

**Coleg Menai**

**International**

**Prospectus**

**2011/13**



# WELCOME TO COLEG MENAI



A warm welcome awaits those who come to Coleg Menai International! We are a friendly, government-funded college which prides itself on giving individual attention to students.

International students come from all over the world and as we are a small institution with about 2,500 full-time students, our teachers are able to focus on individuals and help them achieve academic success.

For most students this is the first time away from home, and Coleg Menai is a great starting point if you need to improve your confidence with English language, gain the necessary academic skills or just get used to living in a different country.

We have a dedicated, experienced team who work hard to ensure you have an enjoyable and positive experience.

During the year, we organise local trips and you can also join clubs and societies at our partner institution, Bangor University which will help you feel more at home!

We look forward to welcoming you to Coleg Menai soon!

**Dafydd Evans,**  
Principal & Chief Executive

## BANGOR & THE SURROUNDING AREA:

Coleg Menai is located in Bangor, the City of Learning. This small city has a university and a vibrant student population. There are over 80 nationalities represented in Bangor, so no doubt you will make friends with people from all around the world, as well as the local residents.



### CULTURE:

There are good facilities for cultural and religious needs of international students. There are churches of a range of denominations and a Mosque.

### NIGHTLIFE:

Due to the high number of students in the city, you can entertain yourself at the weekend in one of the many bars, pubs, restaurants including the Bangor University Student Union. As it is a small city, it is a safe place and has one of the lowest crime rates in the UK.

### STUDENT LIFE:

You will be studying with UK students where many will be also preparing for university. This means you will be discussing, debating and working together in groups of international and UK students so you can make new friends and improve your English language more. This means you will be much more prepared for life at a UK university.

### APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIMES:

<b>LONDON:</b>	3½ hours
<b>MANCHESTER:</b>	2 hours
<b>LIVERPOOL:</b>	2 hours
<b>CHESTER:</b>	1 hour
<b>DUBLIN:</b>	2 hours

### SPORTS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Coleg Menai is close to Snowdonia which is well known for its outdoor activities. There are opportunities for:

- Sailing
- Abseiling
- Surfing
- Caving
- Kite-surfing
- Coastal walks
- Rock-climbing
- Canoeing
- Diving
- Windsurfing
- Hiking & Camping
- Bird-watching & dolphin spotting

### HISTORY:

Bangor, is home to Bangor University, a long established university founded in 1884. Bangor is a cosmopolitan place to live and has all the amenities of a university city. At the heart of the city is a museum, art gallery and the ancient St Deiniol's Cathedral.

In the surrounding area, you will find some of the most magnificent castles in the world such as Caernarfon Castle which is a World Heritage Site.

### SHOPPING:

Bangor has one of the longest high streets in Wales where you can find national chain stores such as Marks and Spencer, Debenhams and Boots or small boutiques. There are also Halal shops and a Chinese supermarket. Of course, you could choose to spend a day shopping in major cities such as Chester, Manchester or Liverpool which are a short distance away.

## FACILITIES AND CAMPUSES: First class facilities for your specialist subjects

We can help you achieve academic success with state-of-the-art facilities and friendly and supportive staff. The college is a state funded college which is regularly assessed by government inspectors to ensure we deliver quality education. The college has been awarded the Wales Quality Award Overall Prize and the Beacon Award for the use of Information Technology.

### MAIN SITE, BANGOR:

This is home to specialised learning facilities for Business Management, Engineering, Sport, Leisure and Travel, as well as the International Centre. There is also a major Learning and Resources centre and Learner Services suite, where students can access the full range of services to support them in the academic and personal aspects of coming to college.

### FRIARS, BANGOR

(LOCATED OPPOSITE THE MAIN BANGOR SITE):

Programmes in Catering, Hospitality, Tourism and Hair and Beauty are based in Bangor's historic Friars building, now equipped for 21st century learning. The state-of-the-art facilities include a fully licensed training restaurant and kitchen; student run coffee shop; and well equipped training salons and treatment areas. These first class services are open to the public.

### LLANGEFNI, ANGLESEY:

The campus provides education and training in Automotive Engineering, Energy, Health and Social Care, Media and Information Technology. The college's nationally important Food Technology Centre is also located on this campus alongside the Construction Skills Centre, the largest construction training facility of its kind in Wales.

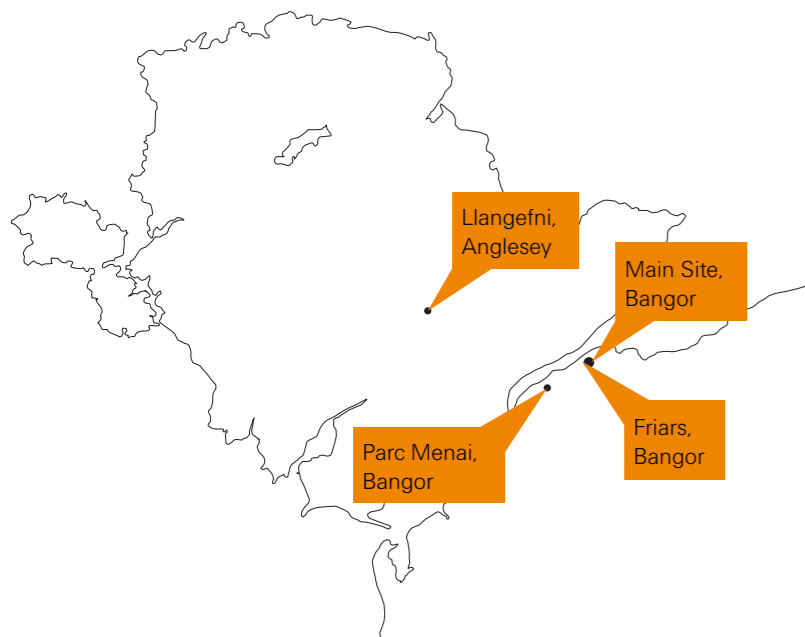
### PARC MENAI, BANGOR:

Coleg Menai's Art and Design Centre is based at Parc Menai. The Art and Design programmes develop talents in a range of artistic fields and also offer training in specialisms like Graphic Design, Illustration, Animation, Fashion and Textiles, Photography and Ceramics.

### FACILITIES

Whatever your course at Coleg Menai, you can take advantage of the excellent facilities and student support services:

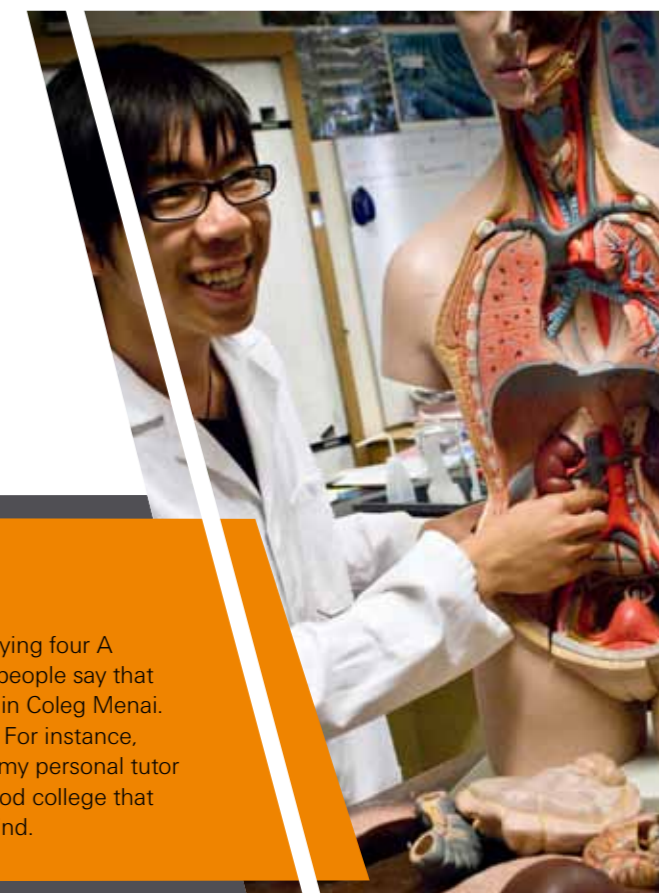
- Library and Resource Centre
- IT Open Access Centres
- Careers Centre and Advisers
- Hair and Beauty Salons
- Restaurant, Canteen and Coffee Shop
- Sports Centre
- Student Union
- Stationery Shop



## LIAM LAU

### A LEVEL STUDENT

My name is Chun Hang Lau but I like to be called Liam. I am studying four A Level subjects in Coleg Menai as an international student. Some people say that international students are not given support but it is not the case in Coleg Menai. I get help from my friends, my tutors and the international officer. For instance, the international officer helped me to get my driving licence and my personal tutor assisted me to finish my personal statement. Coleg Menai is a good college that provides excellent education and the members of staff are very kind.



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT – HERE FOR YOU!

There is an experienced team of staff to help you have an enjoyable and successful time at Coleg Menai. We can help you with:

- Personal Tutorials
- English language support
- Immigration & visa extensions
- Opening bank accounts
- Travel overseas
- Local transport
- Registering with a Doctor
- Accommodation
- General welfare issues
- Career & progression advice
- Counselling



### ACCOMMODATION:

There are a range of accommodation options available to you.

#### FAMILY HOME STAY

Learn more about the Welsh way of life whilst improving your English. Local families accommodate students in their homes and normally provide bed and breakfast plus an evening meal. As an international student in Bangor, you can be sure of a warm, friendly Welsh welcome. The average cost is £90 per week.

#### PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

Bangor is a university city with a number of rented properties available to you. Prices vary but expect to pay an average of £55-£60 per week for a single room, shared kitchen and bathroom. Bills are extra.

#### HALLS OF RESIDENCE

It may be possible to arrange accommodation in Private Halls of Residence accommodation in Bangor. Students who apply to study through Bangor University at HND or Foundation level, may be offered accommodation in their Halls of Residence. These are located a short walk from the college. The halls are self-catering with shared facilities. For more information on either of these options, contact the International Office.

### HOW TO APPLY:

1. Complete the International student application form and return it to Coleg Menai. Please send English translations of your school certificates and any other documents to support your application.
2. We will process your application quickly. If you are accepted onto a course, you will be sent an offer letter. If you are not accepted onto your chosen course, we will send you suggestions of other suitable courses.
3. If you decide to accept our offer, please return the acceptance form with your deposit in order to secure your place. The deposit forms part of your course fees.
4. When we receive your acceptance letter and deposit, we will send you the Confirmation of Acceptance for Sponsorship (CAS), which you will need to apply for a Tier 4 Student Visa. This can only be used within 3 months of the start date of your course.
5. When your visa has been accepted, please inform us immediately. We will then be able to organise accommodation and airport transfers.
6. When you arrive you will be given an induction to the college and Bangor. You will be helped to open a bank account, police registration and anything else you may need. A personal tutor will also be assigned to you.

If you have any further questions about the application process or college courses, please contact us! The college also has representatives in different countries. Please contact the International Office for further information.

Email: [international@menai.ac.uk](mailto:international@menai.ac.uk)  
Tel: **+44 (0)1248 383310** Or **+44 (0)1248 370125**



## COURSES

The college offers a wide range of exciting and challenging programmes at different levels. If you are unsure which level to apply for, please see the diagram below of UK qualifications and progression pathways. Alternatively please ask the International Office for individual country entry requirements.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

**LEVEL 3:** minimum IELTS 5.5, Cambridge FCE Grade C or TOEFL equivalent

**LEVEL 4:** minimum IELTS 6 Cambridge CAE or TOEFL equivalent

**PLEASE NOTE** English language support is available and can be arranged to support your needs.

## UK QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED:

### LEVEL 3

#### A & AS LEVELS:

The courses are usually taken over 2 years. If you are a strong candidate, you could take it over 1 year. You can choose from a wide range of academic subjects. On successful completion, you will then be able to progress to an undergraduate degree programme at a UK university or onto a Level 4 course at Coleg Menai.

#### EXTENDED DIPLOMAS:

These are an alternative to the traditional A Level route and are taken over 2 years. The programmes are vocational qualifications which are equivalent to 3 A Levels. You can then progress onto an undergraduate degree programme at a UK university or onto a Level 4 course at Coleg Menai.

#### INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMMES:

These programmes are 1 year courses which bridge the gap between the qualifications you have and those you need to progress onto an undergraduate degree course in the UK. These programmes include subject knowledge and English language tuition if required. (open to non-EU students only)

### LEVEL 4

#### HND:

Higher National Diplomas (HND) are Higher Education academic courses designed to train students to work at a professional level. HNDs are taken over 2 years and a further 1 or 2 years at a UK university of your choice to achieve a full Honours Degree.

#### FOUNDATION DEGREE:

Foundation Degrees are designed to meet work skills for certain industries at a professional level. Foundation Degrees are 2 years, with a further year to achieve an Honours Degree at university.

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# SUBJECT GUIDE

## AS AND A LEVELS:

Entry Requirement 6 - GCSE A\*- C equivalent qualifications, with specific grades required for certain subjects, plus IELTS 5.5 or equivalent. You can study 3 or 4 of the following:

- Accounting
- Information & Communication Technology
- Art
- Law
- Biology
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Media Studies
- Music Technology
- Drama
- Photography
- Physical Education
- English Language & Literature
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- History

## EXTENDED DIPLOMA – LEVEL 3:

Entry Requirement - 4 GCSE A\*- C or equivalent qualifications, plus IELTS 5.5 or equivalent.

- Business
- Information Technology
- Health and Social Care
- Childcare - Learning and Development
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical/Electronics
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Sport - Performance and Excellence
- Sport - Development and Fitness
- Sport - Outdoor Adventure
- Public Services
- Travel and Tourism
- Hospitality
- Art and Design
- Creative Media
- Media Production
- Applied Science - Forensic Science

## INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION PROGRAMMES

This course is based on the QAA recognised Access to Higher Education Diploma. It provides international students with the opportunity to learn new skills and qualifications to gain entry onto a UK university degree course.

There are 4 pathways:

- International Foundation – Access to Science
- International Foundation – Access to Social Science
- International Foundation – Access to Health
- International Foundation – Access to Psychology

The Foundation programme is designed to enable students to gain knowledge in their subject specialism for university entry, as well as improve their English language and IELTS score. Students will study up to 21 hours per week.

**IN ADDITION TO YOUR CHOSEN SUBJECT PATHWAY, YOU WILL RECEIVE:**

- English Language
- IELTS preparation

**WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?**

**ENGLISH:** Minimum IELTS 5.5 in all components, Cambridge FCE Grade C or TOEFL equivalent.

**ACADEMIC:** Students must have successfully completed a high school diploma or equivalent and had 12 years of schooling and hold a school leaving certificate in relevant subjects. Copies of your school results and English Test results must be sent with your application.

**MINIMUM AGE:** 18 years old

**HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

There will be a variety of assessment methods, testing all your skills and knowledge, e.g. written assignments, oral presentations, group work, listening tasks, discussions, debates, classroom contribution, formal written exams, etc.

**WHAT QUALIFICATION WILL I RECEIVE AT THE END OF THE COURSE?**

At the end of the course you will receive the QAA Access to Higher Education Diploma. This will list the modules you have taken and the grades you achieved. All modules are externally assessed and marked. If required you will also have prepared for examination and can be entered for the IELTS exam.

**WHAT NEXT?**

You can continue onto a HND course at Coleg Menai International. Part Scholarships are offered to students who continue their studies at the college. You are free to apply to any university that accepts 'Access' in their entry requirements for their degree programmes. The Programme is recognised by Bangor University.

## FULL-TIME ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMME:

The English Language Programmes are for students of all ages, over 16 years. You can study from elementary to advanced level. One attraction of Coleg Menai English Language Programmes, is that you will study with students from the local area, from European Countries, as well as from other parts of the world.

- We can offer English Language courses at all levels to government sponsored international students who apply for either a Tier 4 or Student Visit visa or who hold a Dependant visa.
- Self funded international students may be limited by the level set by the UK Border Agency.
- You can choose from 2 types of English language courses which will be for a minimum of 16 hours, up to 25 hours per week.

### GENERAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

- This is for students who want to learn more about working and living in the UK and develop their general English language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students work towards International ESOL exams (English for speakers of other languages). The main courses run from September to June, and students can start during the year. There is also a general English Summer School in July.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Students need to have a basic understanding of English language. We offer classes from Elementary to Advanced level.

### PRE-SESSIONAL ACADEMIC ENGLISH PROGRAMME (IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BANGOR UNIVERSITY)

- This course will help you develop the skills you need for study at undergraduate or post-graduate level at a UK university or other Higher Education provider. Successful completion of the Coleg Menai programmes at advanced level leads to progression to Bangor University courses.
- The programme is timetabled for 22 hours with additional guided self-study. Courses run from September to July and from July to September (the summer pre-session programme). Student with appropriate entrance qualifications many join the course in January.

### YOUR STUDIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Academic English
- IELTS preparation
- Communication skills in an academic context – presentations, seminars
- Study skills
- General English and conversation skills
- Cultural Studies with trips to local places of interest

Assessment is through an internal end of course examination with the option of IELTS.

### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Academic qualifications that would qualify you for entry to Higher Education

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS:

September entry - minimum IELTS 4.5  
January entry - minimum IELTS 5  
April entry - minimum IELTS 5.5  
(with minimum 5.5 in reading and writing).



**VISA INFORMATION:** Depending on your level of English, you may have to apply as a student visitor. Please contact the International Office for more information.

Coleg Menai, International Office,  
Learner Services, Ffriddoedd Road,  
Bangor, LL57 2TP, United Kingdom.

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