



**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 24/08/2026

General information

Programme code

MACSD

Target award

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

MSc Advanced Cyber Security and Digital Forensics

Delivery mode

- ☒ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study

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

Professional accreditation or recognition

Professional body

British Computer Society (BCS) – The Chartered Institute for IT

Summary of the accreditation or recognition

A graduate meets some or all of the educational requirements for registration with BCS as a Chartered IT Professional (CITP). BCS will not accredit until graduates have exited the award.

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:

12 months, full-time (September start)

24 months, full-time (September start with 30-week work placement)

Work placement

The course contains a placement year option.

Placement Delivery

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University.

Location

Placement location will vary dependant on the opportunity.

Approval

Minimum 30 weeks, undertaken at the end of semester 2 after the completion of taught modules. On returning from placement students will be expected to complete their Dissertation.

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 aim of this MSc course is to give students critical knowledge within the cyber security and digital forensics domains, combining academic principles and industrial needs. This MSc course is informed by current research in cyber security and digital forensics and is underpinned by industry partners such as local and national law enforcement and security organisations.

The MSc focuses on specialised areas of both disciplines and therefore prior knowledge in cyber security (to degree level) is required, with a desire for a similar background in digital forensics.

Cyber Security and Digital Forensics are the key challenging areas in contemporary computing, due to the advances in the technologies of network communications and computer hardware and software.

Students will gain specialism in the challenging areas of digital forensics such as multimedia forensic investigations and deep fakes. In security areas students will gain knowledge and expertise in software security exploitation development and the analysis and implementation of security mechanisms to defend and analyse systems. The course also develops students' knowledge in research practices and advanced scholarship as well as project development and management. The specialisation gained through the taught modules is further developed through a practical based MSc dissertation project.

Teaching and learning activities

This is a very hands-on subject area where theory alone would be unlikely to allow a student to achieve successful employment in this field. Practical exercises allow for students to implement their theoretical learning and see how it relates to industry. Practical solutions are achieved through the replication of exercises such as compromised computer systems and digital devices and data that students must analyse – similar to that as found in industry. Many of these examples are available through open-source community projects but are also built in-house when suitable external material is not available.

The VLE is the primary tool for delivering the study material with extensive links to other sites. The VLE is also the primary tool for submitting assessments – via TurnItIn. The VLE provides internal links to self-assessment activities, mainly quizzes, to enable students to check their own progress. The VLE will be used to post announcements and email students. All work will be placed here so that students will be able to access any resources made available.

Learning and teaching methods will provide high-quality learning opportunities that enable students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes of the course. In particular, these focus upon professional practice and practical problem-based assessments. Students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning through a variety of mechanisms including reports and practical undertakings.

The course utilises professional tools and guidelines from industry and professional bodies to inform the teaching methodologies and resources of the award. To enable students to fully utilise these methodologies, the award is structured to develop the students understanding of the key concepts of theory and practical process. The building of this knowledge and feedback for assessments undertaken by students allows the building of a greater understanding of the subject area.

The course aims to foster the development of independent study skills and autonomy of learning and encourage a commitment to lifelong learning and continuous professional development. Teaching and learning methods increasingly

promote the capacity for students to assume responsibility for their own learning and development. Progressive use of project based integrated assessment and product/problem-based learning allow students to take on greater self-direction of their learning. Students develop their research, problem solving and critical analysis skills by understanding the concepts of research practice and ethical issues as well as project management skills. The dissertation module finally brings together all the knowledge and techniques gained through the taught modules for the students to demonstrate all the specialised skills and understanding into a practical -based project.

Students must also develop subject specific skills that are marketable in the short to medium term as well as more general skills that will facilitate their future development and continuous learning. The course supports the latter through identification of appropriate skill sets and these are developed through the programme of study and assessment methods. Emphasis is placed on a student's ability to critically analyse the subject area and their ability to effectively communicate their understanding of the process.

The course employs a wide range of learning opportunities and teaching methods, informed by curriculum review, pedagogic research, and continuous staff development. Innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment are encouraged. The course seeks to expand the application of technology in the delivery of teaching and learning support.

Scheduled sessions will include the use of lectures, lab exercises and discussion groups, and advantage will be taken of both technology and supportive activities to ensure that effective learning takes place. These activities will include the use of simulations, case studies, projects, practical work, peer tutoring, peer group interaction, presentations, self-managed teams and self-managed learning.

The learning and teaching methods used are identified in the descriptor for each of the modules. The contextualisation of the learning and teaching strategy of each award is the sum of the learning and teaching methods of the modules that constitute the programme of study towards that award. These methods will promote the broad learning strategy of the University and the School, which are under constant review and refreshment. This is tested at least annually for fitness for purpose and integrity of the student learning experience for the award.

The type and range of assessments have been designed to require students to think deeply about practical scenarios and to evaluate problems and prescribe solutions appropriate to a professional practitioner. This is evidenced through a range of different communication platforms, as per the expectations of the industry.

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.

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Reverse Engineering and Malware Analysis	20	S1 / Year 1
Forensic Multimedia Processing	20	S1 / Year 1
Research Practice	20	S1 / Year 1
Software Security and Exploitation	20	S2 / Year 1
Project Management	20	S2 / Year 1
Dissertation	60	S3 / Year 1
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	160	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Critical Perspectives on Information	20	S2 / Year 1
Intelligent Systems and Robotics	20	S2 / Year 1
Software Engineering for Service Computing	20	S2 / Year 1
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	20	

Assessment and feedback

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

Level 7

This course is assessed by a mix of coursework, exams / tests, presentations / demonstrations and practical assessments and a final 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	221 hours
Independent study	1579 hours
Placement study	30 hours