



Course Specification

MSc Construction Law & Dispute Resolution

Course Code: CLAWD

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Construction Law & Dispute Resolution (CLAWD)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Postgraduate Entrants

Confirmed at

General Information

Award	Master of Science Construction Law & Dispute Resolution
Contained Awards	Postgraduate Diploma Construction Law & Dispute Resolution Postgraduate Certificate Construction Law & Dispute Resolution
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: • 24 months (part time, distance learning) • 48 months (part time, distance learning)
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 from that defined within this information set.
Location of Delivery	Distance Learning
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 (www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations)

Effective from September 2023, the course team have implemented a change in the IELTS entry requirement, to a preferred score of 7.0 with no skill below 7.0. This is to ensure international applicants join the course already possessing the right level of English comprehension skills, so they are able to complete their studies to a Masters standard.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

This course is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) as part of its Recognised Course Provider scheme. Upon successful completion of specified modules, students are eligible to apply for CI Arb membership at Member grade (which is the highest grade available under the revised Recognised Course Provider scheme).

The specified modules include Adjudication Law & Practice and Adjudication Decision Writing.

The application process including payment of any fees or expenses is the entire responsibility of the student, and all applications must be made within two years of completion of the specified modules.

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.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Katherine Dunn - Katherine.Dunn@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your Course Administrator

Fiona Wilson - F.Wilson@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The course intends to develop and provide the following learning aims:

- To provide an effective, coherent, and intellectually challenging postgraduate education in construction law and dispute resolution.
- To enhance students' abilities in the identification and evaluation of appropriate decision-making strategies.
- To develop research capability and cognitive skills which enable students to analyse problems in their professional context.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1	Critically evaluate construction contract doctrines and drafting.
2	Exhibit innovative practice and sound professional knowledge, skill, and values in the arena of conflict management and dispute resolution.
3	Professionally engage in effective means for the avoidance and resolution of construction disputes.
4	Exercise a high level of skill and competence in the role of a party representative/claim's consultant, mediator, adjudicator, and arbitrator providing professional judgement in areas of construction law, and the practice and procedure of dispute resolution relevant to the student's professional environment.
5	Exercise sound professional judgement, critically evaluating the perspectives of other professionals and making a positive, informed contribution to matters outside their areas of expertise in the context of construction law and dispute resolution issues.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The Construction Law and Dispute Resolution programme is delivered entirely through web-based distance learning, designed to meet the needs of busy professionals working across the construction, engineering, and legal sectors. Teaching and learning take place in a virtual learning environment that provides pre-recorded lectures, reading materials, and reflective self-assessment exercises. Each module is also supported by live online tutorials to facilitate interaction and discussion. Typically, there are six online tutorials for each 20-credit module and four for each 10-credit module, scheduled between 17:00 and 19:00 (UK time) and recorded to maximise accessibility for students unable to attend live sessions.

In this course, students explore the complex legal and contractual environment of the construction industry and gain the knowledge and practical expertise to confidently avoid, manage, present, resolve, and determine disputes, providing a strong platform for career advancement and professional success.

The Law of Obligations and Construction Law Principles modules develop students' understanding of tortious and contractual rights, duties, and liabilities relevant to the industry - providing an essential foundation for

the rest of the course. While these modules are taught primarily from an English law perspective, the analytical and reasoning skills acquired are transferable across jurisdictions.

With regards to dispute resolution methods, students study the legal and procedural frameworks that govern the adjudication and arbitration processes, including the key legislation and institutional rules that shape their operation. Building on this foundation, the Adjudication Decision Writing and Arbitration Award Writing modules equip students with the skills to assess party submissions and draft enforceable decisions. Furthermore, the Commercial Mediation and Negotiation module explores the procedures and skills required to mediate disputes effectively, both as a party representative and as a mediator, with a focus on practical negotiation strategies and techniques.

Throughout the course, students develop the ability to analyse evidence, think critically, and present well-reasoned legal arguments. These skills are consolidated in the Law and Practice of Claims module, where students produce a detailed claim document in response to a simulated dispute scenario.

Finally, the Professional Research module allows students to apply their learning to a relevant topic of professional interest by completing an independent research project guided by an academic supervisor. Whether analysing a current legal development, evaluating a practical dispute management challenge, or investigating an emerging area of industry practice, this module enables students to showcase their expertise, critical thinking, and professional insight - building skills that will set them apart in their careers.

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.

2 Year Route

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Law of Obligations	20	S1 / Year 1
Adjudication: Law and Practice	20	S1 / Year 1
Construction Law Principles	20	S2 / Year 1
Construction Arbitration Law and Practice	20	S2 / Year 1
Commercial Mediation and Negotiation	20	S1 / Year 2
Adjudication Decision Writing	10	S1 / Year 2
Law and Practice of Claims	20	S2 / Year 2
Arbitration Award Writing	10	S2 / Year 2
Professional Research	40	S1 & S2 / Year 2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

4 Year Route

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Law of Obligations	20	S1 / Year 1
Construction Law Principles	20	S2 / Year 1
Adjudication: Law and Practice	20	S1 / Year 2
Construction Arbitration Law and Practice	20	S2 / Year 2
Commercial Mediation and Negotiation	20	S1 / Year 3
Adjudication Decision Writing	10	S1 / Year 3
Law and Practice of Claims	20	S2 / Year 3
Arbitration Award Writing	10	S2 / Year 3
Professional Research	40	S1 & S2 / Year 4
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

Assessment Balance 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. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

A range of assessment methods will be used. These include written examinations, multi-choice examinations, assignments, presentations, decision and award writing, and a research paper.

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	450 hours
Independent Study	1350 hours