

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts - English Language and Literature <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - English Language • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - English Language
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	N/A
Professional statutory or regulatory body	N/A
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA English Language and Literature FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length • MA English Language and Literature PT, Part-time day/evening, September or January start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2023/4

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 programme

The MA English Language and Literature is part of a suite of Masters programmes focusing on linguistic study offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Westminster's Regent Street site and it has particularly strong ties with various MAs taught at the School of Humanities, most notably MA English Language and Linguistics, MA TESOL and MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions. The MA English Language and Literature provides a course that is wide-ranging, but also allows for further specialisation through its option modules. Thus, students can construct a programme of study in which they can follow particular themes in the areas that most interest them. It is one of the few interdisciplinary MA programmes in the country to offer a focus on Modern and Contemporary Literature, rather than a broad historical context of English Literature, combined with the study of current issues in linguistics, pertaining especially to the positioning of the English language in a global, multilingual context.

The MA English Language and Literature has been designed to:

- provide an advanced, wide-ranging study of English language as well as literature
- promote an understanding of the nature of human language, and of the significance of this knowledge to the teaching of languages, particularly English as a second language
- foster an ability to apply theoretical perspectives to texts
- develop advanced skills in argument, synthesis and critical expression
- develop and scrutinise the ideas of reading, re-reading and interpretation
- examine recent critical developments in literary studies
- set literary studies within an interdisciplinary contextual framework
- conduct specific examination of particular periods, movements and location
- enhance advanced skills of research and presentation specific to English
- provide a route to further research.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. 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 MA English Language and Literature is intended to provide students with sophisticated critical skills and a widely applicable knowledge base. This enables further study at MPhil or PhD levels but is also particularly relevant to teaching and a range of professions in the creative and cultural industries, such as freelance writing, journalism, theatre and performance-based writing, media, arts management, copy-editing, publishing, and research. Students in the course are also encouraged to attend the employability workshops designed by the School Employability Director, Dr Sean Sutherland (S.Sutherland@westminster.ac.uk).

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- 001 Understand knowledge produced at the intersection of the two disciplines of English language and English literature. (KU1) (KU)
- 002 Deploy a combination of critical, analytic, philological and linguistics skills to the study of English literature. (KU2) (KU)
- 003 Engage in the close reading of literature and the critical enquiry into literary texts alongside developing a knowledge of the structures and features typical of a variety of spoken and written text-types. (KU3) (KU)
- 004 Situate language use in literary texts within the context of modern and contemporary critical discourses drawing on knowledge of the grammatical structure and lexical stock of the English language. (KU4) (KU)
- 005 Show familiarity with the rhetoric of both the disciplines of English language and English literature and pursue critical enquiry and independent research into these areas accordingly. (KU5) (KU)
- 006 Demonstrate that they have completed a dissertation involving substantial and detailed investigation of a particular aspect of English language or literature. (KU6) (KU)
- 007 Advanced skills in research, synthesis, data analysis, argumentation and presentation. (SS1) (SS)
- 008 Advanced use of appropriate scholarly terminology. (SS2) (SS)
- 009 An ability to articulate how different formal, linguistic and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning. (SS3) (SS)
- 010 Critical skills in the close reading and analysis of texts. (SS4) (SS)
- 011 Sophisticated awareness of generic conventions and of the shaping effects upon communication of context, authorship, textual production, and intended audience. (SS5) (SS)
- 012 The scholarly skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and use of bibliographical conventions. (SS6) (SS)
- 013 The ability to present sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments, advanced literacy and communication skills, and the ability to cogently and clearly apply these in appropriate contexts. (KTS1) (KTS)
- 014 The capacity to critically examine any form of discourse using close reading and analysis of texts. (KTS2) (KTS)
- 015 The ability to acquire quickly substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured way, involving the use of sophisticated interpretive skills. (KTS3) (KTS)
- 016 Advanced skills in critical reasoning. (KTS4) (KTS)
- 017 Sophisticated research skills, including scholarly information retrieval (KTS5) (KTS)
- 018 Information-technology skills such as word processing. (KTS6) (KTS)
- 019 Interpersonal and team skills, relating to the ability to work flexibly and creatively with other people and engage in rational debate. (KTS7) (KTS)
- 020 Rigorous self-discipline (including time-management, motivation and emotional balance). (KTS8) (KTS)
- 021 Competence in planning and executing essays and other kinds of work. (KTS9) (KTS)
- 022 Capacity for independent thought and judgement. (KTS10) (KTS)
- 023 Mature ability to give and receive constructive criticism of their own and others' work. (KTS11) (KTS)
- 024 Creative thinking in diverse intellectual situations. (KTS12) (KTS)
- 025 Advanced professional skills acquired through problem and inquiry-based learning applied on real-life cases and/or simulated situations. (KTS13) (KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Learning and Teaching

Teaching methods include weekly two-hour tutorials, seminars, practical sessions and workshops, together with independent student-led study, including work for the dissertation. All modules employ the University on-line learning system Blackboard as part of their delivery in providing course materials, discussion fora and, where appropriate, additional exercises. Students are prepared for the dissertation via a series of academic writing and research workshops.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods include submitted coursework in the form of essays, reports and a dissertation. As part of preparation for the dissertation, students have to do an oral presentation of their intended topic of research and methodology.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Students take four 20-credit core modules and choose two 20-credit options from the list below. Students also submit a dissertation focusing on an area of English language or literature (60 credits).

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7ENGL007W	English Worldwide	Core	1	20	10
7ENGL008W	Multilingualism: Concepts and Applications	Core	1	20	10
7ELIT007W	Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature	Core	1	20	10
7HUMS001W	MA Dissertation	Core	2	60	30
7ELIT012W	Writing the Self	Core	2	20	10
7ENGL001W	Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	2	20	10
7ENGL010W	Language and Gender	Option	2	20	10
7ENGL005W	Language in Society	Option	2	20	10
7TESL005W	Languages for Specific Purposes	Option	2	20	10
7ELIT014W	Reading the Nation	Option	2	20	10
7ELIT008W	Victorian Explorations	Option	2	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

N/A

Course management

The MA English Language and Literature is hosted in the School of Humanities within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It is directly managed by a course leader within the School of Humanities. Each module also has a designated module leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

Because of the wide-ranging topics covered by the MA, the course teaching team consists of a large number of staff in the School of Humanities. Key members of the course team meet regularly each year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of the course. Staff undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or research and scholarly activity.

The MA English Language and Literature intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and cultural initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the School as well as both the English Language and Linguistics Research Seminar and the English Literature and Cultural Studies Research Seminar series hosted by the School of Humanities.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations).

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

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 Campus Registry. 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. Further information on Blackboard can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard>

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. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development).

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students 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 in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services 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. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice>.

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union>

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

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university, a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College 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 evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation 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 revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years 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 student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College 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.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©