



## The Programme

Next Steps is a Widening Participation programme delivered by Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) aimed at engaging students in Year 12 to help raise aspirations and encourage young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter higher education. The focus of the programme is to develop study skills while allowing students to find out more about university. The programme is delivered free of charge and is available to schools and colleges throughout Lincolnshire and those on the border of surrounding counties.

*As this is a Widening Participation initiative as of September 2018, Bishop Grosseteste University will be offering **contextual offers** to students who partake in the Next Steps Programme. Students who complete the full programme, and apply for an undergraduate course at BGU could be made offers at a lower UCAS tariff than standard course applications. This is dependent on other course requirements being met.*

## Which students are suited to the programme?

We ask schools to select around **30 students** to be involved (although we can be flexible to involve more if space is available)

For our Next Steps programme we allow schools/colleges to select which students they think would benefit from the programme the most. We advise using the following criteria to select your students:

- Have been/are currently in public care
- Have parents who have served in the forces
- Currently a young carer
- Identify themselves as a black, Asian or minority ethnic student
- Identify themselves as having a physical, mental or learning disability
- A student living independently and without support from their family
- Have been identified as an NCOP student
- Living in a low participation postcode (we measure by POLAR4 Q1&2 and IMD Q1&2, if you send the students post codes we are happy to check which students this refers to)

We ask that at least 25% of the students you enrol on the programme meet at least one of these criteria.

## The Structure

Next Steps is delivered in four linked sessions, which occur at regular intervals throughout Year 12. The focus of the development of the independent learning skills required when students' progress to university. In addition, the programme provides opportunities for students to seek information, advice and guidance about their progression to higher education from a range of professional support staff, academic staff and BGU student ambassadors.

In response to the situation regarding COVID-19 we are planning to deliver the four steps in the following format this year:

- Step 1: This step introduces students to higher education and methods of learning. (November - one hour, can be delivered in school or virtually)
- Step 2: Exploring learning approaches at University. (January – half day webinar)
- Step 3: This step explores research skills, linking them to students' own research into HE. (March - one hour, can be delivered in school or virtually)
- Step 4: Answering final questions and preparing for University applications (July - details of delivery TBC)

*We would like to be able to host each school on campus as part of their step 4 session. Confirmation of this and details on how this will look will be decided closer to the time in line with government advice and institutional risk assessments.*

### **What Bishop Grosseteste University will provide free of charge:**

- Full commitment to successful delivery of the Next Steps programme
- Feedback to your school at the end of the year about your students' experiences on Next Steps upon request
- Follow up activities, as agreed between BGU and the school/college
- Any resource materials required for delivery of the programme
- A certificate for students who complete Next Steps
- Further support to your school/college on all aspects of higher education
- Reimbursement of travel costs through our transport policy (please ask for further information)

### **Our expectations from schools/colleges:**

- Identify which students will benefit from the programme using our criteria and promote the programme to them
- Refer around 30 students onto the programme and provide a list of names before the commencement of Step 1
- To ask all students to complete our online EMWPREP\* forms and Starting Point Questionnaires in advance of the programme
- If in school Step 1 and 3 sessions are required then arrangement for a suitable room and PowerPoint facilities. Also, to provide us with details of your schools risk assessments regarding hosting visitors on your school site
- Arrange for Next Steps students to be available for one hour for step 1 and 3 sessions (either in person or to be available remotely)
- To arrange for all students involved in the programme to be available for the Step 2 virtual webinar, ensuring relevant IT equipment is available (e.g. an individual computer/laptop with sound for each student OR a large screen with sound for the session to be viewed together)
- Arrange transport for students to the step 4 visit to Bishop Grosseteste (reimbursement is available through our transport policy). Details of this visit to be confirmed closer to the time
- To name a contact person at the school/college and inform BGU of any changes through the year
- Make arrangements for a member of staff to attend the campus visit with students
- To inform BGU if Next Steps students leave the school/college or decide not to continue on the programme
- Feedback at each stage of the programme about your students' experience on Next Steps
- Complete risk assessments in line with the health and safety policy of your school/college

### **\*East Midlands Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Partnership (EMWPREP)**

As an institution, Bishop Grosseteste has always been committed to delivering successful Widening Participation activities to schools and colleges throughout the UK. It is vital that our team can monitor and evaluate our programmes to make sure that we are targeting the correct students. In 2013, our institution became part of the East Midlands Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Partnership. This partnership will help us to collate all information into a central database and create evaluation reports of the programmes we are delivering as well as giving us the opportunity to follow students through their engagement with WP activities at our own and other institutions in the region. During Step 1 students will be provided with a data collection form to complete. Details of how information provided will be used are contained on the form however if you have any queries or concerns please contact the Outreach team on [outreach@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@bishopg.ac.uk). If your students have already completed EMWPREP forms as part of your schools work with the LincHigher team then we can just get them to fill in a register/consent to match their details from the EMWPREP database to this programme.

***There has been a large demand for spaces on the programme so dates are allocated to schools on a first come-first served basis on receipt of a signed registration form.***