

Support for Care Leavers

Student Advice play a central role in coordinating support for care leavers who choose to study at BGU: This includes ensuring enhanced financial provision, assistance with accommodation related issues and helping students to engage with their studies as effectively as possible.

Disclosure of Care Leaver status

The University actively encourages care leavers to disclose their background using the opportunity on the UCAS application form, during the enrolment process or by asking their Care Leaving Service or Personal Adviser to make a disclosure on their behalf. It is also possible for disclosures to be made at any point in the student's studies, although an early disclosure is the best way of securing a comprehensive package of support.

Any disclosures of care leaver status will be treated sensitively and in accordance with data protection principles. This will ensure limited circulation of personal information while at the same time safe-guarding appropriate responses to the care leaver's needs.

Support Package

Any disclosures of care leaver status will be treated with the following services:

 **Availability of 365 day accommodation**

 **Enhanced financial support**

 **A named contact for any issues arising before or during your studies**

 **Confidential service**

Financial Support

Students who are care leavers can apply for an enhanced bursary of £3,600. If you wish to apply, you will need to provide details of your Leaving Care Service, or other relevant agency, in order to establish your eligibility for the bursary.

The enhanced bursary is designed to reduce the need for care leavers to take out student loans to cover their living costs, although they remain eligible to apply for the loans if they wish to. The BGU Bursary is payable alongside the funding provided by your funding body, e.g. Student Finance England (SFE).

Accommodation

Care leavers are a priority in the allocation of accommodation and 365 day accommodation will be guaranteed, providing the student's request for accommodation is timely.

We will ensure effective liaison for the continuation of existing foster care arrangements wherever possible.

Effective assistance will be given in securing private sector housing, if required, with housing rights advice available from the Student Advice Team.

Contact us

For more information about support for care leavers please contact Student Advice:

 E-mail:	studentadvice@bishopg.ac.uk
 Tel:	01522 583600
 Website:	www.bishopg.ac.uk/studentadvice
 Twitter:	@BGstudentadvice
Monday – Thursday:	8:30am-5:00pm
Friday:	8:30am-4:30pm

If you require this document in an alternative format, for example in large print, please contact Student Advice.