



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



YOUR JOINING INSTRUCTIONS



Welcome to Buckinghamshire New University!

We are looking forward to you joining our **BSc (Hons) Computer Science** course.

At BNU we pride ourselves on the support we offer our students to succeed in their academic learning and creating graduates ready for employment. This information pack has been created by the BNU Welcome Team and your course leader, Dr Muntasir Al-Asfoor, to provide you with information that you will need for a successful start at BNU. Please read it carefully before you join us.

STARTING AT BNU

If you are an International student on a Student Route visa, you need to enrol onto your University course **in-person**, by visiting our [High Wycombe campus](#) on **27th, 28th or 29th December**. Please arrive at 10.00 or 13:00 so that we can check your documents.

Once you have enrolled, you will join our Induction programme in-person at our High Wycombe campus on the 3rd, 4th and 5th January 2024. This means that the next date and time you must attend University is Wednesday 3rd January at 9.00am.

ENROLMENT

International Students

You need to pre-enrol online and show proof of ID in-person to complete your enrolment process. Please see our [website](#) for full details.

You will need to bring the following documents with you:

- Evidence of your Secure English Language Test (e.g. IELTS)
- Passport
- UKVI Visa decision letter
- Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) if already collected
- Qualification documents
- Signed offer letter

Photograph

You will need to email us a head and shoulders photograph of yourself before you start at BNU. This photo should be in a JPEG format and sent to students@bnu.ac.uk with the subject line "Student ID." Please include the following information in your email:

- Your student ID (if you know it)
- Your full name (include all forenames and surname)
- Your date of birth
- The name of the course you will be starting



ABOUT YOUR COURSE

This is an exciting time to join a course in computing, as we continue to see technology dominate the lives of people, in both personal and professional contexts. Moreover, the digital world of today and the future is crying out for graduates with the technical ability to make a vital contribution in a variety of interesting jobs, and to make a difference, in areas such as Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, Software Engineering and Cyber Security, where you can apply your knowledge and enthusiasm to impact positively upon the undertakings of different business and industry sectors.

Our BSc (Hons) Computer Science programme aims to make you employment ready to pursue a career in roles, including, computer scientist, software developer, researcher, technical consultant, system tester, data scientist, AI engineer, teacher, and more. You will receive a broad and underpinning education in computing, with suitable coverage of things like, programming, computer systems and networks, web development, databases and cloud computing, alongside more specialist computer science areas, related to things like, data science, natural language processing and knowledge-based systems.

The varied activities, projects and assessments on the course are designed to help you to develop not only the subject knowledge and technical skills, but also, those transferable skills and personal characteristics that are valued by employers; communication, team-working, problem solving, analytical skills, creativity, learning skills, time management, confidence, integrity, adaptability, flexibility, etc.

Your tutors, including the Course Leader, welcome you to the University and wish you good luck with your studies!

You can access some of the recommended reading for your core modules at:

- COM4008 Programming Concepts: <https://bucks-new.keylinks.org/#/list/5575>
- COM4009 Computer Architecture: <https://bucks-new.keylinks.org/#/list/5574>
- COM4010 Networking: <https://bucks-new.keylinks.org/#/list/5573>

Details of your pre-joining project can be found at the end of this pack.

YOUR TEACHING TIMETABLE

Your teaching timetable for your first semester will be available closer to your starting date via MyBNU.

IT SERVICES

When you receive your enrolment email it will include all the information you need to access the digital services at BNU, including setting up your IT account and accessing MyBNU to access all university systems. To find out more about the IT services available to you, visit our [web pages](#) and see our [quick start guide](#).



DISABILITY AND INCLUSION SERVICE

The Disability and Inclusion service can help you to get the most from your experience at university in an inclusive learning environment. We provide a range of services to support disabled students including:

- Screening for specific learning difficulties, mental health issues and autism
- Discussing reasonable adjustment recommendations for teaching and exams
- Help accessing external support funding such as the [Disabled Student's Allowances](#) (where eligible)

If you think that you have a disability and might need some support, please contact us to find out what help is available. You can use the links below to book an appointment:

- [Online appointments](#)
- [Appointments at our High Wycombe campus](#)
- [Appointments at our Uxbridge campus](#)
- [Appointments at our Aylesbury campus](#)

Alternatively, please contact the Disability and Inclusion service via inclusion@bnu.ac.uk with any questions.

YOUR STUDENTS' UNION

When you enrol at BNU you will automatically become a member of [Bucks Students' Union](#) and will have the opportunity to enrich your student experience by taking part in a diverse and exciting range of free activities, opportunities and events thanks to our unique [Big Deal](#) offer. Your Union will represent your views and support you every step of the way - explore our website at <https://www.bucksstudentsunion.org/> to find out more about what's on offer?

If you have any general questions before you start please contact welcome@bnu.ac.uk or for course specific questions please get in touch with Dr Muntasir Al-Asfoor via muntasir.al-asfoor@bnu.ac.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

The BNU Welcome Team

We will consider any request for accessible formats that may be required. Please send your request to welcome@bnu.ac.uk.



PRE-JOINING PROJECT

This work relates to your module COM4008 Programming Concepts which will simulate the intensity of a 'bootcamp' experience, which is a popular format but is demanding. If you are new to programming, we appreciate learning a new language (natural or programming) can take time and regular practice. Therefore, we would advise you to prepare by studying Python if you do not already have experience.

Here is a link to [pre-recorded Python Lectures for COM4008](#). Dr Nicholas Day will be delivering these lectures live in a face-to-face capacity, but we do recommend watching them in advance to familiarise yourself with the language before the five weeks start. Further instructional materials and resources can be found in the [KeyLinks reading list for COM4008](#).

Whilst Blackboard will be a default content management system (CMS) where you can expect to locate teaching materials for your programme, employers utilise a tool named GitHub. GitHub is used for version-control and is also optimised for programmers. We therefore encourage the use of GitHub and particularly recommend that you track your changes ('commits') to evidence the authorship of your work over a period of time (given that we are in an emerging age of Generative AI). Furthermore, over the three years you'll be able to build a portfolio of completed projects which you can present to employers and evidence of your hard work at BNU.

We recommend that you start by watching this [instructional video from last year which introduces GitHub](#). Then once you have created your GitHub account (remember to use your personal email address so you can keep your portfolio), [use our COM4008 template repository](#), which contains exercises. Once this is migrated to your personal GitHub account, you can then clone this to your local device to begin coding. There a number of development environments we recommend such as [Visual Studio Code](#) and [PyCharm](#), and you could also make use of online environments such as [Google Colab](#) which enable you to compile and run Python in the browser!

HIGH WYCOMBE CAMPUS



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY
EST. 1891



Queen Alexandra Road
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire HP11 2JZ

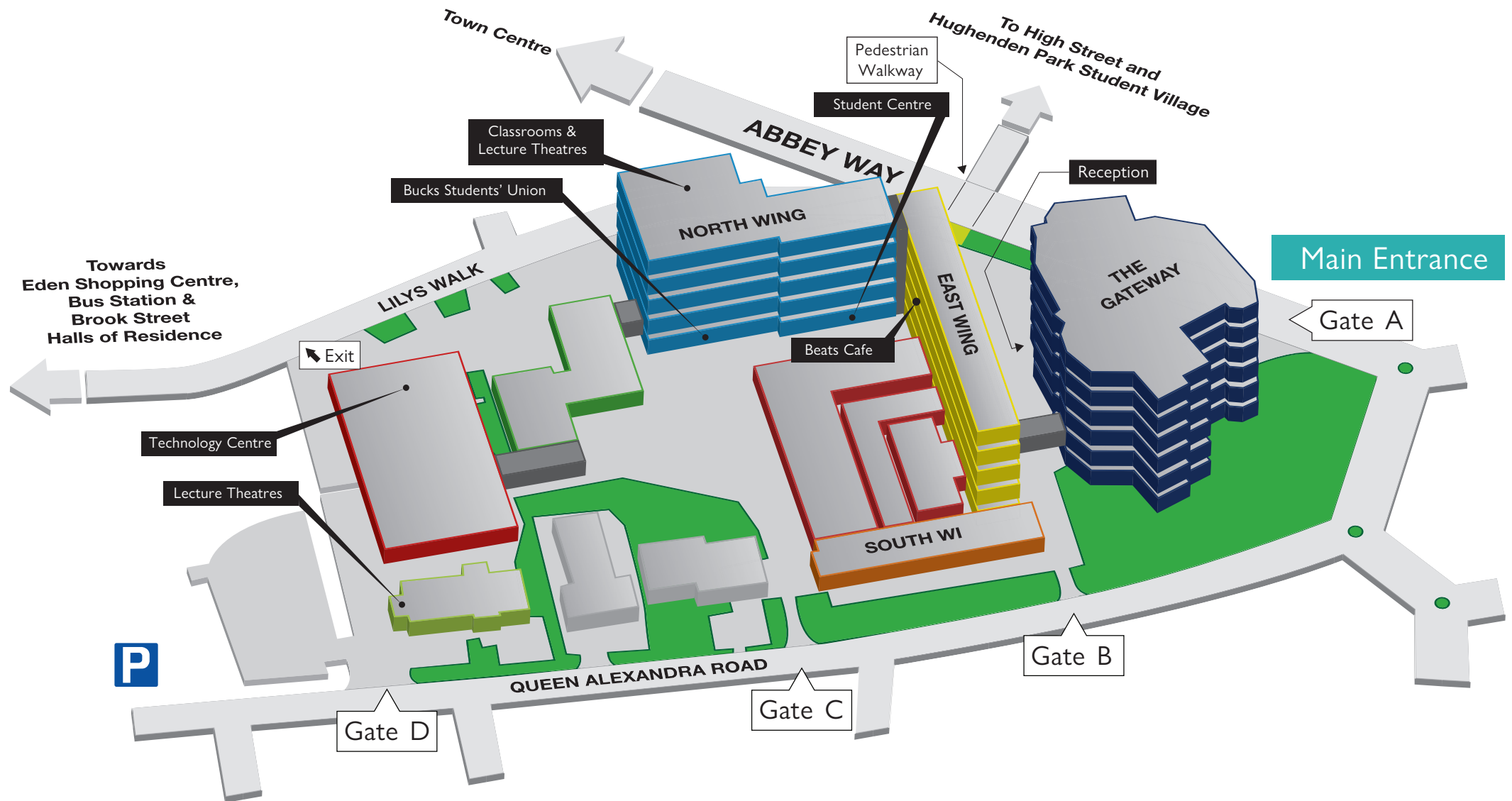
By rail
Chiltern Railways from Marylebone
to High Wycombe. The campus is
approximately a quarter of a mile
from the station.

By bus
The campus is a few minutes'
walk from the bus station.

More information can be obtained
from Traveline on 0871 200 2233



HIGH WYCOMBE CAMPUS





SUPERMARKETS

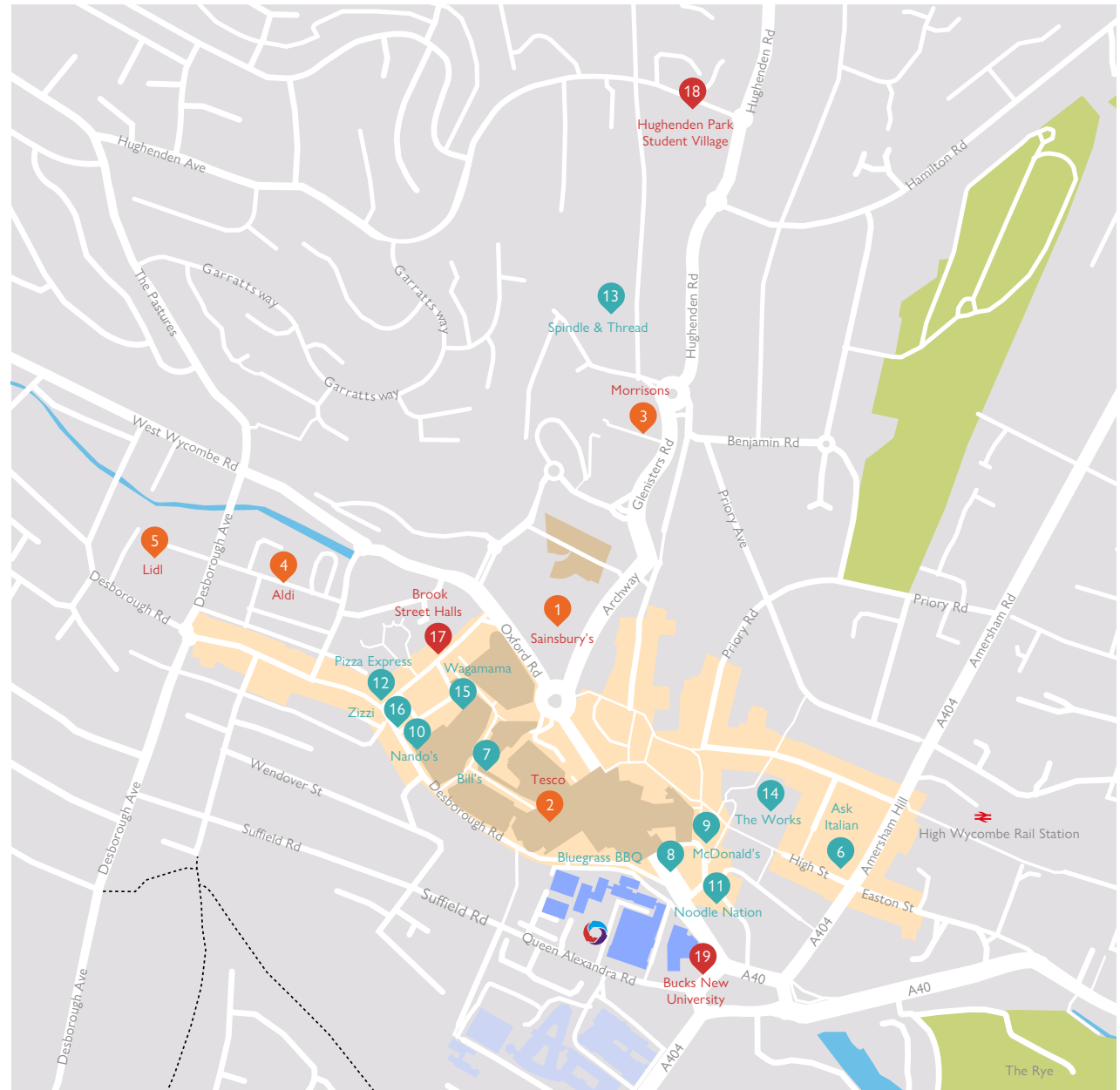
- 1 Sainsbury's Superstore
- 2 Tesco Superstore
- 3 Morrisons
- 4 Aldi
- 5 Lidl

RESTAURANTS

- 6 Ask Italian
- 7 Bill's
- 8 Bluegrass BBQ
- 9 McDonald's
- 10 Nando's
- 11 Noodle Nation
- 12 Pizza Express
- 13 Spindle & Thread
- 14 The Works
- 15 Wagamama
- 16 Zizzi

UNIVERSITY LOCATIONS

- 17 Brook Street Halls
- 18 Hughenden Park Student Village
- 19 Bucks New University Main Campus



**High Wycombe Campus**

Queen Alexandra Road
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire HP11 2JZ

Aylesbury Campus

Walton Street
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire HP21 7QG

Uxbridge Campus

106 Oxford Road
Uxbridge
Middlesex UB8 1NA

**BNU based at
Pinewood Studios**

Pinewood Studios
Pinewood Road
Iver Heath
Buckinghamshire
SL0 0NH

Missenden Abbey

London Road
Great Missenden
Buckinghamshire
HP16 0BD

Telephone: 0330 123 2023
Fax: 01494 524 392
International: +44 1494 605 259
Email: advice@bnu.ac.uk



[BuckinghamshireNewUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/BuckinghamshireNewUniversity)



[@BNUni](https://twitter.com/BNUni)



[@_BNUNi](https://www.instagram.com/_BNUNi)



[_BNUNi](https://www.youtube.com/_BNUNi)