



Bedford College Enquiries & Guidance Service

Statement of Service

Aim of the Service

It is the aim of Bedford College's Enquiries & Guidance team to provide information, advice and guidance which supports you in making choices about learning and work.

How can we help?

The Enquiries & Guidance service at Bedford College offers:

- information on the full range of courses at Bedford College as well as opportunities elsewhere
- advice on choosing the course which is best for you
- information on what the courses involve including how to apply, course content, entry requirements and assessment
- information about what you could do at the end of your course
- information about the financial implications of your choice of course, including fees and other costs, and the support which might be available
- the opportunity to be referred for a guidance interview with a careers adviser
- information on, and access to, a range of specialist student support services, including child care.

Who can use the service?

The service is open to anyone considering studying at Bedford College or wanting to find out about the options available.

How can you contact the service?

You can contact the service by calling in at our centre on the ground floor of the Tower Block at the main College site, or telephoning 0800 074 0234. You can also e-mail us at enquiries@bedford.ac.uk.

Enquiries can be dealt with by an Enquiries & Guidance Adviser, without an appointment, between the following times:

Monday–Thursday	8.30 am–5.00 pm
Friday	8.30 am–4.30 pm

An information service is available in the evenings, Monday to Thursday until 6.45 pm. If you need more in-depth advice or guidance, an adviser will contact you. Other times may be available by arrangement; please ring to check.

For a more in-depth discussion about your next steps in learning and work you can make an appointment with our careers adviser by contacting the Enquiries & Guidance team as above, or by ringing the Student Services Helpdesk on 01234 291934.

What can you expect from us?

We will:

- provide a friendly, courteous, free service
- give information, advice and guidance that is impartial and in your best interest
- respond to your initial enquiry within one working day
- send out information within three working days
- seek to ensure that you are provided with equality of opportunity, treatment and respect
- offer you a private interview room should you wish to discuss matters of a confidential nature, and operate in accordance with our confidentiality policy
- contact you as soon as possible in the event of our having to cancel your appointment due to staff illness, and offer you an alternative appointment within five working days.

Bedford College is committed to the promotion and development of equality and diversity. We aim to provide a working and learning environment which values individuals equally regardless of age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religious belief or trade union membership.

Your enquiry will be dealt with in accordance with our policies on equality and diversity, disability and race equality, and any information, advice or guidance we provide will not be influenced by your background or situation.

Copies of our equality and diversity, confidentiality and other policies are available on request or from our website at www.bedford.ac.uk.

What do we expect from you?

In turn, we would ask that you treat staff and other users of the service with respect. If you have made an appointment and are unable to attend please let us know.

What happens next?

If you decide that you are interested in following a course at Bedford College, we will arrange for you to have an interview with a course tutor or to enrol, as appropriate.

We also have contacts with a number of external organisations, including other learning providers, and can refer you to them if you decide that college is not for you, or if they can help you better than we can.

Our quality commitment

The service regularly obtains feedback from its clients and you may be asked to complete a brief questionnaire or respond to a telephone survey. This information is used to help us improve the service we offer.

The College also has a complaints procedure. If you are unhappy with any aspect of the service we have provided, please contact the Student Services Help Desk on 01234 291934. If we are unable to resolve the problem informally, we will advise you how to register a formal complaint, which will then be brought to the attention of the appropriate manager.

The service abides by the requirements of the College Charter and the Code of Principles of the National Board for Information, Advice and Guidance – copies are available on request.

Our Enquiries & Guidance staff are experienced, and/or hold, or are working towards, appropriate qualifications in guidance or customer service.

How can the service help people with particular needs?

The service is accessible for wheelchair users and it may be possible to arrange for a BSL interpreter to be available at your guidance interview. Please let us know beforehand if you have any special requirements – we will make every effort to meet them.

If you think you may need extra help to complete your course, we will also arrange for you to speak to our Additional Support Adviser.

The College has a disability policy which outlines the range of support available. Copies are available from Student Services or via the website.

Information about the College, including this leaflet, is available in large print format. Audio versions of our prospectuses are also available.

Supporting documentation

This Statement of Service is supported by the following documents, all of which are available on request:

- College Charter
- Disability Policy and Disability Equality Scheme
- Complaints Procedure
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Race Equality Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- 'What Happens in a Guidance Interview?' leaflet
- National IAG Board Code of Principles.

Information updated January 2007