



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## Master of Laws

**Course Code: MLAWS**

**2021/22**

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

## Award & Title

## Master of Laws (MLAWS)

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

Confirmed at APR/2021

#### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Master of Laws
<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
<b>Course Lengths &amp; Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length of the course is confirmed below  Full time short 6 months, Part time 1 year
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	Online distance learning
<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> .
<b>Course Fees</b>	Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to <a href="mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a> .

## Timetable Information

Designed to be as flexible as possible to meet the distance learner's needs, this course and its assessment is delivered entirely online with no live classes for students to attend.

Although your course does not require attendance in a physical classroom, you will find a series of research methods units designed to help you refine your topic, find the research question and help with other aspects of writing the dissertation. You will be given details of assessment dates and the structure of learning activities during induction by way of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) MyBeckett. The course handbook, research methods units and other details about the course is found on MyBeckett.

## 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

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

## Course Overview

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 research methods training which includes sessions on:

- Doing (legal) research
  - Learning about research methodology and methods
  - Developing further essential dissertation writing skills such as as Literature Reviewing
- Learning to use research to sustain an academic argument

At the end of this first phase students will submit a research question and research design and then proceed to 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 on: -

- 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**

In line with the Student Support Framework, the team will provide an environment for our students, which encompasses all aspects of their academic needs (offering support by the Course Director/Course Leader, Online Tutor, Module Leaders and the Academic Advisor when appropriate).

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, contact the Student Advice Hub on either campus. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. Email enquiries may be directed to [studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

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

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities.