

Fee and Access Plan

Name of institution	Bangor University
Duration of the fee and access plan	1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023
Section 1 - Fee levels	
Section 1.1 – Fee levels or the determination of a fee level at each location	
Fee level	Location of course
£9,000	The University's campuses in Bangor/Menai Bridge, and Wrexham.
	Qualifications: Bachelor's and extended undergraduate Master's degrees, and PGCEs.
£1,350	The University's campuses in Bangor/Menai Bridge, and Wrexham.
	Qualifications: Bachelor's and extended undergraduate Master's degrees – for the relevant sandwich years and years abroad.

Section 1.2 - Aggregate fee levels

Bangor University confirms that, in line with its Tuition Fees Policy (published on its web pages alongside its Fee Schedule and Fee & Access Plan), there will be no fee increases for undergraduate and PGCE students for the duration of their full-time programme. Subject to paragraph 8.2 of the Policy, reproduced below, each student shall be charged the same amount for each year of study.

The following paragraphs are the relevant excerpts from the University's Tuition Fees Policy: -

3.3. The Welsh Government determines the statutory fee cap for undergraduate and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) programmes for home students. The University sets both full- and part-time fees to reflect this maximum applicable fee cap, as defined in its annual Fee and Access Plan, agreed with the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). Fees may be revised, if permitted and where necessary, in line with the relevant statutory fee caps, however, the University will not raise the fee for any credits or programmes during an academic year, or once the fees for an academic year have been published.

8.2. For all taught students, the fee regime (the relevant fee policy and schedule of fees) in place at the start of the first academic year, remains in effect for the duration of their programme, unless: -

- 1. there is a shift in mode of study (e.g. from full-time to part-time), or*
- 2. there is a break in study of more than 2 years, or*
- 3. an agreement has been otherwise defined in the offer letter,*

after which a new fee regime would apply. There is no change in fee regime if a student transfers from an honours to a non-honours programme, or vice versa.

The University commits to abiding by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) guidelines for higher education.

Section 2 - Student Partnership

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 has a specific contact in the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who is the first point of contact for any issues. The Students' Union also provides an Annual Student Experience Report containing contributions from the student body, where questions can be asked about 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 Strategy and Task 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. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellors and other members of the Executive attend the Students' Union's General Meeting.

The Students' Union acknowledges that the partnership approach to the Student Voice is sector-leading and commits to continue to work in partnership with the University to ensure that student representation is at the forefront of the agenda. The Students' Union continues to ensure that elected Course Representatives are closely supported, provided with the resources they need to deliver their role, and 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 Student Experience Strategy Group, incorporating student membership, reviews the Student Charter annually. Additionally, the University's Relationship Agreement with the Students' Union is reviewed and approved annually by the University Executive and Council.

The University's Student Services implement its commitment to partnership working at the institutional and subject level, and manage all student surveys and feedback campaigns, in addition to supporting Directors of Student Engagement in each academic School. These directors 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.

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. Additionally, a postgraduate taught experience project group has been developed to ensure there are opportunities for these students to be as involved in shaping their experience.

The Students' Union continues to be represented through its elected representatives and 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 officers. 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 and Strategy 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 & Strategy 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

HEFCW-defined

- Students of all ages from the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014
- Students of all ages from the bottom quintile of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014
- Students of all ages studying part-time
- Students of all ages studying through the medium of Welsh
- People of all ages from UK low participation in HE areas.

Reaching Wider

- Post-16 young people within the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation,
- Adults without level 4 qualifications within the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, to provide progression to level 4 provision, and
- Care experienced applicants and carers in all age groups across Wales.

Selected from HEFCW-defined list

- Students with protected characteristics
 - Students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
 - Students with a mental health condition
 - Female students in STEM
- Students from black and minority ethnic communities
- Refugees and asylum seekers

Bangor University-defined

- Estranged students
- Students facing financial hardship

Section 4 – Objectives as they relate to supporting equality of opportunity and the promotion of HE

Section 4.1 - Equality of Opportunity

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

Section 4.2 - Promotion of higher education

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| 5. | To ensure provision of an excellent and consistent student experience |
| 6. | To ensure development of further community and civic partnerships in consideration of the well-being of future generations |
| 7. | To ensure all students leave the University having experience of work |

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 maintain student support levels.
- xvi. 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.
- xvii. confirms that the institution will clearly signpost its students to HEFCW's complaints processes.

Fee and access plan application submission to HEFCW¹	
Date of Governing Body approval:	09/07/2021
Governing Body authorised signature:	See excerpt from the Finance & Strategy Committee minutes, below.
Date:	09/07/2021

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

Bangor University
An Excerpt from the
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Date: 9 July 2021

2021-65	HEFCW Fee & Access Plan 2022/23
	<p>The Chief Operating Officer presented the Committee with the University's 2022/23 Fee & Access Plan. It was reported that the format is considerably shorter than previous plans, following changes to HEFCW requirements given the uncertainties arising from Covid. HEFCW invited Universities to submit a 22/23 plan that was in line with the simplified 21/22 revised plan that the Committee has previously approved.</p> <p>The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Though the published plan has been much simplified, the detailed objectives remain, and the University continues to monitor the activities and investment through an evaluation framework, overseen by the University's Fee & Access Plan monitoring group. HEFCW engage informally with this process, but it is not a requirement that a formal monitoring report is submitted. <p>It was agreed that the Committee endorsed the draft plan and authorises the Chair to sign-off the initial submission to HEFCW and any subsequent re-submissions.</p>