

Part Two: Fee and Access Plan (required for publication)

Fee and Access Plan	
Name of institution	Bangor University
Duration of the fee and access plan	1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026, and 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027
Section 1 - Fee levels	
Section 1.1 – Fee levels or the determination of a fee level at each location (Guidance paragraphs 85-92)	
Fee level	Location of course
Maximum regulated fee.	<p>For 2025/26 and 2026/27.</p> <p>At the University’s campuses in Bangor/Menai Bridge and Wrexham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Undergraduate Bachelor’s (including Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) • Home Integrated Master’s • Home PGCEs <p>The University will inform all applicants and students of the regulated fee levels for 2025/26 and any increases for successive years of study as soon as confirmation of the maximum regulated fee is received from Welsh Government and will publish updates on its website.</p>
Maximum regulated fee.	<p>For 2025/26 and 2026/27.</p> <p>At the University’s campuses in Bangor/Menai Bridge and Wrexham.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Study Year Abroad. <p>The University will inform all applicants and students of the regulated fee levels for 2025/26 and any increases for successive years of study as soon as confirmation of the maximum regulated fee is received from Welsh Government and will publish updates on its website.</p>
Maximum regulated fee.	<p>For 2025/26 and 2026/27.</p> <p>At the University's campuses in Bangor/Menai Bridge and Wrexham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Year in Industry as part of a Sandwich Programme <p>The University will inform all applicants and students of the regulated fee levels for 2025/26 and any increases for successive years of study as soon as confirmation of the maximum regulated fee is received from Welsh Government and will publish updates on its website.</p>
Fee specified in franchise partner agreements	<p>Fees for undergraduate programmes offered by the University's franchise partners are determined in agreements with the franchise partners.</p> <p>For courses subject to the regulated fee, these are subject to the increase limits on regulated fees set out by the Welsh Government. Where these are offered at less than the maximum, they may be subject to annual review.</p>

Section 1.2 - Aggregate fee levels
(Guidance paragraphs 98-101)

The University will charge the current maximum regulated fee level for Full-time Home Undergraduate, Integrated Masters, and PGCE students covered by this plan for the period 2025/26 only. The maximum fee is governed by the Welsh Government and is currently £9,250. Any increase in the FT Home UG and PGCE fee for 2026/27 and future years of the course will be tied to the maximum fee increase, to be set by Welsh Government. Aggregate fees for the whole duration of the course will depend on the length of the programme (most of the University's UG programmes are three or four years long), and

whether or not the programme includes an Integrated Study Year Abroad (currently capped at £1,385) or an Integrated Year in Industry as part of a Sandwich Programme (currently capped at £1,850), and whether the maximum regulated fee is increased by the Welsh Government, as outlined above.

Details of the University's tuition fees are provided on the University website (<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/student-administration/fees/>) and via email communications to all applicants. As the University's prospectus is printed in advance of the start of the relevant academic year, it refers prospective students to the University's website for the latest information concerning fees. The webpage provides a specific section on fees for each academic year, with the fee and access plan published alongside the respective year once it is approved. Any changes to fee levels will be communicated directly to the affected students by email, following consultation with the Students' Union, and the relevant aspects of the webpages will also be updated.

Tuition fees for Home Undergraduates are regulated by the Welsh Government. The University will amend all Home Undergraduate Tuition Fees in line with any alteration advised by the Welsh Government and complies with CMA guidelines in the development of all communications.

Fees for undergraduate programmes offered by the University's franchise partners are determined in agreements with the franchise partners. Where these are offered at less than the maximum, they may be subject to annual review, which could result in increases.

Section 2 - Student Partnership (Guidance paragraphs 102-105)

Bangor University has a long-standing partnership approach with its student body and Students' Union. Partnership is a constantly evolving approach underpinned by mutual respect, cooperation, and collegiality. The University actively encourages student contribution to the design and delivery of teaching and influencing strategic change across Bangor University. Through partnership working, it consults with and listens to students in both the creation and delivery of its work, ensuring they can meaningfully direct the future of the University. This is evident through institutional strategies being student-centred throughout their development. In the development of the most recent institutional strategies, the University has committed to providing students with further opportunities to work in partnership with staff, both locally within their schools and as part of the wider University and Students' Union communities. These strategies, built on the approach developed through partnership working, are further examples of a commitment to the ethos of partnership working with students.

Democratic representation through an independent Students' Union is at the heart of the partnership. It ensures that the collective student body determines what is important, why and how changes should be made, and that working together can make these changes a reality. Working with the Students' Union is critical to developing an inclusive approach to the University's decision-making process. The Students' Union interacts regularly with senior members of the University, primarily the Academic Registrar and Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Experience, as the first points of contact for any student experience issues.

The Students' Union also collates an Annual Student Experience Report, which is the combination of a number of Student Insight Reports that are produced and shared with the university throughout the year. This report highlights key themes and the most topical and relevant issues affecting Bangor students. The Report (and any recommendations therein) contributes ideas to how partnership working can continue to enhance the student experience and helps ensure that a close and effective working relationship is maintained.

Sabbatical Officers from the Students' Union are represented on the University's governing body (Council), are involved in regular meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellors and other senior staff, and are invited to attend all University Committees and Delivery Groups and Council Committees.

The University has also established joint Executive meetings between the University Executive and the Sabbatical Officers, which happen once per semester.

The Students' Union acknowledges the strength of the partnership and commits to continue to work with the University to ensure that student representation is at the forefront of the agenda. The Students' Union continues to ensure that Course Representatives are closely supported, provided with the resources they need to deliver their role, as well as working with the university to ensure they have high visibility across campus. The Students' Union also continues to make resources available for student ideas so that new and innovative schemes of work are constantly being developed. Similarly, the University continues to ensure that each school has a dedicated member of staff committed to working with and supporting the school's Course Representatives.

Bangor University has taken on board HEFCW's guidance on good practice in funding effective, democratic students' unions and student representation. An annual Student Charter is produced, that outlines the expectations of the mutual roles and responsibilities of the University, the Students' Union and the students. This is embedded into welcome talks with students and is displayed in all halls of residence. The Students' Union utilises the expectations outlined in the Student Charter when communicating with both students and the University, and when developing new campaigns and initiatives. The Education and Student Experience Committee, incorporating Students' Union membership, receives the Student Charter annually. Additionally, the University's Relationship Agreement with the Students' Union is reviewed and approved annually by the Union, University Executive and Council.

Within each academic school, Directors of Student Engagement have responsibility for ensuring: the course representative system is well-promoted and conducted in line with the expectations of the Students' Union; that students are aware of how their feedback is acted upon; and that the School takes deliberate steps to ensure students are involved in decisions about their own education.

A practical example of partnership working within academic schools is the NSS Enhancement Action Planning events, hosted jointly with the Students' Union. These events bring together staff and students within an academic school to discuss and agree teaching enhancements in light of NSS results and other key data. Within the design of its support services, Bangor has been sector leading in its development of a Student-led Mental Health Strategy. Working with our Students' Union to ensure diversity of representation during our student consultation process, this student-led strategy has shaped the

design and delivery of both central support services and our whole-institution approach to student wellbeing. This practice continues with the continued review process of our Student-led Mental Health Strategy in 2023/4 that is again based on extensive consultation with our student body and co-produced with our Students' Union.

Furthermore, the University continues to develop its student engagement practices at a postgraduate level, investing in further opportunities for postgraduate taught and research students to work in partnership with academic staff to enhance their curriculum and student experience. An example of this is the annual action planning events developed in partnership with staff and students, which ensure that feedback from NSS and PRES is considered at a school level. Students are directly involved in shaping the action plans of the school for the coming academic year.

The Students' Union continues to be represented through its officers in discussions about the developing fee and access plan and continues to be fully engaged in discussions about how fee income should be spent, having contributed ideas and suggestions at committees and in discussion with University staff. The measures in the University's fee and access plan are consistent with key themes identified through these engagements and are also consistent with the outcome of student surveys and reports. The Students' Union has confirmed that the fee and access plan is reflective of the discussions that it has had with the University, and that it helps address the recommendations it has made, including, for example, taking an institutional approach to developing student feedback, ensuring student representation on all committees and in all departments (Objectives 3, 4 & 5), and in ensuring student leaders are fully equipped to fulfil their roles as representatives, both whilst at university and beyond (Objective 7).

The University's governing body, the Council, delegates authority to its Finance Committee, which reviews and signs off the University's fee and access plans, including the appraisal of progress against previous plans, and a summary of the annual monitoring and evaluation process undertaken by the Fee & Access Plan Monitoring Group. The Students' Union President, in addition to being a student governor on the University Council, is a member of both the Fee & Access Plan Monitoring Group and the Finance Committee and is therefore directly involved in signing off the plan. Student representatives (and/or the President) are also involved throughout the University's governance structures, and the priorities identified through these engagements inform the priorities and decision-making for developing the fee & access plans.

Section 3 - Under-represented groups (Guidance paragraphs 106-116)

It is essential that our Widening Access activities focus on those areas where we believe we can have the greatest impact; as such, our widening access activities will primarily focus on the recruitment and retention of those groups identified by HEFCW as being under-represented in Higher Education in line with the commitments the University is required to make through its Fee & Access Plan:

- Students from the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)
- Students from UK low participation in HE areas
- Part-time students
- Students studying through the medium of Welsh
- Students from ethnic minority communities
- Students with disabilities
- Students who are care-experienced or with caring responsibilities

The University recognises the need to support the recruitment and retention of other students who may be disadvantaged or under-represented, and our relevant policies, processes, action plans, and advice/guidance will be cognisant of the specific needs of these students, including, but not limited to: students with protected characteristics; young males from WIMD lower quintile and low participation areas; refugees and asylum seekers; service and ex-service personnel and their families; students estranged from their parents/carers; students from gypsy, traveller, Roma, showman and boater communities; homeless students.

Reaching Wider

Through the institutional contribution to the regional Reaching Wider Programme (RWP) the following groups will also be supported:

- Young people up to age 16 in the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)
- Care experienced learners and carers in all age groups in the RWP region, regardless of WIMD.
- Post-16 young people in up to level 4 learning, within the bottom two quintiles of WIMD
- Adults without level 4 qualifications within the bottom two quintiles of WIMD
- People with disabilities
- People from ethnic minority backgrounds, and
- Welsh medium learning, including supporting second language learning and Welsh cultures.

Section 4 – Objectives as they relate to supporting equality of opportunity and the promotion of HE
(Guidance paragraphs 117-135)

Section 4.1 - Equality of Opportunity

Objective 1	To attract more applications to HE from Widening Access students.
Objective 2	To increase the participation of Welsh speakers in HE.
Objective 3	To provide academic and welfare support to ensure the retention and outcomes of underrepresented groups are comparable to the wider population of students.
Objective 4	To ensure an inclusive environment and education.

Section 4.2 - Promotion of higher education

Objective 1	To ensure provision of an excellent and consistent student experience.
Objective 2	To ensure development of further community and civic partnerships in consideration of the well-being of future generations.
Objective 3	To strengthen graduate employability.

Authorisation of the fee and access plan application to HEFCW (required for publication)

In authorising fee and access plan applications, the governing body:

- i. confirms that it continues to be an institution that provides higher education in Wales and is a charity;
- ii. has seen and considered appropriate evidence to support the declarations being made in this application;
- iii. confirms that there has been appropriate consultation with its students, both those studying at the institution and at other providers where education is delivered on its behalf;
- iv. confirms that the information provided in this fee and access plan application is accurate and current, at the time of writing, and is based on verifiable data;
- v. confirms that: **[delete one or more statements, as appropriate]**
 - a. it is acceptable for HEFCW to use financial, quality and/or other information/data that it holds about a currently regulated institution, regardless of whether the information/data was originally provided for purposes of regulation under the 2015 Act;
 - ~~b. it is not acceptable for HEFCW to use financial, quality and/or other information/data that it holds about a currently regulated institution for purposes of regulation under the 2015 Act; and~~
 - ~~c. it is submitting new, up to date, more recent information/data to inform HEFCW's assessment;~~
- vi. understands that HEFCW reserves the right to undertake a visit to the institution to better understand eligibility related to the organisation and management of financial affairs, the data submitted on fee and access plans and/or the quality of education provided on, or on behalf of, the institution;
- vii. understands that it must provide HEFCW and/or HEFCW's agent, with information, assistance and access to its facilities and the facilities of other bodies providing higher education on its behalf;
- viii. understands that HEFCW may carry out, or arrange for an agent to carry out, a review relating to the quality of education provided by, or on behalf of the institution, and its governing body must take into account any advice given to it by HEFCW or the body appointed by HEFCW for this purpose;

- ix. confirms that all education provided by, or on its behalf, regardless of the level or location of the provision has been taken into account in this fee and access plan application;
- x. confirms that the institution is at a low risk of failure on financial grounds over the medium-to long- term;
- xi. confirms that the accounts are audited each year by a registered auditor and that the registered auditor is not the same firm and/or individual that prepared the accounts;
- xii. confirms that the institution complies with Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) guidelines for higher education;
- xiii. understands that any financial commitments to students made in the fee and access plan, as approved by HEFCW, must be honoured;
- xiv. confirms that it will continue to invest the same proportion of full-time undergraduate fee income to promote equality of opportunity and promote higher education and not reduce invest to promote equality of opportunity which is intended to support only under-represented in higher education;
- xv. confirms that it will continue to invest its institutional contribution to the Reaching Wider Programme aligned to its agreed Reaching Wider Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- xvi. confirms that it will maintain student support levels;
- xvii. confirms that the institution will ensure that a copy of the fee and access plan can be made accessible to its students in any format;
- xviii. confirms that the institution will clearly signpost its students to HEFCW's complaints processes;
- xix. take all reasonable steps to supporting under-represented groups that are studying for postgraduate courses;
- xx. considers how investment can best support students most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic where they are not already identified as under-represented groups; and
- xxi. gives due consideration to any guidance published by the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research as it discharges its duties in relation to the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022, particularly in relation to learner protection, learner engagement, equality of opportunity, and the support and promotion of the welfare of its students and staff.

Fee and access plan application submission to HEFCW¹

Date of Governing Body approval:	5th July 2024
Governing Body authorised signature:	Orlando Brown, Chair of Finance Committee,
Date:	5th July 2024

Final fee and access plan submission once HEFCW has confirmed it has no further issues (where applicable)

Date of Governing Body approval:	
Governing Body authorised signature:	
Date:	

¹ Fee and access plans published on the institution’s websites must only include versions approved by HEFCW.