

STUDENT

**FEATURE
ARTICLE**

MEET YOUR
STUDENT
PRESIDENTS

Life

**SUMMER
2021 ISSUE**



**KURT
SATNEY**

SAM EDWARDS



bppstudents.com



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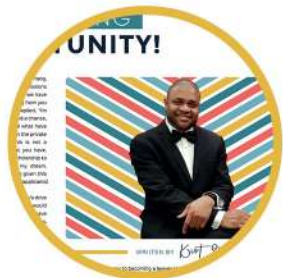
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APPRENTICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome

SUMMER 2021 EDITION

Welcome to the Summer 2021 Edition of the Student Life magazine. We are really excited to bring you a range of excellent articles written by BPP students and staff. We hope you enjoy reading this magazine as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Over the past months the Students' Association and I have been working alongside the University to ensure that the best possible outcomes are reached for students.

Our Virtual Campus continues to thrive as a central community where you can comment in forums, join groups and take part in events. Whether you're interested in health and fitness, cooking, e-sports, photography or movies, we have something for everyone. You can join the [Virtual Campus](#) here.

The Students' Association is here to help you make the most of your student experience and consists of several parts:

- The Student Voice is key to ensuring that your views and opinions are heard across the University. My team and I work closely with the Student Voice Representatives, who act as an independent voice for students on various academic committees and school boards, to ensure a positive experience for everyone during their time at BPP University.

- The Student Engagement Team works closely with student-run clubs and societies across all centres to help offer a number of exciting opportunities for you to socialise, as well as to develop skills that will assist you in the future. The team also create social and professional events to cater to all across BPP University study centres

- The Independent Education and Welfare Advisors are here to help you when things don't go to plan. They provide an impartial, confidential service which is independent from the University and can help with academic and welfare issues such as appeals, complaints, deferrals and wellbeing.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any feedback on this magazine or any aspect of the student experience.

Best wishes,

Hajra Babariya

– Group Head of Student Experience
Hajrababariya@bpp.com



HAJRA
BABARIYA

GROUP HEAD OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE



STUDENT PRESIDENTS



Sam Edwards

PRESIDENT

I am excited to have joined the BPP Students' Association as one of your Student Presidents. I want to take this opportunity to invite all of those reading to reach out to our team if you want to share any feedback or concerns. We all care deeply about representing our students and learners' interests and work closely with BPP every week to deliver positive change.

I studied the PGDL at BPP Birmingham last year so have experienced being a student here first-hand. My new role is focused on the transition back towards face-to-face teaching and promoting wellbeing at BPP, but I support various aspects of the Association. After such a difficult year I will be championing the student voice in all my discussions with the university and seeking win-win solutions where at all possible.

I look forward to meeting many of you in centres over the next few months and would strongly encourage you to make use of the BPP facilities, some of which have received sizeable investment recently.

We now have a great opportunity to reimagine BPP for the next generation, I hope you will join me in this task! If there is something you wish to talk to me about please do get in contact with me at samedwards@bpp.com or pop along to our Weekly Drop every Wednesday at 5pm.



Kurt Satney

PRESIDENT

Welcome to BPP University! It is an honour to serve you as President and I look forward to collaborating with all students to make this experience as positive and productive as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure students that the Students' Association is dedicated to this support and continues to grow from strength to strength in order to honour this commitment.

The Students' Association continues its drive to keep students engaged by making full use of our Virtual Campus. We put on several competitions and events both professional and fun aimed at giving students a much-needed break from the challenges we have been facing. I take this opportunity to also encourage all BPP students, alumni, and staff to be a part of our growing Virtual Campus community and enjoys all its benefits while connecting with each other.

We are committed to advancing the Student Voice at BPP and are always looking for students to get involved with us, so please do get in touch so we can advance our voice together. I am dedicated to supporting you and you can reach out to me via email at KurtSatney@bpp.com to arrange a call to discuss any matter or just to have an informal chat. I would like to thank you for choosing to a member of the BPP Community and I wish you success with your studies as I look forward to meeting all of you.



YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TEAM



Charlotte Dare

HEAD OF STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

As the Head of Students' Association, I work across all 3 of our areas Student Voice, Student Engagement and Independent Education and Welfare to ensure the Students' Association are here for you throughout your time with BPP.

I am passionate about working in partnership with you to evaluate and enhance your student experience. I am here to ensure that your opinions are valued and heard by the university. I also work closely with our Student Voice Representatives to look for ways to improve the service provided to the students throughout their academic life.

If there is anything you would like to see from your Students' Association or you need our help with anything at all please do reach out to me at charlottedare@bpp.com



Stacey Clements

&

Gole Dennis

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION AND
WELFARE ADVICE TEAM

The Independent Education and Welfare Advice Team provide a free, confidential, unbiased, service which is available to all students at BPP. We can provide guidance for when things don't go to plan, ranging from feedback on Mitigating Circumstance or Appeal applications to advising on the Complaints procedure. We can also attend University meetings or hearings, such as Academic Misconduct Panels, with you.

We also run a range of welfare campaigns and events, for more information please check the [Students' Association website](#) and the [Virtual Campus](#)

We are friendly faces at the University, so please feel welcome to reach out to us at independentadvice@bpp.com if you have any questions.



Catherine Devonald

EVENTS AND
ENGAGEMENT

Within the Students' Association I work closely with clubs and societies to encourage social events and activities. As well as this I manage the social media presence of the Students' Association, feel free to give us a follow!

I have previously worked in event planning and student facing roles and enjoy everything that comes with this. I have also seen things from the other side when, while at university, I was my society's Social Secretary. From this experience I understand the importance of having a good support network to base BPP societies and student events on.

From solving problems to creating event materials, I hope that I can be of help to you and your society! You can contact me on engage@bpp.com with any queries



AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!

An opportunity landed on the shores of the island of St. Lucia in form of full tuition scholarships to travel over four thousand miles to the United Kingdom to study law, psychology, business or accounting. A tiny island in the Caribbean was recognised by a private university which offered fifty scholarships to under privileged people to study in the UK. This was seen by many as an opportunity of lifetime which could not be passed up because it opened the door for a tertiary education in what is arguably the mecca of education on the planet.

As one would expect, thousands of people from all walks of life, in every age group descended on the auditorium of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College on the day BPP University designated for the presentation of this amazing opportunity. Among those thousands was someone who was the eldest of his siblings who had to drop out of A-Level college because his single parent mother could not afford to continue to support him pursuing that part of his education. This person was me, your humble servant. Seventeen years had passed between me leaving A-Level and this opportunity to fulfil my dream of one day becoming a lawyer. A dream I thought would never come to pass even on that day because the competition for those fifty scholarship opportunities was way too steep.

Upon leaving the auditorium persons were asked to leave their email addresses and phone numbers if they were interested and I obliged, thinking of it as just a formality. Two weeks had passed, and I thought nothing of it, after all I considered that I was

too old to even be considered. Then my phone rang, and it was a member of BPP University admissions team asking me for my application, "Hi Kurt, we have your name, but we haven't seen anything from you yet" she said. I was astonished and I replied, "I'm sorry but it is because I didn't think I stood a chance, I have no A-levels". She then said, "well what have you been doing all this time?" "Working in the private sector", I replied. She said to me this is not a problem, just apply and send us what you have. Three weeks later I was awarded this scholarship to travel to the UK to begin pursuing my dream. Imagine my excitement, my elation, I was given this amazing opportunity out of thousands of applicants!

This is a perfect of example of BPP University's drive to grant opportunities to persons who would otherwise not have been given a chance. I have continued to persevere throughout my BPP journey, even though it meant me leaving all my family in St. Lucia and living alone in the UK. I worked hard burning through many a midnight oil over the years studying and completing assignments. I have never hesitated to give back to the University of my time and energy, always willing to volunteer and help other students along the way so that I can pay it forward. My hard work and willingness to give back has kept me in good stead as in 2019 I was offered another full tuition scholarship, this time the prestigious Pro Vice Chancellor's Scholarship to study the Bar Professional Training Course with BPP University.



WRITTEN BY *Kurt Satney*

I am still on this journey to becoming a lawyer six years on, next step Pupillage! Becoming President of the BPP Students' Association was another achievement which was always dear to me. I am a big believer in empowering people and giving them the platform for personal and professional develop. Student President gives me such a platform to support for my fellow students. It allows me the opportunity to improve on what has already been done before my tenure and to add my mark on this University which chose my tiny island to give an opportunity to under privileged people. I believe it is never too late in life to fulfil your dreams. As long as you never lose sight of them and you believe in them and persevere, you will get there. Thank you BPP for believing in people development and choosing to give me an amazing opportunity!



TRANSITIONING BACK TO CENTRE

*Sally-Ann
Burnett*

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
AT BPP

SALLY-ANNBURNETT@BPP.COM

Professor Sally-Ann Burnett is Deputy Vice-Chancellor at BPP University and is leading the university's transition back to face-to-face activities. Sally-Ann is looking forward to our 'new normal' with an enhanced university experience emerging because of our experiences during the pandemic.



JOINT ARTICLE

Sam Edwards

CO-PRESIDENT
OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SAMEDWARDS@BPP.COM

Sam Edwards is Co-President of the Students' Association, with a specific remit for the transition back to face-to-face teaching and student wellbeing. He has just completed the PGDL at BPP Birmingham. Sam is looking forward welcoming new students to BPP in-person over the coming months.

Introduction

Thank you to our students and staff for coming together over the last 16 months and supporting each other in this incredibly difficult period. Inevitably there are lessons to be learnt from the pandemic and we want to take these into our plans for returning to a face-to-face world.

This article aims to give you an insight into our thinking and provide you with the opportunity to reach out and share your feedback.

Plan for the summer

BPP remains committed to returning to face-to-face teaching when it is safe and sensible to do so. Our transition towards an in-person student experience is aligned with Stage 4 of the Government roadmap out of lockdown. This decision was made in part to give greater certainty to our students whilst also ensuring that safety remained at the heart of the strategy.

This is reliant on the removing of social distancing measures from 19th July 2021 and is subject to change in line with Government guidance. Should social distancing limitations continue, or in the result of any other changes to government guidance, teaching will start as scheduled but be delivered online, with a view to returning to face-to-face as soon as possible.

At BPP we have students enrolled on courses throughout the year and therefore our planned transition will be taking place throughout the summer months. We expect this will put us in a strong position to welcome large cohorts from September 2021 and to give our graduates the send-off they deserve later in the year. Nevertheless, we are aware of the challenges many students will face in returning to centres.



Study Centres

BPP study centres are the centrepiece of the transition plans. The return to face-to-face offers an exciting opportunity to reimagine our centres, which have collectively received over £2.4million in investment during the pandemic.

We have had some study centres open during the pandemic for self-study and library access, in line with government guidance, and we reopened them again on March 8. Whilst opening hours have been scaled back we are continually reviewing feedback from students and adjusting the hours to support students' need.

From Stage 4 of the Government roadmap (currently scheduled from 19th July 2021) BPP staff will begin returning to centres and students will be able to meet in-person with teams such as Learning Support and the Students' Association. There will also be opportunities for social activities and events to resume.

We are aware that many of our students will have never visited a study centre, and as such the Students' Association will be producing multimedia tours and running our inductions in centres. We hope this will increase confidence in visiting a centre and promote the excellent facilities more widely.

Finally

Please keep checking your VLE/HUB for the latest BPP news and updates on the transition. We are very happy to hear from you if there is anything that you think we haven't thought of or given the right priority to.

We want to assure you that **everybody matters** and we will continue to do our very best in what continues to be a challenging and unprecedented time.

Covid Testing and Vaccination

BPP is working on making the testing process as simple as possible for our students. We are aware that testing may be unfamiliar to some students and extensive guidance on getting a test can be found on the Students' Association's website (www.bppstudents.com). Please support twice-weekly asymptomatic testing as a way of keeping our community safe and our facilities open.

For our control measures to make the biggest impact, we need to work together – taking accountability for our own potential to transmit the virus, in a way that best protects those we share our facilities with.

All students have now been invited to be vaccinated. Please ensure you are registered with your local GP and take up the offer of a vaccine if you haven't already.



STUDENT LED STAFF AWARDS 2021

WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE?
CATEGORIES INCLUDE LECTURER OF THE YEAR, EXTRA MILE AWARD AND MORE!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 16TH JULY

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE NOW](#)



HOW A GLOBAL CRISIS SPARKED A PERSONAL OPPORTUNITY!

My journey within the NHS started in 2019 at Great Ormond Street Hospital starting a Health Care Support Worker Apprenticeship at entry level. The role consisted of developing the foundations for excellent patient care, clinical duties and supporting the physical and emotional wellbeing of children and families. This developed into a Health Care Assistant position. During the time of my apprenticeship, I gained both practical experience and educational classes and study days.

At Great Ormond Street Hospital I perused many opportunities to learn and grow, including specialist competencies, experience in different specialities and an enthusiastic attitude to learning with the patients and families about the fundamentals to child centred care. However, one of the most significant moments of my career began when the pandemic hit the nation and our national health service. The opportunity was to be redeployed to a COVID-19 Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) at The Nightingale located at The ExCel in London.

During my time in the adult ITU I adopted an endless list of both clinical and non-clinical skills, including adult cares, proning, ET tube cares, ventilation and ITU observations, blood gases and end of life care. I was both scared and determined to make a difference. With a year of paediatric skills to bring to the environment, I felt under skilled in adults, however with the support of nurses, operating department practitioners, doctors, educators, porters, mortuary staff and many more from all different backgrounds I was well supported and



encourage to adapt. When bad went to worse in 2020, the second wave hit, and I was motivated more than ever to get stuck into an ITU role and support other hospitals with their overwhelming COVID-19 numbers. This time I went to University College London Hospital, which was like reliving the first wave all over again. However, the staff were even more burnt out than before, staffing was exceptionally tight, the numbers were increasing day by day and I noticed the significant stress and deterioration of the beating heart of our country, the NHS.

Working on the front line during a global pandemic comes with some really challenging moments. Without a doubt, all frontline workers both in and out of the NHS will tell you of the additional stress on your body both physically, mentally, and emotionally. Forgetting about your own wellbeing is so easily done when you're worrying about the wellbeing of others.

I soon came to realise during the distressing year we have all had, that now more than ever I want to be a nurse. When the Great Ormond Street Hospital Learning Academy rolled out its new apprenticeship scheme in August 2020, I knew it was something I was determined to achieve. The Registered Nursing Degree Apprenticeship at Great Ormond Street Hospital with BPP university meant that I could continue to work the job I love, attend, and study at university level and earn an income. With the support and funding and not making too many personal sacrifices to achieve, it was the perfect opportunity to grow within the NHS.

Reflecting on both experiences, I have come to realise the importance of those skills I learnt in my first apprenticeship and the skills I was able to bring to each situation and patient care. I will always be reminded the importance of apprenticeships and the endless opportunities to learn skills in practice and within a safe and practical environment with the support of highly skilled and trained professionals. If I didn't absorb those opportunities within the pandemic, have the love and support from The Great Ormond Street Hospital Learning Academy, my ward team, family, and friends, I wouldn't have had the confidence to do what I am doing today. I believe for me, it was about finding opportunities within the crisis to learn and become the best nurse I can be. Never in a million years did I think I could achieve such an incredible career through apprenticeships within the NHS.



WRITTEN BY

Amber James

FUTURE LEGAL MIND AWARD WINNERS



This year 2 BPP students have triumphed against law students and legal trainees nationwide to be named as a winner and runner up in National Accident Helpline's annual Future Legal Mind Award 2021.

Now in its seventh year, a record number of entries were received for the essay-based competition this year. Past winners have gone on to become barristers and solicitors.



Elena Mitchell

WINNER

Elena has beat all the competition to be announced as the winner of the Future Legal Minds Award 2021. Elena will receive £2,500 and receive specialist mentoring with experienced lawyers.

As well as studying to become a barrister with BPP University, Elena runs her own consultancy for children whose studies are impacted by their mental health and works as a children's Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) therapy administrator.

Elena co-founded the #NotYourPorn campaign, and under this she continues to fight for the regulation of the commercialised porn industry. In her competition entry, she argued that despite the fact that it is illegal for an individual to share a private sexual photograph without the consent of the person in the image, as the UK porn industry is currently unregulated, victims are not offered much protection and very few cases are prosecuted.

ELENA SAID:

”

“I am shocked, honoured and delighted. Managing my studies alongside working and pro-bono campaigning is a rewarding but, often, gruelling task.

There is truly no greater feeling than having my hard work recognised by being shortlisted for this award - especially when so many excellent candidates apply each year!”



WILL HERBERTSON SAID:

(MARKETING STRATEGY DIRECTOR, NAHL GROUP)

”

“In her essay and video, Elena's abundantly clear passion for public law and human rights really shone through. She absolutely deserves her place in the final.”



Lou Lou Gurry

WINNER

Lou Lou is studying the LLM Legal Practice course at BPP University. Determined to qualify as a barrister, she dreams of providing advocacy for a diverse range of clients. Lou Lou has been announced as joint runner up receiving £250 and mentoring with experienced lawyers.

Hoping to offer pro bono services in the future, aside from volunteering at various law clinics, at present she is looking forward to starting a paralegal role in publicly funded criminal defence work following the completion of her exams.

In her competition entry, she argued that the "impossible burden of proof faced by LGBTQ+ asylum seekers" when coming to the UK is an example of the law which is "broken" and in urgent need of reform.

BPP would like to **congratulate** both Elena and Lou Lou on this amazing achievement and are very proud of the ideas they have presented to the Future Minds Award committee and that they have received the recognition they deserve for their commitment to improving the future of Law.

LOU LOU SAID:

“The road to a legal career is paved with rejections and being a young BME woman in the industry can be intimidating sometimes. So, finding out I made the shortlist was hugely exciting and reaffirming! I am so grateful for the opportunity and hope I can inspire others like me.”

WILL HERBERTSON SAID:

(MARKETING STRATEGY DIRECTOR,
NAHL GROUP)

“Lou Lou draws attention to some highly topical issues relating to human rights and immigration and offers insight into how new legislation could affect positive change in these areas. We wish her the best of luck for the final.”



MEET A BPP TUTOR

IN PROFILE WITH...



Simon Morris

BPP TUTOR

Simon Morris joined BPP in September 2020 as a law tutor on the PGDL programme in London. Read his interview with the BPP Student Life magazine to find out more about him and his experience as a BPP Tutor

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE A CAREER IN LAW?

Unashamedly for me, it was a combination of money and job security. At the time I was applying, my wife and I were young parents who needed some financial certainty.

It was in my second year at university – my best friend and I attended a law fair (for the free pens) and decided to send some applications in. A few called us for interviews and one made me an offer – the rest is history.

WHAT WAS YOUR BACKGROUND BEFORE JOINING BPP?

My training contract with Macfarlanes LLP consisted of seats in construction litigation, corporate tax, commercial property and mainstream corporate. I qualified into the commercial property and stayed at Macs for over 7 years. I also worked for Hamlins LLP, Addleshaw Goddard LLP and then a role in-house with a care home/hospitality operator.

WHY DID YOU JOIN BPP?

I remember enjoying my GDL (as it was back then) and LPC and thinking at the time what a rewarding job it must be for tutors who were teaching an area of law they had first-hand experience of working in.

Throughout my time in practice, I found myself leaning more to the knowledge and learning side of the role. Putting on education sessions for the trainees, helping and supporting my trainees (I still keep in touch with a number of them) and supporting the more junior members of the team came to be as rewarding as closing a deal.

Having worked alongside people that had moved to BPP, I spoke to them and they gave me the confidence to apply.

WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE TEACHING ON THE PGDL?

I joined BPP in September 2020, so have no experience of face to face teaching. All of my teaching experience to date has been online, which has advantages and disadvantages. I cannot wait to get into the classroom and engage with students, rather than staring at my computer screen...

Although I would say that I don't feel like a lecturer as such – more a tutor – I enjoy the interactive nature of the sessions and the opportunity for students to ask questions.

Given my commercial property background, I can confidently say that I have found the client case studies/scenarios incredibly realistic. The issues we present students with really do come up in practice. This enables tutors to draw on their own personal experiences to support the students' learning.

WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I look after my three children (17, 11, 4); play football, golf (badly), chess and run. I've always been a strong advocate of 'healthy body, healthy mind' – the long hours of revision at university and law school would be broken up with a half an hour run/game of football.

Lockdown has got us into baking. We are not very good, but the smallest is enthusiastic! I am also allowed to clean up after them.

Oh, and a bit of gardening – we have recently bought a couple of chickens. I made the mistake of letting the children name them so we have 'Nugget' and 'Lovely Chicken'. Fresh eggs for breakfast/baking have been a great addition.

Having read this back, it feels like the gentlest of midlife crises...

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR OUR STUDENTS?

Ask more questions. Your tutors have all been there and done it. They know what it takes and know many other people who know what it takes, many of whom may well still be in practice.



JOURNEY INTO NURSING

By Ricardo Tabosa De Araujo Santos

This story is about my career in a healthcare field, ascending from a cleaner to a Registered Nursing Associate, but soon a Registered Nurse.



To start with, I will go back in time to my childhood and the effect this had on my ability to thrive in my career. Including the links within my childhood to the National Health Service (NHS)'s 6 Cs of Nursing; Care, Compassion, Courage, Commitment, Communication and Competence.

My parents taught me my morals and values that I carry with me now. Above all, I witnessed them demonstrating care and practicing compassion to others daily. Their courage of sacrificing the little we had for the sake of a better community demonstrated some of those 6C's values. For instance, a popular saying my father repeated to us was: "– Put yourself in other people's shoes and do for them that you would like they had done for you."

It sounds very much like a cliché for some but, when it comes to delivering care, it becomes a directive of attitude and behaviour. In this regard, I never realized what I had learned, from my parents, was an attitude and behavioural tool.

In conclusion, I believe I was directed to be who I am today even though I had no idea I would ever achieve my dream of becoming a Paediatric Nurse.

Continuing, years passed, I moved to London. Establishing myself in a new city, I got a job as a senior facilities' supervisor for a well-known company. I was entirely dedicated to succeed in this work, although it required much commitment. Although my duties were not related to complex tasks,

I had to deal with few stressful conflict resolution situations which benefited me to develop my communication skill at work. My hard work was twice rewarded as the employee of the month. Once more, elements of the 6Cs values were surely put into practice and the traits learned from my father spoke loudly. Whatever job I choose to do in life, I will be committed to it, however, I was not satisfied with what I was doing and therefore, I thought I should chase career progression within Estate and Facilities field.

On a seemingly indistinct day, I woke up feeling different and pledged to work for satisfaction instead for money and found myself asking “where has your dream gone, Ricardo?” I envisaged myself rescuing my dream to work as a nurse, help people and give something good back to society. By doing so, I would be following my family ethos, doing what my parents taught me since I was very young. However, it would not be easy to re-start from zero. As I initially suspected, the most weighted argument was the financial aspects of career re-orientation. However, I did not let it discourage me and I applied to work as a cleaner in Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). This hospital is one of the most recognised children’s hospital in the world. I was scared to work for GOSH because had no clinical experience whatsoever in this field, but I was willing to learn.



At that point, everything was new to me and I had no clinical knowledge. Nevertheless, I had to start from somewhere and I focused on learning, as much as I could. Perhaps you are wondering what clinical values does a cleaner need in a hospital and how do these connect to the 6C’s values previously mentioned. I assure you that, as a cleaner, I learned valued skills such as infection control, clinical and non-clinical waste management, and linen management. In addition, I was introduced to some aspects of clinical governance including cleaning audits, data protection regulation and risk management for the environment. All these focused on protecting passers-by, but I had something bigger in mind.

After 11 months, as a cleaner, I ticked the first box in my professional progression and, in August 2014, I got a job as Housekeeper to work on a Paediatric Oncology Ward. In this new role, I learned about delivering holistic care, providing support to patients and families. Effortlessly, I did very well within my new scope of practice and, as a result, in March 2015 I was presented with a “Staff of the Month GEMS Award” in recognition of outstanding contribution to the success of the hospital. Slowly but continuously, I had a few more boxes ticked.

Then, in July 2015 I was selected as preferred candidate for the post of Healthcare Assistant. I felt so proud of myself and also realised that GOSH’s opportunities were, and still are, always there for those who are honest and are deeply committed. Another recognition of hard work came, sooner than I expected, when my Ward Sister motivated me to apply to a

Ward Sister motivated me to apply to a University Foundation Degree. In January 2017 I started a 2-year university program to become a Registered Nursing Associate. In January 2019 I graduated as a Nursing Association a few days before I celebrated my 50th birthday, the NMC issued my registration certificate, which I am still very proud of.

After ticking all these boxes, I was again motivated to proceed with further professional development. Now, I am currently enrolled on a Registered Nursing Degree Apprenticeship program at BPP University, with the support of my managers, colleagues and GOSH’s education team. By the way, since starting this new Apprenticeship at BPP University, I have been shortlisted as a finalist for the Health, Medical & Social Care category at the BAME Apprenticeship Awards 2021 #BAMEAppAwards. These all confirm I am on the right direction and, to promote apprenticeship programs, I have been participating in Nursing Apprentice session, at GOSH, to motivate potential candidates to apply for an apprenticeship. I am sure I will shortly have a lot to share with you all and I am very much looking forward to adding some extra paragraphs to this story in the coming years.





OUR EXPERIENCE OF BEING STUDENT VOICE REPRESENTATIVES

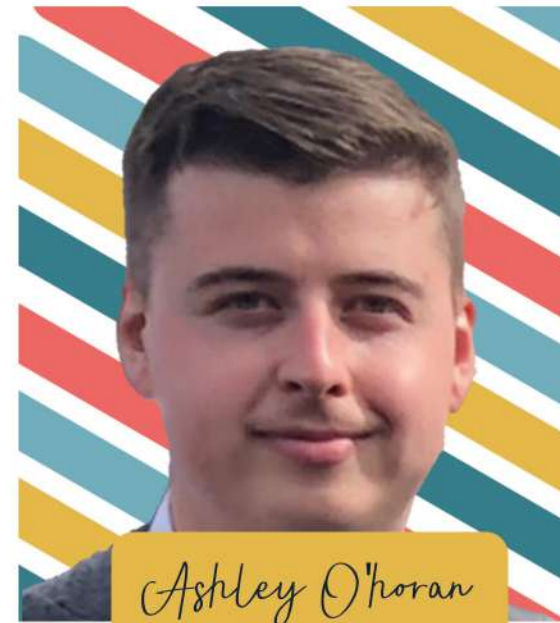
Being Student Voice Representative during this year has been an exciting opportunity for us, not least because we have been able to work alongside the BPP Students' Association to share experiences and recommendations on behalf of our fellow nursing students. Having experienced working with the Head of Students' Association, Charlotte, the Group Head of Student Experience, Hajra and the two Student Presidents, Sam and Kurt, we have seen first-hand how much hard work goes on behind the scenes to make BPP an amazing place to study.

The Association visited the Nursing School at the start of our degrees, and it was apparent that there was a real vision of students and staff working collaboratively to improve the student journey. As such we were all enthusiastic about joining the Student Voice Representative team.

Within our role as Student Voice Representatives, we have recently been part of co-authoring the Student Written Submission, which is a published document that allows the areas of good practice at BPP to shine through. BPP has continually demonstrated it is passionate about working with 'Students as Partners' which gave us confidence that the recommendations we made would be taken on board and changes made. We shared our views on things such as quality of teaching, how we found joining BPP, the recent switch to exclusive online learning and the general support we have received throughout our course.



Hillary Chinyerere



Ashley O'horan



Laura Green

A few weeks ago, the submission was submitted to the university. Seeing our photos right at the start of the document really made us feel as though we had contributed to something meaningful and reading through it was great to see so much feedback from all different part of the university. It is exciting to be helping change the future student experience at BPP.

However, the work of the Student Voice Representative goes much further. We also sit on a range of university boards and committees to ensure the student voice is being considered. These meetings are a great chance for us to share our experiences and help shape future university policy. We give our opinions as students on a range of topics and have also had the chance to interact with associates of other universities to give suggestions about the student experience across the sector more widely. The members of these meetings have always been keen to hear how we feel about our experiences.

We also attend regular focus groups throughout the year to get to the heart of hot topics at the university. A highlight of this experience has been contributing to focus groups that have gone on to have a direct and positive impact on the experience of other nursing students. The Students' Association are very open to holding focus groups and events when students approach them with an issue, and the respectful atmosphere as our fellow Student Voice Representatives discuss their experiences always makes for a productive discussion.

Within this role there is never a dull moment. Alongside joining meetings and focus groups we've seen all the activities the Association runs such as quizzes, watch parties, debates and, if you fancy it, even a spot of yoga! Furthermore, the Students' Association website has a whole range of activities and information that play a massive part in bringing all the students together. We'd strongly encourage you to check it out at www.bppstudents.com.

The sense of inclusion and feeling your voice can make a difference is such a good feeling. The experience has been amazing and long may it continue! Also, a huge shout out to the Students' Association team who put so much work into making this group what it is!



CAREER SKILLS

FOR SUCCESS AWARD ENHANCES BUSINESS STUDENTS' EMPLOYABILITY



Kate Matthews



Onika Gregory

The London School of Business Careers Team coached a small cohort of students through a 5 month pilot employability award to encourage them to develop their Career Skills. This included participation in employability workshops, external events, a mock interview and engaging in monthly Career Skill focused coaching sessions as well as sourcing their own virtual internship programme. Optional elements encompassed 2 of the following: volunteering, part time work, learning a new language and involvement in a club/society. The aim of this Award is to ensure that students graduate as skilled and confident individuals, able to articulate and showcase their transferrable skills during the application process and at interview and ultimately succeeding in their chosen career path.

Several incentives were provided to those students who were progressing well. This included a Q and A session with a Senior Manager at BPP. The follow Managers took part: Tim Stewart, Andrew Chadwick, Nikki Botterill, David Tomas-Merrills, Laila Barbe and Petia Paramova. All students and staff reported enjoying the experience and students were able to practise their communication skills virtually and learn a lot from the career experiences of their Manager. Another incentive was the Pro Bono 'Community Outreach Programme' where students worked as a group to teach financial literacy to secondary school students. Training and support were provided from the Pro Bono team before students presented to school pupils live on MS Teams. The final incentive offered was the chance to volunteer with the Shaw Trust 1 hour a week for a 6 month period, hosting workshops on budgeting for long term unemployed clients.

The programme concluded with a final celebration with each student delivering a presentation and sharing what they had achieved and gained from taking part in the award during the past few months. Those who participated found the programme to be an invaluable experience in preparing them for competing in the graduate job market. We would like to share some of their thoughts and experiences from the programme:



WHAT DID YOU LEARN THE MOST FROM DOING THIS AWARD AND WHICH WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE OR ENJOYABLE PART FOR YOU?

KALED CHOWDHURY, MSC ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE ADAF



“In a short sentence it is not possible to describe what I have learnt from this award. But most importantly I am feeling now that I can present myself confidently in front of any interview board and my CV will stand “out from the crowd “. I got an opportunity to participate in a one-to-one Q and A session with BPP’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Tim Stewart. It was the most memorable part because I knew about his leadership style and how he is leading BPP and coping with all the unexpected situations during the pandemic and making good strategic decisions for long term success of the University “.

ANKIBHAI RAJUBHAI ANJANA PATEL,

MSC MANAGEMENT WITH PROJECT MANAGEMENT 18 MONTH PROGRAMME



“The award was designed specifically to work on a different skill each month and it has allowed me to boost skills such as teamwork, communication, self-development, time management and problem solving. These skills are essential in order to become more employable as well as for everyday life. During this award I have gained confidence while communicating or presenting myself, prioritisation skills and networking with different individuals. The final ceremony day (virtual) was great and I have enjoyed a lot discussing with my fellow students and with coaches. That day we got a boost from the Careers team regarding our next journey and how to navigate ourselves with ongoing learning in this fast-paced environment. The Careers team and my coach (Sharon) helped me with each monthly challenge and I have learned lots of new skills. Each coaching session was memorable and enjoyable for me as I got excited each time I learned a new skill”.

**GIOVANNI PINTUS,** MSC ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE GRADUATE

“The CSS Award has given me the opportunity to hone skills that are in demand in the job market, improve my CV and LinkedIn profile, and practice my presentation skills. It has allowed me to gain confidence in interviews and with the application process. The workshops and meetings with my personal coach and careers team provided me with invaluable advice. Overall, I feel it has improved my communication skills and emotional intelligence quite a lot”.

**KIMBERLY DSOUZA,** MSC ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE ADAP

“My self confidence has definitely been boosted due to the Career Skills for Success Award (CSSA). The entire programme helped push me out of my comfort zone and make an effort to work towards my goals. From the individual advice from my career coach to the webinars, every session has been packed with great learning lessons which have developed my personal and professional skills. I definitely enjoyed the Elevator Pitch workshop. The career coaches let us prepare our individual elevator pitches and practice with one of our peers followed by delivering our pitches before the entire group and we gave and received feedback on our performance. It offered a variety of perspectives which I felt was valuable. I also enjoyed the closing session of the CSSA with the presentations from all the participants as well as the party poppers in celebration of us completing the programme”.

**MANESH HARIKRISHNAN,**

MSC MANAGEMENT WITH PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PDP



“It was a wonderful journey with the BPP Careers team and the Career Skills for Success Award. The programme was well structured, very informative and well organised. It is a stepping stone for students to achieve their desired future career goals. For me the final presentation was the most interesting. Everybody participated well and we received healthy constructive comments from the coaches. I would recommend this programme to all students”.



EWURAKUA OSEI AKU, MSC ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE



The CSSA was a great opportunity for me to develop key career skills such as resilience, communication, and management and leadership just to mention a few. It challenged me to research areas I probably would not have paid attention to in a normal day. I developed myself and I am excited to continue the journey of self-development our careers team encouraged us to embark upon. One of the best workshops was the Elevator Pitch as I could not believe how I was able to draft a nice elevator pitch for myself within the short time allocated and how valuable that written piece is professionally. I do not know if the Careers team have the capacity to, but I believe every student at BPP University deserves a chance on this programme because I see it as a complement to the academic programme being offered by the Business School. Thank you BPP University Careers team!"

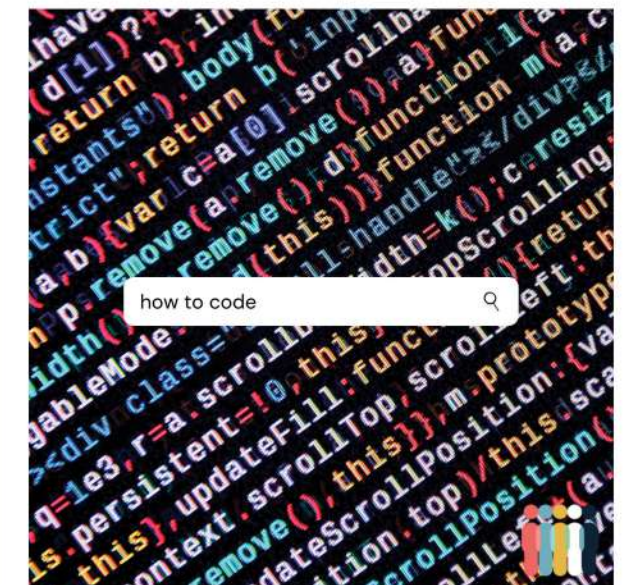
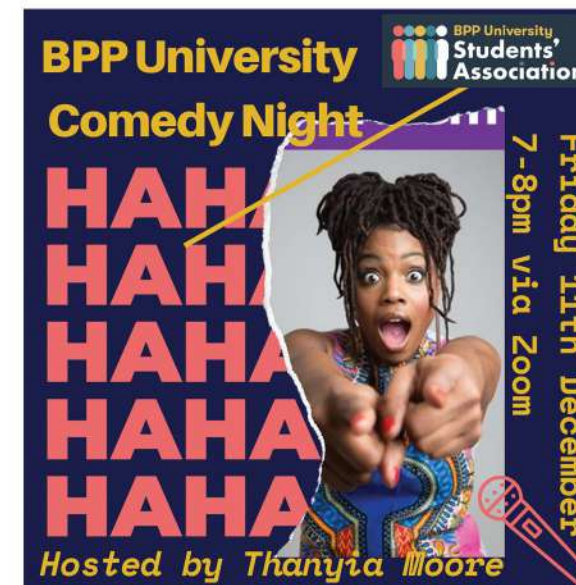
SHIREESHA ALAGUM, IMBA WITH ES&AP, 18 MONTHS



"This CSS Award helped to develop my employability skills and we were given proper guidance through each step of the way in planning our careers, for example, the application process, CV writing, and interview preparation. This five month Award offers many important things to prepare and to learn, however I enjoyed and learned most from the 1:1 sessions with my coach Katie, attending a mock interview, delivering my final presentation and participating in the elevator pitch workshop. I really recommend that other students apply for this opportunity which will help them to build confidence in their career".

If you would like to participate in future career programmes or speak with a member of the team, please email careers@bpp.com

FROM COOKING TO CODING: CHECKING IN WITH OUR ONLINE SOCIAL PRESIDENTS!



In September 2020 the Students' Association created the role of the 'Online Social President'. This position aimed to drive student activities online, promote the Virtual Campus as well as create and host innovative event ideas in a virtual world. Nine months later we check in with Online Social Presidents Taryn Walker (LPC LLM), Ayesha Siddiqua (MSc Project Management) and Munawar Sheikh (LPC). Here's what they had to say:



Munawar Sheikh
LPC

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE EVENT YOU'VE CREATED?

I've been fortunate to have organised several events so far as an Online Social President: dabbling in little bit of accelerated learning and computer coding, to sessions with a clinical nutritionist, executive careers coach, a tailor and a baker!

One of the best things about being an OSP is the support and flexibility of the management team; you're given a lot of freedom and encouragement to try new things. If an idea works that's great and if it doesn't (it's still great) try something else!

Every event has had its own flavour, and I've enjoyed them equally. But if you ask me for my favourite moment, it has to be when during a one of coding sessions, an attendee's dog was barking answers to the questions, they were all correct too! (all pets were promised a treat afterwards).

The really nice thing about this role is the ability to bring people (and pets) together from across the globe to share in a common curiosity or interest.

The position of an OSP has been vital in staying in touch with the global BPP community, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Nobody should be lonely.

HOW HAS BEING AN OSP IMPACTED YOUR OVERALL BPP EXPERIENCE?

The role of OSP represents the lighter side of student life. This role, together with the BPP Virtual Campus, has been vital in staying connected when we've all had to be apart. Despite the current pandemic, being an OSP has made my overall experience with BPP positive.

WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR TIME AS AN ONLINE SOCIAL PRESIDENT?

Success and support aren't mutually exclusive. Look at what value you can bring to others. A little effort and curiosity takes you places. Try something different and if it doesn't exist invent it! Just invent it! I'd like to thank Hajra, Charlotte and Catherine in the Students' Association for encouraging me as an OSP.



Taryn Walker
LPC LLM

WHAT ORIGINALLY MADE YOU WANT TO BE AN ONLINE SOCIAL PRESIDENT (OSP)?

I wanted to become an OSP for two main reasons. The first was knowing that my LLM course was to be entirely online. I was worried about obtaining the same level of interaction with other students so I applied to become an OSP for the chance to meet more people and feel more involved in university life, and to help others feel this way too. The second reason was that throughout my undergraduate degree I attended a lot of seminars and events, but I found it difficult to explain how they increased my skillset in a way that would stand out in job applications or interviews. I knew that being an OSP would provide me with clear examples of my personal development.

HOW HAS BEING AN OSP IMPACTED YOUR OVERALL BPP EXPERIENCE?

Despite multiple national lockdowns, being an OSP has allowed me to work closely with students and staff at BPP University across multiple campuses. I have been in touch with people across multiple industries to arrange everything from HIIT sessions to careers seminars. As I was required to attend all of these events as moderator, I was able to fully benefit from everything that BPP had to offer.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE EVENT YOU'VE CREATED?

One of my favourite events to create was the Virtual Christmas Comedy Show 2020. Although this sadly had to replace the in-person annual ball, I am pleased that we were able to make the most out of a bad situation. I got in touch with management agencies, negotiated prices, and organised timings. I then created posters and marketed the event to the students and staff of BPP. The comedy show was successful, and I felt great satisfaction in knowing that I had created this event and overcome any obstacles along the way.

WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR TIME AS AN ONLINE SOCIAL PRESIDENT?

Being an OSP has given me the opportunity to be creative, host popular events, and gain new skills in networking, budgeting, and marketing. It also improved my time management skills as I planned events around my seminars and exam periods. I really enjoyed this experience and I recommend it to anyone who is looking to boost their skillset, think creatively, solve problems, and meet new people.



Ayesha Siddiqua
MSC PROJECT MANAGEMENT

WHAT ORIGINALLY MADE YOU WANT TO BE AN ONLINE SOCIAL PRESIDENT (OSP)?

When I joined BPP I initially heard a lot about the role. Since classes were virtual, I thought it would be a great way to get involved and be a part of BPP. It was a great opportunity to get to know people virtually, so I choose to be a OSP and interviewed for it.

HOW HAS BEING AN OSP IMPACTED YOUR OVERALL BPP EXPERIENCE?

Being an OSP has made my virtual BPP experience! While I'm not attending centres physically, I'm still in touch with all the faculty, classmates, and other Virtual Campus members. It's made my virtual studies more interesting as not only am I studying but I'm also really involved with the community. Example of this is teaching my weekly cooking classes and taking part in all Virtual Campus competitions. I'm very happy to be an OSP!

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE EVENT YOU'VE CREATED?

My favourite event will be of course my Cook with Ayesha event which I take every Thursday! I make Indian dishes and teach as I cook to show how to make the dishes.

WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR TIME AS AN ONLINE SOCIAL PRESIDENT?

I used to have a fear of speaking to groups. As an OSP and through teaching my Cooking with Ayesha class, I have been involved and interactive with other people. The role has helped me boost my confidence and develop myself day by day.

Thank you to our Online Social Presidents for all their hard work this year! Are you interested in being an Online Social President? Be sure to follow our social media to find out when applications are open!



THE LIFE OF AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



Isabel Lam

TRAINEE SOLICITOR
AT ALLEN & OVERY
LAW FIRM

Isabel Lam is currently a Trainee Solicitor at Allen & Overy Law Firm in London. As a BPP Alumnus, she spoke to Kate Basset, Head of Careers - Leeds Law School, to talk about her student journey as an International Law Students at BPP and how she began her career in the UK.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN STUDYING LAW?

I came to the UK to further my studies, I completed my A levels here and went to a university in London thereafter. I decided to study law after attending an open day at Oxford University where a lecturer demoed how law modules were taught. I found the process of navigating through complex legal principles and learning how to both apply and challenge them particularly interesting. When I started university, I focused on enjoying the experience of learning the law and university life, in comparison, a lot of my peers had game plans of the things they needed to do in order to put themselves in the best position to obtain a training contract by the end of the course. In hindsight, I think a combination of the above would be the ideal mind-set for people to have when starting law school.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE LAW STUDENTS ON THEIR APPROACH TO STARTING THEIR LEGAL CAREER IN THE UK?

I believe it is important to think about your career options as early as possible, especially if you are an international student that might want to work in the UK after graduating. You need to be cognisant of the fact that there is a lot of competition for legal job opportunities and being an international student,

you might face added challenges like the obtaining of work visas etc. I advise students to first do their research on key skills that law firms are looking for and then to be open to different opportunities of how you can develop such skills. If you find it difficult gaining legal work experience in the UK, you could spend summers back in your home country interning for international firms or with in-house counsels of different corporations. Start-ups are also always looking for interns and are great opportunities to take on various responsibilities and develop a wide-range of skills. Additionally, there are multiple free online courses that you can take to develop commercial, financial and technical knowledge.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN CHALLENGES YOU FACED IN REMAINING IN THE UK AND STARTING YOUR LEGAL CAREER HERE?

I was unable to secure a UK TC whilst I was at university and so my main challenge was remaining in the UK and continuing the TC application process after graduation. At that time, I felt that one had a better chance of securing a UK job opportunity if one was present in the local area. Today, with the advent of events being moved online I believe many firms are or will be willing to conduct interviews and assessment days completely online, making it easier to attend such interviews from anywhere in the world but previously it was often non-negotiable that the final interview stage had to be done in person. In order to stay in the UK, I needed a work visa and so I applied to various jobs including non-legal ones like compliance and banking job opportunities but alas, I was not successful in that approach. So, I went back to my home country and made sure to work for international law firms with connections to the UK. After a few legal internships, I then secured a permanent position at a UK legal-tech start-up that was specifically looking to branch out in Asia. From this job, I was able to obtain a Tier 2 visa and whenever I came to London for work I took the opportunity to attend open days at different law firms, made TC applications and went for interviews.

WHAT RESOURCES/PEOPLE DID YOU FIND THE MOST USEFUL TO SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR GOAL OF SECURING A TC IN THE UK?

Different people – I spoke to international trainees and associates to gain insight on how they started their legal careers. They provided me with valuable visa advice and knowledge on the type of questions I needed to ask graduate recruitment to ensure that the firms I applied to could sponsor my visa if I were successful in securing a TC with them. I believe it is also crucial to speak to a career guidance counsellor to ensure that your applications are in the right tone, format and that your skills are effectively demonstrated. Additionally, I found that speaking to lawyers in various firms via LinkedIn or networking events was beneficial in providing me with specific knowledge about the firm's culture and work that I was able to utilise during interviews to show that I did my research and was passionate about joining their firm.

WHAT DO YOU THINK AN INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE CAN OFFER TO AN EMPLOYER?

Being from a different country and having international work experience, you are able to use your knowledge of different cultures and customs to enhance your ability to build relationships with colleagues and clients from varying backgrounds. One can easily strike up a conversation and offer different insights and knowledge on things going on around the world, which is always interesting to a lot of different people. This global outlook and insight is highly valued by many employers.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CURRENTLY INTENDING TO START THEIR LEGAL CAREER IN THE UK?

Given that the legal industry is one that is highly competitive, I believe securing a TC is 60% luck and 40% preparation. In terms of preparation, getting the best grades that you can, participating in various co-curriculum activities both legal and non-legal, having an application that highlights your achievements and skills, doing mock interviews and case studies, are examples of things you can do to put yourself in a good position to secure a TC. However, because there is no guaranteed route of securing a TC I think it is also good to be opened to other ways of having a legal career. This could be going back to your home country and working for an international law firm that could potentially lead you back to the UK, working in a similar industry, i.e. compliance or legal-tech, or even working in a completely different industry that utilises a lot of the same skills as a lawyer.

On a more personal note, receiving multiple rejection emails or trying to balance work/university with time spent on TC applications can be rather challenging. I found talking to friends who were or did go through a similar process to be especially comforting in knowing that I was not alone in this often difficult journey of obtaining a TC. At the end of the day, please prioritise your mental health and make sure to treat yourself every now and then for all the hard work you have put into starting your legal career.





GRADUATE ROUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The new Graduate Route is a good opportunity for current international students to remain in the UK following completion of their Higher Education qualifications.

The process opened at 9am on July 1st 2021 and students who have completed an undergraduate or post graduate degree at an Educational Provider with track record of compliance can apply. Students who have completed a bachelors or masters will be permitted to remain in the UK to work or look for work for a period of two years. Whilst students who have completed a PHD will be permitted to remain in the UK for three years.

Students who began their course in Autumn 2020 will need to arrive in the UK by 21 June 2021 to be eligible for the Graduate Route. Students who began their course in 2021 have until 27 September to enter the UK. To be eligible, students will need to have a valid Tier 4 or Student visa at the time of their application. Therefore, students that have leave expiring before 01 July 2021 are not eligible to apply under the Graduate Route (These students will have the option to apply for other immigration categories such as Start Up Visa or Skilled Worker amongst others). . Once students submit their application for the Graduate Route, they are permitted to remain in the UK legitimately until the outcome of their application.

Students are responsible for the cost of the visa application which is £700. In addition, students will also need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge, which is £624 per year, i.e. £624 x2 (for undergraduate and post graduates students) or £624 x 3(for PHD students).

You must pay your fees upon application and keep a copy of your application and fee receipt as proof.

If a student is unable to return to the UK by the specified date but does have a valid visa, there are no additional concessions for them. The Government may look at revisions later due to Covid-19 restrictions and some countries remaining on the red list for travel. However, this is not confirmed.

Only those who are already in the UK and have leave as a Dependent of the student can apply to extend their leave as a Dependent under the Graduate Route. Therefore, new dependents cannot be added.

As the Graduate is not sponsored, students are permitted to seek employment across a wider range of sectors. The Student Route allows students to remain in the UK to look for work or work. The real value of the Graduate Route is to be employed in the UK and have the opportunity to build skills, experience and knowledge with an employer with the potential of transferring onto the Skilled Worker visa after two years. Students can apply and accept permanent roles under this Graduate route. It's the employer's responsibility to decide what to do after this visa expires and if they find a talented international graduate employee, they will rarely let go of such an asset to their business. You now have a two-year window to prove your worth to the employer.

ONE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION ON JOB APPLICATION FORMS IS:

“Do you have permission to work in the UK ?” if your current visa is still valid at the time of your application you can reply “yes” to this question.

If there is space on the form to explain that you don't require sponsorship by an employer, this is your chance to let the employer know they don't need to apply for a licence to offer you the job.

The AGCAS international task force are collecting employer feedback from a large range of companies and will be producing a guide on their views around the new graduate route, employing international graduates and how they have found the new system. Once the guide is ready we will make it available.

Further links and resources:

Home office in the Media

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/14/fact-sheet-graduate-immigration-route/>

UKCISA

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/information--advice/working/working-after-studies>

Student Circus

<https://studentcircus.com/>

BUILA

<https://www.buila.ac.uk/>

Gradlink

<https://www.gradlinkuk.com/>

Zenia Chopra blog :

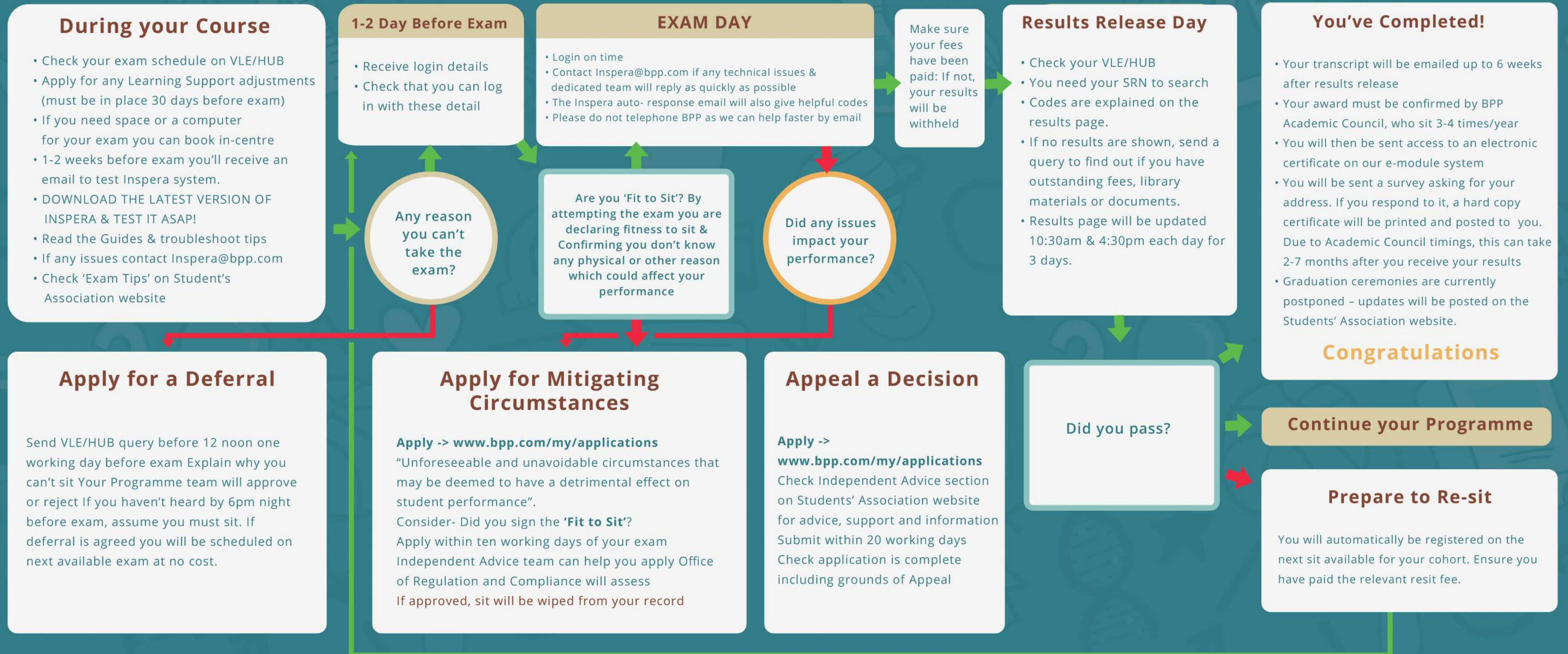
<https://www.kingsleynapley.co.uk/insights/news/at-last-the-graduate-visa-is-finally-here>

Contact:

the University
Assessment Office
via the Student Query
Form on the VLE/HUB
or Inspera@bpp.com
for Inspera Examqueries.

BPP Online Exams – Your Journey!

Over the past year BPP has moved all of their exams online. We use Inspera software which you download, then it records you during your exam so you can be remotely invigilated. The diagram below explains your progress through your exams. Most students have no problems and follow the **green route**, but if you have any issues the **red arrows** tell you how you can proceed and get support. Your Programme Team will help clarify the process. There are two key guides on the Students' Association website: the '[Inspera Guide](#)' and '[What to do When Things Go Wrong](#)'. We wish you good luck!



Keep checking the BPP Virtual Campus for more updates and events:

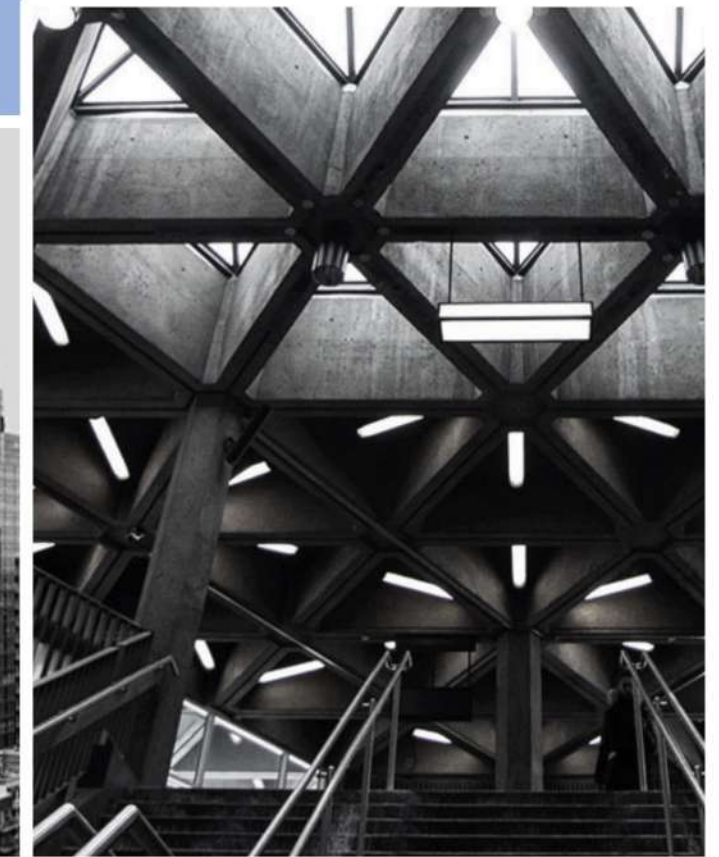
<https://community.bpp.com>

If you need any support at all then please reach out to:

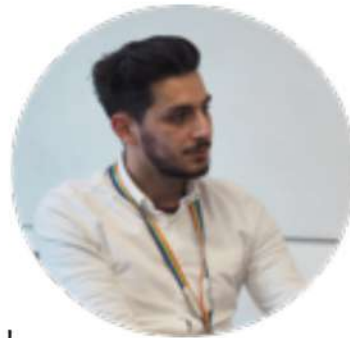
safeguarding@bpp.com/ learningsupport@bpp.com/ inclusion@bpp.com

APPRENTICE

NEWSLETTER –JUNE 2021



WELCOME!



Hello and welcome to our second Apprentice Newsletter of 2021!

In this issue, as we start to make a move towards returning the offices, we consider what the new 'new normal' might look for some of us.

This includes one of our app-champs reflecting on what Hybrid Working means for them, essential tips, and resources for staying safe on campus and online, and what it means to be an active bystander in keeping others safe.

We also share a little more on BPP's new Reverse Mentoring Programme – a great opportunity for students to help BPP to create a more inclusive and authentic learning environment by partnering up with tutors and removing biases through education and cultural exchange.

And as always, there's plenty going on over at the virtual campus! Head over there or download the app to ensure you don't miss out on some of the great competitions, events, and resources the engagement team are running right now.

BACK INTO THE OFFICE!

KAL ALI: L7 TAX AND ACCOUNTING

One of the more interesting aspects of the last 14 months (for me anyway) is seeing and experiencing all the different attitudes towards working from home..

Whilst some of us are clamoring to be back in the office – to be back bantering away at the proverbial water-cooler, others (myself included) are quietly anxious about what the migration back into the office will mean for the peaceful little life we have carved out for ourselves during the pandemic. Which brings me on to the latest 'disruption' in our lives; Hybrid Working.

'Hybrid Working' is the buzzword chosen and chucked about to describe our new "new normal" as the world starts to open again, and for a lot of us, this represents yet another shift in the way that we are work and study.

As we move back into the office a little more, I think it's easier to focus on what we might be losing by no longer getting to work and study from home five days a week, but as we did with the pandemic, it's important we're also able to see this for the opportunity it is as well – such as more meaningful contact time with the managers, mentors and coaches who will enrich our development.

Over the course of the pandemic, we have also developed skills that will only make our lives in the office easier, whether it's using collaborative tools to communicate more effectively and work more efficiently, or learning new ways of flexible problem solving in a different environment and with different tools.

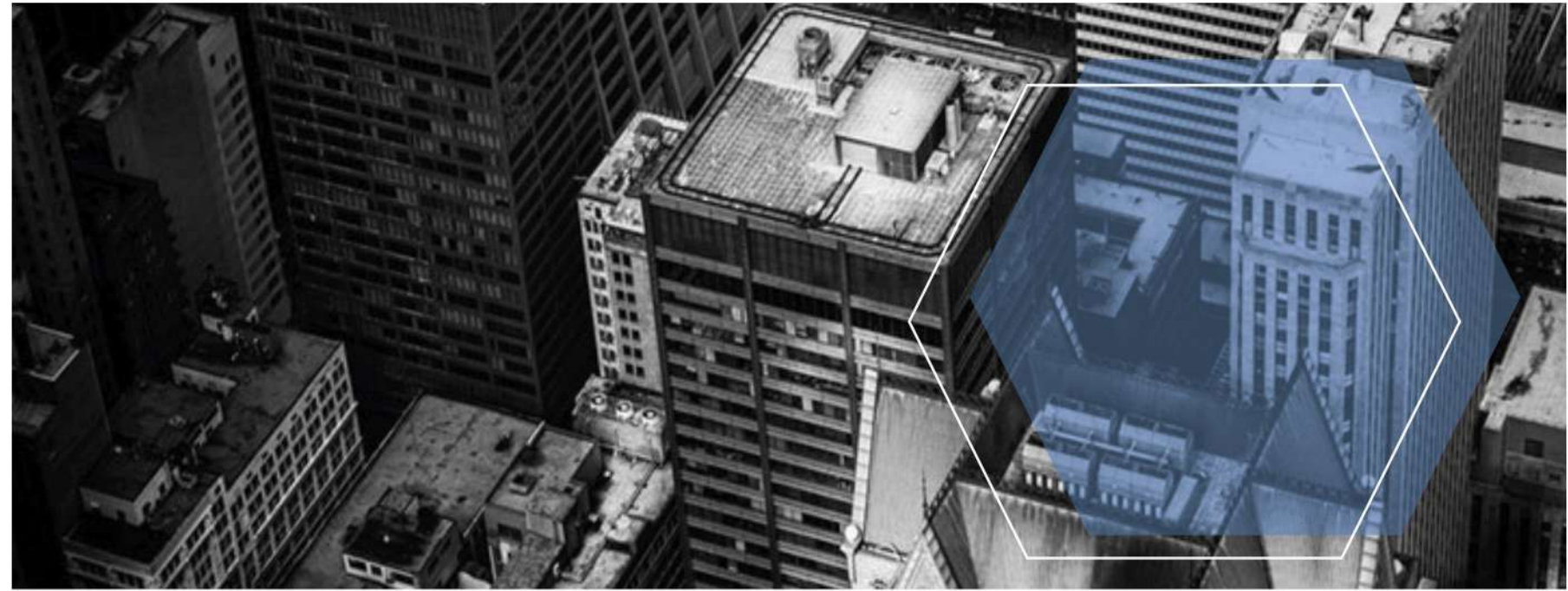
Either way, Hybrid Working presents itself as a real opportunity. It's an opportunity to gain all the benefits of face-to-face collaboration that is vital for our development, but in a more inclusive environment that is both more conscious of our wellbeing, and appreciative that our lives are more than a 9-5.

I think however it is important that we what we have learned over the last 14 months to enrich our time in the office and make it better than what it was before – and not just fall straight back into our pre-pandemic lifestyle.

Safety - Online and on Campus

With the prospect of continuing learning online until September, and the upcoming re-opening of the centres then, we thought it would be helpful to give you some of our top tips for staying safe on campus, and online.

STAYING SAFE ON CAMPUS



For students to succeed they need to feel safe, healthy, and part of a tolerant and inclusive academic community, and at BPP we want to create an inclusive campus where diversity is celebrated and where Everybody Matters. As a community that is Stronger Together, we must stand together against behaviours that go against our core values of trust and respect, and we want you to speak up if you hear or see something that's not right.

Keeping yourself Safe:

Notice when things make you feel uncomfortable and speak out. If you do feel uncomfortable – leave or distance yourself from the situation you are in- your safety is the most important, and you are always within your rights to leave a situation in which you feel unsafe. Reach out if you are worried- discuss with friends, talk to customer service or your tutors, and contact Safeguarding or Learning support.

Keeping others Safe:

Be an active bystander- this means being aware of when someone's behaviour is inappropriate and challenging it- signaling to the perpetrator that their behaviour is unacceptable. Safely intervening could mean anything from a disapproving look, interrupting or distracting someone, not laughing at a sexist or a violent joke, talking to a friend about their behaviour in a non-confrontational way, or caring for a friend who's experienced problematic behaviour.

How You Can Intervene Safely:

- **Direct action:** Call out negative behaviour, tell the person to stop or ask the victim if they are OK. Don't aggravate the situation - remain calm and state why something has offended you.
- **Distract:** Indirectly intervene- interrupt, start a conversation with the perpetrator to allow their potential target to move away or have friends intervene. Try distracting or redirecting the situation.
- **Delegate:** If you don't feel safe to speak out, get someone else to step in. This could be a more senior member of staff or someone in authority.
- **Delay:** Wait for the situation to pass and check in with the individual. Act later when you have had time to consider.

Remember to uphold three of the four fundamental **British values: mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, Individual Liberty** and **Democracy**, and do all you can to help keep yourself and others safe- protecting your rights and the rights of others, and building a culture based upon freedom and equality.

If you see someone in trouble, ask yourself if you can help safely, and talk to the person who you think may need help. If you do not feel comfortable doing this directly, get someone to help you- like a friend, a member of staff, or someone in authority. Only intervene when it is safe for you to do so, and if it's not; intervene later and get help. In an emergency, call 999. Remember to uphold another of the British Values- the Rule of Law- and create a safe and secure environment for individuals to live by respecting these rules.

Resources and Tips

- If you want more information on being an Active Bystander, visit [Breaking the Silence](#) for advice and resources.

- [SARI](#) (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) is an external organisation providing support for victims of any type of hate crime including racist, faith-based, disablist, homophobic, transphobic, age-based or gender-based.

- [Tell MAMA](#) is a secure service that allows people from across England to report any form of Anti-Muslim abuse.

- Visit [Citizens Advice](#) for more information about harassment, discrimination, and steps to take.

REVERSE MENTORING AT BPP UNIVERSITY

Safety - Online and on Campus

We have all been aware of the importance of keeping safe online over the last year. We know about the importance of protecting our information whilst online and being very careful about the people we interact with.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

As part of this focus on online safety, it's important we cover the issue of unwanted contact/ harassment that can occur when you share details of your life online. This can be very distressing; it can feel threatening and can impact you emotionally/ mentally. It may also feel like as the activity occurs online, you might not have many options in terms of actions to extricate yourself from these attentions.

You absolutely do have options and should NEVER put up with unwanted contacts and neither should you feel like you should respond to be polite or to minimize any backlash.

Harassment is a criminal offence, and this includes online harassment. It is prosecutable under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. This was amended this year (Protection of Freedoms Act 2021) to give police more powers to charge perpetrators found guilty of stalking/ harassment. More info can be on the [Citizens Advice](#) website, and the [Crown Prosecution Service](#) website- there is help and support available for you and its important you tell someone.

If you don't feel ready to speak with the police (999 in an emergency, 101 if a non-emergency), you can speak with Victim Support, here's how they can help: (please visit [Victim Support](#) for more information and support about stalking and harassment)

As with all crimes, we can give you both practical help and advice, and the emotional support you need to cope and recover from stalking. Having supported many other people in the same situation, we understand what it's like to be on the receiving end of stalking or harassment, and our staff and volunteers are here to help, for as long as you need them. The most important thing is to recognise that you are being targeted in this way, and take the first steps to deal with it as quickly as you can.

The important take away from this is that harassment online should be treated in the same way as harassment in person. If it's making you feel uncomfortable, seek help.

WHO CAN YOU SPEAK TO IF YOU AREN'T FEELING SAFE?

It's important that you feel safe in places where you work and study- in centre, or online- in a community that does not tolerate harassment, assault, discrimination or misconduct. If you have concerns about your safety or are a victim of crime, don't hesitate to reach out- you will be believed, and you will be taken seriously. All information disclosed to BPP will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

If you have any concerns about your wellbeing or safety or for another student, please contact us on: safeguarding@bpp.com or call on 07464542636. In an emergency situation, you must always dial 999.

You can also contact Learning Support: learningsupport@bpp.com and our inclusion team: inclusion@bpp.com



Aims

1. An opportunity to provide greater cultural awareness between participants;
2. Create more interaction between faculty and students;
3. Create an opportunity for new perspectives for inclusive teaching at BPP University.

What is the Reverse Mentoring Programme at BPP?

The proposed Reverse Mentoring programme at BPP is one whereby BAME students mentor faculty to share what it is like for them to attend BPP University and to provide a cultural exchange. By approaching the dialogue at an individual level, staff and students experience much deeper and more open conversations, often leading to a far greater appreciation of diversity and inclusion.



BENEFITS OF THE REVERSE MENTORING PROGRAMME

- A closer understanding of what drives and inhibits diverse talent enables us to make changes where needed, thereby creating a more inclusive and authentic learning environment;
- The programme also allows tutors to consider personal bias and to develop their inclusive leadership skills in a secure and confidential environment;
- Mentors also benefit from greater visibility in the university and the opportunity to hone their mentoring skills
- While mentees benefit from broadening their thinking by being provided with differing perspectives of various aspects of life as BAME student at BPP; mentees will receive a greater appreciation of challenges faced by faculty in their experience with cultural barriers with students at BPP.

**To volunteer or for more information on the programme please contact the Inclusion Team at:
farhiaabukar@bpp.com**

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

- The Programme will be commencing in Feb 2021
- Volunteers to be drawn from BPP schools
- Once all volunteers are paired up, the programme will begin and will have a six (6) week duration
- Mentors and mentees are expected to meet virtually once a week and communicate via their means of choice;



Look out for our
SPECIAL EDITION
coming soon

Highlighting all our student and staff award winners including - Student Led Staff Awards, Apprentice of year, Future Minds in Law and much much more.



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