Student guidance notes for the unionlearn discount 2020/21

Process for obtaining the unionlearn discount:

Student enrolls on programme  >  Student completes online discount form (see below link)  >  Student contacts union to request verification  >  Union contact emails feesinv@bbk.ac.uk within 28 days of student enrolling

The online discount form is available at: https://bbk.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/unionlearn-discount-application-form-202021

Who can verify my membership status to approve the discount?
Anyone from within your union who has access to the membership systems is able to verify your membership status and length, however the confirmation email must come from a recognised union email address in lieu of a signature.

What support is available to help me and other union members with the decision making and/or application process for coming to study at Birkbeck?
During the COVID-19 lockdown period we are running all our events virtually. You can come along to an Open Evening, do some research into available courses and find resources to help you with the application process. For further assistance with the application process, please contact the Access and Engagement team on union-learning@bbk.ac.uk. If there is sufficient interest, we can also run a group workshop for your branch so get in touch.

How do I apply to a programme at Birkbeck?
Depending on the mode and level of study, you will either need to make an application for the course through UCAS (for full-time undergraduate courses) or direct to the Birkbeck website (for part-time undergraduate and all postgraduate courses). Eligibility for the trade union discount is not a guarantee that you will be accepted onto the course you are applying for. This decision, across all levels and disciplines, is made by an admissions tutor within the academic department and sits outside of this discount process.

What is the eligibility criteria to receive the unionlearn discount?
To receive the discount for the academic year 2020/21, you must have been a member of a recognised TUC affiliated Trade Union for a minimum of 3 months prior to the start of the
academic year, Monday 5th October 2020. Members can obtain a 10% discount off course fees for programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Students who are being sponsored by their employer are not eligible for the discount.

If I apply for the discount, why do you want to pass on my details to the union?

Unions need data on the learners who have taken up the discount in order to monitor the impact and uptake of the discount at Birkbeck, and as evidence of the learning opportunities members are taking up for the government funding they receive for supporting lifelong learning. When you complete the form for the discount, we will ask for your consent to share the following with a designated contact at your union for the above purpose:

- Full name
- Membership number
- Programme of study
- Mode of study (full-time or part-time)

To discuss this further or if you have any concerns, please email union-learning@bbk.ac.uk

How can I find out who should complete the verification process for me?

Anyone who has a recognised union email address can approve your application for the discount provided they can verify your current membership, membership number and length of membership. If you have difficulties finding the correct person, you can email union-learning@bbk.ac.uk for assistance with this.

I’ve been out of education for a long time and want to know what further support might be available to me at Birkbeck / I want to share the story of my journey to Birkbeck

Although we can’t meet you face-to-face at the moment, you can join virtual events for people who are returning to education after a break, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. To find out more and book a place, visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/events/outreach All union members at Birkbeck are welcome to contact the Access and Engagement Team to discuss their needs and ways of raising the profile of higher education within their union. Email union-learning@bbk.ac.uk for more information.