



BISHOP  
GROSSETESTE  
UNIVERSITY

# Professional Studies

MA



# Why study at BGU?

We're one of only a handful of universities  
in the UK to have been awarded a TEF GOLD award  
for the excellent quality of our teaching

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Professional Studies got 95% for overall student  
satisfaction in the 2019 Student Survey

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A key aspect of the Professional Studies programme is  
that you can earn while you learn

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Our self-contained campus is a safe and secure  
environment in which to live and study, and Lincoln  
is an extremely student-friendly city

# Hello

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# Professional Studies at BGU

The MA in Professional Studies is a specialised two year, part-time Masters course designed to support and challenge professionals from a range of formal and informal educational settings and contexts. It will engage you with a range of issues within the broad academic disciplines of education, early years and youth work relevant to your employment role to consider the impact of your professional practice in a wider social context.

As a professional development programme, practice-based issues will be at the forefront of the curriculum. Content within the programme addresses current issues in the academic discipline and field of study within professional practice. The programme supports the critical investigation of professional questions and

issues at local, national and global perspectives. Each module provides the opportunity to explore different research techniques, methodologies and advanced scholarship. The module content is designed to allow for maximum flexibility for students to choose specific lines of enquiry and focus in line with their research interests, practice experience and working role.

The course comprises of four taught modules and a supervised dissertation. The taught sessions will typically be between 4-8 pm on one day a week and will take the form of a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials. The modules are designed to enable you to build knowledge and understanding to complete the final dissertation.



For full details of all of our courses, including combinations, module details, entry requirements and much more, visit [bishopg.ac.uk/courses](http://bishopg.ac.uk/courses)



The support from staff is top quality, the tutors genuinely want to help and support you; we can call, email and arrange tutorials outside of allocated tutorial times. Teaching is outstanding, the ethos created by staff means it is a safe space for discussion and this has helped my confidence grow.”

**Lisa**  
MA Professional Studies

## KEY FACTS

**AWARD:** Masters (MA)

**DURATION:** 2 years part-time

**START DATE:** September

**TYPICAL OFFER:**

You will normally have obtained or be predicted to obtain an honours degree at 2:2 or above. You must be working or volunteering in a relevant formal or informal educational setting such as in the early years or youth sector, or as part of a school team.

**INSTITUTION CODE:** B38



I chose BGU because, from my own experiences of being in a school, the teachers, the Head and the Senior Leadership Team all said it was a really good place to go. But obviously the reputation of BGU was what sold it for me.

**Martyn**

Professional Studies

## Professional Studies modules

At BGU you can study Professional Studies as a **Masters** degree, giving you an in-depth knowledge of the subject. Depending on your year of entry, options and any potential course combinations, you may study some or all of the following modules in Professional Studies at BGU.

For full details of all of our courses, including combinations, module details, entry requirements and much more, visit [bishopg.ac.uk/courses](http://bishopg.ac.uk/courses)

## Modules

### **Research Skills and Methodologies**

This module critically explores research design, investigating different methodologies to engage with advanced research. It aims to introduce alternative ways of examining professional contexts and practices, exploring the different traditions of research and their potential for describing, analysing, and improving professional practice. Virtual resources will be used to support relevant skill building areas such as searching e-resources; developing an academic writing style, planning a professional research enquiry.

### **Enabling Environments: Inclusion, Participation and Entitlement**

You will critically explore the key theories of inclusion, diversity and participation. The module will allow you to investigate historical perspectives and analysis of current participatory practice. A critical examination of the implementation of education and social policies will be undertaken to understand how provision can meet a diverse range of needs within society. Throughout the module you will critically reflect on issues and debates surrounding entitlement.

### **Contemporary Issues: Research, Policy and Debate**

This module explores and investigates contemporary issues at the forefront of the discipline and professional sector from local, national and international perspectives. You will engage with current research in relation to contemporary issues relevant to your practice, and you will be provided with opportunities to critique these. The depth and currency of knowledge explored within the module will extend your critical reflections in relation to your practice and as change agents for organisational improvements.

### **Perspectives on Leadership and Managing Change in Practice**

This module explores and investigates leadership and management theory, research and practice in formal and informal settings. The module will encourage you to reflect on and challenge your own professional practice through critical personal reflection. You will investigate how the intersection of policy, practice and cultural change influences leaders and managers in professional contexts, institutions and systems.

### **Dissertation**

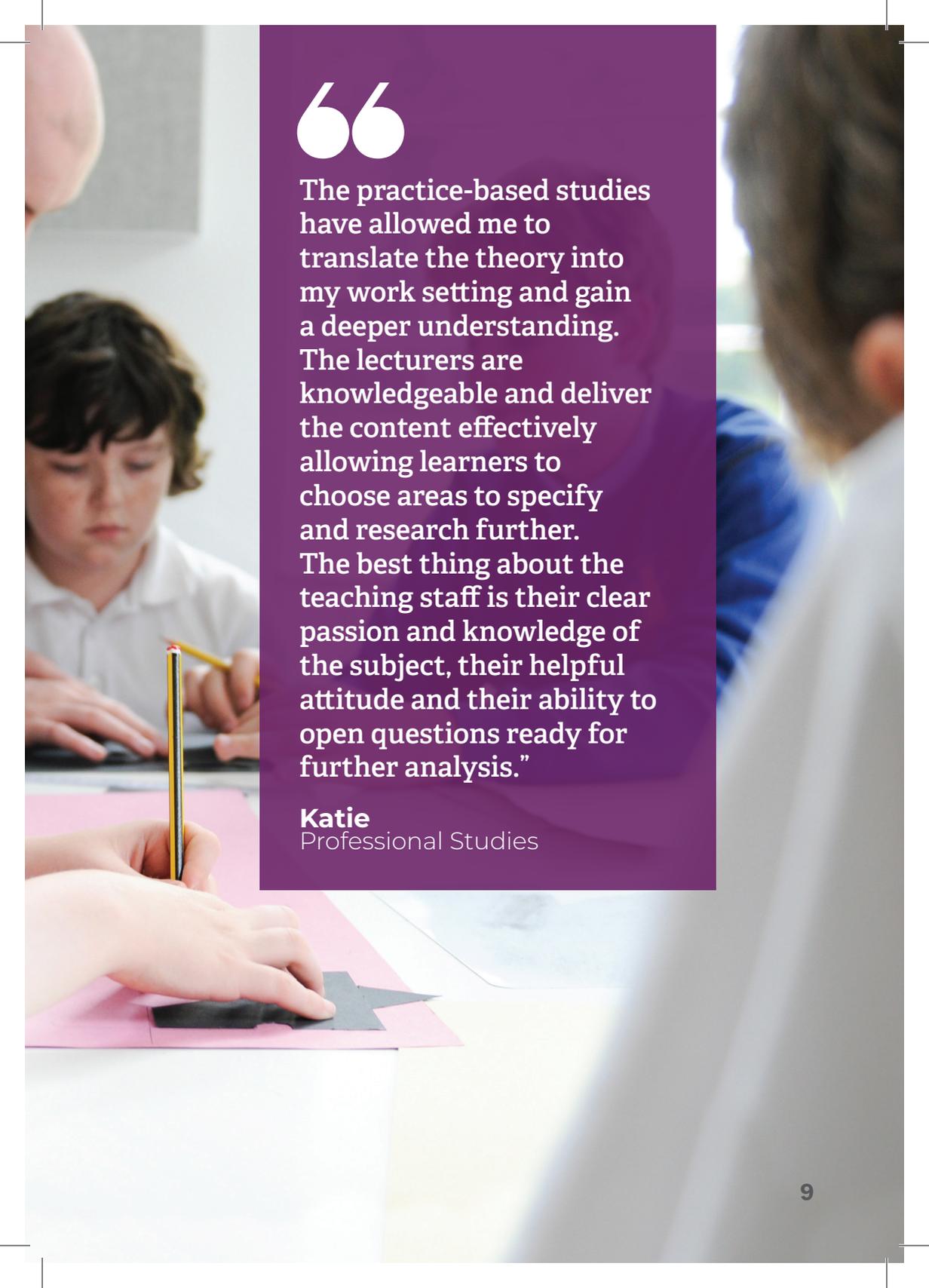
The dissertation demands enquiry and research skills, intellectual awareness of issues, discriminating use of research methodologies and refinement of argument, all at the highest level of scholarship. Supported by supervisors, workshops, action learning sets on research methodology and on-line materials, you will face the challenge of developing a sustained, accurate, and reflective argument to answer your research question.

This course is assessed in a range of different ways; oral assessments or written assignments, for example essays, portfolios, reports, case studies.



Our range of Masters courses at BGU are designed to build upon your undergraduate study and fully enhance your subject knowledge in specific areas. They're perfect for if you want to carry on your studies after completing a Bachelors degree, or learn even more about a particular subject. We've recently added a whole host of new courses to our Masters portfolio, giving you a wider selection of courses to choose from than ever before.

You can find out more about all our Masters courses at [www.bishopg.ac.uk/masters](http://www.bishopg.ac.uk/masters)

A background image showing a classroom setting. In the foreground, a person's hands are visible, holding a pencil and working on a pink sheet of paper with a black star cutout. In the background, a young boy with dark hair is sitting at a desk, looking down at his work. Another person's head is visible on the left side of the frame. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom environment.

“

The practice-based studies have allowed me to translate the theory into my work setting and gain a deeper understanding. The lecturers are knowledgeable and deliver the content effectively allowing learners to choose areas to specify and research further. The best thing about the teaching staff is their clear passion and knowledge of the subject, their helpful attitude and their ability to open questions ready for further analysis.”

**Katie**  
Professional Studies

# What we offer

## **Delivery**

Teaching on this Masters course will be delivered through interactive lectures, workshops, tutorials and seminars to promote engagement and independent learning. You will work collaboratively in sessions to discuss and critically analyse professional issues, review research, policy and research methodologies.

Critical reflection will be at the heart of teaching and learning on this Masters course. You will peer mentor across year groups and collaborate with others within cohorts to encourage and develop a close network of support.

A core and central tool for supporting teaching and learning will be the use of Blackboard as a Virtual Learning Environment.

You will be invited to use interactive web tools, such as blogs and Padlet, as a strategy for sharing resources, discussions and in leading your own learning expected at postgraduate level.

## **Assessment**

The assessments used in this course are designed to build your knowledge and understanding to support the development of final research skills required to design, implement and analyse research, and to write a research report. You will demonstrate your confidence in articulating your ideas and knowledge both orally and in your academic writing. The assessments will ensure that you are developing your power of critical inquiry, independent judgement and a creative application to your learning.



### **Support**

Studying at BGU is a student-centred experience. Staff and students work together in a friendly and supportive atmosphere as part of an intimate campus community. You will know every member of staff personally and feel

confident approaching them for help and advice, and staff members will recognise you, not just by sight, but as an individual with unique talents and interests. We will be there to support you, personally and academically, from induction to graduation.



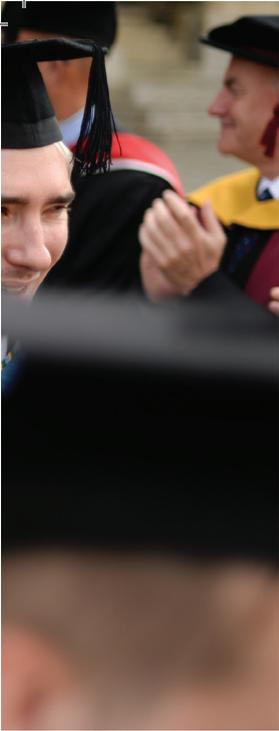


# Your future

Our students have excellent rates of employability when they graduate from BGU, which is great news for you as it means that you can study for a degree knowing that your future is in safe hands. Our employability rates are extremely important to us here at BGU, which is why we offer placement opportunities as an integral part of our courses.

This Masters course is a professional development programme and BGU values the partnerships with key stakeholders for academic

work-related courses. As such the programme has been formed to reflect the needs and views of employers. Employers in the broad and diverse sectors of education have been widely consulted throughout the development of the programme to ensure that the course is relevant and current for supporting the necessary knowledge and transferable skills required within the sector. This course will particularly benefit those in broader roles working with children, young people, their families and communities.



Take a look at what qualities and skills you'll develop as a BGU student [bishopg.ac.uk/graduate-attributes](https://bishopg.ac.uk/graduate-attributes)

“

I can definitely see myself conducting more research. I was asked by my tutor to deliver sessions to FDA and BA Hons students at BGU four years ago and have continued doing this every year since. This is something I never envisaged doing but I love having the opportunity to share my knowledge and area of expertise. This is something that I would like to do more of in the future.”

**Lisa**

MA Professional Studies



# Why BGU?

Here at BGU we've been providing first-class education to students for over 150 years. We're based in the heart of historic Lincoln, a beautiful and extremely student-friendly city.

Navigating around Lincoln on foot is simple, from the cobbled streets uphill to the modern city centre and waterfront downhill.

We're located uphill on an attractive, leafy campus just a few minutes' walk from Lincoln's medieval Cathedral, Castle and Bailgate area.

With plenty of live entertainment, cultural attractions and nightlife hotspots, there's plenty to keep you entertained, uphill and downhill.

Visit [bishopg.ac.uk/lincoln](https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/lincoln) to find out what's on offer in Lincoln.



“

BGU was always my first choice when considering universities. Everything about it is beautiful, from the leafy green trees to red brick buildings – and everything on the inside is just amazing.”

**Sian**

English Literature

As a single-site campus, just about everything you need is close by, whether it be your tutors, your friends, your lectures or the places in which you like to relax.

Our students are some of the happiest in the UK, which is incredibly important to us. We really care about our students and aim to support them all of the way through their studies, from application to graduation.

People often say that there's something special about BGU, that the people really care. There's a warm and friendly feel to life here, and we do everything possible to look after our students however we can.

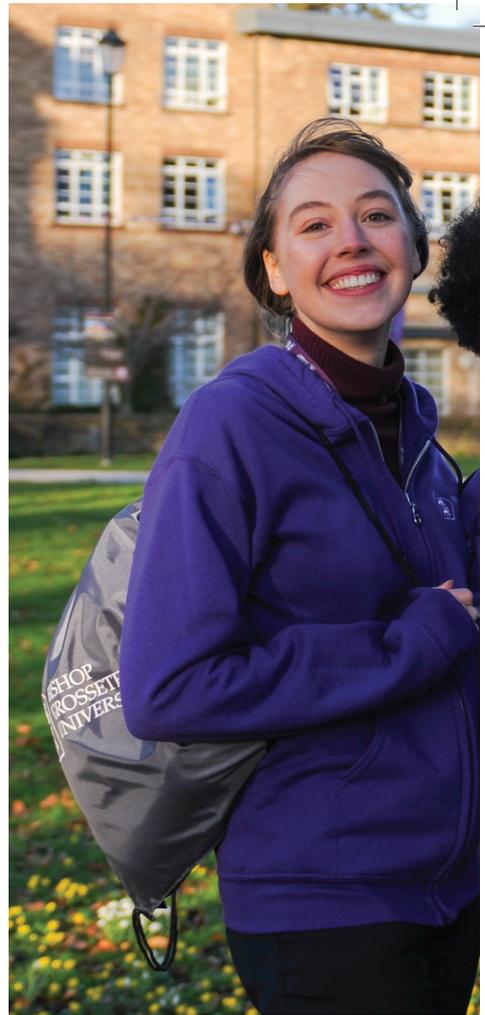
Studying as part of a close-knit community, you'll get to know staff personally and feel confident in being able to approach them for help and

Explore what we have to offer on our campus at [bishopg.ac.uk/campus](https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/campus)

“

I came here on an Open Day and really loved it. My first impression at the Open Day was that I really liked it because it was smaller – you go to some universities and they are really massive, scary big city campuses, but here I felt really comfortable.”

**Hayley**  
Education Studies



advice. Staff will recognise you - not just by sight but as an individual with unique talents, interests and needs. We'll be there to support you, academically and personally, from the day you start until long after you leave.

Life after BGU is extremely important and we offer many different methods

of support for your future career. This, alongside our talented graduates, is one of the reasons that we consistently achieve impressive employability figures.

This is great news for you as you'll be able to study at BGU knowing that your education is in safe hands!

There's no better way to really get a feel for what BGU has to offer than by coming to visit us. To book your place now visit [bishopg.ac.uk/opendays](https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/opendays)



The family feel is exactly why people should study at BGU. BGU becomes your home regardless of your age or background. In fact, I felt such a connection with the University on my first visit that I went to five Open Days before I started my BA. I wanted to be part of BGU straight away and I know it will stay with me forever.”

## **Kate**

Drama in the Community  
& MA in Education

# What happens next?

## Open Days

So you've found a course you're interested in - what next? We feel very strongly that coming along to visit us on an Open Day is the very best way to find out everything about BGU.

A BGU Open Day is designed with you in mind, to give you a taste of what it's like to live, study and work here. We try to make everything as easy as possible for you, so you can relax and enjoy the day. You'll have the chance to explore the campus and surrounding area,

and speak to members of academic staff about the courses you're interested in, look around our accommodation, and get any questions you may have answered.

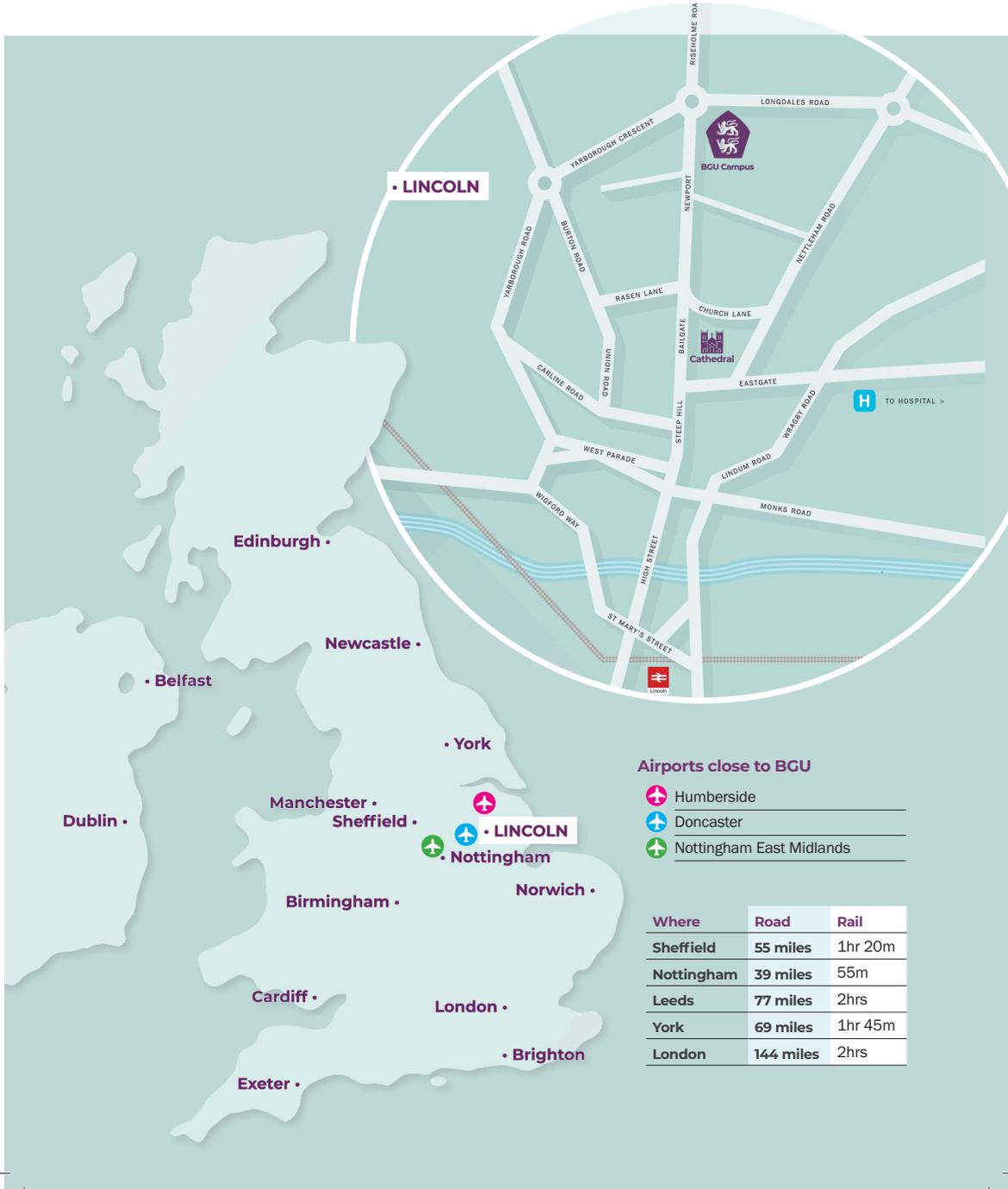
Book your place on our next Open Day now - visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk/opendays**

If you think you'd like to apply, need more information or just want to speak to somebody about your options, contact our Enquiries team by calling **01522 583658** or emailing **enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk**

**Ready to apply?** Brilliant. We can't wait to receive your application! For the majority of our MA courses you will apply through the relevant course page on our website. Simply click on the **'Apply Now'** button to download a form – visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk** for all the information you will need. And don't worry – if you need help with anything, we're here to assist. Our dedicated team are ready to answer your queries and questions.

The contents of this booklet are correct at the time of going to print (January 2020). For full and up-to-date information on all of our courses, visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk**

# Where are we?



• LINCOLN

Edinburgh •

Newcastle •

• Belfast

Dublin •

Manchester •  
Sheffield •

• York

• LINCOLN  
• Nottingham

Birmingham •

Norwich •

Cardiff •

London •

• Brighton

Exeter •

## Airports close to BGU

- Humberside
- Doncaster
- Nottingham East Midlands

Where	Road	Rail
Sheffield	55 miles	1hr 20m
Nottingham	39 miles	55m
Leeds	77 miles	2hrs
York	69 miles	1hr 45m
London	144 miles	2hrs

BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY  
LONGDALES ROAD  
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LN1 3DY

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Telephone (01522) 583658  
[enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk)

“

I completed the BA Hons in Professional studies and really enjoyed it, achieved a first class and wanted the next challenge.

This course in particular encourages more independent learning and I have chosen subjects and areas of study pertinent to my professional development and also particular interests.”

**Lisa**

MA Professional Studies

@BGULincoln

