



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

BA (Hons) Social Work

Course Code: SWKBA

2026/27

leedsbeckett.ac.uk

BA (Hons) Social Work (SWKBA)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Social Work
Contained awards	Bachelor of Arts Social Studies (Level 6)
<i>Non-professional</i>	Diploma of Higher Education Social Studies (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education Social Studies (Level 4)
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
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">• 3 years (full 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/work-based learning.
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.

Attendance

The course follows the University's Academic Engagement Policy, and expects attendance at all mandatory sessions on the timetable. All sessions are mandatory unless indicated as voluntary (e.g. drop-in sessions). Additionally, the full placement days for the relevant placement level must be completed. Details of how absences are managed are detailed in the Course Handbook and the Placement Handbook. Attendance is monitored through the academic advisor process and in liaison with the Level Tutor and Course Director.

Progression and achievement of the award

All assessments, components of assessment, modules and placements, must be passed for progression to the next level and for the conferment of the award. The course does not allow for compensation or condoning of marks by the Progression and Award Board.

Mitigation

No mitigation is allowed for the practice component.

Placement progression

Placement progression is assessed through the practice settings and professional requirements. The Practice Assessment Examination Committee (PAEC) meets twice yearly to discuss practice assessments and makes recommendations concerning the progression of students to the Progression and Award Board.

Failing placement

Students normally have only one opportunity to repeat a placement throughout the course. Students who fail two assessed practice learning placements across the whole course will be deemed to have failed the course and recommendation made to the Progression and Award Board for the student to be withdrawn from course and be credited with completed modules. This includes students who withdraw from placement following practice concerns and/or an action plan. Students in this situation will be discussed at PAEC, and a fail recommendation will normally be suggested.

The University cannot guarantee that a repeat placement can be sourced but will work with partners in the Teaching Partnership to make every reasonable effort to do so. Students who fail or withdraw from placement will complete a Readiness for Practice plan with their tutors, prior to any repeat placement, as outlined below.

Readiness for practice

The Professional Capabilities Framework outlines a number of statements relating to Readiness for Practice for student social workers which impact upon student progression as follows:

- Prior to first placement, students are assessed on their communication skills and ability to learn from feedback. The ability of students to apply basic social work knowledge, skills and values will also be assessed through an interview and written reflection.

- Students are also assessed at the end of the first practice placement concerning their readiness to progress to the second practice placement where more complex work will be undertaken.
- Students who have failed or withdrawn from placement must complete a Readiness for Practice Plan as determined by their tutor which will be considered by Practice Assessment Examination Committee (PAEC). Students who fail to undertake or complete a Readiness for Practice Plan will not be offered a further practice placement. All External Examiners are invited to attend PAEC and it is a requirement that at least one will be available for this meeting.

Contained Awards

The contained awards do not provide eligibility to apply for registration as a social worker.

Academic calendar

This course follows a non-standard calendar to accommodate placements.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

Social Work England

Accreditation/recognition summary

Successful completion of the course provides eligibility to apply for registration as a social worker in England.

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

Students are required to complete assessed practice in levels 5 and 6 (years 2 and 3) of the course and undertake volunteering or paid employment in level 4 (year 1) in a relevant social care field.

Placement Delivery

Level 4 – 100 hours of social care experience

Level 5 placement – 70 hours

Level 6 placement – 100 days

Location

Level 4 social care experience: student's choice

Level 5 placement: normally with local authorities or health and social care organisations that undertake statutory social work tasks.

Level 6 placement: within a statutory context.

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 David Mercer

Your course administrator Evie Marsh, e.a.marsh@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

We have designed a course that is generic in preparing newly qualified social workers to work with both children and adult social service users yet also allows students to develop specialisms in relation to an area of practice towards the end of their studies. We seek to develop professionals who can draw upon evidence informed research to use appropriately to monitor and assess both the effectiveness of their practice and the delivery of social work in an inter-professional context.

In developing the course, the development team has been aware of its obligation to provide a unique knowledge and skill base in social work recognising the demands and requirements of the external bodies and professional requirements. Every aspect of the curriculum is informed by the Professional Capabilities Framework, which enables holistic assessment of students' progress from the admissions process through to qualifying level and encourages a lifelong learning approach and a commitment to continuing professional education. The course offers a programme of applied and blended learning which supports the development of a diverse range of learners. The course also aims to develop confident and resilient professionals who are able to take on the further challenges of the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment, the employer-led programme of support and assessment for new social workers.

Course learning outcomes

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

1	Demonstrate the ability to critically apply evidence-based knowledge, theory and skills to inform competent social work practice.
2	Demonstrate the ability to be accountable for the management and development of self as a professional practitioner.
3	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the impact of organisational context and change on effective social work practice.
4	Apply critical reflection and analysis in order to provide solutions to problems in practice.
5	Apply global principles of human rights and citizenship principles to demonstrate best practice in working with a diverse range of service user groups.
6	Transfer a range of generic skills to the positive development of effective and independent social work practice.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

Teaching and learning is normally face to face on campus. Lectures will normally be recorded although attendance is mandatory. One to one activities (e.g., tutorials or placement visits) may be online by arrangement. Teaching takes place in multi-purpose teaching spaces throughout 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, lecture recordings, online seminars) and workshops for skills development. Thirty days for skills development are embedded throughout the curriculum. This incorporates a readiness for practice assessment and has been used creatively to prepare students for their first and second placements.

Social work practitioners and service users and carers work alongside academic tutors and students in developing students' practice skills against the Professional Capabilities Framework and knowledge and

skills statements. Examples include activities to develop and assess communication and inter-personal skills and court and report writing skills.

To develop active learning, students are encouraged to participate in student-led seminars and presentations, 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.

Inter-personal skills are central to social work practice, and these are taught through the use of dedicated communication skills facilities to rehearse and develop inter-personal skills using feedback approaches that involve social work professionals, service users and carers. The role plays and activities involve scripted roles and are recorded. Students are assured of confidentiality and respect and are asked to sign consent forms. Ground rules are agreed and established early in the course, which emphasise the importance of mutual respect and support. We may sometimes use videos as promotional materials, but students are required to provide consent for this.

Electronic portfolios are widely used throughout the curriculum to demonstrate evidence of skills development and reflective learning. These are introduced at level 4 in the Personal and Professional Development module to support student proficiency so that the portfolios can be used more effectively in practice placements in levels 5 and 6 to evidence achievement of the professional practice standards to support learning within the practice context. Multi-media sources are used to engage and support student learning either in the classroom or in the Virtual Learning Environment. Students engage in a range of experiential learning opportunities throughout the levels as well as workshops to support court and tribunal skills.

Working in partnership with other professionals is also an important part of social work learning and at each level of the course students are required to engage with School-wide inter-professional learning with students from other health and social care courses.

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 4

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Understanding Social Work	20	1
Social Work and the Life Course	20	1
Understanding Law in Social Work	20	2
Working with Diversity	20	2
Personal and Professional Development	40	Year-long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Contemporary Challenges for Social Work Practice	20	1
Social Work for Adults	20	1
Social Work with Children and Young People	20	1
Models of Intervention	20	2
Practice Placement 1	40	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Social Work Law for Qualifying Practice	20	1
Social Work in the Global Practice	40	1
Critical Thinking for Social Work	20	2
Practice Placement 2	40	2
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 4

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some practical assessments.

Level 5

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments. Placement experiences are assessed.

Level 6

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominately, with some practical assessments. Placement experiences are assessed.

Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, learning and assessment	196 hours	169 hours	162 hours
Independent study	889 hours	696 hours	886 hours
Placement	115 hours	525 hours	750 hours