



LEEDS
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UNIVERSITY

Course

Specification

**MSc Learning and
People Development
Top-up**

Course Code: MLPDT

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Learning and People Development Top-Up (MLPDT)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed Nov 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Science Learning and People Development (Top-Up)
Contained awards	N/A
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course lengths and standard timescales	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months (part time, campus based, September start)• 12 months (part time, campus based, January start)
Part time study	The course is delivered on a part-time basis only.
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.
Entry requirements	<p>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/</p> <p>Admissions enquiries may be directed to: AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.</p>
Course fees	<p>Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.</p> <p>Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.</p>

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 Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD)

Accreditation/ Recognition Summary

Leeds Beckett University is a CIPD accredited centre. The course is not mapped to CIPD standards as students eligible for the MSc Learning and People Development (Top-Up) will normally have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and People Development which itself confers eligibility for Associate Membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development at Level 7. This is the CIPD's highest level of academic qualification and a significant steppingstone for those seeking to advance their HR career and achieve CIPD Chartered Member and Chartered Fellow status. Therefore, this course demonstrates your dedication to further enhancing your industry expertise and credibility by completing a significant research project.

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 Christine Daley

Your course administrator Norma Cannonier (hrmcoursesadmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Course Overview

Aims

The course aims to further develop critical, ethical, agile, competent, resilient and reflective learning and development practitioners who can perform effectively across a range of business contexts in varied sectors and regions in UK and global contexts, and demonstrate the capabilities required for professionals in the field of people management and development. The course seeks to facilitate the further knowledge and understanding of a broad range of inclusive learning and development, people management, managerial and business principles and practices, as well as the development of related skills and competencies. This will enable creative problem-solving using sophisticated judgment in the absence of complete data.

The aims of the course reflect the requirements of the University, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). The QAA works with universities to ensure the quality of the student experience and this course meets the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for master's degrees in Business and Management.

The MSc Learning and People Development (Top-Up) is primarily aimed at students from home and overseas who wish to further develop their academic capabilities and management aspirations to develop their career in the fields of Learning and People Development.

Students join the programme with 120 credits credit points at Level 7 derived from completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and People Development. They study the 60-credit PG Major Project in order to attain the full 180 credits of a full master’s level qualification under the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Evaluate, synthesise and apply advanced and contemporary themes, theory and techniques to a diverse range of complex and open-ended issues, problems and situations in the field of learning and development, and people management.
2	Employ enhanced critical understanding of the strategic perspective of people management and development practice in external and internal business contexts, and in UK and global environments, and make ethical and informed quantitative and/or qualitative judgements about solutions in the absence of complete data.
3	Apply their enhanced knowledge and expertise in a specific area of people management, with a degree of creativity and transferable skills to organisational and professional settings with inclusivity, sensitivity to equality, diversity, and culture.
4	Learn independently and interdependently accepting responsibility for subsequent career and continuing professional development, demonstrating a critical, ethical, agile, responsible, resilient, and reflective approach to professional practice consistent with the standards of the CIPD at Level 7.
5	Apply with a degree of creativity, sophistication and ethical oversight; intellectual, transferable and subject/ professional skills to a specific complex organisational problem and/or situation in the field of Learning and People Development.
6	Execute and deliver an applied research project, with due regard to ethical considerations, research philosophy and methodologies. This research project will seek to influence policy and practice within a professional people management and development context and add positively to the pool of established research into current HR related business issues.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The approach to learning and teaching is developed to meet the values and aims of the University’s Education Strategy. The course is centred on professional development of students in line with the CIPD standards.

Our teaching and learning philosophy puts students at the centre of our activities, with a focus on interactive seminars rather than formal lectures. This provides a flexible, relevant and inclusive curriculum drawing on the varied experience of the students as key stakeholders in a knowledge sharing forum. Our teaching is informed by our academics' varied research and/or expert professional practice across a range of learning and development and HR activity in UK, European and global organisational contexts. Guest lectures from accomplished professionals provide individual insight into the varied fields of learning and development, people management and other associated occupations. Our teaching is enriched by the diverse previous home, educational and workplace background of our students. Great value is placed on individual insight, perspective and interest, regardless of prior experience or attainment. There is a strong focus on employability with a clear theme of applied learning, so students will critically analyse the approach/practice of HR within genuine case examples, which may be drawn from academics' own experience or research, or from the course team's links with the business community.

As befits a postgraduate programme, there is also a clear emphasis on individual research and independent study, but the course team and individual academic's strong links with the CIPD and the business community may provide mentoring, networking, research and employment opportunities to enhance the professional development of our students.

Our teaching and learning philosophy enables our students to be active participants in their learning journey.

Resource support is provided by module materials, reading and independent learning activities, which are accessible on My Beckett, the University's Virtual learning Environment (VLE).

Further, the programme may include students attending practitioner conferences, CIPD conferences and events and the Leeds Business School Guest Lecture programme, to share their knowledge with both practitioners and academic communities and celebrate their achievements.

You will be encouraged to make contributions based on evidence-based thinking from management science and practitioner experience. You will be supported to respond to challenges from those with opposing perspectives.

Your module

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Compulsory modules (part-time)

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
PG Major Project	60	YL

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course has been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the course director.

Assessment

The PG Major Project module runs for one calendar year commencing with taught classes in the first semester. During this semester, students receive tuition in research methods and receive dedicated one to one support in identifying and crafting their major project topic.

Workload

The number of hours of workload equates to 600 for a Masters Top Up, corresponding to the national standard of 10 notional hours of learning for each UK HE credit point.

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	33 hours
Independent study	567 hours
Placement	N/A