



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Landscape Architecture

Programme Code: LANDC

2020/21

Postgraduate Material Information
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Version date: July 20

Postgraduate Material Course Information **Summary**

Revised Course Structure and Delivery Information for Academic Year 2020/21 in Response to Coronavirus Covid-19 and Associated Public Health England Guidance as at 3 July 2020

PART 1 of 2: Important General Information about Course Delivery for Leeds Beckett University Awards in 2020/21 (Information Specific to Your Course is Provided in PART 2)

Introduction

This document contains important information about Leeds Beckett University's planned approach to course delivery and assessment in 2020/21. It provides an update to the information previously available in our online prospectus. You should read this document carefully so that you are aware of any changes that affect your course.

Information is provided in two parts:

The University is informed by Public Health England (PHE) Covid-19 advice and guidance for maintaining a Covid-secure learning and working environment. We have made arrangements to continue to provide a high-quality educational experience in a way that protects the safety and wellbeing of both students and staff. We are engaging closely with Leeds Beckett Students' Union to inform the arrangements and will also be informed by feedback provided by our individual students.

Public Health England guidance continues to evolve, so the arrangements for delivery of your course and use of the campus may need to change during the academic year to continue to protect students and staff.

The taught content advertised at each level of study, or its equivalent, will be delivered across the academic year 2020/21. We have identified an appropriate mix of blended learning – a mix of face-to-face, on-campus, online and digital content and teaching and learning for each subject, reflecting what will maximise learning as well as supporting more vulnerable learners and enabling the university as a whole to minimise transmission risk.

Covid-19 social distancing measures will be implemented during 2020/21 for teaching, learning, assessment and student support.

In the event of further government lockdowns, either local or national, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies.

If there is an easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to provide blended delivery for teaching block 1 or semester 1 in 2020/21. We will keep teaching blocks 2 and 3 or semester 2 under review, informed by Public Health England advice. We may revert to different proportions of on-campus learning and online learning delivery later in the academic calendar year or a later teaching block. Learning will remain accessible for students who are unable to attend on campus sessions.

How we will communicate with you

We have sent information to applicants who have accepted an offer by email on the plans for delivery of your course in 2020/21, the academic calendar (teaching block delivery or alternative) applicable for your course and on the options available to you as a prospective student, to enable you to make informed choices.

As the situation evolves, further information on local course delivery arrangements will be provided to you in emails via the School.

In addition to the course specific information set out in this document and the above communications, the University's Covid-19 microsite contains information for students and applicants, including information relating to University accommodation and University facilities and services. The Covid-19 microsite is regularly reviewed and updated as the situation, advice and planning evolve and is available at:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/#tabplaceholder2>.

Key terms and conditions

Further important information for applicants and students is available on our web site: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/information-for-applicants-and-students/>. This includes information about the student contract, fees and funding, your rights of cancellation, the student protection plan and the University complaints process. It is essential that you read the information on this webpage carefully as it sets out the rights and obligations that will

form the contract between you and the University upon accepting an offer and information about how to make a complaint.

Start dates

Our academic year will begin at the normal time. Start dates will be notified to direct applicants via their offer letter or for UCAS applicants, via UCAS Track. The length of the course is confirmed in the information about your course in Part 2 of this document below.

Location of delivery

In academic year 2020/21, it is planned that your course will be delivered via a blend of online and digital learning and on-campus teaching and learning, with the necessary Covid-19 social distancing and other measures in place on campus informed by Public Health England advice and guidance.

Information on how blended teaching and learning will be delivered and the location of any on-campus delivery is provided in a subsequent section of this document entitled '**Teaching and Learning Activities**'.

Course Fees

Your course fee is stated in your offer letter. The course fee published for 2020/21 on the University's Online Prospectus and included in your offer letter has not changed. Other additional costs remain as published on our original Online Prospectus information in addition to the areas of costs outlined below.

The course will be delivered via a blended approach that includes online teaching and learning, digital learning and on campus sessions. If a further lockdown is necessary then delivery will be continued and supported via online and digital learning. Students are advised that they will need a personal digital device for this purpose. The University's wide range of student support services available for students also includes a laptop loans scheme. Students may wish to bring an existing personal device or purchase or lease a laptop or similar device for their personal use which would be an additional cost. The costs of this would vary depending on your individual requirements but can be in the region of £400-800 depending on the device.

The University is developing a means-tested Covid-19 Financial Assistance Package to support students to acquire a laptop should this be needed. Students may also apply for a living expenses fund for unexpected personal hardship as a result of the Covid-19 Crisis.

Students will need to follow the Public Health England advice and any specific national requirements for maintaining personal safety and hygiene to protect themselves and others from the Covid-19 risks. These personal safety measures such as the wearing of face coverings will be an additional cost that students need to consider.

Where PPE is an essential requirement for the nature of the course you are undertaking this will be detailed below.

Timetable Information

This course will be scheduled using a teaching block/semester-based delivery and will be specified in timetable information.

The 2020/21 academic calendar and term dates are available on our web site at:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/-/media/files/academic-calendars/2021-student-calendar-sept.pdf?la=en>

The academic year 2020/21 will start on the dates notified to you.

Taught sessions will normally be scheduled and included in your timetable. This will include on-campus sessions that you should attend. In 2020/21, depending on your course, this may also include scheduled online teaching and learning sessions where student engagement is required at a specified time and tutor pre-recorded lectures and scheduled discussion sessions. Module information will be made available online by the school for enrolled students.

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

1. The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
2. The Leeds Beckett app

You should discuss any difficulties relating to your engagement with timetabled sessions with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

Covid-19 social distancing measures will be in place for teaching, learning, assessment and student support in 2020/21. This means that there will be operational requirements and protocols in place for the way in which your course is delivered and the way in which University activities, facilities, and spaces operate which students and staff will need to follow.

In the event of further government lockdowns either local or national in response to Covid-19, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies. We may need to implement approved emergency Covid-19 pandemic academic regulations to take account of the impact of Covid-19 general extenuating circumstances.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

We will prioritise face-to-face teaching and practical teaching to meet any requirements of relevant professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRB) if your course includes these elements. This will ensure that your course retains its full professional status.

Specific information on applicable professional statutory or regulatory body recognition or requirements for your course is summarised below.

Teaching and Learning Activities

The way we will deliver this course and teaching, learning and assessment activities in 2020/21 will be informed by Public Health England advice and guidance on Covid-19 secure requirements and the need for social distancing for the protection of students and staff.

You will experience a blended approach to learning for 2020/21; this is a mix of face-to-face, on campus online, and digital content, teaching and learning.

We are working within the government 2 metre social distancing measures for Teaching Block 1 so we are not planning to deliver large-group teaching on campus throughout 2020/2021. This will ensure that maximum space will be available for small-group teaching.

In most cases, the taught content will also be available online so you can still access it if you are not able to attend campus due to the pandemic (for example, due to self-isolation, shielding or travel restrictions). There will be digital content and recorded lectures available online to support students who may be unable to travel to campus. In some circumstances, other formal taught sessions may also be recorded.

In the event of a further government lockdown in response to Covid-19, we will prioritise digital and online learning and support to enable students to continue with their studies and study towards achieving any specified professional statutory and regulatory body accreditation requirements where this applies.

If there is an easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to provide blended delivery for teaching block 1 or semester 1 in 2020/21. We will keep teaching blocks 2 and 3 or semester 2 under review, informed by Public Health England advice (see Introduction section above).

Further information on local course delivery arrangements will continue to be available from your School.

Students will be kept up to date with new information when this is available via this University web site.

Learning Support

Our approach to delivering student support in 2020/21

Given the planned social distancing measures in place on campus for 2020/21 to ensure safe delivery of services for students and staff, some of the arrangements for student support will be accessible online.

We are committed to ensuring you continue to have opportunities to access the learning and wellbeing support that you need over the forthcoming year. General learning spaces, including access to libraries, will be available to be booked online; and where specialist space is needed, this will either be provided: as normal; created in newly adapted spaces; or replicated as part of an enhanced suite of online resources.

We want to provide a safe environment for students and staff, so on-campus delivery of student support services will be limited. This may mean that campus-based school offices will operate within defined core office hours. However, full access to advice, learning support and specialist services will be delivered via telephone, email, video calls and online live chat. The Students' Union will also be implementing social distancing arrangements for student advice services.

Access to Library support in 2020/21

The Library offers access to thousands of resources via MyBeckett or the Library website (<http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/home>) which also provides full details of all our services.

In response to Covid-19, and the need for social distancing for the protection of students and staff, the libraries will be available via a booking system in 2020/21 for students to study, access PCs and laptops, printer/ copiers, and other equipment, and to use the books and journals.

The Library and Student IT Advice Service is available by online chat, email or phone, and provides support on using the University's online and digital services, finding information, borrowing, Office 365, MyBeckett, online meetings, saving your work, passwords, etc.

- online (including 24/7 chat): http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/contact_us
- by phone - 0113 812 1000 (24/7 IT support)

The Library Academic Support Team can help you develop your academic skills such as critical thinking, academic writing and analysing data, and research skills such as how to find, use and evaluate information for your studies. The team liaises with your lecturers to provide the information resources you need for your subject and to arrange academic skills sessions to support you in your studies. They also have a wide range of short tutorials available on the Library's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFFd5u75zmy00EnkM9F2zPQ>

Support from your School

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 university specialist support services as appropriate. They can also arrange for a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript on your behalf. You may also like to contact your Course Representative or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course related questions.

Student Advice and Support

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, you may contact the Student Advice Hub to speak to one of our Student Services Advisers. This team, consisting of recent graduates, are able 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. Our Student Advice Hub will be operating via live chat, video, telephone and email services. Telephone lines - 0113 812 3000 will open as usual 09.00-17.00 Mon-Fri. You can book an appointment via telephone or online video chat with an adviser via the link at: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-experience-team/>. This is where contact details for all specialist support services can also be found. You can also email the team at studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Range of Support Services Available

There is a range of support for disabled or vulnerable students. Any student with a disability, who may or may not have declared this to the University and wishes to discuss their learning support for the year ahead or their status as a Covid-19 extremely vulnerable person, should contact their Disability Adviser for their School who is based in Student Services to discuss their support needs in the first instance. The service contact details are disabilityadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk or telephone 0113 812 5831. Students who are classed at Covid-19 Extremely Vulnerable (i.e. you have received a Shielding Letter from the NHS) but who do not regard themselves as disabled, and have not registered with the

Disability Team, should discuss any support arrangements they may need, directly with their Course Director and if resident in halls, their Residential Life Team.

Once enrolled, you will have access to our virtual learning environment, MyBeckett. Within this system 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.

You can also access details of all University student support teams at our web A-Z of Services. This can be found at <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/student-support/>. Here you can obtain further information including service contact details, access self-help resources or book an appointment with a range of support services.

In order to provide you with information on student services support in 2020/21 in response to the changing Covid-19 position, updated information will be provided on our University Covid-19 microsite.

Part 2: Important Information Specific to MA Landscape Architecture (LANDC) applicants for 2020/21

Award	Master of Arts Landscape Architecture
Contained Awards	Post Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture Post Graduate Certificate Landscape Architecture
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

The standard start date for Leeds Beckett University induction week is reproduced below and relates to the majority of students starting a course in September 2019. A proportion of courses have alternate start dates which are displayed on the online prospectus and additionally will be notified to the students concerned via the offer letter. Non-September starters will also have their start dates confirmed in their offer letters.

- 1 year (full time, campus based)
Starts 21st September 2020/ Ends September 2021
- 2 years (part time, campus based)
Starts 21st September 2020/ Ends September 2022

For more information about part-time delivery contact your school

Timetable Information

This course will be taught via teaching block delivery. Details of on campus and other scheduled sessions will be confirmed in your timetable.

Further information on learning and teaching activities and your modules is provided in a later section of this document.

Placements and Other Off-Campus Learning Opportunities

Summary Not applicable for LANDC

Length

Location

Policies, Standards and Regulations (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information)

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

Key Contacts

Your Course Director John MacCleary

Your Academic Advisor To be confirmed at enrolment.

Your Course Administrator Sarah Bowler,
landscapearchitectureadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

The course is designed and delivered in accordance with the accreditation requirements of the Landscape Institute and by the International Federation of Landscape Architects and the European Foundation for Landscape Architecture.

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

The Course is accredited by the Landscape Institute. The accreditation process is carried out by The Landscape Institute through the mechanism of a Professional Review Group (PRG). The PRG is the Landscape Institute's equivalent of a PSRB and is a group of local professional practitioners, approved by the Landscape Institute, who check that the course is being delivered in accordance with the accreditation criteria. The five accreditation criteria are listed below and the courses are designed and delivered within these parameters.

- A. Schools must demonstrate that they have the staffing, expertise, resources and quality assurance mechanisms to deliver and maintain a high-quality programme of learning
- B. Programmes must focus on a clear and defined area of professional landscape skills and expertise deliver appropriate underpinning skills, knowledge and understanding to provide a foundation for entering the profession
- C. Programmes must deliver the key generic skills which underpin professional life and lifelong learning
- D. Programmes must provide a foundation for progression to the workplace and professional practice

E. Schools must demonstrate a commitment to working in partnership with the Landscape Institute and the profession

The courses also comply with the International Federation of Landscape Architects Professional Definition of the Landscape Architect (International Standard Occupation number 2150).

Landscape Architects conduct research and advise on planning, design and stewardship of the outdoor environment and spaces, both within and beyond the built environment, and its conservation and sustainability of development. Tasks include:

- (a) developing new or improved theories, policy and methods for landscape planning, design and management at local, regional, national and multinational levels;
- (b) developing policy, plans, and implementing and monitoring proposals as well as developing new or improved theories and methods for national parks and other conservation and recreation areas;
- (c) developing new or improved theories and methods to promote environmental awareness, and undertaking planning, design, restoration, management and maintenance of cultural and/or historic landscapes, parks, sites and gardens;
- (d) planning, design, management, maintenance and monitoring functional and aesthetic layouts of built environment in urban, suburban, and rural areas including private and public open spaces, parks, gardens, streetscapes, plazas, housing developments, burial grounds, memorials; tourist, commercial, industrial and educational complexes; sports grounds, zoos, botanic gardens, recreation areas and farms;
- (e) contributing to the planning, aesthetic and functional design, location, management and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, dams, energy and major development projects;
- (f) undertaking landscape assessments including environmental and visual impact assessments with view to developing policy or undertaking projects;
- (g) inspecting sites, analysing factors such as climate, soil, flora, fauna, surface and subsurface water and drainage; and consulting with clients and making recommendations regarding methods of work and sequences of operations for projects related to the landscape and built environment;
- (h) identifying and developing appropriate solutions regarding the quality and use of the built environment in urban, suburban and rural areas and making designs, plans and working drawings, specifications of work, cost estimates and time schedules;
- (i) monitoring the realisation and supervising the construction of proposals to ensure compliance with plans, specifications of work, cost estimates and time schedules;
- (j) conducting research, preparing scientific papers and technical reports, developing policy, teaching, and advising on aspects regarding landscape architecture such as the application of geographic information systems, remote sensing, law, landscape communication, interpretation and landscape ecology;
- (k) managing landscape planning and design projects;
- (l) performing related tasks;
- (m) supervising other workers

On successful completion of the accredited course students are eligible to become licentiate members of the Landscape Institute. After gaining employment in a landscape practice they can

continue their professional development by following the Landscape Institute's 'Pathway to Chartership'. This involves assembling a portfolio of their practice experience, typically over a period of about 2 years, meetings with a mentor and a final interview. Successful completion of the pathway results in Chartered membership of the Landscape Institute.

Course Overview:

Aims

Landscape architecture is the process of shaping the external environment through planning, design and management. It is a broad-based design discipline that considers the landscape of outdoor environments of all types, both urban and rural, and at a wide range of spatial scales from local to multi-national. Landscape architects need to understand, appreciate and enhance the natural and cultural landscape but, above all, display creativity in the development and communication of their ideas at all scales of intervention. In the organisation of the physical world the landscape architect must produce landscapes responsive to a wide range of aesthetic, ecological, social and technical requirements. The scope for landscape architecture is wide and under constant review in the light of growing public awareness of environmental issues, and an increasing demand for sensitive and stimulating design.

The course aims to provide advanced level study in Landscape Architecture. The course will provide for all students to further develop their abilities to become perceptive, creative, confident and effective landscape architects who display initiative, enterprise and independence of mind and have a system of values that recognises human needs and cultural diversity alongside environmental awareness.

Postgraduate study extends the experience of undergraduate education in landscape architecture and the aims of the course are mapped onto the undergraduate course aims with learning outcomes corresponding to masters level expectations. Overall the Course aims to offer a high quality, creative design education as a basis for qualification and practice as a Landscape Architect in accordance with the requirements of the Landscape Institute and International Federation of Landscape Architects.

In more detail the aims of the Course are to develop in the student at an advanced level:

- A critical understanding of the nature, scope and role of landscape architecture in a changing world.
- A personal philosophy towards the design of landscape that recognises the interdependence of natural and human systems and establishes values appropriate to the discipline.
- An ability in the art and science of designing meaningful and enduring landscapes through appropriate analysis and sensitive, creative design solutions
- An understanding, critical awareness and application of contextual issues such as cultural, ethical and economic factors
- An ability in the application of landscape technology including plants, hard materials and construction to achieve creative solutions to design-based issues

- An ability to communicate ideas effectively to others, using visual, verbal and written media as appropriate.
- An ability to work collaboratively and autonomously and reflect upon the process and outcomes.

In combining scholarly activity at master’s level with research activity and skills appropriate to professional competence, the Course seeks to advance the theory and practice of Landscape Architecture.

Course Learning Outcomes

1	The ability to generate site-based planning and design proposals of a complex nature, showing understanding of current landscape architectural issues and originality in the application of subject knowledge.
2	The ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to analyse, critically appraise and communicate design proposals in a coherent way to external audiences and associated professionals.
3	The ability to critically evaluate materials, processes and techniques that apply to landscape architectural designs and landscape technology and to integrate these into design proposals in a sensitive way and with an appreciation of management implications affecting the development of landscape over time.
4	A critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research and practice in both individual and group settings and to produce clear, logically argued and original written or portfolio work relating to landscape architecture.
5	A critical approach to understanding of the role of the landscape architect in relation to clients, other environmental and design professionals and the landscape industry together with an appreciation of legislative frameworks, EU and UK policy and guidance and ethical considerations.
6	The ability to identify individual learning needs and relevant approaches to design research and landscape practice that underpin problem solving and decision making and to critically reflect upon their own professional development

Teaching and Learning Activities and Your Modules

During 2020-21 the course will be delivered through studio contact time in small groups combined with teaching and tutorials online. It is intended that studio contact time for LANDC will be two sessions per week if attending full time and one session per week if attending part time. If attending two times per week, the sessions will be on different days.

Level 7	
Teaching Block 1	Core (Y/N)
LA701 Landscape Architecture Studies	Y
LA703 Landscape and Urban Design studios	Y
LA705 Advanced Landscape Architecture Project	Y
Teaching Block 2	Core (Y/N)
LA701 Landscape Architecture Studies	Y
LA702 Landscape Personal Focus Portfolio	Y
LA704 Contemporary Landscape Architecture Theory and Practice	Y
LA705 Advanced Landscape Architecture Project	Y
Teaching Block 3	Core (Y/N)
LA701 Landscape Architecture Studies	Y
LA702 Landscape Personal Focus Portfolio	Y
LA705 Advanced Landscape Architecture Project	Y
Teaching Block 4 (June – Sept)	Core (Y/N)
LA701 Landscape Architecture Studies	Y
LA702 Landscape Personal Focus Portfolio	Y
LA705 Advanced Landscape Architecture Project	Y

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and a sample of option module choices undertaken by a typical student. 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, placement activities and independent study. Sandwich placement years spent out of the University are not be included in the calculation unless they are credit bearing and attributed to a level of the course. Modules may have more than 1 component of assessment.

On this course students will be assessed entirely on coursework. Progress on of design projects are normally assessed through submitted drawings, models and text in both digital and hard copy forms. Some modules do require the submission and assessment of written work.

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	25%
Independent Study	75%
Placement	N/A

Learning Support Arrangements

Students will be able to access the university learning support team and will be able to access online and onsite resources and facilities. Students on this course will have access to specialist resources and this will be communicated during induction.

Students will also be designated and Academic Advisor and/or Personal Tutor. Your Academic Advisor/Tutor will be the first port of call for all issues relating to your learning experience and will be able to offer advice and support relating to your studies.

Social distancing and PPE are required to be adhered to in keeping with the government guidelines. These may include masks, gloves, individual responsibility for cleaning workstations and one-way systems around buildings. Students will be informed of the requirements and any changes via email.