



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Application Information

Post-Graduate Diploma Specialist Community Public Health Nursing
– School Nursing

2026 Entry

Start date: 21 September 2026

Closing date: 27th February 2026

School of Health
Leeds Beckett University
City Campus
Leeds
LS1 3HE
United Kingdom

Web: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/specialist-community-public-health-school-nursing-pg-dip>

Email: directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

The Course

Our course provides you with the opportunity to become a specialist community public health nurse on the third part of the nursing register. It will enable you to undertake leadership roles and develop the expertise to influence, drive and implement public health policies whilst working to deliver the Healthy Child Programme.

You will gain a specialism in School Nursing, developing the skills to deliver quality, innovative health care to children, young people and families to help improve their life chances. There is the opportunity to explore concepts of health behaviours and promotion in the public health arena, together with how to meet the wellbeing needs of individuals, groups and communities. You'll have the opportunity to identify and promote entrepreneurial activities, build a portfolio of practice work, and leave with a nationally recognised qualification.

The creation of the modern public health philosophy together with the formation of the SCPHN register highlights the need for practitioners to be responsive to both individuals and population groups. They will be skilled in providing an all embracing perspective of needs from a multi-agency perspective and manage community public health practice within their communities (NMC, 2004). This will also include influencing the commissioning and procurement of services and monitoring and evaluating outcomes to ensure sustainability for the future. The course will prepare the practitioner to build on alliances with individuals, families, communities, national and local governments, education, business and industry, voluntary, faith and charitable organisations to improve the health of the people. The curriculum will enable the SCPHN, upon registration, to work collaboratively on behalf of their communities, to empower the population when making decisions and actions affecting their health, adhering to the standards of proficiency as set by the NMC (2004).

Common core modules, shared across the specialisms, will enable students to acquire greater understanding of each others' roles, shared challenges and opportunities to identify and respond to health needs collaboratively. The inter-professional debate, facilitated through a variety of activities will provide greater perception of the value of colleagues and promote partnership working in practice. Specifically the inter-professional (nursing) delivery structure of the Scheme facilitate different nursing practitioners to work together, the Faculty Inter-professional (IPL) Strategy and the faculty IPL conferences are a key part of this and lead to a strong course identity for specialist community public health nurses.

Entry Requirements

The online prospectus provides an outline of the entry requirements; briefly the academic side are as follows:

- NMC registered nurse (level 1) or NMC registered midwife
- A second class honours degree in the cognate subject of health.
- If you do not hold a second class honours degree you will need to undertake our Professional Profile Development within the context of Health and Community Care (PPD) module in order to assess your previous skills and experience. The PPD module runs in January and September each year. Please contact our CPD team for further details hss-cpd@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- Evidence of continuous learning and development

In addition to academic ability, it is also important that you consider and reflect on the skills needed to work as a School Nurse and, where possible, provide evidence that you have worked to develop those skills.

To fulfil this applicants are required to submit a personal statement with their application using the guidelines under the Person Specification section

Making your application

School Nursing training posts will be advertised through the NHS jobs website. You will need to make an application through NHS jobs in the usual way for one of these posts.

The deadline for submission of applications and all supporting documentation to NHS jobs is 27th February 2026.

Once the closing date has been reached, long listing and short listing will be completed by Leeds Beckett University in conjunction with the partnership Trusts. Successful applicants at this stage will be invited to attend an interview. Outcomes of shortlisting will be communicated within 6 weeks of the application closing date.

Interviews will be held in April. The date of interview will be included in the NHS advert and we are unable to offer an alternative date.

After the interviews, the panels will score all applications and agree those who are to be offered a place and those who can be offered a place on the waiting list.

If applying as an external candidate, we will endeavour to allocate you a placement with your preferred provider but cannot always guarantee this which is why we ask you to give a second choice of placement provider. Once you have accepted your allocated placement we will be unable to change this.

If you are successful at interview, you will then be prompted to submit an application to the university. We will get in touch with you directly following your interview to advise on how to do this.

You will be asked to provide evidence of your qualifications, such as a degree certificate, diploma certificate or PPD evidence.

Successful applicants will be made an offer by the university through their online application account. Outcomes will usually be communicated within 8 weeks of the final interview date. **Initially this will be a Conditional offer, whilst the relevant placement provider carries out the pre-employment checks below.**

Details of successful applicants will be shared with the relevant placement provider. Their HR department will also contact you with details of your offer and contract. Your placement provider will request two references from you that they will then confirm to the university they have received. Your placement provider will also need to carry out an enhanced criminal history check and undertake health clearance checks prior to you taking up their offer. The University will be unable to issue you with an Unconditional offer until these checks have been completed and the Trust has communicated successful completion of these to the University. **Contact details for your placement provider will be included in your interview outcome email should you have any queries during this period.**

We wish you every success with your application and look forward to hearing from you. Please appreciate, however, that places are very limited, and the course is oversubscribed. Successful candidates will normally be those who score highest in the personal statement. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback at any stage in the process by requesting it in writing to directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk We will endeavour to provide feedback within 6 weeks of your request.

APPLYING FOR THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCHOOL NURSING

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AND WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

DATE	STAGE OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS
UP TO 27th February 2026.	<p>APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Closing Date: the positions will be advertised through the NHS jobs website with a closing date of 27th February 2026.</p>
MARCH	<p>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Your application will be considered once the deadline has passed. We will aim to inform applicants on the outcome of their application by 27th March 2026</p>
APRIL (w/c 13th APRIL 2026)	<p>INTERVIEWS</p> <p>If you have been successful, you will receive an invitation to interview which will be held week commencing 13th April 2026.</p>
JUNE	<p>OUTCOMES</p> <p>The outcome of the interviews will be communicated to applicants by 5th June 2026.</p> <p>Successful applicants will also be contacted by their placement provider and will also be prompted to submit an application to the university.</p>
JULY	<p>PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKS</p> <p>Your placement provider will request your references and complete a DBS check and health screening checks by 17th July 2026.</p>
UP TO SEPTEMBER 2026 - SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ONLY	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS</p> <p>Unconditional offers will be issued once all academic conditions have been met and pre-employment checks have been carried out. Successful candidates must confirm acceptance of a place on the course as soon as possible.</p>
SEPTEMBER 2026	<p>The course begins with an induction week 21st September 2026.</p>

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

Each year we receive more applications than we have places available for our Specialist Public Health Nursing courses. 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 be invited to interview and receive an offer of a place on the course. We do this by asking you to complete a personal statement which enables the shortlisting panel to consider the vocational relevance of all your experiences so far as well as your academic achievement in consideration of your application.

Guidance on Completing the Personal Statement

You should complete the personal statement evidencing your experiences and what you have learnt from these for each of the assessment criteria. You are expected to seek out appropriate learning opportunities to help you with this and which are relevant to public health nursing.

- **Please ensure that you also include confirmation of your driving license and use of a car and your first and second choice of placement.**
- **Please include a first and second choice of placement if you are applying as an external candidate.**
- **If you are applying as an Internal Applicant, please state clearly on your application form that you are an employee of the organisation and have your manager's support to apply for a secondment. Your application will then be considered and if you are invited for interview, a decision will be made on your suitability to proceed onto this course in collaboration with your employer.**

You may wish to write a personal statement as a continuous piece of writing, or you may wish to organise your statement under each of the assessment criteria set out in the person specification attached to the job advert - how you do this is your decision.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are some of the questions frequently asked by potential students. If your question is not covered here please visit our website or contact the Admissions Team at directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

What is the recruitment process?

The recruitment process is detailed in the 'Making your Application' section. 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). Further details on Value Based Recruitment can be found here: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/values-based-recruitment>

Further details of the interview process will be provided to those invited to interview. The interviews will likely take place via Microsoft Teams in small groups, involving discussion of a case study which will be sent to you in advance and a discussion based on the core values of the NHS constitution.

How many places are available?

There are up to 20 places available each year on the courses. We will normally interview up to 50 candidates and to reach this number may use the desirable attributes to complete the shortlisting process.

Do I receive a salary?

The posts will be advertised as fixed term training posts. The salary is paid by each individual trust so there may be slight variations (TBC on an annual basis as part of the commissioning of NHS programs of study).

I don't hold a full driving license, can I still apply?

Due to the nature of this role, it is essential that applicants are able to travel independently and have access to a suitable vehicle for business purposes throughout the course. Where necessary, adjustments will be made in accordance with the Equality Act. You will be asked to supply a copy of your driving license if you are successful after interview as part of your Leeds Beckett application.

Conditional Offers and Waiting List

Offers may be conditional upon provision of academic certificates to include nursing qualification and degree/level 6 credits and your NMC PIN.

All offers will be conditional upon pre-employment checks and evidence of a full clean driving license.

If you are on a waiting list, we will contact you by email if/as soon as a place becomes available. Please remember to keep us updated with your contact details.

What are the pre-employment checks?

This will include a Disclosure & Barring Service check, occupational health check and references. These will be undertaken by the Trust you are placed with.

What if I don't pass the pre-employment checks?

If your pre-employment checks are not considered acceptable by the Trust at which your placement is allocated then we would not be able to consider you for an alternative placement at a different Trust. You would need to reapply the following year.

Enrolment & Induction

Once you have accepted an Unconditional offer details will be sent to you during the summer about how to log in to the Welcome Information Service which will give you access to details of the structure of the induction week. Students are expected to attend University Monday to Friday during induction week.

Sponsor Organisations and Contract

You will receive a contract from one of the sponsor organisations. We would **not** advise that you give notice on your current job until you have received this and an Unconditional offer from the University.

Do I need to find a placement?

Your placement will be allocated to you as part of the application process. You do not need to find a placement separately.

How do I find a Mentor?

Your mentor will be assigned to you by your placement provider. You do not need to contact them yourself.

What is the timetable like?

The Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing is offered as a one year full-time course (52 weeks). Studying full-time you will be in university for lectures two days a week (Thursday and Friday) and two days a week you will be in your practice placement.

Do I get any holidays?

You will get seven weeks holiday throughout the course at Easter, Christmas and over summer.

Are there attendance requirements?

You are expected to attend all taught sessions and complete the placement requirements as below.

What are the placement requirements?

You are required to undertake 112 ½ days in practice in the year. 50 of these will be the consolidation practice that you do over the summer months after completing all teaching and assessment.

What is the course structure and assessment?

Please see the Course Specification, under 'Teaching and Learning' on the online course page here: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/specialist-community-public-health-school-nursing-pg-dip>

Learning Support

If you have declared a learning support need on your application form or feel that you may have learning support needs please contact the Disability Advice team once you have accepted a conditional offer so that you can be assessed and support put into place for the start of the academic year.

Feedback

Candidates who have been unsuccessful with their application may receive written feedback on how to strengthen their application. If you would like to receive feedback, please email the team at directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk. Please allow 6 weeks for your request to be responded to.