



BISHOP
GROSSETESTE
UNIVERSITY

**MA IN
SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS &
DISABILITY**

RATED GOLD

*Highest possible rating in the first ever
Teaching Excellence Framework*

98% GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY

*Over 98% of our students are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating.
Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey, 2015/16*

HAPPY STUDENTS

*We have consistently high satisfaction levels
in the National Student Survey*

CONTENTS

Welcome to BGU.	4
Why BGU?	6
Special Educational Needs & Disability	8
What we offer.	10
Our Modules.	12
Careers and Employability.	14
Where we are.	17
What makes a BGU student stand out?	18
Employability.	20
Happiness.	22
Lincoln.	24
Our campus.	26
What happens next?	28

WELCOME TO BGU.



As Head of the School of Social Sciences, I'd like to thank you for expressing an interest in studying Special Educational Needs and Disability at Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU).

The MA in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is designed to reflect interests and ambitions of graduates and practitioners engaged in complexities and challenges related to SEND. The programme offers opportunities to explore, analyse and critique ideology, pedagogy and sociological frameworks concerning inclusive and specialist education.

The School of Social Sciences at BGU is lively and diverse. It incorporates a broad range of undergraduate subjects, including Counselling, Early

Childhood Studies, Education Studies, Health & Social Care, Mathematics, Professional Studies, Psychology, Special Educational Needs & Inclusion, Sport and Sport, Coaching & Physical Education. Our staff are appointed to teach across a growing range of courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

The core mission of the School of Social Sciences is to help build and shape professionals who will make a significant difference to people's lives, health and wellbeing, as well as to our communities and society as a whole. The school will achieve this by developing an inspiring and supportive learning and research environment for students and staff, along with developing partnerships with key stakeholders, the local community

and accrediting professional bodies. The school aims to be the best School of Social Sciences at a small and specialist university in the country.

I hope that you find this guide useful, and that you will consider joining us soon. I look forward to welcoming you to BGU.

Warmest Regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GB' or similar initials, with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Dr Graham Basten,
Head of School of Social Sciences

WHY BGU?



Here at BGU we've been educating students in the historic heart of the City of Lincoln for over 150 years. We're located on a beautifully green and pleasant campus just a few minutes' walk from Lincoln Cathedral, Castle and the old Roman city. We're set on a single-site campus, so 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.

We're exceptionally proud of the fact that, over the past 150 years, our commitment to first-class education has remained consistent. 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

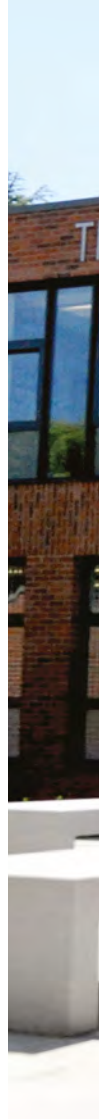
all of the way through their studies, from application to graduation. Life after BGU is extremely important and we offer many different methods of support for your future career along the way. This, alongside our talented graduates, is one of the reasons that we consistently achieve such impressive employability figures – currently over 98% of our students are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating. This is great news for our students who can study at BGU knowing that their education is in safe hands!

We are rated Gold in the first ever Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) assessment, one of only a handful of universities from across the UK given the top award. The judging panel, made up of independent experts

from across the country, stated that we deliver consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for our students.

There's no better way to really get a feel for what BGU has to offer than by coming to visit us. We have a whole host of open days and other events running throughout the year. To book your place now visit

www.bishopg.ac.uk/opendays





MA IN SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY



This Masters course is designed to develop your in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to current and changing SEND practice. The modules will provide you with opportunities to investigate different social and educational contexts, demonstrating the acquisition of advanced knowledge and understanding of key issues relating to SEND. This will include a critical awareness and interpretation of theory and practice, which will inform and develop effective SEND practice. Building upon prior knowledge and / or experience, you will explore multiple perspectives on key issues through structured learning, independent study and research.

Whilst developing a broad understanding of diverse practice, you will gain confidence in applying

learning, informed by leading research and practice in SEND. Essential to completing the MA is the acquisition of an advanced understanding of research-informed practice. You will investigate different methods of enquiry, working individually or collectively, to solve situational challenges. Successful problem-based learning will require you to develop intellectual and transferrable skills and apply them in a meaningful way. You will also be encouraged to explore different approaches to meeting SEND following demonstration and discussion of alternative interventions. The aim is to promote reflective practice leading to confidence in creating positive change in provision.

The course promotes independent study, including identification of research techniques and research methods engaging you fully with SEND

research and practice. It will help you to develop a conceptual understanding that enables you to analyse, debate, appreciate ambiguity and uncertainty yet be competent in evaluating and defending viewpoints, improving your research literacy and research skills. Ultimately, you will be able to solve problems through applying alternative methods and techniques in shaping and changing practice for children and young people with SEND.

The course is suited to a wide variety of contexts; education, social and care, and relevant to practice across different age ranges. With a strong focus upon creating change, challenging social injustice and promoting entitlement, you will gain skills in analysis of theory and practice, sharing your experience, reflections and contributions with others.

The background of the page is a photograph of a lecture hall. In the foreground, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red top, is seen from the side, looking towards the front of the room. Behind her, other students are visible, some looking forward and others looking towards the camera. The room has wooden paneling and blue chairs.

KEY FACTS

Award:	MA
Duration:	1-2 years, full or part-time
Typical offer:	You will normally be a graduate or education practitioner with an honours degree at 2:2 or above
Institution code:	B38
Academic School:	School of Social Sciences

For full details of all of our courses, including combinations, modules, entry requirements and much more, visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk**

WHAT WE OFFER.



OUR TEACHING METHODS

Learning and teaching on this course will be through a combination of approaches designed to promote engagement and independent learning. Approaches used to promote your knowledge and understanding will include lectures, seminars, group work sessions and tutorials.

Lectures (some of which will be interactive) will employ the use of audio and video for contextualisation of topics and problem based learning exercises. Guest tutors from across the university, from other HEIs (international) and from local and national statutory, private and voluntary organisations will also add to your learning experience.

Seminars will be designed around enquiry based learning, to encourage active participation. You will be given the opportunity to discuss your experiences, findings and ideas with your peers or to take part in-group presentations. Through active participation, you will be encouraged to challenge ideas and test your own knowledge and understanding.

Your group work sessions will be used to critically review research, policy and provision exploring challenges and issues across SEND, searching for meaningful interpretations which can inform individual learning and practice.

Within the tutorials, you will be offered the opportunity to discuss ideas and demonstrate progress and engagement with the taught elements of the course.

ASSESSMENT

Throughout the course of this programme, you will demonstrate skills in critical inquiry, reflexivity and analysis that can be applied to SEND contexts. A range of assessment methods will be used to ascertain your knowledge and understanding of the subject and your ability to integrate theory and practice. Typical examples would be academic essays, seminar papers, project work, report writing, small group project work, self-assessment exercises, and the impact project. Assessments will ensure that you are developing your power of critical enquiry, independent judgement and creative application of learning. A number of assessments may build upon creative skills in using new/alternative technologies.

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, and beyond.

OUR MODULES.



Exploring And Interpreting SEND

Special education needs is a social construction, a category used to define and include or exclude individuals depending upon the values and actions of others. This module will engage you in the thinking and challenging of concepts associated with SEND ideology and practice. The module content will review global and national practice, exploring historical reforms, cultural contexts, and social and political theories that inform and influence policy and provision for SEND.

Learning: Domains And Dimensions

This module explores and challenges conceptual learning domains and analyses approaches to best practice. Reflecting upon the increased emphasis for multi-agency collaboration, you will consider your role in working alongside others, developing reflective practice. Critique of changing interpretations of what motivates and engages learners with SEND will be included and engagement with the module will lead to a systematic understanding of how children or young adults develop learning attitudes and aptitudes.

Raising Achievement: Meeting The Pastoral And Welfare Needs Of Children And Young Adults With SEND

Investigating different needs, you will develop an insight into the nature, aetiology and the extent of various types of disabilities and learning difficulties exploring how they affect wellbeing. In addition, the impacts, opportunities and challenges of developing and maintaining good professional relationships across practice will be critiqued. You will investigate inter and intra-personal skills required for decision-making in complex and often unpredictable contexts.



Undertaking Research With Children And Young Adults With SEND

This module will introduce a range of research methods in Social Sciences, primarily focusing on research in SEND and inclusive practice. You will explore competing interpretations of policy and practice as evidenced in research on educational development and management of learning. Skills in selection and critical evaluation of literature will be taught along with a range of research methods in order to collect, treat and interpret data. In addition, you will advance your writing and presentation skills at a postgraduate level, interpreting research to inform both professional practice and development.

Understanding Specific Special Educational Needs And Disabilities

You will advance your understanding of how different concepts and categories of learning needs and disabilities are developed, and will develop the confidence to find, critique and disseminate research-based evidence of specific needs. Taught sessions will explore how categorisations of need and specific needs can change in response to developing knowledge, social awareness and policy, nationally and globally. Through reading, research and collaboration with your peers, you will identify and evaluate competing ideas and different perspectives of specific needs, and consider implications for problem solving and innovation in practice.

Impact Project

During the study of this module you will plan, deliver and report on your own research project. It will develop you as an ethical researcher who is able to develop realistic plans for disseminating your research findings to the wider academic and/or professional community. In addition, you will be supported to extend and deepen your understanding of the chosen area of investigation and will be able to design and carry out projects that are useful to your professional development and employability.

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY.



Over 98% of our students are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating. This 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 consistently high and are very important to us here at BGU, which is why we offer placement opportunities as an integral part of our courses.

This programme has been developed in consultation with advisory teachers, head teachers and teachers, along with sector representatives including speech and language therapists, ADHD support teams and other therapists. As such, it has been designed to meet the changing demands and challenges of SEND practice and equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills

to meet such demands. Following the introduction of the SEND Code of Practice (2015), there are now significantly more organisations that require professionals working, supporting children, and young adults with SEND to have expertise in this area. As this has raised the profile of working with children and young adults with SEND, many other organisations are increasingly requiring staff in teaching roles to have specialist knowledge in this area, such as those in the leisure industry and sporting organisations.

The demand for specialisms in SEND is reflected in the number of vacancies advertised both locally and regionally. These regularly include within mainstream schools that require a specialist in SEND (e.g. SEND Early Years specialists,

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) teachers, Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) teachers, strategic behaviour managers, advisory teachers, outreach teachers, specialist learning support teachers, dyslexia teachers and many more.

By completing the MA in SEND, you will be better positioned to apply for such posts, demonstrating a range of skills which will support learners with SEND in various settings. In addition, students following the part-time route are likely to be in employment. Completing the part-time route will enhance employment opportunities in specialist environments (e.g. special schools, advisory teaching posts, specialist care provision) and within school/social care leadership positions.



“ I feel that BGU will help me greatly in my future career due to the great course I am on, the support offered in finding employment and the distinguished reputation the university has.”

Connor

WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK.

“ One of the stand-out elements of studying an MA at BGU, for me, has been the support and interaction you get from lecturers – and not just those on your course but from across the university. They go out of their way to provide interesting opportunities for students, including interdisciplinary lectures where you can experience lecturers from different subjects debating and interacting with each other. One session I took focused on identity, and involved seven different lecturers from across the university. Not only are these incredibly engaging and entertaining, but they encourage you to do better in the work you’re creating. There is no divide between student and lecturer - you constantly feel supported.

I originally came to BGU to study my BA. The comfort factor offered by the small campus and the community feel really stood out to me. When I came on the Open Day it was great to see that those first impressions matched the reality. That’s why I want to do a PhD here – you won’t find yourself daunted by large numbers of staff and students around you all the time. Even if I was offered a PhD opportunity somewhere else I don’t think I’d take it because nowhere could offer me the community I have here.”

Jonah



WHERE WE ARE.

Lincoln is only 30 minutes by rail from the East Coast Main Line, the UK's main north-south Railway route. If you are using the train simply hop off at Newark North Gate and catch the short connection to Lincoln Central.

All of the UK's international airports are well served by public transport links, so wherever you fly in to you can be sure that getting to us will be straightforward.



East Midlands
1h 20m

Robin Hood
1h

Birmingham
1h 45m

Manchester
2h 20m

Stansted
2h 10m

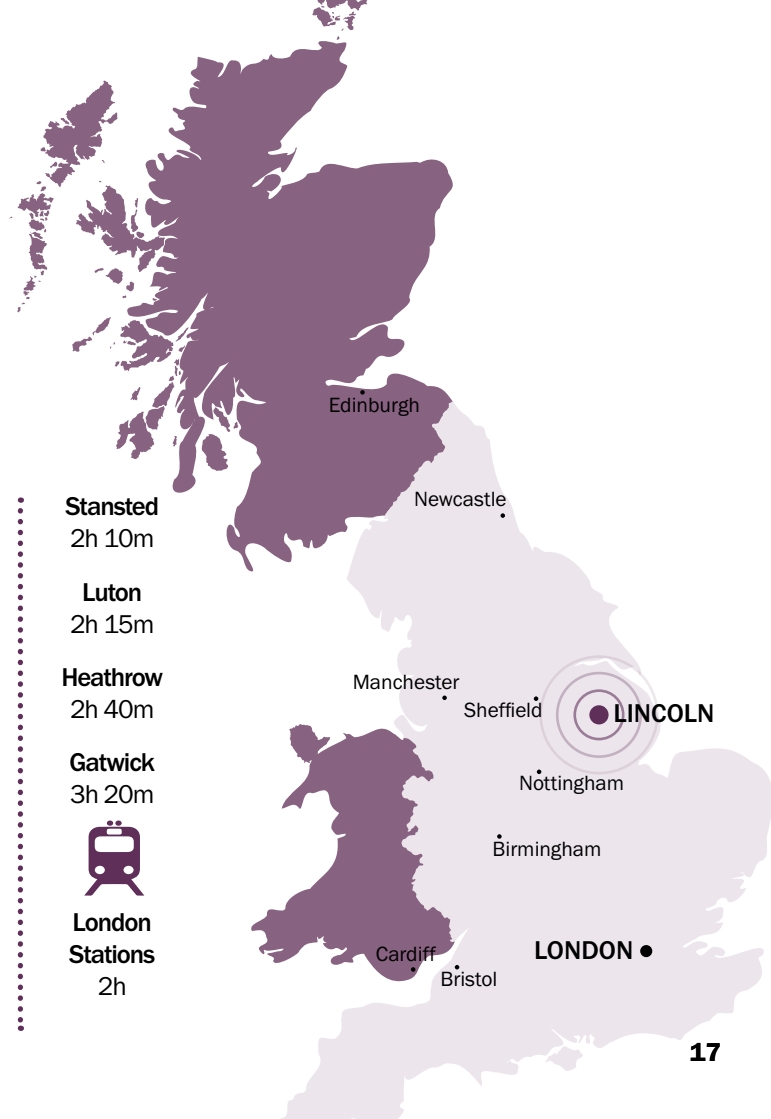
Luton
2h 15m

Heathrow
2h 40m

Gatwick
3h 20m



London Stations
2h



WHAT MAKES A BGU STUDENT STAND OUT.



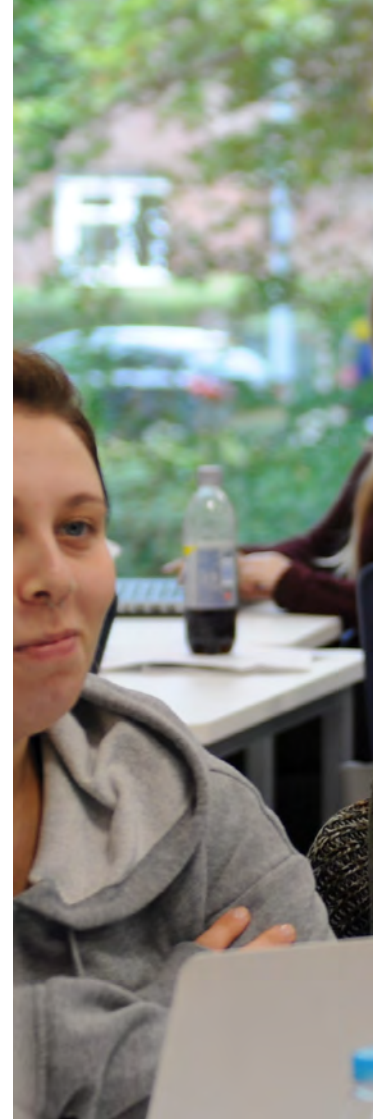
TEACHING EXCELLENCE.

Our teaching has been awarded the highest possible rating in the first ever Government-led Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) assessment, a rating which was awarded to just the top 26% of universities in the UK. This shows that you will receive the same high standard of education at BGU as you would at other leading universities such as Cambridge and Oxford.

We've always strived to provide outstanding teaching and learning here at BGU and now we have the award to prove it. This means you can rest assured that coming to study at BGU will provide you with education of the highest quality possible.

The judging panel recognised and highlighted BGU's strengths in all three elements of the TEF – namely teaching quality, the learning environment and student outcomes. Their written statement praised BGU's "personalised approach with high quality support" and commented on the outstanding support that is available at BGU which ensures "that students from all backgrounds achieve excellent outcomes".

We're incredibly proud of this recognition of our teaching excellence, and will continue to provide a first-class education to all of our students.





WHAT MAKES A BGU STUDENT STAND OUT.



EMPLOYABILITY.

BGU has consistently high employability rates. Currently over 98% of our students are in work or further study within 6 months of graduating. Of course, we think our students are fantastic from the minute they arrive on campus, but we aim to offer as much support as we can throughout their time here in order to help make them as employable as possible.

Our courses are tailored to help prepare you for life after graduation. This could be through placements in settings relevant to your field, or through one-to-one support time offered within the university. We also try to keep our class sizes smaller, to allow you a more personalised learning experienced.

We offer students the chance to participate in our Employability Award, which is designed to help you become fully prepared for the working environment by the time you graduate, gaining valuable experience along the way. You earn points by participating in additional work experience, volunteering, part-time and vacation work, attending relevant employability award workshops and lectures, and taking part in on-campus activities.





“During my time at BGU, I have vastly developed and improved the way I study and the skills I have, both through my degree course and also my involvement with the Students’ Union. The availability of employability and study skills sessions, along with the incredible support I received from members of academic and support staff at BGU was unbelievable. Looking back on my time at BGU, the help I received while I was there was a major part in me being able to go on to have a successful career.”

Rob

WHAT MAKES A BGU STUDENT STAND OUT.



HAPPINESS.

Here at BGU our students are amongst the happiest in the UK, and they love studying here – proven by the fact that we have consistently high ratings for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey. We think there are a number of reasons as to why our students are so happy. It could be down to the excellent facilities they have right here on campus, the support they receive from before they've even started studying here, or the fact that they continue to receive that support up until graduation and beyond!

Right here on campus we have a wide range of facilities, ranging from our very own cinema, cafes and a gym through to subject-specific state-of-the-art facilities, such as the brand new Archaeology lab and the Business hub (not to mention

our theatre, Human Performance Laboratory and much more besides). Our students enjoy full use of these facilities throughout their studies here with us and we are always looking to improve our campus and what we have to offer.

We really care about our students, so we aim to support them all the way through their studies, from application to graduation. Life after BGU is extremely important and we offer many different methods of support for your future career along the way.





I'd like to go on and do more research, whether that's within education or not, and ideally I'd do a PhD here at BGU. I love it here, the campus is so convenient, you know where everything is and you're never going to be late to anything. The people here are lovely too, whenever I've had problems be they academic or personal, I've always found someone to talk to who wants to help. It's never a challenge to find support and everyone is offering, I can't recommend BGU highly enough."

Janet

WHAT MAKES A BGU STUDENT STAND OUT.



LINCOLN.

We know Lincoln very well – we have been here in the historic heart of the city for over 150 years after all! From its charming cobbled streets uphill to its modern waterfront downhill, Lincoln has so much to offer students. The history enthusiast can immerse themselves in the city's rich heritage, the bargain hunter can trawl the independent shops and boutiques, the food-fanatic can dine at the many restaurants and bistros – there really is something for everyone!

Lincoln is a unique city – the Romans thought so when they set up camp here over 2,000 years ago and we tend to agree with them (although we're probably a little biased!). In recent years, the city has matured into a thriving cultural hotspot – a heady mixture of old and new, historic and contemporary,

traditional and cutting edge. And most importantly, it's also extremely student-friendly. With students making up a significant proportion of the population of the city you can be sure that when you arrive here you'll be in good company. Lincoln is in the heart of England in the East Midlands, ideally placed to give you easy access to the rest of the country.

The city is really easy to navigate around on foot and is essentially split into two halves. The uphill historic area boasts beautiful cobbled streets, the majestic Cathedral, hilltop Castle and BGU.

Downhill is the more modern city centre, focused around the busy High Street and Brayford waterfront. With a variety of live entertainment venues, cultural attractions and nightlife hotspots across the city, you'll be sure to find plenty to keep you entertained.





I think Lincoln is really diverse - you have the great contrast between historic and modern. It's nice because the historic part is really interesting but you've also got the modern parts which are great for shopping and relaxing. There's lots of student things going on because there are so many students here, because of the two universities. It makes it a nice atmosphere. It's not a huge and daunting city - it's quaint."

Emma

OUR CAMPUS.



We're very proud of our campus. We've been here for a very long time, developing and growing with the city around us. We continually look to make improvements to ensure BGU is an excellent place in which to study, live, work and relax. In recent years, we've built upon and reimagined many elements of our campus to ensure that your time with us will be as stimulating, interesting, relaxing and rewarding as possible.

Some of our buildings date from the 1840s and are still in use today. We complement these fine Victorian buildings with brand new teaching and learning spaces, providing an enticing mix of the old and the new, the intimate and the expansive. Our modern library and brand new state-

of-the-art teaching rooms will ensure that you have the best facilities possible for your studies here.

But, of course, the academic side of things is only one part of studying for a degree. You also need to make sure that your university can satisfy your hunger, thirst and entertainment needs - fortunately, we've got that covered! With places on campus to eat, drink, relax, meet friends, socialise, watch the latest films and exercise, we certainly manage to pack a lot into our campus to keep you busy!





The campus is really nice. It's quite small, but you've got a cinema, you've got restaurants, you've got everything you need. Last year I never left! I can go weeks without leaving campus!"

Shannah

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.

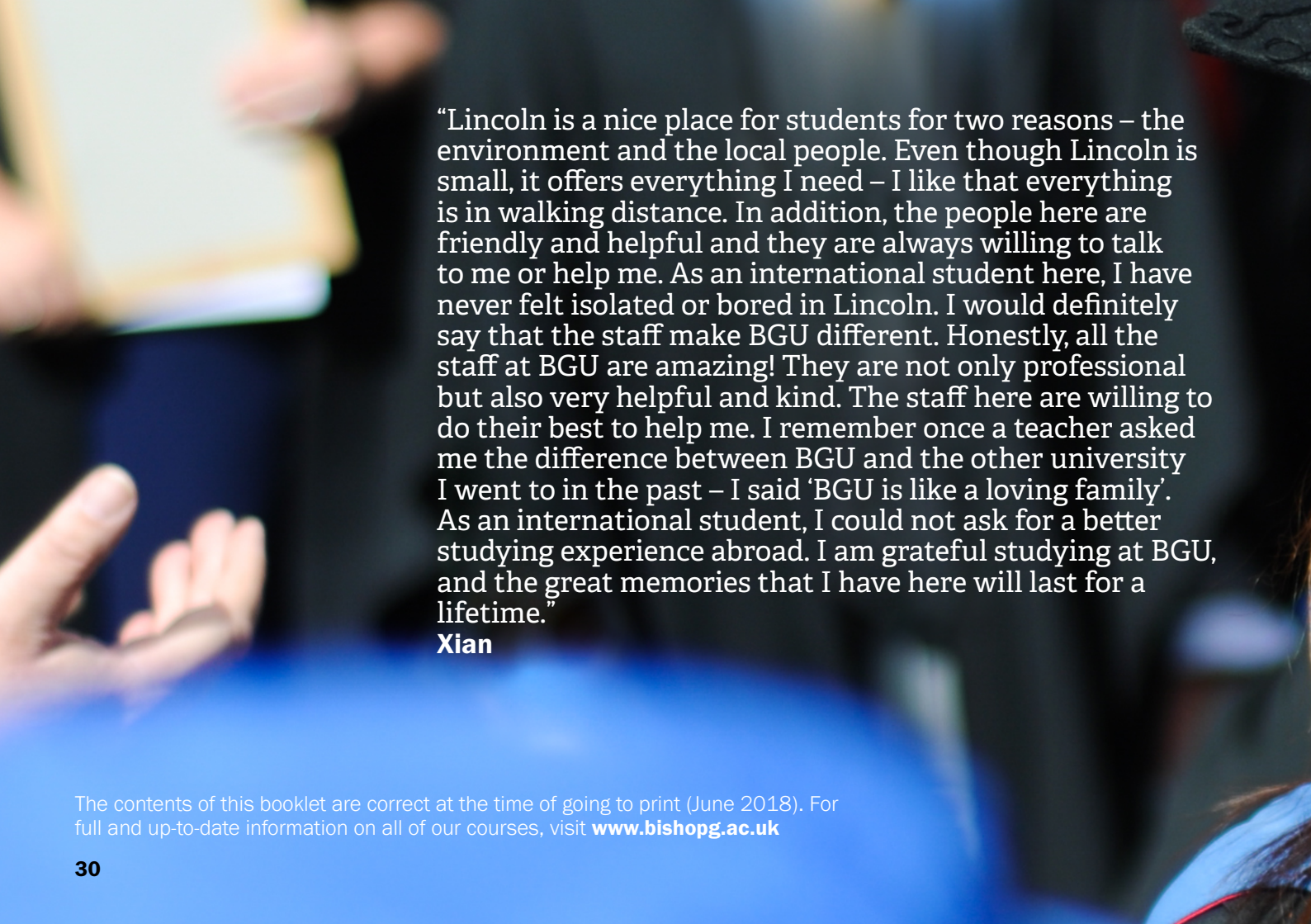
A BGU Open Day is designed with you in mind, to give you a taste of what it's like to live, study and work here. We try to make everything as easy as possible for you, so you can relax and enjoy the day. You'll have the chance to explore the campus and surrounding area, speak to members of academic staff 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 Masters courses you will apply directly to BGU – simply visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk/masters** for all the information you will need. And don't worry – if you need help with anything we're here to help. Our dedicated team are ready to answer your queries and questions.



“Lincoln is a nice place for students for two reasons – the environment and the local people. Even though Lincoln is small, it offers everything I need – I like that everything is in walking distance. In addition, the people here are friendly and helpful and they are always willing to talk to me or help me. As an international student here, I have never felt isolated or bored in Lincoln. I would definitely say that the staff make BGU different. Honestly, all the staff at BGU are amazing! They are not only professional but also very helpful and kind. The staff here are willing to do their best to help me. I remember once a teacher asked me the difference between BGU and the other university I went to in the past – I said ‘BGU is like a loving family’. As an international student, I could not ask for a better studying experience abroad. I am grateful studying at BGU, and the great memories that I have here will last for a lifetime.”

Xian

The contents of this booklet are correct at the time of going to print (June 2018). For full and up-to-date information on all of our courses, visit **www.bishopg.ac.uk**



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