



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

Postgraduate Certificate Mental Health Practice

Course Code: PCMHP

2026/27 (January 2027 start)

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Postgraduate Certificate Mental Health Practice (PCMHP)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Postgraduate Certificate Mental Health Practice
Contained awards	None
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	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">• 9 months (part time, campus based)
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, plus location of placement.
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.

Achievement of the award

The Postgraduate Certificate is awarded for the attainment of a minimum of 60 level 7 credit points. All components of assessment must be passed to pass a module, and all modules must be passed to achieve the award.

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 requirements

As well as following the University's Academic Engagement Policy, the course has minimum attendance requirements. Attendance is monitored and additional student support is used if patterns of non-attendance are noted, and employers advised. Students are required to give their agreement that their attendance monitoring can be shared with their employers/ sponsors. The module handbooks provide information on the actions required to assimilate learning for any missed sessions. Where students fail to complete the minimum hours, they meet with the Course Leader to discuss their non-attendance and work in partnership to devise an appropriate action plan. Where there are significant issues of non-attendance, students may be required to repeat the module. This would only be implemented after the Course Leader, the student and their agency representative have explored all other options and have agreed on this course of action.

- Perspectives on Mental Distress – 80% minimum attendance
- Mental Health Law and Policy – 80% minimum attendance
- Approved Mental Health Professional Practice – 80% minimum attendance

Placement attendance

Students need to complete 60 days of placement

Academic calendar

This course follows a non-standard calendar to accommodate placement hours

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Social Work England

Accreditation/recognition summary

This course is approved by Social Work England who is responsible for publishing the list of Approved Mental Health Professional programmes in England. On completion of the course, an individual will need to be approved by a Local Social Services Authority (LSSA) before they can act as an AMHP.

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The course contains a modular placement.

Placement Delivery

Students undertake a placement of 60 days, with this being split into two six-week blocks. Within the placement, the student will normally be placed in a different setting from the one that they currently work in, although it is acknowledged that many will likely sit in the local authority's Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) hub. The placement must have a minimum two AMHP's, with one acting as the student's practice assessor and the other providing support should the designated AMHP not be available.

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

Gill Impey

Your course administrator

Evie Marsh, e.a.marsh@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The course, which provides Approved Mental Health Professional training, has been designed to enhance the professional development of registered social workers, mental health and learning disabilities nurses, occupational therapists and practitioner psychologists. The aim of the course is to provide training to meet the needs of mental health professionals who wish to seek approval as Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) under the terms of the Mental Health Act 1983 (amended by the Mental Health Act 2007). The course is designed to meet the requirements of the Mental Health (Approval of Persons to be Approved Mental Health Professionals) (England) Regulations, 2008 and those achieving the award will be eligible for consideration by the relevant local authority for approval to act as an AMHP.

The course enables students to reflect critically on the needs of service users and their carers; to maximise outcomes for their benefit; to review the nature of multi-professional and multi-agency working; to critically assess the nature and direction of mental health policy; and to develop skills in risk assessment and the protection of service users. Partnership with local and regional employers underpins the development of the course.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate a critical awareness and systematic evaluation of the legislative and policy context for the delivery of mental health services.
2	Ensure high standards of value-based practice within a clear ethical approach underpinned by the 'Essential Shared Capabilities'.
3	Critically evaluate current research and independently examine relevant knowledge including models of mental health and illness.
4	Demonstrate the competencies required of an AMHP as set out in Schedule 2 to the Mental Health (Approved Mental Health Professionals) (Approval) (England) Regulations, 2008.
5	Demonstrate a critical and reflective approach to their own practice in order to critically evaluate the delivery of mental health services and take responsibility for their own continuing professional development.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching and learning is normally on campus. One to one activities (e.g., tutorials) may be online by arrangement.

The course promotes an inclusive environment that involves behaving in a non-discriminatory way, being respectful of others and valuing diversity. The course encourages students to engage in respectful discussion, debate, collaborative work and research, in order to recognise and learn from different viewpoints and critically examine diverse theoretical perspectives. Students are encouraged to identify and evaluate their learning styles and preferences and to develop action plans and Learning Contracts to support self-directed learning. The course employs a variety of teaching styles and assessment methods to promote and enable inclusive learning.

Teaching takes place in multi-purpose teaching spaces in the University, with additional specialist teaching and learning facilities for inter-personal skills development and experiential learning within the School. Teaching approaches include staff and/or practitioner led lectures (including podcasts) and workshops for skills development.

To develop self-directed learning, students are encouraged to participate in student-led seminars, as well as group work activities and action learning sets to promote shared learning, peer feedback and team working skills. Analytical skills and critical thinking are developed through reflective learning blogs and critical incident analyses as well as problem-based learning activities. Problem-based learning, case study analysis and experiential learning are used to integrate theory and practice and to develop critical application of theory.

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
Mental Health Law and Policy	20	1
Perspectives on Mental Distress	20	1
Approved Mental Health Professional Practice	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

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

This course is assessed predominantly by coursework, examinations and a portfolio. Students are assessed in practice.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	224 hours
Independent study	30 hours
Placement	300 hours