



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre- Registration)

Course Code: MSCOT

2026/27 (January 2027 entry)

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-Registration) (MSCOT)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Science Occupational Therapy (Pre-Registration)
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma Occupational Therapy (Pre-Registration)
<i>Non-Professional</i>	Master of Science Human Occupation Postgraduate Diploma Human Occupation Postgraduate Certificate Human Occupation
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, January start date)
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, plus location of placements.
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.

The course is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council and accredited by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and is subject to their current standards and regulations.

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.

Attendance

All modules on the course, including placements, have mandatory attendance.

Students will evidence having caught up with missed classes through a process of Theory Retrieval. This will require any student who has missed a session to complete and submit a 500-word reflection on the session and evidence the way in which they have caught up on the content. The reflections will be submitted in a Pebble Pad Missed Work Portfolio. In addition, if a student's non-attendance is sufficient to give cause for concern regarding the students' fitness to practise this will then be managed through application of the Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedures or the Engagement and Attendance policy.

Placement attendance

A student must fully attend practice placements in order to be assessed. If a student is unable to complete a placement through illness or other extenuating circumstance the practice educator together with the university link tutor will decide in any particular case whether the student's attendance has been sufficient to enable the student to be assessed against the module learning outcomes. If this is allowed and the students' performance is at a pass level the completed hours will be counted towards the minimum number of hours of practice.

A student who fails to complete the minimum number of hours of practice (being 1000 hours as stipulated by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists) will need to undertake additional periods of practice to meet this requirement.

Achievement of the award: passing modules and components of assessment

All modules, including placements, are core modules and must be passed. All modules (and components of assessments in the modules) must be passed at the threshold mark. The threshold pass for a module is an average of 50% achieved across all components of assessment. To achieve the award, students must achieve an average of 50% or more in all modules, totalling 180 credits.

Pre-requisite assessment to be passed prior to commencing placement

On the year one module 'Achieving Occupational Potential' there are two assessments, and the examination (OSCE) assessment must be passed before a student can commence the Practice Placement 1 module and attend placement. If a student fails this assessment, there will be a reassessment opportunity. If this reassessment is passed, students can commence Practice Placement 1.

If the reassessment is failed, the module is deemed to be failed and at the Examination Board at the end of the level a student will normally receive a repeat module decision, and the module is repeated prior to commencing Practice Placement 1. On the repeat opportunity, if the 'Achieving Occupational Potential' examination assessment is failed, there will be a reassessment opportunity.

Practice placements

Practice placements are non-credit bearing. These are sequential and pre-requisites to the next practice placement; only one attempt at retrieval is permissible for each practice placement. Retrieval will be denied if failure occurred on the grounds of professional suitability.

Assessments with pass/fail marking

- Achieving Occupational Potential (exam) – this assignment must be passed to pass the module.

Professional awards

Target award: MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration): Achieved 180 credits at Level 7, all modules passed, successfully completed all practice placement elements and completed a minimum of 1000 hours of practice. This award confers eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council as an occupational therapist.

Contained award: Postgraduate Diploma Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration): Achieved 120 credits at Level 7 (excluding Applied Research and Research Methods and Design module) and successfully completed all practice placement elements and completed a minimum of 1000 hours of practice. This award confers eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council as an occupational therapist.

Other contained awards

These contained awards do not confer eligibility to register with the Health and Care Professions Council and follow the standard Academic Regulations:

- Master of Science Human Occupation: Total 180 credits at Level 7. (Excluding PP5 placement)
- Postgraduate Diploma Human Occupation: Total 120 credits at Level 7 (excluding Applied Research module and PP5 placement).
- Postgraduate Certificate Human Occupation: Total 60 credits at Level 7.

Aegrotat awards do not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

Other

Applicants are required to undertake DBS and Occupational Health clearance checks. Compliance with Occupational Health checks and with immunisations is mandatory and essential for placement attendance. Occupational health costs are currently covered within your course fees. If you fail to attend your appointment you may be charged a missed appointment fee. Non-compliance with this process will be managed through application of the Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedures. Students must comply with Placement Provider dress codes.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Regulatory body

Health and Care Professions Council/HCPC: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/>

Professional bodies

Royal College of Occupational Therapists/RCOT: <https://www.rcot.co.uk/>

World Federation of Occupational Therapists/WFOT: <https://www.wfot.org/>

Accreditation/recognition summary

The course is approved by the HCPC for the purpose of eligibility to apply for entry to the HCPC Register as an Occupational Therapist.

This programme is written in accordance with guidance from the Standards of Education and Training (HCPC, 2017) Standards of Proficiency for Occupational Therapists (HCPC, 2013, revised 2023 for 2023-24 onwards); Royal College of Occupational Therapists' Learning and Development Standards for Pre-registration Education (COT, 2014 & RCOT, 2019), the Entry Level Occupational Therapy Core Knowledge and Practice Skills (RCOT, 2016) and the Minimum Standards for the Education of Occupational Therapists written by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT, 2016).

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The University supports students to gain valuable experience through practice placements. Our placement teams have developed strong links with placement providers, many of whom repeatedly recruit our students.

Our teams are dedicated to supporting students through every stage of the placement process and details of our Health and Social Care Practice Learning team can be found here: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/health-practice-learning-hub/>

Placement Delivery

A minimum of 1000 hours undertaken across Level 7. All placements must be passed.

Placement 1	1 week
Placement 2	5 weeks
Placement 3	6 weeks
Placement 4	6 weeks
Placement 5	10 weeks

The placement weeks allow for a total of 1050 hours to account for minor absence during the five placements.

Location

The locations of practice placements will be mainly within Leeds and the surrounding area and in a variety of locations, such as the NHS, social care, private practice, and third sector organisations. Other placement settings may be allowed at the discretion of the Course Director and Placements Co-ordinator. Simulated learning may also be included to a maximum of 40 hours.

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 Heather Baglee

Your course administrator

Maxine Allinson, M.L.Allinson@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

This programme embodies the beliefs, values, core skills and knowledge consistent with the occupational therapy profession. This course teaches students to become occupational therapists who are committed to promoting quality of life and realisation of potential in people who are well, unwell, able and have disabilities, and are experiencing occupational injustices such as deprivation, disruption, imbalance or marginalisation (RCOT, 2019). It employs the philosophies of contemporary and innovative practice, responding to the key principles required of a proactive, efficient, and responsive profession.

Graduates will have strong skills in applying a creative and dynamic occupational therapy process to people from diverse backgrounds; utilising evidence to inform their occupation-centred assessments, interventions and outcomes. Leeds Beckett occupational therapy students and graduates will have a strong professional identity and a commitment to enabling people locally, nationally and globally to fulfil their potential as occupational beings (RCOT, 2019).

The programme is anticipatory and addresses occupational participation at population as well as individual levels as recommended by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (2016). This also reflects Leeds Beckett's priorities of graduate attributes of a global outlook, enterprise and employability (Smith, 2016). This programme has a cohesive application of theory and evidence to practice which is reinforced and supported by a robust collaboration with local and national occupational therapists as well as other healthcare professions (HCPC, 2017). The programme is student-centred and heterogeneous, with an inclusive and compassionate curriculum, so that students fulfil their own potential and reflect the richness and diversity of the profession (RCOT, 2019).

The aims of the programme are to:

- Develop graduates who are experts in understanding health and wellbeing through occupation.
- Equip graduates to be autonomous and creative in the delivery of the occupational therapy process.
- Create clinical scholars who use theory, research, policy, guidance and expert practice to inform their work.
- Prepare graduates to be locally, national and globally aware through critical, reflective, innovative and digitally literate practice.
- Support graduates to become committed advocates of occupational justice.
- Support students to develop cultural humility and become caring, and compassionate occupational therapists.
- Prepare graduates to meet the requirements of professional registration.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Interpret and analyse the occupational needs of service users, with a commitment to working in partnership to understand their lived experience.
2	Employ therapeutic use of self, cultural humility and effective communication to build collaborative relationships with service users.
3	Critically appraise and apply a range of current evidence to occupational therapy practice and conduct research that contributes original knowledge to the profession.
4	Creatively employ and evaluate the principles of occupation-centred, based and focused occupational therapy in a variety of settings.

5	Promote occupational therapy and occupational justice across local, national and global contexts.
6	Work effectively in teams, including a critical awareness and reflection of own team roles and responsibilities.
7	Demonstrate leadership, management and research skills that promote efficient, effective, innovative and competitive occupational therapy services.
8	Work autonomously and be accountable for personal and professional practice.
9	Show a commitment to the profession and its future through ethical practice and lifelong learning.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The course is taught predominantly with on campus teaching. There may be some occasions where the teaching content will suggest an online class, e.g., international speakers joining the class via an online platform. Where appropriate lectures will be recorded - this is dependent on technology available and the content of the session. Group work and practical sessions will not be recorded.

The programme uses an integrated approach to teaching and learning. This approach will ensure that students develop their professional behaviours and attitudes, and gain the skills and knowledge required to deliver occupational therapy in a diverse range of settings.

The course has a series of modules which reflect occupations and occupational therapy throughout the lifespan, combining the knowledge gained from occupational science and therapy and applying this to practice. The modules embrace occupational therapy in diverse settings and contexts, including health promotion, primary care, community, secondary and tertiary care. Inquiry-based learning, a form of active learning that poses questions and scenarios, provides a structure for many modules and this encompasses group work, tutorials, lectures, practical and self-directed and virtual learning. Each module encourages active participation with interactive opportunities such as debates, peer teaching and flipped classrooms, as well as the integrated use of technology.

Teaching activities take place in multi-purpose rooms with additional specialist facilities for clinical and interpersonal skills development. Our clinical skills suite has an apartment space with kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living room, and a hospital simulation suite with viewing room.

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

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1		
Occupations Across the Lifespan	20	1
Research Methods and Design	20	1
Achieving Occupational Potential	20	1
Practice Placement 1	0	1
Applied Research	40	Year-long
Occupational Therapy as a Complex Intervention	40	2
Practice Placement 1	0	2
Year 2		
Applied Research <i>continues</i>		Year-long
Critical Perspectives of Occupation	20	1
Visionary Occupational Therapy: Designing Tomorrows Practice	20	1
Practice Placement 3	0	1
Practice Placement 4	0	1
Practice Placement 5	0	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

Level 7

Modules are assessed mainly by coursework, with some examinations and practical assessments. Students are assessed on placement.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	538 hours
Independent study	1291 hours
Placement (non-academic credit)	1050 hours