



US Financial Aid Default Management Plan

Bangor University

Bangor University has in place a default management plan to ensure that students taking out US Financial Aid are aware of their repayment responsibilities during their studies and upon graduation.

Entrance Counselling

All first-time borrowers eligible for loans under the Direct Loan program are required to undertake entrance counselling. Entrance Counselling is undertaken as part of the FAFSA process. The University satisfies itself that all students applying for US Financial Aid have undertaken entrance counselling prior to originating the loan. During entrance counselling, students are advised of

- What a *Direct Loan* is and how the loan process works
- Terms of their loan and importance of repayment
- Managing their educational expenses
- Other financial resources to consider to help them for their education
- Their rights and responsibilities as a borrower

Financial Awareness

Bangor University recommends that students only borrow what they need; it is not a requirement to borrow the maximum available loans. In turn, all students should make themselves aware of the repayment obligations of the loans they intend to borrow, prior to confirming which loans they wish to borrow. Students should also acknowledge their loan history at the end of each academic year.

Furthermore, students are advised:

- How and when students will receive their loan
- How much students should expect to receive
- Disbursement conditions
- Cancellation Policy
- Loan origination charges
- When and how Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is confirmed
- What happens if students do not make Satisfactory Academic Progress

Prior to each loan payment date, students receive a confirmation letter indicating payment details and payment date. The letter confirms the total amount requested per loan type, how and when those funds will be disbursed along with reminders of their 'right to cancel.'

Early Identification and Counselling for Students at risk of Withdrawal

Bangor University recognizes the importance of monitoring student attendance to ensure that it continues to meet its duty of care to its students and with a view of retaining those students. The University has an Attendance and Engagement Policy which is applied by all Schools and Colleges in order to help identify absences from timetabled teaching sessions.

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/governance-and-compliance/policy-register/documents/Attendance-Engagement-Policy-v4-Sept20.pdf>

The Attendance and Engagement Policy is complemented by the support systems the University has in place to assist students who are at risk of withdrawing.

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/student-services/>

Bangor University has a responsibility to identify and report students who have withdrawn from their studies, including those taking a temporary leave of absence, within 45 days of the date the student is determined to have withdrawn. Further information on how the withdrawal date is calculated and how a withdrawal can affect Federal Aid eligibility can be found within the [University's Return to Title IV \(R2T4\) Policy](#).

Students considering withdrawing or taking a break from their studies are encouraged to follow the guidelines listed on the [Student Services website](#) including discussing their personal circumstances with their supervisor and/or a member of the University's Support and Advice Team. Any changes may affect a student's Tier 4 visa status, if applicable, and therefore, it is strongly recommended that students seek [Immigration advice](#) before making their final decision.

Communication

Students are directed to the University's US Federal Loan webpage which displays consumer information: information required to be disclosed, the SAP policy; the return of Title VI funds policy and information on Default Management

Borrowers' academic progress and enrolment status are held on the central student record system, it is accessible by all relevant offices across campus including the offices that disburse funds and authorize payments. Up to date contact information for both the student and next of kin is obtained from students at enrolment.

Students are required to review and update their contact information annually as part of the enrolment process and are also advised of the importance of keeping their contact details up to date during the loan application process.

Student contact details are checked against the details recorded in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and is updated accordingly.

Satisfactory Academic progress (SAP)

Prior to each US Federal Loan disbursement, SAP is reviewed, and Schools provide evidence to verify student attendance and progress. The policy can be found [here](#).

Timely and Accurate Enrolment Reporting

Bangor University will ensure that accurate information on enrolments including updates is reported every 30 days on the NSLDS website. This ensures any changes that occur between rosters are reported to the Department of Education promptly.

Exit Counselling

All students in receipt of US Direct Loans are advised of the benefits of completing exit counselling annually. Students are directed to <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/> to complete this process

Students are requested to confirm to the US Loans Officer that they have completed exit counselling.

