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BECKETT  
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# Course Specification

## MA Integrative Counselling

Course Code: MINCO

2024/25

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# MA Integrative Counselling (MINCO)

## Applicant Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at November 2023

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Master of Arts Integrative Counselling
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Postgraduate Diploma Integrative Counselling Postgraduate Certificate Integrative Counselling
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and 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.
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates are notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 years, full-time, campus based</li><li>• 3 years, part-time, campus based</li></ul>
<b>Part-Time Study</b>	Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this specification.
<b>Location of Delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, plus location of placements. The Understanding Social Research and Evaluation module is delivered online.
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning is located here: <a href="https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/">https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/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**

Timetables for semester one are made available to students during induction week via:

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

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions should 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 with the following exemptions.

### **Fitness to Practise**

The course is authorised to use the University Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedure. Details can be found [here](#). Students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times in line with the Policy.

### **All assessments to be passed and pass/fail assessments**

- All components of assessments must be passed at the threshold pass or a pass for pass/fail marking to pass a module.
- All components of assessment and all modules must be passed to achieve the award.

### **Placements**

The placement requirements and minimum hours for placements must also be met to pass the course.

### **Attendance**

Under the University's Academic Engagement Policy, students are expected to attend all scheduled sessions on the course. Also, the course has a minimum attendance requirement at the University of 95% for the professional modules, which equates to 28.5 days' attendance across the 30 study days of the academic year. A study day requires attendance on all modules and attendance is recorded separately for each module. This attendance ensures students meet the minimum contact hours required by the BACP, in order to achieve a BACP-accredited qualification. Details are provided in the Course Handbook.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Exemption from academic credit or placement hours through any prior learning (RPL/RPEL/RPCL/credit transfer) is not allowed in order to meet the requirements of the BACP for the accreditation of the course.

## Your Key Contacts

<b>Course Director</b>	Paul Nicholson
<b>Academic Advisor</b>	Confirmed at induction
<b>Course Administrator</b>	Chris Sidebottom, <a href="mailto:c.sidebottom@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">c.sidebottom@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>

## Placement Information

### Summary

This involves supervised practice with clients in a confidential setting in a placement from the University approved list. Students require external placement supervision and personal therapy. We maintain excellent relationships with a range of agencies throughout the region via our External Partner Network. You will have access to our approved lists of therapists, supervisors and placement providers to assist you in finding a practice placement.

See the Online Prospectus for additional costs related specifically to placements, supervision and personal therapy: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/integrative-counselling-ma>

### Length

100 hours of client contact under supervision with an approved supervisor.

### Location

Student's choice and University-approved.

## Professional Accreditation Associated with the Course

### Professional Body

British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)

### Accreditation Summary

The course meets the requirements of the BACP's stage 3 Core practitioner training - see details here: <https://www.bacp.co.uk/careers/careers-in-counselling/training/>

The course is accredited by the BACP. Graduates of the course can register as members of the BACP and join the BACP register for counsellors and psychotherapists. Additionally, graduates of the course are able to work towards achieving accredited status with the BACP: <https://www.bacp.co.uk/membership/registered-membership/>

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The aims of the course are to:

- Provide an inclusive education and training in therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy that meets the standards for professional recognition by the BACP.
- Offer a systematic and thorough education and training in integrative counselling via Relational approaches to therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy.
- Develop an advanced critical reflexive understanding of the theory, practice and research of counselling and psychotherapy.

Students gain a critical and comprehensive understanding of Relational theory and practice and learn how to apply therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy skills with clients. Through supervised practice, which follows the BACP core curriculum, students identify their strengths and areas for development, ensuring they become capable and self-reflective practitioners. Integrative counselling looks at the whole person, taking into account mental, physical and emotional needs and the therapist uses techniques and tools from different modalities to tailor an individual approach for their client.

The course also aims to accommodate the personal and professional challenges of being a counsellor through reflective practice and original contribution to the field via research and a dissertation.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, students are able to demonstrate:

- 1 A systematic and empirically-informed understanding of Relational theory in the provision of a professional practice approach to counselling.
- 2 A critical understanding and reflexive ability to integrate a range of theoretical approaches into a coherent model of practice.
- 3 The capabilities to integrate and synthesise theoretical and experiential knowledge into a reflective practice approach necessary for critically engaging with diversity, anti-oppressive practice and contemporary social issues in professional counselling and related settings.
- 4 A critical understanding of professional standards from a range of relevant disciplines to take an evidenced-based view on how to work competently with complex psychotherapeutic issues and meet recognised training requirements.
- 5 The ability to work independently or with groups, to problem solve, generate and communicate research-based evidence that supports best practice in the counselling field.
- 6 A reflective and critical awareness of the ethical and professional considerations in counselling research.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

The teaching and learning on the course are delivered on campus in person. The Understanding Social Research and Evaluation module is delivered remotely and the dissertation can be discussed in person or online with Supervisor.

Learning and teaching activities consist of a mix of tutorials, group and individual activities, workshops and case study analysis, where students are given opportunities to relate the material covered to the workplace. The teaching and learning style is student-centred and 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 agrees a code of conduct, which respects and values the individuals within the group, 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.

As part of the course, students undertake a placement of 100 hours of supervised practice with adult clients (aged over 16). Students undertake external training supervision that meets BACP requirements. Students also undertake at least 20 hours of external personal therapy, which provides students with first-hand experience as a client, and they can then link this insight back to their theoretical grounding and research. Placements, external supervisors and personal therapists are taken from a University approved list. Students also attend internal supervision as part of the Therapeutic Process and Supervision module.

There is an emphasis on the practical application of theory to a working environment and on the opportunity for students to think about, discuss, and where possible, relate theory to practice. Students gain an understanding of Relational framework theory and practice and learn how to apply their therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy skills with clients. Through supervised practice, students identify their strengths and areas for development, ensuring they become a capable and self-reflective practitioner.

Students are taught alongside the students on the Diploma HE Therapeutic Counselling Skills (level 5) and PG Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy courses. Learning and teaching activities are sometimes differentiated from the level 5 students to support the development of level 7 academic skills and formative and summative assessments.

Formally integrated into the professional training is the BACP's 2021 Online and phone therapy (OPT) training curriculum. This is constituted out of eleven subject areas which are covered across the six core clinical modules associated with this course. The various items in the curriculum have been interwoven into existing teaching and learning scheduling and activities, and represent a triangulation of existing theory and skills with the differences presented to practice when working in online and phone therapy media. This expansion is driven by a dual commitment: enhancing the accessibility of therapeutic services for clients and responding to the changing landscape of psychotherapy practice in the 21st century.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable. All modules are core.

Full-time Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Year 1</b>	
Personal and Professional Development 1 20 credits	Personal and Professional Development 1 continues
Relational Framework 20 credits	Relational Framework continues
Therapeutic Skills 20 credits	Therapeutic Skills continues
	Understanding Social Research and Evaluation 20 credits (online delivery)
<b>Year 2</b>	
Personal and Professional Development 2 20 credits	Personal and Professional Development 2 continues
Becoming a Therapist 20 credits	Becoming a Therapist continues
Therapeutic Process and Supervision 20 credits	Therapeutic Process and Supervision continues
Dissertation 40 credits	Dissertation continues

Part-time Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Year 1</b>	
Personal and Professional Development 1 20 credits	Personal and Professional Development 1 continues
Relational Framework 20 credits	Relational Framework continues
Therapeutic Skills 20 credits	Therapeutic Skills continues
<b>Year 2</b>	
Personal and Professional Development 2 20 credits	Personal and Professional Development 2 continues
Becoming a Therapist 20 credits	Becoming a Therapist continues
Therapeutic Process and Supervision 20 credits	Therapeutic Process and Supervision continues
<b>Year 3</b>	
Understanding Social Research and Evaluation 20 credits (online delivery)	Dissertation 40 credits

## 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. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

The course is assessed by coursework, practical skills assessments and a dissertation. Placements are assessed.

### Workloads

Overall workload	Hours
Teaching and Learning	486
Independent Study and Assessment	1176
Placement and placement related activities	138
Total	1800

## **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](mailto: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.