



**LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY**

**Course Information
BA (Hons) Social Work (L500)**

**2026-27 Entry
Start date: September 2026**

**Leeds Beckett University
School of Health**

Last updated October 2025

Course web page:

BA (Hons) Social Work

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/social-work-ba>

Staff Contact Details:

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Admissions Tutor: Emma Geddes E.Geddes@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

1) Introduction

The BA (Hons) Social Work programme prepares students for a richly rewarding career as a social worker, opening access to a range of employment opportunities across a variety of sectors.

The course involves the study of psychosocial themes and perspectives, as well as theories and policies relating to social welfare and the safeguarding of adults and children. Students complete extended placements in the second and third year, which help to fulfil part of the professional body requirements for registration. The course allows students to integrate study with professional experience to develop the essential knowledge and skills required for a career supporting diverse groups of people who use social work services.

This information booklet is intended to answer questions which are frequently asked by applicants to the BA (Hons) Social Work programme during the application process. Questions which are not addressed within this booklet should be directed to Emma Geddes, Admissions Tutor via email.

2) What are the entry requirements for the course?

Course Entry Requirements:

- 120 UCAS points, with 80 from 2 A-Levels, or equivalent.
- GCSE English Language Grade 4 or above, or equivalent.
- An academic reference provider.
- Personal statement must demonstrate interest in social work.
- Successful interview.
- DBS and Occupational Health checks.

3) Which alternatives to A-Levels will be accepted for entry onto the course?

As well as other Level 3 qualifications, such as BTECs, Cambridge Technicals and Access to HE Diplomas, the following would be acceptable for entry onto the BA (Hons) Social Work course:

- Certificate of Higher Education (Any subject)
- Diploma of Higher Education (Any subject)
- Foundation Degree (Any subject)
- Higher National Diploma (Any subject)
- Open University Module "Introduction to Health and Social Care) (K101)
- Any other Open University module in a relevant subject with 60 credits at FHEQ Level 4
- Undergraduate degree (Any subject)
- Foundation year (Any subject)

Equivalentents for GCSE English Language are also accepted, including:

- Key skills Level 2 in English
- Functional Skills Level 2 in English
- Level 2 Adult Literacy

If you are unsure about whether your qualification meets the entry requirements, please contact the Admissions Team at ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for further advice.

4) How much relevant work/volunteering experience do I need?

There is no specific number of hours of work or volunteering experience required for entry onto the course. The way that you can reflect on your relevant work and/or volunteering experience and how your experiences can be applied to the role of a contemporary social worker is what is important. This will be assessed via your personal statement and at interview.

Some examples of organisations which have previously provided work/volunteering experience for students include, but are not limited to:

- Women's Aid
- Home Start
- Citizen's Advice
- Care homes
- Youth clubs
- Barnardo's
- Homelessness or addiction services
- Mental health services
- Befriending schemes

Personal experiences of caring for family members or friends cannot be utilised.

5) Who can provide my reference?

An academic reference should be provided by a current or most recent previous tutor/teacher.

6) Will I need to have a DBS or health check?

You will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS check and complete an Occupational Health questionnaire prior to commencing the course. You will also be required to complete a Character and Conduct form during each year that you study with us, within which you will be asked to share information about your health and any social work involvement that you have had in your personal life. Further information about DBS and health checks can be found at www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/admissions. You will be sent more information about this process if you receive an offer to study with us.

7) Can I join the course having completed part of my social work training at another University?

Applications will be considered for Level 5 (Year 2) entry to our course on a case-by case basis if Level 4 (Year 1) of a Social Work degree has been studied elsewhere. In this case, applicants should contact the Admissions Team at ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk in the first instance.

If you have started a Social Work course and not completed this, we may be able to consider an application from you to re-start the course with us, applicants should contact the Admissions Team at ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk in the first instance.

A reference from the Course Leader of the previous social work course provider will be needed as part of this process. An interview will also be required once the previous study has been reviewed.

Requests for transfer into Level 6 (Year 3) will not be considered for the 2026 intake.

8) What will happen at the interview?

Applicants will undertake an individual interview and a case study exercise. Interviews will take place online via Microsoft Teams, with discussion of the case study exercise taking place at the end of the interview. You will be made aware of the proposed arrangements in advance.

Your case study will be emailed to you three days prior to your interview.

9) Can I receive feedback on my performance at interview if my application is not successful?

You can contact the Admissions Team at ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk to request feedback following an unsuccessful interview.

10) If I am not offered a place on the course, are there other courses which may be suitable for me?

If you are not offered a place on the course, you will be considered for a suitable alternative. If we can offer an alternative this will show in your UCAS Hub and you will be notified via email.

11) Can I defer my entry onto the course?

If you would like to defer your place on the course after your application has been submitted, you must put this in writing to the Admissions Team at ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Your place on the course can only be deferred for one year. After this time, you will need to take up your place for the following year or withdraw the application.

If you are holding a conditional offer, you should meet the conditions of the offer by the end of August 2026.

Please be aware that if you make a request to defer your place, you may not be able to change your mind about this and decide instead to take up a place in the year that you applied for originally; this will depend on availability of places on the course.

12) When does the course start?

The course will next commence with an induction event during week commencing 21st September 2026.

13) Does the course involve placements?

Practice learning on placement is a key component of your training as a social worker. Students are required to undertake 170 days on placement during their training.

Placements take place at Levels 5 and 6 (Years 2 and 3). There are no placements at Level 4 (Year 1).

14) Will I receive a bursary?

Undergraduate students will not receive a bursary in the first year of study. You may be entitled to receive a bursary in Years 2 and 3. The University receives a certain number of bursaries in a given year, and these are allocated according to student's profile and progression from Year 1. Further information about bursaries is available at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students/825.aspx.

All students, irrespective of whether they receive a bursary, will be entitled to receive a Placement Travel Allowance (PTA).

15) Do you welcome applications from people from a range of backgrounds?

We are proud to celebrate diversity, and we are committed to supporting students from a wide range of backgrounds who have diverse identities and personal characteristics. Each cohort of students typically includes learners of different ages and from a range of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. We welcome applications from people experiencing neurodiversity, diversity in gender identity or sexuality, people from any socioeconomic background and people who are care experienced or estranged. This commitment is in keeping with the values of social work as a profession and is a focus of our teaching throughout the course.

16) What should I do if I need reasonable adjustments to be made during my interview?

We welcome any requests for reasonable adjustments in the interview process and if this is something that you feel you need, please email ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk as far in advance as possible, letting us know about support that you might need to be able to perform your best. We would also encourage you to feel able to discuss any relevant aspects of your identity with the panel if you choose to. It is important that you have all the information that you need to help you to make the decision about where to study.

17) Is there any reading that will be useful in preparation for the course?

If you would like to do some preparatory reading, we would recommend the following resources:

- The Professional Capabilities Framework is the overarching framework for social work education and professional development in England and can be found at www.basw.co.uk/training-cpd/professional-capabilities-framework-pcf
- The British Association of Social Workers is the UK's professional membership organisation for social workers. Their website includes a range of free materials, such as this collection of anti-racism resources- www.new.basw.co.uk/policy-and-practice/resources/anti-racism-resources-basw-england, as well as a podcast series- www.basw.co.uk/training-cpd/lets-talk-social-work-podcast
- Community Care is a website which helps social workers stay up to date with the latest developments in practice and can be found at www.communitycare.co.uk/
- Siobhan Maclean is a social worker, author and trainer whose YouTube channel includes lots of resources for social work students- <https://www.youtube.com/@siobhanmaclean9614/videos>

The following books would also be useful:

- Banks, S. (2006). Ethics and Values in Social Work.
- Howe, D. (2009) A Brief Introduction to Social Work Theory.
- Trevithick, P. (2005). Social Work Skills: A Practice Handbook. (Available via Google scholar).

- Thompson, N. (2020). Understanding Social Work.

18) Will I be able to work as a social worker after completing this course?

After successfully completing the course, you will be eligible to register as a social worker. The University confer this with the approval of Social Work England, the professional regulator.