



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

Postgraduate Certificate

Interpersonal and Counselling Skills

Course Code: PCICS

2020/21

For applicants

Postgraduate Material Information
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

17 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.

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 from your 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: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/#tabplaceholder2

Key terms and conditions

Further important information for applicants and students is available on our web site:

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 (personal protective equipment) 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-based delivery which will be specified in timetable information.

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

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:

- The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- 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.

Placements and Other Off-Campus Learning Opportunities

NB: The course does not have placements.

Covid-19 response measures are likely to impact on the arrangements for placements, field trips, volunteering and other off-campus activities. If available, these are likely to operate with appropriate social distancing arrangements. Employers may reduce the availability of placement or volunteering opportunities due to the impact of Covid-19 on their operations.

The availability or type of placements with employers, study abroad or volunteering opportunities, may be restricted. The University follows the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth travel advice and is also informed by any specific in-country international travel restrictions or requirements.

The University's current position is that we will not facilitate outward (from UK) international/overseas placements, study abroad or volunteering activity in 2020/21. This is to protect students and minimise the risk of you being stranded abroad in the event of a lockdown and the introduction of national/local travel restrictions. We will only consider international placements for students whose domicile address is in the country of their placement.

Inward Exchange study (from other EU countries to the UK under this scheme) will be supported where these align with the teaching blocks academic calendar delivery dates. There may be other national or international travel restrictions or quarantine measures or specific work-place Covid-19 measures that impact on these opportunities.

Should the Covid-19 response and alert level be amended any activity may also be subject to Covid-19 employer, local or in-country requirements applicable at the time of the placement/activity. We will keep the position under review for teaching blocks 2 and 3 or semester 2, informed by Public Health England and the UK Government's Foreign and Commonwealth travel advice.

Students will have access to advice and support from the University careers and employability team during their studies via the online resources and support.

Further information on placements or other off-campus learning opportunities applicable to your course is provided below.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

NB: This course does not have professional accreditation.

We will prioritise face-to-face teaching and practical teaching to meet any requirements of relevant professional, statutory and regulatory bodies 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 two metre social distancing measures for teaching block 1 or semester 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 and via the 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 web site which also provides full details of all our services <http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/home>

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:

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 Monday-Friday. You can book an appointment via telephone

or online video chat with an adviser via the link at: 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 as 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 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 Postgraduate Certificate Interpersonal and Counselling Skills for 2020/21

Award	Postgraduate Certificate Interpersonal and Counselling Skills
Contained Awards	None
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 credit points at Level 7 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education.

Course Lengths and 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 2020. 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.

- 1 year (part time, campus based)
Starts 21 September 2020/ Ends June 2021

Timetable Information

This course will be taught via teaching block-based 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.

Work Placement Information

This course does not have work placements.

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

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

Your Key Contacts

Course Director:	Paul Nicholson
Course Leader:	Sarah Patrick
Academic Adviser:	Confirmed at induction
Course Administrator:	Charlotte Benn, c.a.benn@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

This course does not have professional body accreditation.

Course Overview

Aims

This course forms the foundation of the postgraduate counselling and psychotherapy provision. The course has been designed for students returning to higher education and new to the field of counselling and interpersonal skills. Successful completion of the course provides students with the opportunity to join the PG Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy course (the professional practitioner course accredited by the BACP), completion of which allows graduates to apply to join the BACP Register for counsellors and psychotherapists directly. The philosophical underpinning of the PG Certificate course is in alignment therefore with the PG Diploma course.

The course introduces and familiarises the students with core knowledge of the counselling world, introducing them to counselling skills, personal and professional awareness, ethics, diversity and the implication of professional practice. The course aims to equip students with a critical understanding of the counselling theory, self-awareness and reflective skills involved in becoming a future trainee counsellor. The course aims to enable students to develop autonomy and responsibility in their professional and academic practice. Students are challenged to confront personal prejudices and to think about diversity and develop personal awareness in how they relate to others. The specific aims are for student to:

- Develop critical knowledge of counselling and interpersonal skills.
- Facilitate the practical application and professional competency of interpersonal and counselling skills.
- Develop ethical awareness and a commitment to diversity and anti-oppressive practice in groups and with individuals.
- Develop reflexivity and to facilitate exploration of own awareness of feelings, attitudes, personal and interpersonal relational issues.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Synthesise theory into practice in the competent and reflexive application of interpersonal and counselling skills.
- Critically reflect on, analyse and evaluate their personal learning process to inform continuing personal and professional development.

- Critically analyse and evaluate key theoretical concepts relevant to the practice of interpersonal and counselling skills.
- Work effectively with ethical issues involved in using interpersonal and counselling skills with clients and identify support systems and required resources.
- Work competently and anti-oppressively with an awareness of social and cultural difference and the different values, beliefs and attitudes of clients from different ethnicities and social groups.

Teaching and Learning Activities and Your Modules

2020/21 location of delivery: blended delivery - online and City Campus

Also see: [Leedsbeckett.ac.uk HCS2020Teaching](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/HCS2020Teaching)

It is currently planned that the course will be using a blended learning approach with all essential delivery primarily taking place online. This will include lectures, seminars, practical skills training and virtual drop-in sessions. If achievable, some face-to-face sessions will be delivered onsite to provide additional small-group learning opportunities. These course delivery arrangements will be reviewed at regular intervals with the intention to resume in-person delivery as soon as it is safe to do so.

Access to a personal digital device to enable participation in digital and online learning, teaching and assessment is essential (see part one, Course fees section for more details). Online delivery may use a variety of platforms including Skype for Business and MS Teams. Other platforms may be used for specific activities. Support is available from the University to enable you to use platforms or software that you are unfamiliar with; you can download Microsoft Office onto your device by logging into your Office 365 portal from the IT tab on [MyBeckett](#) and you can obtain IT Support here: https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it_support. You will receive guidance on managing your independent study hours for each module undertaken.

Learning and teaching activities, both face-to-face and online, consist of a mix of lectures, group and individual activities, workshops and case study analysis and, where appropriate, students are given opportunities to relate the material covered to the workplace. Teaching and learning activities are used to build theoretical knowledge, self-awareness and a knowledge of ethics and professional practice. Students are taught alongside the students on the Certificate HE Interpersonal and Counselling Skills course. Learning and teaching activities are sometimes differentiated from the level 4 students to support the development of level 7 academic skills and formative and summative assessments.

A specific course identity is fostered through a group understanding and collaborative working culture developed through the learning experience. An inclusive environment is created in which students learn by sharing their own and their peers' experience through the development of critical reflection, dialogue and debate. The group agree a code of conduct that respects and values the individuals within it whilst taking responsibility for their own psychological safety. This is further enhanced through students developing the core conditions of empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard as described by Carl Rogers.

A typical session would begin with a reflective session to connect students to the topics for study at their academic level. The theoretical slot follows with tutor input, discussion and reflective activities, which may involve creative materials and small group discussion or student presentation. This work is then consolidated

with the practice of counselling skills in small groups. These sessions are recorded to enable the students to self-evaluate their competence. Peer and tutor feedback is given regularly.

There is an emphasis on practical application of theory to a working environment and the opportunity for students to personalise their learning by via reflective practice on their own approach to the material, considering, discussing and where possible, relating theory to practice. The teaching and learning style of the course is student-centred and on a course of this nature, many students require careful guidance particularly during the early stages due to the challenging activities contained within the course.

Level 7 delivery in 2020/21 - year long module delivery	Core (Y/N)
Personal and Professional Awareness	Y
Developing the Practice of Counselling and Interpersonal Skills	Y
Understanding Theory in Counselling and Interpersonal Skills	Y

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules. A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours comprising teaching, learning and assessment, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

This course is assessed through coursework and a practical skills assessment.

Overall Workload for the Course	Hours
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	90
Independent Study	510
Placement	-
Total	600

Learning Support Arrangements (School/course)

In line with the University's expectations the programme operates an Academic Advisor system. All students are allocated to an Academic Advisor who is the first point of contact for non-academic/module related pastoral support. Students enrolled on the programme will be supported throughout their studies by the same Academic Advisor (where possible) and the course team. Academic Advisors use a variety of ways to arrange meetings with their students which may include tutor arranged appointments and student arranged appointments online or face-to-face where appropriate and safe to do so.

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators works 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.

Details of how students will be supported to engage with online content and assessment on the course will be covered at induction and detailed in your module handbooks, available on MyBeckett. You will be guided to the support available from the University to help with unfamiliar software or platforms for your modules. You will also be guided to our usual online resources, such as the Skills for Learning and the Library resources, and to the support provided by the Library Academic Support team. You will receive guidance on managing your independent study hours for each module undertaken.

Your course team and the School of Health and Community Studies are committed to ensuring that you continue to have opportunities to access the learning and wellbeing support that you need over the coming year. Your Academic Advisor and Course Leader are available to help with any questions regarding your learning support arrangements in 2020/21.

Useful links

IT support: https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/it_support

Skills for Learning: <https://skillsforlearning.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/>

Library: <https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/home>

Library skills and subject support: https://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/subject_support

Disability Advice: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/disability-advice/

University Covid-19 guidance: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/COVID19/