



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification MSc Cyber Security and Digital Forensics

Course Code:MCSDF

2021/22

# ***MSc Cyber Security and Digital Forensics (MSCDF)***

## **Material Information Summary for 2021/22 Postgraduate Applicants**

Confirmed at 05/2021

<b>Award</b>	Master of Science Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Certificate Cyber Security and Digital Forensics Postgraduate Diploma Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification &amp; Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England

### **Course Lengths & Standard Timescales**

Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below and modes of delivery will be confirmed prior to the start date in line with Government guidance:

- 1 year (full time, campus based)
- 2 years (full time, with optional 30 week work placement)

<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	Headingley Campus, Leeds  Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependant on the opportunity.
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: <a href="http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning">www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning</a> .  Admissions enquiries may be directed to: <a href="mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

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

### **Timetable Information**

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

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

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

**Policies, Standards and Regulations** ([www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

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

### **Key Contacts**

**Your Course Director** Dr Pip Trevorrow ([p.trevorrow@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:p.trevorrow@leedsbeckett.ac.uk))

**Your Academic Advisor** Each student will be allocated an Academic Advisor once they commence their studies at the University. The Academic Advisor will be a member of the Computing Academic Staff.

**Your Course Administrator** Helen Turpin [h.turpin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:h.turpin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### **Sandwich Placement Information**

**Summary** Leeds Beckett is dedicated to improving the employability of our students and one of the ways in which we do this is to support our students to gain valuable work experience through work based placements. Our placement teams have developed strong links with companies, many of whom repeatedly recruit our students into excellent placement roles. Our teams are dedicated to supporting students through every stage of the placement process. Details of how to contact our placement teams may be found here:

[www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/placement-information](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/placement-information)

**Length** 30 weeks, undertaken between taught curriculum and the Dissertation

**Location** Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependent on the opportunity.

## Course Overview:

The aim of this MSc course is to give students critical knowledge within the cyber security and digital forensics domains, combining academic principles and industrial needs. This MSc course is informed by current research in cyber security and digital forensics and is underpinned by industry partners such as local and national law enforcement and security organisations.

The course is designed for students with a degree level understanding of both cyber security and digital forensics subjects.

Cyber Security and Digital Forensics are the key challenging areas in contemporary computing, due to the advances in the technologies of network communications and computer hardware and software.

Students will gain specialism in the challenging areas of digital forensics such as image and video forensic investigations. In security areas students will gain knowledge and expertise in software security exploitation development and the analysis and implementation of security mechanisms to defend and analyse systems. The course also develops students' knowledge in research practices and advanced scholarship as well as project development and management. The specialisation gained through the taught modules is further developed through a research or practical based MSc dissertation project.

## Course Learning Outcomes

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

1	Deal with complex problems, and demonstrate critical evaluation of theoretical and practical issues associated with the implementation and testing of cyber security and digital forensics methods, and justify these based on professional, ethical and legal requirements.
2	Demonstrate a critical analysis of current issues and new technologies within the field of cyber security and digital forensics.
3	Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge and techniques to create and interpret knowledge in the area of cyber security and digital forensics.
4	Demonstrate originality and synthesis in the application of theory and techniques, drawn from earlier studies, through the production of the dissertation/project, a significant piece of high level independent work.

## Teaching and Learning Activities and Your Modules

### Summary

This is a very hands-on subject area where theory alone would be unlikely to allow a student to achieve successful employment in this field. Practical exercises allow for students to implement their theoretical learning and see how it relates to industry. Practical solutions are achieved through the

replication of exercises such as compromised computer systems and mobile devices that students must analyse – similar to that as found in industry. Many of these examples are available through open source community projects but are also built in-house when suitable external material is not available.

The VLE is the primary tool for delivering the study material with extensive links to other sites. The VLE is also the primary tool for submitting assessments – via TurnItIn. The VLE provides internal links to self-assessment activities, mainly quizzes, to enable students to check their own progress. The VLE will be used to post announcements and email students. All work will be placed here so that students will be able to access any resources made available.

Learning and teaching methods will provide high quality learning opportunities that enable students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes of the course. In particular, these focus upon professional practice and practical problem based assessments. Students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning through a variety of mechanisms including reports and practical undertakings.

The course utilises professional tools and guidelines from industry and professional bodies to inform the teaching methodologies and resources of the award. To enable students to fully utilise these methodologies, the award is structured to develop the students understanding of the key concepts of theory and practical process. The building of this knowledge and feedback for assessments undertaken by students allows the building of a greater understanding of the subject area.

The course aims to foster the development of independent study skills and autonomy of learning and encourage a commitment to lifelong learning and continuous professional development. Teaching and learning methods increasingly promote the capacity for students to assume responsibility for their own learning and development. Progressive use of project based integrated assessment and product/problem based learning allow students to take on greater self-direction of their learning. Students develop their research, problem solving and critical analysis skills by understanding the concepts of research practice and ethical issues as well as project management skills. The dissertation module finally brings together all the knowledge and techniques gained through the taught modules for the students to demonstrate all the specialised skills and understanding into a practical or research-based project.

Students must also develop subject specific skills that are marketable in the short to medium term as well as more general skills that will facilitate their future development and continuous learning. The course supports the latter through identification of appropriate skill sets and these are developed through the programme of study and assessment methods. In particular emphasis is placed on a student's ability to critically analyse the subject area and their ability to effectively communicate their understanding of the process.

The course employs a wide range of learning opportunities and teaching methods, informed by curriculum review, pedagogic research, and continuous staff development. Innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment are encouraged. The course seeks to expand the application of technology in the delivery of teaching and learning support.

Scheduled sessions will include the use of lectures, lab exercises and discussion groups, and advantage will be taken of both technology and supportive activities to ensure that effective learning takes place. These activities will include the use of simulations, role-play, case studies, projects, practical work, work based learning, workshops, peer tutoring, peer group interaction, self-managed teams and learner managed learning.

The learning and teaching methods used are identified in the descriptor for each of the modules. The contextualisation of the learning and teaching strategy of each award is the sum of the learning and teaching methods of the modules that constitute the programme of study towards that award. These methods will promote the broad learning strategy of the University and the School, which are under constant review and refreshment. This is tested at least annually for fitness for purpose and integrity of the student learning experience for the award.

The type and range of assessments have been designed to require students to think deeply about practical scenarios and to evaluate problems and prescribe solutions appropriate to a professional practitioner.

### Course Structure

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>
Reverse Engineering and Malware Analysis	Y	Software Security and Exploitation	Y
Forensic Image and Video Processing	Y	Negotiated Skills Development	Y
Research Practice	Y	Project Management	Y
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Core (Y/N)</b>		
Dissertation	Y		

*\* Placement module on sandwich version of course*

The option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

### Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

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.

### **Workload**

<b>Overall Workload</b>	<b>Level 7</b>
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	216 hours
Independent Study	1584 hours
Placement (optional)	30 weeks

### **Learning Support Arrangements**

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

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

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

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.