



Course Specification MSc Dietetics

Course Code: DIETM

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Dietetics (DIETM)

Applicant Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at November 2023

General Information

Award	Master of Science Dietetics
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma Dietetics Master of Science Applied Nutrition Postgraduate Diploma Nutritional Studies Postgraduate Certificate Nutritional Studies
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	<p>Start dates will be notified to learners via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 years, full time, campus based. <p>Delivery outside standard academic year: This two-year professional course operates outside of the standard academic calendar. This is to enable learners sufficient time to accommodate practice-based learning (placements) and carry out a supervised independent piece of research.</p>
Locations of Delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, plus placement locations. There are three practice placements: Practice placement A (3 weeks), Practice placement B (13 weeks) and Practice placement C (12 weeks), in various locations across the Northeast, Yorkshire and the Humber.
Entry Requirements	<p>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/</p> <p>Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.</p>
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 one are made available to learners during induction week via:

- The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- The Leeds Beckett app

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

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations>

The course follows the Academic Regulations except where noted below.

Fitness to Practise

This course is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and is accredited by the British Dietetic Association (BDA). Dietetics is a professional competency-based course preparing learners to work with the public. Therefore, learners are expected to act in a professional manner at all times and should adhere to the Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedure which can be found [here](#).

Attendance requirements

To comply with HCPC Guidance on conduct and ethics for students' section 2 (you should communicate effectively and co-operate with members of staff at your education provider and practice placement provider to benefit service users and carers) and learners must attend a minimum of 80% across all modules and 90% within the Professional Development for Practice module and reflection and consolidation module and successfully complete the associated assessment. Learners will be expected to retrieve any attendance below these requirements through reflective pieces of work which will be evidenced in their portfolios at each level within the Personal and Professional Development modules.

All modules must be passed to achieve the award

Learners must obtain at least 50% in each module. In addition, learners must obtain at least 45% in each component of assessment within a module. A mark of between 45% and 49% may be compensated by the other component of assessment within the module. The placement modules are non-credit bearing and must be passed.

Pre-requisite module

Research Methods for Nutrition is a pre-requisite module for the Research and Practice Development module. Learners must successfully complete Research Methods for Nutrition 20 credit module prior to undertaking the Research and Practice Development 40 credit module.

Progression to practice based learning.

Practice based learning is approved and allocated by the Dietetics Placement Team in collaboration with the Health Partnerships and Practice learning team and the course must comply with this system to maintain professional accreditation. Progression through placements is outlined in the placement strategy which learners sign up to on commencement of the course.

To note for progression onto practice-based learning in year 2, all year one modules (other than the Research Methods for Nutrition module) must be passed with a minimum mark of 50% overall. Practice based learning experiences are attended at various times throughout the two years of the course and learners must meet progression requirements outlined in the placement strategy. Learners must also undertake mandatory training and fitness to practise checks in preparation for practice-based learning experiences.

Provision for the recommendation of merit and distinction

The course follows the standard Academic Regulations for awards of merit and distinction.

Contained awards.

- Postgraduate Diploma Dietetics: Achievement of 120 credits and successful completion of practice placements A, B, and C. All modules must be passed as required for the MSc Dietetics except for Research Methods for Nutrition and/or Research and Practice Development modules.

The following are non-professional contained awards, with no eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC:

- MSc Applied Nutrition: 180 credits (unsuccessful completion of practice placements). To achieve the MSc Applied Nutrition learners must undertake an additional 20 credit module in place of the post Practice Placement Reflection and Consolidation module.
- Postgraduate Diploma Nutritional Studies: 120 credits.
- Postgraduate Certificate Nutritional Studies: 60 credits.

Aegrotat award

An Aegrotat award does not lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC.

Your Key Contacts

Course Director

Linsey King

Academic Advisor

Confirmed at induction

Course Administrator

Claire McCann, c.mccann@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Placement Information

Summary

The BDA Curriculum Framework (2020) recommends that a learner should normally experience 1000 hours in practice-based learning. Learners undertake three blocks of practice-based learning with a quality assured provider. This equates to 28 x 36-hour weeks of placement. Practice based learning settings are approved, quality assured and allocated within arrangements established by the Health and Social Care Practice Learning Team and where appropriate agreed with Health Education England and practice-based learning providers. The course must comply with this system to maintain professional and regulatory body approval and meet the requirements of Education commissioners.

Length

Practice based learning is interspersed by periods of teaching at the University as follows:

- Practice Placement A: practice-based learning (3 weeks) in year 1.
- Practice Placement B: practice-based learning (13 weeks) in year 2.
- Practice Placement C: practice-based learning (12 weeks) following successful completion of practice placement B in year 2.

Locations

The three practice-based learning components: practice placement A (3 weeks), practice placement B (13 weeks) and practice placement C (12 weeks) take place in various locations across the Northeast, Yorkshire the Humber and other areas secured by the Dietetics Team. Learners can state their preferred location, but this cannot be guaranteed. Learners who are considered to have priority needs will be allocated in advance of those learners who do not meet these criteria.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Regulatory body

Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) - <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/meeting-our-standards/>

Professional Body

British Dietetic Association (BDA) - <https://www.bda.uk.com/>

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

The MSc Dietetics award is approved by the HCPC for the purpose of eligibility to apply for entry to the HCPC Register as a Dietitian.

The course is accredited by the British Dietetic Association (BDA).

Dietetics is a professional competency-based course preparing learners to work with the public. Therefore, learners are always expected to act in a professional manner and learners should adhere to the University's Policy and Procedure relating to Fitness to Practise which can be found [here](#).

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are:

- 1 To offer Postgraduate entrants with a strong science background a fast-track route to eligibility to apply for registration in Dietetics with the Health and Care Profession's Council.
- 2 To produce Postgraduates with a sound knowledge of the evidence base which underpins nutrition and dietetics, who can apply enquiry and research to continually progress their learning and practice in new areas and situations that present to them.
- 3 To enable Postgraduates to work effectively across acute, primary care and Public Health settings and organisational structures to progress quality, innovation and enterprise in dietetic service provision within a changing health and social care sector.
- 4 To develop autonomous, reflective learners at the point of graduation who have the foundation for life-long learning and professional development to enhance evidence-based practice and professional standards and advance career aspirations.
- 5 To develop to a high level, the professional skills and competencies essential for Postgraduates to integrate theory and practice and work collaboratively to deliver safe and effective care within Professional, Regulatory and Statutory Body standards and Governance frameworks.
- 6 To enhance and embed effective communication skills enabling Postgraduates to demonstrate core practitioner qualities and work using a patient centred approach to support behaviour change with individual service users, groups and communities.
- 7 To produce postgraduate learners who have sound research skills and the ability to undertake an independent piece of research at Master's level.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- 1 Integrate and synthesise the research evidence, theory and principles underpinning Human Nutrition and Dietetics; clinical sciences, pharmacology, sociological and psychological issues, with the professional and diet therapy knowledge and skills to inform the holistic and effective care of service users with acute, lifestyle and long-term conditions.
- 2 Apply an enquiring, systematic, problem solving; self-evaluative approach with the commitment to use research, clinical guidelines and policy in the evaluation and improvement of evidence based dietetic practice.
- 3 Adopt a holistic and critically evaluative approach to the application of dietetic practice in lifestyle and long-term conditions working through collaborative, multidisciplinary and multi-agency professional relationships and across care pathways throughout health and social care.
- 4 Demonstrate competent practice in the application of the dietetic care pathway in a range of therapeutic conditions including nutritional assessment, calculating requirements, adaptation of diet, and consideration of psychosocial and ethical issues in implementing the professional skills needed to justify and apply diet therapy.

- 5 Integrate theoretical principles within a patient centred approach with the communication skills and professional practice required to facilitate behaviour change in individuals, groups and communities to promote health, employing a range of strategies to overcome barriers
- 6 Demonstrate the research acumen, professional skills and abilities, values and behaviours of a registered dietitian working autonomously within the complex framework of accountability, ethical and legal boundaries to meet Employer frameworks and Professional Regulatory and Statutory Body Standards.
- 7 Critically apply leadership and enterprise skills to develop interventions and business plans, to promote public health nutrition and which are inclusive of Stakeholder needs and address the wider health and social care context.
- 8 Work strategically within Governance frameworks affecting the organisation and delivery of care as part of integrated teams to innovate and lead highly reliable systems that span health economies to improve patient outcomes and deliver high quality nutritional care
- 9 Critically reflect in and on practice to progress professional development, meet, Professional Standards and evidence competencies to Employers supporting transition into the work place, post-registration learning and career aspirations.
- 10 Critically appraise areas of dietetic practice and contribute to relevant bodies of research and evidence-based practice through the delivery of an independent high-quality piece of research at Masters level.
- 11 Apply the relevant skills and knowledge in a Practice Dietetic environment to demonstrate the competencies required to be eligible to apply for HCPC Registration as a Dietitian.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

This course requires in person attendance for all modules in the first year. The reflection and consolidation module has a mixed learning approach with some online and some face-to-face sessions. There is an 80% minimum attendance requirement across all modules and a 90% minimum attendance requirement for all professional modules.

Teaching takes place in multi-purpose rooms with additional specialised facilities for technical, clinical, and interpersonal skills development. In addition, the course has access to a purpose-built catering laboratory.

Teaching approaches include staff-led lectures and workshops, learner-led seminars and workshops, practical work, tutorials, clinically based teaching, case studies, problem solving exercises, reflective learning techniques, computer-assisted learning, simulated practice and inter-personal group skills.

Handouts and booklets are used occasionally however, we do utilise a more diverse range of online tools to support learner learning. We use a considerable amount of computer-based learning (flipped classroom) that enriches the versatility of delivery.

Problem solving exercises and case studies enable learners to integrate their knowledge and increase their interest in the subject matter. Oral communication and the ability to work effectively in groups are developed by assignments such as group presentations and seminars. Interpersonal skills and interviewing

techniques are developed in workshops. Portfolios and learning logs of work experience are completed during the practice based learning and continually developed throughout.

Your Modules

This information is correct for learners progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Learners 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. All modules are core.

Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	
Nutrition Advances in Practice (20 credits)	Applied Nutrition Support (20 credits)
Lifestyle and Long-term Conditions (20 credits)	Enterprise in Public Health Nutrition (20 credits)
Research Methods for Nutrition (20 credits)	Practice Placement A
Professional Development for Practice (20 credits)	Professional Development for Practice continues
	Research and Practice Development (40 credits) <i>May-September</i>
Year 2	
Practice Placement B	Practice Placement C
Reflection and Consolidation (20 credits)	Reflection and Consolidation continues
	Research and Practice Development continues <i>June-September</i>

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 20 credit module equates to 200 notional learning hours, comprising teaching, learning and assessment, placement activities and independent study. Standard notional hours are exceeded for this course due to placement requirements. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Modules are assessed by coursework, examinations, and practical skills assessments. Learners are assessed on placement.

Workload

Overall workload	Hours
Teaching and Learning	351
Independent Study and Assessment	1449
Placement	1050
Total	2850

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 Representative 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.

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.