

BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY

Document Administration

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Version Control Table

Version Number	Date Authorised	Summary of Key Changes
2.0	October 2015	
3.0	22 July 2019	To update terminology
4.0	14 July 2021	To align to new strategy for intercalated students

Introduction

1. The Code of Practice sets out the University's approach to a fair and transparent procedure for students who wish to intercalate (suspend/interrupt) their programme of studies for a prolonged period. It is intended to comply with relevant sections of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) *UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2018)*, specifically the core practice: *The provider supports all students to achieve successful outcomes.*
2. For a variety of reasons, some students may wish to take time out from their programme which may be necessary when, for example, students are experiencing persistent health related or personal circumstances making it impractical for them to commence the next level of their programme or complete the current level which, were they to do so, would result in a significant adverse effect upon their performance.
3. Accepted grounds for intercalation include, but are not limited to:
 - medical
 - personal; and/or
 - financial.
4. Intercalation is also granted for students transferring from one programme to another and re-starting their studies the following academic year (this should also be marked on the transfer form).
5. Intercalation is **not** to be used for students who are failing to meet the academic or skills requirements of the programme. Additionally, it is not to be used for students who are excluded pending investigation under the Student Disciplinary Procedure. The procedure for extenuating circumstances should normally be followed in cases where the issue can be resolved more efficiently. This Code of Practice is also intended to apply to the case of students who wish to take advantage of an exceptional and specific opportunity to gain experience that would benefit their studies.

Terms upon which approval for Intercalation is granted

6. Students seeking to intercalate their studies must complete the form *Application to Intercalate* available on the Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) website and provide appropriate evidence to support the grounds application e.g. medical, counselling, financial, etc.
7. A request by a student to intercalate shall normally receive initial consideration on an advisory basis by the Programmer Leader(s) for the programme (or nominee (s)). Final approval must, however, be given by the Dean of Faculty.
8. Where a student submits a request to intercalate prior to the commencement of the year or second semester, the Programmer Leader(s) (or nominee(s)) should seek to establish that there are good and sufficient grounds for the request and that intercalation is in the student's best interest.

9. Students who have obtained agreement for intercalation shall normally recommence their studies at the start of the next academic year or, where the requirements of the first semester at that level have been completed satisfactorily, at the start of the second semester (or at an appropriate time for their particular time of programme of study).
10. On recommencing their studies, students must complete with attendance all modules for the full year or, where the first semester has been satisfactorily completed, for the second semester only (or at the start of the relevant trimester, where this applies). Any marks previously awarded in respect of assessed work for incomplete modules assigned to the year or semester for which study has been intercalated will be carried forward unless there are mitigating circumstances e.g., revalidation/minor modifications.
11. Intercalation is granted for a period of up to one academic year in the first instance. A second application may be made to extend this period by up to one academic year if the evidence, medical or other, indicates that the student would benefit from a further period of intercalation.
12. Intercalation shall not normally exceed the maximum period which is allowable between initial registration on a programme and its completion.
13. International students may intercalate only in accordance with United Kingdom Visa and Immigration (UKVI) Directorate regulations.

Process

14. Students seeking to intercalate their studies should initially discuss the matter with the Programme Leader(s) (or nominee(s)) or, where this is not possible, write to the Programme Leader(s) explaining the circumstances. Students should be offered advice on the implications of intercalation for their academic progress and be directed to seek guidance on the financial implications of such a step from Student Advice. In particular, students should be advised that the University cannot guarantee that the programme of study will be offered without changes in subsequent years. Students will be directed to a copy of this *Code of Practice*.
15. If, following this consultation, students decide to proceed with the application, they will complete the form *Application to Intercalate*, which is available from the BGU website. All sections of the form must be completed.
16. Completed forms and supporting evidence must be submitted to the Faculty Administration Office who will liaise with the relevant Programme Leader(s) and Dean of Faculty for decision and signature. Where a third party is sponsoring a student a signature will also be obtained from the sponsor. The form should be returned to the Faculty Administration Office within five working days. The Faculty Administration Office who shall record the decision on the Student Record System. .



17. The Faculty Administration Office shall notify students of the outcome in writing within five working days of the decision, stating the point at which students are to recommence their studies. In cases where the Programmer Leader(s) or the Dean of Faculty does not support an application, students may appeal in writing within 10 working days to the Faculty Administration Office stating the grounds for the appeal.
18. The Faculty Administration Office shall advise the Student Loan Company of the decision to agree to an intercalation and notify the SLC of the effective date of intercalation (last date of engagement¹), the reason for intercalation and revised end date of the student's programme of study. The Faculty Administration Office shall also advise the appropriate departments, including the Finance Department, regarding the decision and update the student record.
19. The Faculty Administration Office will write to students during the semester prior to, and at least one month before the date on which they are due to recommence their studies to remind them of their anticipated date return and notify of any outstanding resits, alerting appropriate departments, and providing details of re-enrolment and other appropriate information. Students will be directed to re-enrol in person.
20. Students who intercalate studies with outstanding resits must contact the appropriate Programmer Leader(s) before returning to the University. The Faculty Administration Office will inform the Programmer Leader(s) of such a situation.
21. Students will be entitled to retain use of a defined range of University IT facilities including their University email address and will only have reference access to the Library during the period of intercalation.

Collaborative Provision

- 22.. Franchised partner institutions will abide by this code. Non-franchised partner institutions are expected to have a procedure for intercalation that is equivalent to that of the University. The non-franchised partner institution will inform the Faculty Administration Office of students who have intercalated their studies and the intended date of return.

¹ The University will use learner analytics and information from the Programme Team to verify the last date of engagement with a student's academic studies.