Induction Evening for Undergraduate Students

Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies

27th September 2012
Welcome

• Welcome to the Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies

• The department offers a range of undergraduate programmes
  – BSc Development Studies with Environment
  – BSc Geography (part time and full time)
  – BSc Environmental Management (part time and full time)
  – BSc Environmental Science
  – BSc Social Science (part time and full time)
  – BSc Community Development and Public Policy

• But you are all students of this one department; the department will be your home over the next three to four years
Term dates for 2012-13

Autumn term:
Monday 1 October – Friday 14 December 2012

Spring term:
Monday 7 January – Friday 22 March 2013

Summer term:
Monday 22 April – Friday 5 July 2013

Teaching is during autumn and spring terms
Some modules include a reading week mid-term
Before studying with us, you must enrol formally. Upon enrolment, you will receive a College membership card which will enable you to use the College facilities. All queries regarding enrolment or membership cards should be directed in the first instance to Registry (http://www.bbk.ac.uk/reg)
Student services and support

• Learning Support and Skills Training
  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support/

• The Disability Office
  http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/disability

• The University of London Careers Service
  http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk/output/page659.asp
Your tutor

- There is a dedicated tutor for each year group of your programme of study
- The personal tutor is there to guide your academic progress through your programme
- Student services and support are there to help with personal issues
Moodle

• Most taught modules make use of a virtual learning environment (VLE) called “Moodle”
• Access Moodle here [www.moodle.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.moodle.bbk.ac.uk)
• On Moodle, for most modules you can expect to find module information, notes or powerpoint slides from lectures and important reading
• However, do not expect that Moodle will contain all necessary notes and reading; information on Moodle is offered as a guide – you will still have to do independent reading and studying in order to pass your module
The Birkbeck Library

• The College Library is located in Malet Street and the number for general enquiries is 020 7631 6063.

• Term time and vacation opening hours vary - for up to the minute information, please go to the library website: www.bbk.ac.uk/lib

• Information about the library is available here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/about/

• Take a virtual tour of the library here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/lib/about/learn/video
Common Award Scheme for completing your degree

Modules in Year 1 are normally level 4 (zero-weighted)
Modules in Year 2 are normally level 5 (weighted-1)
Modules in Years 3 and 4 are normally level 6 (weighted-2)
Modules are normally 30 credits (although can be 15 or 60 credits)

All Students
Must complete 360 credits over 4 years (part time) or 3 years (full time)
Must take NO MORE than 120 credits at level 4
Must take at least 120 credits at level 6
Normally take 90 credits (part time) or 120 credits per year (full time)

BSc Community Development Students must offer a dissertation (level 6, 60 CATS). For BSc Social Science students, the dissertation is optional (level 6, 60 CATS).

All other students must offer EITHER a Literature Review (30 CATS) OR An environmental/geographical research project (60 CATS)
Assessment

• Depending on your module/programme, you may be assessed via essays, exams or other forms of assessment

• In writing essays, proper referencing is important. You will be given guidance on this, but take note of this information:

http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support/bibliography

• Plagiarism and other exam offences are taken extremely seriously. Take note of this information:

http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities/support/plagiarism
The Birkbeck Students’ Union

• As a student of Birkbeck College, you automatically become a member of the Birkbeck Students' Union.
• The Union is based on the fourth floor extension in the Main Building in Malet Street, and provides a wide range of services including an advice centre, a free professional counselling service, study skills support and a shop.
• Full details about the Students' Union can be found on their website at http://www.bbk.ac.uk/su/.
• As a member of the Birkbeck Students' Union, you are also entitled to become a member of the University of London's Students' Union (ULU). This is located on the corner of Malet Street and Torrington Place. ULU contains a gymnasium, swimming pool and a wide selection of shops, cafes and bars.
Questions

Direct any questions about administrative matters in the first instance to the GEDS administrators

BSc Social Science: Hurmine Dormer-Dobson h.dormer-dobson@bbk.ac.uk

BSc Community Development and Public Policy: Athena Brook a.brook@bbk.ac.uk

BSc Geography, BSc Development Studies with Environment, BSc Environmental Management and BSc Environmental Science geds@bbk.ac.uk

You can access this presentation for future reference on the GEDS website

http://www.bbk.ac.uk/geds/current-students