



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Integrative Counselling

Course Code: MINCO

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MA Integrative Counselling (MINCO)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Integrative Counselling
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma Integrative Counselling Postgraduate Certificate Integrative Counselling
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">• 24 months (full time, campus based)• 36 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.
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, plus the location of placements. The Understanding Social Research and Evaluation module is delivered online
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 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.

All assessments to be passed and pass/fail assessments

- All components of assessments must be passed at the threshold pass or a pass for pass/fail marking to pass a module.
- All components of assessment and all modules must be passed to achieve the award.

Placements

The placement requirements and minimum hours for placements must also be met to pass the course.

Attendance

Under the University's Academic Engagement Policy, students are expected to attend all scheduled sessions on the course. Also, the course has a minimum attendance requirement at the University of 95% for the professional modules, which equates to 28.5 days' attendance across the 30 study days of the academic year. A study day requires attendance on all modules and attendance is recorded separately for each module. This attendance ensures students meet the minimum contact hours required by the BACP, in order to achieve a BACP-accredited qualification. Details are provided in the Course Handbook.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Exemption from academic credit or placement hours through any prior learning (RPL/RPEL/RPCL/credit transfer) is not allowed in order to meet the requirements of the BACP for the accreditation of the course.

Period of Registration/Normal Durations of Periods of Study

Currently the period of registration for the courses mean that students have a maximum of 5 years to secure 100 hours of client time. However, the staff team and BACP feel this is too long and potentially constitutes a fitness to practice concern.

The time frame has been reduced from 5 to 3 years after teaching has ended as the absolute maximum time allowed for students to secure the 100 hours practicum element of these programmes.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)

Accreditation/recognition summary

The MA Integrative Counselling course meets the requirements of the BACP's stage 3 Core practitioner training - see details here: <https://www.bacp.co.uk/careers/careers-in-counselling/training/>

The MA Integrative Counselling course is accredited by the BACP. Graduates of the course can register as members of the BACP and join the BACP register for counsellors and psychotherapists. Additionally, graduates of the course are able to work towards achieving accredited status with the BACP:

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/membership/registered-membership>

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

This involves supervised practice with clients in a confidential setting in a placement from the University approved list. Students require external placement supervision and personal therapy. We maintain excellent relationships with a range of agencies throughout the region via our External Partner Network. You will have access to our approved lists of therapists, supervisors and placements providers to assist you in finding a practice placement.

See the Online Prospectus for additional costs related specifically to placements, supervision and personal therapy: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/integrative-counselling-ma>

Placement Delivery

100 hours of client contact under supervision with an approved supervisor.

Location

Student's choice and University-approved.

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

Paul Nicholson

Your course administrator

Simon Madley, s.madley@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- Provide an inclusive education and training in therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy that meets the standards for professional recognition by the BACP.
- Offer a systematic and thorough education and training in integrative counselling via Relational approaches to therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy.
- Develop an advanced critical reflexive understanding of the theory, practice and research of counselling and psychotherapy.

Students gain a critical and comprehensive understanding of Relational theory and practice and learn how to apply therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy skills with clients. Through supervised practice, which follows the BACP core curriculum, students identify their strengths and areas for development, ensuring they become capable and self-reflective practitioners. Integrative counselling looks at the whole person, taking into account mental, physical and emotional needs and the therapist uses techniques and tools from different modalities to tailor an individual approach for their client.

The course also aims to accommodate the personal and professional challenges of being a counsellor through reflective practice and original contribution to the field via research and a dissertation.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	A systematic and empirically informed understanding of Relational theory in the provision of a professional practice approach to counselling.
2	A critical understanding and reflexive ability to integrate a range of theoretical approaches into a coherent model of practice.
3	The capabilities to integrate and synthesise theoretical and experiential knowledge into a reflective practice approach necessary for critically engaging with diversity, anti-oppressive practice and contemporary social issues in professional counselling and related settings.
4	A critical understanding of professional standards from a range of relevant disciplines to take an evidenced-based view on how to work competently with complex psychotherapeutic issues and meet recognised training requirements.
5	The ability to work independently or with groups, to problem solve, generate and communicate research-based evidence that supports best practice in the counselling field.
6	A reflective and critical awareness of the ethical and professional considerations in counselling research.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The teaching and learning on the course are delivered on campus in person. The Understanding Social Research and Evaluation module is delivered remotely, and the dissertation can be discussed in person or online with Supervisor.

Learning and teaching activities consist of a mix of tutorials, group and individual activities, workshops and case study analysis, where students are given opportunities to relate the material covered to the workplace. The teaching and learning style is student-centred and an inclusive environment is created in which students learn by sharing their own and their peers experience through the development of critical reflection, dialogue and debate. The group agrees a code of conduct, which respects and values the individuals within the group, whilst taking responsibility for their own psychological safety. This is further enhanced through students developing the core conditions of empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard, as described by Carl Rogers.

As part of the course, students undertake a placement of 100 hours of supervised practice with adult clients (aged over 16). Students undertake external training supervision that meets BACP requirements. Students also undertake at least 20 hours of external personal therapy, which provides students with first-hand experience as a client, and they can then link this insight back to their theoretical grounding and research. Placements, external supervisors and personal therapists are taken from a University-approved list. Students also attend internal supervision as part of the Therapeutic Process and Supervision module.

There is an emphasis on the practical application of theory to a working environment and on the opportunity for students to think about, discuss, and where possible, relate theory to practice. Students gain an understanding of Relational framework theory and practice and learn how to apply their therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy skills with clients. Through supervised practice, students identify their strengths and areas for development, ensuring they become a capable and self-reflective practitioner.

Students are taught alongside the students on the Diploma HE Therapeutic Counselling Skills (level 5) and PG Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy courses. Learning and teaching activities are sometimes differentiated from the level 5 students to support the development of level 7 academic skills and formative and summative assessments.

Formally integrated into the professional training is the BACP's 2021 Online and phone therapy (OPT) training curriculum. This is constituted out of eleven subject areas which are covered across the six core clinical modules associated with this course. The various items in the curriculum have been interwoven into existing teaching and learning scheduling and activities and represent a triangulation of existing theory and skills with the differences presented to practice when working in online and phone therapy media. This expansion is driven by a dual commitment: enhancing the accessibility of therapeutic services for clients and responding to the changing landscape of psychotherapy practice in the 21st century.

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 7, Full-time
Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1		
Personal and Professional Development 1	20	Year-long
Relational Framework	20	Year-long
Therapeutic Skills	20	Year-long
Understanding Social Research and Evaluation (online delivery)	20	2
Year 2		
Personal and Professional Development 2	20	Year-long
Becoming a Therapist	20	Year-long
Therapeutic Process and Supervision	20	Year-long
Dissertation	40	Year-long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

Level 7, Part-time
Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1		
Personal and Professional Development 1	20	Year-long
Relational Framework	20	Year-long
Therapeutic Skills	20	Year-long
Year 2		
Personal and Professional Development 2	20	Year-long
Becoming a Therapist	20	Year-long
Therapeutic Skills	20	Year-long
Year 3		
Understanding Social Research and Evaluation (online delivery)	20	1
Dissertation	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	180	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules. 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

The course is assessed by coursework, practical assessments and a dissertation. Placements are assessed.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	486 hours
Independent study	1176 hours
Placement	138 hours