



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

Postgraduate Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy

Course Code: PDPCT

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Postgraduate Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy (PDPCT)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Postgraduate Diploma Counselling and Psychotherapy
Contained awards	Postgraduate Certificate Counselling and Psychotherapy
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 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 (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 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.

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%, 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.

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 target award 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 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. See the Online Prospectus for additional costs related specifically to placements, supervision and personal therapy:

https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/counsellingpsychotherapy_pgdipl/

Placement Delivery

100 hours over the course of client contract 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 education and training in therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy that meets the standards for professional recognition by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.
- Offer a systematic and thorough education and training in the Relational approach to therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy.
- Develop an advanced critical reflexive understanding of the theory and practice 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.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	A critical understanding of professional standards of therapeutic counselling practice.
2	A systematic and empirically informed understanding of the theory and practice of a Relational approach to counselling.
3	A reflexive understanding of and an ability to integrate a range of theoretical approaches into a coherent model of practice.
4	A critical awareness of reflexivity in counselling practice.
5	An ability to work competently with diversity and with an anti-oppressive practice.
6	Competency in working therapeutically with more complex psychotherapeutic concepts and issues.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The teaching and learning on the course are delivered on campus in person.

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, while 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.

Students are taught alongside the students on the Diploma HE Therapeutic Counselling Skills (level 5) and MA Integrative Counselling 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.

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, normally, 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 practical application of theory to a working environment and 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.

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

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 Process and Supervision	20	Year-long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

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

The course is assessed by course work and practical assessments. Placements on this course are assessed.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	420 hours
Independent study	642 hours
Placement	138 hours