



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

**MSc Construction  
Law & Dispute  
Resolution**

**Course Code: CLAWD**

**2020/21**

# MSc Construction Law & Dispute Resolution

## Material Information Summary for Postgraduate Applicants

Confirmed at Aug 2019

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### General Information

**Award** Master of Science Construction Law & Dispute Resolution

**Contained Awards** Post Graduate Certificate Construction Law & Dispute Resolution  
Post Graduate Diploma Construction Law & Dispute Resolution

**Awarding Body** Leeds Beckett University

### Level of Qualification & Credits

Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England

### Course Lengths & Standard Timescales

Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:

- 2 year (part time, Distance Learning)
- 4 year (part time, Distance Learning)

**Location(s) of Delivery** Distance Learning

**Entry Requirements** Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here:

[www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning).

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **Course Fees**

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### **Timetable Information**

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Outlook Calendar
- ii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- iii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

### **Policies, Standards and Regulations** [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

Overseas students need IELTS 7.0 (with no element below 7.0) or equivalent for entry onto the MSc and LLM Construction Law and Dispute resolution.

### **Key Contacts**

#### **Your Course Director**

Martin Green

#### **Your Academic Advisor**

Each Student will be allocated an Academic Advisor once they commence their studies at the University. The Academic Advisor will be a member of the Surveying, Construction and Project Management Academic Staff.

#### **Your Course Administrator**

Jackie Leahy – [J.Leahy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:J.Leahy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

## **Professional Body**

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)

## **Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

Recognition from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators has been granted for the MSc course on their Arbitration, International Arbitration and Adjudication pathways to exempt a student from the examination requirements for Associate, Member and Fellowship grades. For exemption from the examination requirements through to Fellowship, however, students must achieve a minimum 55% in the Decision Writing coursework and/or the Arbitration Award Writing/International Arbitration Award Writing Exam.

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The aims of the programme are:

- To provide an effective, coherent and intellectually challenging postgraduate education in construction law and dispute resolution;
- To enhance students' abilities in the identification and evaluation of appropriate decision-making strategies;
- To develop research capability and cognitive skills which enable students to analyse problems in their professional context

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate construction contract doctrines and drafting;
2. Exhibit innovative practice and sound professional knowledge, skill and values in the arena of conflict management and dispute resolution;
3. Professionally engage in effective means for the avoidance and resolution of construction disputes;
4. Exercise a high level of skill and competence in the fields of an expert witness, construction lawyer, adjudicator, arbitrator and mediator providing professional judgement in areas of construction law, and the practice and procedure of dispute resolution relevant to the student's professional environment;

5. Exercise sound professional judgement, critically evaluating the perspectives of other professionals and making a positive, informed contribution to matters outside their areas of expertise in the context of construction law and dispute resolution issues.

## **Teaching and Learning Activities**

### **Summary**

The course is delivered as a web-based distance learning course. There is limited opportunity therefore to engage in traditional face to face teaching activity. However, every opportunity has been taken to utilise innovative distance learning material to simulate the 'classroom' experience as much as possible. To this end, full use of a VLE is made for each module to make the web-based material fully interactive. The VLE contains a variety of:

- Specific course reading material
- Additional directed reading
- Case studies in the form of analysis of case law
- Problem solving exercises;
- Reflective learning techniques
- Computer-assisted learning (self-assessment tests)

With each of the exercises, once the students have submitted an answer online they receive immediate feedback in the form of a model answer to allow comparison with their own submissions.

The variety of exercises allows for a range of learning preferences. Students are encouraged both online and on the VLE to ask questions and are given clear indications in the VLE how to contact the module leader. They are also encouraged to post their questions to a Discussion Board on the VLE so that all may benefit from the question and the reply.

The range of assessments utilised across the course also allow for a range of learning preferences.

The type and range of assessments have been designed to require students to think deeply about practical scenarios and legal issues to evaluate problems and prescribe solutions appropriate to a professional practitioner working in the sphere of dispute resolution. For example, in the Law & Practice of Claims module students are required in one assignment to analyse and describe the development of law in a complex area of tort as it applies to the construction industry. Analysis of judicial decisions are required in both the Adjudication and Arbitration modules to make an evaluation of that decision and its impact on the industry and on practice. Students are given complex construction dispute scenarios and are required to prepare a statement of case to present before an arbitrator proving causation for their party, and they also must play the role of both arbitrator and adjudicator arriving at an award and a decision. Finally, in the Mediation module students are faced with complex dispute situations and they must evaluate the appropriateness of referring such disputes to mediation rather than to other forms of dispute resolution. All these exercises require a high level of critical thinking, evaluation and decision making.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

### Level 7 Core Modules

Law of Obligations

Adjudication: Law & Practice

Construction Law Principles

Commercial Mediation

Adjudication Decision Writing

Law & Practice of Claims

Professional Research

### Level 7 Option Modules

Students select:

**EITHER** Arbitration: Law & Practice **OR** International Arbitration: Law & Practice

**AND EITHER** Arbitration Award Writing **OR** International Arbitration Award Writing

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

## Assessment

On this course students will be assessed primarily through a mix of coursework and exams. There is a 40 credit point Professional Research module which includes a 1500 word research methods essay, 3000 word literature review, 6000 word research paper and a 15 minute presentation.

## Workload

Overall Workload for the Course	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	450 hours
Independent Study	1350 hours
Placement	0 hours

## Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Hub on either campus to speak to our Student Experience Team. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. Email enquiries may be directed to [studentexperience@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentexperience@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here

how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.