



**LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY**

Course information for applicants

This information applies to the course as it will be delivered to students starting the course in 2027/28.

Information provided here was confirmed on 01/09/2026

General information

Programme code

BCDAP

Target award

If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:

BA (Hons) Childhood Development and Playwork

Delivery mode

- ☒ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study

The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.

Awarding body

Leeds Beckett University

Regulator

Office for Students

Level of qualification

Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Course duration

If you are made an offer of a place on the course, your offer letter will include the start date.

This course can be studied:

3 years full-time

6 years part-time

Part-time study

This course can be studied part-time.

If you study the course part-time, it will usually take twice as long to complete compared with the equivalent full-time course. The modules may be delivered in a different sequence than on the full-time course, but you will study the same modules at each academic level. With the agreement of the course team, you may be able to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration.

As a part-time student, you will not usually have the option of a work placement.

Work placement

This course includes a compulsory placement module(s).

Summary

Students are required to undertake a period of sustained experiential learning at both levels 4 and 5 of the course. For full-time students, the requirement of 360 hours is usually achieved over a period of approximately 14 weeks, though this is determined by the nature of the placement setting. For part-time students, their experiential learning module is generally split across a two-year period and the allocation of the 360-hour placement at level 4 and 5 requirement is portioned as appropriate.

Location

Normally in West Yorkshire

Entry requirements

Admissions criteria are available on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have previous relevant qualifications or experience, you could be exempt from certain parts of your course. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows you to start your course at a point appropriate to the learning and skills that you may have developed in a professional, vocational or community setting.

Find out more here: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning>

If you have questions about entry requirements and admissions, contact AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course fees

Course fees and a breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have questions about fees for this course, contact Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable

You will receive your full timetable for the year during induction week.

What you will study

Course aims

The aims of the course are to:

Provide students with the theoretic knowledge and practical skills required by employers across the diverse Children and Families Workforce, and to provide flexibility to enable students to develop progression routes into their preferred graduate destinations.

The second semester of the first two years of the course is spent undertaking a pronounced period of work-based experiential learning in which students test theory in a practical context, gain vital employment experience, and develop networks and contacts to support their future integration into a professional community of practice.

The second period of experiential learning provides students with the opportunity to work overseas - in recent years work-based learning placements have been undertaken in Europe and Australia.

In the final year of the course the practical element is replaced with a research project of the students' own devising. This is intended to both enable students to begin developing the research skills required of postgraduate study, and to develop specialist knowledge in a specific subject area.

Teaching and learning activities

Teaching is delivered face to face and while the majority of teaching is class-based, incorporating a mix of lectures, seminars and workshops, the role of experiential learning is central to the course.

Enabling students to relate theory to practice is critical to the achievement of the learning outcomes of the course and this is facilitated through various means. A number of modules incorporate fieldtrips, allowing students to experience a range of settings first-hand whilst meeting practitioners in their professional context. Some modules include contributions from specialist practitioners from across the children's workforce, to share their expert knowledge with students. This ensures the authenticity and relevance of the teaching through valuable insights into operational aspects of service delivery and approaches to working with children in a range of contexts. Experiential Learning modules offer students a guided learning opportunity which is informed, in the main, by students' personal interests. Critically, the two periods of experiential learning at levels 4 and 5, allow students to enter a community of practice, exploring and witnessing theory in practice, trialling a playwork approach to working with children. This is supported through a range of online guided learning resources, offering students opportunities for formative feedback throughout the period of practice. Here students are supported to examine approaches to practice and provision for children and their play.

Students are supported to develop the skills necessary to engage in self-directed, academic study. This is supported by the academic librarian and colleagues from Skills for Learning.

Course structure

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. If you have to repeat study or take time out during your course, you may be taught alternative modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes.

The option modules listed may vary. Those listed here are likely to be offered in a typical year.

Level 4

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Playwork: Foundations of Theory and Practice	20	1
Child Development: Exploring Issues and Perspectives on Play	20	1
Childhood: Theory, Constructs and Concepts	20	1
Experiential Learning: Theory and Practice Explored	20	2
Experiential Learning: Organisation Development	20	2
Experiential Learning: Reflective Practice	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Playwork: Critical Applications	20	1
Childhood: Rights and Society	20	1
Experiential Learning: Theory and Practice Advanced	20	2
Experiential Learning: Objectives and Evaluation	20	2
Experiential Learning: Developing Reflexivity	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	100	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Child Development: Developing while Playing	20	1
Project Development: Places and Spaces for Play	20	1
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	20	

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Childhood: Research Perspectives	20	1
Childhood Development and Playwork: Dissertation	40	Year-long
Project Development: Managing Design and Delivery	20	2
Playwork: Therapeutic Interventions	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	100	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Child Development: Contemporary Perspectives	20	1
Childhood: Global Perspectives	20	1
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	20	

Part Time Study

Level 4

Compulsory modules

Year One

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Playwork: Foundations of Theory and Practice	20	1
Experiential Learning: Theory and Practice Explored	20	1
Childhood: Theory, Constructs and Concepts	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	60	

Compulsory modules

Year Two

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Child Development: Exploring Issues and Perspectives on Play	20	1
Experiential Learning: Organisation Development	20	2
Experiential Learning: Reflective Practice	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	60	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Year Three

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Playwork: Critical Applications	20	1
Childhood: Rights and Society	20	1
Experiential Learning: Theory and Practice Advanced	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	60	

Compulsory modules

Year Four

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Experiential Learning: Objectives and Evaluation	20	2
Experiential Learning: Developing Reflexivity	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	40	

Option Modules

Year Four

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Child Development: Developing while Playing	20	1
Project Development: Places and Spaces for Play	20	1
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	20	

Level 6**Compulsory modules**

Year Five

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Childhood: Research Perspectives	20	1
Playwork: Therapeutic Interventions	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	40	

Compulsory modules

Year Six

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Childhood Development and Playwork: Dissertation	40	Year-long
Project Development: Managing Design and Delivery	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	60	

Option Modules

Year Four

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Child Development: Contemporary Perspectives	20	1
Childhood: Global Perspectives	20	1
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	20	

Assessment and feedback

The balance of assessment may change depending on which option modules you choose.

Level 4

Level 4 is assessed mostly by coursework, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 5

Level 5 is assessed mostly by coursework, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Placement year

The placement year is assessed entirely by coursework.

The placement year is assessed mostly by coursework, with some examinations and practical assessments.

Level 6

Level 6 is assessed mostly by coursework, with some practical assessments.

Workload

You can expect to spend a total of 100 hours learning per 10 credits.

Typically, a student on this course can expect to divide their time like this:

Overall workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, learning and assessment	174 hours	174 hours	194 hours
Independent study	666 hours	666 hours	1006 hours
Placement study	360 hours	360 hours	0 hours