



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 30/07/2026

General information

Programme code

SWKMA

Target award

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

MA Social Work

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.

Professional accreditation or recognition

Professional body

Social Work England

Summary of the accreditation or recognition

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

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:

24 months full-time

36 months part-time

Part-time study

Students can choose to study the course part-time over three years instead of two. The Year 1 modules are spread across the first two years, and the final year follows the same structure as the full-time course. This arrangement is required to ensure students can meet the placement requirements.

Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this specification.

Work placement

This course includes a compulsory placement module(s).

Summary: Students are required to complete assessed practice in two placements.

Length: Placement one: 70 days and Placement two: 100 days

Location: The placements take place normally with the local authority or health and social care organisations that undertake statutory social work tasks in West Yorkshire.

Entry requirements

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

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

The course follows a non-standard calendar to accommodate placements. 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 a challenging programme of applied learning that enables students to develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and values to embark on their career with a strong and confident professional identity and a commitment to continued professional development.
- To produce postgraduate, qualifying-level social work students who, at the point of completion of their course, meet the Social Work England Standards and associated PCF domains, enabling students to apply for professional registration as a social worker.
- To enable students to use professional judgement in making decisions in complex situations within legal and ethical boundaries and work in accordance with Social Work England Standards.
- Communicate effectively with a range of people (including children and adult service users, colleagues, other professionals and people in authority) and in a variety of settings and promote a philosophy of partnership working which is effective with other health and social care professionals, service users, carers and their families.
- Develop critically reflective practitioners, with the ability to utilise contemporary knowledge and theory and who can draw upon evidence-based research to monitor and evaluate both the effectiveness of their practice and the delivery of social work in a multi-disciplinary context.

Teaching and learning activities

Teaching and learning are primarily delivered face to face. Lectures are normally recorded; however, attendance at scheduled sessions is mandatory. Individual activities, such as tutorials and placement visits, may be conducted online by prior arrangement.

The course begins with a two-day induction and orientation programme designed to introduce students to the core concepts of the course and foster a strong sense of cohort identity. The programme promotes an inclusive learning environment in which students are expected to behave respectfully, value diversity, and avoid discriminatory behaviour. The aim is to create a safe and supportive space for both shared and independent learning. Students are encouraged to engage in respectful discussion, debate, collaborative learning, and research activities, enabling them to learn from different perspectives and critically evaluate a range of theoretical approaches.

To support inclusive learning, the course uses a variety of teaching methods and assessment approaches. Placement providers receive guidance and support regarding reasonable adjustments from course tutors and the University Disability Service, helping to ensure equitable learning opportunities for all students.

Teaching takes place in a range of multi-purpose learning spaces across the University, supported by specialist facilities within the School for interpersonal skills development and experiential learning. Some modules are taught exclusively to the postgraduate cohort, while others include shared learning sessions with students from the BA (Hons) Social Work programme. Joint teaching is used where there are common areas of knowledge that are relevant to students at equivalent stages of their studies. In these modules, MA students are provided with additional sessions and learning materials to support deeper engagement, synthesis of knowledge, and more advanced critical analysis. Students are also supported in developing advanced research and scholarly skills to meet master's-level assessment requirements.

Teaching methods include lectures, workshops, and skills-development activities led by academic staff and social work practitioners. Opportunities are provided for students to learn alongside peers from other professional

disciplines, promoting interdisciplinary understanding and collaborative practice. The School also coordinates interprofessional learning workshops in which students from a variety of health and social care professions work together on topics such as multidisciplinary case management.

Thirty days of skills development are integrated throughout the curriculum. These sessions provide opportunities for students to develop professional competencies aligned with the Professional Capabilities Framework (PCF), including readiness for the first placement, readiness for the final placement, and preparation for qualified practice. Some skills-development activities are undertaken jointly with undergraduate students, reflecting the shared PCF requirements for both BA and MA programmes and the common professional standards students are expected to achieve. Academic staff, social work practitioners, service users, and carers contribute to the development and assessment of students' practice skills. Activities include communication and interpersonal skills training, conflict and risk management exercises, and report-writing practice. Role-play activities use scripted scenarios and are recorded to support reflection and feedback.

To encourage self-directed learning, students participate in group activities that promote collaboration, peer feedback, and teamwork. Analytical and critical thinking skills are developed through reflective discussions and problem-based learning activities. Case studies and experiential learning approaches are used to help students integrate theory and practice and apply knowledge critically in professional contexts.

Interpersonal skills are fundamental to effective social work practice. Throughout the course, students are given opportunities to develop and refine their professional communication skills in preparation for practice and progression to qualification. Students are encouraged to evaluate their own performance, provide constructive feedback to peers, and respond positively to feedback from tutors, service users, carers, and Practice Educators.

Electronic portfolios are used throughout the programme to evidence skills development, critical thinking, and reflective learning. A range of multimedia resources is also used to enhance and support learning both in face-to-face sessions and through the virtual learning environment.

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

Compulsory modules

Year 1

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Social Work with Adults	20	Semester 1
Social Work with Children and Young People	20	Semester 1
Understanding Social Work: Knowledge, Skills and Values for Practice	20	Semester 1
Practice Placement 1	20	Year-long
Models of Intervention	20	Semester 2
Social Work Research	40	Semester 2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	140	

Year 2

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Social Work Research continues		Semester 1
Social Work Law for Qualifying Practice	20	Semester 1
Practice Placement 2	20	Semester 2
<i>Open Learning*</i>	20*	Semester 2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	40	

*Students can opt to undertake the Open Learning module if the Practice Placement 2 module is failed, in order to be able to achieve the non-professional MA Social Studies contained award.

Part-time

Compulsory modules

Year 1

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Understanding Social Work: Knowledge, Skills and Values for Practice	20	Semester 1
Social Work with Children and Young People or Social Work with Adults	20	Semester 1
Models of Intervention	20	Semester 2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	60	

Year 2

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Social Work with Adults or Social Work with Children and Young People	20	Semester 1
Practice Placement 1	20	Year-long
Social Work Research	40	Semester 2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	80	

Year 3

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Social Work Law for Qualifying Practice	20	Semester 1
Social Work Research continues		Semester 1
Practice Placement 2	20	Semester 2
<i>Open Learning*</i>	20*	<i>Semester 2</i>
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	40	

*Students can opt to undertake the Open Learning module if the Practice Placement 2 module is failed, in order to be able to achieve the non-professional MA Social Studies contained award.

Assessment and feedback

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

Level 7

The course is assessed mainly by coursework, with two examinations (timed online assessments) and practical assessments. Placement experiences are assessed.

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	223 hours
Independent study	1577 hours
Placement study	1190 hours