



Course Information
MA Social Work (L508)

2026-27 Entry
Start date: September 2026

Leeds Beckett University
School of Health

Last updated October 2025

Course web page:

MA Social work

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

Staff Contact Details:

Admissions Team: Full-time study: ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
Part-time study: directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Administrator: Evie Marsh E.A.Marsh@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Director: Gill Impey G.Impey@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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

1) Introduction

The MA Social Work programme enables students to gain a thorough grasp of the knowledge, skills and values that sit at the core of this rewarding career. Recognising the powerful links between personal and political issues, the course will assert the need to challenge inequality and safeguard vulnerable people.

In the first year, you will study the legal frameworks, policies and theories which underpin social work. A practice placement will offer you the chance to hone your communication skills as you start to apply your knowledge in the field. In your second year, you will continue to extend and refine your understanding of the law and social work theories and methods of intervention. You will also undertake a second practice placement and complete a dissertation.

This information booklet is intended to answer questions which are frequently asked by applicants to the MA 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:

- We typically ask for an undergraduate degree at 2:1 classification or higher, however some exceptions can be made for candidates with a 2:2 degree – please see below.
- GCSE English Language at Grade 4 or above (Grade C for GCSEs taken before 2017) or equivalent.
- An academic reference.
- Personal statement must demonstrate interest in social work.
- Successful interview
- DBS and Occupational Health checks

Equivalents for GCSE English Language accepted, include:

- Key skills Level 2 in English
- Functional Skills Level 2 in English
- Level 2 Adult Literacy
- A degree taught and assessed in English

3) Are there alternatives to a 2:1 degree which will be accepted for entry onto the course?

If you have a 2:2 degree and have successfully completed at least one module from studies at Level 7 (postgraduate level), your application will be considered. Advice on postgraduate modules offered at Leeds Beckett University is available on request from Emma Geddes, Admissions Tutor.

If you have completed and passed a postgraduate award, then this would be considered if your undergraduate degree was below a 2:1.

Applicants who hold a 2:2 degree and have a minimum of 3 years' social care experience in a relevant role will also be considered.

Applications based on work experience alone will not be considered.

If you are unsure about whether your qualification meets the entry requirements, please contact the Admissions Team at either ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for full-time applications or directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for part-time applications, for further advice.

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

Applicants for the MA in Social Work are expected to have experience of working in social care and to be able to demonstrate the capacity to reflect on the relevance of these experiences to a career in social work. This will be assessed via the personal statement and at interview.

Acceptable examples of relevant work experience include:

- Charity work and voluntary work (directly related to social care, not working in a charity shop).
- Youth in the community work.
- Work with elderly or vulnerable adults.
- Hospital work.
- Work with people who use substances.
- Prison work/work with offenders.
- Experience of working in education, alongside reflections on the relevance of this experience to the role of a social worker.
- Any form of care work which applicants can demonstrate is relevant to the role of a social worker.

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.

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?

If you have started an MA Social Work course and not completed this, we may be able to consider an application from you to re-start the course with us. Requests for credit exemptions will not be considered.

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 to request feedback following an unsuccessful interview, either ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for full-time applications or directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for part-time applications.

10) 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, either to ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for full-time applications or directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for part-time applications.

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

If you are holding a conditional offer, you must 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.

11) When does the course start?

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

12) Is the course full-time?

The course can be completed on a full-time basis over 2 years, however, there is an option to complete the course on a part-time basis over 3 years, which is designed to be more flexible around existing commitments.

In previous years, the full-time attendance requirement has been for approximately 2 days per week in Semester 1. There is then teaching in January/February amounting to approximately a day a week but may be spread over two days. From March in Year 1, the first 70-day placement commences. Students are on placement 5 days per week. There is then teaching approximately a day a week for Semester 1. The second placement commences mid- January full time for 100 days, finishing in June of the second year.

The part-time route fulfils the same requirements as the two-year route but enables students to complete the course over three years. Attendance at University has been for more than one day per week in Semester 1 and one day per week in Semester 2. In years 2 and 3 there are placements of 70 days and 100 days which are full-time. Please see the following schedule for how the part time course is organised:

Part-time - 3 years			
Year 1 - Semester 1	Core	Year 1 - Semester 2	Core
Understanding Social work: Knowledge Skills & Values for Practice 20	Y	Models of Intervention 20	Y
Social Work with Children and Young People 20 or Social Work with Adults 20	Y		

Year 2 - Semester 1	Core	Year 2 - Semester 2	Core
Social Work with Adults 20 or Social Work with Children and Young People 20 Practice Placement 1 (academic teaching)	Y	Practice Placement 1 20 70 days	Y
Social Work Research 40 (<i>continues over three semesters</i>)			Y
Year 3 - Semester 1	Core	Year 3 - Semester 2	Core
Social Work Research (continues from Yr 2)	Y	Practice Placement 2 – 100 days Jan-June	Y
Social Work Law for Qualifying Practice 20	Y		

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.

14) Will I receive a bursary?

Full-time postgraduate students may be entitled to receive a bursary. The University is allocated a certain number of bursaries each year and applicants are nominated to receive these based on scoring from the interview process. There may be more students on the course than bursaries available. Applicants are also required to meet NHS eligibility criteria, which means that although a student may be nominated by the University to receive a bursary, the NHS may not award one.

Part-time MA students may be eligible to receive the bursary in three instalments over 3 years. Overall, this is the same amount that full-time students receive over 2 years. Bursaries are limited each year and bursaries for part-time students are only awarded when sufficient bursaries are available. You may also be eligible for a Child Dependant's Allowance and Exceptional Support Funding dependent on your circumstances. Further information about bursaries is available at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students>

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 contact 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 current professional regulator.