



**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 20/05/2026

General information

Programme code

LDIDR

Target award

If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:
LLM Digital Dispute Resolution

Delivery mode

- ☐ On campus
- ☒ Distance learning

Where you will study

This is a distance learning course.

Awarding body

Leeds Beckett University

Regulator

Office for Students

Level of qualification

Level 7 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:

- 6 months full-time
- 18 months 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. Part-time students will study the same content. With the agreement of the course team, you may be able to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration.

Entry requirements

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

This award enables students to top-up their existing qualifications to a Masters degree through undertaking a dissertation or portfolio based on their dispute resolution practice and experience.

Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: 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 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

This course comprises of a period of independent study supported by research methods training and subject specific supervision. To enter this course, applicants will normally possess a postgraduate diploma in a legal subject (such as GDL, LPC, PG Dip SQE, BVC or BPTC) or a comparable postgraduate diploma with the relevant dispute resolution professional experience, or have achieved a qualification as a solicitor, barrister or be qualified through CILEX in England and Wales, or have achieved a qualification as a qualified lawyer in a jurisdiction recognised by the Solicitor Regulation Authority. An Applicant's prior qualification, or equivalent, will be used to form the other credits for this qualification. The written dissertation or the portfolio will form the basis of this being topped up to an LLM.

The course will typically foster the following attributes:

- An in-depth knowledge and understanding of their subject, informed by current practice, scholarship and research, including a critical awareness of current issues and developments in digital dispute resolution and the profession;
- A range of generic abilities and skills that include the ability to use initiative and take responsibility; solve problems in creative and innovative ways; and continue to learn independently and to develop professionally.

The course, therefore, aims:

- To allow students to draw upon their professional digital dispute resolution experience to undertake a piece of legal research and academic writing, under the guidance of a supervisor
- To critically examine the impact of digitalisation on legal and dispute resolution practice and demonstrate knowledge of digital tools used in mediation, arbitration, or online courts
- To enable students to produce this work by developing their critical awareness and by applying appropriate scholarly and/or practice-based methodologies to their investigations of digital dispute resolution.

Teaching and learning activities

The award commences with an introduction to dissertation study and work on advanced legal research skills. The research methods training includes sessions on:

- What is (legal) research?
- Advanced Legal Research Methods
- Other relevant research methodologies and methods
- Academic skills such as Literature Reviewing, Academic Writing and Developing Arguments

At the end of this first phase students will submit a research design for review and then work with their supervisors to produce their final dissertation.

The relationship between supervisors and students will concentrate on developing and supporting students' autonomy as practice-based researchers. To encourage autonomy, students will be offered appropriate guidance by their supervisors in their chosen fields as follows:

- Current practice-based and/or academic critical debates and problematic areas;
- Methodologies appropriate to the inquiry;
- Formulating a research question and strategy;
- Originality of insights and self-expression;
- Locating and developing sources; and
- Structuring and presenting information and ideas appropriate to a Master's dissertation.

The dissertation is an exercise in autonomous student learning involving sustained research and a substantial piece of writing under the guidance of the dissertation supervisor. The dissertation topic must relate to digital dispute resolution. The supervisor will guide a student on the planning and execution of the dissertation, the development of ideas and the organisation and structure of the work.

The dissertation can either be a traditional research dissertation or a reflective portfolio or work done in practice. The reflective portfolio will incorporate confidential case studies from practice and utilise a reflective theory and other relevant scholarship to reflect on the work conducted. Information regarding the two possible dissertation choices will be provided during the start of the course, and students will be

further guided by their supervisor. The preparation of the dissertation will engage students with knowledge at the forefront of the disciplines concerned.

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 7

Compulsory modules

Students will complete a core 60 credit dissertation module.

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Dissertation	60	Year-long
Number of credits of compulsory modules	60	

Assessment and feedback

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

Level 7

There is a major independent study module which is assessed by a 15,000 words dissertation.

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 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	30 hours
Independent study	570 hours
Overall	600 hours