



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HEALTH

Application Information

MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration)

Subject Group: Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Sciences
2024-2025 Entry

Start date: January 2025

Closing Date for Applications: 4 pm Monday 20th September 2024

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Introduction

Hello!

I am delighted that you are considering applying for the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) programme at Leeds Beckett University. Our programme is designed to create occupational therapists that are practice-scholars for now and for the future. We offer an innovative curriculum, and our academic tutors have excellent clinical, research and teaching expertise. On practice placement our students learn from and work with experts in the field.

I hope that you find all the information that you need in this document together with the information online. I would recommend that you attend one of the Leeds Beckett University Postgraduate open evenings where you will be able to talk to teaching and admissions staff.

This Application Guidance has an additional Appendix, “Proud to be an occupational therapy student at Leeds Beckett University”. There, you will find a range of resources to learn more about our Programme and the Occupational Therapy Profession.

If you would like to discuss your application to the programme please do contact our Admissions Lead, their details are at the back of this booklet.

Dr Heather Baglee

Course Director

Course Overview

This section provides a very brief overview of the structure and content of the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) course. Please note there may be some variation to the number of weeks per module. The assessment strategies used include oral presentations, report writing, reflective assignments, case studies, practical examination, group work and a written exam. These assessments take place in formative and summative forms. The following information is a guide only. The programme uses an Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) approach throughout the two years.

Year 1

Occupations Across the Lifespan (20 credits)

Using scenarios/case studies, you'll understand how occupations are defined and classified and how they influence identity across the lifespan. This module emphasises the importance of occupation for health and wellbeing and draws upon related subjects such as occupational science, human anatomy, sociology and psychology.

Research Methods and Design (20 Credits)

Extend your depth and breadth of knowledge of research and develop a research proposal within the scope of occupational therapy.

Achieving Occupational Potential (20 Credits)

Develop skills to understand occupational narratives and dysfunction, and to enable occupational potential, identity and wellness. You'll study a variety of case studies which consider occupational therapy with diverse populations and across the spectrum of health and social care settings.

Applied Research (40 Credits)

Conduct an ethical, independent research project and disseminate your findings in the form of a journal article and a research poster. You'll defend your research process, findings and application to occupational therapy practice through a viva voce.

Practice Placement 1 (0 Credits)

Observe and practice occupational therapy and reflect on your performance during this six-week practice placement module. You'll consider how theory is applied in practice, including how to engage with service users, apply the occupational therapy process and understand the

importance of clinical reasoning and multidisciplinary working.

Occupational Therapy as a Complex Intervention (40 Credits)

Critically appraise and apply a range of evidence that informs the quality, safety, timing, effectiveness and outcomes of occupational therapy practice. Using diverse real-life case studies, you'll understand the personal, socio-economic, cultural, environment and spiritual circumstances that influence human occupation.

Year 2

Practice Placement 2 (0 Credits)

During this six-week practice placement, you'll practice occupational therapy, including assessments and interventions and you'll develop your own clinical reasoning and make decisions about service users. You'll also be encouraged to engage in self-reflection and integrate theory into practice.

Promoting Occupational Justice (20 Credits)

Critically understand the role of occupational therapy in enabling and campaigning for occupational justice. You'll analyse global and local contexts, including a synthesis of legislation and policy, which impact on the health and occupational engagement of humans.

Potential for Occupational Therapy (20 Credits)

Establish a critical understanding of theories of leadership, business and enterprise in health and social care services. You'll identify emerging markets in occupational therapy and be able to explain the potential for occupational therapy services, demonstrating your skills in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Practice Placement 3 (0 credits)

During this six-week practice placement, you'll apply an occupational perspective to a setting and client group, including an assessment of health and occupational needs. You'll then implement a sustainable project to address these needs.

Practice Placement 4 (0 credits)

Engage in critical dialogue about professional reasoning in complex and novel situations to inform risk evaluation, and prioritisation and delegation of workload and resources. You'll develop and maintain professional relationships that facilitate team working and service

improvement for effective and optimal service user outcomes.

Practice Placements

Students are involved in practice placements throughout Leeds and occasionally elsewhere in the region. This may necessitate students staying in local accommodation or travelling on a daily basis. All travel and accommodation costs are initially met by the student however if eligible maybe claimed back from Health Education England (HEE). Students are allocated practice placements based on their educational needs, within the parameters of the placements offered by local services. Students are not able to negotiate their own practice placements. Students will be provided with uniforms by the University.

- To accommodate placements this programme does not typically adhere to the usual university academic terms dates. Please contact the course team if you require specific course dates.
- Occupational Health clearance and compliance with standard NHS immunisations requirements is mandatory and essential for placement attendance.

Entry requirements UK, EU and international applicants

Applicants who do not have English as their first language are required to have IELTS 7.0 with no skill below 6.5 or an equivalent award. Evidence of this must be provided at the time of application.

Satisfactory health and enhanced criminal history checks (such as DBS) will be required by all applicants prior to acceptance on the course, these will be in line with professional body membership and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registration requirements.

Applications must be accompanied by **TWO** references. The references **should provide evidence of an applicant's suitability for the occupational therapy profession and postgraduate study** e.g. academic tutor, current or recent employer. These should be supplied at the point of submitting your application; if they are not submitted with your application before the deadline, the application will not be shortlisted.

The following lists the criteria which are used to determine whether an application is short listed:

Academic criteria

Applicants should normally have at least a second class honours degree usually completed in the last five years in the cognate subjects of Science, Social Sciences, Healthcare (including

degrees in related health and social care professions), Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, History, Politics, Environment or Arts. Exceptions to this are those with a masters or doctoral degree. Applicants with degrees completed more than five years ago **should demonstrate that they have recent and relevant study/academic achievement** and will be considered on an individual basis.

Non-academic criteria

Applicants will also need to demonstrate in their application supporting information/ personal statement (1-2 pages maximum):

- ✓ An understanding of the philosophy of the profession (e.g. occupation, occupation centred-practice, occupational participation, occupational engagement, meaningful occupation or occupational justice)
- ✓ An understanding of the scope of occupational therapy practice
- ✓ How relevant work experience or shadowing has informed their understanding of the profession or health and social care or working with people.
- ✓ How they demonstrate the attitudes and behaviours we would expect from a healthcare professional, for example, being caring and compassionate, communicating and working with others.
- ✓ Details of how they expect to maintain motivation and commitment during an accelerated programme of study.
- ✓ Describe and reflect on your shadowing or work experience with occupational therapists; you should include where and when your shadowing/experiences took place and what you learnt about occupational therapy from your experiences. We do not stipulate an amount of work experience/shadowing but you should demonstrate that you have done enough to understand the role and that it is the right career for you. Your work experience or shadowing may be gained in a variety of ways including conversations with occupational therapists, visiting occupational therapy departments and spending time observing occupational therapists.

Note: *We appreciate that for 2025 admissions it may be difficult for applicants to gain face-to-face work shadowing with an Occupational Therapist. Instead, we recommend that you consider virtual means of understanding the work of an Occupational Therapist e.g. arranging a telephone / video call with an Occupational Therapist; watching videos on YouTube; following Occupational Therapy organisations on social media; exploring the resources on the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) website www.rcot.co.uk and <https://chooseot.co.uk/> and articles on research databases (The

Supporting/Personal Statement need to present this information objectively).

- ✓ Demonstrate that your attitudes and behaviours are congruent with the values set out in the NHS Constitution. These key principles for health professionals include displaying care and compassion and ensuring others are treated with dignity and respect. Illustrate how you demonstrate these skills, for example through voluntary or paid care work.
- ✓ Identify and describe times when you have demonstrated self-direction and motivation, for example in previous academic settings or in your personal life.
- ✓ Illustrate when you have demonstrated effective communication skills and identify what made your communication effective. It may be useful to give an example of when you have had to adapt your communication style to meet the needs of others.
- ✓ Reflect upon your abilities to work independently and upon your own contributions to teamwork.

International (including EU) applicants

Applications from international students are welcomed. The entry criteria for international students are the same as for home students. Please see the international application procedure.

Applicants with disabilities

We welcome applicants with specific learning difficulties, physical disability or other health concerns. Early contact with the Leeds Beckett University Disability Support Team disabilityservices@leedsbeckett.ac.uk is advised. You can contact the admissions tutor if you wish to discuss learning, disability or health issues prior to applying for the programme.

Health screening

Due to the nature of the occupational therapy course it is necessary to pass a health screening. This is confidential and is carried out through the University Occupational Health provider.

Disclosure and Barring Service check

It is a requirement that students undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Application procedure for UK students

- Applications for entry to the programme are made direct to Leeds Beckett University.

- Your application should be submitted via our [online application system](#). All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, references) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please email the admissions team directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- Please only attach relevant supporting documentation, for example we **do not** need to see GCSE and A-Level certificates or first aid qualifications.
- All applications **must** be accompanied by two references – please **do not** submit references and application forms separately. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that two references are provided in a timely manner with the application. These references should provide evidence of your suitability for the occupational therapy profession **and** postgraduate study e.g. academic tutor, current or recent employer. You will therefore want to show your referees the entry requirements for the course before they write the reference. Personal references will not be accepted.

Please note: References must be the original copy on official headed paper and signed by the referee. Applications which do not include two references will not be processed.

- Applicants who would like to be considered for entry in January 2025 should ensure their completed application is submitted by **4pm on 20th September 2024**; applications after this date may be considered, but not guaranteed.
- All appropriate applications are reviewed by the admissions tutor or other academic staff from the programme using the admissions criteria.
- Shortlisted **home and international (overseas) applicants** will be invited for interview **via MS Teams, closer to the time of the interview.**
- We hold several interview panels to allow early applicants to receive a decision. It is not however, a policy of 'first come first served'.

Applications for January 2025 should be made by 4pm on **Friday 20th September 2024**.

Interviews will be held on 20 and 21 June and 10, and 11 October 2024:

- Applications received by **Friday 24th May 2024** will be considered for the **June** interview dates.
- Applications received by the closing date, **20th September 2024**, will be considered for the **October** interview dates.

We aim to inform you of our decision within two weeks of your interview.

Application procedure for international (including EU) students

- Applications for entry to the programme are made direct to Leeds Beckett University.
- Your application should be submitted via our [online application system](#). All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, references) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please email the international admissions team international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- The International team will be able to help compare and verify your qualifications
- Applicants who do not have English as their first language are required to have IELTS 7.0 with no skill below 6.5 or an equivalent award. The International Office are able to advise you on courses to improve your English Language.
- The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in the UK is currently not able to conduct overseas criminal record checks. International applicants, those without British Citizenship and British Citizens with a significant period of overseas residency therefore require a criminal records check or certificate of good conduct from their home/overseas country prior to entry on to the course. A UK DBS check will be required after enrolment.
- The closing date for international admission is **Friday 20th September 2024** applications after this may be considered but not guaranteed to be accepted.

Accreditation of prior learning, module exemption and transferring

Accreditation of prior learning and experience

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a general term relating to the formal recognition of learning gained in a variety of contexts, outside or prior to a student's course of study. There are four main types of RPL:

- Type 1: Recognition of Prior Certificated Learning (RPCL)
- Type 2: Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL)

- Type 3: Credit Transfer
- Type 4: Admission through RPL

All claims must go through the relevant RPL Approval Board and will always involve an academic judgment about the acceptability of the RPL claim. Applicants are advised to contact the Course Director to discuss any RPL.

The integrated nature and inclusion of essential skills in many modules of this occupational therapy course may result in logistic difficulties in granting entry with advanced standing. All applications under this process will still be subject to health and DBS screening.

Applying for exemption from modules

A single module for the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) course is valued at 20 M level credits. It is possible to obtain exemption from whole modules if you have successfully studied the module content at the equivalent level on another occupational therapy course. You are required to provide evidence of your previous study including module content. However, due to the highly integrated nature of this course it is unlikely that you will have completed similar modules elsewhere. Please contact the admissions tutor for information about the course modules.

Transferring onto the course

It is possible, in theory, to transfer onto this MSc course from another equivalent MSc course. However, this is a course leading to eligibility to apply for registration as an Occupational Therapist with the Health and Care Professions Council, so it is essential that we ensure students have covered all areas of the curriculum. Therefore, in practice, transfer onto the course is unlikely to be feasible due to the highly integrated nature of this course.

Any application for transfer with advance standing would be considered by the Admissions Team. If you are considering this option, please seek advice from the Admissions Tutor or Course Director.

Frequently asked questions

Here are some of the questions frequently asked by potential students. If your particular question is not covered here please visit our website or contact the Admission Tutor

How long is the course and is it full time?

The course is full-time. It starts in early January and runs continuously over two years; students

will normally have seven weeks holiday a year (two weeks in Winter, two weeks at Spring and three weeks in the Summer).

Would I be able to stay working on a part time basis and study for the MSc at the same time? The course is an accelerated two-year course, which does mean that it will be more intense than other courses. Although the current timetable has some time when study is self-directed, if students choose to work during this time they will need to consider when they will fit studying into their week. During practice placements students must be present for a normal full-time working week.

Do I have to pay any fees?

The most up to date details of loans and scholarships are available on our online prospectus page, which also has links to the Leeds Beckett University Student Finance team:

https://courses.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/occupationaltherapyprereq_msc/

Home students may be eligible to apply for the NHS Learning Support Fund of £5000 per academic year. You can find out further information here: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund>

What areas can you specialise in?

This course, like all pre-registration occupational therapy courses, aims to produce therapists who can work in any setting. For that reason there is no possibility of specialisation within the course; you would do that after graduating.

Is this course recognised abroad or will I have to do further exams?

As the course is accredited by the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) it is also recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT). Occupational therapists from a WFOT accredited programme can apply to register and practice in other countries. Some countries will still require you to sit an additional exam. A number of our students have been successful at gaining registration in the United States of America, Canada and Australia.

How many places do you have?

We aim to recruit around 30 students per year.

How many applications do you receive?

While this varies each year we usually receive between 180-200 applications from UK home students. In addition, we receive around 20-30 international applications.

Contacts

Admissions Team

Telephone (0113) 812 3700

Email directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

International Admissions Team

Telephone (0113) 812 1111

Email international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

If you would like to contact a member of academic staff regarding the course:

Dr Daniel Cezar da Cruz

Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy/ Admissions Tutor

Telephone (0113) 812 2546

Email d.m.cezar-da-cruz@leedsbeckett.ac.uk



Appendix - Proud to be an occupational therapy student at Leeds Beckett University

Follow us on Twitter  @OTLeedsBeckett

Useful links:

- **MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) at Leeds Beckett University**

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/courses/occupational-therapy-pre-registration-msc/>

- **Join us at Postgraduate Open Days:**

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/postgraduate/open-days/>

- **Why Leeds for Health**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LezgSAYZD-c>

Meet our team of Lecturers

Dr Heather Baglee- Course Director

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/dr-heather-baglee/>

Mr Alan H irons- Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/alan-hirons/>

Dr Angela Murphy- Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/dr-angela-murphy/>

Dr Blaine Robin - Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/dr-blaine-robin/>

Dr Daniel Cruz - Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/dr-daniel-cezar-da-cruz/>

Jo Atkinson- Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/jo-atkinson/>

Rebecca Haythorne - Senior Lecturer In Occupational Therapy

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/rebecca-haythorne/>

- Our student experience at Leeds Beckett University – Occupational Therapy

Alice Gibson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pcb4s92pFYk>

Anna Wood and Amy Parkin

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=occupational+therapy+leeds+beckett+university

Paul Dodgson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiU4LE4t6I8>