

The Compass Project Fund – Guidelines

Birkbeck, University of London is an [open access university](#) committed to offering students of all backgrounds with the chance to participate in further education. We actively encourage applications from people of all ages, no matter what qualifications they have or how long they have been out of education. Below are guidance notes to support you with your decision to apply for the fund.

Eligibility

Courses

Certificate of Higher Education

Birkbeck's short courses and certificates, taught in the evenings in central London and Stratford, offer the opportunity to:

- boost your career
- get a University of London qualification
- gain the skills and qualifications to progress to a Birkbeck degree course

Our Certificates give in-depth knowledge of a subject and can be used to progress on to an undergraduate degree. They normally consist of a combination of compulsory and optional modules, allowing you to tailor the course to your needs and interests.

International Foundation Programme for Post Graduate Study

This pre-Master's course is a bridge between undergraduate and postgraduate study and will prepare you for studying a Master's degree at a UK university. Those who complete this course will receive a Level 6 qualification and will develop an appropriate level of understanding in the subject area you wish to study at postgraduate level. You will also practise postgraduate study skills, including project management, essay writing, research skills, critical analysis and presentation skills, and improve your language proficiency in English.

Candidate Criteria

Candidates must meet the eligibility criteria and be able to verify these circumstances when applying for The Compass Project Fund. If you have any questions about your eligibility for the fund, please contact thecompassproject@bbk.ac.uk

I do not have asylum seeker status to access the fund, what can I do?

We strongly encourage people who have been granted refugee status to apply for study at Birkbeck. People with refugee status are considered home students and have access to all the funding available to British citizens and permanent residents. People with a refugee status are welcome to attend the workshops and activities Birkbeck are offering as part of [The Compass Project- Outreach Programme](#).

What if my Home Office status changes whilst I am studying?

If a student in receipt of The Compass Project Fund support is granted refugee status and becomes eligible for government financial support, they will be expected to apply for it to cover any subsequent academic years on the course they're studying. If your application to stay in the UK is rejected we will ensure your time with Birkbeck is accredited and that you receive either a certificate for completed study or a certificate evidencing your participation at university.

How to apply

Applying for your course

- Travel costs will be reimbursed for those attend the Preparing for Study workshop. Please keep hold of any receipts.
- It is advised that before coming to the "Preparing for Study" workshop, you research and consider what course you may be interested in applying for. Applicants can find information about the courses Birkbeck offer:
 - on Birkbeck's [webpage](#)
 - by attending an [open evening](#)
 - signing up to [The Compass Project- Outreach Programme](#)
- After attending Preparing for Study, we will have a better understanding as to whether applicants would be successful on a Birkbeck course. Attendees who demonstrate good written and oral skills in English will be invited to make an application to study at Birkbeck and will receive tailored guidance on their application.
- You will need to have been offered a place to study at Birkbeck before applying for the Compass Project Fund.

Applying for The Compass Project Fund

Applicants, who have been offered a place to study at Birkbeck, will be sent an application form for The Compass Project Fund. Deadline for this application is Sunday 13th August 2017 at 23.59

Supporting Documents

Applicants will need to provide the below when applying for The Compass Project Fund.

- Personal statement
- One referee
- Documentation showing current immigration status
- Proof of entry into the UK
- Proof of current residency (e.g. bank statements, phone bills, tenancy agreement)

Assessment of applicants

Assessment for The Compass Project Fund will be based on an application. Selectors will be looking for applicants to demonstrate the following criteria in their personal statement:

- a commitment to study and learning
- motivations for studying
- impact studying at Birkbeck will have on applicant's future
- participation in The Compass Project's Outreach Programme

More detailed guidance on what should be included in your application will be sent to students who have been offered a place at Birkbeck.

What if I'm not successful in receiving funds for studying at Birkbeck?

We anticipate the 20 free places at Birkbeck will be popular and we cannot guarantee all individuals a place at Birkbeck. However, we are working with a number of other universities and education providers to create a referral process in which we can signpost any person on The Compass Project to opportunities elsewhere.

The wider outreach programme continues to be available to all past participants and we have an extensive series of activities, workshops and lectures run throughout the year which you are welcome to attend – and we hope you do.

Contact us

If you have any queries about the project, please contact **Naureen Abubacker**

thecompassproject@bbk.ac.uk