



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing

Course Code: BSMHN

2026/27

BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing (BSMHN)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Science with Honours Mental Health Nursing
Contained awards	Bachelor of Science with Honours Health Related Studies (Level 6) Bachelor of Science Health Related Studies (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education Health Related Studies (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education Health Related Studies (Level 4)
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 years (full time, campus based)
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, plus location of placements.
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 are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk .

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

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.

Progression and achievement of the award

All assessments, components of assessment, modules, practice assessments and practice experiences (placements) must be passed for progression to the next level and for the conferment of the target award. The course does not allow for compensation or condoning of marks at component of assessment level or module level by the Progression and Award Board. There is no compensation in assessments across theory and practice. The pass mark is 40% or pass for pass/fail marking, except for the components of assessment noted below.

Components of assessment with pass mark above 40% and two reassessment opportunities

The following components of assessment have pass marks as stated and students will be given exceptionally two re-assessment opportunities for these components:

Module	Component of assessment	Pass mark
L4 Fundamentals of Nursing Science and Practice	Online timed assessment	80%
L5 Application of Nursing Science and Practice	Online timed assessment	90%
L6 Advancing Nursing Science and Practice	Online calculations exam	100%

Exceptional third assessment attempts

A student may be eligible for an exceptional third attempt for failed assessments on academic modules at level 4 and level 5 if the criteria for this attempt is met. To meet the criteria, a student must have passed 60 credits or more of the level and have no non-submissions of any assessments on the level. This exceptional third attempt does not apply to placement modules.

Reassessment opportunities in the level 6 Transition to Registered Nurse module

Students will be allowed exceptionally up to two reassessment opportunities for the Extended Study assessment if this is not passed at 40% at the first or second attempt.

Non-credit bearing modules

The Mental Health Practice Assessments modules at each level are non-credit bearing and accommodate the practice experiences (placements), episodes of care, practice hours and skills.

The level 6 module includes the Missed Sessions Records with details provided in the Course Handbook.

All components of assessments must be passed for progression to the next level and to achieve the target award.

For students repeating a level, this module must be undertaken, even if passed previously, in line with the Regulations.

Reassessment opportunities for practice experiences (Mental Health Practice Assessments modules)

A student may fail one practice experience only across the whole course. A recovery opportunity is provided in the same academic year if this fail takes place in semester one. If the failed practice experience takes place in semester two, then wherever possible, students have a recovery opportunity provided before the end of the academic year. This fail remains on the student's profile in the event of the student being given an opportunity to repeat the full year.

A nursing student failing two assessed practice experiences during the course will be deemed to have failed the course and a recommendation will be made to the Progression and Award Board to withdraw the student from the course and be awarded a contained award if the requirements of that award have been met. There are no reassessment or repeat opportunities.

Practice assessments

Students cannot claim mitigation against practice assessments. If a student has extenuating circumstances, they should discuss this with their academic adviser and withdraw from practice.

Attendance

As well as following the University's Academic Engagement Policy, the course has minimum attendance requirements of 100% for University sessions and 100% attendance on placement. Details of how absences are managed are detailed in the Course Handbook and the Practice Learning Handbooks. Attendance is monitored at University sessions and on placement.

Contained Awards

Students who fail to achieve the minimum performance required for the target award shall be recommended for the conferment of a lower award with a different title in line with the Regulations. The contained awards do not provide eligibility to apply for registration as a nurse and follow the standard Academic Regulations.

The BSc (Hons) Health Related Studies is awarded when a level 6 student fails the Mental Health Practice Assessments 3 non-credit bearing module (there may be a repeat opportunity if a practice experience is failed for the first time on the course at this level) or fails a second practice experience (and therefore is not allowed a reassessment or repeat module opportunity) and successfully completes the level 6 three credit bearing modules, achieving 120 level 6 credits.

Academic calendar

This course follows a non-standard calendar to accommodate placements, including start and end dates, semester deliveries and assessment periods. The course is scheduled over 45 weeks with 7 weeks holiday.

Notional hours

In view of the theory and practice/placement hours requirement of this professional course (2300 defined practice and 2300 theory hours), the notional hours exceed the usual 3600 hours for an undergraduate degree.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

- To meet the NMC requirements for RPL for credit transfer, a maximum of 50% of the credit for the course can be recognised through prior learning (100% for level 4 and 50% for level 5).
- For NMC registered nurses wishing to change or add to their field of practice, we can consider credit awarded at levels 4 and 5 of an NMC-approved honours degree in nursing (adult, children's, learning disability, mental health fields) studied at Leeds Beckett or at other UK universities, to be used as RPL towards either BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing or BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing (subject to curriculum and

practice mapping of the original course) to a limit of 66% of the credit of the target award. Exceptionally, credit awarded at level 6 may also be considered, subject to the curriculum mapping evidencing achievement of the overall learning outcomes for the target award.

Reasonable adjustment plans

Due to the professional requirements of the course, readers and scribes are not usually permitted in any exams relating to online calculations or practical exams. These exams and assessments replicate practice and this level of support is not reasonable in practice. Students will be supported with extra time if detailed in the reasonable adjustment plan.

Other requirements

Health and Good Character on entry and throughout the course

- Students are required to have a satisfactory occupational health assessments and DBS and make an annual declaration of health and good character at the start of each academic year and prior to course completion.
- Students are required to ensure their health meets the requirements for placement through following advice from Occupational Health.
- Any changes to a student's health and good character during the course must be declared to the Course Leader.
- Students who temporarily suspend studies are required to have an occupational health review and DBS before returning to the course.

Immunisation

Appropriate evidence of immunisation is required before practice placements can commence. Changes to these may be made according to latest health policies. Occupational Health will review this and confirm if all your vaccinations are up to date and you are fit to attend placement.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Accreditation/recognition summary

Successful completion of this course provides eligibility to apply for registration with the NMC as a qualified nurse – mental health.

Work Placement Information

Summary

Nursing students gain experience in a variety of environments where healthcare is delivered. This may include community placements, in-patients services and placements in private, independent, charitable and voluntary organisations.

Placement Delivery

Students are required to complete 2300 hours of practice related experience during the course, divided approximately equally across the three years.

Location

Throughout Yorkshire.

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director Zoe Lambert

Your course administrator Chris Smiles, C.Smiles@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

This three-year undergraduate nursing degree prepares students to qualify as a registered mental health nurse and develop the expertise to be able to support people with mental illnesses in their homes and specialist health services. The course is structured around three academic modules and one practice module each year which supports practice learning experiences across a wide range of settings.

On successful completion of the course mental health nurses are educated, knowledgeable graduates who act with leadership and confidence to support people and their families through self-care or through the delivery and co-ordination of integrated care across the patient pathway. Graduates have the skills to communicate effectively and to critically select and use their knowledge to effectively lead, manage and deliver packages of care which address an individual's health needs, choices and decision making. Graduates assess, plan and deliver safe and effective evidence-based care using their professional judgement to make informed decisions in delegating and supervising fundamental aspects of care to others who are sufficiently trained.

The course prepares graduates, who will be eligible to apply to register with the NMC on successful completion of the target award, to act as change agents and champion research and innovation into care. Graduates are prepared for practice in the 21st century health care environment. They will have the knowledge and skills to care for people of all ages and across all care settings and play a vital role in providing, leading and co-ordinating care that is compassionate, evidence-based, and person-centred.

The course has been designed to meet the NMC's Standards Framework for Nursing and Midwifery Education (SFNME) and is mapped to these requirements, providing theory and practice learning across the four fields of nursing practice: adult, mental health, learning disabilities and children's nursing. On successful completion of the course, mental health nursing students will have met the NMC (2018) Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses (FNSPRN). Graduates will be autonomous practitioners who can capably, safely, compassionately and proficiently meet the FNSPRN detailed in the seven platforms below and demonstrate the communication and relationship management skills (Annex A) and the nursing procedures (Annex B) at the point of registration in order to provide safe nursing care. The aims of the programme are to:

Course learning outcomes

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

1	<i>Being an accountable professional:</i> Act in the best interests of people, putting them first and providing nursing care that is person-centred, safe and compassionate which embraces enhancements in digital health technologies. They act professionally at all times and use their knowledge and experience to make evidence-based decisions about care. They communicate and manage relationships effectively using a range of approaches, are role models for others, and are accountable for their actions. They critically reflect on their practice and keep abreast of new and emerging global, national, regional developments in nursing, health and care.
2	<i>Promoting health and preventing ill health:</i> Play a key role in improving and maintaining the mental, physical and behavioural health and well-being of people, families, communities and populations. They support and enable people at all stages of life and in all care settings to make informed choices about how to manage health challenges in order to maximise their quality of life and improve health outcomes. They are actively involved in the prevention of and protection against disease and ill health and engage in public health, community development and global

	health agendas, and in the reduction of health inequalities using digital applications and social prescribing to support their work.
3	<i>Assessing needs and planning care:</i> Prioritise the needs of people when assessing and reviewing their mental, physical, cognitive, behavioural, social and spiritual needs. They confidently and critically identify and use data and information obtained from a range of sources during assessments to identify the priorities and requirements for person-centred and evidence-based nursing interventions and support. They work in partnership with people to develop person-centred care plans that take into account their individual circumstances, characteristics and preferences.
4	<i>Providing and evaluating care:</i> Appraise the evidence base to provide compassionate, personalised nursing care, procedures and interventions to evaluate the effectiveness of nursing care planned and come to sound clinical judgements about the effectiveness of nursing actions. Using reflective skills to develop aesthetic knowledge, ensuring the care they provide is person-centred, of a consistently high standard and evaluated in partnership with people, families and carers to ensuring care has been provided in line with their wishes, preferences and desired outcomes.
5	<i>Leading and managing nursing care and leading teams:</i> Provide leadership by acting as a role model for best practice in the delivery of nursing care. They are responsible for managing nursing care and are accountable for the appropriate delegation and supervision of care provided by others in the team including lay carers. They play an active and equal role in the interdisciplinary team, collaborating and communicating effectively using a range of techniques and with a range of colleagues.
6	<i>Improving safety and quality of care:</i> Make a key contribution to the continuous monitoring and quality improvement of care and treatment using evidence-based approaches, in order to enhance individual's and population health outcomes and people's experience of nursing and related care. They assess risks to safety or experience and take appropriate action to manage those, putting the best interests, needs and preferences of people first.
7	<i>Co-ordinating care:</i> Provide leadership, co-ordinate and manage complex nursing and integrated care needs of people at any stage of their lives, across a range of organisations and settings. They contribute to processes of organisational change through an awareness of local and national policies.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The course is delivered via blended learning and predominantly live lectures, seminars and practicals, which students are required to attend in person. This face-to-face delivery is supported by online delivery on occasions. These sessions may require student attendance at the scheduled time or be asynchronous. Some sessions are recorded, and this is to support re-engagement with materials after the session and not to replace students' attendance.

Learning and teaching activities include lectures, seminars, application to practice groups, simulated learning, online quizzes, and e-learning modules and activities. There is a course and level overview of learning and teaching which ensures that there is balance across the year and progression throughout the course. There is a focus on encouraging increasing independence and advancing skills, taking account of different preferences, learning styles and disabilities.

The use of formative assessment is embedded in each module and across the course to maximise learning, to support students' development of specific academic skill sets such as academic integrity, reflection, case study writing and reports and to prepare students for summative assessments.

There is an equal balance of theory and practice in the curriculum in order to meet the NMC's Standards for Pre-Registration Nursing Programmes (2.9, 2.12).

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. 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 4

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Becoming a Nursing Student	40	1
Fundamentals of Nursing Science and Practice	40	2
Exploring Health and Wellbeing	40	2
Mental Health Practice Assessments 1	0	Year long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Developing Professional Skills	40	1
Application of Nursing Science and Practice	40	2
Promoting Health and Wellbeing	40	2
Mental Health Practice Assessments 2	0	Year long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Advancing Nursing Science and Practice	40	1
Population Health and Wellbeing	40	1/2
Transition to Registered Nurse	40	2
Mental Health Practice Assessments 3	0	Year long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules undertaken by students on the course.

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

Level 4

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments. Students are also assessed in practice.

Level 5

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments. Students are also assessed in practice.

Level 6

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments. Students are also assessed in practice.

Workload

The course exceeds the normal 3600 notional hours for an honours degree over three years. The professionalism requirements of the course require a minimum of 4600 hours from theory and practice.

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, learning and assessment	216 hours	203 hours	197 hours
Independent study	624 hours	637 hours	660 hours
Placement	675 hours	765 hours	735 hours