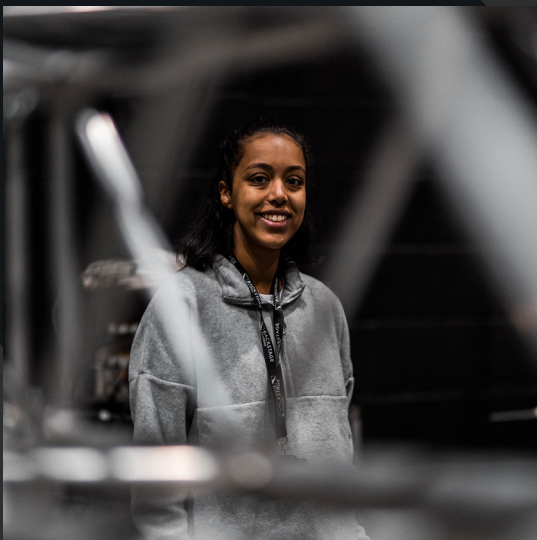


# BACKSTAGE ACADEMY



**STUDENT SUPPORT AT  
BACKSTAGE ACADEMY**

At Backstage Academy, we are committed to providing an excellent student support service to enable you to thrive and have the best possible experience throughout your time with us. We use a holistic, person-focused approach to all aspects of support, from our student counselling service to tailored study skills support sessions.



# STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER



Our Student Support Officer, Emily Lynch, is available from Monday to Friday. Emily offers tailored support on a range of areas including the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) application process, study skills support (e.g. Harvard referencing and planning your work) and general pastoral drop-in support.

Emily operates an open-door policy and no problem is too big or small. Applicants with disabilities or specific learning difficulties are encouraged to contact Emily as soon as possible in the admissions process so she can provide guidance on arranging support in time for the start of the course.

**You can contact Emily directly by email at  
[emily.lynch@backstage-academy.co.uk](mailto:emily.lynch@backstage-academy.co.uk)**

# APPLICATION PROCESS SUPPORT

Our Student Support team is available to assist you throughout the application process. Emily is on-hand to answer any questions or queries you have regarding the support available at the Academy. We can also discuss any reasonable adjustments that may need to be made during the interview process or in order to make your time with us as successful as possible.

If you have made a declaration of a disability/specific learning difficulty via your UCAS application, you will have the opportunity at interview to meet with support staff and ask any questions you may have.

If you have not made a declaration via UCAS and would like to discuss available support options at your interview, please contact our Student Support Officer, Emily Lynch, to arrange this.

**You can contact Emily directly by email at  
[emily.lynch@backstage-academy.co.uk](mailto:emily.lynch@backstage-academy.co.uk)**




# WELLBEING SUPPORT

Backstage Academy is proud to work with Health Assured, who are the UK and Ireland's number one leading wellbeing provider. Services available to students include:

- Access to counselling and wellbeing support and a pathway to structured therapy sessions
- Bereavement support from qualified and experienced counsellors who can help with grief
- Online CBT including self-help modules, informative fact sheets and invaluable advice videos from leading qualified counsellor
- A 24/7 365 days a year helpline

# DISABLED STUDENT ALLOWANCE (DSA)

Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) is a government-funded grant, awarded by Student Finance, which is eligible to you if you have a disability or specific learning difficulty. This grant can typically encompass funding for resources such as:

- 
- Specialist Study Skills Support
  - Specialist Mentor Support
  - Specialist PC/MAC software
  - Funding towards a laptop (if you don't already have one/there is a certain system specification required for specialist software - which your current one does not have)
  - Printing allowance (this can be used in some cases to purchase a printer, if you do not already have one)
  - Irlen overlays/reading rulers/notepads, etc.
  - Travel allowance

**For further details on DSA, to check your eligibility and to apply, please visit the Government website at [www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)**



We typically recommend that you apply for DSA (should you be eligible/wish to) during the UCAS application process. This means that support is usually approved and accessible to you for the start of the academic year. Applications for DSA must usually be made within six months of the start of the academic year.

Our Student Support Officer, Emily Lynch, can assist with the DSA application process and answer any questions or queries you may have.

**For further details, please contact us on  
[student.support@backstage-academy.co.uk](mailto:student.support@backstage-academy.co.uk)**

# BURSARIES AND HARDSHIP FUND

As part of our commitment to access and widening participation, we offer a range of bursaries and additional financial support for prospective students from underrepresented groups, such as students from black, asian or minority ethnic backgrounds, or mature students (aged 22 or over on starting the course).

We also operate a financial hardship fund open to applications from all students, if they are experiencing an unexpected financial crisis arising from circumstances outside of their control. Full criteria can be found on the Backstage Academy website.

**For further details on bursaries/financial support,  
contact: [enquiries@backstage-academy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@backstage-academy.co.uk)**



## DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FOR SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

If you are unsure as to whether you may have an undiagnosed specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia, then we can help you to arrange a diagnostic assessment carried out by a certified diagnostic assessor.

**For further details, please contact us on  
[student.support@backstage-academy.co.uk](mailto:student.support@backstage-academy.co.uk)**





# SIGNPOSTING

## **TO OTHER AVAILABLE SUPPORT SERVICES**

Our Student Support team can signpost you to a variety of external support services, as well as providing internal support. We are fortunate enough to have strong links to the local NHS health centre (located within a short walking distance of the Academy), as well as other relevant support services based in and around Wakefield and the local area.

**For further details, please contact us on  
[student.support@backstage-academy.co.uk](mailto:student.support@backstage-academy.co.uk)**



"I'm so thankful for how kind, helpful and understanding you are. Just making initial contact with Backstage Academy has been really hard for me, but you've really helped me, thank you."

### **3RD YEAR STUDENT**



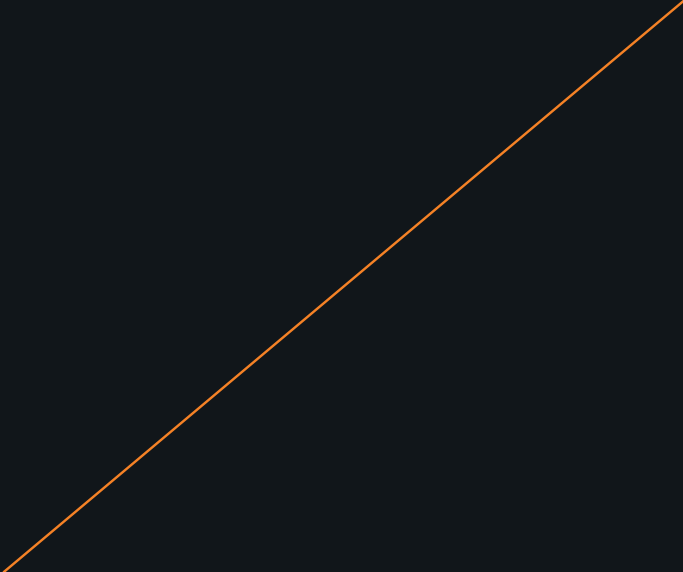
"I can't speak highly enough of the support at Backstage Academy. Emily has been such a rock to my daughter, who herself struggles with OCD and anxiety. Backstage is a fantastic place to study. Teachers are great too. Thank you for everything you do, you are awesome."

### **PARENT OF A BACKSTAGE STUDENT**



Feedback for our Student Support team.





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[www.backstage-academy.co.uk](http://www.backstage-academy.co.uk)

