Important Information

Information provided by the University such as in presentations, University brochures and the University website, is accurate at the time of first disclosure. However, courses, University services and content of publications remain subject to change. Changes may be necessary to comply with the requirements of accrediting bodies or to keep courses contemporary through updating practices or areas of study. Circumstances may arise outside the reasonable control of the University, leading to required changes. Such circumstances include, industrial action, unexpected student numbers, significant staff illness (where a course is reliant upon a person’s expertise), unexpected lack of funding, severe weather, fire, civil disorder, political unrest, government restrictions and serious concern with regard to the transmission of serious illness making a course unsafe to deliver. After a student has taken up a place with the University, the University will look to give early notification of any changes and try to minimise their impact, offering suitable alternative arrangements or forms of compensation where it believes there is a fair case to do so. Offers of a place to study at the University will provide up to date information on courses. The latest key information on courses, entry requirements and fees can be found at www.leeds.ac.uk/coursefinder. Please check this website before making any decisions.
Welcome

In today’s rapidly changing world it is more important than ever that we reflect on the ethical implications of our actions, both personally and professionally. Here at the IDEA Centre at the University of Leeds we seek to work closely with students and professionals to develop ethical reasoning skills which can be applied in any context. Our academic expertise, combined with our experience working directly with professionals in a range of fields (including medicine and health care, dentistry, and other areas such as finance and engineering), makes us uniquely placed to deliver high quality academically rigorous, and professionally relevant courses in applied ethics.

Studying for a postgraduate qualification in biomedical and healthcare ethics will enable you to develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, communication, and ethical reasoning. Such skills will equip you for professional development and progression via a wide range of pathways. We offer a range of flexible study options so you can study in the mode that suits you best.

We hope that you will find all the information that you need about our programmes in this brochure. If you have any further questions please do get in touch.

Professor Chris Megone
IDEA Centre Director
BIOMEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Taught Masters and Postgraduate Diploma Degrees

Our course offers a rigorous grounding in health care and biomedical ethics. You will learn about the ethical issues that arise across all areas of health care and biomedical science, and will be provided with the philosophical grounding and ethical reasoning skills that will enable you to think through and address these issues as they arise in your practice. There is also opportunity to focus in more detail on topics where you have a particular personal and/or professional interest.

You will be taught by academics from the Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied (IDEA) Centre at the University of Leeds with expertise in teaching ethics in medical disciplines. Our teaching is developed in consultation with professionals working in the field to ensure that it is informed by the latest developments in practice. As active researchers, we also ensure that all our courses are informed by the latest academic arguments and debates.

Available for full and part-time study, campus-based and online

Our courses are particularly suitable as continuing professional development (CPD), and most of our students study part-time whilst working (full-time study is also an option). For those who are not resident in Leeds or the surrounding region, there are also online distance learning options.

Who is this course for?

Our Biomedical and Health Care Ethics courses are aimed primarily at medical and health care professionals, although they also attract graduates from other disciplines, including philosophy, biosciences, and social sciences.

Past students have included consultants, registrars, GPs, nurses, lawyers and business people. Others have come from backgrounds in pharmacy, counselling, therapy work, community care services, health care administration, social work, chaplaincy, psychology, education, and work with the disabled. Students have come from a wide range of international backgrounds as well as from the UK.

High quality teaching

The MA/PGDip Biomedical and Health Care Ethics, first taught at the University of Leeds in 1991, is one of the longest established such programmes in the UK. More than two hundred and fifty students have now undertaken this course.

On average, at least 15% of students achieve a distinction (the highest available classification for their degree) each year, and this is reflected in the wide range of careers that graduates have pursued.

“Taking this course was one of the best educational decisions I ever made. It prepared me for a career in public health and the ethical dilemmas I have had to deal with in a senior role.”

PETER BRADLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH WALES.
The success of our teaching in medical ethics was one of the pivotal reasons for the University's major achievement in being awarded a national Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in 2005.

The teaching on our courses is research-led. Members of the teaching team have been involved in major research projects (including a £240,000 EU-funded project in biomedical ethics) and have produced a wide range of publications in ethics and medical ethics.

Graduate Destinations and Career Opportunities

Studying applied ethics is good preparation for a range of careers, and past students have gained employment in a varied range of employment sectors after graduation.

Several of our alumni have become members of Research Ethics or Clinical Ethics committees, while others have worked for the NHS Executive or joined the Kings Fund as researchers. Others have gone on to secure academic appointments at Universities, including Birmingham, Leeds (with eight appointments to the School of Healthcare Studies alone), Leeds Beckett, Leicester, Northumbria, and Sheffield. A number have had their work published in journals such as the British Medical Journal, the Lancet, the Journal of Advanced Nursing Studies, the Journal of Medical Ethics, and the Journal of Applied Philosophy. Some of our alumni have also returned to the Centre to join our team of ethics tutors.

Masters-level study is also excellent preparation for doctoral research. Several of our alumni have chosen to continue with academic studies by studying for a PhD, and examples of their research projects include:

- Rivlin (2000), Is age based rationing of health care morally defensible?
- Almark (2001), An Aristotelian conception of autonomy, and informed consent
- Norton (2002), Individual responsibility and the right to health care
- Hamer (2003), Ethical issues relating to the donation of human and animal organs for transplantation
- Eccles (2007), Living wills and personal identity
- Mishra (2007), Embryo selection and the morality of allowing parents to select the characteristics of their offspring
- Stanners (forthcoming), Physician Assisted Suicide

“The programme is at the cutting edge and clearly reflects current research in this field. These are clearly well designed and well taught courses, by a highly qualified team.”

PROFESSOR RUTH CHADWICK, EXTERNAL EXAMINER, 2009-2013
ABOUT THE COURSES

We offer a number of different Biomedical and Health Care courses. Read on to find out which best suits your study preferences and career development needs.

MA/PGDip

These taught postgraduate courses provide a thorough grounding in biomedical and health care ethics, and are suitable for those who are new to the study of ethics.

To gain the MA students complete 180 credits (including a 60 credit dissertation). The Postgraduate Diploma, or PGDip, is awarded for completion of 120 credits. It is University policy that students lacking a first degree are normally registered for the diploma in the first instance, with a view to upgrading to the masters course where appropriate, and subject to satisfactory progress.

PART-TIME COURSE

Most students study part-time over two years whilst continuing to develop their careers. In the first year of the MA and PGDip you will study six core modules which provide grounding in the discipline and an introductory examination of a wide range of topics. In the second year there is also one further taught module. For MA students the second year is predominantly devoted to the writing of the dissertation. This allows you to examine in depth a subject of your own choice, under individual supervision.

At all stages you will have ready access to tutors for advice regarding your progress and the pacing of work so as to cope satisfactorily with the problems that crop up for students who are working and studying.

FULL-TIME COURSE

If you are having a career break, or have recently graduated and have not yet entered full-time employment you can also study full-time. Full-time students complete the course within one year.

Our Biomedical and Health Care Ethics programmes are available as both campus-based and online distance learning.

CAMPUSS-BASED STUDY

For students studying on campus in Leeds teaching time is concentrated on one half-day per week to make it easier for you to fit your study around your work. Teaching takes place in the IDEA Centre, which is approximately 15 minutes walk from Leeds Railway Station.

ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

For students studying online, all teaching is delivered via the University’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and is structured so that you can participate in group activities at a time that suits you.

Intercalated Degrees

We also offer an intercalated BA, and our campus-based MA is available for as an intercalated degree. For more information on opportunities to intercalate see: http://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/info/250/intercalation/

MRes

Our Masters by research offers those who already have some experience studying ethics the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills further. You will be guided through a 30-credit module in research methods, which will prepare you to write a 150-credit, 30,000 word dissertation, supported by a research supervisor. The MRes is excellent preparation for PhD study.
WHY STUDY ETHICS?

A postgraduate qualification in applied ethics from the University of Leeds will help you to stand out from the crowd, demonstrating to employers that you are able to analyse arguments, reason and express yourself clearly. Studying applied ethics will develop you both personally and professionally, and will provide you with the opportunity to develop skills and understanding in this different but highly relevant field.

Ethical issues in the health care realm are plentiful and complex. Studying Biomedical and Health Care Ethics will provide you with the opportunity to reflect in depth on a wide range of such issues.

You will gain an understanding of key ethical concepts – such as interests, consent, justice, rights, value – and will have the opportunity to develop skills in discussion, analysis and argumentation in relation to ethical issues.

Continuing Professional Development

Studying applied ethics offers opportunities for those hoping to develop their career in any profession. The ethical reasoning skills that students gain are valuable in all areas of professional and working life.

The Biomedical and Health Care Ethics courses focus on ethical issues in the workplace, and so offers significant benefits to those working in medical and health care fields:

- More confidence in handling workplace decisions with ethical implications.
- Improved critical thinking and written communication skills.
- A qualification from a leading university, which can be gained while working.
- Knowledge of a wide-range of ethical issues.

GET INVOLVED

There are a range of opportunities on offer to you to complement and support your time on the course. You will be encouraged to make the most of the research activities happening within the Centre, such as the weekly research seminar and reading group. These can be a useful way of supplementing your studies, as well as helping you to feel part of our learning community. We also regularly host research conferences and workshops in subjects related to applied ethics.

Online students are encouraged to communicate with each other socially, and to participate in the online research activities associated with the Centre. Where possible we make recordings of our research seminars and conferences available online, and we also run some research sessions as online webinar sessions. You are welcome to attend any of our research events in person, and encouraged to participate in our Professional Ethics Network.

The Ilkley Colloquium

All students are invited to attend the Centre’s annual medical ethics colloquium in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, where external speakers, along with staff from the Centre, present papers on issues in biomedical and health care ethics. The weekend includes plenty of discussion and is a great opportunity to gain insight into new research in a relaxed environment. Attendance at this weekend is optional and its cost is not covered by the course fees but is kept as low as possible.

Stay in touch

Our alumni are a valuable part of our community, and are encouraged to continue to take part in the Centre’s activities. Our Facebook page and LinkedIn groups provide an easy way for current students and alumni to stay in touch and build professional networks.
ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING

Our Biomedical and Health Care Ethics courses are available to study by online distance learning. The distance learning versions of the courses are taught entirely online, making them particularly appropriate if you are in full-time employment or resident overseas, and wish to gain a qualification from a leading university without interrupting your career.

Our online courses are delivered entirely over the web, using the University of Leeds’ Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is both user-friendly and provides tools that allow you to learn in cooperation with other students. You can be resident anywhere in the world, as long as you have access to the internet, and you can complete your studies at any time to fit in with work and other activities.

You will have access to high-quality interactive course materials, designed specifically for online teaching, which will accompany carefully chosen readings. As well as this, you will participate in structured collaborative activities, which are intended to produce the debate and discussion that are vital for successfully studying ethics.

Be part of our community

We work hard to ensure that our distance learning students are just as much a part of our community as our campus-based students. This begins before registration through access to our Prepare for Study website, which will help you to get ready to study successfully online. You will also benefit from our pioneering two-week online induction, which is designed to ease the transition into online study, and to give you time to get to know each other, and for us to get to know you.

Working through carefully designed activities, you will have the opportunity to:
- Familiarise yourself with the VLE and the learning tools that we will be using during the programme.
- Begin to develop some of the key skills needed during the programme.
- Solve any initial technical or access difficulties.
- Familiarise yourself with the course structure, timetable and assessment details.

Throughout the course you will be supported by a personal tutor. There will be regular opportunities to communicate in real time with tutors and fellow students through online webinar sessions using Blackboard Collaborate.

In addition, you will have the support of the Centre’s Online Learning Specialists, as well as our Student Education Service staff, who will be able to help you with any other issues you may encounter.

Benefits of Online Distance Learning

- You can study in your own time, fitting work around your career and other responsibilities.
- There is no need to attend Leeds at any point during the course (although there may be opportunities to meet other students for those able and willing to travel).
- You will benefit from teaching materials designed specifically for the web, which you can either read on-screen or print off to read anywhere.
- You will participate in carefully structured online discussions, working collaboratively with other students.
- You will have access to high quality electronic resources, such as journals and e-books, through the University Library. All essential course readings are made available electronically, saving you both time and money.
“Although it is online, I do not feel isolated from other students because of the online discussions. The ability to study when I want to or have the time makes it more likely that I study when I am in the right frame of mind. This is not always the case when you have to physically attend lectures. Although some of the material is quite challenging, it is broken down in ways that make it accessible.”

ONLINE MA APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS STUDENT, 2011
TEACHING AND

MA and Postgraduate Diploma

CAMPUS-BASED
Each taught module is structured around weekly group sessions, lead by one of the module tutors. Emphasis is placed on active participation and independent research.

ONLINE STUDY
You will be guided through specially developed teaching notes, carefully selected readings, and a number of individual and group exercises (including online discussion).

Course Content

REASONS, VIRTUES AND OBLIGATIONS
An introduction to ethics, considering questions such as: Why be moral? How ought you to live your life? What is happiness? What is virtue? Is ethical action better understood in terms of doing one’s duty? Ought you to do what brings about the best consequences? Are there some moral rules that must be exceptionless?

ETHICAL ISSUES AT THE BEGINNING OF LIFE
What is the value of life? What gives someone moral personhood? What is the basis for the right to life? What should we do when rights conflict? Is abortion permissible? What is the moral status of the human embryo? Do people have a right to reproduce?

ETHICAL ISSUES AT THE END OF LIFE

CODES AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES
Should medical professionals always tell the truth? Should doctors have a right to conscientious objection? Are there cases in which whistleblowing is morally required? What is the value of a code of ethics? What are the ethics of team-working?

AUTONOMY, RATIONALITY AND PSYCHIATRIC ISSUES
What is autonomy? Does respect for autonomy mean always doing what the patient wants? How should competence be determined? When, if ever, would it be defensible to impose a treatment on a mentally ill patient? How is mental illness to be defined? Is there any significant difference between mental illness and physical illness?

DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE AND SCARCE MEDICAL RESOURCES
Are QALYs a helpful tool in fairly allocating healthcare resources? Should the young be given preference over the old? Is clinical need the only fair basis on which to select whom to treat, and the order of priorities? What ‘treatments’ might be reasonably excluded from the NHS budget as inessential?

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTH CARE ETHICS
A more detailed examination of current ethical issues, including cloning; genetic screening; research ethics; developments in palliative care; ethics and public health; and considering the question of how should responsibility to the individual patient be weighed against the collective public interest in advancing medical knowledge?

DISSERTATION (MA STUDENTS ONLY)
On a subject of your choice, developed with the support of individual supervision by an academic expert. The dissertation (12,000 words) is the culmination of the course, and gives you an opportunity to research a particular topic in greater detail.

Assessment
There are no examinations for our programmes. Most of your assessment will be written coursework assignments and essays. You will have the opportunity to discuss each piece of coursework with a tutor before submission, and will receive detailed feedback on your work.

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ASSESSMENT

MRes

The Masters by research is made up of a 30-credit taught module and a 150-credit dissertation.

RESEARCH METHODS
Delivered online, this module will provide you with training in core skills and a variety of key research methodologies for undertaking high quality research in medical ethics. It also addresses methodological issues raised in the conduct of inter-disciplinary research. It will equip you to undertake a longer independent supervised dissertation on an aspect of ethics of your choice.

During the module we will cover research skills, including identifying a suitable topic for research, bibliography and referencing. We will also explore a range of methodological approaches to the discipline of ethics.

DISSERTATION (30,000 WORDS)
You will produce an independent piece of work analysing in detail an aspect of medical ethics. The work will enable you to exhibit both some awareness of detail of theoretical ethical considerations and to indicate their application to issues in medical ethics, where relevant making use of your experience in the context of professional life in medicine and healthcare. You will be supported through the process by a research supervisor.

“The best thing about the programme was learning to develop and understand philosophical arguments. The course has been very enjoyable and very rewarding. I am glad to have done it and will recommend it to colleagues.”

CLARE SAMUELSON, HAEMATOLOGY REGISTRAR.
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS SHORT COURSE

For those who are unable to commit to a full masters course we are pleased to be able to offer a short course in Professional Ethics.

Comprising one module (Conscience, Codes and Professional Issues) from the MA Biomedical and Health Care Ethics, the course generates 15 credits at postgraduate level. Students who successfully complete the course can then submit these credits for credit transfer should they go on to apply for the full MA course.

The course is studied over 8 weeks, and is delivered entirely online via the University’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will get to work collaboratively with other students from around the world.

Particularly suitable as Continuing Professional Development, the course explores some of the important issues that face doctors and other medical and health care professionals in their working lives.

“...The short course was a valuable introduction to what it means to be a professional – and how to think about ethical decisions in this context. The course was well thought out and guided you effectively through the subject. Reference materials were excellent and the course tutors were very supportive. The short course was also great preparation for the full MA, because it introduced you to the depth of thinking required by the subject, and the practicalities of undertaking the course online (and part-time).”

CAROL LORD, INTERNATIONAL IT AUDIT AND RISK CONSULTANT, PROFESSIONAL ETHICS SHORT COURSE 2014/15, MA APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS 2015/16.

IS IT EVER ETHICAL TO BREACH PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY?
SHOULD MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH?
SHOULD DOCTORS HAVE A RIGHT TO CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION?
ARE THERE CASES IN WHICH WHISTLEBLOWING IS MORALLY REQUIRED?
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A CODE OF ETHICS?
WHAT ARE THE ETHICS OF TEAM-WORKING?

These are the kinds of questions you will explore during the course.
We have an active and growing research community including staff and PhD students whose interests span applied, normative and meta ethics.

Regular research activities include:
- Conferences and workshops.
- Inter-disciplinary ethics seminars in which academics from a broad range of disciplines present papers in applied ethics, or talk about ethics as it applies to their area of research.
- Fortnightly reading group in applied ethics.
- Research seminars and events hosted by the Centre for Ethics and Metaethics in the School of Philosophy, Religion, and History of Science (PHRS).

Our applied research uses academic approaches to answer questions of relevance to industry and the professions. For example we have recently published a report: “Real Integrity: Practical Solutions for Organisations Seeking to Promote Integrity” commissioned by the Institute for Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, and with the University’s Centre for Innovation in Health Management (CIHM), we produced a National Inquiry into Ethical Decision Making in the NHS.

Our recent research projects include an AHRC-funded project on Climate Change, Ethics and Responsibility.

PhD Opportunities
IDEA welcomes applications for PhD study. The Centre can provide a broad base of supervisory expertise in applied ethics, broadly construed. The Centre’s postgraduate researchers are registered in the School of Philosophy, Religion, and History of Science (PRHS), and enquiries should be made to prhs.pgenquiries@leeds.ac.uk.
Entry Requirements

**MA/PGDIP**
The MA/PGDip is designed for those coming to the study of ethics or medical ethics for the first time. Candidates should normally be graduates or holders of an equivalent qualification. Where a candidate is not a graduate, relevant professional experience is taken into account. The key attributes sought are a willingness and ability to think through problems in a reasoned and independent way. We also seek a very basic grasp of what philosophical ethics is, evidence of commitment to its study, writing skills, and evidence of any relevant experience of ethical issues arising in practice. While some students who come on the course have already studied philosophy formally, previous study of philosophy is not a requirement.

**MRES**
Candidates should normally be graduates with a 2.1 or above, in medical/healthcare ethics or philosophy, or holders of an equivalent qualification in directly related disciplines.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**
Applicants for whom English is not their first language need to meet the University’s minimum requirements for English language proficiency. For full details of the University’s policy on English language requirements, including details of exemptions and a full list of acceptable qualifications, please see the University’s Taught Postgraduate Admissions Policy.

How to Apply

Applications are made using the University’s online application system. Applicants must provide two references and a writing sample in addition to the University online application form. There is no formal deadline for receipt of applications, but if you wish to start next September then we strongly encourage you to submit your completed application and supporting documents by July 31st.

For full details about applying for our courses, including financial support, please see: [www.idea.leeds.ac.uk/mahce](http://www.idea.leeds.ac.uk/mahce)

“The course more than matched my expectations. It gave me the opportunity to explore pressing healthcare concerns from an ethical perspective. I wanted to have my perceptions and attitudes challenged and I was not disappointed!”

PAUL AFFLECK, RESEARCH MANAGER, CANCER RESEARCH UK LEEDS CENTRE.
Visit Us
Prospective students are invited to visit the Centre to get a flavour of our programmes. You can sit in on part of a teaching session, meet some current students, and chat to members of staff. To arrange a visit please contact the admissions team: admissions@idea.leeds.ac.uk

About the University of Leeds
The University of Leeds is part of the Russell group of research-led universities, and one of the older traditional universities in the UK. With some 32,500 students, situated on a compact campus location near the city centre, it is easily accessible by plane, train, bus and car. It is a leading international centre for research and learning.

There are excellent library facilities with more than 2,700,000 books available as well as a fine journal collection and up-to-date e-learning resources. The library provision includes a Health Sciences Library located in the Medical School, which is itself adjacent to the Leeds General Infirmary, one of the two major teaching hospitals in the city. Students have full access and borrowing rights in all the University libraries including the Health Sciences Library and the Law Library, as well as the main Laidlaw, Brotherton and Edward Boyle libraries.

About the Inter-Disciplinary Ethics Applied Centre
The prior existence of this successful course was one of the major factors which resulted in the University’s achievement in being awarded a national Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in 2005.

The Centre’s main aim is to help students, professionals and employees to identify, analyse and respond effectively to the ethical issues they encounter in their disciplines and their working lives. The Centre carries out teaching and research in applied ethics, and offers training and consultancy to professionals, businesses and public bodies. Its activities seek to raise the profile of ethics, not just at the University of Leeds but throughout higher education and professional life.

Other Study Opportunities
The Centre has a number of other taught courses, including our MA Applied and Professional Ethics (online), and intercalated BA Biomedical and Health Care Ethics. We have opportunities for PhD study, and also offer short course study opportunities for those unable to commit to a full course. The campus-based MA Biomedical and Health Care Ethics is also available as an intercalated degree.

To find out more about the work of the Centre, please visit the website: www.idea.leeds.ac.uk

The Centre has experience teaching ethics in a wide range of subject areas:
- Biological Sciences
- Business
- Computing
- Dentistry
- Engineering
- Environment
- Geography & Transport
- Medicine
- Media & Communications
- Nanotechnology
- Sport & Exercise Sciences
- Translation Studies