



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Sound Design

Course Code: MASOU

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Award and Title: *MA Sound Design (MASOU)*

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 12/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Sound Design
Contained awards	Post Graduate Diploma Sound Design Post Graduate Certificate Sound Design
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 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

N/A

Industry Links

'The Music and Sound subject area has links with industry bodies including UK Music. Full details can be found on the course pages on the Leeds Beckett website.'

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 Alex Stevenson

Your course administrator Bethwyn Osborne MusicCourseAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Develop a systematic understanding of the field of sound design as an area of professional practice at advanced level
2. Apply and critically evaluate a variety of concepts, theories and methods associated with analysis and design of sound for the moving image to an advanced level
3. Demonstrate advanced abilities by using current research methodologies and professional skills and techniques effectively to develop original creative outputs in sound design
4. Engage in planning and implementing professional tasks which demonstrate advanced problem solving and autonomous decision making in complex situations
5. Communicate a range of information and content in an appropriate format which reflects scholarly and professional contexts,
6. Make effective use of reflective strategies for the development and evaluation of self-managed learning and professional practice.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the broad knowledge and skills which underpin and contextualises the professional practice of sound design in a variety of media.
2	Contextualise, synthesise, critically evaluate and create original work which demonstrates a conceptual understanding of the underlying issues involved in the specialist field of sound design.
3	Critically evaluate and select specialist methodologies, techniques and collaborative approaches by implementing good professional practice.
4	Demonstrate the independent learning abilities required for the advancement of knowledge and specialist skills in the field of sound design to a high level.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

In line with the university's education strategy our emphasis at level 7 is upon the transformation of students into sophisticated, independent, critical thinkers, able to apply their knowledge with originality within advanced academic and professional contexts. Level 7 is as much about transition as level 4, and we will support this transition so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations.

The course places peer review and formative assessment at the heart of the delivery through regular seminars, group critique, and individual discussions. The aim is to engage all students in critical debate about their own and their peers work in order to develop a supportive community where the learning that takes place between them is as important as the learning delivered by staff.

The approach of the course is to engage students through challenging and authentic tasks. Students are encouraged to identify areas where their professional practice can be integrated into meeting module assessments and outcomes. In-keeping with a Masters level approach students are expected to undertake much of their learning in the own time and to take an increasingly independent approach to their

development. Several of the assignment briefs are open for students to follow their own areas of interest (Research Practice, Negotiated Skills Development, Final Project), and in many cases students will be expected to develop their own specific project ideas within the guidelines of the assignment. This is particularly the case for the final project, in which students are free to develop their own area of study in consultation with their tutor.

Research-informed teaching not only brings benefits through the currency of the curriculum, but it also creates a strong research ethos for the course. The Research Practice module runs alongside the other modules throughout the course and is designed to support students' development of academic writing and research methodologies, supporting the work in other modules, and preparing the ground for work done in the Final Individual Project. As well as assessing students on the learning outcomes of their course and modules, assessments also aim to develop professional skills that will enable them to success in academia, the future workplace and wider society.

This course is delivered in person and all lectures and seminars are live. Some one-to-one or small group tutorials may be conducted online at the discretion of the tutor.

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
Location Sound	20	1
Studio Production Skills	20	1
Collaborative Practice	20	1
Research Practice	20	1 and 2
Negotiated Skills Development	20	2
Audio Visual Practice	20	2
Final Individual Project	40	3
Number of credits of compulsory modules	160	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Sound, Music & Image	20	2
Spatial Audio Arts Media & Technologies	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

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

Level 7

On this course students will be assessed predominantly through coursework. There is a major independent study module that can be completed through a project based or dissertation-based approach to the equivalent of 10-12,000 words.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	160 hours
Independent study	1640 hours
Placement	-