



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

MDATS

Target award

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

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)

Summary of the accreditation or recognition

The BCS (The Chartered Institute for IT) accreditation is an indicator of quality of curriculum, teaching and resources. Accredited courses have been independently recognised as having met high standards. BCS accreditation means that the course offers thorough grounding in the subject area and with emphasis on professional aspects to work in the field.

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)

15 months, full-time (January start)

24 months, full-time (Optional 30-week work placement, September Starters only)

24 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. 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

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

Data Science has a long history within our University having evolved from our areas of information management, knowledge transfer and systems development. In practical terms, data science is conducted by data managers who are part business-minded, part manager, part technologist and part data scientist. The role of these managers therefore falls into the following respective domains:

- As business-people, data managers are articulate, good communicators, presentable and have contact with the day-to-day business managers and their customers. They are primarily concerned with the information needed for activities such as strategic planning, production planning, market research, financial planning, product knowledge, legislation, archiving, competitive analysis etc. They understand the potential, the tools and techniques to analyse the data and how best to present the information.
- As managers, they run businesses within businesses and are concerned with people, budgets and projects. They therefore need to deal with financial planning, human resource management, project management, technology planning, communications, decision analysis and control systems.
- As technologists, data managers are skilled in managing information technology and understanding big data. They need to know about technology, systems and how they work, what the latest trends are and the impact of it on the working environment. They also bridge the gap between “real technologists” and end users.
- As data scientists, data managers are able to think critically about the data, are skilled in activities such as information collection, analysis and presentation alongside the legal, ethical and data governance issues.

Our students may be working in one of these roles and looking to gain a wider appreciation, perhaps as part of their career strategy. The course outcomes develop all of these roles, the core modules provide a generic overview in information, data management and systems with option modules allowing the student to find a route that suits their own skills, aspirations and interest area. The dissertation/project allows for a specific area to be investigated deeply. The Project Management module ensures that all students graduate with skills enabling them to manage people and projects as would be expected from this MSc. Recent students have secured roles at NHS Digital Data centre, at Kirklees Council in data management and business intelligence, another set up her own data services consultancy business and another has gone on to study for a PhD in the area.

For each module students will normally receive a weekly lecture followed by a tutorial or practical lab-based session(s). These are supplemented with a programme of guest speakers and industry led seminars. In addition, all staff provide weekly drop-in slots for students who need personalised learning support.

The module materials and support provided will encourage deep learning. Deep learning on master’s level includes thinking critically, using literature effectively and developing distinct thoughts (see Post Graduate Course Development Principles). There are opportunities for considering research papers, articulating and critiquing different philosophies and reflecting across the learning experience and modules – this is available through core and

elective modules. Challenging and industry related tasks will stretch students' capabilities and actively engage them in applying skills and knowledge for their future employment.

The course level assessment strategy will ensure support for the assessment of the course learning outcomes and provide a balance of assessment methods enabling students to progressively develop knowledge and expertise.

Teaching and learning activities

Our teaching methods, curriculum and assessments impart students with sophistication in independent critical thinking, knowledge contextualisation and professionalism. Our assessments give students opportunities to engage in critical thinking and self-direction while addressing problems similar to the ones faced in industry. The 'hands-on' teaching approach in most modules allow students to select and apply specialist skills to various contexts. Students are supported within an inclusive learning environment, which recognise, accommodates and meets the learning needs of all our students.

For each module students will receive a tutorial or practical lab-based session(s). These are supplemented with a programme of guest speakers and industry led seminars. In addition, all staff provide weekly drop-in slots for students who need personalised learning support.

The module materials and support provided will encourage deep learning the focus of which should support educational gain, as well as educational performance. Deep learning on this level includes reflecting upon, synthesising, applying, critically evaluating and analysing, all an integral part of the course and its assessments. There are also opportunities for considering research papers, articulating and critiquing different philosophies and research papers through– core and elective modules. Challenging and industry related tasks will stretch students' 5 capabilities and actively engage them in applying skills and knowledge in their future employment.

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.

Full-time Delivery

Level 7

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Data Analytics and Visualisation	20	S1 / Year 1
Database Systems and Approaches	20	S2 / Year 1
Project Management	20	S2 / Year 1
Research Practice	20	S1 / Year 1
Dissertation	60	S3 / Year 1
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	140	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Managing Information in the Digital and Global Environment	20	S1 / Year 1
Data Warehouse Models and Approaches	20	S1 / Year 1
Critical Perspectives on Information	20	S2 / Year 1
Intelligent Systems and Machine Learning	20	S2 / Year 1
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	40	

Part-time Delivery**Level 7****Compulsory modules**

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Data Analytics and Visualisation	20	S1 / Year 1
Research Practice	20	S1 / Year 1
Database Systems and Approaches	20	S2 / Year 1
Project Management	20	S2 / Year 1
Dissertation	60	S3 / Year 2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	140	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Data Warehouse Models and Approaches	20	S1 / Year 2
Managing Information in the Digital and Global Environment	20	S1 / Year 2
Critical Perspectives on Information	20	S2 / Year 2
Intelligent Systems and Machine Learning	20	S2 / Year 2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

Assessment and feedback

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

Level 7

This course is assessed by a broadly even mix of coursework and examinations. There is a major independent study module which is assessed by a 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	203 hours
Independent study	1597 hours
Placement study	30 weeks