



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## Master of Laws

Programme Code: MLAWS

2020/21

**Postgraduate Material Information**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**Version date: July 2020**

# **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. Whilst this is a distance learning course, students are, under normal circumstances, welcome to access on campus services and resources, however use of the campus may need to change during the academic year to continue to protect students and staff.

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

In the event of further government lockdowns, either local or national, your digital and online learning and support will continue.

## **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. Given this is a distance learning course, you will continue to access your learning materials and course tutors in the usual manner.

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**

Start dates will be notified to direct applicants via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed in the information about your course in Part 2 of this document below.

## **Location of delivery**

This is a distance learning course, delivery is online.

## 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.

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 semester-based delivery and will be specified in timetable information.

Whilst the 2020/21 academic calendar and term dates are available on our web site given the nature of your course, you will be provided with a course calendar at the start of your course giving detailed and specific information.

<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.

## Policies, Standards and Regulations ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information](http://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. In respect of you and your course, this means that there will be operational requirements and protocols in place for 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.

## 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. It is unlikely that this will impact upon your course given it is distance learning and so all teaching and learning is delivered online.

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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Masters of Law for 2020/21

<b>Award</b>	Masters of Law
<b>Contained Awards</b>	None
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.

### Course Lengths & Standard Timescales

Full time short 6 months, Part time 1 year

### Location(s) of Delivery

Online 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 additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Enquiries may be directed to [Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

### Timetable Information

The Course timetable will be made available to students during the induction period. Timetable information will be available via The Student Portal (MyBeckett).

**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 Course Director</b>	Dr Nirmala Pillay
<b>Your Academic Supervisor</b>	To be assigned at induction
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	<a href="mailto:PGDL@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">PGDL@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

There is no professional body associated with this delivery

## Course Overview

### Aims

Graduates of this course will have completed a period of independent study supported by research methods training and subject specific supervision and will typically have the following attributes:

- An in-depth knowledge and understanding of their subject, informed by current practice, scholarship and research, including a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and the profession;
- A range of generic abilities and skills that include the ability to use initiative and take responsibility; solve problems in creative and innovative ways; and continue to learn independently and to develop professionally.

The Course therefore aims:

- to give students the opportunity to undertake a piece of legal research and academic writing under the guidance of a supervisor
- to enable students to produce this work by developing their critical awareness and by applying appropriate scholarly methodologies to their investigations.

## Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Formulate and execute a plan for legal research in an independently identified topic and investigate a question which is capable of sustaining a substantial piece of academic writing

2. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the knowledge and important arguments at the forefront of legal scholarship by identifying, evaluating and synthesizing primary and secondary research material relevant to a chosen area of inquiry
3. Show originality and critical insight in the use of knowledge and the application of theory to produce a work of independent scholarship
4. Evaluate various research methodologies and adopt, with justification, a methodological approach appropriate to the question being investigated
5. Develop an ethical approach to the application of legal principles in their field of enquiry.

## **Teaching and Learning Activities**

### **Summary**

The award commences with an introduction to dissertation study and work on advanced legal research skills. The research methods training includes sessions on

- What is (legal) research?
- Advanced Legal Research Methods
- Other relevant research methodologies and methods
- Academic skills such as Literature Reviewing, Academic Writing and Developing Arguments

At the end of this first phase students will submit a research design for assessment and then work with their supervisors to produce their final dissertation.

The relationship between supervisors and students will concentrate on developing and supporting students' autonomy as researchers. To encourage autonomy, students will be offered appropriate guidance by their supervisors in their chosen fields as follows:

- Current critical debates and problematic areas;
- Methodologies appropriate to the inquiry;
- Formulating a research question and strategy;
- Originality of insights and self-expression;
- Locating and developing sources; and

- Structuring and presenting information and ideas appropriate to a Master's dissertation.

The dissertation is an exercise in autonomous student learning involving sustained research and a substantial piece of writing under the guidance of the dissertation supervisor. The supervisor will guide a student on the planning and execution of the dissertation, the development of ideas and the organisation and structure of the work. The preparation of the dissertation will engage students with knowledge at the forefront of the disciplines concerned.

### **Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities**

This is a 60 credit course. Students undertake a single module (60 credits) assessed by a 15,000 word dissertation.

### **Workload**

The number of hours workload generally corresponds to the national standard of 10 notional hours of learning for each UK HE credit point. Students are expected to spend a minimum 570 hours in guided independent study.

### **Learning Support**

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator and Course Director is there to help you. In addition, see above support in part 1.