



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HEALTH

Application Information MSc Dietetics Course

2024-2025 Entry
Start date: 16 September 2024

Closing Date:

The application deadline for September 2024 is **Wednesday 17 January 2024**.

Applications received by this date will be considered for the initial offers made for the course.

Applications received after this date will be considered for a place on the course waiting list

Your application will be dealt with as soon as it is received and so you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Initial decisions and offers to all candidates will be made at the end of March / early April 2024

Nutrition & Dietetics
School of Health
Leeds Beckett University
City Campus
Leeds
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Web: <http://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/>
Email: directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

The Course

This course is designed to enable graduates from science backgrounds to be eligible to apply to the Health and Care Professions Council to be a Registered Dietitian through the study of a masters postgraduate programme over a full 2 years. This is an accelerated programme building on prior knowledge and transferable skills to fast track you towards a career as a dietitian in the NHS working in various health and social care settings.

Academic and practice learning is embedded throughout the course enabling you to: develop an evidenced based and critical approach to dietetic practice; work effectively in teams and; develop the communication and professional practice skills required to interpret nutritional science and facilitate individuals, groups and communities to change eating behaviour, improving diet to benefit health.

A range of assessment, teaching and learning activities are embedded across the course to enable you to develop an integrated, patient centred approach and to equip you with the range of competencies required for autonomous professional practice as a dietitian. The course is a very intensive, full-time course with contact time and independent self-directed study spread across 5 days each week.

Funding

As the funding situation for healthcare courses has changed significantly over recent years you are advised to check your entitlement with Student Finance England – or the relevant home country.

Student Loan

The funding arrangements which have applied to students in England entering the course since September 2018 are as follows:

Postgraduate pre-registration healthcare students in England will be able to access loans to cover tuition fees of up to £9,250 per year and to support living costs. These loans will be the same as those available to undergraduate students.

These changes have applied to eligible new students starting courses in the 2018/19 academic year from 1 August 2018 onwards. The changes extend to both Masters and postgraduate diploma healthcare courses leading to inclusion in the HCPC or NMC register. You would need to apply for a course designated “a postgraduate healthcare programme” but using the *Undergraduate Student Finance England* application form and searching for the course code “Dietetics DIETM”.

Students who are obliged to incur essential additional expenditure while undertaking a course of higher education as a result of a disability will qualify for disabled students’ allowances.

Students who are already registered in nursing, midwifery, or an allied health profession will not be eligible for support for a second full-time or part-time pre- registration course or a second full-time postgraduate preregistration course leading to registration in the same profession.

[Student finance for undergraduates: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/student-finance)

Learning Support Fund

Postgraduate pre-registration students will also be eligible for additional support through the Learning Support Fund administered through the NHS Business Services Authority:

NHS LSF offers support for:

- a Training Grant for all eligible students of £5,000 per academic year
- Parental Support of £2,000 for students with at least one dependent child under 15 years, or under 17 years if registered with special educational needs (this used to be called Child Dependants Allowance)
- reimbursement of excess costs incurred on practice placement for travel and temporary accommodation costs (Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses)
- students experiencing financial hardship (Exceptional Support Fund)

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund>

International Students

International students need to either self-fund or gain funding from their home countries if this is available.

Students from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Eire and EU

We are advised that students from Wales should apply to Student Finance Wales who will fund students for the course but the student will have to apply through SFW for a Master's loan which is assessed solely on a postgraduate funding level. Scottish and Northern Irish prospective students should contact their respective student finance agencies to get further advice as to what possible funding they might be entitled to, and for Eire or any EU student, they would be best to contact the EU Team at the Student Loans Company regarding funding options.

Entry Requirements

The online prospectus provides an outline of the entry requirements.

You need to have a science degree with at least a 2:1 classification which contains sufficient level and depth of biochemistry and human physiology as well as research skills and methodology.

You should check the Approved Courses for entry document to confirm the degree you have / are studying for is acceptable. If it is not listed we advise that you check this with us as soon as possible and preferably before the closing date. It is possible for you to undertake "top up" modules if you have a 2:2 classification or if your degree does not meet the depth of study we require for biochemistry and human physiology, although your degree does need to include an element of these subjects in order to make a "top up" course viable. We check all applicants' qualifications to ensure they meet our academic criteria prior to progressing with an application and can advise individuals prior to applying, if required. It may be that by asking for advice from us at an early stage, applicants are able to register for and progress with any "top up" required before making their application.

We do have a University procedure for applying for Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) and applicants will be directed to this if they request it. However, we would advise that applicants wait until they have a successful offer of a place on the course before applying. The procedure requires that the applicant maps out their previous learning against the learning outcomes for the MSc Dietetics. It is also important to note that the MSc Dietetics is a professional masters course and aims to support previous learning and to apply this to dietetic practice.

Further information

In addition to academic ability it is also important that you consider the skills and behaviours needed to work as a Dietitian and where possible, provide evidence that you have started to develop these skills, reflecting on your learning and current strengths and weaknesses.

To fulfil this, applicants are required to submit a supporting statement with their application using the guidelines in the following document entitled; WRITING YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

You can also provide a separate CV with details of qualifications attained and experiences gained or use the relevant sections of the application form. However, please note that your CV will not replace or supplement your supporting statement and your supporting statement will be assessed without reference to your CV. It should be noted that a significant element in the academic course is professional development, reflective learning and practice.

MSc Dietetics (Sept 2024 Intake)

If you are offered a place you will be required to complete a Health check and Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) check. International students will also be required to complete in-country police check four-six weeks prior to the course start date.

References

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that **two written** references are provided before the closing date for applications. One of these must be a **suitable academic reference**. Applications will not be considered until references have been received and it is the **applicant's responsibility to provide these references or to check that they have been provided**, before the closing date of application. It is therefore advisable to check beforehand that selected referees are available and willing to support your application **within the deadline**.

Making your application

Your application should be submitted via <https://myapplication.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/> All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, module outlines, references, and supporting statement) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please contact the Admissions Office as per the contact details at the end of this document.

The deadline for submission of applications and all supporting documentation is:

The application deadline for September 2024 is **Wednesday 17 January 2024**.

Applications received by this date will be considered for the initial offers made for the course.

Applications received after this date will be considered for a place on the course waiting list

Your application will be dealt with as soon as it is received and so you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Initial decisions and offers to all candidates will be made at the end of March / early April 2024

Should you require any further advice please contact the Admissions Office as per the contact details at the end of this document.

All shortlisted applicants are required to attend an interview a values based discussion as part of the selection process. This is likely to be a virtual interview.

We wish you every success with your application and look forward to hearing from you.

Students will be recruited on the basis that their values align with those of the NHS Constitution as well as having the right skills and aptitude in accordance with Value Based Recruitment (Health Education England, Value Based Recruitment Framework, October 2014). All short-listed applicants will need to take part in an interview as part of the pre-offer selection day.

We endeavour to give feedback to those who are unsuccessful but, in view of the large number of applicants, this may take some time. Please note that we are not able to provide any further discussion of this feedback.

APPLYING FOR THE MSc IN DIETETICS
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AND WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

DATE	CALENDAR FOR THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR ALL APPLICANTS
17 JANUARY 2024	<p>APPLICATIONS Closing Date: All applications received by this date will be considered for the initial offers made for the course Ensure we receive the completed: Application (including a separate supporting statement up to 1000 words) Degree transcript/s – if your course is not on our list of previously approved degree/s we advise that you check this with us as soon as possible. References – You need to provide written references from your referees. It is essential we receive these before the deadline</p> <p>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</p>
SEPTEMBER 2023– JANUARY 2024	<p>COMPLETION OF ASSESSMENT OF SUPPORTING STATEMENTS Your application received by 17 January 2024 will be considered and your supporting statement will be assessed as the next part of the selection process. Feedback will be provided to all candidates on the supporting statement. We will then inform you if you have been shortlisted for pre-offer interview and this will be arranged. The interview will be a virtual interview, normally using MS Teams. There will also be information available in a digital / online format about the course, the University and Leeds which will be sent to shortlisted candidates prior to their interview. Postgraduate Open Events are also held by the University and are advertised on the University website where potential candidates can communicate and discuss the course directly with members of the course team.</p>
APRIL 2024	<p>CONDITIONAL OFFERS / WAITING LIST PLACES If you have been successful you will receive a conditional offer of a place on the course by the end of March / early April 2024. Feedback will be given to all candidates following the interview. All other shortlisted candidates may be offered a waiting list place.</p>
17 JANUARY 2024–AUGUST 2024	<p>During this time all applications received after 17 January will be considered and assessed as previously described 2024. Successful candidates at interview will be offered a waiting list place for the course in case of any previous offers are withdrawn.</p>
MAY 2024 - AUGUST 2024	<p>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS You will be invited to complete online DBS and occupational health checks, as well as a self-declaration form. We require clearance from these checks before you can start the course, so please ensure that you complete the applications promptly as this may delay your enrolment. If you have lived overseas for more than 12 months since the age of 16 you will also need to obtain a DBS equivalent, e.g. Police check from your country of origin/previous residence prior to the start of the course. If your self-declaration form or DBS certificate contain a previous conviction or caution, this will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures. The University is required to satisfy itself that the nature of your conviction is low risk and will not affect progression to placement and/or eligibility to register with the HCPC.</p>
JUNE /JULY 2024	<p>EXAM RESULTS If you have an offer conditional subject to your academic performance you will need to email us as soon as possible with your confirmed exam results. We will then email to confirm your position.</p>
UP TO AUGUST 2024 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ONLY	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS Unconditional offers will be issued once all academic conditions have been met. Successful candidates must confirm acceptance of a place on the course as soon as possible.</p>
16 SEPTEMBER 2024	<p>The course begins with an induction week commencing 16 September 2024.</p>

WRITING YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

Background

Each year we receive more applications than we have places available for the MSc Dietetics course. This means that we use selection criteria to help us identify who, from the large number of highly qualified candidates who meet our academic requirements, should receive an offer of a place on the course. The first step in the process involves asking you to complete a supporting statement which enables the Admissions Team to consider the vocational relevance of all your experiences to date as well as your academic achievements. This will be used to identify those candidates who will be shortlisted for the interview stage.

The assessment criteria have been developed in partnership with students on the course, NHS Dietetic Service Managers/Employers, academic and administrative staff. The criteria focus on aspects considered highly desirable for a professional dietetic course and for a future health care professional. Supporting statements are assessed by the Admissions Team using clear criteria.

Completion of the supporting statement will enable you to reflect on your strengths and weaknesses and help you to make an informed decision about whether the course is for you.

You should read the information carefully in this guidance document to help inform your supporting statement. To make it fair for all candidates, the Admissions Team are unable to offer further guidance on an individual basis.

Guidance on Completing the Supporting Statement

You should complete the supporting statement providing evidence of relevant experiences reflecting on what you learnt as a result of these experiences for each of the assessment criteria, **in no more than 1000 words** – although you are advised to use the full word count. You are expected to seek out appropriate learning opportunities that are relevant to dietetic practice.

You may decide to structure your supporting statement as a continuous piece of writing or you might wish to organise your statement according to the six assessment criteria. To help you manage the statement within the word count you are advised to make use of cross referencing. This means using the same example to demonstrate more than one criterion, enabling you to provide more depth in your writing.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CANDIDATES
Commitment to dietetics and working in the NHS	We are interested in your reasons and justification for applied to the MSc Dietetics course. This is not just another postgraduate course but one which prepares you for a healthcare professional end point. You need to demonstrate that you have carefully considered your reasons for studying this vocational course and how this application is part of your career planning.
Displays an awareness of the role and duties of a dietitian and provides evidence to demonstrate this	You need to be able to make an informed decision about whether working as a dietitian is the right job for you. You need to seek out opportunities in the broadest sense to find out more about what dietetic practice entails and provide evidence of what you have learnt from your experiences. We recognise that it may be difficult to spend time observing a dietitian at work and we would encourage other opportunities for finding out about the role, in work experience, volunteering or through

	the professional body website (British Dietetic Association), webinars and journals which include dietitians talking about their work.
Developing communication skills and evidence of experiences where communication skills have been used and adapted with people from a range of backgrounds	Communication skills and working with people are essential skills for a practising dietitian and will be further developed on the course. Communicating with people forms a substantive part of what dietitians do. You need to evidence your experiences and learning so far in developing your communication skills, as well as considering your future development needs in relation to this course.
Demonstrating an interest in and ability to work with people in a care setting and recognise own strengths and weaknesses for working in this environment	Dietitians work with people in care settings – often vulnerable people who may need a lot of help and support. We will prepare you to work in this environment on the course through working in academic and practice settings in the NHS. You need to reflect on what is needed for dietitians to work effectively in a care setting, what attracts you to this type of work, the challenges that this can bring and your own strengths and areas for improvement based on your experiences and learning to date.
An interest in food and basic food preparation and cooking skills and exposure to the diversity and enjoyment of food in a multi-cultural society	Working as a dietitian involves a lot of talking about food, eating, and body weight on a regular basis and you need to feel comfortable talking about these issues. On the course students develop skills to adapt meals and recipes to meet individual patients' therapeutic, cultural and religious needs building on basic food preparation and cooking skills. You need to reflect on your experiences and learning in this area as well as your interest in food and how this has developed throughout your family and social life.
Evidence of overcoming obstacles or challenges in either your personal or professional life	Postgraduate study is challenging. This reflects not just the volume of work and independent study, but also the academic level at which you will be working, as well as the stresses and strains of starting a new course, usually in a different university and city. Learning takes place in academic and practice settings and you may need to live away from home during the week whilst you are completing your placements*. You need to critically reflect on how you have responded to other challenges or obstacles you have faced in either your personal or professional life and the strategies you might use to support your learning and how you could transfer and use these skills to a new situation.

* Please note there is an allocation policy in place to meet the needs of students with priority for local allocation of placements.

A note on reflective practice

You are asked to 'critically reflect' on your learning. This means not just describing what you did but presenting a critical discussion of what you have learnt as a result of your experiences/opportunities. The following prompts, based on a reflective model developed by Graham Gibbs, may help you to think more deeply about your experiences. You may use these prompts or another approach that you find useful to help guide your reflection.

- Describe what happened (briefly)
- Try to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the learning experience.
- Evaluate the experience. What sense can you make of your learning?
- What conclusions can be made and what are your next steps to progress your learning/experience?

This type of critical reflection usually goes on in your head and at first it may feel a bit strange to write this in a supporting statement. The emphasis needs to be on you, your experiences and your learning. Therefore, your supporting statement should be written in the first person to reflect this.

Word Count

You should complete the supporting statement in no more than 1000 words and state the word count. Please note that text over and above 1000 words will not be considered. You are advised to attach the supporting statement as a separate document.

Feedback

All candidates will receive written feedback on both their supporting statement and interview.

Contact Details

UK/Home Admissions – directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

International Admissions – international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk