

Disadvantaged Background Criteria Turing Scheme 2025-26

Students from **disadvantaged backgrounds** will receive a travel grant as well as higher cost of living grant. To be eligible for a disadvantaged background status, you must meet at least one of the following (1-4):

1. **Household income of £25,000 or below** (as assessed by Student Finance England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland),
2. **In receipt of a BU Maintenance Bursary or BU Hardship Fund for the current 2025/26 academic year.**
3. **You meet one or more of the following:**
 - Student receiving Universal Credit or income-related benefits because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner
 - Care-experienced students (Students who have been or are currently in the care system (including living in care with foster carers, living in a children's home) or from a looked after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked after)
 - Students from low participation neighbourhoods (The Office for Students provides a tool to look at how likely young people are to participate in higher education across the UK, and shows how this varies by area. A low participation neighbourhood would be one where young people were not likely to participate in higher education).
 - Black and Minority Ethnic Students (UK Home students only)
 - Mature students (21 or older at start of programme, UG only)
 - Students who are first in their family to attend university.
 - Female students studying STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, as defined by BU)
 - Students with caring responsibilities (Caring responsibilities are providing unpaid care to a family member or friend who could not cope without their support. This may be due to illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance misuse.)
 - Estranged students (where a student does not have support from their parents due to a breakdown in their relationship or where neither of the student's parents can be found or it is not reasonably practicable to get in touch with either of them)
 - Refugees and asylum seekers

4. Students with additional learning needs (including students registered with ALS at BU):

- The term additional learning needs refers to learners with special education needs (SEN), including those whose SEN arise because they have a long-term disability that has a substantial and long-term effect on the ability to do everyday tasks or are in receipt of Disabled Student Allowance. This would include learners have declared (with BU) a disability, special needs, or medical condition as categorised below:
 - Social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
 - Blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
 - Deaf or have a serious hearing impairment
 - A long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
 - Mental health condition such as depression, schizophrenia, or anxiety disorder
 - Physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using limbs or using a wheelchair or crutches
 - Disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above