



Application Information
MSc Dietetics Course

2019-2020 Entry
Start date: September 2019

Closing Date: Home/EU Applicants Wednesday 5th December 2018

Closing Date: International Applicants Wednesday 27th February 2019
(Decisions and offers to international applicants will be made at the end of March 2019)

Nutrition & Dietetics
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The Course

This course is designed to enable graduates from science backgrounds to gain eligibility to practice dietetics through the study of a two year postgraduate programme. This is an accelerated programme building on prior knowledge and transferable skills to fast track you towards a career as a dietitian in the NHS working in acute and community settings.

Academic and practice learning is embedded throughout the course enabling you to: develop an evidenced based and critical approach to dietetic practice; work effectively in teams and; develop the communication and professional practice skills required to interpret nutritional science and facilitate individuals, groups and communities to change eating behaviour, improving diet to benefit health.

A range of assessment, teaching and learning activities are embedded across the course to enable you to develop an integrated, patient centred approach and to equip you with the range of competencies required for autonomous professional practice as a dietitian. The course is a very intensive, full-time course with contact time and independent self-directed study spread across 5 days each week.

Funding

As the funding situation has changed significantly over recent years you are advised to check your entitlement with Student Finance England.

The funding arrangements which have applied to student entering the course in September 2018 are as follows:

Postgraduate pre-registration students will be able to access loans to cover tuition fees of up to £9,250 per year and to support living costs. These loans will be the same as those available to undergraduate students.

These changes applied to eligible new students starting courses in the 2018/19 academic year from 1 August 2018 onwards. The changes extend to both Masters and postgraduate diploma courses leading to inclusion in the HCPC or NMC register. Students who are obliged to incur essential additional expenditure while undertaking a course of higher education as a result of a disability will qualify for disabled students' allowances.

Students who are already registered in nursing, midwifery, or an allied health profession will not be eligible for support for a second full-time or part-time pre- registration course or a second full-time postgraduate preregistration course leading to registration in the same profession.

Postgraduate pre-registration students will also be eligible for additional support through the Learning Support Fund administered through the NHS Business Services Authority including:

- a £1,000 Child Dependents Allowance
- up to £3,000 for exceptional hardship
- reimbursement of additional travel and accommodation costs over normal daily travel to clinical placements

International students are required to self-fund their place on the course.

Entry Requirements

The online prospectus provides an outline of the entry requirements.

Applicants should have BSc Honours degree in an appropriate science subject, normally class 2.1 or above, and containing a substantial amount of Human Physiology and Biochemistry to a minimum of level 5 and evidence of a final year research project that demonstrates a critical approach to the subject area. Other equivalent qualifications and experience are considered. Please include details of the biochemistry, human physiology and research skills you have studied in each year of your degree. It would be helpful if you could send a copy of the relevant published course outline or prospectus that describes the content of your course – you are advised to do this before the closing date so that we can advise you at an early stage if you meet our academic requirements or whether any further study is needed. Applicants with a science degree but a more limited background in human physiology and/or biochemistry who fulfil other entry criteria may still be considered, but would be required to complete further directed learning in these areas before entry onto the course.

Successful applicants to this course may be considered for recognition of prior learning leading to exemption from modules. Further information is available at: <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning/> Applicants considering making an APL application are advised to contact Direct Admissions who will refer this with the Admissions Tutor to advise on the procedure to follow.

Further information

In addition to academic ability it is also important that you consider the skills and behaviours needed to work as a Dietitian and where possible, provide evidence that you have started to develop these skills, reflecting on your learning and current strengths and weaknesses.

To fulfil this, applicants are required to submit a supporting statement with their application using the guidelines in the following document entitled; WRITING YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

You can also provide a separate CV with details of qualifications attained and experiences gained or use the relevant sections of the application form. However, please note that your CV will not replace or supplement your supporting statement. It should be noted that a significant element in the academic course is professional development, reflective learning and practice.

If you are offered a place you will be required to complete a Health check and Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) check. International students will also be required to complete an in-country police check four-six weeks prior to the course start date.

References

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that **two** references are provided before the closing date for applications. One of these must be a **suitable academic reference**. Applications will not be considered until references have been received and it is the **applicant's responsibility to provide these references**, before the closing date of application. It is therefore advisable to check beforehand that selected referees are available and willing to support your application **within the deadline**.

Making your application

Your application should be submitted via <https://myapplication.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/SignIn?ReturnUrl=%2f> All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, module outlines, references, and supporting statement) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please contact us for assistance.

The deadline for submission of applications and all supporting documentation is Wednesday 5th December 2018 for Home/EU applicants and Wednesday 27th February 2019 for International applicants.

Should you require any further advice please contact the Admissions Office as per the contact details on the online prospectus.

All shortlisted applicants are required to attend a pre-offer selection day to find out more about the course and to take part in a selection activity involving a values based discussion as part of an interview.

International applicants will have the option to be interviewed via Skype.

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 heavily oversubscribed, so we regret that a significant proportion of applicants will be unsuccessful. Most applicants meet the academic qualification requirements therefore, successful candidates will normally be those who score highest in the supporting statement and values based discussion as part of an interview.

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). All short-listed applicants will need to attend an interview.

We endeavour to give feedback to those who are unsuccessful but, in view of the large number of applicants, this may take some time. Please note that we are not able to provide any further discussion of this feedback.

**APPLYING FOR THE MSc IN DIETETICS
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AND WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT**

DATE	STAGE OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR HOME / EU APPLICANTS
UP TO 5TH DECEMBER 2018	<p>APPLICATIONS Closing Date: Home/EU Applicants Wednesday 5th December 2018. Ensure we receive the completed: Application (including supporting statement) References - It is essential we receive these before the deadline</p> <p>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</p>
END OF DECEMBER 2018 TO MARCH 2019	<p>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS Your application will be considered once the deadline has passed. We will aim to inform: Home and EU applicants – we will aim to inform applicants of the outcome of their application from February 2019 onwards.</p>
20 AND 27 MARCH 2019	<p>PRE OFFER SELECTION DAY AND INTERVIEW All shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a pre-offer selection days to find out more about the course and to take part in a selection activity involving a values based discussion as part of an interview.</p>
APRIL 2019 TO MAY 2019	<p>CONDITIONAL OFFERS / WAITING LIST PLACES If you have been successful you will receive a conditional offer of a place on the course. Feedback will be given to all candidates following the interview. All other shortlisted candidates will be offered a waiting list place and can be advised of where they are on the waiting list on request (e.g. top, middle lower end).</p>
MAY 2019 TO JUNE 2019	<p>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS You will be invited to complete online DBS and occupational health checks, as well as a self-declaration form. We require clearance from these checks before you can start the course, so please ensure that you complete the applications promptly as this may delay your enrolment. If you have lived overseas for more than 12 months since the age of 16 you will also need to obtain a DBS equivalent, e.g. Police check from your country of origin/previous residence prior to the start of the course. If your self-declaration form or DBS certificate contain a previous conviction or caution, this will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures. The University is required to satisfy itself that the nature of your conviction is low risk and will not affect progression to placement and/or eligibility to register with the HCPC.</p>
JUNE /JULY 2019	<p>EXAM RESULTS If you have an offer conditional on your academic performance you will need to email us as soon as possible with your exam results. We will then email to confirm your position.</p>
UP TO AUGUST 2019 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ONLY	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS Unconditional offers will be issued once all academic conditions have been met. Successful candidates must confirm acceptance of a place on the course as soon as possible.</p>
SEPTEMBER 2019	<p>The course begins with an induction week commencing 16th September 2019.</p>
<p>CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS: 5TH DECEMBER 2018 (HOME/EU APPLICANTS) 27TH FEBRUARY 2019 (INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS)</p>	

DATE	STAGE OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS
UP TO 27 TH FEBRUARY 2019	<p>APPLICATIONS Closing Date: International Applicants 27th February 2019 (<i>applications may close early due to Placement capacity</i>). Ensure we receive the completed: Application (including supporting statement) References - It is essential we receive these before the deadline</p> <p>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</p>
FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF APPLICATION	<p>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS Your application will be considered following receipt and we will inform you if your application meets our academic entry requirements and you will then be offered an interview (face to face or via skype (pre-set dates available) if your supporting statement meets our entry requirements.</p>
FOLLOWING SHORTLISTING	<p>PRE OFFER INTERVIEW All shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview either face to face or via Skype to find out more about the course and to take part in a selection activity involving a values based discussion as part of an interview.</p>
FOLLOWING INTERVIEW	<p>CONDITIONAL OFFERS If you have been successful following your interview you will receive a conditional offer of a place on the course. Feedback will be given to all candidates following the interview.</p>
MAY 2019 TO JUNE 2019	<p>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS You will be invited to complete online DBS and occupational health checks, as well as a self-declaration form. We require clearance from these checks before you can start the course, so please ensure that you complete the applications promptly as this may delay your enrolment. If you have lived overseas for more than 12 months since the age of 16 you will also need to obtain a DBS equivalent, e.g. Police check from your country of origin/previous residence prior to the start of the course. If your self-declaration form or DBS certificate contain a previous conviction or caution, this will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures. The University is required to satisfy itself that the nature of your conviction is low risk and will not affect progression to placement and/or eligibility to register with the HCPC.</p>
JUNE /JULY 2019	<p>EXAM RESULTS If you have an offer conditional on your academic performance you will need to email us as soon as possible with your exam results. We will then email to confirm your position.</p>
UP TO AUGUST 2019 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES ONLY	<p>ACCEPTANCE OF UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS Unconditional offers will be issued once all academic conditions have been met. Successful candidates must confirm acceptance of a place on the course as soon as possible.</p>
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WRITING YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT – GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES

Background

Each year we receive more applications than we have places available for the MSc Dietetics course. 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 receive an offer of a place on the course. The first step in the process involves asking you to complete a supporting statement which enables the Admissions Team to consider the vocational relevance of all your experiences to date as well as your academic achievements. This will be used to identify those candidates who will be invited to the Applicant Information day and values based interview.

The assessment criteria have been developed in partnership with students on the course, NHS Dietetic Service Managers/Employers, academic and administrative staff. The criteria focus on aspects considered highly desirable for a professional dietetic course. Supporting statements are assessed by the Admissions Team that includes registered dietitians currently working in the NHS.

Completion of the supporting statement in itself will enable you to reflect on your strengths and weaknesses and help you to make an informed decision about whether the course is for you.

You should read the information carefully in this guidance document to help inform your supporting statement. To make it fair for all candidates, the Admissions Team are unable to offer further guidance on an individual basis.

Guidance on Completing the Supporting Statement

You should complete the supporting statement providing evidence of relevant experiences reflecting on what you learnt as a result of these experiences for each of the assessment criteria, **in no more than 1000 words**. You are expected to seek out appropriate learning opportunities that are relevant to dietetic practice in your home country.

You may decide to structure your supporting statement as a continuous piece of writing or you might wish to organise your statement according to the six assessment criteria. To help you manage the statement within the word count you are advised to make use of cross referencing. This means using the same example to demonstrate more than one criterion, enabling you to provide more depth in your writing.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CANDIDATES
Commitment to dietetics and working in the NHS	We are interested in your reasons and justification for applied to the MSc Dietetics course. This is not just another postgraduate course but one which prepares you for a particular end point. You need to demonstrate that you have carefully considered your reasons for studying this vocational course.
Displays an awareness of the role and duties of a dietitian and provides evidence to demonstrate this	You need to be able to make an informed decision about whether working as a dietitian is the right job for you. You need to seek out opportunities in the broadest sense to find out more about what dietetic practice entails and provide evidence of what you have learnt from your experiences.
Developing communication skills and evidence of experiences where communication skills have been used and adapted with people from a range of backgrounds	Communication skills and working with people are essential skills for a practising dietitian and will be further developed on the course. Communicating with people forms a substantive part of what dietitians do. You need to evidence your experiences and learning so far in developing your communication skills.

Demonstrating an interest in and ability to work with people in a care setting and recognise own strengths and weaknesses for working in this environment	Dietitians work with people in care settings. We will prepare you to work in this environment on the course through working in academic and practice settings in the NHS. You need to reflect on what is needed for dietitians to work effectively in a care setting and your own strengths and areas for improvement based on your experiences and learning to date.
Basic food preparation and cooking skills and exposure to the diversity and enjoyment of food in a multi-cultural society	Working as a dietitian involves talking about food, eating, and body weight on a regular basis and you need to feel comfortable talking about these issues. On the course students develop skills to adapt meals and recipes to meet individual patients' therapeutic, cultural and religious needs building on basic food preparation and cooking skills. You need to reflect on your experiences and learning in this area.
Evidence of overcoming obstacles or challenges in either your personal or professional life	Postgraduate study is challenging. This reflects not just the volume of work and independent study, but also the academic level at which you will be working, as well as the stresses and strains of starting a new course, usually in a different university and city. Learning takes place in academic and practice settings and you may need to live away from home during the week whilst you are completing your placements*. You need to critically reflect on how you have responded to other challenges or obstacles you have faced in either your personal or professional life and the strategies you might use to support your learning.

** Please note there is an allocation policy in place to meet the needs of students with priority for local allocation of placements.*

A note on reflective practice

You are asked to 'critically reflect' on your learning. This means not just describing what you did but presenting a critical discussion of what you have learnt as a result of your experiences/opportunities. The following prompts, based on a reflective model developed by Graham Gibbs, may help you to think more deeply about your experiences. You may use these prompts or another approach that you find useful to help guide your reflection.

- Describe what happened (briefly)
- Try to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the learning experience.
- Evaluate the experience. What sense can you make of your learning?
- What conclusions can be made and what are your next steps to progress your learning/experience?

This type of critical reflection usually goes on in your head and at first it may feel a bit strange to write this in a supporting statement. The emphasis needs to be on you, your experiences and your learning. Therefore, your supporting statement should be written in the first person to reflect this.

Word Count

You should complete the supporting statement in no more than 1000 words and state the word count. Please note that text over and above 1000 words will not be considered.

Feedback

Candidates who have been unsuccessful with their application will receive written feedback on how to strengthen their application.