



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course

Specification

MA Public Policy

Course Code: MPUBP

2026/27

MA Public Policy (MPUBP)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 10/2025

General Information

Award	Master of Arts Public Policy
Contained awards	Postgraduate Certificate Public Policy Postgraduate Diploma Public Policy
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">• 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. PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. 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. The majority of teaching will be at Headingley campus but on occasion may be at City 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

Accreditation/recognition summary

N/A

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

Dr Robin Redhead
R.Redhead@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your course administrator

You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the admin team is:
PIRAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to develop in students:

1. Provide students with knowledge of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of policy making and challenges to it.
2. Provide students with an understanding of the concepts, theories and methods used in the study and practice of public policy.
3. Transform students into sophisticated, independent and critical thinkers in the field of public policy.
4. Support students in their transition to postgraduate study so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and be able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations.
5. Provide students with a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic or professional environment.
6. Enable students to apply their knowledge of public policy with originality within advanced academic contexts.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of public policy informed by current scholarship and research, including a critical awareness of current issues, theories and developments in the subject area.
2	Demonstrate a sophistication in their critical thinking and independence of thought, through the ability to apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of public policy to analyse political choices, practices and issues in a professional context.
3	Demonstrate effective teamwork and collaborative skills with colleagues, academics, practitioners and wider stakeholders, and professional standards of appropriate written and oral communication.
4	Demonstrate in-depth understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, critically apply a range of techniques and research methods and digital literacy skills to access, process and evaluate information, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment.

5	Demonstrate originality and creativity in the application of knowledge and an understanding of how new knowledge is created and synthesised through the production of a significant piece of high-level independent work in the field of public policy.
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Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching will be delivered via blended learning, with in person seminars, and additional online learning resources provided via our Virtual Learning Environment. Teaching methods will focus on small group discussion and debate, supported by mini lectures where appropriate, and supplemented by sessions in IT labs to develop skills using appropriate software. The students' experience of the delivery of this course is through a range of teaching methods and learning activities. While the lecturers and tutors are there to disseminate knowledge and facilitate learning, there is an emphasis on students' collaboration in the learning experience. Students are encouraged to set their own tasks, within clearly identified structures, to meet the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. Similarly, reading lists are less prescriptive and encourage students to locate their own resources. Students will benefit from having access to outside speakers through the Politics & International Relations Festival and seminar series which will broaden their learning experience. The VLE (My Beckett) is used to provide materials, but is also a forum for discussion, assessment and the sharing of resources and feedback.

The range of learning activities not only provides an opportunity for students to develop communication skills via different media, but also accommodates different learning styles amongst students.

The course ensures that teaching and learning contexts are (i) non-discriminatory and tailored for each student with a reasonable adjustment plan; (ii) respectful and valuing the perspectives and experiences each individual can offer; (iii) promoting the values and practices associated with inclusive attitudes and behaviours in others.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. 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.

September Starters

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
MA Dissertation and Research Design	60	1 and 2
Policy Challenges	20	1
Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights OR The Politics of Public Policy*	20	2
Developing & Managing Projects	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Gendering the International	20	1
Housing Needs	20	1
Policies for Health in the 21st Century	20	1 and 2
Transforming Punishment & Rehabilitation	20	1
Useable Pasts	20	1
Contemporary Criminal (in)Justice	20	2
Planning for Environmental Sustainability	20	2
Critical Perspectives in Youth & Community Work	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

*Only one of the core modules, Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights or The Politics of Public Policy will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

Full time students will study two option modules in Semester 1 and one option module in Semester 2.

In Year 1 part-time students will study 1 core and 1 option module in Semester 1 and 2 core modules in Semester 2.

In Year 2, part-time students will study 1 core module (MA Dissertation & Research Design) and 1 option in Semester 1 and 1 option in Semester 2.

January Starters

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
MA Dissertation and Research Design	60	1 and 2
Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights OR The Politics of Public Policy*	20	1
Developing & Managing Projects	20	1
Policy Challenges	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Contemporary Criminal (in)Justice	20	1
Policies for Health in the 21st Century	20	1 and 2
Planning for Environmental Sustainability	20	1
Critical Perspectives in Youth & Community Work	20	1
Gendering the International	20	2
Housing Needs	20	2
Transforming Punishment & Rehabilitation	20	2
Useable Pasts	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	60	

*Only one of the core modules, Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights or The Politics of Public Policy will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

Full time students will study one option module in Semester 1 and two option modules in Semester 2.

In Year 1 part-time students will study 2 core modules in Semester 1 and 1 core module and 1 option module in Semester 2.

In Year 2, part-time students will study 1 core module (MA Dissertation & Research Design) and 1 option in Semester 1 and 1 option in Semester 2.

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.

Assessment

On this course students will be assessed by coursework predominantly, with some timed and practical assessments.

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, learning and assessment	158 hours
Independent study	1842 hours
Placement	-