

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Arts - Museums, Galleries & Contemporary Culture • Master of Arts - Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience <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) - Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture
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 Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length • MA Museums, Galleries & Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience FT, Full-time, September start - 2 years standard length • MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture PT, Part-time day, September or January start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2022/3

Additional Course Information

Course specific regulation for MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience.

Module 7MUST020W Work Experience Preparation has no referral, deferral or re-take opportunity.

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

Introduction

MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture and MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience examine how museums, galleries and other cultural organisations are developing to meet the needs of the 21st century. These MAs have been designed for students who wish to work as curators, arts organisers, museum professionals and other cultural managers and who want to know in particular how these institutions face contemporary issues.

The courses are grounded in a visual culture perspective that argues that culture is not static and that institutions and organisations play a crucial role in reflecting how contemporary society values, engages with and understands culture, from heritage to the arts. At the same time institutions and organisations play an important role in housing, funding, collecting, disseminating and interpreting cultural activities and products – they are a focal point for the consumption of culture. The MAs also addresses the historical and theoretical debates on the significance of cultural institutions, in particular those written from the perspective of the museum and gallery sector itself, addressing how it relates and contributes to contemporary culture.

The MAs have a strong vocational emphasis and have been developed through partnership with major cultural organisations in London and professionals from a wide range of professional contexts. The fundamental approach has been to structure teaching around the experience of professionals - using case studies that examine practice in museums and galleries. Students will be able to examine key issues and themes in museums, galleries and the cultural sector, and explore how these are dealt with not just in theory, but also on a day-to-day basis by leading institutions. The courses demonstrate that it is the 'practices' in museums and galleries - the skills and activities of archivists, researchers, curators, programmers, and the web team - that actively produces our understanding of contemporary culture.

Students are encouraged to have a close involvement with institutions through internships and work placements and projects. The courses are also designed to facilitate students who are currently in professional employment or working with cultural institutions. Therefore, wherever possible students are encouraged to focus their learning on their own professional work and may base projects on their own work place.

Students registered on the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience have the opportunity to take an integrated Extended Work Experience module in addition to the taught components of the Course. Students taking this module will do a placement or internship of a minimum of 550 hours in a professional work environment as a sandwich element with assessments. Students will need to meet academic standards set for this module in order to have this opportunity; further details will be available in the handbook upon enrolment. Students unable to continue on to the Extended Work Experience module will be transferred to the one year MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture.

Students will be responsible for securing their own work placement and, although they will be supported by the Module Leader and other officers, a placement cannot be guaranteed. The University has well-established relationships with a number of museums, galleries and other cultural institutions who are keen to offer placements. We will advertise these opportunities when they arise so that all students can apply. In some cases, students will have their own contacts with museums and galleries and we will support students who might initiate a relationship with a potential host. Students unable to secure a placement will be transferred to the one-year MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture.

Students successfully completing this module will achieve an extra 60 credits and will be awarded the degree with the title: MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience.

Aims

MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture and the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience aim to:

- Examine the changing role of museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions and organisations through historical and theoretical debates and examples of contemporary professional practice.
- Combine academic teaching with instruction from museum and gallery professionals order to give students an understanding of vocational issues, contexts, practices and concerns.
- Assist students in gaining professional knowledge of professional institutions through direct contact, projects and to assist students in gaining internships and work placements.
- Give students a broad-based curriculum that enables them to develop their own preferences and specialisms.

In addition, the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience aims to:

- Gain professional skills and knowledge through extended practical work in the museum and gallery sector.
- Learn about the needs and requirements of the professional workplace through integrated experience.

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.

In addition, the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience ensures that:

- Through the Extended Work Experience module students have the opportunity for integrated and extensive learning from the professional workplace.

The MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture 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 a range of professions in the creative and cultural industries, especially heritage and museum work and cultural policy.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

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

- 001 Demonstrate a wide knowledge of critical and theoretical concepts and debates relating to museums, galleries and contemporary culture. (KU)
- 002 Critically examine the policies, strategies and programmes of museums and galleries. (KU)
- 003 Undertake research using a wide range of academic and professional resources. (PPP)
- 004 Deploy advanced skills of argument, synthesis, research and presentation. (KTS)
- 005 Demonstrate interpersonal and team working skills. (KTS)
- 006 Demonstrate advanced communication skills in both written and oral forms. (KTS)
- 007 Critically apply methodologies to research and professional practice. (PPP)
- 008 Demonstrate advanced critical skills in design and planning of practical projects. (PPP)
- 009 Apply professional knowledge in museum and gallery practice. (PPP)
- 010 Demonstrate effective work-based learning (PPP)

Additionally, the students of the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience pathway will be able to:

- 011 Demonstrate extensive work-based learning and advanced skills in professional practice (PPP)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Seminars

Modules are generally taught via seminars and are focused on student-centered learning. Module sessions typically involve presentations or case studies, reading of specific texts and class discussion. Modules may also involve online learning, online discussion and guided independent study. Modules may be structured as weekly sessions taught across a semester, or taught in burst mode, depending upon the subject.

Site visits and learning in the workplace

As well as seminars, teaching will also involve the use of London's cultural institutions as a resource. Teaching on some of the modules will take place in these other cultural institutions, and involving staff of those institutions and participation in professional activities or demonstrations in the workplace. Students are also encouraged to visit particular museums or galleries, archives, events etc. outside class time, and may be given some specific direction as to particular visits that would be relevant to each module.

Work placement, projects and work integrated learning

Learning may also include self-reflexive analysis of professional work through short work placements or professional projects. In the latter, the student undertakes an exercise that enables them to research, analyse and conduct a professional activity in a workplace, and through development and execution of the activity they achieve measurable knowledge and understanding.

On the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience, the Extended Work Experience Module consists of a supervised placement of at least 550 hours in duration, which combines professional learning with personal development.

Tutorials

Each student is assigned a personal tutor from among the staff with whom they can have at least one tutorial per semester. Personal tutors will also assist students in setting out a personal development plan.

Assessment methods

Assessment methods used on the course vary across the modules, and include coursework in the form of essays, case studies, oral presentations, portfolios, project reports, critical analyses and a 12,000-word dissertation.

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.

MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture

Level 7

Requirements for award of the MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture

The MA has two 'pathways':

Pathway 1 leading to the award of MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture: 180 credits taken over one year for FT students; two years for PT students. Option modules to the value of 80 credits are selected.

Pathway 2 leading to the award of MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience: 240 credits taken over two years for FT September starters only. Option modules to the value of 80 credits are selected.

Pathway 1 details: MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture

Students complete the 40-credit core module *Current Issues*, which runs over two semesters, and four option modules of 20 credits each. In their second semester of study, they elect to take either of the following two 60-credits core modules: *MA Dissertation* or the *MA Project*.

Part time students complete the degree over 24 months and take either the *MA Dissertation* or the *MA Project* in their second year of study.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7MUST005W	Current Issues in Museums and Galleries	Core		40	20
7HUMS001W	MA Dissertation	Core	2	60	30
7MUST019W	MA Project	Core	2	60	30
7MUST001W	Art Institutions and Contemporary Culture	Option		20	10
7MUST003W	Collecting Today: Curating, Presenting and Managing Collections	Option		20	10
7MUST004W	Curating Contemporary Art	Option		20	10
7MUST007W	Education, Learning and Events	Option		20	10
7MUST008W	Exhibiting Photography	Option		20	10
7MUST010W	Museum Narratives	Option		20	10
7MUST018W	Participatory Art and Social Engagement	Option		20	10
7CLST013W	Representing World Cultures	Option		20	10
7MUST002W	The Inclusive Museum: Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice	Option		20	10
7CLST018W	Work Placement in Cultural Institutions	Option		20	10

MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience

Level 7

Pathway 2 details: MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience

The modular content of Pathway 2 is almost identical to the content of Pathway 1, but it has an additional assessed 60 credit *Extended Work Experience* module and does not offer the 20 credit *Work Placement in Cultural Institutions* Option module due to the extensive work-based learning opportunity already offered.

In their first year of study, students complete the 40-credit core module *Current Issues*, which runs over two semesters, and four option modules of 20 credits each. Students on Pathway 2 are also required to complete the non-credit-bearing *Work Experience Preparation* module in Semester 1 of their first year of study and pass this module (no referral, deferral, or re-take opportunity as per course-specific regulations).

At the end of their first year of study, students will have completed 120 credits. In their second year of study they elect to take either of the following two 60-credits core modules: *MA Dissertation* or the *MA Project*. They also commence *their Extended Work Experience module (60 credits)*. Please note that, depending on the requirements of the placement provider, the placement may begin earlier than September. At the completion of the second year of study, students will have completed *the Extended Work Experience* module plus either the *MA Dissertation* or the *MA Project*.

This pathway is not offered to part-time students.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7MUST005W	Current Issues in Museums and Galleries	Core	40	20
7MUST017W	Extended Work Experience	Core	60	30
7HUMS001W	MA Dissertation	Core	60	30
7MUST019W	MA Project	Core	60	30
7MUST020W	Work Experience Preparation	Core	0	0
7MUST001W	Art Institutions and Contemporary Culture	Option	20	10
7MUST003W	Collecting Today: Curating, Presenting and Managing Collections	Option	20	10
7MUST004W	Curating Contemporary Art	Option	20	10
7MUST007W	Education, Learning and Events	Option	20	10
7MUST008W	Exhibiting Photography	Option	20	10
7MUST010W	Museum Narratives	Option	20	10
7MUST018W	Participatory Art and Social Engagement	Option	20	10
7CLST013W	Representing World Cultures	Option	20	10
7MUST002W	The Inclusive Museum: equality, diversity, inclusion and social justice	Option	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 Course is hosted in the School of Humanities, one of the four Schools within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on the Regent Site, and modules are offered from a number of different disciplines and subject areas. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader within the School of Humanities. Each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery. The Head of School has overall responsibility for all academic provision in the School.

The course teaching team consists of staff from the School of Humanities. Key members of the course team meet regularly to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of the course. Staff in each School that are involved in the course undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or research and scholarly activity. Staff teaching on the course also attend events organised by Academic Standards and the Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

The MA course intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and research initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the School, as well as the research seminar series hosted by the School of Humanities, and the various events and collaborative ventures organised under the umbrella of the Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium.

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 – 2021©

Additional Details

Course specific regulation for MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience.

Module 7XXX Work Experience Preparation has no referral, deferral or re-take opportunity.