

SUPPORT SERVICES

We are committed to providing a positive and supportive environment for all our students. We offer a comprehensive support programme to help our students achieve their potential.

Services include:

- a **personal Tutor** - learners can monitor their achievements
- **online record of achievement** - which parents and carers can view. Log in details for eTrackr will be given during induction
- **learning support and assessments** - for students with learning difficulties
- **Study Coaches** - for support with essay writing, research, referencing and University applications
- **careers advice** - through our Careers + Employment Service
- **Student Mentors** - help with any personal worries
- a **chaplancy** - meetings and activities for all students, whatever their faith
- **equality and diversity** - a series of activities to develop students' understanding
- **Help & Advice Service** - an impartial service from the Students' Union to help learners with personal worries
- **safeguarding** - a series of activities to promote staying safe at College
- **Student Wellbeing Service** - for confidential health and wellbeing advice
- **English and Maths** - support as part of the study programme, based on GCSE grades achieved.

For more information please visit:
www.blc.ac.uk/student-handbook

TRANSPORT

It's really easy to get to us from Stoke-on-Trent, High Peak and Derbyshire, Stockport, Macclesfield and Staffordshire Moorlands.

There are public bus services that serve both our Campuses.
For Buxton visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/public_transport
For Leek visit: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/publictransport/buses

We offer a service from Buxton, Ashbourne, Alton and Cheadle to Leek. There are various stops in each location. We also provide an intercampus minibus service for certain courses. For the villages and towns around the High Peak, our students can hop onto the Unibus service we provide. Discounted and subsidised bus passes are available for our students in Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Various funding schemes are available to support students whilst they study. We can help students make sure they get the funding they are entitled to. **UK or EU students, under 19 when they start their course, don't pay tuition fees.** However, they may be required to pay for equipment and resources.

This information will be given to students as part of their induction pack which they will receive between May and August. Students over 19 will need to pay either the full tuition fee or a subsidised tuition fee, depending on their circumstances. For Apprentices over 19, their training may incur a fee to their employer.

Funding schemes in place to help support learners include:

- **The Financial Support Fund** - help towards the cost of a uniform, equipment or transport if you have a low household income
- **£1,200 bursary** - for learners in care, care leavers or disabled learners
- **free College meals** - for eligible learners, usually if they received them at school
- **Care to Learn** - for those under 20 to support with childcare costs
- **childcare funding** - a means tested benefit for those under 20 who need support with childcare

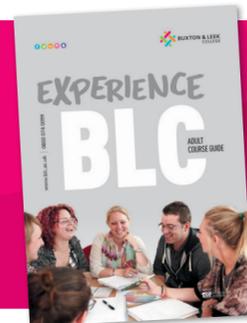
For more information on funding support call us on **0800 074 0099** or visit: www.blc.ac.uk/courses/fees.

Please note: Schemes listed have eligibility criteria and may be subject to change in line with Government policy. See our website for changes.

SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to promoting wellbeing and making sure that our students feel secure and safe. Students will be given lots of advice at College so that they know how to manage their own safety and our Safeguarding Co-ordinators are available to support and address any concerns.

There is pay and display and street parking close to both Campuses and a train station within walking distance from our Buxton Campus which runs trains to and from Manchester and Stockport. For more information on transport and how to purchase bus passes visit: www.blc.ac.uk/transport



EXPERIENCE LEARNING AT ANY AGE

Download a copy of our **adult course guide** from the website to see how our convenient, part time courses can help you enhance your career, learn new skills or even get back into work.



GET IN TOUCH

Call **0800 074 0099**
or visit www.blc.ac.uk
Email: enquiries@blc.ac.uk

Dial 18001 before our number if you're using Text Relay

Leek Campus
Stockwell Street,
Leek, ST13 6DP

Buxton Campus
1 Devonshire Road,
Buxton, SK17 6RY

Derby Campus
Kedleston Road,
Derby, DE22 1GB

Specialist Training Centre
Unit 28, Harpur Hill Business Park,
Buxton, SK17 9JL

Part of
 UNIVERSITY
of DERBY



HOW TO APPLY

It's easy visit:
www.blc.ac.uk/apply

Alternatively, request an application form by calling us on **0800 074 0099**, emailing enquiries@blc.ac.uk or by calling in to one of our Campuses to pick up a form.

- Once we receive the application our Admissions Team will be in touch to invite the learner for an interview
- If this goes well we'll offer them a place on a course
- We'll send enrolment and induction instructions during the Summer
- All new students will be invited to an Experience Day in July, where they'll meet their Tutors and other students starting at the same time.

OPEN DAYS

At an Open Day students can get a real taste for College life with interactive sessions from their chosen subject and a tour of our fantastic facilities. Open Days take place at both Buxton and Leek Campuses on a Saturday from 10am-2pm.

ADVICE EVENINGS

Find out more about our courses, come and meet our friendly Tutors and chat to some of our current students. Advice Evenings are held on Wednesday at our Leek Campus and Thursday at our Buxton Campus and run from 5pm-8pm.

BOOK NOW

For dates and to book a place on an **Open Day** or an **Advice Evening** visit:
www.blc.ac.uk or call 0800 074 0099.

PARENT AND CARER'S GUIDE TO...



COLLEGE LIFE

The BLC experience is about being encouraged and challenged to try new things, broaden horizons and become more confident. We offer career focused courses and a huge range of extra activities, qualifications and experiences that young people can get involved in to make sure they are equipped for the real working world. Plus our facilities replicate that found in industry, helping to prepare learners for their future careers.

A College environment is very different to school and, under the guidance of Tutors and our support staff, we provide learners with:

- more independence
- the chance to manage their own time
- the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends
- the vital skills and knowledge to make them more employable and prepared for their future.

LEARN THEIR WAY

Everyone learns differently so students can choose a study method that suits them

MASSIVE CHOICE

Over **220** career-focused courses across **19** subject areas

GET STUCK IN

Engaging work placements mean students leave College work ready, with skills that make young people more attractive to employers

REAL WORLD LEARNING

Classrooms are great but there's nothing like learning in a room which has all the same equipment and facilities that young people will find when they go on work experience or find a job

GO FURTHER



Learners can continue the experience and take advantage of us being part of the University of Derby, a Guardian Top 50 University

OPEN DOORS

We are proud of our strong links to local businesses and employers

BE INSPIRED

Students learn from Tutors who've had successful careers in the industries they now teach

Gary Hammond, Hospitality & Catering Tutor

BUILD CONFIDENCE

Belong to a friendly College that's big on student success and small enough to care



CHOOSING A COURSE

Young people now have more choice than ever when it comes to education and training options after their GCSEs. Although they have to stay in education or training until they're 18, it doesn't mean they have to stay at school. Here are some useful questions young people should consider...

WHAT TYPE OF QUALIFICATION IS RIGHT?

People learn in different ways. **Full time vocational qualifications**, such as BTECs, that are studied on Campus are ideal for those who like practical and hands on learning and know what career they would like to do. They are usually assessed through project based learning and by demonstrating the skills they are developing on the course, that employers in the industry require.

Apprenticeships allow learners to be in paid employment and work towards a qualification at the same time. Learners will attend College for one day a week. These are ideal if the young person would like to go straight into employment after school.

Traineeships are a progression route for those not quite ready for an Apprenticeship. Learners will develop essential skills in the workplace to progress onto an Apprenticeship or another course.

Our **A Level Pathways** programme is usually made up of 3 A Levels, which are specific to a career and will allow learners to progress onto University. These are usually classroom based with an element of work experience.

Foundation Services courses are designed for young people and adults with additional support needs. These courses help people develop personal skills, become more independent, learn skills to help with jobs or training and get involved in community projects.

WHAT LEVEL IS RIGHT?

We offer courses for all abilities and ambitions and even if learners don't do as well as they were expecting in their GCSEs, they can still continue onto College.

Entry Level

There are no formal entry requirements for these courses. Learners will have an informal interview and a short assessment to ensure they are on the right course for their ability. Courses at this level are designed for students who find learning more difficult.

Level 1

Students will usually need **GCSE English at grade D plus 3 GCSEs at grade E or above**. At this level students will learn a vocational subject and improve their Maths and English skills.

Level 2

Students will usually need **4 GCSEs grade D or above including Maths and English**. Science or ICT may be required for specific subjects or a Level 1 qualification. At Level 2 student will build skills and knowledge in a subject area, which link to a job.

Level 3

Students will usually need **5 GCSEs grade C or above including Maths and English**. Science or ICT may be required for specific subjects or a Level 2 qualification. At Level 3 students learn and apply more detailed knowledge and skills in a subject area, which link to a job.

WHAT CAREER WOULD THEY LIKE?

It's a good idea to encourage research into particular careers and higher level courses to see what qualifications, skills and experience is expected for successful progression.

The National Careers Service can provide lots of useful information and guidance. Visit: www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk Or you can give our friendly Information, Advice and Guidance staff a call on **0800 074 0099** or email enquiries@blc.ac.uk



MUCH MORE THAN A COURSE

Our **Students' Union and Enrichment Teams** provide extensive opportunities to get involved with volunteering, social events, community work, sports clubs, fundraising, themed societies and extra qualifications, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.



THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Our full time learners' study programmes are tailored to the individual and are designed to support their learning and future progression.

These programmes include:

- a main qualification
- English and Maths
- work experience
- enrichment
- study support.

Our Apprentices' study programmes include:

- competence qualification
- English and Maths
- personal learning and thinking
- employment rights and responsibilities
- technical knowledge based certificate.



SETTLING IN

Choosing where to study after school can be a big decision for a young person and might mean big changes to their daily life. They will need to get to know their way around, meet new people, make new friends and get to know their Tutors. **We have various events and activities, to make the transition from school to College life as easy and enjoyable as possible.**

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Once students have applied and have been offered a place we'll send them **regular updates from the College**, current students and staff, so they can find out what we have been up to and get a real taste of College life. We're also on social media which is kept up to date with lots of fun and exciting news from the College.



THE IMPORTANT STUFF

Between May and August students will **receive all the important information they need to start their course in September**, including start dates, induction and enrolment details and things to buy like uniforms and bus passes.

EXPERIENCE DAY

All our new students, who have been offered a place, will be invited to our Experience Day in July. **Students will get involved with practical and fun taster sessions of the subject they have chosen**, meet other new students and their class mates as well as their Tutors. They will get a feel for what they will be doing when they start in September.

RESULTS DAY

We are available all day from **9am - 5pm on GCSE Results Day for anyone who wants to talk to us about their results**, either if they haven't achieved what they thought or if they have done better than expected. Students can pop onto Campus for a one-to-one appointment.

If students get the grades they needed for the course they have been offered, they don't need to confirm this to us. They will just need to bring their results statements on enrolment day.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment begins on GCSE results day. Students will receive a letter during the Summer giving the date and time that they will need to come into College to enrol, which will be the same time as all of the other students on their course.

INDUCTION

During their few weeks, students will have a **series of sessions to find out more about College life, support services, enrichment activities and the facilities**. They will also be involved in fun College-wide activities run by the Students' Union.

PARENT AND CARER CONTACT WEEK

In February, Parents and Carers will be invited into College to discuss the students' progress.