



# OUR STUDENTS MATTER

## Support for Care Leavers

Here at Bucks, we understand the challenges that you will encounter on your progress to, and journey through, university. We endeavour to do all that we can to provide guidance and assistance every step of the way, from application and enrolment through to graduation and into employment.

### Bucks is pleased to provide the following care leaver benefits:

- step-by-step guidance and assistance throughout the application process
- Bursary of £1000 per year of study
- priority consideration for support from the Bucks Hardship Fund
- 365 day accommodation in university-managed residences for the duration of your course
- free access to our pre-sessional summer courses
- named contacts with specific responsibility for working with care leavers
- a designated mentor to provide one-to-one support from arrival through to graduation.

## Universal benefits:

- a buddying scheme run by current students who act as peer mentors prior to your arrival and during your first term
- the Big Deal package helping you to meet essential course costs and enabling you to benefit from free entertainment and events, free sports (excluding gym membership), free recreational activities and a paid student reps scheme
- a wide variety of student services including our Counselling Service, Careers Service, Disability Service, Chaplaincy and Learning Development Unit (LDU).



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**Bucks really cares about our students, and we are always pursuing new opportunities and ways to support our diverse student population. We strive to help everyone achieve their full potential and this includes having nominated members of staff to provide any information, advice or guidance that you may require at each stage of your journey.**

### **Pre-entry**

If you are considering applying for a higher education course, but aren't sure where to begin, you can contact Owen Lord to discuss your options. Owen will be able to provide information and guidance regarding what courses and support packages Bucks is able to offer you. She will also be able to refer you to the most appropriate person if you require any specialist advice.

When applying to university, it is important that you indicate on your UCAS application form that you have been in care. This will enable us to make sure you receive any relevant information and are made aware of any additional benefits.

### **Post-entry**

Once you have enrolled, we have a designated Care Leaver Lead, Emma Binnie, who you can speak with in confidence about any aspect of University life and who will ensure that you are taking advantage of the various benefits the University has on offer. You are not obliged to take up this offer of a mentor, but the invitation shall be extended to you for the duration of your time with us.

If you have any queries or concerns about where you will be living whilst studying at Bucks, you are also welcome to contact our Accommodation Team who will be happy to advise of the options you have available to you and how to take up our 365 day accommodation offer.

If you work with care leavers and would like to know more about the process of applying to Bucks or what options and support are available to care leavers, please contact Owen Lord.

### **Contact details**

**Owen Lord**

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**Emma Binnie**

**Head of Students and Wellbeing**

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**Accommodation Team**

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[bucks.ac.uk/careleavers](https://bucks.ac.uk/careleavers)

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