

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

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| Name and level of final award: | MA Architecture MA Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation) MA Architecture (Digital Media) MA Architecture (History and Theory) The Masters degrees named above are Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible. |
| Name and level of intermediate awards: | Postgraduate Diploma in Architectural Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Architectural Studies |
| Awarding body/institution: | University of Westminster |
| Teaching Institution: | University of Westminster |
| Status of awarding body/institution: | Recognised Body |
| Location of delivery: | Marylebone Road |
| Language of delivery and assessment: | English |
| Mode, length of study and normal starting month: | 1 year full time or 2 years part time |
| QAA subject benchmarking group(s) : | N/A |
| Professional statutory or regulatory body: | N/A |
| Date of course validation/review: | 2014 |
| Date of programme specification approval: | 2014/15 |
| Course Leader: | Richard Difford / Samir Pandya / Davide Deriu |
| Course URL: | westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate |
| Westminster Course Code: | ARCPARC |

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply>

Aims of the course

The MA Architecture programme is part of a suite of Masters offered by the Department of Architecture aimed at graduates looking to further their education and enhance their employability by acquiring new knowledge and skills. Focused on architectural research, the MA Architecture also offers a firm grounding for those seeking to pursue further research and/or an academic career.

The MA Architecture provides a course that is wide-ranging and flexible, facilitating alternative modes of study and a range of options, including both written and design-based theses. The programme also allows for specialism through its three pathways: Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation); Architecture (Digital Media) and Architecture (History and Theory). Or alternatively, students can also create their own individual pathway, under the title MA Architecture, by selecting and combining relevant modules that meet their individual requirements.

The primary aims of the MA Architecture programme are:

- To stimulate graduates in architecture and cognate design fields to develop their artistic, aesthetic and intellectual vision through use of a wide range of media and in order to create design-oriented proposals with a high level of spatial, material and formal resolution;
- To stimulate graduates in architecture and cognate design fields to analyse trends in architecture, design theory and practice on the basis of their research and critical judgement, and to use these insights to produce high quality written work in a scholarly manner;
- To enable students to determine appropriate methodologies for research in architecture and design, and to use these techniques to formulate intellectual and creative work which investigates specific aspects or issues within the subject;
- To encourage students to develop systematic and critical ways of understanding that can expand and enhance the level of discourse about architecture and design.

Additionally, the MA Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation) aims to:

- support the comprehension and critical analysis of concepts of cultural identity and globalisation in relation to architecture and urbanism in a systematic, coherent and intellectual manner;
- foster a systematic and critical understanding of ways in which processes and concepts of cultural identity and globalisation can be utilised for architectural design;
- provide the methodological understanding and skills required to identify, access, engage, and interpret sites with complex cultural contexts, processes, and communities;
- encourage synthesis of knowledge gained through creative proposals with a high level of spatial, material, and formal resolution.

Additionally, the MA Architecture (Digital Media) aims to:

- encourage originality in design through the application and integration of digital media technologies both as part of the design process and as integrated into the architectural fabric.
- foster a systematic understanding and critical awareness of the spatial, material, social and cultural implications of digital media in architecture.
- provide practical skills in the use of digital design and presentation techniques.
- encourage the development of intellectual, organisational and creative abilities with respect to independent research and the innovative use of new technologies.

Additionally, the MA Architecture (History and Theory) aims to:

- foster an advanced knowledge of current debates in architecture as well as an ability to situate them within a wider social and cultural context;
- encourage the development of critical and creative research approaches to architecture informed by contemporary theories;
- provide a series of conceptual tools for investigating and interpreting architecture through design, written, and visual media;
- stimulate an understanding of architectural and urban history with a particular focus on London's buildings, cultural heritage, and representations.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

The course is intended to further the education of design graduates who will find employment in architectural practice, or related disciplines. The specialist options offered within the MA Architecture course are intended to provide students with further employability skills related to architectural theory and creative design practice.

Examples include the visual arts, urban design, journalism, exhibition design/curatorship, historical conservation, web/media, graphics, and the film industry; as well as multidisciplinary and traditional architectural design practices.

The MA Architecture may also form a platform for continuing study with a career in academia or research. The Department of Architecture offers suitable applicants the opportunity to study for an MPhil/PhD degree, both through the traditional written research mode, and also through a PhD by Design route.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course. For all the learning outcomes for each module on the MA Architecture course and associated pathways refer to the module descriptors included in the Course Handbook.

Knowledge and understanding

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have acquired the requisite knowledge and understanding to demonstrate:

- the ability to utilise a wide range of media to develop their aesthetic and intellectual vision within the field of creative practice, intellectual, critical and creative abilities and capacity for independent study;
- the ability to conduct advanced self-directed research through appropriate methods of examination, analysis and presentation;
- the ability to investigate selected design issues through the formulation, analysis and application of relevant advanced research;
- a thorough theoretical understanding of the key concepts underpinning the course, and their relevance to architectural culture and design;
- the ability to apply a broad range of relevant sources to support a critical and reasoned position.

Additionally, the students of the MA Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation) will be able to:

- critically appraise key concepts relating issues of cultural identity and globalisation to architectural design and representational practices.
- situate architectural designs within wider cultural, political and economic contexts.
- evaluate alternative investigative and design methodologies in order to appraise 'best-fit' approaches to examining and responding to complex cultural contexts.

Additionally, the students of the MA Architecture (Digital Media) will be able to:

- critically appraise and interpret new media technologies in relation to existing representational practices and conventions.
- assess the social and cultural impact of specific digital media technologies with respect to the built environment and their historical and cultural context.
- evaluate and select appropriate digital media techniques, concepts and theories for the explorations of architectural themes and ideas.
- make original and creative use of digital media applications in the context of formal/spatial design.

Additionally, the students of the MA Architecture (History and Theory) will be able to:

- demonstrate critical understanding of the contemporary theoretical context in which architects and cognate designers operate.
- discern key issues in architectural discourse and practice, and comprehend their social and cultural implications.

- apply a reflective approach to architectural research by means of advanced design-based explorations and/or critical-interpretive modes of investigation.
- conduct architectural research supported by theoretical and historical sources, and critically assess the information about a given subject of interest.

Specific skills

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have developed appropriate subject- specific skills that will allow them to demonstrate:

- an ability to engage in a high level of self-motivated independent study and research;
- an ability to synthesise coherently the knowledge and understanding gained in the course in a written thesis and/or if a design component is included as part of the thesis, an ability to produce design projects of considerable conceptual, spatial, material, formal and technological resolution;
- an ability to apply information research skills in a wide range of contexts;
- an awareness of how the knowledge and skills gained in the course has resulted in the ability to develop a sustained programme of architectural investigation and resolution driven by the individual student's interests/background in a complex, sophisticated and critical manner.

Additionally, the students of the MA Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation) will be able to:

- conduct self-directed ethnographic research within built environment contexts and interpret findings to inform architectural design concepts;
- formulate original and creative methodologies and concepts to inform designs which reflect and/or critique complex cultural contexts.

Additionally, the students of the MA Architecture (Digital Media) will be able to:

- Conduct and document self-directed learning and research with respect to new media technologies and their application.
- Successfully apply digital media tools and techniques to generate architectural design.
- Integrate key interactive and computer controlled technologies into architectural design and fabrication.
- Coherently communicate complex theoretical/design propositions and conclusions in both verbal and written form.

Additionally, the students of the MA Architecture (History and Theory) will be able to:

- Conduct independent research into architecture with a critical awareness of its historical and cultural contexts.
- Apply a range theoretical and practical tools to the analysis, investigation, and interpretation of architectural issues.
- Deploy critical thinking skills in the practice of architectural design.
- Formulate critical ideas and coherently convey them in appropriate verbal, written, and visual forms.

Key transferable skills

Each module defines the respective transferable skills that the student will encounter:

Group working

The student will be capable of working effectively with a group as leader or member. Also must demonstrate the ability to clarify the task and make appropriate use of the capacities of group members. Is able to negotiate and handle conflict with confidence.

Learning resources

The ability to effectively utilise the full range of learning resources.

Self-evaluation

The student must, clearly display the ability to reflect and evaluate their own work at every stage of the module.

Information management

The student must be capable of identifying through careful research relevant source material or references, and competently manage the use of this information with the minimum of guidance.

Autonomy

The student must be capable of independent thought and self critical analysis and where appropriate be able through participation in tutorials or seminars to share their learning in aiding others.

Communication

The student must be able to engage confidently in academic and professional communication with others, reporting on action clearly, autonomously and competently.

Problem-solving

Throughout the student should demonstrate the capability of independent learning commensurate with continuing professional study.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning

Student study is based on a combination of seminar-based and studio-based activities that are aimed at ensuring a diverse and interactive learning environment.

The seminar is the main setting where students engage with key theoretical and methodological issues. This system fosters the development of personal transferable skills through discussion, presentation, and group work. By operating in conjunction with lectures and tutorials, the seminar system encourages students to undertake independent learning tasks, both in relation to specific modules and in preparation for the Major Thesis Project.

For design work, the studio system facilitates student-centred learning, transferring an increasing degree of autonomy to the student throughout the course. It encourages diversity in academic debate providing a platform for the exchange of views and additionally provides opportunity for external, vocational criticism from practising professionals and academic staff.

The student's individual thesis projects are undertaken in the context of the thematically led research groups or 'labs' associated with each of the pathways. Each group is supervised by a member of the core teaching staff, supported as necessary by other full-time, or part-time, staff. Development of project-based learning facilitates interpersonal student learning and group exchange of information. The studio system also promotes variety in project work.

Students are encouraged to set their own agendas within the specific pedagogical parameters set out by the project staff. Learning is 'goal-centred' and related to individual student programmes. Project work will reflect contemporary issues or, where appropriate, draw upon historical, social or cultural aspects in architecture and spatial design.

Teaching

Teaching practices are wide ranging but the student will be exposed to the following pedagogical methods:

- **Task-based Project Workshops:** project working provides both a focus and a structure against which the pedagogical demands of the course can be articulated.
- **Individual and Group Tutorials:** where the students and tutor will discuss the detailed progress of a particular project, its problems and possibilities.
- **Lectures:** supporting lectures in specialist topics delivered by invited visiting speakers.
- **Seminars:** conducted in small groups to disseminate material from lectures and student material.
- **Jury Criticism:** is group based and requires students to present in public (to course staff, peers and invited critics) their project work to date; such continuous assessment of the project base is by jury criticism only, affording students an opportunity to advocate their ideas directly to the assessment panel.
- **Student-Centred Learning:** The need to develop students' skills in path finding and decision-making has resulted in the introduction of Student-Centred Learning. It is regarded as a vital extension of formalised teaching and learning methods. Students will be guided by the subject tutors in their development of learning methods other than the structured methods described above. Improved time management techniques and the detailed appreciation of the use of sources of information towards a clearly determined objective are seen as important outcomes resulting from student centred learning.

- **Self-Directed Private Study:** Students are expected to underpin their learning by private study. To assist students the University provides a variety of support including libraries, workshops and computing facilities (see the appropriate sections in the Course Handbook).

Assessment

The specific assessment requirements are described within the module descriptors and the criteria for assessment are related to the overall expected standard of achievement.

The nature of the creative and intellectual areas of expertise with which the course is concerned demands a variety of assessment types. The use of a range of assessment types also enables students to express their competence in a variety of settings, suited to different individual working styles. The relative weightings for each vary from module to module depending upon the underlying strategy and learning outcome of the module.

Learning and Communication skills are vital within architecture and design therefore assessment formats and presentation sessions are designed to add value to the learning experience in terms of the development of effective visual, verbal and written communication techniques.

All assessment of modules on the course will be continuous.

N.B. At both interim reviews and final assessments departmental staff external to the course will be present whenever possible. Part-time and visiting tutors together with other departmental tutors will supplement the course team as appropriate for tutorial instruction, criticism and assessment.

Course structures

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time postgraduate students study 180 UK credits in one year. Part-time students will normally complete 180 UK credits in two years.

Please note: Not all pathways and option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. The options available may also be limited by the compatibility of individual timetables. Each student's choice of modules must be agreed in consultation with the course leader.

MA Architecture

In addition to the 60 credit thesis project, students take two 20 credit core modules and chose one 40 credit plus two 20 credit option modules.

| Module code | Module title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Full time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH019W | Theories of Identity | Option | 40 | 20 |
| 7ARCH015W | Programming and Computational Design | Option | | |
| 7ARCH021W | Critical Issues in Architecture | Option | | |
| <i>Semester 2 and 3</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Option | | |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| | | | Total: | 180 UK credits |

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Part time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH019W | Theories of Identity | Option | 40 | 20 |
| 7ARCH015W | Programming and Computational Design | Option | | |
| 7ARCH021W | Critical Issues in Architecture | Option | | |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Option | | |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| | | | Total: | 180 UK credits |

MA Architecture (Cultural Identity and Globalisation)

In addition to the 60 credit thesis project, students take two 20 credit core modules, one 40 credit and one 20 credit pathway module, plus one 20 credit option module

| Module code | Module title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------|
| <u>Full time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH019W | Theories of Identity | Pathway | 40 | 20 |
| <i>Semester 2 and 3</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Pathway | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | | |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| | | Total: | 180 UK credits | |

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----|
| <u>Part time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH019W | Theories of Identity | Pathway | 40 | 20 |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Pathway | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | | |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| | | Total: | 180 UK credits | |

MA Architecture (Digital Media)

In addition to the 60 credit thesis project, students take two 20 credit core modules, one 40 credit and one 20 credit pathway module, plus one 20 credit option module

| Module code | Module title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------|
| <u>Full time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH015W | Programming and Computational Design | Pathway | 40 | 20 |
| <i>Semester 2 and 3</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Pathway | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | | |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| Total: | | | 180 UK credits | |

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|----|
| <u>Part time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH015W | Programming and Computational Design | Pathway | 40 | 20 |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Pathway | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | | |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| Total: | | | 180 UK credits | |

MA Architecture (History and Theory)

In addition to the 60 credit thesis project, students take two 20 credit core modules, one 40 credit and one 20 credit pathway module, plus one 20 credit option module

| Module code | Module title | Status | UK credit | ECTS |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Full time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH021W | Critical Issues in Architecture | Pathway | 40 | 20 |
| <i>Semester 2 and 3</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Pathway | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | | |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| | | | Total: | 180 UK credits |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Part time mode:</u> | | | | |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH021W | Critical Issues in Architecture | Pathway | 40 | 20 |
| <i>Year 1 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH012W | Picturing London | Pathway | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH008W | Ethnographic Ways of Knowing | Option | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH017W | Site and Motion | Option | | |
| 7ARCH004W | City Cultures | Option | | |
| 7ARCH001W | Applied Animation | Option | | |
| 7ARCH009W | Introduction to Design Computing | Option | | |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 1</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH016W | Research and Positioning | Core | 20 | 10 |
| 7ARCH020W | Thesis Development | Core | 20 | 10 |
| <i>Year 2 Semester 2</i> | | | | |
| 7ARCH011W | Major Thesis Project | Core | 60 | 30 |
| | | | Total: | 180 UK credits |

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The management structure supporting the course is as follows:

- Coordinator of Postgraduate Studies, Richard Difford, is responsible for the overall co-ordination of postgraduate masters courses in the Department of Architecture
- Course pathway leaders, Samir Pandya (Cultural Identity and Globalisation), Richard Difford (Digital Media) and Davide Deriu (History and Theory) are responsible for the day-to-day running and overall management of the course. They are also responsible for the development of the curriculum and its delivery.
- Professor Harry Charrington, Head of Department, holds overall responsibility for the course, and for the other courses run by the Department of Architecture within the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment;
- Professor David Dernie, Dean of Faculty, holds overall responsibility for all courses run by the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students¹ can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

¹ Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University.

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2010. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty and university committees.
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- The University also has an annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey or PTES which helps us compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future and to keep doing the things that you value.

For more information about this course:

Contact the Course Leader & admissions tutor: Davide Deriu D.Deriu@westminster.ac.uk ;
or visit the University of Westminster website at <http://www.westminster.ac.uk>.

Please note: This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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