

Information and Advice for those Apprentices facing redundancy (March 2020)

A number of our apprentices are facing uncertainty at the moment with regards to their employment status. Be reassured, that we will do everything we can to support you at this time.

Firstly, please make us aware if you have been made redundant or you are at risk of redundancy. Make contact with your Skills Support Coach or through one of our hub staff team.

- Diane Campbell dcampbell@belfastmet.ac.uk 0791 867 8433
- Mark Toman mtoman@belfastmet.ac.uk
- Veronica Chambers vchambers@belfastmet.ac.uk

Your employer will follow the government guidelines, and we can do a number of things to support you, such as suspend your training until you find another job or help you to link with other employers.

Here is a list of sources of information and advice.

1. To find out about continuing your college studies:
 - speak to your tutor in the first instance
 - You can also contact one of our Hub staff team or your Skills Support Coach
 - You can also contact the BMet Careers team at careers@belfastmet.ac.uk or phone them on 02890 265066
 - You can also contact DFE Careers Service
www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/contacts-az/careers-service
They offer a free web chat or you can speak to a careers Advisor on 0300 200 7820
2. To find out about benefits and claiming unemployment benefit:
 - You can access the government website at the Department for Communities.
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/covid-19-service-updates>

Some of this information can be confusing if you have never claimed before, but there are people you can talk to who will support you.

Citizens Advice Bureau www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/northern-ireland/

They have a range of offices across N Ireland where you can call in and talk to an advisor
Advice NI also offers a range of information and support www.adviceni.net

3. Remember that all the BMet support services are still available to you including

Student Counselling: Redundancy will be a very distressing time for many of our students, please be advised that Inspire Wellbeing will continue to ensure student counselling is provided.

24/7 Helpline on 0808 800 0032, structured telephone and video platformed counselling provision will also be facilitated.

Inspire have launched their new online Belfast Met student support hub

Link & log in details below

www.inspiresupporthub.org/students/

Log on details: BMC2019!

Lifeline: 24/7 Crisis intervention, support and advice line 0808 808 8000

Lifeline is the regional crisis support helpline. Lifeline will talk to anyone in crises e.g. suicidality, self-harm, mood disorders. Lifeline can stay on the line and call emergency service to come to you, if that is assessed to be appropriate.

The Student Wellbeing Service will continue to offer support remotely through email services - please contact Student Wellbeing email: centre4wellbeing@belfastmet.ac.uk

The BMet Student Union will maintain a service using the studentsunion@belfastmet.ac.uk email address as the communication platform.

