



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification *Pre-sessional*

*5-week (EFLFW)*

*10-week (EFLPR)*

*20-week (EFLTW)*

2020/21

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](http://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## ***Pre-sessional: 5-week (EFLFW), 10-week (EFLPR), 20-week (EFLTW)***

### **Material Information Summary for 2019/2020 Entrants**

Confirmed at Oct/2019

*This is the date the information has been confirmed as correct by the Course Leader*

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#### **General Information**

**Award** *Pre-sessional*

**Contained Awards** *none*

**Awarding Body** Leeds Beckett University

**Level of Qualification & Credits** not attributed

#### **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:

- 5 weeks (FT, campus based)
- 10 weeks (FT, campus based)
- 20 weeks (FT, campus based)

**Part Time Study** not available

**Location(s) of Delivery** Headingley Campus, Leeds

**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 the first week of study:

- 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))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

### **Key Contacts**

<b>Your Academic Lead</b>	Sue Birch
<b>Your Course Leader</b>	Suzanne Corazzi
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	Danielle Leach ( <a href="mailto:elt@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">elt@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> )

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

<b>Professional Body</b>	British Council
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#### **Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

The Pre-sessional is accredited by the British Council; further information may be found on our online prospectus. The Department of Languages is an institutional member of The British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes (BALEAP). This is an organisation that supports the professional development of those involved in learning, teaching, scholarship and research in English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

### **Course Overview**

#### **Aims**

The Pre-sessional is a non credit-bearing course for international students and those students whose English is not their first language. These students already meet the academic requirements for their preferred postgraduate or undergraduate course, but do not meet the University's English language entry requirements.

In line with the rest of the higher education sector, the Pre-sessional is designed to not only develop students' linguistic competence but also develop their academic English and research skills. The students also learn how to use the wide range of resources available on campus and online to support their studies and their learning. The course ensures students engage with an appropriate range of UK Higher Education assessment, learning and teaching strategies and their underlying academic culture. Successful completion provides clear evidence of English language competence appropriate to study at postgraduate or undergraduate level.

The course is delivered in three blocks over 20 weeks (1 block x 10 weeks and 2 blocks x 5 weeks). Each block is designed to improve students' English competence by 0.5 points on the IELTS scale. There are more teaching weeks in block one compared to blocks two and three, as students need longer to improve by 0.5 points on the IELTS score when they start at the lower language level. The pre-sessional structure is illustrated in the tables below.

This Pre-sessional course takes students from IELTS 4.5 to the required entry level of IELTS 6.0 equivalent (no skill below 5.5) for most courses. However, some courses require IELTS 6.5. For those courses that require IELTS 6.5, students will enter block 1 with IELTS 5.0 or block 2 with IELTS 5.5.

Students joining block two will join existing students from block one and students joining block three will join this group of students. If numbers grow in the future, we will have discrete 20-week, 10-week and 5-week courses. For now, new students will join existing students. With increased numbers, students will be taught in separate 20-week, 10-week and 5-week classes.

For courses requiring IELTS 6.0 (no skill below 5.5)

	<i>IELTS entry (Students may have one of the individual skills 0.5 points below the overall minimum, provided this is not in the 'writing' skill score).</i>	<i>Number of weeks</i>
Block 1	IELTS 4.5 (improvement 0.5 IELTS)	10 weeks
Block 2	IELTS 5.0 (improvement 0.5 IELTS)	5 weeks
Block 3	IELTS 5.5 (improvement 0.5 IELTS)	5 weeks

For courses requiring IELTS 6.5 (no skill below 6.0)

	<i>IELTS entry (Students may have one of the individual skills 0.5 points below the overall minimum, provided this is not in the 'writing' skill score).</i>	<i>Number of weeks</i>
Block 1	IELTS 5.0 (improvement 0.5 IELTS)	10 weeks
Block 2	IELTS 5.5 (improvement 0.5 IELTS)	5 weeks
Block 3	IELTS 6.0 (improvement 0.5 IELTS)	5 weeks

**Course Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, for courses requiring IELTS 6.0 (no skill below 5.5), students will be able to:

Block 1

L01: have a level of receptive skills (reading and listening) equivalent to IELTS 5.0

L02: have a level of productive skills (writing and speaking) equivalent to IELTS 5.0

L03: have awareness of the UK's higher education teaching and learning culture

Block 2

L01: have a level of receptive and productive skills equivalent to IELTS 5.5

L02: have acquired academic and research skills in order to produce a written synthesis

L03: have developed group working skills

### Block 3

L01: have a level of receptive and productive skills equivalent to IELTS 6.0

L02: use academic and research skills that are appropriate to the level of entry required for UG or PG study

L03: operate successfully within the UK's higher education study culture

At the end of the course, for courses requiring IELTS 6.5 (no skill below 6.0), students will be able to:

### Block 1

L01: have a level of receptive skills (reading and listening) equivalent to IELTS 5.5

L02: have a level of productive skills (writing and speaking) equivalent to IELTS 5.5

L03: have awareness of the UK's higher education teaching and learning culture

### Block 2

L01: have a level of receptive and productive skills equivalent to IELTS 6.0

L02: have acquired academic and research skills in order to produce a written synthesis

L03: have developed group working skills

### Block 3

L01: have a level of receptive and productive skills equivalent to IELTS 6.5

L02: use academic and research skills that are appropriate to the level of entry required for UG or PG study

L03: operate successfully within the UK's higher education study culture

## **Teaching and Learning Activities**

### **Summary**

The course uses a range of learning and teaching activities, which put the students at the centre of the classroom. All language teaching and tuition takes place in seminars and tutorials, rather than through lectures, with normal maximum class sizes of 20 students. The teaching methods are learner-centred and develop students' linguistic skills, academic English and research skills, and learning strategies. Students on this course will also be encouraged to take responsibility for their own language learning through the development of independent learning skills. The classes concentrate on the use of language for communication using real-life tasks and authentic materials relevant to academic settings wherever possible. Pair and group work is used extensively to maximise the amount of time the language is used in class, where

appropriate. In this course, emphasis will be on academic, accurate and fluent English as required to meet the criteria for IELTS 6.0 equivalent (or 6.5 equivalent). In addition, guided independent learning tasks and regular feedback are given to support work done in class and to prepare for later classes.

## **Assessment**

In line with the rest of the higher education sector, students do not take an IELTS test at the end of the course. There will be summative assessments at the end of block three and formative assessments at the end of blocks one and two. The assessments at the end of blocks two and three are formative rather than summative to allow students time to develop more academic research skills alongside their academic English.

There will be regular homework tasks throughout the course. In block one, in particular, tasks will assess students' grammatical and lexical knowledge. Students will also complete formative assessments at the end of blocks one and two. All of these tasks will be used to track the students' progress and to help students see areas of strength and areas where they need to develop further. Students will be guided to extra resources and helped with language learning techniques. The course leader meets with the students in Academic Advisor sessions to ensure that they are on track.

At the end of block three, students complete summative assessments in all four language skills:

Reading and Writing: Synthesis (50%),

Speaking: Presentation (25%),

Listening: Listening Test (25%).

The synthesis enables students to understand the process of selecting information from given sources in order to answer a question given by the tutor. Students will need to read effectively to select appropriate information from the texts in order to write a coherent synthesis.

The Presentation will assess students' ability to speak accurately and fluently on a topic and effectively answer questions.

Both the synthesis and presentation assess that students' language is equivalent to IELTS 6.0 (or 6.5 as required), and prepare students for the type of assignments and assessment they will meet on their undergraduate or postgraduate study.

The formative and summative assessments are benchmarked to the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR). IELTS is aligned to CEFR although the bandings require interpretation from subject experts so:

IELTS 4.5 is equivalent to CEFR high A2 / low B1

IELTS 5.0 is equivalent to CEFR B1

IELTS 5.5 is equivalent to CEFR high B1

IELTS 6.0 is equivalent to CEFR B2

IELTS 6.5 is equivalent to CEFR high B2

<http://www.englishmc.com/about-us/cefr-common-european-framework-of-reference-for-languages/>

The block one formative assessment will be assessed at CEFR B1. Block two at CEFR high B1. The summative assessment at the end of block three will be benchmarked at CEFR B2, equivalent to IELTS 6.

To pass the course students need to be assessed as having, for most courses, the University's English Language Requirement of English equivalent to IELTS 6.0 with no skill below 5.5. This means that students have to pass each of the summative assessments with a minimum of 40%. To show IELTS 6.5 equivalency, students need a minimum of 60% in each assessment.

### **Workload**

There will be 16.6 hours a week face-to-face teaching. In addition to this there will be tutorials and independent learning.

### **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 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 Advice Hub on either campus. 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 Advice 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 [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@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.