



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Media and Culture

Course Code: MMEDC

2022/23

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MA Media and Culture (MMEDC)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2022/23 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at Dec/2021

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Media and Culture
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Certificate Media and Culture Postgraduate Diploma Media and Culture
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification and 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 and Standard Timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 year (full time, campus based)• 2 years (part-time, campus based)
Part Time Study	PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.
Location(s) of Delivery	City Campus, Leeds
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: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/ Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

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.

Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) 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)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course/ or add details of approved regulatory exemptions which apply.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr Daniel Kilvington

Your Academic Advisor

To be confirmed during Induction.

Your Course Administrator

adminculturalstudiesandhumanities@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

There is a core Module, 'Theory into Practice', which involves work placement.

Length

Between 10 and 30 hours work placement, depending on the placement.

Location

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

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional Body

N/A

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

N/A

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- 1) Acquire advanced knowledge and critical understanding of a range of media texts and contexts, informed by recent developments in the field.
- 2) Demonstrate a critical understanding of key media, critical, and theoretical issues and debates in the field of media, communication and cultural studies, as well as specific critical and theoretical issues relevant to individual modules.
- 3) Show expertise in the application of theoretical and conceptual models to the analysis and explication of texts / contexts.
- 4) Possess in-depth, specialist skills and competences in coherent modes (theory and methods) techniques of media and cultural analysis.
- 5) Show a conceptual understanding that enables them to evaluate critically and self-reflexively current research and methodologies, and a range of textual and digital information (and professional or creative contexts).
- 6) Possess the ability to demonstrate intellectual independence, self-direction, and originality in tackling problems, and to act independently in planning, designing, and implementing a sustained research project.
- 7) Show effective ability to construct coherent and persuasive arguments both orally, in written form, and using images including the informed and confident use of appropriate critical / professional vocabulary.
- 8) Demonstrate appropriate bibliographic skills, including the scholarly (and / or professional) use of citation and reference in the presentation of course work.
- 9) Demonstrate the qualities and transferrable skills necessary for undertaking a higher research degree in the field and / or for employment in a higher capacity in an area of professional practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate a critical understanding in the application of media and cultural theories in professional contexts.
2	Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of a range of media and cultural contexts.
3	Demonstrate the ability to construct a well-defined and ethical appraisal of mediated cultures.
4	Explain how the process of mediation encourages, supports or challenges a particular world view.
5	Demonstrate sophisticated ability to reflect on own learning.
6	Evaluate critical theories of media and popular culture.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching and learning methods vary between modules in order to achieve the aims of the strategy summarised above. Modules will combine small and whole group teaching and learning, and focus mainly on the acquisition of critical theoretical and practical skills. In the sessions students may undertake a variety of learning activities including seminar discussion based on reading material; presentations or micro-presentations; tutor-led introductory lectures; quizzes; critical debates and group work. Where academic content and good educational practice make it appropriate, student learning may be facilitated through a range of digital technologies.

The course has been written and developed by experts in the field and modules will incorporate research-informed-teaching. All tutors are research active and disseminate their work in monographs, international peer-reviewed journals, book collections, as well as at national and international conferences. The course incorporates contributions (either on individual modules or team-taught modules) from senior members of the team.

The course team is passionately committed to creating and sustaining an inclusive learning environment. The course materials and content represent a range of cultural contexts and perspectives and thus explicitly develop students' capabilities to engage respectfully and self-reflexively across society/culture (*Contested Cultures of Difference*). Students on the course interact with texts from diverse cultural and geographical locations (*Art as Media*), and engage with theoretical and critical approaches to questions of difference and diversity.

Lecture/seminars, which are primarily spaces of tutor and student-led discussion and workshop activity, prioritise the building of an inclusive environment and scholarly community where students feel able to engage in respectful discussion, debate, and collaborative work and research, to explore different

perspectives. The creation of a safe environment for such discussions (which takes in and goes beyond the legal obligations of The Equality Act) is crucial to the ethos of media studies and therefore crucial to the success of teaching and learning in the field.

For more information regarding indicative teaching and learning material, content, and activities, please consult the Module Specifications.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
The Art of Investigation (20 credits)	Y	Theory into Practice (20 credits)	Y
Media and Cultural Theory (20 credits)	Y	Option Module 1* (20 credits)	N
Contested Cultures of Difference (20 credits)	Y	Option Module 2* (20 credits)	N
Semester 3			Core (Y/N)
Major Project (60 credits)			Y

*Option Modules

The option modules will comprise a selection from the portfolio of Module Specifications as listed below. The option modules that will run in a given semester, will depend on student numbers, staff availability and the student preferences of a particular cohort. We cannot guarantee that every single option will run. Option modules will be discussed with you during induction, and you will be asked to state your preference (first to third).

Level 7 Optional Modules can include:

Students to complete two modules in semester 2:

Art as Media

Mobile Media Cultures

Therapy Cultures

Music and Mediation

Everyday Monsters

Webbing the Hyperreal

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

The assessment strategies used on MA Media and Culture aim to balance variety with the development of key competencies, allowing students to build on (informal and formal) feedback as an on-going part of their journey through the course. While the essay remains available as a mode of assessment, our assessment strategy is informed by the QAA Media subject benchmark statement, which indicates that the student benefits from the 'experience of a variety of assessment forms' and by experience of offering such a wide range of assessment types on our undergraduate degree – the BA (Hons) Media, Communication, Cultures. A varied assessment diet allows for focussed development of particular skills and knowledges, support of a range of learning styles and support and development of professional and creative approaches to media. We use assessments such as:

- Dissertation / Professional Project or Creative project;
- Seminar presentations (individual and collaborative; assessed and un-assessed)
- Essays
- Conference papers and presentations
- Critical reviews
- Blog/vlog posts
- Reflective 'essays'
- Portfolio

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	177 hours
Independent Study	1593 hours
Placement	30 hours (negotiated)

Learning Support

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.

Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers 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. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk, telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

Support and opportunities

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.