



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Public Policy

Course Code: MPUBP

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MA Public Policy (MPUBP)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at DEC/2023

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Public Policy
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma Public Policy Postgraduate Certificate Public Policy
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	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
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 (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Dr John Willott: j.willott@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Academic Advisor

Allocated at the start of the course

Your Course Administrator

You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the admin team is: PIRAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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:

- Provide students with knowledge of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of policy making and challenges to it.
- Provide students with an understanding of the concepts, theories and methods used in the study and practice of public policy.

- Transform students into sophisticated, independent and critical thinkers in the field of public policy.
- Support students in their transition to postgraduate study so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and be able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations.
- Provide students with a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic or professional environment.
- Enable students to apply their knowledge of public policy with originality within advanced academic contexts.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of public policy informed by current scholarship and research, including a critical awareness of current issues, theories and developments in the subject area.
2. Demonstrate a sophistication in their critical thinking and independence of thought, through the ability to apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of public policy to analyse political choices, practices and issues in a professional context.
3. Demonstrate effective teamwork and collaborative skills with colleagues, academics, practitioners and wider stakeholders, and professional standards of appropriate written and oral communication.
4. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, critically apply a range of techniques and research methods and digital literacy skills to access, process and evaluate information, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment.
5. Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application of knowledge and an understanding of how new knowledge is created and synthesised through the production of a significant piece of high-level independent work in the field of public policy.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching will be delivered via blended learning, with in person seminars, and additional online sessions and learning resources provided via our Virtual Learning Environment. Teaching methods will focus on small group discussion and debate, supported by mini lectures where appropriate, and supplemented by sessions in IT labs to develop skills using appropriate software. The students' experience of the delivery of this course is through a range of teaching methods and learning activities. While the lecturers and tutors are there to disseminate knowledge and facilitate learning, there is an emphasis on students' collaboration in the learning experience. Students are encouraged to set their own tasks, within clearly identified structures, to meet the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. Similarly, reading lists are less prescriptive and encourage students to locate their own resources. Students will benefit from having access to outside speakers through the Politics & International Relations Festival and seminar series which

will broaden their learning experience. The VLE (My Beckett) is used to provide materials, but is also a forum for discussion, assessment and the sharing of resources and feedback.

Students receive an on-line course handbook, which details the course structure and what is expected of students (it also provides other information about the University, course team, regulations and policies etc.). In addition, students receive an on-line module handbook for each module, providing details about the module, how the module will be delivered in terms of types of teaching elements and the main topic for each unit, how it will be assessed, a reading list and other material relevant to the module. In order to deliver core knowledge, facilitate understanding of theories and concepts and develop practical and applied skills, we employ a range of teaching methods depending on the module subject matter and delivery mode. These may include (as appropriate): lectures, seminars, group work, practical/laboratory classes, presentations, problem-based projects/briefs, tutorials, and other on-line activities on the university's VLE.

The range of learning activities not only provides an opportunity for students to develop communication skills via different media, but also accommodates different learning styles amongst students.

The course ensures that teaching and learning contexts are (i) non-discriminatory and tailored for each student with a reasonable adjustment plan; (ii) respectful and valuing the perspectives and experiences each individual can offer; (iii) promoting the values and practices associated with inclusive attitudes and behaviours in others.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. 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. 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. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Policy Challenges (20 credits)	Y	The Politics of Public Policy (20 credits)	Y
		Developing & Managing Projects (20 credits)	Y
		Research Methods (20 credits)	Y
Dissertation (40 credits)	Y	Dissertation (cont.) (cont.)	Y
Foundations of Public Law (20 credits)	N	Contemporary Criminal (in)Justice (20 credits)	N
Policies for Health in the 21st Century (20 credits)	N	Theorising Human Rights (20 credits)	N
Transforming Punishment & Rehabilitation (20 credits)	N	Critical Perspectives in Youth & Community Work (20 credits)	N

Level 7			
Gendering the International (20 credits)	N	Policies for Health in the 21st Century (20 credits)	N
Housing & Urban Regeneration Policy (20 credits)	N	Leading Partnerships & Change (20 credits)	N

Full time students will study two elective modules in Semester 1 and one elective module in Semester 2.

S = Standard delivery only (i.e. on-campus teaching, although there will also be blended learning with online elements).

D = Distance Learning only (i.e. no on-campus teaching; online lectures, activities and discussion boards etc).

S/D = Modules which exist in both modes and students can choose based on personal preference and their work or other commitments.

Level 7 Core Modules

Policy Challenges (S)

The Politics of Public Policy (S)

Developing & Managing Projects (S/D)

Research Methods (S/D)

Dissertation (S/D)

Level 7 Option Modules

Foundations of Public Law (D)

Policies for Health in the 21st Century (S/D)

Transforming Punishment and Rehabilitation (S)

Gendering the International (S/D)

Contemporary Criminal (in)Justice (S)

Critical Perspectives in Youth and Community Work (S)

Theorising Human Rights (S/D)

Housing & Urban Regeneration Policy (S)

Leading Partnerships & Change (S)

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

On this course students will be assessed predominantly by coursework with some examinations and presentations depending on modules chosen. There is a major independent study module which will require the production of a dissertation of 15,000 words.

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	175 hours
Independent Study	1625 hours
Placement	0 hours

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.