

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND CULTURES
TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS POLICY
2019

This document outlines the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy for 2019 entry. It supports the admissions principles and policies of the University of Leeds, as outlined in [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#) and should be considered alongside this document. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures Admissions Policy applies to programmes taught by the following schools:

- School of Design
- School of English
- School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies
- School of History and Institute for Medieval Studies
- School of Languages, Cultures and Societies
- School of Media and Communication
- School of Music
- School of Performance and Cultural Industries
- School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science

Information about each of our courses is available on the University's online Coursefinder: <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/> and on the relevant School's website – *please see section 7. below, for web-links*

1. Principles

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures ensures that the selection process provides equal consideration for applicants who apply by the relevant closing date. All selection decisions are made on the basis of merit and the ability of each applicant to meet the academic and non-academic criteria for admission to the relevant programme of study.

2. Selection principles

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures will treat all applicants fairly and not discriminate unlawfully on grounds of their age; disability; gender; gender identity; pregnancy or maternity status; race; religion or belief; or sexual orientation.

3. Application process

3. 1 How to apply

All applicants for taught postgraduate programmes should apply online at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply.htm>. Applicants can track the application at each

stage of the process through the applicant portal and it is recommended that they check the portal regularly for updates.

It is important that overseas applicants upload all academic transcripts to the portal at the earliest opportunity, to enable us to assess your suitability for the course. CAS and Visa documents are also required if you have studied in the UK previously. **If the necessary documents are not uploaded, there may be delays in processing your application.**

The admissions process is covered by the University's Policy on Equality and Inclusion which is available from the [University's Equality Policy Unit](#).

3.2 General entrance requirements

The typical entrance requirements for programmes within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures is a good first honours degree of at least a UK upper second class or equivalent. Criteria for entry to individual programmes of study may differ and applicants are advised to check programme specific entry requirements on the University's online Coursefinder or relevant School's website (*see 7. for web-links*), prior to application. Exceptions to the published entry requirements may be made when the School considers that applicants demonstrate significant relevant non-standard experience, such as work / voluntary experience, and their potential for benefiting from the programme is clear.

3.3 Application deadlines

Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible for taught postgraduate programmes. International students are particularly advised to submit applications as early as possible to ensure they have sufficient time to obtain a visa and prepare for arrival in the UK.

An offer of a place is also needed if applicants are to qualify to apply for many scholarships that are available to international students. Closing dates for scholarship applications can often be early in the year, so funding/scholarship applicants should submit an application for a place at the University at least one month before any specific scholarship deadline. More specific details about scholarship application deadlines may be found on the relevant School's website (*see 7. for web-links*).

Applications for programmes in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies will only be assessed if they are received complete with all required documentation by the relevant application closing date. Please refer to the School website for details at: [School of Languages, Cultures and Societies Taught Postgraduate Courses](#).

3.4 International / overseas students

Teaching, assessment and student support will take place in English, unless otherwise stated. Schools must be confident that candidates have the proficiency in English language necessary to succeed on the chosen programme of study and that they meet the UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) minimum requirements to obtain a Tier 4 visa.

All applications from international students are considered in line with standard entrance requirements. Proof of English Language proficiency will be required and minimum levels and approved tests are detailed in the [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#).

Some programmes, such as those in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies that involve translation and interpreting, may require English Language proficiency to be of a higher level than standard university requirements. Evidence of this is normally required as part of the application process, and (due to their higher English Language requirements) these programmes are not compatible with combined pre-sessional English courses (*see below*). For details of a programme's particular English language entry requirements, please visit the University's online Coursefinder or the relevant School's website (*see 7. for web-links*).

An applicant that does not meet the English language requirements for the academic course, but does meet the requirements for the University of Leeds pre-sessional English Language summer courses, may be eligible for a combined offer for the pre-sessional and Taught Postgraduate programme. Applicants will be informed via their offer letter if they are eligible for a combined offer, for which they will need to opt in. Applicants with a combined unconditional offer needing a CAS will receive a single CAS for the duration of their studies. Applicants must attend and pass the pre-sessional course in order to progress onto the Taught Postgraduate programme and failure to do so will result in the applicant being unable to join the programme. Applicants can opt out of this route in favour of meeting the English Language requirement by completing one of the English Language tests detailed in Appendix A, Section 2 of the [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#), by declining the offer and contacting tp_applications@leeds.ac.uk.

Admissions staff are experienced in considering a wide range of international qualifications in relation to programme entry requirements. Prospective applicants who wish to discuss whether their qualifications will meet the necessary entry criteria should contact the relevant School's Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions, as listed in *section 7*, below.

Further information for prospective international applicants can be found on the [University of Leeds international student webpages](#).

Overseas applicants and applicants from non-EU countries should note that student visa regulations will not normally permit them to study on a part-time basis.

3.5 Admissions intake

All programmes within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures aim to recruit the highest calibre students, with all places awarded on merit. The allocation of student places is set for each programme on an annual basis. Many of our programmes are very popular and receive a greater number of applications than the number of places available.

3.6 Advanced Entry

Accreditation of prior learning is a process undertaken by the University in order to assess and, as appropriate, recognise prior experiential or certificated learning for academic purposes. This recognition may give the learning a credit value and allow it to be counted towards the completion of a programme of study. Credit Transfer is the process by which the University accepts credit arising from prior certificated learning, either awarded by the University of Leeds or another institution, as contributing to an award of the University. Any decision on credit transfer or entry of students with advanced standing is an academic decision taken within the relevant School at the point of admission on to a programme of study. Retrospective applications from students part-way through a programme cannot normally be considered.

For further information, please contact the relevant School's Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions, as listed in *section 7*, below.

Further details of the University's policy can be found [on our webpage](#).

4. Selection process

Academic grades normally form only part of the final decision and the following information explains how applicants may demonstrate that they have the skills, knowledge and attributes that will enable them to become a successful student in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures. Relevant voluntary / work experience, for example, may be taken into account.

Applicants are usually required to submit a supporting statement which outlines their aptitude and interest in the proposed area of study. However, applicants to the School of Media and Communication (other than the MA Film, Photography and Media) and some courses in the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies that involve translation and interpreting, are *not* required to submit a supporting statement, though one may be requested if further information is needed.

Applicants for programmes in the following areas are advised to refer to the University's online Coursefinder or the relevant School website (*see 7. for web-links*) for details of additional evidence of their skills and knowledge that is required as part of the application process:

- **School of Design**
Applicants for programmes that include a practical 'design' component are required to submit an electronic portfolio of their recent creative work.
- **School of English**
Applicants are required to submit a recent sample of academic work of around 2,000 words on a topic relevant to the programme. A literary critical analysis, fully referenced and with bibliography, is recommended.

- **School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies**
Applicants for the MA Fine Art are required to submit a research study proposal of up to one-thousand words and a portfolio of up to fifteen images of recent creative work in an online or digital format.
- **Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied Centre**
Applicants to all courses are required to submit additional work
- **School of Languages, Cultures and Societies**
Applicants for programmes that include a translation element may be required to complete translation tests in relevant languages.
- **School of Media and Communication**
Applicants for the MA Film, Photography and Media are required to submit a selection of their practical work to demonstrate their technical suitability for the programme.
- **School of Music**
Applicants for most programmes are required to provide specific examples of their work as part of their application.
- **School of Performance and Cultural Industries**
Applicants for the MA Performance Design and MA Writing for Performance and Publication are required to submit additional work

4.1 Interviews

Schools in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures (other than those detailed below) do not typically undertake interviews with applicants, though in certain circumstances an applicant may be invited to interview as part of the selection procedure. This may allow Schools to further assess the applicant's aptitude and interest in the programme in cases where the applicant's circumstances are not straightforward.

Suitably qualified applicants to the following Schools/programmes will be invited to participate in an interview:

- **The School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies**
Suitably qualified applicants to all programmes, except MA Critical and Cultural Studies, are normally invited to interview. This informal discussion will focus on the student's motivation to study, experience of the subject and understanding of the programme. Applicants may be asked to submit written responses to a series of questions in lieu of, or in addition to the interview.
- **Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied Centre**
All applicants will be considered for interview.

- **The School of Music**
Applicants to all programmes, except the MA Music and Management, are normally invited to interview.
- **The School of Languages, Cultures and Societies**
Applicants to the PG Dip Conference Interpreting and PG Dip Business and Public Service Interpreting are invited to interview. Applicants to the MA Conference Interpreting and Translation Studies and the MA Business and Public Service Interpreting and Translation Studies are invited to attend an interview following the successful completion of any necessary translation tests
- **The School of Performance and Cultural Industries**
Applicants to all programmes except the MA Culture, Creativity and Entrepreneurship, are invited to interview

Applicants for the above programmes are advised to refer to the University's online Coursefinder or the relevant School website (*see 7. for web-links*) for details of the interview process.

If you are invited to participate in an interview on a specific date, you will receive an email notification / invitation via the online applicant's portal. The School will do its best to accommodate requests for an alternative date, though this cannot be guaranteed. Interviews may take place via a number of alternative means depending on the applicant's circumstances. For example, interviews may take place on a one to one basis or via Skype, video conferencing or telephone, particularly for overseas applicants.

Some applicants (for example, disabled applicants, applicants who are pregnant, etc.) will require adjustments at interview (for example, a sign-language interpreter or an adjustment to an audition process) to provide them with full and equal access to the process. The School is responsible for making reasonable adjustments where possible. The University's Disability Services team should be consulted for further advice or information regarding disability related adjustments (email disability@leeds.ac.uk) and the Equality Policy Unit for advice on other adjustments (email equality@leeds.ac.uk).

4.2 Offers

Offers are made on the basis of the merit and the ability of each applicant to meet the academic and non-academic criteria for admission to the relevant programme of study, and with regard to the availability of a place on the programme. Offers are made based on the information supplied on the application form, assessment of any requisite submitted materials or tests and where required, an interview (*as explained in 4. above*), and proof of English Language (*see 2.4.*). The [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#) gives further detail on the type of offers that are made.

4.3 Unsuccessful applicants

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures receives large numbers of high-quality applications and regrets that it cannot make offers to all of its applicants. Some particularly

popular Schools may have to reject many that hold the necessary academic qualifications. Applications may also be rejected if the applicant does not meet published / equivalent academic, practical/creative, or English Language entry requirements (- for details please go to the online University Coursefinder, or to 7. for the relevant School's website links); documentation or evidence of academic or creative ability (such as an art portfolio) has not been received; or a compulsory admissions test has not been passed or completed. If an applicant is still unclear about the reasons for a rejection, they may request general feedback via the online 'applicant portal'. The University's policy on providing feedback to applicants can be found in the [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#).

4.4 Complaints

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures will consider all applications fairly and effectively in line with the procedures outlined in this document and the [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#). Applicants who wish to discuss an admissions issue or challenge a decision to reject their application, should discuss this with the relevant School (see contacts at 7.). If the applicant is not satisfied with the response, they should email the Faculty Admissions Manager (Taught Postgraduate courses) detailing the nature of their complaint - normally within 14 days of the decision.

Full details of the complaints procedure can be found in the University of Leeds [Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#).

4.5 Age and Safeguarding

The University recognises that an applicant's age (if under 18) or safeguarding position may need to be taken into account. For full details of the University policy see the University [Safeguarding Policy](#).

Please contact the relevant School Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions (- see 7. for details) to check details of any School-specific requirements that must be taken into account if a student under the age of 18 seeks to register with the University.

4.6 Disabled applicants

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures welcomes applications from disabled people¹. The University will make appropriate adjustments, to help ensure that disabled applicants have full and equal access to our admissions procedures and courses. Information about disability is not used when considering academic eligibility for the chosen programme of study. It is reviewed in order to identify the potential study-related support requirements,

¹ The University is committed to the social model of disability and in line with the definition under the Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone with a physical or mental impairment which is long-term (lasting 12 months or more) and which has a substantial impact on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The definition of disability includes long-term medical conditions such as cancer, HIV/AIDS and MS (in each case from the point of diagnosis) and may include epilepsy, diabetes, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ME amongst others.

and the eligibility for disability-related support funding, so that the University can ensure the applicant is supported effectively on the course.

The University will always aim to make appropriate adjustments for disabled applicants. However, applicants who choose not to declare their disability should be aware that it may be more difficult, or in rare cases impossible, to make the appropriate adjustments. Applicants are invited to indicate their disability status on their application form and we strongly encourage applicants to declare any disability. Disabled applicants are also advised to contact the University's Disability Services team (part of the University's Student Education Service) once an application has been submitted, to discuss any support requirements they may have in relation to the programme for which they have applied. Disability Services can be contacted at disability@leeds.ac.uk.

The admissions process is covered by the University's Policy on Equality and Inclusion which is available from the [University's Equality Policy Unit](#).

4.7 Applicants with a health-related issue or other mitigating circumstance

This section deals with health-related issues,¹ which are distinct from disability-related issues. Applicants with a health-related issue should contact the relevant School's Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions (*see 7. For contact details*) as soon as possible if their health is likely to impact on their ability to engage with the admissions process. The University aims to be flexible in such circumstances and to take such issues into account.

If a candidate feels that their prior ill-health – or personal circumstances other than ill-health (for example, bereavement or other difficult home or family circumstances) – may have affected their previous education, or the grades they received in past examinations, then they are also welcome to contact the School to discuss this further. All formal requests for mitigating circumstances to be taken into account in the admissions process should be supported by a full declaration about the nature of the circumstances.

4.8 Support for applicants who are pregnant

In line with the University policy on support for students who are pregnant or have young children (available from [the Equality Policy Unit website](#)), applicants who are pregnant are advised to inform the relevant School at an early stage. This is so that consideration can be given to appropriate support being available from the start of their programme of study.

4.9 Guidance for trans applicants

Applicants who do not wish to disclose their trans status to the faculty/school admissions team for a programme of study but require their status to be changed should contact the Taught Admissions Office taught-admissions@leeds.ac.uk and the team will be able to support the applicant through the process. The University will be required to carry out identity checks as part of the registration process, and/or taught admissions staff may be required to advise the relevant Faculty Admissions Manager of a status change in order to

¹ Which are not classed as a "disability".

facilitate removal of any previous documentation. These processes will be undertaken confidentially and with sensitivity. Full guidance to support trans staff and students can be found on the [Equality Policy Unit website](#).

4.10 Applicants seeking deferred entry

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures considers a deferred applicant as one who currently holds an offer but wishes to change the year of entry to the following academic year, or one who applies for the following academic year from the outset. Applicants who wish to defer an offer of a place to the following academic year should contact the relevant School (*see 7. For contact details*). Only applicants with an unconditional offer, or who have an offer conditional on English language are able to defer. Deferral of a place to study is at the discretion of the School and is strictly limited to a maximum of one academic year following the year of initial application. Offer conditions made will not be subject to change, except where a two year time limit is placed on an English Language qualification.

Applicants who request deferral for more than one academic year will normally be required to reapply. Such candidates should be aware that no guarantee can be given that another offer will be made and that the conditions of any future offer may differ to those of the original.

Applicants who wish to defer an offer of a place to the following academic year should request this via the online application portal.

4.11 Applicants wishing to reapply

Any decision on the eligibility of applicants who have previously held an offer of a place but failed to achieve the academic conditions at first attempt will be an academic judgement. Such candidates should be aware that no guarantee can be given that another offer will be made, and that the conditions of any future offer may differ to those of the original.

4.12 Former students of the University

The University of Leeds welcomes applications from candidates who have previously studied at this institution. Where appropriate, such candidates may be able to apply for Advanced Entry (*see 3.6 above*).

Candidates who have been withdrawn from their earlier studies due to academic failure may apply for re-entry to the University, though not to the same or a closely related programme of study, i.e. where over half of the compulsory modules are identical. Candidates who previously left the University due to non-academic reasons e.g. ill health, financial reasons, will not be subject to this condition.

Applications from those who have been permanently excluded (expelled) from the University for disciplinary reasons, as well as those who have been excluded under the Referred Student Procedure for reasons of misconduct or fitness to train in a professionally-regulated discipline, will be rejected.

Applicants should contact the relevant School for further information (*see 7. For contact details*).

4.13 Criminal convictions

The University has a **policy statement on students with criminal records**. This policy includes applicants seeking admission. It should be noted that if an applicant is required to disclose a criminal offence and fails to do so this will generally be considered a very serious matter and is likely to lead to their application being rejected or, if they have registered as a student, to their registration at the University being revoked.

The possession of a prior criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from being offered a place: this may depend, for example, on the nature, timing and relevance of the criminal offence in question. The University may request further information about the nature or context of an applicant's criminal record.

Where indicated in the prospectus or on the University's website, specific programmes may involve regular access to children and/or vulnerable adults, and applicants may be required to undertake with satisfactory results, certain checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service. The University will send further instructions as part of the admissions process where this is the case.

Please note:

The School of Performance and Cultural Industries:

Although there are no limitations on registration for those with criminal records, candidates for the school's MA in Applied Theatre and Intervention should understand that Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks will be needed for some practical contexts in some modules. If you have specific questions please contact the School (*see 7. for contact details*).

4.14 Course start date and arrival

The course start date is indicated clearly in the offer letter alongside the period of study and applicants must ensure that they are able to attend their course from this date. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to those offer holders who arrive after this date. Should there be any possibility of a delay to arrival, offer holders should seek advice from the relevant School's Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions, as listed in *section 7*, below.

5. Opportunities to visit

5.1 Visiting the School / open days

The annual University of Leeds Postgraduate Open Day is a great opportunity for prospective postgraduates to view the University's extensive facilities, meet with teaching staff and find out more about life as a student at Leeds. Applicants are also welcome to make alternative arrangements to visit Schools within the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures, by contacting the relevant School's Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions (*- see 7. for details*).

6. Scholarships and funding

The University of Leeds currently offers a range of scholarships and bursaries that provide funding for students to undertake postgraduate study at the University. Further details can be found on our [webpages](#). Students at Leeds may also be funded by external sources; and overall, Leeds postgraduates benefit from around £10 million of funding towards their studies. Applicants are recommended to explore any scholarship / funding opportunities early on in the application process.

6.1 School scholarships information

Further details of any School scholarships can be found on the relevant School's website (*see 7. for web links*).

7. Contact details for application enquiries

Admissions enquiries should be directed to the relevant School's Education Service Officer for taught postgraduate admissions:

School of Design

Website: [School of Design Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: texp@leeds.ac.uk
Phone: +44(0)113 34 33716

School of English

Website: [School of English Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: pgtenglish@leeds.ac.uk
Phone: +44(0)113 343 4738

School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies

Website: [School of Fine Art, History of Art & Cultural Studies Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: Fine.Art.PG.Enquiries@leeds.ac.uk
Phone: +44 (0) 113 3435274

School of History and Institute for Medieval Studies

Website: [School of History Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: historypg@leeds.ac.uk
Phone: +44 (0)113 343 8747

Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied Centre

Website: www.idea.leeds.ac.uk
Email: admissions@idea.leeds.ac.uk
Phone: +44(0)113 343 7799

School of Languages, Cultures and Societies

Website: [School of Languages, Cultures and Societies Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: lcspg@leeds.ac.uk
Phone: +44(0)113 343 3234 / 0113 343 0322

School of Media and Communication

Website: [School of Media & Communication Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: mediapg@leeds.ac.uk
'Phone: +44(0)113 343 4192 / 5800 / 0277 / 1553

School of Music

Website: [School of Music Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: pqtmusic@leeds.ac.uk
'Phone: +44(0)113 343 2583

School of Performance and Cultural Industries

Website: [School of Performance & Cultural Industries Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: pcipg@leeds.ac.uk
'Phone: +44(0)113 343 8710

School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science

Website: [School of Philosophy, Religion & the History of Science Taught Postgraduate Courses](#)
Email: PRHS_PGEquiries@leeds.ac.uk
'Phone: +44(0)113 3433644

Updated by Helen Dyson, June 2018