



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## MA Integrative Counselling (*top-up*)

### Distance Learning

Course Code: MINCT

2024/25

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

# MA Integrative Counselling (Top-up) (MINCT)

## 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>	None (target award is a 60 credit 'top-up' award)
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and 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 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>• 1 year, part-time, distance learning</li></ul>
<b>Location of Delivery</b>	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="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 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>

There are no additional or non-standard regulations that relate to your 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>

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

The course is not a professional accredited course or a counselling training course. Students will be holders of the professionally-accredited Postgraduate Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy or similar award.

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

The aim of the distance learning course is to offer students who are already counselling or psychotherapy practitioners and hold a relevant Postgraduate Diploma degree, a comprehensive 60 credit 'top-up' course in research methods and attainment of advanced theoretical research knowledge, applied research skills and techniques associated with their chosen subject area in counselling research. '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, and therefore each student will be encouraged to consider research questions from a range of perspectives.

To maintain their professional registration, counsellors can participate in professional accreditation/registration schemes, attain a thorough training in an evidence based approach, and show commitment to continued professional development, including research. The course aims to accommodate these personal and professional challenges of being a counsellor, through reflective practice and original contribution to the field via research and completion of a dissertation.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1 Demonstrate a reflective and critical awareness of the ethical and professional problems to which psychotherapy and counselling research may give rise.
- 2 Integrate and synthesise knowledge, theories and concepts from a range of disciplines in the analysis of contemporary social issues and take a critical, evidenced-based view to determine best practice in psychotherapy and related professions.
- 3 Demonstrate the ability to work independently or in groups, to problem solve, generating and communicating research-based evidence that supports anti-discriminatory and best practice.
- 4 Demonstrate the professional capabilities and transferable skills necessary for employment in psychotherapy and related settings and application of inter-professional concepts to the development of professional practice.

## **Teaching and Learning Activities**

As a distance learning course, all teaching and learning is delivered online, with asynchronous and some synchronous delivery included in the learning experience. Students access the University's Virtual Learning Environment are taught via pre-recorded teaching hours, facilitated tutorials and independent study time online where recorded lectures, study material, further reading and practical exercises are readily accessible to inform their critical analysis and evaluation of current therapeutic and research practice.

Seminars and tutorials are interactive and help students to take a critical approach to their own perspectives on practice and research. They help students develop their own expertise in implementing a research project into a relevant area within the field of counselling and psychotherapy that they have judged to merit further investigation. Underpinning all online engagement are collaborative professional discussions.

Students have tutor support with tutors who oversee their progress throughout the course via facilitated tutorials, small group seminars and research supervision at different points in the course. There is potential for delivery to be organised at time allocations intended to support access from outside of GMT if required.

A sound theoretical base is established along with associated skills prior to the student undertaking their dissertation. This is delivered using a blend of activities including lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work and independent study. Students have the opportunity to engage flexibly and work with an individual dissertation supervisor.

Learning and teaching activities employed on the course are diverse and tailored to individual student needs where appropriate. In addition, students are encouraged to engage with their own personal and professional development through attendance at external events and professional workshops. The two modules require students to engage with Virtual Learning Environment activities which support and enhance learning.

## 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. Both modules are core.

Semester 1	Semester 2
Understanding Social Research and Evaluation 20 credits	Dissertation 40 credits

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from the modules. A standard 20 credit module equates to 200 notional learning hours, comprising teaching, learning and assessment, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

The course is assessed by coursework and a dissertation.

### Workload

Overall Workload	Hours
Teaching and Learning	60
Independent Study and Assessment	540
Total	600

## 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 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, 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 can 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, and International Student Services. 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.