

Annual Policy Bulletin Academic Year 2025/26

Governance, Legal and Compliance compiles the Annual Policy Bulletin to inform staff and students of policies that have been introduced or amended in the preceding Academic Year, to ensure they are aware of how the changes might affect them.

You can find the latest version of all policies on the University's 'Policies' webpage.

If you have any queries about a policy, the Responsible Office and Responsible Officer are listed in the Policy Document Details at the end of the policy.

If you have any queries about this Bulletin, please contact **policyreview@bathspa.ac.uk**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT POLICIES

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Children on Campus Policy	New	A Policy to provide clarity for a consistent approach to bringing children onto University premises, whilst maintaining a professional environment for work and study. To ensure reasonable and proportionate judgments can be made regarding access for children when on University premises.	November 2024	Student Wellbeing Services HR
Undergraduate Academic Framework V1.8	Amendments	Exceptionally, the CertEd award is permitted to utilise modules of 15 credits in size or multiples thereof. Clause 2.9 has also been added, stating that this qualification requires the achievement of 120 credits at level 5, and clause 5.9 updated to add this to the list of pass/fail awards that are unclassified.	November 2024	Academic Governance and Quality
Undergraduate Academic Framework V1.9	Amendments	Restrictions on the number of optional modules that undergraduate programmes could define at levels 5 and 6, to between one and three 20-credit modules and to allow no more than 40 credits worth of Required* modules to be defined at each of levels 5 and 6.	Academic Year 2026/27	Academic Governance and Quality
Qualifications Credit Framework	Amendment	The MArch Architecture programme is being developed by the University. The credit requirements align to those required for taught postgraduate provision as defined in the FHEQ, and the MArch title has been added to the list of award titles at that level.	September 2025	Academic Governance and Quality
Content Warning Policy	Amendments	Minor Amendments, including updating references, to bring the Policy up to date and to highlight the importance of content warnings being given in advance at least once.	17 December 2024	Student Wellbeing Services

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Assessment and Feedback Policy	Amendments	Summative and Formative assessments defined within the Policy to support student awareness. References to an assessment tariff removed from the Policy.	January 2025	Academic Governance and Quality
		An Assessment Brief section has been added.		
		The process of moderation has been separated from marking.		
		Provisional marks have been defined.		
		The primary role of External Examiners is now foregrounded within that section.		
		An Assessment Governance section has been added.		
		A section on the retention of assessed work has been added.		
		Additional amendments have been made to the structure and ordering of some other sections to align with the University's wider aim to create clearer student-facing, principles-based policies.		
Fitness to Practice Policy for ITE	New	A new policy to monitor, support and manage current ITE trainees in their student journey whilst ensuring regulatory standards are upheld and maintained.	Academic Year 2025/26	Student and Registry Services
		To ensure that the University protects student interests, maintains productive relationships with placement Schools, mitigates and manages risks, apply regulations and frameworks consistently and proportionately and reduces duplication of process.		
Student Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure	New	A new policy addressing the regulatory requirements of the OfS condition E6 including definitions and procedures related to	April 2025	Student Wellbeing Services

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
		harassment, in addition to sexual misconduct.		
Academic Regulations	Amendments	Central Assessment Board' has been replaced with 'Progression and Awards Board' throughout the document. 'Subject Board' has been replaced with 'Module Assessment Board' throughout the document. Terms of reference for both the Progression and Awards Board and Module Assessment Board have been updated to those approved at January 2025 Academic Board. A new section within point 12.1 has been added to define the requirement for a pre-board meeting (before Module Assessment Boards) to ensure marks were correct and complete to go forward.	Academic Year 2025/26 01 Sept 2025	Academic Governance and Quality
Admissions Policy	New: Agent Management Section; Inappropriate Conduct; Verification of Transcripts and certificates. Amended: English Requirements; Contextual Admissions; Application Route; Accepting an offer of a place; False or misleading information; Admission of minors; 'Right to Study' status; Admission to courses offered in collaboration with Educational Partners	Included a section on the use of Domestic and International Agents to reflect the requirements of the updated UUK 'Fair Admissions code of practice' Oct 25. This section also aligns to the Agent Management Policy. New paragraph added on inappropriate conduct. New paragraph added to cover introduction of Qualification Check – a third-party verification service. English Language requirements section updated to include IELTS 5.5 for Foundation entry an added the wording unless otherwise agreed. Contextual Admissions eligibility criteria updated. Updated the direct entry application routes to include partners and removed the wording that partner applicants apply directly to the partner.	01 September 2025	Admissions Future Students

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		Added wording to include that the formal offer and contract is with the University and not the partner. Updated wording to include that applications to educational partners, the offer and terms should be accepted with the University. False or misleading information – adding wording on the use of Al. Updated to reflect U18's policy changes. Right to Study paragraph updated to All non-UK national students are required to evidence their 'Right to Study' this will cover non-UK nationals studying at partner Institutions. Admission to courses offered in collaboration with Educational Partners will follow the principles outlined in this Policy, including the APL Policy.		
Retention of Assessed Work	New	This policy outlines the University's requirements for the retention and disposal of assessed student work and associated assessment materials. The suggested approach exceeds Office for Students' (OfS) guidance and supports quality and standards frameworks and staff development. It applies to all summative assessments across all delivery modes and locations.	September 2025	Academic Governance and Quality
Study Break Policy	Amendments	Refinements to the eligibility for Study Breaks and the option for evidence to be submitted by the student or requested by the University.	31 October 2025	Student and Registry Services
Student Withdrawal Policy	Amendments	Amendments to now signpost students to the Student Terms and Conditions in respect of the requirement to complete registration and re-enrolment annually and the implications of submitting fraudulent or false information at any point during an applicant or student journey.	31 October 2025	Student and Registry Services

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Transfer Policy	Amendments	Incorporated enhancements to information around timing for requests and decisions. Clarification on the relationship with other academic policies. Clarification on the role of academic staff. Reference to Educational partnerships included. References to PPY years and PGT provision included. Additional information included on the importance of students engaging with Academic Advisors and Student Wellbeing Services.	31 October 2025	Student and Registry Services
Exceptional Circumstances Policy (including Extensions)	Amendments	A revised Exceptional Circumstances Policy, with expanded scope to cover extension. A new clause related to the circumstances in which students may wish to submit evidence they already hold relating to their exceptional circumstances and the instances in which the University may wish to request additional information. The relationship of Extensions and Postponements to students' Academic Access Plans. Principles related to the supportive approach taken for students who have genuine circumstances; as well as a reminder of the implications of submitting false or fraudulent information. Providing more detail on what specific extenuating circumstances would be appropriate grounds upon which to ask for an extension. Clear guidance on the range of options available to students, and the implications of each of those options if followed.	31 October 2025	Student and Registry Services

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Policy and Procedure for Students Under 18	New	A new policy and procedure ensuring that robust and consistent measures are in place to effectively safeguard students who are under 10 at the point of registration and until their 18th birthday.	July 2025	Student Wellbeing Services
Resource List Policy	Amendments	The reworked Resource List Policy has been made product agnostic as listed systems were already out of date from the time of original approval (SULIS, Minerva etc.). It has been clarified that when items are purchased for chapter digitisation in the 'Further' category they are then added to the collection at the University Library at Newton Park. An additional clause has been added to highlight the need for academic staff to ensure that lists are correctly linked within the Ultra in accordance with current guidance and signposted to students. An additional clause has been added to make it clear that Library and Learning Services are solely responsible for negotiating with publishers and that this should not be undertaken by academic staff. An additional clause has been added to clarify that Library and Learning Services retain the right to remove any material from lists that is in clear breach of copyright or other law (e.g. linking to articles on ResearchGate).	August 2025	Library and Learning Services
Academic Integrity Policy and Academic Misconduct Procedure	Amendments	Inclusion of details of how students will be communicated with, following discovery of evidence of potential academic misconduct. Introduction of review stage, conducted by Deputy Academic Registrar or nominee, to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to reach an appropriate outcome, or if the case should proceed to a full Panel meeting. Confirmation that students have the right to arrange a meeting	Academic Year 2025/26	Student and Registry Services

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
		with their module tutor, to discuss the alleged academic misconduct report and to ask any queries, prior to the meeting of the Academic Misconduct Panel.		
Safeguarding Policy	New	The Safeguarding Policy which previously existed, has been completely re-written.	26 September 2024	Governance, Legal & Compliance
		Safeguarding is about protecting someone's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This Policy outlines the University's approach to safeguarding children and adults who are connected with members of the BSU community, including those who may be at risk of being drawn into extremist or terrorist activities (radicalisation). BSU is committed to the care, respect and dignity of all children and adults regardless of age, disability, sex, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, and recognise our specific safeguarding duties to children under the age of 18 and to "adults at risk". These groups can be at increased risk of harm inside and outside of their educational establishment, inside and outside of their home, and online. The University approach is that "safeguarding is everybody's business": it is important that all members of the University community know how to interact appropriately with children and "adults at risk", how to spot possible signs of abuse and neglect and how to report concerns and/or allegations so that these can be reviewed and, if required, escalated promptly to relevant statutory authorities and/or the police. This Policy signposts additional University guidance and support on Safeguarding and Prevent and forms the cornerstone of our suite of robust arrangements to protect children and "adults at risk" from harm caused by possible abuse or neglect.		Student Wellbeing Services HR

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Agent Management	New	A new policy in relation to the use of agents for student	September	Future
Policy		recruitment purposes.	2025	Students
		The policy covers the use of agents for BSU home recruitment in London and BSU International recruitment for Bath and London. It also covers partner activity where agents and agent aggregators (organisations who employ individual agents) are used to recruit students onto courses. The policy covers the Appointment of Agents, Ethical Standards, Training and Development, Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance, Renewal and Termination of Contracts and Educational Partners and Agent Aggregators.		

CORPORATE AND STAFF POLICIES

FINANCE, RISK AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Responsible Investment Policy Statement	Annual Update	No material changes	17 July 2025	Finance
Responsible Banking and Treasury Management Policy	Annual Update	No material changes	17 July 2025	Finance
Appendices to Responsible Banking and Treasury Management Policy Statement	Annual Update	No material changes	17 July 2025	Finance
Tuition Fee Refund & Compensation Policy	New	The aim of the policy is to set out BSU's policies and procedures around circumstances in which Students and Offer Holders may be entitled to a refund of tuition fees, and other types of financial compensation; and the process that the University will follow in considering any such requests. The eligibility requirements for refunds, the types of refunds given and the applicable circumstances, the refund timeframe, and the return process. How BSU will make decisions regarding refunds and awards of financial compensation in circumstances where: i. a student's tuition fee liability changes; or ii. the University is unable to preserve continuity of study; or iii. a complaint has been upheld in accordance with either the Student Complaints Procedure, or the Applicant Appeals and Complaints Procedure. This policy should be read in conjunction with BSU's Student Protection Plan where applicable, as well as with the Student Complaints Procedure, and the Applicant Appeals and Complaints Procedure	29 July 2025	Finance

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		referenced above.		
Risk Management Policy (inc link to Appetite Statement)	Annual Update	No material changes	17 July 2025	Governance, Legal & Compliance

INFORMATION, DATA AND RESEARCH

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Al Policy	New	The purpose of this policy is to ensure the legal and ethical use of Al technology in all its guises so that it is used responsibly and beneficially at BSU.	5 November 2024	Governance, Legal & Compliance
Information Security Policy	New	The digital ecosystem has evolved dramatically in recent years. BSU has embarked on a remarkable journey of digital transformation, which also inevitably brings about challenges in the areas of security and privacy, compliance with new legislation and meeting the increased level of expectation of BSU's security posture by its partners, collaborators, auditors and customers. At the same time, the University is mindful of the need to strike the optimal balance between useability and security for its students and staff. As a leading higher education institution committed to innovation and high-quality teaching, BSU has the ethical, legal and professional duty to ensure the information it holds conforms to the principles of confidentiality, integrity and availability. BSU is committed to ensuring that the information it is responsible for is safeguarded where necessary against inappropriate or unauthorised disclosure; is accurate and attributable; and is available to those who should be able to access it. The Information Security Policy provides the framework by which BSU meets those principles and duties. It is the cornerstone of BSU's continuous efforts to enhance its information security posture and cyber resilience.	November 2024	ΙΤ
Data Protection Policy	Minor Updates (technical requirements & housekeeping changes) approved by University Secretary	Section 10(3)(b) of the UK Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) requires an Approved Policy Document (APD) when processing special categories of personal data or data relating to criminal convictions and offences, outlining the conditions under which such data can be processed. Although BSU provides some of the required information within its Privacy Notices, it has not previously published an APD. The Appendix to the BSU Data Protection Policy is adapted from the ICO's Approved Policy Document and contains the mandatory information. Minor housekeeping updates have also been made.	June 2022	Governance, Legal & Compliance
<u>Information</u>	Update	The Information Governance Policy introduces an integrated governance model		

Governance Policy	across five domains: Data Protection, Access to Information, Records Management, Information Security and information management aspects of Business Continuity; and it:	
	Promotes cross-domain oversight and accountability;	
	Expands roles to include Data Owners and Stewards as well as the Chief Information Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, Data Protection Officer and others;	
	Outlines operational controls including mandatory training, breach and incident reporting, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA), use of approved platforms, IT resilience testing, Open-data readiness and ethical data handling, and asset level controls; and	
	Provides compliance and assurance mechanisms e.g. use of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Accountability Framework; maintenance of Records of Processing Activities (RoPA), retention schedules and disposal logs; reviews of the IT Services Register and business continuity testing results and risk assessments.	

STAFF

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Hybrid Working Policy	New	This policy sets out BSU's approach to hybrid working, and the circumstances in which it may be possible to combine on campus and remote working. Hybrid working is an important element of our commitment to supporting a positive work-life balance for our employees.	January 2025	HR
Personal Relationships Policy	Update	To ensure compliance with the new Office for Students E6 Condition of Registration prior to the required effective date of 1 August 2025. The Personal Relationships Policy has been updated to reflect the E6 conditions, and the feedback received in the Safeguarding review carried out last year. Under E6, universities must implement adequate and effective measures to: • Prevent incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct • Provide clear reporting pathways for students including publishing a single source of information containing appropriate policies, support options and reporting pathways. • Ensure fair, independent investigation processes • Offer appropriate support for those affected • Take reasonable steps to minimize risks to students' wellbeing E6 also places specific obligations on universities regarding staff. The requirement is to: • Ensure all staff receive appropriate training on recognizing, reporting, and handling disclosures of harassment and sexual misconduct • Establish clear guidance for staff on their responsibilities when incidents are reported • Implement processes to manage cases where staff members are alleged perpetrators • Maintain appropriate records while ensuring confidentiality • Designate specific roles with responsibility for policy implementation and case management • Develop and enforce clear policies on staff-student relationships, including requirements for disclosure of close personal relationships and management to ban such relationships as evidence of compliance).	9 May 2025	HR

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Anti-Harassment Policy	Update	To ensure compliance with the new Office for Students E6 Condition of Registration prior to the required effective date of 1st August 2025 (as above). The previous version of the Harassment Policy covered both staff and students. The new version just covers staff and has been updated to reflect best practice and to give a wider list of examples that cover the Worker Protection Act that came into force last year.	9 May 2025	HR
Sexual Violence and Misconduct: Procedure for Staff	Update	The staff Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure has been updated in line with the E6 conditions and to mirror the language used in the student version.	9 May 2025	HR
References Policy	New	References are intended to provide factual information and an objective assessment of the performance and abilities of an individual. The aim of this policy is to provide guidance to members of staff who may be asked to provide references for, or obtain references from, a third party.	January 2025	HR
Safer Recruitment Policy	New	Safer recruitment is crucial for maintaining a safe and secure environment within our university. It ensures that individuals recruited for various roles, especially those involving contact with children or adults at risk, are reliable, trustworthy and don't present potential risks of harm to these vulnerable groups at any stage of their employment with the University.	January 2025	HR
DBS & Criminal Convictions Policy	New	The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. This document outlines BSU's policy on the use of DBS checks and recruitment of staff, workers and volunteers with criminal convictions or those who are barred from working with vulnerable groups. For student requirements on DBS checks and criminal convictions, see Student DBS Policy. This policy applies to all staff, workers and volunteers and will be made available to applicants at the outset of the recruitment process where a DBS request for disclosure of their criminal record is required	December 2024	HR
Whistleblowing (Public Interest Disclosure)	Update	Strengthening of the section on raising whistleblowing concerns to make clear how University employees and others should raise concerns. More explicit	July	Governance, Legal &

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and Third-Party Concerns Policy		wording around partners and partner staff.	2025	Compliance
		Thresholds have been introduced in recognition of the need to consider whether a report received should be formally investigated.		
		Scope expressly includes public interest disclosures by third parties who would not have statutory protection as whistleblowers.		
		For advice contact governance@bathspa.ac.uk		
Prevention of Fraud, Bribery and	Update	More specific responsibilities section.	July 2025	Governance, Legal &
Corruption Policy		Updating to include references to Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 requirements.		Compliance
		Creation of a new email address for all reporting to ensure consistent monitoring and oversight: fraudprevention@bathspa.ac.uk		
		Scope extended to include those working on behalf of the University (associated persons) e.g. partner staff and agents.		
		More proportionate and flexible investigation procedures (including using external expertise where appropriate). Decision to convene the Fraud Response Group being for the University Secretary rather than for every case.		
		Ensuring reporting to the police and others interested parties.		
Reportable Events Policy	Update	Updated scope to ensure it covers all current OfS reporting requirements.	July 2025	Governance, Legal &
		Removal of separate investigatory procedure – this Policy and Procedures is about ensuring potential reportable events are identified early internally and notified for consideration via the dedicated email address reportableevents@bathspa.ac.uk		Compliance
		Clarification that events will be investigated under other policies (eg Prevention of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption above) but could also give rise to a report being required to the OfS.		
		Requirement for local awareness of and discussion about reportable events		

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		as a standing agenda item at formal meetings to ensure that matters arising in Schools or Professional Services are escalated for prompt consideration. An example would be a risk of losing a course accreditation communicated by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body directly to a course team.		
Pregnancy (Maternity) Pay Policy	Update	Increase in the number of weeks paid at 100% from 4 to 26 weeks and extended to all staff with 26 weeks of service.	30 March 2025	HR
Absence Management Policy	Update	Alignment to equalize the amount of time it takes for Academic and Professional Services staff to reach higher number of sick days entitlement. No change to the method of calculating continuous sickness year on year for each set of staff.	1 April 2025	HR
Policy on University Policy Management	New	Provides the framework for the way in which the University manages its approval and review of all policies and procedures. The Policy replaces the "Policy on Establishing University Policies and Procedures" which was approved in 2018.	12 May 2025	Governance, Legal & Compliance

SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

POLICY NAME	NATURE OF CHANGE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES	WITH EFFECT FROM	QUERIES
Animals on Campus Policy and Procedure	New	New policy outlines the University's position regarding animals on all BSU campuses, including Assistance Dogs and Emotional Support Animals.	26 September 2025	Student Wellbeing Services
		BSU is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment and values the diversity of its staff and student community. The University recognises the important role of Assistance Dogs and Emotional Support Animals who provide valuable, even life-changing, assistance for disabled people. Student Wellbeing Services (SWS) also offers opportunities for students and staff to engage with an accredited Care Dogs scheme.		HR
		However, BSU does not permit the bringing of any other animals into the workplace or University accommodation, and except for public footpaths or rights of way, animals are not allowed to be brought onto any BSU campuses. Any dogs using public footpaths or rights of way must always be kept on a lead.		
Sustainable Construction Policy	New	This is a new policy intended to guide the University's activities in relation to refurbishment and construction of new buildings. The policy sets out the measures we will take to ensure the buildings we develop or refurbish are accessible, healthy and carbon efficient, both in their construction and operation. The policy includes reference to the principles of Inclusive Design: putting people at the heart of our design, acknowledging and meeting diversity of need, enabling choice, enabling flexibility to meet changing needs of users, making	12 December 2024	Estates & Services
		our buildings easy to use by everyone.		
Health and Safety Policy	Update	The flowcharts have been updated (appendices). The arrangements for health and safety have been added (sections 3 and 4, highlighted where applicable).	January 2025	Health & Safety Compliance Team
		Other responsibilities have been included (section 2.13, 2.10 and 2.9).		

		Guidance documents have been updated with the most recent versions (section 2.1.1). The statement of intent (section 1) has been summarized.		
Fire Safety Policy & Procedure	Update	Changes to the responsibilities section 3.1, section 3.3, section 3.4, section 3.5, section 3.6, section 3.7, section 3.8, section 3.10, section 3.12, section 3.13, section 3.14. Changes to the definitions section 4. Changes to the arrangements for fire safety section 5. Changes to the training section 7. Changes to the Security Team section 8. Changes to the Fire Wardens section 9. Changes to the Bath Spa University Satellite Sites section 10. Changes to the Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) section 11. Changes to the Fire alarm activations and isolations section – 12. Changes to Appendix 1 – Fire evacuation procedure – non-accommodation.	July 2025	Health & Safety Compliance Team
		Changes to Appendix 2 - Fire evacuation procedure – student accommodation. Changes to Appendix 3 – Bath Spa University Health and Safety Structure.		