

**Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy 2020 Entry**

This document outlines the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy for 2020 entry. It supports the admissions principles and policies of the University of Leeds, as outlined in the [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 Engineering and Physical Sciences Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy applies to the following programmes:

Programme	JACS Code
MSc Advanced Concrete Technology (Distance Learning)**	D884
MSc Advanced Computer Science (Cloud Computing)	I100
MSc Advanced Computer Science (Data Analytics)	I100
MSc Advanced Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence))	I100
MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering	H300
MSc Advanced Chemical Engineering	H810
MSc Aerospace Engineering	H400
MSc Advanced Computer Science	I100
MSc Atmosphere-Ocean Dynamics	G150
MSc Automotive Engineering	H330
MSc Chemical Biology and Drug Design	F100
MSc Chemical Engineering	H810
MSc Chemistry	F100
MSc Communications and Signal Processing	H600
MSc Data Science and Analytics	I200
MSc Digital Communications Networks	H640
MSc Electrical Engineering & Renewable Energy Systems	H600
MSc Electronic & Electrical Engineering	H600
MSc Embedded Systems Engineering	H600
MSc Energy & Environment	H221
MSc Engineering Project Management*	H200
MSc Engineering, Technology and Business Management	H620
MSc Environmental Engineering & Project Management	H220
MSc High-Performance Graphics and Games Engineering	I100
MSc Geotechnical Engineering*	H200
MSc International Construction Management & Engineering*	H200
MSc Materials Science and Engineering	G591
MSc Mathematics	G100

MSc Mechatronics and Robotics	H730
MSc Medical Engineering	H390
MSc Petroleum Production Engineering	H850
MSc Physics	F300
MSc Polymers, Colourants and Fine Chemicals	J410
MSc Railway Engineering with Project Management*	H200
MSc Statistics	G300
MSc Statistics with Applications to Finance	G300
MSc Structural Engineering*	H200
MSc Transport Infrastructure: Design and Construction*	H200
MSc Water, Sanitation and Health Engineering	H200

**These programmes are offered both full and part time. Please follow the application process as detailed below for either route. All other programmes without an * are only offered full time.*

***Advanced Concrete Technology programme is only offered as part-time distance learning.*

1. Principles

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences 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 Engineering and Physical Sciences will treat all applicants fairly and not discriminate unlawfully on grounds of their age; disability; sex; gender reassignment; pregnancy or maternity status; race; religion or belief; or sexual orientation.

The University operates a policy of Dignity and Mutual Respect, which all staff, students and third parties, including prospective students, are expected to abide by. The University reserves the right to withdraw an application if behaviours are deemed to have contravened this policy. This policy can be found within the [Equality Policy Unit's](#) webpages.

3. Application process

3.1 How to apply

All applicants for taught postgraduate programmes should apply online at www.leeds.ac.uk/mastersapply. 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.

For overseas applicants it is important to upload all academic transcripts and degree certificates¹ to the portal to enable us to assess suitability and CAS and visa documents if the applicant has studied in the

¹ If applicants have completed and graduated from their degree programme.

UK previously, as failure to upload these may result in a delay to processing the application. Please see section 3.5 for more details. Where relevant, applicants will also be expected to provide officially translated versions of their documentation.

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

3.2 General entrance requirements

The typical entrance requirement for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences programmes is a good undergraduate honours degree equivalent to at least UK second class or higher. Criteria for entry to individual programmes of study may be higher and applicants are advised to check with the relevant School prior to applying. Exceptions to this academic requirement may be made when applicants can demonstrate significant relevant professional experience and their potential for benefiting from the programme is clear. For programme specific entry requirements please visit <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/>

Entrance requirements may be reviewed and amended at the end of an admissions cycle based on the performance of the previous year's cohort.

Admissions staff are experienced in considering a wide range of international qualifications against course entry requirements. Prospective applicants who wish to discuss whether their qualifications will meet the necessary entry criteria should contact the relevant School directly. Further information for prospective international applicants can be found on the [University of Leeds international student webpages](#).

3.3 Application deadlines

Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible for taught postgraduate programmes. The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences will only consider applications made before the dates below, subject to places being available. If programmes become oversubscribed, we may need to close applications earlier than the published date, and this will be communicated via our website with a minimum of 6 weeks' notice.

31 July – International Applicants * (all Schools)

31 August – Home/EU applications (Schools of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry)

10 September - Home/EU applications ** (Engineering Schools)

* Any applications submitted after this deadline may be considered on a case by case basis. Students need to be here for the start of teaching wherever possible. Late application and late registration is entirely at the discretion of the individual School (or programme) and may not always be possible. Please contact the relevant School for further information.

**Some courses may have an earlier deadline, particularly where Accreditation of Prior Learning needs to take place. Please check the individual [course information](#) on our website for further details.

If you intend to apply for funding, you should submit an application for a place at least one month before any specific scholarship deadline.

International students requiring a Tier 4 visa 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. Furthermore, an offer of a place is needed for many of the scholarships available to international students and scholarship application closing dates can often be early in the year.

3.4 English Language Requirements

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 minimum requirements to obtain a Tier 4 visa.

Proof of English language proficiency will be required and minimum levels and approved tests for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are detailed below or can be found in the [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#).

Our standard English Language requirements are:

IELTS with an overall score of 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in listening, reading, speaking and writing.

TOEFL: Internet based test: 92 overall with at least 21 in listening and reading, 23 in speaking and 22 in writing.

Please note that some programmes may require higher scores.

Certain qualifications, e.g. IELTS, have a 2 year validity period and must be valid at the commencement of studies.

Where an applicant does not meet the English language requirements for the academic course, but does meet the requirements for the University of Leeds pre-session English Language summer courses, they may be eligible for a combined offer for the pre-session and Taught Postgraduate course. Applicants with a combined offer needing a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance to Study) will receive one CAS for the duration of both their pre-session and Taught Postgraduate study. Applicants must attend and successfully complete the pre-session course in order to progress onto the Taught Postgraduate course. Failure to do so will result in the applicant being unable to join the Taught Postgraduate course. Applicants can opt out of the combined pre-session offer and instead meet 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. A single CAS for the postgraduate programme can then be issued.

Admissions staff are experienced in considering a wide range of international qualifications against programme entry requirements. Prospective applicants who wish to discuss whether their qualifications will meet the necessary entry criteria should contact the School admissions office directly.

Further information for prospective international applicants, and entry requirements for the pre-session courses can be found on the [University of Leeds international student webpages](#).

3.5 CAS statement, ATAS and Tier 4 visa

Applicants who require a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and have previously studied in the UK will need to provide documentary evidence detailing any periods of study on a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa (or on a Student Visa if the study in the UK was before 2009) in order for the University to be able to carry out checks to ensure compliance with the UKVI's Points Based System. Applicants are encouraged to include documents such as previous CAS, copies of passport pages containing visas or copies of Biometric Residence Permits with their application to assist in processing. Any information that is not included in the application will be requested when the application is considered, or the University may need to request the applicant's permission to check their UK immigration history directly with the UKVI.

Please note where the UKVI allows exceptions to its policy, the University reserves the right to make its own assessment on whether these are applied.

Applicants for distance learning courses may not require a Tier 4 visa and may be eligible for a Short Term Study visa.

Applicants from outside the European Economic Area may require an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate in order to undertake postgraduate study in certain subject areas. Those who require ATAS clearance must obtain the ATAS certificate before applying for the Tier 4 visa. More information about [ATAS](#) can be found on the University website.

Overseas applicants and applicants from non-EU countries who require sponsorship to study in the UK should note that the University does not sponsor candidates for part-time courses as standard practice.

For more information please visit the [Visas and Immigration](#) section of the University website.

3.6 Admissions intake

All programmes within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences 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.

3.7 Advanced Entry

Accreditation of prior learning is a process undertaken by the University in order to assess and, as appropriate, recognise prior experiential learning or prior 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 itself or another institution, or prior experiential learning 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. Please contact the Admissions team using the contact details in section 7 for further information. Retrospective applications from students part-way through a programme will not normally be considered. Further details of the University's policy can be found [on our webpage](#).

4. Selection process

Academic grades normally form only one part of the final decision and the following sections give examples of how applicants may demonstrate that they have the skills, knowledge and attributes that we believe will enable them to become a successful student in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

Relevant voluntary or work experience may be taken into account where appropriate. The applicant would be required to demonstrate that this experience is substantial and relevant to their chosen programme of study. Exceptionally, research publications may be taken into consideration if they demonstrate significant expertise in a relevant field.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a CV to provide more detailed information about their prior educational and work experience. Applicants are required to submit a supporting statement to provide further information about their suitability for their chosen programme of study and the reasons for their choice of programme. Where applications show similar academic achievements we may use the supporting statement in order to differentiate between applicants.

Academic Schools may request references from academic referees as part of the selection process. Where required, you will be asked to submit referee details and references will then be requested directly from your referees by the University. It is your responsibility to ensure that the referees you nominate are able and willing to provide a reference where required. Nominated referees as appropriate to the programme should

not be related to an applicant by blood or marriage and should be qualified to comment in detail on their capacity to cope with the demands of the programme for which they are applying. The acceptance of references is at the discretion of the relevant Academic School and any further questions relating to the format of references or nominating appropriate referees should be directed to the administrator for the specific programme of study applied to.

4.1 Interviews

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences does not typically undertake interviews with applicants; however, in certain circumstances programme leaders may invite an applicant to interview as part of the selection procedure. This may allow us to further assess the applicant's aptitude and interest in the programme in the cases where the applicant's circumstances are not straightforward.

If invited to interview, you will receive an email invitation from the School to attend an interview on a specific date. We will do our best to accommodate requests for an alternative date but this cannot be guaranteed.

Interviews may take place via a number of alternative means depending on the circumstances of the applicant. For example, interviews may take place on a one to one basis or via Skype, video conferencing or telephone 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 merit and the ability of each applicant to meet the academic and non-academic criteria for admission to the relevant programme of study. Offers are made based on the information supplied on the application form including; personal/supporting statement, certified transcript(s), references where needed, and proof of English Language where required, as detailed in Section 3.4. The [University of Leeds Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy](#) gives further detail on the type of offers that are made.

Applicants must typically meet the offer conditions set by the University in enough time to arrive by the start of teaching, particularly students who need to pay a tuition fee deposit, and be issued a CAS in order to apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa. Decisions on acceptance where there is any possibility of a delay to arrival is at the School's discretion. Offer holders should seek advice from the appropriate School admissions office where this may be the case.

4.3 Reasons for unsuccessful applicants

Unsuccessful applicants may wish to request feedback on the reason for the outcome of their application. All requests for feedback should be made via the applicant portal. Generally where applicants request feedback on why they have not been admitted, feedback will be given.

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 Engineering and Physical Sciences 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 matter or are seeking feedback are advised to talk to the relevant admissions contact or Admissions Tutor in the first instance as per section 4.3. If an applicant is not satisfied with the response they should write to the Faculty Admissions Manager via email detailing the nature of their complaint, normally within 14 days of the decision.

Please note that complaints made on behalf of an applicant are not usually accepted – the complaint must be from the applicant. 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 someone's age (if under 18) or safeguarding position may need to be taken into account.

UKVI guidance states that under Tier 4 (General), students must be 16 or over. Accordingly, the University cannot assign a CAS for anyone under 16, and those reliant on a Tier 4 (General) visa must be aged 16 or over in order to be considered for sponsorship.

Where an applicant would be under 18 at the commencement of studies, a risk assessment will be undertaken by the Faculty at the point of application and additional conditions may be included in any offer of a place, full details of which will be sent to applicants with their offer letter.

Additional conditions will include, but are not limited to, the completion and return of a parental/guardian consent form and agreement to engage fully with any enhanced levels of training and supervision during normal working hours. For full details of the University policy please see the University [Safeguarding Policy](#)

4.6 Part-time and Distance Learning

Part-time and Distance Learning applicants should follow the application process as detailed above in section 3.1. Overseas applicants and applicants from non-European countries should note that visa regulations will not normally allow study on a part-time basis. Where a course offered as fully Distance Learning, such visa regulations will not normally apply.

4.7 Disabled applicants

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences welcomes applications from disabled people². The University will make reasonable adjustments, with the aim of ensuring that disabled applicants have full and equal access to our admissions procedures and courses. Information about disability is not used when considering an applicant's academic eligibility for their chosen course. It is reviewed in order to identify any potential study-related support requirements, and the eligibility for disability-related support funding, so that the University can ensure the applicant is supported effectively on the course.

² 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.

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, without the knowledge it may be more difficult, or in rare cases impossible, for the University to provide support and/or make the reasonable adjustments. Applicants are invited to indicate their disability status on their application form and we strongly encourage applicants to declare any disability so that reasonable adjustments and/or other support requirement can be made/considered. 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 course 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](#)

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

This section deals with health-related issues³, which are distinct from disability-related issues. Applicants with a health-related issue should contact the relevant Admissions contact 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.

4.9 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 their Admissions Tutor/Officer at an early stage. This is so that consideration can be given to appropriate support being available from the start of their course.

4.10 Guidance for trans applicants

Applicants who do not wish to disclose their trans status to the faculty/school admissions team for a course of study but require their status to be changed should contact study@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 facilitate removal of any previous documentation. This process will be undertaken confidentially and with sensitivity. Full guidance to support trans staff and students can be found on [Equality Policy Unit website](#).

4.11 Applicants Seeking Deferred Entry

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences 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 School⁴ by 1st April 2021 where the course has a September or October start date. Only applicants with an unconditional offer, or who have an offer conditional on

³ Which are not classed as a "disability".

⁴ Where applicants hold an offer via the online application portal the deferral request should be made via the portal.

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. Any offer made will not be subject to change, except where an English language qualification is subject to a validity period which has now expired, for example IELTS has a two year validity period.

Applicants who request deferral for more than one academic year will 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.

4.12 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.

4.13 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 3.7 above).

Candidates who have been withdrawn from their earlier studies due to academic failure may apply for re-entry to the University, but 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. When assessing applications from former students all relevant factors will be considered, including previous study, and applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

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

Applicants should contact the school for further information.

Applicants who require a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and have previously studied at the University under Tier 4 sponsorship will be subject to academic progression checks to ensure UKVI compliance. Please see section 3.5 for further information.

4.14 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 admitted, to their registration at the University being revoked.

Having 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.

The University will ask applicants to declare a relevant unspent criminal conviction as part of the process of accepting an offer which is made. Information about why this information is requested, and the process for disclosing a relevant unspent criminal conviction at www.leeds.ac.uk/declaration.

4.15 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 appropriate School admissions office before travelling.

5. Opportunities to visit

5.1 Faculty/School open days

Applicants are welcome to visit Schools within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences and should contact the relevant School to make an appointment. Please note that individual academic staff may not be available at short notice due to teaching commitments (for contact details see Section 7).

The University PGT Open Day gives prospective postgraduates the opportunity to find out more about life as a student at Leeds; view the University's extensive facilities; and meet with teaching staff and students.

6. Scholarships and funding

The University of Leeds currently offers a wide 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](#).

6.1 University Scholarships

Postgraduate students at Leeds benefit from around £10m of funding from the University and externally. [Postgraduate scholarships](#) are available to eligible international, UK and EU students.

6.2 Faculty/School level scholarships information

Further details of Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences scholarships can be found on the [course pages](#) of our Faculty website.

For scholarships awarded on the basis of academic achievement, acceptance on a programme does not indicate eligibility. Eligibility will be determined by the published Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences qualification equivalencies for the programme you have applied to. Please check our course listings and scholarship page for further information on these.

7. Contact details

Application enquiries

School	Admissions Contact Details
Civil Engineering	pgcivil@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)113 343 2302
Chemical and Process Engineering	pgchemical@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0) 113 343 2343

Chemistry	chem.msc@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)113 343 0945
Computing	pgcomp@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5440
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	pgtelec@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)113 343 2035
Mathematics	maths-msc@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0)113 343 0945
Mechanical Engineering	pgmech@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0) 113 343 9531
Physics	phymscadmin@leeds.ac.uk +44 (0)113 343 0945
Faculty Admissions Manager (Engineering Schools)	Becky Whitaker R.J.Whitaker@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0) 113 343 7872
Faculty Admissions Manager (Chemistry, Maths and Physics)	Helen Linyard H.E.Linyard@leeds.ac.uk Tel: +44 (0) 113 343 6552

Updated by Becky Whitaker and Helen Linyard, May 2019

Date of amendment	Change detail	Section