About Leeds Beckett University

Based in the thriving city of Leeds, Leeds Beckett is an ambitious university which has made significant progress in recent years. The University vision is to be acknowledged for a commitment to student success, research and enterprise, global reach and strong local impact. Leeds Beckett is on a clear upward trajectory in respect of the quality of its teaching, research and student experience, and is committed to making the University a positive choice for both students and staff. Please click here for the University’s Strategic Planning Framework for 2016-21.

With 32,000 students and 3,000 staff, the University is a people business, with a diverse population of students drawn from more than 100 countries around the globe. It contributes an estimated £500 million to the regional economy and is really proud of a customer focused approach: Leeds Beckett is the only university in the UK to hold both the Customer Service Excellence award and the Investors in People Gold standard. The University is rightly proud of recent improvements in graduate employability and solid student satisfaction scores over the past few years, and the focus remains firmly on making the student experience the best it can be, and ensuring Leeds Beckett graduates have the skills to make a seamless transition into the world of work.

Being located in the biggest financial district outside of London makes Leeds Beckett a popular university for students and many graduates stay in the city after completing their studies. The University has two campuses, both in fantastic locations: City Campus is in the centre of Leeds and is home to two award-winning buildings, the Rose Bowl and Broadcasting Place; Headingley Campus is less than three miles away, set in beautiful parkland with historic buildings dating from 1752.

About Libraries and Learning Innovation

Libraries and Learning Innovation (LLI) plays a key role in the student and staff experience at Leeds Beckett University, supporting the teaching, learning and research needs of staff and students. The service has approximately 130 staff (103 full time equivalent) working across four main areas of activity: Library Academic Support, Learning Resources, Technologies for Learning, and Library Services and Operations. A structure chart can be found here.

LLI is committed to the development of excellent services for its customers, and to working in close partnership with Schools in supporting students’ learning. LLI regularly receives very positive feedback with regard to services and support provided by LLI staff, and achieves consistently high ratings in student surveys, with the National Student Survey score for library resources and services rising to 90 in 2016. With support for the major learning and teaching technologies within its area of responsibility, including the virtual learning environment, student portal and e-portfolio system, as well as leading on the development of students’ academic skills, alongside the more traditional areas of library business, LLI makes the most of its wide ranging remit to optimise opportunities to embed its services within the learning and teaching culture of the academic Schools. Amongst recent projects have been: the development of a course landing page to personalise students’ experience as soon as they log on to the My Beckett portal and VLE; the roll out of a reading list system, which has achieved an active reading list directly linked from within the VLE for more than 90% of all modules; redevelopment of three floors of the Sheila Silver Library at the City Campus, to offer a range of high quality and flexible study environments; and the development of an improved range of research training and support services in response to the University’s ambition to increase its reputation as a research active institution.
The Library opens 24/7 every day of the year providing over 2100 study places, including 916 PCs and plug in points for mobile devices. A “PC Availability” service enables students to easily identify unoccupied PCs in addition to a self service laptop loans facility.

The Library Academic Support Team

About the team:
The Library Academic Support team comprises a Library Academic Support Team Manager, Skills for Learning Manager, Academic Librarians, Academic Skills Tutors, Information Services Librarians, a Learning Technologist, Skills for Learning Advisor, and Administrative Officer. Many members of the team are Fellows of the Higher Education Academy, and several are chartered members of CILIP. Team members have presented at conferences and / or written journal articles on the work of the team. Please click here to see a selection of recent activities and publications.

Academic liaison:

Academic Librarians are allocated liaison responsibilities at School level, and work closely with course teams to ensure that there is appropriate support for new courses at the earliest stage, as well as at course approval events and annual reviews. Academic Librarians are responsible for the identification and selection of materials to support courses and research in their subject area, as well as for ensuring that students’ digital literacy skills are developed appropriately through the life-cycle of their course, with appropriate interventions at each level. All new students are offered an induction session and follow-up digital literacy teaching complemented by online guides, web pages and online tutorials to inform students of relevant resources and activities appropriate to their programme of study. Academic Librarians provide tailored information and literature searching sessions to students as part of their courses and also offer a programme of drop in information workshops for students. Online learning objects allow students to independently learn and practice their information skills and test their progress.

Skills development is increasingly recognised as making a significant contribution to the careers of graduates in terms of the achievement of their full educational potential and adding value to their lifelong learning through preparing them for employment and/or career progression. In line with the University’s Education Strategy, and in particular the Learning Pathway element, Libraries and Learning Innovation has a strong commitment to teaching digital and information literacy skills and the encouragement and development of truly independent learners, and is increasingly embedding information skills teaching within the curriculum.

Academic Librarians produce an Annual Report for each of their areas of responsibility, and these Annual Reports were redesigned for 2016-17 to coincide with the University’s restructure from 4 Faculties to 13 Schools, to give a much more graphic report illustrating the extent to which each School has made use of LLI’s services over the preceding academic year, with an action plan for the following year [an example can be found here].
Skills for Learning:

The Skills for Learning team provides online resources, teaching, services and publications to enable students to develop their academic skills, and this provision, again, aligns closely to supporting the aims of the Education Strategy. The aim of the Skills for Learning service is to support students’ transition to higher education, to raise student achievement, and to improve retention. The team actively promotes the graduate attributes of digital literacy, enterprise skills, and a global outlook.

Academic Skills Tutors deliver workshops, embedded classes, and group and one-to-one tutorial support in academic communication, maths and IT. LLI aims to increase the proportion of embedded teaching as our statistics illustrate that we have greater impact when delivering bespoke sessions tailored to fit in at strategic points in the curriculum. In addition, the team publishes a series of student guides on essential academic skills and regular podcasts on key topics. The Skills for Learning report for Semester 1, 2016-17 can be accessed [here](#).

The Skills for Learning website offers a wide range of generic learning and teaching resources on topics which include: academic writing, group skills, research, maths, critical awareness and reflective skills. Students can use the website independently; academic staff also use it in teaching sessions and embed the resources within their MyBeckett modules.

Further information about the post

This is an excellent time to join Libraries and Learning Innovation. LLI enjoys a very strong reputation within the University, including for the high standards of support provided by the Library Academic Support team. The remit of this post has been developed, bringing together the work of the Skills for Learning team with that of the existing Library Academic Support Team for the first time, with the aim of maximising LLI’s impact in supporting the Education Strategy, and in developing the skills of our students in becoming confident independent learners. The new post holder will therefore have the exciting remit to build the newly consolidated team, identifying opportunities to realise the benefits of bringing together the expertise of the two areas, and to maximise the existing strong academic liaison arrangements within the new Schools structure to embed the range of support the team can offer.

We are looking for a colleague who will bring strong management experience, preferably in academic libraries, and an enthusiasm for learning and teaching in Higher Education, alongside strong leadership skills. Excellent team working skills are also a must, as is the ability to build strong relationships both within and outside of LLI.

We offer an excellent package, which includes a very competitive salary and generous annual leave allocation, alongside a range of other benefits.

For further information or an informal discussion about this exciting opportunity, please contact Wendy Luker, Associate Director of Libraries and Learning Innovation, [w.luker@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:w.luker@leedsbeckett.ac.uk), 0113 812 5963.

Wendy Luker, Associate Director of Libraries and Learning Innovation, May 2017