



# HATS OFF TO OUR MBA WINNERS

This summer saw the graduation of the first set of Chartered Banker MBA students from Bangor University's Business School. The 40 graduates leave with a unique dual accreditation and a holistic perspective on sustainable banking.

The sun shone brightly on Bangor University on Thursday, 18 July, as family and friends gathered to witness the graduation of the first intake of Chartered Banker MBA students. Of the 40 graduates, 26 attended the graduation ceremony – besides those based in the UK, foreign students had travelled from as far as Sri Lanka, Malawi and Barbados to receive their degree certificates in person.

Afterwards, everyone gathered at the Management Centre at Bangor Business School, home of the MBA, for a reception

hosted by the Chief Executive of the Chartered Banker Institute, Simon Thompson, along with Programme Director Professor Ted Gardener and Professor John Thornton, Head of Bangor Business School.

The celebratory reception was a fitting end to all the hard work, and provided the opportunity for students to catch up with one another and celebrate their achievements in the company of their



*FRAIN  
Best Overall  
Student*



**MARTIN**  
Best Student in  
Professional  
Ethics

nearest and dearest. Particularly delighted with the outcome were the prize-winners named at the reception – Alan Frain received the prize for Best Overall Student, and Brian Martin was named Best Student in Professional Ethics.

Simon Thompson, Chief Executive of the Institute, says: "It was a proud moment for me to see our first Chartered Banker MBA graduates receive their degrees. They are the

first of a new generation of banking leaders who will lead the re-professionalisation of banking in the UK and around the world."

Director of the Chartered Banker MBA programme, Professor Ted Gardener, adds: "We are delighted with our first graduation from this prestigious programme. Our Chartered Banker MBA graduates are a fine testimony to the quality and practical relevance of this initiative in global banking."

#### **GOLD STANDARD**

This summer's graduation marked the conclusion of a successful first intake for the unique Chartered Banker MBA programme in conjunction with Bangor University's highly regarded Business School. Since its inception in 2011, over 200 students from more than 70 banks – including all the UK's major players – have enrolled in the innovative programme.

The only banking qualification in the world combining an MBA with Chartered Banker status, it is aimed at managers and executives in banks and financial services organisations who wish to deepen their knowledge and understanding, and who would like to acquire the practical skills to cope with changes in the ever-evolving financial services sector.

It covers the usual MBA disciplines such as marketing, human resources and strategic management alongside more specialised topical ones, such as risk, credit and lending, financial crises and regulation. The focus of the content is practical, contemporary and holistic, and responds directly to the increasing global demand to develop and sustain responsible professionalism in global banking.

The programme is designed to suit the lives of busy professionals. It uses a blended learning approach – combining face-to-face teaching and online seminars and tutorials – that gives students the flexibility to fit their studies around their work commitments. Exemptions for up to 50 per cent of the programme can be provided to holders of professional banking qualifications, and the degree can be completed in two years.

The resulting qualification is a unique dual award of an MBA in banking and finance as well as coveted Chartered Banker status. It is rightfully considered the gold standard for senior bankers, managers and executives in

the sector – whether existing or aspiring.

The learning experience does not end at graduation – with a dedicated LinkedIn group, alumni are encouraged to continue discussions and networking with their fellow students.

Top ethics student Brian Martin, who is Head of Risk at the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, said of the course: "Our industry is changing at a faster than ever pace and it can be tricky keeping up, never mind getting ahead. The course helped me to keep my personal development aligned with the most important aspects out there.


"As a 'mature' manager, it was good to have my own assumptions and experience challenged or validated with academic rigour, and robust but friendly peer reviews. The study schedule was tough to juggle with work priorities, of course, but the support from tutors and fellow students meant that motivation remained high."

Overall prize-winner Alan Frain, Senior

Director, Acquisition Finance at Lloyds Banking Group, added: "The course was hard work but very rewarding. Combining study with a day job in banking brought the subject matter alive for me and really helped to develop my views on the competitive landscape and strategic challenges facing my own employer. I now

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feel more informed across a wider spectrum of business and strategic issues, which has helped me in the leadership aspects of my current role.

"The dynamic nature of the business and regulatory environment ensured that assignments were always relevant and focused on cutting-edge developments. The support provided by Bangor University was first class, with the lecturers demonstrating a real desire to support the students in getting to grips with the subject matter. For those looking to progress to managerial positions within banking or the wider financial services community, the Chartered Banker MBA is a course that I would thoroughly recommend." 

*For more information about the Chartered Banker MBA at Bangor University, see [www.charteredbankermba.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.charteredbankermba.bangor.ac.uk) and for admissions enquiries, email [charteredbankermba@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:charteredbankermba@bangor.ac.uk) or tel. 01248 365 966.*