your future

BEDFORD COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY CENTRE
Part of The Bedford College Group



starts here

FURTHER EDUCATION PROSPECTUS

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Welcome
to Bedford College

Deciding what to do after your GCSEs is a big step and it's one that should feel exciting, not overwhelming. At Bedford College, we're here to support you every step of the way as you take your next big leap towards your future.

Whether you already know where you're headed or you're still exploring your options, this prospectus is designed to help you discover what's possible and what's right for you.

Your future starts here

From our modern facilities to strong employer links and career-focused programmes, everything we do is about helping you succeed. Whatever your ambitions, we're here to help you take that next step and make it count.

We can't wait to welcome you to Bedford College!

Why join us?

Wide range of subjects



Our vast range of study programmes and apprenticeships ensure you will find a career pathway you love, opening up more choices, opportunities and experiences.

Learn from the experts



Many of our tutors work, or have worked, in the industry they teach - what better way to learn about the real working world than from people who have experienced it.

Fantastic facilities



Train in industry-standard environments from workshops and studios to salons and labs.

Individual support



You will be individually assisted and supported throughout your college experience.

Work experience



Participate in the perfect work placement for you thanks to our links with thousands of top employers. This real-life, on-the-job experience will enhance your CV and prepare you for employment.

Guaranteed progression



All full-time students have the opportunity to progress through our levels from Level 1 up to degree level, supporting your development every step of the way.

*Subject to terms and conditions.

Fantastic education



Ofsted rates us 'Good', so you'll receive a high-quality education to support your success.

Discover your future at an Open day

Your next step after school is an important one. Visiting an Open day is the best way to explore your options and see what life at Bedford College is really like.

Whether you're considering a full-time study programme, an apprenticeship or just want to find out more, an Open day is the perfect place to start.

What to expect

- Explore the campus
- Meet the tutors
- Talk to current students
- Find the right study programme
- Apply on the day

Upcoming Open days

Saturday 14 November 2026
10:00am to 1:00pm

Saturday 30 January 2027
10:00am to 1:00pm

Thursday 29 April 2027
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Register today



Our campuses

Our campuses in Bedford and Kempston include:

Main Campus:
Bedford College, Cauldwell Street, Bedfordshire, MK42 9AH

Advanced Automotive Technology Centre:
Brunel Training Centre, Brunel Road, Bedford, MK41 9TJ

Brooks Hair & Beauty
85 High Street, Bedford, MK40 1NE

Find out more about our campuses
Scan the QR code



Our facilities

Advanced Automotive Technology Centre
Our automotive training facility is the ultimate environment to develop your skills. The centre is equipped with engine and repair bays, paint mix and spray rooms and a body repair area.

Brooks Hair & Beauty Salon
Our modern, commercial salon is home to our Hair & Beauty students. The salon is equipped with up-to-date equipment and has a modern and relaxing feel.

Buchanan Centre for Advanced Engineering
Our Advanced Engineering Centre houses analytical equipment, BIM software and robotics.

Connolly Centre for Modern Construction
The Connolly Centre for Modern Construction is a £4.3m facility dedicated to Modern Methods of Construction.
Premanufacturing homes and shipping them to a building site has been identified as the most efficient and cost-effective way of meeting the huge demand for housing, and the Centre provides this off-site construction training to meet the industry needs of the future.

Stansfeld Building
This beautiful building, in keeping with the historic streetscape, provides a specialist environment for students aged 16+ with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

LRC
Our LRC is the place for you to spend time studying outside of classes, with spaces for both individual and group study, and over 30,000 resources.
You can also access computers or make use of our free WiFi.

Live Lounge
The hub of the college community - this room is your dedicated space to relax between classes.

Munch & Mocha
Our restaurant and coffee shop are the ideal place to debate your last class over a coffee or savour a delicious lunch with friends.

Parking
Limited student parking is available with a student parking permit.

South Bank Arts Centre
This impressive building includes graphic design suites, photography suites, art rooms, fashion and textile workshops, music technology and recording studios, video studios, a dance studio and studio theatre.

Technology Block
Home to our electrical installation and mechanical engineering.



Getting to college

Our locations in Bedford are easily accessible by bus, foot, bike, car and train.

Bus

To view the most up-to-date bus timetables and plan your journey visit: www.stagecoachbus.com and www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/public-transport/bus-timetables-and-maps

Stagecoach

Bedford Borough Council

Train

Bedford's mainline station is a 15 minute walk from our Cauldwell Street campus and Brooks Hair & Beauty Salon. Bedford St Johns station is only five minutes from our Cauldwell Street campus. The nearest station to our Kempston campus is Kempston Hardwick which is served hourly by the Marston Vale line* between Bletchley and Bedford.

*Please check with rail provider for details.

Car

Limited student parking is available at our Cauldwell Street campus with a student permit. Our Kempston campus has free on-road parking, with easy access to Woburn Road Industrial Estate just off the major A421 road.

Bike

There are bike racks at our Cauldwell Street campus, Kempston campus and Brunel Road sites.

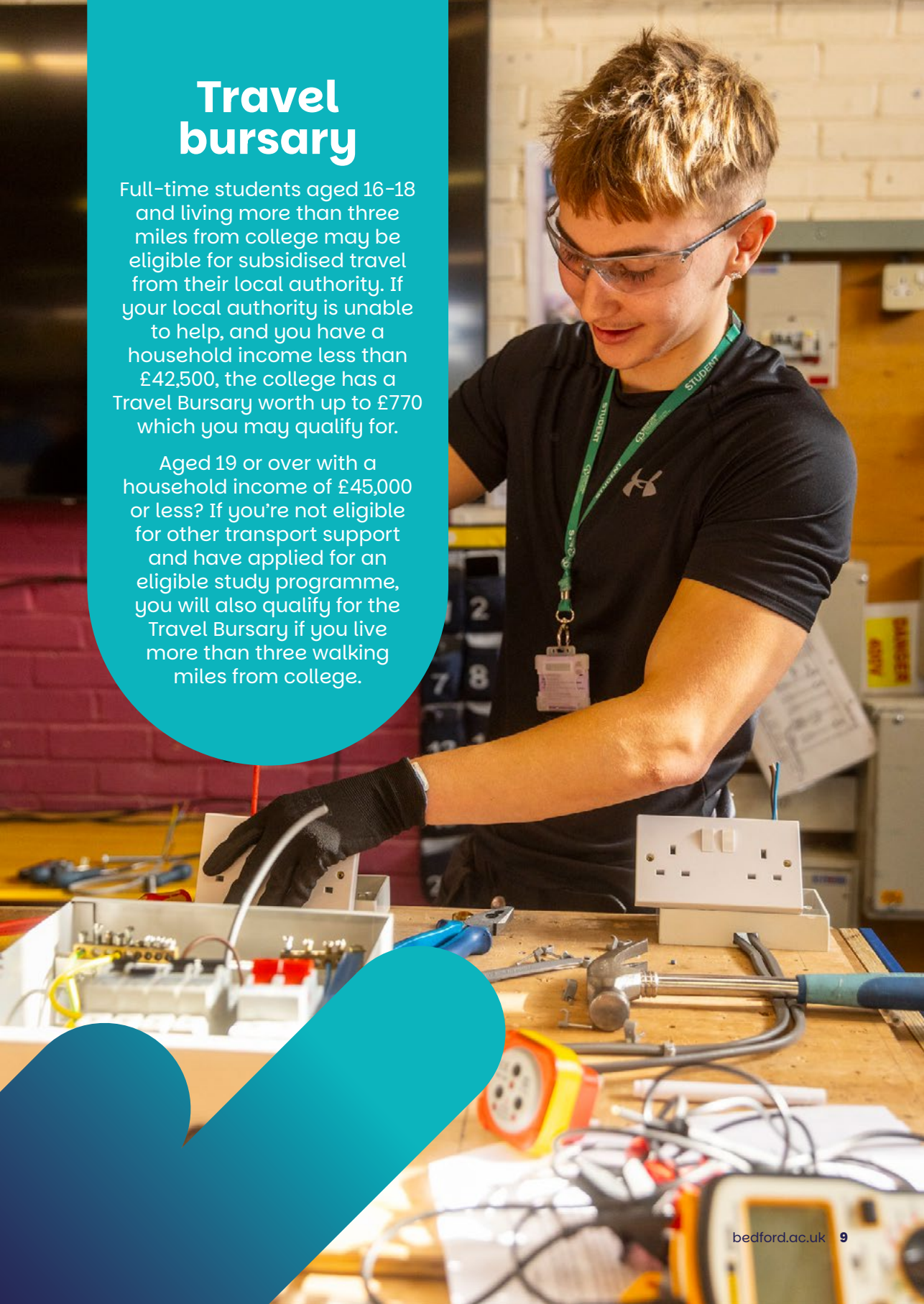
Worried about travel costs?

Scan the QR code

Travel bursary

Full-time students aged 16-18 and living more than three miles from college may be eligible for subsidised travel from their local authority. If your local authority is unable to help, and you have a household income less than £42,500, the college has a Travel Bursary worth up to £770 which you may qualify for.

Aged 19 or over with a household income of £45,000 or less? If you're not eligible for other transport support and have applied for an eligible study programme, you will also qualify for the Travel Bursary if you live more than three walking miles from college.



Fees & funding

If you are a school leaver aged 16-18 on 31 August 2027, the study programmes in this prospectus are FREE.*

Other financial support

You may have to pay for specialist textbooks, uniforms or equipment, as well as trips and visits that boost your understanding of your subject. You can find out if there are any additional costs by viewing your study programme on our website.

A range of financial support packages are available, which include help with essential costs, travel and meals.

Visit our website & search:
Student Support

Student support

Speak to our Customer Contact Team:
0345 658 8990

Worried about course costs?
Scan the QR code

*Subject to terms and conditions.


STUDENT



Student life

College life is more than your course

Whether you're making new friends, joining clubs, having your voice heard or developing skills for your future, our **L.I.V.E. programme** helps you get the most from your time at college. It's your opportunity to enjoy a richer student experience and become part of our vibrant college community.

Lifestyle

Find your people. Look after yourself. Feel at home. College is about more than studying. Our Lifestyle activities help you settle in, make friends and access the support you need to thrive.

You can enjoy:

- mental health and wellbeing support
- student interest groups
- equality and diversity celebrations
- student discounts
- freshers' activities
- health and wellbeing events

Involvement

Get involved. Gain experience. Build your CV. There's always something happening at college. Whether you're helping at Open Days, fundraising, volunteering or becoming a Student Ambassador, you'll develop confidence, teamwork and leadership skills that employers and universities value.

Opportunities include:

- Student Ambassador programme
- volunteering
- charity fundraising
- awareness campaigns
- college events
- clubs and lunchtime activities

Every experience helps you grow.

Find out more about student life at college

Scan the QR code



Voice

Your opinion matters. Every student has the opportunity to shape college life. Share ideas, suggest improvements and represent your classmates through Student Voice.

Ways to get involved include:

- course representatives
- student leaders
- student boards
- student surveys
- students' union

Together, we create a college experience that works for everyone.

Enhancement

Take learning beyond the classroom. Enhancement activities help you discover new interests, gain valuable experiences and prepare for your future.

Look forward to:

- educational trips and visits
- guest speakers
- employer experiences
- competitions
- workshops
- personal development opportunities

These experiences help you build confidence, broaden your horizons and stand out when applying for university or employment.

LIVE your best college experience

Discover more than a qualification. Discover your future.

Equality

At our college, we celebrate diversity, promote equality and ensure that everyone feels respected, included and supported to achieve their full potential.

Safeguarding and wellbeing

We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment where every student feels valued and empowered to achieve their full potential. Our dedicated Safeguarding and Wellbeing teams offer advice, guidance and support throughout the college day.

Our specialist Mental Health and Wellbeing Practitioners provide confidential, person-centred support, working closely with our Safeguarding Team and external services to ensure students can access the help they need. Through education and awareness, we empower students to make informed decisions, build healthy relationships, stay safe and know where to turn for support

Additional Support

We have specialist support staff for those with an identified learning difficulty and/or disability.

You can contact the Additional Learning Support team by emailing **ALSteam@bedford.ac.uk**

Find out more about our College

Scan the QR code

Careers guidance

Our professionally qualified Student Advisers provide impartial, confidential careers advice and guidance to help you:

- decide what you are going to do next
- find out more about your options in education, training and work, both at college and beyond
- get support with job searches and with your university application (UCAS)

If you are looking for information or have a quick query, you can drop into campus where a Student Adviser will be able to help you.

The Students' Union

The Students' Union works in partnership with the college, striving for outstanding teaching, learning, services and facilities. To find out more, speak to our Student Engagement team.

Financial advice

If you have any questions about financial support while studying with us, our dedicated support teams are here to help. They can provide advice on college-related funding, including bursaries and grants that may be available to you.



TOTUM card
student discount

As a student at our college you are also entitled to purchase a TOTUM card. This gives you access to over 250 student discounts and now acts as an official proof of age ID. Some local shops and stores that offer student discount will accept your student card as proof of student status.

You can join by visiting www.totum.com

nus national union of students

NUS Affiliation

As a student with us, you are part of the National Union of Students which means you can access exclusive discounts, offers and opportunities available to members across the UK.

Application process

Your future starts here

1 Shortlist your favourite study programmes
Visit our website for the full list of our study programmes.

2 Open Days
Attend one of our Open Days to find out more about our campuses and study programmes. Book your place on our website.

3 Apply online
Apply for your chosen study programme. If you do not have access to a computer you can contact us for help with your application.

4 Receive an offer
We will arrange an interview or information, advice and guidance session with you so you can find out more about your study programme. You will have the opportunity to chat with a tutor who will make you an offer.

5 Attend your Discovery Day
You will be invited to attend a Discovery Day in June 2027 where you will get a taste of College life, meet your tutors and make new friends.

6 GCSE results day
Thursday 19 August 2027
Good luck! Don't worry if you don't get your grades, you can get advice at our GCSE Advice Days.

7 Enrolment
You will be invited to enrol on to your study programme.

8 Start of term
Join your classmates in September and get ready for your course. Find out where you need to go, meet your tutors and classmates and get everything you need before your full-time studies begin.

9 Start your study programme!
Term starts in September.

Levels of study

Whether you're just getting started or are ready to take your learning to the next level, we offer study programmes from Level 1 to Level 3, designed to help you grow your skills and prepare for your future.

Level 1

Typical equivalent:
Entry-level GCSE (below grade 3)

A great starting point

Perfect if you're looking to boost your confidence and develop core skills in a supportive environment. You'll explore your chosen subject and get ready to move on to the next stage.

What's next?

Move on to a Level 2 study programme in your subject area.

Level 2

Typical equivalent:
GCSEs at grades 9–4

Build your knowledge and confidence

This level gives you a solid understanding of your subject and helps prepare you for more advanced study. You can also work on your English and maths if needed.

What's next?

Progress to a Level 3 study programme, like a Diploma, T Level or an Advanced Apprenticeship.

Level 3

Typical equivalent: A levels

Get ready for what comes next

Study your subject in depth and gain the skills and experience you need for university, an apprenticeship or a job. At this level, you can choose from:

- Diplomas - focused study programmes that develop both practical and academic skills
- Advanced Apprenticeships - learn while you work and earn
- T Levels - a new qualification combining 80% classroom learning with 20% industry placement, designed with employers to help you develop real, career-ready skills

T Levels are ideal if you want a hands-on experience in areas like Digital, Health, Education or Construction. They're equivalent to three A levels and open doors to university, higher apprenticeships or straight into work.

Take your skills further

Progress to advanced study, higher-level apprenticeships or university and gain the expertise you need for your future career.

GCSE English & maths programme



Are you ready to unlock your potential and secure your future with essential English & maths skills?

All students who did not achieve at least a grade 4 in GCSE English and/or maths will be enrolled onto our GCSE programme. This programme is designed for students aged 16-19 who need to build their English and maths skills and gain at least one grade up from their qualification on entry.

The course is divided into two streams to cater to different entry levels and focuses on both academic and work-based skills.

Streams:

Stream A (Grade 3 on entry):

Focus: This stream is more exam-oriented, helping students to improve their understanding and performance in GCSE English and maths exams.

Content: Exam preparation, practice papers and targeted revision sessions.

Stream B (Grade 2 and below on entry):

Focus: This stream emphasises basic industry-relevant skills, preparing students for the workplace.

Content: Practical English skills, such as communication, report writing and comprehension, tailored to industry needs. Practical maths skills, such as problem-solving with number, data and shape, tailored to industry needs.

Importance of English & maths skills in all industries and daily life:

English & maths are essential to both further study and future employment. Both of these focus on a range of skills from communication and analysis to problem-solving and critical thinking.

Basic skills provided:

English Skills

- **Reading:** Understanding and interpreting various texts.
- **Writing:** Crafting clear and coherent documents, emails and reports.
- **Speaking:** Effective verbal communication and presentation skills.
- **Listening:** Active listening and comprehension in different contexts.
- **Critical Thinking:** Analysing and evaluating information critically.

Maths Skills

- **Number:** Understanding and interpreting money, negative numbers, and converting between fractions, percentages and decimals.
- **Ratio and proportion:** Applying these to real-life scenarios.
- **Geometry:** Problem-solving with area, perimeter and volume.
- **Statistics:** Reading and interpreting data and analysing averages.
- **Problem-Solving:** Using language to identify and solve problems.

Apprenticeships

across The Bedford College Group

A first-class way to start your career

We work with over 1,000 employers each year and as the largest provider of apprenticeships in the South Midlands, we have the experience to help you excel during your apprenticeship.

As an apprentice, you will gain the knowledge, skills and personal qualities needed to obtain the right level of training and competence for a specific job role.

Get in touch!

For employer enquiries:
training@bedford.ac.uk

For more information about becoming an apprentice:
apprenticeships@bedford.ac.uk

Or give us a call:
01234 291747

At The Bedford College Group, we offer apprenticeships in the following subject areas:

- Aviation
- Business & Management
- Care & Childcare
- Computing & IT
- Construction
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Hair
- Horticulture
- Land-Based
- Motorsport
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing & Gas
- Teaching & Education

Find out more about apprenticeships
Scan the QR code

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a programme of work-based learning. To be enrolled as an apprentice, an organisation must have offered you a contract of employment and agreed to pay your wage and support you throughout your training. Your job role must include a range of work relevant to the apprenticeship qualification you wish to undertake.

How long does it take?

Apprenticeships take between one and four years to complete depending on the type and level undertaken.

How will I spend my time?

The part-time study element of an apprenticeship fits around the job commitment and will be agreed with the employer. You might attend college one day per week (day release), or in blocks of a week or more (block release), or 100% work-based delivery.

The benefits

You'll need enthusiasm and commitment to study and work in a particular industry, but the rewards will be significant:

- **get the best of both worlds by earning as you learn**
- **choose from a wide range of practical trades and jobs**
- **we will help you find an employer from our excellent links with hundreds of top employers**
- **gain industry-recognised qualifications, Functional Skills and specialist techniques that could see you progress to high-level jobs in your chosen sector**
- **learn from valuable job experience and time spent developing your skills on a day-to-day basis.**



Information for parents & carers

We understand the challenge of navigating choices at this key time, especially when your priority is guiding and supporting your child in making decisions that will shape their education, growth and future success.

Got questions about qualifications, careers, finance or support? We're here to help.

Scan the QR code or visit our website & search: ***Information for Parents/Carers***


STUDENT


HEATING
FLOW
SCCS

Explore our courses

Scan the QR code for our
full subject list



Unlock your potential

with The King's Trust

King's Trust DELIVERY PARTNER

Not sure what's next? Build confidence, gain new skills and take the next step with The King's Trust at Bedford College.

Whether you want to get back into education, boost your CV or explore your future, this free 12-week personal development programme can help. You'll take on real projects, make new friends and get support with work, training or further study.

- **Open to 16 to 25 year olds**
- **No experience needed**
- **Courses available throughout the year**



Start your journey today



Continuing your journey

Full-time courses

Full-time doesn't mean 9-5 Monday to Friday. You will only be in college four days a week and will have plenty of free study time which means you can still earn money alongside your studies.

Part-time courses

Because we offer a range of day, evening or weekend classes, the course you choose can live alongside your life and work around your work.

Find out about our courses

Scan the QR code

Professional courses

Many of our professional qualifications are accredited by leading industry bodies and perfect for developing yourself within an existing role at work or to help you switch career. Our tutors are experts in their fields with plenty of industry experience, so the skills you develop will fit right into your working day.

Leisure courses

If you're looking for a more relaxed course, there are a variety of options from improving your painting skills to learning how to keep livestock. Our short leisure courses enable you to learn new skills and meet new people at one of our many locations across the region.

Higher skills

University level

Our Higher Skills courses offer you the opportunity to gain qualifications, enhance your career prospects or retrain to gain the skills you'll need for work.

We offer excellent vocational courses including HNC and HND, HTQ and Higher Apprenticeships. With courses based at Bedford College, Central Bedfordshire College, Shuttleworth College (near Biggleswade) and Tresham College campuses in Corby and Kettering.

Why study higher skills

- save money by studying closer to home
- smaller classrooms mean more 1:1 support
- learn from industry-experienced tutors



Find out more



Interested in a rewarding teaching career?

If you're aiming for a career teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector, including sixth form, further education and adult education, our courses are for you.

Our courses are offered on a full-time basis and part-time basis in the evenings to fit around your existing role.

Certificate of Education

Level 5

This qualification is perfect for those who want to teach but don't have a degree.

Professional Graduate Certificate in Education

Level 6

This qualification is perfect for those who want to teach and already have a degree.

We also offer a range of part-time teaching and assessing courses.

We have salaried routes available where you can earn and learn. There are also other financial incentives such as Teacher Education Bursaries and Levelling Up payments that you may be eligible for.

Find out more about teaching courses

Scan the QR code

Interested in studying part-time?

Part-time courses provide a flexible way to get back into education, whether you are balancing work, family commitments or other responsibilities.

Part-time study allows you to pursue your educational goals without sacrificing your current lifestyle. These courses provide the same high-quality education as full-time programmes but with a reduced time commitment, typically involving evening classes. This flexibility enables you to advance your career, acquire new skills or explore personal interests at a pace that suits you, making it easier to manage your time and achieve a balanced, fulfilling life.

We offer part-time courses aiming to:

Improve your confidence

Our courses are designed to improve confidence and wellbeing, while also uplifting the communities we serve.

Enhance your life skills

Our courses provide essential skills for both life and work, covering areas such as English & maths, ESOL, and Digital Skills.

Increase your employment opportunities

Our courses offer extensive support for employment, equipping you with the skills and resources to effectively navigate and succeed in the job market.

Get you promoted through professional enhancement

These training opportunities are tailored for professional enhancement, aimed at expanding your career possibilities through the development of specialised skills and advanced knowledge.

Find out more about part-time courses

Scan the QR code

At Bedford College, we offer the following subjects at part-time:

- Accounting/AAT
- Art & Design
- Business
- Care & Childcare
- Computing
- Construction
- Counselling
- Distance Learning
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- English & maths
- ESOL
- Green Skills
- Hair & Beauty
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing & Gas
- Pre-Employment Courses
- Teacher Education



Study Programmes

	Cauldwell	Brunel	Brooks	Trinity Church
Entry Level				
ESOL 16-18	✓			
Level 1				
Art, Design & Media	✓			
Business, Travel & Digital Skills	✓			
Care & Childcare - Health & Social Care	✓			
Computing	✓			
Construction - Brickwork	✓			
Construction - Carpentry & Joinery	✓			
Construction - Painting & Decorating	✓			
Construction - Plumbing	✓			
Electrical Installation	✓			
Hair & Beauty Therapy			✓	
Hospitality & Catering ***NEW FOR 2027***				✓
Motor Vehicle		✓		
Sport	✓			
Level 2				
Art & Design	✓			
Business	✓			
Care & Childcare - Early Years	✓			
Care & Childcare - Health & Social Care	✓			
Computing - IT Practitioners	✓			
Construction - Brickwork	✓			
Construction - Carpentry & Joinery	✓			
Construction - Electrical Installation	✓			
Construction - Painting & Decorating	✓			
Construction - Plumbing	✓			
Construction - T Level Foundation year	✓			
Engineering	✓			

Level 2 (continued)

	Cauldwell	Brunel	Brooks	Trinity Church
Esports	✓			
Hair & Beauty - Barbering			✓	
Hair & Beauty - Beauty Therapy			✓	
Hair & Beauty - Hairdressing & Barbering			✓	
Media - Creative Media Production	✓			
Motor Vehicle - Vehicle Maintenance & Repair		✓		
Motor Vehicle - Vehicle Repair Body & Paint		✓		
Music Performance & Production	✓			
Performing & Production Arts	✓			
Professional Cookery ***NEW FOR 2027***				✓
Science - Applied Science & Technology	✓			
Sport	✓			
Travel & Tourism	✓			

Level 3

Art & Design	✓			
Art & Design - Animation	✓			
Art & Design - Applied Interior & Product Design	✓			
Art & Design - Fashion & Textiles	✓			
Art & Design - Fine Art	✓			
Art & Design - Games Design	✓			
Art & Design - Graphic Design	✓			
Art & Design - Photography	✓			
Business	✓			
Care & Childcare - Health & Social Care	✓			
Computing	✓			
Construction - Site Carpentry	✓			
Engineering	✓			
Esports	✓			
Hair & Beauty - Beauty Therapy			✓	
Hair & Beauty - Hairdressing			✓	

Level 3 (continued)

	Cauldwell	Brunel	Brooks	Trinity Church
Media - Creative Media	✓			
Motor Vehicle Body Repair & Paint		✓		
Motor Vehicle Maintenance & Repair		✓		
Music Performance & Production	✓			
Performing & Production Arts - Acting	✓			
Performing & Production Arts - Make-Up	✓			
Performing & Production Arts - Musical Theatre	✓			
Performing & Production Arts - Technical Theatre	✓			
Science - Forensics & Biomedical Science	✓			
Sport	✓			
Travel & Tourism	✓			

T Level

Business - Assistant Accounting	✓			
Business - Management & Administration	✓			
Business - Marketing	✓			
Care & Childcare - Assisting Teaching	✓			
Care & Childcare - Early Years Education	✓			
Care & Childcare - Supporting Adult Nursing	✓			
Computing - Digital Software Development	✓			
Computing - Digital Support & Security	✓			
Construction - Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction and the Built Environment	✓			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering	✓			
Engineering - Mechanical	✓			
Science - Laboratory Sciences	✓			

NEW FOR 2027

Hospitality & Catering

Turn your passion for food into practical skills with our brand new Hospitality & Catering courses at Bedford College.

Whether you're taking your first steps into the industry or ready to develop your professional cookery skills, you'll gain hands-on experience and learn the techniques needed for a career in this fast-paced sector.

Level 1
Hospitality and Catering Introductory

Level 2
Professional Cookery Intermediate

Ready to get cooking?

Search our courses online and apply today!



THE BEDFORD COLLEGE GROUP

BEDFORD COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY CENTRE
Part of The Bedford College Group

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BedfordCollege
@bedfordcollege

DISCLAIMER: While every effort is made to ensure that the information within this prospectus is correct at the time of printing, some details may be subject to change. The Bedford College Group reserves the right to make amendments to the study programmes, dates, fees or other details, and to make cancellations or changes if student numbers are insufficient. In the unfortunate situation that we have to cancel a course, we will refund any fees in full, but we regret we are not able to offer any refund if you withdraw from your course or fail to start, and you will be liable to pay any outstanding fees that may be due.