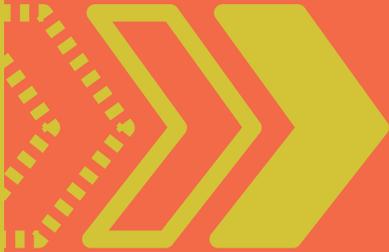




LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
BECKETT CAREERS



SUMMER GRADUATE PROGRAMME

GET WORK READY!
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer

WHAT IS THE SUMMER PROGRAMME?

This programme has been designed to empower you to secure your first graduate job! Your Beckett Careers team wants you to succeed by helping you build confidence and knowledge of the graduate job market. We'll take you through a series of skills development, career learning, networking opportunities and a graduate-level real-world project with one of our Project Provider organisations.

All participants will:

- Take part in a graduate-level project for 60 hours through June.
- Get 1-2-1 guidance during the programme and ongoing support for 12 months until you get the job you want!
- Eligible participants will receive a bursary of up to £1,000 to cover potential loss of earnings, travel and other associated costs.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

The process starts in April and runs through May and June. It includes:

- An application process in April.
- An interview and site visit with your Project Provider in May.
- Professional development and training sessions in May.
- A graduate-level real-world project with the organisation in June.
- A programme Consolidation Day to celebrate the successes and reflect on what's been achieved, and a mock interview in June.



WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The programme is for final-year undergraduate students at Leeds Beckett University, who are preparing to graduate in summer 2026, and last year's class of 2025 graduates.

Priority is given to students and graduates who:

- Have studied undergraduate degrees predominantly in Social Sciences, Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies, Accounting & Finance and Computer Science. Students and graduates from other courses can also apply.
- May face additional barriers in accessing Highly Skilled Employment (HSE).
- Are from under-represented groups.
- Have no professional work experience.
- Are not sure about their next steps.

UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS

If you're from a group listed below, you will be given priority:

- Asian, Black or mixed heritage
- Low-income households
- Have a disability
- Mature (over age 21 when you started your degree)
- Have caring responsibilities
- Care leavers
- First in your family to go to university

If you are facing additional barriers, such as an undisclosed or undiagnosed mental health condition, these will also be considered.



WHAT ARE THE KEY DATES?



In order to take part in the Summer Graduate Programme, you must be available for all the following key dates:

DATE	EVENT
13-24 April	Apply for the programme and choose from the projects. Attend an Information Session (optional).
5-8 May	Attend an Enrolment Session on campus or online.
11-15 May	Attend a site visit or remote induction, including an interview.
18-22 May	Attend the professional development and training sessions on campus.
1-19 June	The projects take place with various work patterns with upto 60 hours work.
22 June	Attend the programme's Consolidation Day followed by a pizza lunch.

LBU: Leeds Beckett University PP: Project Provider

These are the key dates you will need to be available to attend the programme. You're not expected to be available for the whole time, as we know that you'll have exams and other commitments.

However, if you have booked a holiday or have a part-time job, that clashes with any of the key dates, you will need to let us know. Equally, if you are not available for any other reason for any of the key dates, please let us know when you apply on the application form.

THE BURSARY

It's important to be aware there is no guarantee of receiving a bursary. You will be informed following our conversation with you about your application form to let you know if you're eligible.

WHAT IS THE BURSARY FOR?

Eligible participants who complete the whole programme will receive a bursary of £1,000.

- You can use it to cover costs such as loss of earnings, travel, clothes and childcare.
- It is not a salary or payment for taking part.

WHO IS THE BURSARY FOR?

Eligible participants who are from one or more of the under-represented groups listed on page 5. You will be asked about this on the application form and will have the chance to say why you would like to be considered for a bursary.

WHEN IS THE BURSARY PAID?

The bursary is paid in three parts:

1. **At the start of your project: £250**
2. **Midway through your project: £250**
3. **At the end of the project when all tasks are completed: £500***

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- *The final payment is paid at the discretion of Leeds Beckett University who may deduct part of the bursary if you do not complete the whole programme.
- "Complete the whole programme" means full attendance and engagement in training and development sessions, the project, the guidance interview, completing feedback forms and attending the Consolidation Day.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

PROJECT PREFERENCES

As part of the application process, there will be a range of real-world projects to choose from, created by our Project Providers.

Once you are registered for the programme, you'll be invited to look at all the projects available and choose your top three preferences. You will be able to filter the projects by location, type of project, and work pattern to find one that suits your needs.

We aim to offer you your first choice, or at least one of your top three, wherever we can.

The projects are 60 hours over the first three weeks of June. Some will be 20 hours a week for three weeks and others will be 30 hours a week for two weeks.

INTERVIEW AND SITE VISIT OR REMOTE INDUCTION

You will be invited to a site visit or remote induction with your Project Provider once you've been given one of your preferences.

Wherever possible, your Project Provider will invite you to visit the premises where the project will be delivered so that you are familiar with the location and have met the project team before you start. The Project Providers may also provide some data protection training or need to allocate emails and laptops ready for your project. If your project is remote, your induction is likely to be online and you may be able to work from LBU premises with the rest of your project team.

As part of your site visit or remote induction, you will have an interview with your Project Provider. This is not a competitive process but if they feel that you are not suitable for their project, we will aim to place you in another as soon as possible. The main purpose of this interview is for you to get to know each other, find out more about your project, discuss your work pattern and any adjustments you may need. The interview questions will be given to you in advance so that you are well prepared.

PROGRAMME ENROLMENT SESSIONS

The programme is a big commitment from you in terms of time and energy. It's also a big commitment to the University in terms of resource, both financial and time.

The Enrolment Sessions are a compulsory part of the programme and are for you to fully understand the commitment to make sure it's right for you. Enrolment sessions will be held at both campuses and online to make them as accessible as possible.

STUDENT PROGRAMME AGREEMENT

We ask you to sign an agreement to confirm your availability for and commitment to the programme.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Participants will join sessions about possible career options, graduate job searches, CVs, applications and networking.

You will also be offered training to prepare for your project week, if appropriate. This might include marketing basics, social media, social research, Excel, Canva, and other skills required for your project.

22 JUNE: CONSOLIDATION DAY

We invite everyone back onto campus on Monday 22 June to celebrate and reflect on the successes and your learning from the programme. We'll consider how you can articulate the experience in your CV, applications and interviews. All participants will have an individual mock interview. This is a half-day and a compulsory part of the programme.

Following the morning sessions, you'll be invited for a pizza lunch to celebrate the achievements with the Project Providers.

"I learned more about myself than anything else, but I also learned how to conduct real market research that can benefit companies."

Paige Taylor — BA (Hons) HR Management & Business

WHO ARE THE PROJECT PROVIDERS?

Over the past four years, we have been proud to collaborate with:



Community First
Yorkshire



Genio
formerly Glean



OXFAM



CREATEBritain



StepChange
Debt Charity



WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE



THIS YEAR'S PROVIDERS

This is the fifth year we are running the programme and we have worked with a wide range of Project Providers, from large, global organisations and some fantastic smaller organisations and charities who have offered exciting projects and opportunities beyond the programme. Some organisations have worked with us more than once too.

We are currently accepting projects for this year's programme and, again, will be offering a range of projects from a number of local, regional, national and international organisations.

Here are some 2025 Project Providers' replies to the question, *what did your organisation gain from taking part?*

"Working with LBU graduates has been a great asset to our business. They brought fresh ideas, conducted indepth research, and helped us develop essential tools, such as SOPs, budgets, and marketing plans. Their input has laid a strong foundation for launching our catering service confidently."

"Our Summer Graduate Programme participants worked on a key communications campaign — our comms for our appeal to move centres. They created excellent content which we used, and helped us evaluate the results of the campaign."

"We have benefited from fresh perspectives on our current projects, such as support for a senior marketing campaign currently in motion which the interns were consulted on for their opinion, and also see the potential for certain interns to progress into career opportunities that may arise in the near future at GHWY. It has also boosted staff morale working alongside young people who are the future of the workforce."

PREVIOUS PROJECTS

AREA	PROJECTS
Marketing and Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Create promotional videos. > Social media projects for a range of organisations. > Content creation for websites.
Social and Market Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Social Research for a range of organisations. > Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). > Student gambling project.
Market research for new initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The industry and skillsets needed in the UK space sector. > An organisation's sustainability impact. > Social Corporate Governance. > Clients - political/geopolitical/cultural differences. > Loyalty, happiness, contentment at work in young
Support business functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support the launch of a new business. > Audit the finance system for a university department. > Develop a recruitment and outreach plan to attract young people. > Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) research.
Review of services provided by charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Review and analysis of client services. > Review of neurodivergent offer. > Assessing the impact of mental health and wellbeing services. > Analysis of client use of repeat appointments.
For Leeds City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Collecting and analysing data for the deployment of the Social Value Fund scheme. > Process Mapping for Adults and Health and Housing. > Contract Manager Survey. > AI-powered technology - government contracting. > Digital access to employee services. > Evaluate the impact of the Healthy Holidays programme.

WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART?

Being part of the Summer Graduate Programme has been life-changing for some of our previous participants — several have been offered jobs from their Project Provider and many others have gained confidence, skills, experience and connections, to go onto amazing graduate opportunities!

Here's what some of our previous participants have said:

"I felt quite lost in terms of what career path I wanted to take. I needed some direction in terms of what opportunities were available to me. Saying anything less than the programme has completely changed my life would be doing it an injustice. It is genuinely a wonderful opportunity that I am so grateful for."

*Kayleigh James — BA (Hons) Criminology with Psychology
Police Officer at West Yorkshire Police*

"Gaining new skills, meeting new people, trying out a job I wouldn't necessarily have chosen myself or gone for outside of uni. I really enjoyed my project and wouldn't have expected to like it this much as I didn't think I was a fan of marketing at the start!"

*Hafsah Asaf — BSc (Hons) Psychology
Assistant Psychologist at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust*

SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

One of the key objectives of this programme is to support final-year students' and recent graduates' transition to the world of work. The application process is not intended to be competitive, but instead, to assess if the programme is suitable for you. If you are not eligible or cannot commit to the programme, the Beckett Careers team will work with you to find alternative support that works for you.

Participants taking part in the programme are offered:

- A bursary to offset any lost earnings and travel costs.
- Project-specific training immediately before the projects start.
- A guidance appointment during the programme.
- A graduate-level project within LBU or with an outside organisation.
- Pre and post-programme assessments and evaluations to assess the impact and support with planning next steps.
- Unlimited ongoing support to secure a job.

"I loved the project. I wouldn't have been shortlisted for the BBC without the experience I gained from the Summer Graduate Programme."

*Isobelle Paulucci — BA (Hons) International Relations
Studio Researcher for BBC Morning Live Show*

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY

We aim to make the programme as accessible as possible and aimed at students and graduates from under-represented groups.

We encourage applicants with a disability, learning difference or any other barriers to learning, to apply for the programme. We've found one of the most significant impacts for participants is an increase in confidence.

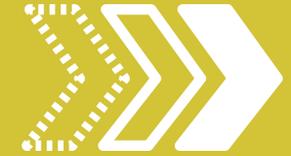
CONFIDENCE

We ask the following questions about confidence levels on the application form and then again at the end of the programme to measure the impact.

The table below shows the percentage of participants who reported an increase in confidence after taking part in the 2025 programme.

HOW CONFIDENT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT:	% INCREASE [2025]
Your current level of work experience?	93%
Understanding your career options?	90%
Applying for jobs?	95%
Your workplace skills?	88%

WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY



You can sign up for our Information Session to find out more about participating in our Summer Graduate Programme 2026 online on:

- **Tuesday 21 April from 13:00-14:00**

If you cannot attend, please get in touch to request a recording of the session. Our contact details are:

CONTACT DETAILS

Email: gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Website: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer



HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for a place on the Summer Graduate Programme by completing the application form available online from 13 to 24 April at leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer. In the meantime, please express your interest about taking part using the *Sign Me Up* form for graduates. If you have any questions, please use the contact details to get in touch.

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“The Summer Graduate Programme was amazing, it was a well-rounded experience that covered everything from creating a CV to gaining work experience across different companies.”

Vasilis Christou — BA (Hons) Product Design

CONTACT DETAILS

Beckett Careers

Email: careers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Website: leedsbeckett.ac.uk/careers



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