success and celebrating the transformative power of a university education. We are delighted to be able to share the celebration for all our graduands with families, friends and supporters.

Whatever your chosen path, your University wishes you well for the future, and does so in the knowledge that Bangor has helped you to expand your mind and develop your skills, providing you with the knowledge, experience and networks to assist you as you navigate the next stages of your life.

Please remember that your connection to Bangor University will last a lifetime. You are now part of our thriving international alumni community and we will strive to continue to support you, wherever you are in the world.

On behalf of the staff of the University, I wish you every success in achieving your goals.

Professor Edmund Burke
Vice-Chancellor



Since 1884

Here in Bangor, we cherish the contribution of the slate miners to the establishment of the University in 1884. In what might be described as an early example of a crowdfunding campaign, those who had worked the rock and ploughed the earth for generations donated, via penny subscriptions, towards the formation of a university - a place that would allow inquiring minds to flourish.

When the college opened, it enrolled 58 students onto courses ranging from Greek, Latin, English and Welsh to Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany and Agriculture. As new departments and subjects were established, student numbers grew to around 300 at the turn of the 20th century. Major growth occurred in the 1950s and 1960s, and today more than 11,000 students study here.

Today's Bangor University is a bridge between Wales and the world and as a globally-connected institution we act as

a window to the region. Our teaching is informed by original research in many of our disciplines. Students can be taught by academic staff who are research leaders in fields as diverse as healthcare and medical sciences, environmental science, business and music.

Of course, the role of a university is not only to share knowledge, but also to create it. Impact-driven research and innovation are features of Bangor University and this is what gives us our transformational capacity and how our students benefit.

Today our world-leading research is seeking solutions to some of society's most challenging problems - from improving health and wellbeing, protecting the environment, identifying low carbon energy solutions and providing cutting-edge solutions to advance the global 5G economy.



Bangor University: past, present and future

1884-1907

1884

Funded in-part by quarrymen and farmers, Bangor University first opened its doors on 18 October 1884, based in an old coaching inn called the Penrhyn Arms. Known as the University College of North Wales, the institution had 58 students and 10 members of staff.

1893

Bangor became one of the three original constituent colleges of the University of Wales.

1903

The city of Bangor donated a 10-acre site overlooking the city at Penrallt for a new building, and substantial sums of money were raised by local people to help meet the cost.

1907

The foundation stone of the University's present Main Arts site was laid by Edward VII on 9 July 1907.

1911-1939

1911

The official opening of the University's Main Arts building, built by Henry T. Hare, architect of London; together with some of the arts and social science buildings and part of the library.

1926

The University's science departments moved to new, purpose-built accommodation which had been constructed with the assistance of funds raised by the North Wales Heroes Memorial Council, which also oversaw the construction of the Memorial Arch (off Deiniol Road) in 1923, to commemorate the North Walianes who had lost their lives in the war.

1939

On 23 August 1939, a week before the Second World War began, the National Gallery in London began to evacuate its most precious paintings to Bangor, to escape the expected aerial bombing. More than 500 paintings, including works by Botticelli, Rubens and Rembrandt, were stored at the University's Prichard-Jones Hall.

1949-1967



1949

On 28 April 1949, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, then HRH Princess Elizabeth, was conferred the degree of Doctor of Music by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the newly celebrated Chancellor of the University.

1952

The establishment of SVB (Student Volunteering Bangor), the volunteering branch of the Students' Union, which supports community projects in and around the Bangor area. The oldest project is a tea party for local elderly residents, first held in 1952 and continuing to this day, over 70 years later.

1960s

The University shared in the general expansion of higher education in the UK following the Robbins Report, with a number of new departments and new buildings.

1967

The Beatles visited The Normal College for a lecture on Transcendental Meditation by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The visit proved to be a pivotal date in the history of the group, as it is here that the news broke of the death of their manager, Brian Epstein.

1970-1996

1970s

Student protests in the 1970s focused on calls to expand the role of the Welsh language. A campaign against the College's language policy by Cymdeithas y Cymric (The Cymric Society), saw slogans painted in Welsh on the walls of the Main Building, resulting in a number of suspensions of these activists.



Photo: The National Library of Wales

1976

The protests and expulsions led to the establishment of the Bangor Welsh Students' Union (Undeb Myfyrwyr Colegau Bangor – UMCB). It was successful in securing a Welsh Hall for the residents of the University, John Morris-Jones Hall. UMCB subsequently became Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Bangor and is now a vibrant part of the main Students' Union.

1977

The merger of St Mary's College was concluded.

1996

The merger of The Normal College was completed.

2003-2015

2003

The launch of Storm FM, the official student radio station for Bangor University, which went on air in March 2003.

2007

The change of name to Bangor University, or Prifysgol Bangor in Welsh, was instigated by the University, including the granting of degree-awarding powers to Bangor University itself. Every student starting after 2009 gained a degree from Bangor University.

2014

Bangor University signed a deal to create a new college in China. Bangor College China (BCC), is a prestigious Joint School established by Bangor University and the Central South University of Forestry and Technology, in Hunan Province, China.

2015

The opening of St Mary's Village, located in an elevated position overlooking the city of Bangor.

2015

The opening of Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre, which saw almost 1000 people enjoying a Welcome Day at the centre. In addition to providing a base for the Students' Union, Pontio houses a cinema, theatres, lecture theatres and a place to eat.

2018-2023

2018

M-SParc, the University-owned £20m science park on Anglesey, was completed. As Wales' first dedicated science park, it provides a space for exciting and cutting-edge companies in the science and technology sectors to make their home and receive support to develop their businesses.

2021

Bangor University celebrates 100 Years of Music with a year-long programme of events, marking 100 years since composer E. T. Davies was appointed as the University's first full-time Director of Music.

2022

The UK Government's Research Excellence Framework ranks Bangor Top 30 in the UK for the societal impact of its research. 85% of our research is considered world-leading or internationally excellent.

2023

A new North Wales Medical School is announced supported by Welsh Government and in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. From 2024 students will be able to register on a full medical degree with Bangor University for the first time.



The Main Building

Bangor University's Main Arts Building remains the focal point of the University and was described by Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, as 'architecturally one of the most significant public buildings of the period in Britain'.

It was built between 1907-11 by Henry T. Hare, who was chosen following an architectural competition run by the University, following acquisition of the site in 1903.

The foundation stone was laid by Edward VII on 9 July 1907, with the official opening on 14 June 1911. The resulting building is in a 'Collegiate Tudor' style and is based on the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham, with Arts and Crafts influences.

The building is designed around two quadrangles: the Main Quadrangle; and the Inner Quadrangle, which is open to the public on Graduation Day.



The Prichard-Jones Hall

The Prichard-Jones Hall, in which today's graduation ceremony takes place, is named after Sir John Prichard-Jones, a draper of humble Anglesey origins who made his fortune in London's Regent Street as managing director of Dickens and Jones department stores, acquired by Harrods in 1914.

Sir Prichard-Jones donated £15,000 towards its construction, encouraged to help the developing college in this way by David Lloyd George, an active supporter of the University, who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer, before going on to become UK Prime Minister.

The hall's interior has changed very little since its opening in 1911. The shields which decorate the top of the walls are representations of the ancient North Wales boroughs, and the pipe organ was installed following the closure of the local Tabernacle church in the early 1970s. The electroliers (electrified chandeliers) still hang from the ceiling, and the walls are lined with the original wainscot panelling.

Used frequently by the University and the wider community, many generations of students have sat exams, danced and attended graduation ceremonies here. The hall also has a long tradition of hosting musical entertainment for North Wales, with performers including Sir Bryn Terfel and Aled Jones MBE.



Your graduation ceremony

Some 2,000 students will be graduating during these graduation ceremonies.

This is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the achievements of our students and enables the University community to acknowledge your accomplishments.

The pandemic transformed the higher education landscape, forcing us all to work differently and reassess our priorities and ways of working. With the wellbeing and safety of our staff and students paramount, the switch to blended learning brought both challenges and achievements. We are immensely proud of our students' resilience and dedication to their studies during these difficult times.

It is with great pride that we are now able to see our graduates taking their next exciting steps into the world, as so many others have done before them.

Whether you are a graduand, a relative or a friend, we hope you have an enjoyable and inspiring day.

Llongyfarchiadau! / Congratulations!

The procession The Mace

Each ceremony begins with a procession. It is led by the Chief Marshal – a senior member of the University's administrative staff – whose role is to ensure that the ceremony proceeds smoothly.

Following the Chief Marshal in the procession will be several sections, each led by a Marshal(s) who are officers of the University:

Section 1:
Academic staff and civic dignitaries

Section 2:
Heads of School and Heads of central Professional Services departments

Section 3:
Senior officers of the University, including Pro-Vice-Chancellors and the Presenter

Section 4:
Honorary Fellows and their Presenters

Section 5:
The Chancellor's procession, including the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor (or his deputy)

The final part of the procession, the Chancellor's procession, is led by the Mace-Bearer, also a senior member of the University's administrative staff.

The Mace is the symbol of the authority of the University and in the ceremony it always precedes the Vice-Chancellor.

The Mace was commissioned by the Old Students' Association to commemorate the University's centenary in 1984. The mace-head, crowned by a shield bearing the University coat of arms, is made of Bethesda slate. This symbolises the generosity of the local slate-quarrymen who, in the early 1880s, gave part of their weekly wages to fund the establishment of the University.

Two ebony staffs carried by the Marshals are the gift of the fifth Lord Kenyon, who in 1981 completed 36 years of service as President of the University. On the top of the staffs are shields bearing the coats of arms of the University and of the Kenyon family.



The Chancellor



Bangor University’s Chancellor is the academic and physicist Professor Sir Robin Williams.

The Chancellor is the University’s ceremonial head and one of its most prominent ambassadors who works with the Vice-Chancellor and other senior officers to promote the University’s achievements at home and overseas.

Sir Robin is a Bangor graduate and a strong advocate of the bilingual nature of the University. He was appointed to the role in November 2022.

“It is a huge honour to serve Bangor University as Chancellor” he said. “I’ve been associated with this great bilingual institution since I was a student here in the Sixties and I am proud to be able to work with the University to promote its unique qualities and successes.”

Sir Robin is an authority in the field of semiconductors and his research has been important in the development of digital electronics and the far-reaching changes in computing and communications. Working closely with industries worldwide, he developed new methods for the study of semiconductors and was one of the first to use synchrotron radiation to study the surfaces of solids.

Knighted in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 2019 for services to higher education, research and the Welsh language, Sir Robin has served on many international and UK policy and funding bodies and on ministerial advisory groups for economic development and education in Wales.

He is a former chair of the Science Advisory Council for Wales. He was a member of the Innovation Advisory Council of Wales and was a founding fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. In 2022, the National Eisteddfod Science and Technology Medal was awarded to Sir Robin for his lifelong contribution to science.



Order of proceedings

Music

Before the ceremony commences there will be a programme of music, ending with the processional music, which signals the start of the ceremony.

Processional:
John Stanley – ‘Trumpet Voluntary’

The procession

The Congregation is asked to stand as the procession enters the hall. This marks the formal start of the ceremony.

Introduction

The ceremony opens with a recitation by a student of the University of an extract from a poem, ‘Y Coleg ar y Bryn’ (‘The College on the Hill’) by the late Gwyn Thomas. The extract will be read in Welsh and English. Gwyn Thomas, who died in 2016, was a former Professor of Welsh at the University and National Poet of Wales from 2006 to 2008.

The poem was commissioned by His Majesty King Charles III, then HRH The Prince of Wales, to mark the centenary in 2007 of the laying of the foundation stone of the Main University Building.

The resolution

The Presenter, a senior academic, reads the resolution in Welsh and English granting authority to the Vice-Chancellor to award degrees, and also presents each group of students for their appropriate degrees and diplomas with the words (in Welsh):

Honourable Vice-Chancellor, I present to you these students who have gained the degree of (...title of degree...) in (...name of the subject or subjects of study...)

Presentation of students

An Introducer, usually the Head of the relevant department or his/her deputy, introduces students to the Vice-Chancellor by reading out their full names. Each student individually crosses the stage to be greeted by the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor (or his deputy).

Admission of students to degree

The Vice-Chancellor formally admits groups of students to their degrees by proclaiming (in Welsh):

I admit you to the degree of (...title of degree...) and to all privileges of that degree.

The Chancellor (or his deputy) greets the graduates (in Welsh):

Congratulations on receiving your degree today.

The formula is then repeated for each group of students. Those named in the appropriate groups in the programme will be presented for their degrees in absentia.

Interlude

Approximately halfway through the ceremony, there will be a short musical interlude.

Teaching Fellowships

In some graduation ceremonies, the University will award a Teaching Fellowship to an individual member of the academic staff who is considered to have made an outstanding contribution to teaching and care of students. Nominations for Teaching Fellowships are made by those best able to judge – the students themselves.

Honorary Fellowships and Degrees

In some graduation ceremonies, towards the end of the ceremony, Honorary Fellowships and Degrees are conferred by the University on individuals who have made a distinguished contribution to their chosen field of endeavour and whom the University wishes to honour. These are conferred by the Vice-Chancellor.

Concluding address

The ceremony is closed with an address to the new graduates and guests.

Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau / Land Of My Fathers (national anthem of Wales)

Processional exit

The Congregation is asked to stand as the processional music begins and the procession leaves the hall.

Processional:
F. Mendelssohn – ‘War March of the Priests’

Honorary degrees 2023

Our Honorary Fellowships & Degrees are prestigious awards bestowed upon distinguished individuals who have a connection with the University, or with Wales, and who have made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field.

Contribution to Welsh Culture, Language, Music and the Arts



Lord Dafydd Wigley

Dafydd Wigley, Baron Wigley of Caernarfon, is a Welsh politician who served as the leader of Plaid Cymru from 1981-84 and again from 1991-2000. Dafydd served as Member of Parliament for Caernarfon from 1974-2001 and as the Member of the Welsh Assembly for Caernarfon from 1999-2003. In 2010, Dafydd was granted life peerage by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, taking his seat in the House of Lords, as Baron Wigley of Caernarfon, on 24 January 2011. Dafydd chaired the Wales Slate Partnership Steering Group and played a key role in securing UNESCO World Heritage Status for the Slate Mining Landscape of North West Wales in 2021.



Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones

Ieuan Wyn Jones is a qualified solicitor and a former Member of Parliament and Assembly Member for Ynys Môn. Ieuan was appointed Deputy First Minister for the Economy and Transport in the Welsh Government from 2007-11, before stepping down to focus on his work in the Welsh Assembly, alongside leading Plaid Cymru from 2000-12. Ieuan was previously the Executive Director of Bangor University's Menai Science Park and was appointed Chair of the Menai Science Park Ltd. Board in 2013, a position he held for 10 years.



Mrs Leah Owen

Born on Anglesey, **Leah Owen** competed in Eisteddfodau at a very young age, gaining success in a number of National Eisteddfodau during the 1970s. She has been a guest vocal soloist and conductor of several choirs, and between 1975-2001 recorded several solo albums for Recordiau Sain.

After graduating from Bangor University with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1974, Leah taught at Hirael School, Bangor, Denbigh High School, Twm o'r Nant, Denbigh and Denbighshire Language Centre. Leah's influence had a significant impact on new generations of musicians and actors, coaching some of Wales' biggest stars of the moment, including Steffan Rhys Hughes, Mared Williams, Jade Davies, Angharad Rowlands and Amber Davies and inspiring countless musicians to develop and refine their craft. Leah has made significant contributions to music education and culture in Wales, particularly in Denbighshire.

Contribution to Public Service (including Health)



Mr Trefor Owen

Trefor Owen is a senior Welsh forestry professional and has been awarded a prestigious fellowship from the Institute of Chartered Foresters. His notable achievements include his appointment as Interim Chief Executive of Forestry Commission Scotland, followed by Director of Land Management, where he was responsible for overseeing the Scottish government's entire forestry estate and most of its workforce. Trefor is passionate about education, the student experience, and employability, and has maintained close ties to his alma mater, Bangor University.

Contribution to Popular Entertainment, contribution to Learning through the Media



Ms Joanna Scanlan

Joanna Scanlan, a distinguished and internationally renowned actor and screenwriter who grew up in North Wales and whose parents are both alumni of Bangor University, continues to contribute to the student experience at Bangor University. In addition to winning a BAFTA for Best Actress in a Leading Role in 2022 and being tipped as a future Oscar winner, Joanna has also given career talks to students, sharing her insights and experiences from her acclaimed career. Her work in series such as The Thick of It, Getting On, Puppy Love, No Offence and more recently Gentleman Jack, Y Golau and The Larkins highlight her successful career.



'120,000
alumni living
all over
the world.'



It's not goodbye!

Congratulations, you're a graduate!

You are now joining our diverse community of alumni who are excelling in their chosen careers with the skills and support they have received at Bangor.

'Alumni Bangor' is the University's association for former students. We don't want to lose touch with you after graduation. By maintaining lifelong links with past students, we are committed to promoting your achievements and facilitating contact between friends, departments and supporting new networks.

Our graduate community transcends barriers of generation and geography with alumni worldwide meeting and helping each other – in many cases without ever having met during their student life. You are now a member of this invaluable network!

To ensure that you're part of our growing alumni network, make sure we have your current contact details by completing our online update form and opting-in to alumni communications.



Scan to opt
in to alumni
communications.

Your alumni community

As a Bangor alumnus, you can benefit from a range of services, including:

- Alumni E-News: we send out monthly e-newsletters to keep you up-to-date with the latest news from the University, including details on reunions and events and information about the research and activities taking place in our Schools and Colleges.
- Ongoing careers advice and support.
- Library access: alumni can continue to access the University's excellent libraries with an Alumni Library Card.
- Information about alumni networks and groups, including groups on social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

Where will your journey take you?
Stay in touch with our alumni community and share your own story.

bangor.ac.uk/alumni

Deepen your understanding by continuing your higher education journey with us

Postgraduate taught

Our postgraduate taught courses offer access to our subject matter experts and advanced facilities, helping you develop skills and gain the right qualifications.

Students who have graduated at Bangor may be eligible to receive a **discount of up to 20%** for postgraduate taught courses in the 2024/25 academic year.

Postgraduate research

Practice your research skills surrounded by peers and professors who share your passion for advancing the world's understanding of your chosen area of study.



Scan to learn more about our
postgraduate discount for the
2024/25 academic year.

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

'Opportunities at Bangor helped secure my role in an international company.'

AWEN EDWARDS
TRAINEE SOLICITOR AT DAC BEACHCROFT LLP
STUDIED: LAW WITH WELSH (LLB), 2020



Careers and Employability Service

Did you know that as an alum of Bangor University, you can use the University's Careers and Employability Service for three years after you graduate?

Access to careers advice and information can be just as important to you after graduation as when you were a student.

Graduation is an exciting and important milestone for every one of us - the period after graduation is full of change, yet it can also be challenging.

Here are some of the ways the Careers and Employability Service can help our graduates:

- CV and application support and feedback.
- Interview preparation.
- Assisting unsure or worried graduates on 'what to do next'.
- Improve job / opportunity searching.
- Trying new approaches where graduates have been unsuccessful with their applications.
- Explore ways of gaining experience and establishing / improving their networks.

Bangor University graduates can also take advantage of a 'for life' account (through our CareerConnect online portal), offering a host of tools, resources and opportunities. As a Bangor University graduate, all you need to do to continue / reconnect with our service is set up a graduate account on Bangor CareerConnect (careerconnect.bangor.ac.uk) - you'll be invited to do this as soon as you graduate. Sign up using your personal email address and we will merge your student account into your new graduate account.



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