Application Information
MSc Dietetics Course

2020-2021 Entry
Start date: September 2020

Closing Date: Home/EU Applicants Wednesday 4th December 2019

Closing Date: International Applicants Wednesday 26th February 2020
(Decisions and offers to international applicants will be made at the end of March 2020)

Nutrition & Dietetics
School of Clinical and Applied Sciences
Leeds Beckett University
City Campus
Leeds
LS1 3HE
United Kingdom

Web: http://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/
Email: directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Updated Sept 2019 (for 2020 Intake)
The Course

This course is designed to enable graduates from science backgrounds to gain eligibility to practice dietetics through the study of a two year masters postgraduate programme. This is an accelerated programme building on prior knowledge and transferable skills to fast track you towards a career as a dietitian in the NHS working in acute and community settings.

Academic and practice learning is embedded throughout the course enabling you to: develop an evidenced based and critical approach to dietetic practice; work effectively in teams and; develop the communication and professional practice skills required to interpret nutritional science and facilitate individuals, groups and communities to change eating behaviour, improving diet to benefit health.

A range of assessment, teaching and learning activities are embedded across the course to enable you to develop an integrated, patient centred approach and to equip you with the range of competencies required for autonomous professional practice as a dietitian. The course is a very intensive, full-time course with contact time and independent self-directed study spread across 5 days each week.

Funding

As the funding situation has changed significantly over recent years you are advised to check your entitlement with Student Finance England – or the relevant home countries.

The funding arrangements which were applied to students entering the course in September 2018 were as follows:

Postgraduate pre-registration healthcare students in England will be able to access loans to cover tuition fees of up to £9,250 per year and to support living costs. These loans will be the same as those available to undergraduate students.

These changes applied to eligible new students starting courses in the 2018/19 academic year from 1 August 2018 onwards. The changes extend to both Masters and postgraduate diploma courses leading to inclusion in the HCPC or NMC register. Students who are obliged to incur essential additional expenditure while undertaking a course of higher education as a result of a disability will qualify for disabled students’ allowances.

Students who are already registered in nursing, midwifery, or an allied health profession will not be eligible for support for a second full-time or part-time pre-registration course or a second full-time postgraduate preregistration course leading to registration in the same profession.

Postgraduate pre-registration students will also be eligible for additional support through the Learning Support Fund administered through the NHS Business Services Authority including:

- a £1,000 Child Dependents Allowance
- up to £3,000 for exceptional hardship
- reimbursement of additional travel and accommodation costs over normal daily travel to clinical placements

International students are required to self-fund their place on the course.

Entry Requirements

The online prospectus provides an outline of the entry requirements.

Applicants should have BSc Honours degree in an appropriate science subject, normally class 2.1 or above, and containing a substantial amount of Human Physiology and Biochemistry to a minimum of level 5 and evidence of a final year research project that demonstrates a critical approach to the subject area. Other equivalent qualifications and experience are considered. Please include details of the biochemistry, human physiology and research skills you have studied in each year of your degree. It would be helpful if you could send a copy of the relevant published course outline or prospectus that describes the content of your course – you are advised to do this before the closing date so that we can advise you at an early stage if you meet our academic requirements or whether any further study is needed. Applicants with a science degree but a more limited background in human physiology and/or biochemistry who fulfil other entry criteria may still be considered but would be required to complete further directed learning in these areas before entry onto the course.

Updated Sept 2019 (for 2020 Intake)
The University does have a process for successful applicants to this course who may be considered for recognition of prior learning leading to exemption from modules. Further information is available at http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning/. Applicants considering making an APL application are advised to contact Direct Admissions who will refer this with the Admissions Tutor to advise on the procedure to follow. Please note, if you are granted module exemptions you will not be able to apply for a postgraduate loan as you must be studying the full course to be eligible.

**Further information**

In addition to academic ability it is also important that you consider the skills and behaviours needed to work as a Dietitian and where possible, provide evidence that you have started to develop these skills, reflecting on your learning and current strengths and weaknesses.

To fulfil this, applicants are required to submit a supporting statement with their application using the guidelines in the following document entitled; WRITING YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

You can also provide a separate CV with details of qualifications attained and experiences gained or use the relevant sections of the application form. However, please note that your CV will not replace or supplement your supporting statement. It should be noted that a significant element in the academic course is professional development, reflective learning and practice.

If you are offered a place you will be required to complete a Health check and Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) check. International students will also be required to complete an in-country police check four-six weeks prior to the course start date.

**References**

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that two references are provided before the closing date for applications. One of these must be a suitable academic reference. Applications will not be considered until references have been received and it is the applicant’s responsibility to provide these references, before the closing date of application. It is therefore advisable to check beforehand that selected referees are available and willing to support your application within the deadline.

**Making your application**

Your application should be submitted via https://myapplication.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/ All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, module outlines, references, and supporting statement) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please contact the Admissions Office as per the contact details at the end of this document.

**The deadline for submission of applications and all supporting documentation** is Wednesday 4th December 2019 for Home/EU applicants and Wednesday 26th February 2020 for International applicants.

Should you require any further advice please contact the Admissions Office as per the contact details at the end of this document.

All shortlisted applicants are required to attend a pre-offer selection day to find out more about the course and to take part in a selection activity involving a values based discussion as part of an interview. International applicants will have the option to be interviewed via Skype.

We wish you every success with your application and look forward to hearing from you.

Students will be recruited on the basis that their values align with those of the NHS Constitution as well as having the right skills and aptitude in accordance with Value Based Recruitment (Health Education England, Value Based Recruitment Framework, October 2014). All short-listed applicants will need to attend an interview as part of the pre-offer selection day.

We endeavour to give feedback to those who are unsuccessful but, in view of the large number of applicants, this may take some time. Please note that we are not able to provide any further discussion of this feedback.

*Updated Sept 2019 (for 2020 Intake)*
## Applying for the MSc in Dietetics

### What You Need to Do and What You Can Expect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>STAGE OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR HOME / EU APPLICANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UP TO 4TH DECEMBER 2019</td>
<td>APPLICATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Closing Date:</strong> Home/EU Applicants Wednesday 4th December 2019. Ensure we receive the completed: Application (including supporting statement) References - <em>It is essential we receive these before the deadline</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>END OF DECEMBER 2019 TO</td>
<td>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 2020</td>
<td>Your application will be considered once the deadline has passed. We will aim to inform: Home and EU applicants – we will aim to inform applicants of the outcome of their application from February 2020 onwards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 AND 25 MARCH 2020</td>
<td>PRE OFFER SELECTION DAY AND INTERVIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a pre-offer selection days to find out more about the course and to take part in a selection activity involving a values based discussion as part of an interview.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 2020 TO MAY 2020</td>
<td>CONDITIONAL OFFERS / WAITING LIST PLACES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you have been successful you will receive a conditional offer of a place on the course. Feedback will be given to all candidates following the interview. All other shortlisted candidates will be offered a waiting list place and can be advised of where they are on the waiting list on request (e.g. top, middle lower end).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2020 TO JUNE 2020</td>
<td>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You will be invited to complete online DBS and occupational health checks, as well as a self-declaration form. We require clearance from these checks before you can start the course, so please ensure that you complete the applications promptly as this may delay your enrolment. If you have lived overseas for more than 12 months since the age of 16 you will also need to obtain a DBS equivalent, e.g. Police check from your country of origin/previous residence prior to the start of the course. If your self-declaration form or DBS certificate contain a previous conviction or caution, this will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures. The University is required to satisfy itself that the nature of your conviction is low risk and will not affect progression to placement and/or eligibility to register with the HCPC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE / JULY 2020</td>
<td>EXAM RESULTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you have an offer conditional on your academic performance you will need to email us as soon as possible with your exam results. We will then email to confirm your position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP TO AUGUST 2020</td>
<td>ACCEPTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ONLY</td>
<td>Unconditional offers will be issued once all academic conditions have been met. Successful candidates must confirm acceptance of a place on the course as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER 2020</td>
<td>The course begins with an induction week commencing 21 September 2020.</td>
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**Closing date for receipt of applications is:**

- **4th December 2019** (Home/EU Applicants)
- **26th February 2020** (International Applicants)

*Updated Sept 2019 (for 2020 Intake)*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>STAGE OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UP TO 26th February 2020</td>
<td>APPLICATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Date: International Applicants 26th February 2020 (applications may close early due to Placement capacity).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure we receive the completed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Application (including supporting statement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>References - It is essential we receive these before the deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF APPLICATION</td>
<td>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Your application will be considered following receipt and we will inform you if your application meets our academic entry requirements and you will then be offered an interview (face to face or via skype (pre-set dates available) if your supporting statement meets our entry requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLLOWING SHORTLISTING</td>
<td>PRE OFFER INTERVIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview either face to face or via Skype to find out more about the course and to take part in a selection activity involving a values based discussion as part of an interview.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLLOWING INTERVIEW</td>
<td>CONDITIONAL OFFERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you have been successful following your interview you will receive a conditional offer of a place on the course. Feedback will be given to all candidates following the interview.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2020 to June 2020</td>
<td>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You will be invited to complete online DBS and occupational health checks, as well as a self-declaration form. We require clearance from these checks before you can start the course, so please ensure that you complete the applications promptly as this may delay your enrolment. If you have lived overseas for more than 12 months since the age of 16 you will also need to obtain a DBS equivalent, e.g. Police check from your country of origin/previous residence prior to the start of the course. If your self-declaration form or DBS certificate contain a previous conviction or caution, this will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures. The University is required to satisfy itself that the nature of your conviction is low risk and will not affect progression to placement and/or eligibility to register with the HCPC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June /July 2020</td>
<td>EXAM RESULTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you have an offer conditional on your academic performance you will need to email us as soon as possible with your exam results. We will then email to confirm your position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to August 2020</td>
<td>ACCEPTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Candidates Only</td>
<td>Unconditional offers will be issued once all academic conditions have been met. Successful candidates must confirm acceptance of a place on the course as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2020</td>
<td>The course begins with an induction week commencing 21 September 2020.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS:**

- 4th December 2019 (Home/EU Applicants)  
- 26th February 2020 (International Applicants)
WRITING YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

Background
Each year we receive more applications than we have places available for the MSc Dietetics course. This means that we use selection criteria to help us identify who, from the large number of highly qualified candidates meeting our academic requirements, should receive an offer of a place on the course. The first step in the process involves asking you to complete a supporting statement which enables the Admissions Team to consider the vocational relevance of all your experiences to date as well as your academic achievements. This will be used to identify those candidates who will be invited to the Pre-Offer Selection Day.

The assessment criteria have been developed in partnership with students on the course, NHS Dietetic Service Managers/Employers, academic and administrative staff. The criteria focus on aspects considered highly desirable for a professional dietetic course. Supporting statements are assessed by the Admissions Team that includes registered dietitians currently working in the NHS.

Completion of the supporting statement will enable you to reflect on your strengths and weaknesses and help you to make an informed decision about whether the course is for you.

You should read the information carefully in this guidance document to help inform your supporting statement. To make it fair for all candidates, the Admissions Team are unable to offer further guidance on an individual basis.

Guidance on Completing the Supporting Statement
You should complete the supporting statement providing evidence of relevant experiences reflecting on what you learnt as a result of these experiences for each of the assessment criteria, in no more than 1000 words. You are expected to seek out appropriate learning opportunities that are relevant to dietetic practice in your home country.

You may decide to structure your supporting statement as a continuous piece of writing or you might wish to organise your statement according to the six assessment criteria. To help you manage the statement within the word count you are advised to make use of cross referencing. This means using the same example to demonstrate more than one criterion, enabling you to provide more depth in your writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</th>
<th>GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CANDIDATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to dietetics and working in the NHS</td>
<td>We are interested in your reasons and justification for applying to the MSc Dietetics course. This is not just another postgraduate course but one which prepares you for a particular end point. You need to demonstrate that you have carefully considered your reasons for studying this vocational course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displays an awareness of the role and duties of a dietitian and provides evidence to demonstrate this</td>
<td>You need to be able to make an informed decision about whether working as a dietitian is the right job for you. You need to seek out opportunities in the broadest sense to find out more about what dietetic practice entails and provide evidence of what you have learnt from your experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing communication skills and evidence of experiences where communication skills have been used and adapted with people from a range of backgrounds</td>
<td>Communication skills and working with people are essential skills for a practising dietitian and will be further developed on the course. Communicating with people forms a substantive part of what dietitians do. You need to evidence your experiences and learning so far in developing your communication skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Demonstrating an interest in and ability to work with people in a care setting and recognise own strengths and weaknesses for working in this environment

| Basic food preparation and cooking skills and exposure to the diversity and enjoyment of food in a multi-cultural society | Working as a dietitian involves talking about food, eating, and body weight on a regular basis and you need to feel comfortable talking about these issues. On the course students develop skills to adapt meals and recipes to meet individual patients’ therapeutic, cultural and religious needs building on basic food preparation and cooking skills. You need to reflect on your experiences and learning in this area. |
| Evidence of overcoming obstacles or challenges in either your personal or professional life | Postgraduate study is challenging. This reflects not just the volume or work and independent study, but also the academic level at which you will be working, as well as the stresses and strains of starting a new course, usually in a different university and city. Learning takes place in academic and practice settings and you may need to live away from home during the week whilst you are completing your placements*. You need to critically reflect on how you have responded to other challenges or obstacles you have faced in either your personal or professional life and the strategies you might use to support your learning. |

* Please note there is an allocation policy in place to meet the needs of students with priority for local allocation of placements.

A note on reflective practice
You are asked to ‘critically reflect’ on your learning. This means not just describing what you did but presenting a critical discussion of what you have learnt as a result of your experiences/opportunities. The following prompts, based on a reflective model developed by Graham Gibbs, may help you to think more deeply about your experiences. You may use these prompts or another approach that you find useful to help guide your reflection.

- Describe what happened (briefly)
- Try to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the learning experience.
- Evaluate the experience. What sense can you make of your learning?
- What conclusions can be made and what are your next steps to progress your learning/experience?

This type of critical reflection usually goes on in your head and at first it may feel a bit strange to write this in a supporting statement. The emphasis needs to be on you, your experiences and your learning. Therefore, your supporting statement should be written in the first person to reflect this.

Word Count
You should complete the supporting statement in no more than 1000 words and state the word count. Please note that text over and above 1000 words will not be considered.

Feedback
Candidates who have been unsuccessful with their application will receive written feedback on how to strengthen their application.

Contact Details
Home/EU Admissions – directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
International Admissions – internationaloffice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk