# Course Specification

# MSc Corporate Governance

## Course Code: MSCCG

2024/25

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

# MSc Corporate Governance (MSCCG)

# Material Information Summary for 2024/25 Postgraduate Applicants

## Confirmed at <u>12/23</u>

## General Information

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| **Award** | Master of Science Corporate Governance |
| **Contained Awards** | Postgraduate Diploma Corporate Governance |
| | Postgraduate Certificate Corporate Governance |
| **Awarding Body** | Leeds Beckett University |
| **Level of Qualification & 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 & 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:<br><br>• Full Time - 1 year (Sept start) or 16-months (Jan start)<br><br>• Part Time - 2 years (Sept start) or 28-months (Jan start) |
| **Part Time 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. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students. |
| **Location(s) of Delivery** | City Campus, Leeds<br><br>Some sessions may be delivered online or at Headingley campus, as appropriate |
| **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/<br><br>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. |
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## 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)

This course adheres to the Academic Principles and Regulations set out by the University. Awards of distinction and merit may be made to students who meet the following criteria:

Distinction

The award of a distinction may be made to those students who have attained:

•       an average of 70% or more in assessments contributing to the final award.

And/or

•       at least half of all taught modules* at the level of distinction in assessments contributing to the final award plus a 60-credit major project module at distinction.

Merit

The award of merit may be made to those students who have attained:

•       an average of 60% or more in assessments contributing to the final award.

And/or

•       at least half of all taught modules* at the level of merit in assessments contributing to the final award plus a 60-credit major project module at distinction.

*For the purposes of this regulation, taught modules are outlined as all modules with the exception of the 60-credit major project module*

## Key Contacts

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| **Your Course Director** | Dr Nicholas Beech |
| **Your Academic Advisor** | Dr Nicholas Beech |
| **Your Course Administrator** | Jill Buckle (LeadershipAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) |

## Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

**Professional Body**

**Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

This course is accredited by the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland. The MSc in Corporate Governance programme has embedded the learning outcomes of the Chartered Governance Qualifying Programme (CGQP). The quality of provision has been recognised by the Chartered Governance Institute through awarding the University the status of an 'approved centre'. The modules are mapped to CGQP learning outcomes thereby providing a route to the Grad CGI.

Achieving GradCGI status demonstrates high level mastery of the many subjects relevant to governance and compliance. Graduates typically progress quickly to Associate membership, which requires up to six years' relevant work experience in addition to their qualification in governance.

## Course Overview

**Aims**

The course aims to develop critical, ethical, competent and reflective practitioners who can perform effectively within a range of governance contexts and demonstrate the capabilities required for professionals in the field of corporate administration. It seeks to facilitate the knowledge and understanding of a broad range of corporate governance, legal and financial management principles and practices, as well as the development of related skills and competencies.

The course provides students with an in-depth understanding of corporate governance from corporate, investor and stakeholder perspectives. Corporate governance is concerned with issues such as who controls a company, the relationship between owners and managers and other stakeholders, who takes responsibility for decisions, and executive remuneration levels. Overall, the course takes an international, multi-sector and multi-disciplinary perspective on corporate governance, with a particular focus on development and ethical concerns. A critical mode of thinking is employed to stimulate students' thinking, and encourage students to reflect on their learning experiences, challenge their taken-for-granted assumptions and knowledge, and enhance and enrich their learning experiences.

The course is appropriate for graduate students who have a first degree in management, business or other social sciences. The course is also appropriate for more experienced individuals who are looking for a

postgraduate qualification in corporate governance to enhance their career progression to executive director level or for other roles such as non-executive director or consultancy. The rationale of the course is to develop skilled, flexible and adaptable executive leaders who will play a crucial role in facilitating the process of ethical and focused organisational change representing a broad reach of stakeholder interests. The overall aim of the course is to enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and awareness that will enable them to transform their companies by providing team-based leadership through the creation and communication of version and values, to achieve world-class standards of performance.

The provision provides the opportunity for students to obtain a qualification, which is in continual demand by employers, and needed by professionals to enter, and/or to progress in the corporate secretary profession, therefore the course aims reflect the requirements of the CGI Professional Standards. The course is further matched to QAA FHEQ for H7 and the benchmark statement for business and management.

The MSc Corporate Governance is primarily aimed at students who wish to develop their academic capabilities and management aspirations to gain a career as corporate secretary or work in similar executive or boardroom roles within an organisation. Candidates can also join the programme from any range of background sectors, public and private, MNE or SME and include those working in law, finance HR or general management roles as well as those who have recently completed an undergraduate qualification and are looking for professional progression.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

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

1) Evaluate, synthesise and apply advanced and contemporary themes, theory and techniques to a range of complex and open-ended issues, problems and situations in the field of corporate governance.
2) Demonstrate a critical understanding of the strategic perspective of organisational governance in an external and internal business context and make informed quantitative and qualitative judgements about corporate governance solutions in the absence of complete data so as to administer effectively corporate affairs within an organisation, and contribute to corporate performance appropriate to employment at a senior level.
3) Develop a breadth of knowledge and specialism in a chosen area with a degree of creativity and transferable skills to organisational and professional settings with sensitivity to equality, diversity and culture.
4) Learn independently and interdependently accepting responsibility for subsequent career and continuing professional development, demonstrating a critical, ethical and reflective approach to their professional practice
5) Apply with a degree of creativity and sophistication; intellectual, transferable and subject/ professional skills to a range of complex and open-ended organisational problems and situations.
6) Demonstrate the attainment of the CGI Professional Standards.
7) Execute and deliver an applied research project, with due regard to ethical considerations, research philosophy and methodologies. This research project will seek to influence policy and practice within a professional people management and development context and add positively to the pool of established research into current governance and management related business issues.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

The course involves a range of different learning and teaching activities to provide a balance of activity and encourage engagement from students with a range of different learning preferences. The course begins with an induction day with interactive workshops which introduces students to concepts of post-graduate study. During the first semester, students study Applied Corporate Law, Interpreting Financial and Accounting Information, and Boardroom Dynamics to provide students with a board and resilient skills base. Learning and teaching activities for these modules include case study analysis, presentation, group work, individual research and theoretical input to provide both underpinning knowledge of key governance, legal and financial corporate themes/concepts and issues but also the resilience, courage and integrity to apply their knowledge in complex boardroom scenarios.

In the second semester students undertake The Practice of Governance, Leadership and Strategy, Corporate Secretarial Practice and Risk Management to enable students to expand and apply their learning through different contexts and theoretical perspectives. Learning and teaching activities for these modules vary on the content, but include activities such as boardroom discussions, critical evaluation of case studies, student-led presentations, debates and guest lectures. Assessment follows on with the applied nature of the programme using examination to assess held knowledge ability to respond on the spot to previously unseen questions this is further developed by the use of extensive and case studies where students demonstrate knowledge, skill and aptitude to substantial and complex cases. The course concludes with students undertaking an independent research-led CGI focused dissertation.

### 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. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

| Level 7 – Full Time Sept Start | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Semester 1** | **Core (Y/N)** | **Semester 2** | **Core (Y/N)** |
| Applied Corporate Law (20 credits) | Y | The Practice of Governance, Leadership and Strategy (20 credits) | Y |
| Interpreting Financial and Accounting Information (20 credits) | Y | Corporate Secretarial Practice (20 credits) | Y |
| Boardroom Dynamics (20 credits) | Y | Risk Management (20 credits) | Y |
| LGPM Dissertation Project (60 credits) - inclusive of Research Methods learning | | | Y |
| **Semester 3** | **Core (Y/N)** | | |
| LGPM Dissertation Project [continued] (60 credits) | Y | | |


| Level 7 – Part Time Sept Start | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Semester 1** | **Core (Y/N)** | **Semester 2** | **Core (Y/N)** |
| Applied Corporate Law (20 credits) | Y | The Practice of Governance, Leadership and Strategy (20 credits) | Y |
| Interpreting Financial and Accounting Information (20 credits) | Y | Corporate Secretarial Practice (20 credits) | Y |
| **Year 2** | | | |
| **Semester 1** | **Core (Y/N)** | **Semester 2** | **Core (Y/N)** |
| Boardroom Dynamics (20 credits) | Y | Risk Management (20 credits) | Y |
| LGPM Dissertation Project (60 credits) - inclusive of Research Methods learning | | | Y |
| **Semester 3** | **Core (Y/N)** | | |
| LGPM Dissertation Project [continued] (60 credits) | | | |

| Level 7 – Full Time Jan Start | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Semester 1** | **Core (Y/N)** | **Semester 2** | **Core (Y/N)** |
| The Practice of Governance, Leadership and Strategy (20 credits) | Y | Applied Corporate Law (20 credits) | Y |
| Corporate Secretarial Practice (20 credits) | Y | Interpreting Financial and Accounting Information Law (20 credits) | Y |
| Risk Management (20 credits) | Y | Boardroom Dynamics (20 credits) | Y |
| LGPM Dissertation Project (60 credits) - inclusive of Research Methods learning | | | Y |
| **Semester 3** | **Core (Y/N)** | | |
| LGPM Dissertation Project [continued] (60 credits) | Y | | |


| Level 7 – Part Time Jan Start | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Semester 1** | **Core (Y/N)** | **Semester 2** | **Core (Y/N)** |
| The Practice of Governance, Leadership and Strategy (20 credits) | Y | Applied Corporate Law (20 credits) | Y |
| Corporate Secretarial Practice (20 credits) | Y | Interpreting Financial and Accounting Information (20 credits) | Y |
| **Year 2** | | | |
| **Semester 1** | **Core (Y/N)** | **Semester 2** | **Core (Y/N)** |
| Risk Management (20 credits) | Y | Boardroom Dynamics (20 credits) | Y |
| LGPM Dissertation Project (60 credits) - inclusive of Research Methods learning | | | Y |
| **Semester 3** | **Core (Y/N)** | | |
| LGPM Dissertation Project [continued] (60 credits) | Y | | |

## 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 assessed practical activities. There is a major independent study module which will require the production of a dissertation.

**Workload**

| Overall Workload | |
| --- | --- |
| Teaching, Learning and Assessment | 288 hours |
| Independent Study | 1512 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](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 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.