

Programme title:

MSc/Postgraduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Certificate Leadership in Health and Social Care (distance learning)

MSc/ Postgraduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Certificate Leadership in Health & Social Care (International – distance learning).

Academic Year:	2026/27
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	N/A
Final and interim award(s):	[Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level 7] MSc Leadership in Health & Social Care (distance learning) Postgraduate Diploma Leadership in Health & Social Care (distance learning) Postgraduate Certificate Leadership in Health and Social Care (distance learning) MSc Leadership in Health & Social Care (International – distance learning)
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	N/A
Programme duration:	MSc Leadership in Health & Social Care (distance learning) - 1 year full time, 2 years part-time MSc Leadership in Health & Social Care (International – distance learning) 1 year full time, 2 years part-time
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s):	Master's Degrees in Business and Management
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	New programme

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and

commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Introduction

The rapidly changing national and international health and social care context requires individuals who can lead and manage within a turbulent environment and increasingly this means working across different health systems world-wide, organisational and professional boundaries. These applied distance delivered programmes are designed to meet the needs of current or aspiring managers working or intending to work in a wide variety of health and social care sectors and who want to develop strategic leadership and management skills. Students on the programmes will have a wide range of experience and different national and international backgrounds, which enhances and facilitates learning.

The content allows students to explore several leadership and management areas. It equips students with the knowledge and skills to lead and manage effectively within health and social care sectors and offers students the opportunity to develop or further enhance their career in a leadership field.

These distance programmes are offered for the domestic and global market, enabling students to study at a time and place that is convenient for their needs and to access quality materials.

The applied nature of the programmes provides flexible opportunities to combine theory with experience and practice, developing students' skills and knowledge in order to succeed in today's rapidly changing local, national and international environments

The programmes will help develop key personal skills including; the ability to communicate solutions to complex scenarios and challenges in a logical and coherent manner and; the development of strategic, ethical leadership skills allowing implementation of solutions and transformational change effectively and efficiently.

The programmes focus on key areas that are designed to equip students with the theory and skills required of leaders and managers in health and social care organisations. Students will consider a range of approaches to leadership and have the opportunity to consider their own leadership style in relation to relevant theory.

Students will explore the theory and practice associated with managing change and quality improvement, providing them with the knowledge and skills to manage the complex behavioural and organisational issues of change and lead individuals and teams to deliver change and improvement across diverse professional, functional and hierarchical boundaries.

Students will also gain an understanding of a range of different theories and approaches used to develop, implement and evaluate strategy and policy. Students will explore the current national and international health and social care environment and consider the implications for managing people, with the opportunity to critically evaluate different theories and approaches that can be used to plan, recruit, manage and develop the workforce.

The final part of the MSc programmes is an Extended Literature Review which provides students with the opportunity to consider a specific leadership/management issue related to their practice. The Project/Review enables students to integrate the new knowledge attained with past experience and apply it to new situations.

If students do not wish to complete a programme to Masters level, nested awards have been included in the programmes (Certificate and Diploma) if students wish to exit with these. In order to enhance student choice any of the 30 credit modules can be selected as a standalone

module. The programmes align with the principles within the University's curriculum framework, and also with the United Kingdom NHS Healthcare Leadership Model.

Programme Aims

The programmes are intended to:

- Develop health and social care leaders with a sound understanding of key leadership and management theories and practice, able to operate in a dynamic environment.
- Develop the skills, knowledge and critical understanding needed to lead and manage effectively in Health and Social Care organisations in a national and international context.
- Advance critical abilities enabling students to analyse complex situations and problems, organising, synthesising and analysing the relevant factors leading to the adoption of suitable decisions making techniques and solutions to the problems/situations encountered.
- Develop leaders with a critical awareness and understanding of the issues affecting the UK and international health and social care context.
- Promote lifelong learning, embracing critical reflection and digital scholarship

Programme Learning Outcomes

- LO1 Critically reflect on their leadership and management skills and utilise this knowledge in health and social care environments.
- LO2 Critically evaluate different theoretical models and approaches that can be utilised in in health and social care.
- LO3 Critically evaluate appropriate evidence and apply to health and social care.
- LO4 Critically apply knowledge and understanding of fundamental theories and concepts in Health and Social care
- LO5 Critically analyse the national and international environment and its implications for health and social care
- LO6 Demonstrate in depth knowledge and understanding of strategy and policy, quality, service improvement and change, and managing people in health and social care.

Programme Aim for Award of Degree of Master

- L07 Develop project and management expertise by undertaking a substantial applied health and social care management project or extended literature review
- L08 Critically analyse different approaches to leadership and management research
- L09 Critically analyse the literature and research available in the area of study.
- L010 Demonstrate independent study and the application of research skills in the planning, execution and evaluation of a management project/extended literature review
- L011 Critically reflect on the project outcomes and identify the learning achieved.

Curriculum

Postgraduate Certificate curriculum map

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type	Credits	Semester	Module Code
7	Health & Social Care Leadership	core	30	1	LEM7035-C
7	Any other Diploma module		30	1 or 2	LEM 7036-C LEM 7037-C LEM 7038-C

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate if they have successfully completed the core module (Health & Social care Leadership) and one other 30 credit module of the student's choice and achieved learning outcomes 1-4.

Postgraduate Diploma curriculum map

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type (Core/Option/Elective)	Credits	Semester	Module Code
7	Health & Social Care Leadership	core	30	1	LEM 7035-C
7	Managing People in Health & Social Care	core	30	2	LEM 7036-C
7	Understanding Health & Social Care Policy & Strategy	core	30	1	LEM 7037-C
7	Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health & Social Care	core	30	2	LEM 7038-C

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma if they have successfully completed all four 30 credit modules (total 120 credits) and achieved learning outcomes 1-6.

Degree of Master curriculum map

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Type (Core/Option/Elective)	Credits	Semester	Module Code
7	Extended Literature Review	Core	60	Non standard year (starts in January)	LEM7040-E

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed 180 credits and achieved learning outcomes 1-10. Students who wish to exit with

the award of MSc Leadership in Health and Social Care (International - distance learning) must select an extended literature review topic that has an international health focus.

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

Learning and Teaching Strategy (Distance Learning)

As distance learning programmes the University's virtual learning environment (VLE), will be used extensively as the principle mechanism for learning and teaching content, for communication and to guide students through the programme. The programme is facilitated by experienced academics. The programme team are highly experienced in delivering leadership and management development and have a background of publications and research, and extensive experience of working at senior levels in the Health & Social Care sector. In addition, members have a range of other qualifications e.g., teaching qualifications, CIPD.

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of each subject studied through recorded lectures, supported by online 'live' seminars, set exercises and directed study to enable students to develop and expand their knowledge and analytical skills, and ability to apply theory.

A deeper understanding of each subject will be gained by consulting further resources e.g., textbook and journal readings. All of these resources are accessed via the VLE. Students will be expected to use the VLE and other digital technologies and access to internet facilities is essential.

The learning and assessment strategies are designed to allow students to achieve the programme learning outcomes (LO1-10). For the Postgraduate Certificate, students are required to study one core module, Health & Social Care Leadership and one other module of their choice to enable them to tailor the programme to their personal and professional development needs. To achieve the Postgraduate Diploma, students will complete all four modules.

The Extended Literature Review, which students will undertake for the Master's stage of the programme, allows students to select a challenging management issue or opportunity (LO7-10). Students will receive support from a personal supervisor during the project.

Assessment Strategy

Each module is assessed individually with a single piece of assessment. All assessments are of an applied nature, requiring demonstration of critical analysis and application of theory. Students will be able to consider areas of current relevance to their practice or identified areas of interest. Learning outcomes (LO1-6) are assessed through written assignments, a presentation and the extended review using the Faculty of Health Studies Masters marking criteria (LO 7-10).

This table shows the methods of assessments used across different stages and modules:

Module	Applied Written Assignment	Presentation	Project/Review
Health & Social Care Leadership		X	
Managing People in	X		

Health & Social Care			
Understanding Health & Social Care Policy & Strategy	X		
Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health & Social Care	X		
Extended Literature Review			X

Assessment Regulations

These programmes conform to the standard University Assessment Regulations which are available at this link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students and an important factor in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

Applicants will hold a first degree at 2:2 or above, or acceptable professional qualification. Applicants need to have significant and relevant experience, which would typically be at least two years of experience in the health and social care sector. Application is based on submission of an online application form, CV and interview, if required, to discuss the content and expectations of the programme.

Applications are also welcome from students with non-standard qualifications but with significant relevant experience. However, applications with non-standard qualifications would be considered individually and additional selection activities would apply.

For international students, the level of English required is listed on the [University of Bradford English language requirements website](#). Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements. International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-session English course](#). Examples of other equivalent international qualifications for entry are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

Recognition of Prior Learning

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

The contents of this programme specification may change, subject to the University's regulations and programme approval, enhancement and review procedures

Minor Modification Schedule

Version Number	Brief description of Modification	Date of Approval (Faculty Board)
1	Annual changes for 2026 entry, updated references.	May 2026