



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification MA Landscape Architecture

Course Code: LANDC

2026/27

Award and Title: *MA Landscape Architecture (LANDC)*

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 11/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Landscape Architecture
Contained awards	Post Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture Post Graduate Certificate Landscape Architecture
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (full time, campus based)• 24 months (part time, campus based)
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 but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students.
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 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/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

The course is designed and delivered in accordance with the accreditation requirements of the Landscape Institute and by the International Federation of Landscape Architects and the European Foundation for Landscape Architecture.

Accreditation/recognition summary

The Course is accredited by the Landscape Institute, the Chartered Professional body. The accreditation process is carried out by The Landscape Institute through the mechanism of a Professional Review Group (PRG). The PRG is the Landscape Institute's equivalent of a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) and is a group of local professional practitioners, approved by the Landscape Institute, who check that the course is being delivered in accordance with the accreditation criteria. The five accreditation criteria are listed below and the courses are designed and delivered within these parameters.

- A. Schools must demonstrate that they have the staffing, expertise, resources and quality assurance mechanisms to deliver and maintain a high-quality programme of learning
- B. Programmes must focus on a clear and defined area of professional landscape skills and expertise deliver appropriate underpinning skills, knowledge and understanding to provide a foundation for entering the profession
- C. Programmes must deliver the key generic skills which underpin professional life and lifelong learning
- D. Programmes must provide a foundation for progression to the workplace and professional practice
- E. Schools must demonstrate a commitment to working in partnership with the Landscape Institute and the profession

The courses also comply with the International Federation of Landscape Architects Professional Definition of the Landscape Architect (International Standard Occupation number 2150).

Landscape Architects conduct research and advise on planning, design and stewardship of the outdoor environment and spaces, both within and beyond the built environment, and its conservation and sustainability of development. Tasks include:

- (a) developing new or improved theories, policy and methods for landscape planning, design and management at local, regional, national and multinational levels;
- (b) developing policy, plans, and implementing and monitoring proposals as well as developing new or improved theories and methods for national parks and other conservation and recreation areas;
- (c) developing new or improved theories and methods to promote environmental awareness, and undertaking planning, design, restoration, management and maintenance of cultural and/or historic landscapes, parks, sites and gardens;

- (d) planning, design, management, maintenance and monitoring functional and aesthetic layouts of built environment in urban, suburban, and rural areas including private and public open spaces, parks, gardens, streetscapes, plazas, housing developments, burial grounds, memorials; tourist, commercial, industrial and educational complexes; sports grounds, zoos, botanic gardens, recreation areas and farms;
- (e) contributing to the planning, aesthetic and functional design, location, management and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, dams, energy and major development projects;
- (f) undertaking landscape assessments including environmental and visual impact assessments with view to developing policy or undertaking projects;
- (g) inspecting sites, analysing factors such as climate, soil, flora, fauna, surface and subsurface water and drainage; and consulting with clients and making recommendations regarding methods of work and sequences of operations for projects related to the landscape and built environment.
- (h) identifying and developing appropriate solutions regarding the quality and use of the built environment in urban, suburban and rural areas and making designs, plans and working drawings, specifications of work, cost estimates and time schedules.
- (i) monitoring the realisation and supervising the construction of proposals to ensure compliance with plans, specifications of work, cost estimates and time schedules.
- (j) conducting research, preparing scientific papers and technical reports, developing policy, teaching, and advising on aspects regarding landscape architecture such as the application of geographic information systems, remote sensing, law, landscape communication, interpretation and landscape ecology.
- (k) managing landscape planning and design projects.
- (l) performing related tasks.
- (m) supervising other workers.

On successful completion of the accredited course students are eligible to become associate members of the Landscape Institute. After gaining employment in a landscape practice they can continue their professional development by following the Landscape Institute's 'Pathway to Chartership'. This involves assembling a portfolio of their practice experience, typically over a period of about 2 years, meetings with a mentor and a final interview. Successful completion of the pathway results in Chartered membership of the Landscape Institute.

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

John Maccleary

Your course administrator

Andrew Collings landscapearchitectureadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

Landscape Architecture is a career which is ideally placed to provide practical responses to biodiversity loss and climate change. It is a profession that designs, re-imagines and retrofits our open spaces in response to contemporary environmental challenges. Landscape Architecture can help address health and wellbeing and social inequality making our cities better places to live and helping our rural landscapes accommodate the changing needs of the 21st century.

Landscape architecture is the process of shaping the external environment through planning, design and management. It is a broad-based design discipline that considers the landscape of outdoor environments of all types, both urban and rural, and at a wide range of spatial scales from local to multi-national. It is a profession that requires creativity in the development and communication of ideas as well as the need to understand and enhance the natural and cultural landscape. In the organisation of the physical world the landscape architect must produce landscapes responsive to a wide range of aesthetic, ecological, social and technical requirements. The scope for landscape architecture is wide and under constant review in the light of growing public awareness of environmental issues, and an increasing demand for sustainable solutions and design that responds to our environmental challenges.

The course aims to provide advanced level study in Landscape Architecture. The course will provide for all students to further develop their abilities to become perceptive, creative, confident and effective landscape architects who display initiative, enterprise and independence of mind and have a system of values that recognises human needs and cultural diversity alongside environmental awareness.

Postgraduate study extends the experience of undergraduate education in landscape architecture and the aims of the course are mapped onto the undergraduate course aims with learning outcomes corresponding to masters level expectations. Overall the Course aims to offer a high quality, creative design education as a basis for qualification and practice as a Landscape Architect in accordance with the requirements of the Landscape Institute and International Federation of Landscape Architects.

In more detail the aims of the Course are to develop in the student at an advanced level:

- A critical understanding of the nature, scope and role of landscape architecture in a changing world.
- A personal philosophy towards the design of landscape that recognises the interdependence of natural and human systems and establishes values appropriate to the discipline.
- An ability in the art and science of designing meaningful and enduring landscapes through appropriate analysis and sensitive, creative design solutions
- An understanding, critical awareness and application of contextual issues such as cultural, ethical and economic factors
- An ability in the application of landscape technology including plants, hard materials and construction to achieve creative solutions to design-based issues
- An ability to communicate ideas effectively to others, using visual, verbal and written media as appropriate.
- An ability to work collaboratively and autonomously and reflect upon the process and outcomes.

In combining scholarly activity at master's level with research activity and skills appropriate to professional competence, the Course seeks to advance the theory and practice of Landscape Architecture.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	The ability to generate site-based planning and design proposals of a complex nature, showing understanding of current and future landscape architectural issues and originality in the application of subject knowledge.
2	The ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to analyse, critically appraise and communicate design proposals in a coherent way to external audiences and associated professionals.
3	The ability to critically evaluate materials, processes and techniques that apply to landscape architectural designs and landscape technology and to integrate these into design proposals in a sensitive way and with an appreciation of management implications affecting the development of landscape over time.
4	A critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research and practice in both individual and group settings and to produce clear, logically argued and original written or portfolio work relating to landscape architecture.
5	A critical approach to understanding of the role of the landscape architect in relation to clients, other environmental and design professionals and the landscape industry together with an appreciation of legislative frameworks, UK policy and guidance and ethical considerations.
6	The ability to identify individual learning needs and relevant approaches to design research and landscape practice that underpin problem solving and decision making and to critically reflect upon their own professional development

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Emphasis is placed on learning through design projects for exploring, testing and demonstrating the application of theory to practice in a variety of situations and in accordance with professional requirements identified in the *Employability and Professional Context* section later. Projects are supported by the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, through lectures, visits, seminars, workshops and studio tutorials. In pursuit of capability and independence in learning, students' programmes of study are customized to suit the individual needs and prior learning experiences where necessary through the use of a learning agreement.

Modules are generally project based and the nature of projects can vary, not only between modules, but also because the course aims to utilise opportunities for external or externally related projects when these arise. Because of this the balance of studio work, lectures, visits, presentations, tutorials, seminars etc. can vary not only from module to module but also from year to year in the same module.

Students evidence their achievements through the development of a portfolio, which includes their projects and reports. On completion of the course students present their portfolio in an exhibition format.

Students have the opportunity to study overseas through reciprocal agreements with a number of universities in Europe and the USA.

Teaching, including lectures, tutorials and workshops, are carried out face to face in our studios as we have found this brings the best student experience. Lectures are uploaded onto our virtual learning environment (CAGD) but are not recorded unless specifically requested. In special circumstances arrangements can be made for tutorials to be held online and we have excellent facilities for this.

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

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
LA703 Landscape and Urban Design Studios	40	1
LA704 Contemporary Landscape Architecture Theory and Practice	20	2
LA705 Advanced Landscape Architecture Design Project	60	1, 2 and 3
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
LA702 Personal Focus Portfolio	60	2 and 3
LA706 Reflective Landscape Portfolio	60	2 and 3
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

Assessment 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 entirely on coursework. Progress of design projects are normally assessed through submitted drawings, models and text in both digital and hard copy forms. Some modules do require the submission and assessment of written work.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	515 hours
Independent study	1285 hours
Placement	-