

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	<b>MA English Language and Linguistics</b> <b>MA English Language and Literature</b> The Masters degrees named above are Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma English Language Postgraduate Certificate English Language
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	University of Westminster, Regent Street
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	September and January Full time (1 year) or Part time (2 years)
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a> :	N/A
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	2012-13
Date of programme specification approval:	2014-15
Course Leader:	Sean Sutherland
Course URL:	<a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate</a>
Westminster Course Code:	PMENG04F (FT Linguistics) PMENG04P (PT Linguistics) PMENG05F (FT Literature) PMENG05P (PT Literature)
JACS code:	Q310/Q100/Q320
UKPASS code:	P052068/P052067

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

There are standard minimum [entry requirements](#) for all undergraduate 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: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply)

## AIMS OF THE COURSE

The MA English Language Programme is part of a suite of Masters programmes focusing on linguistic study offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Westminster's Regent Street site and it has particularly strong ties with various programmes taught at the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies: MA TESOL, MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions, and MA Writing the City. The MA English Language Programme provides a course that is wide-ranging, but also allows for further specialisation through its two pathways: English Language and Linguistics and English Language and Literature. Thus, students can construct a programme of study in which they can follow particular themes in the areas that most interest them.

The MA English Language Programme aims to:

- provide an advanced, wide-ranging study of English language as well as linguistics, literature or creative writing
- 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
- enhance advanced skills of research and presentation specific to English / creative writing
- provide a route to further research.

Additionally, the English Language and Linguistics pathway aims to:

- examine recent critical developments in linguistic studies
- give students a grounding in breadth and depth in linguistics, by exploring the central features of linguistic theory: its history, objectives, principal theoretical frameworks, methodologies, contested areas and uncontested results.

The English Language and Literature pathway aims to:

- 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 locations.

## **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 that will inform the service delivered to students.

The MA English Language Programme 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 departmental Employment Coordinator, Dr Sean Sutherland (S.Sutherland@westminster.ac.uk).

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

### **Knowledge and understanding**

Successful graduates of the MA English Language Programme will be able to:

- understand the major areas of language use and development
- situate linguistic analysis within the dominant cultural discourses
- understand the structures and features typical of a variety of written text-types
- use the appropriate terms and concepts for stylistic analysis
- present a sophisticated understanding of relevant current theoretical positions and debates
- understand what constitutes a well-formed linguistic research problem and solution
- demonstrate that they have completed a dissertation involving substantial and detailed investigation of a particular aspect of English Language, linguistics or literature, or a writing project with sophisticated use of the key elements of writing (voice, plot, character) and awareness of generic writing conventions
- conduct further independent learning and professional development.

Additionally, the students of the English Language and Linguistics pathway will be able to

- deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of linguistic data
- place their own experiences within a conceptual framework constructed from the

plurality of developments and issues in linguistics.

The students of the English Language and Literature pathway will be able to

- deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of texts
- show familiarity with the interdisciplinary connections of literary studies.

### **Specific Skills**

Graduates of the MA English Language Programme will acquire a range of advanced scholarly and writing skills such as:

- advanced skills in research, synthesis, data analysis, argumentation and presentation
- advanced use of appropriate scholarly terminology
- an ability to articulate how different formal, linguistic and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning
- a sophisticated response to the central role of language in the creation of literary meaning
- the scholarly skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and use of bibliographical conventions.

Additionally, the students of the English Language and Linguistics pathway will develop skills such as:

- critical skills in the analysis of a variety of linguistic data
- the ability to employ adequate quantitative and /or qualitative methods of data analysis.

The students of the English Language and Literature pathway will develop skills such as:

- critical skills in the close reading and analysis of texts
- sophisticated awareness of generic conventions and of the shaping effects upon communication of context, authorship, textual production, and intended audience.

### **Key Transferable skills**

Graduates of the MA will be able to demonstrate:

- 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
- the capacity to critically examine any form of discourse using close reading and analysis of texts
- the ability to acquire quickly substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured way, involving the use of sophisticated interpretive skills
- advanced skills in critical reasoning
- sophisticated research skills, including scholarly information retrieval
- information-technology skills such as word processing
- interpersonal and team skills, relating to the ability to work flexibly and creatively with other people and engage in rational debate
- rigorous self-discipline (including time-management, motivation and emotional balance)

- competence in planning and executing essays and other kinds of work
- capacity for independent thought and judgement
- mature ability to give and receive constructive criticism of their own and others' work
- creative thinking in diverse intellectual situations.

## **TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

### **Learning and teaching**

Teaching methods include weekly 2-hour tutorials, seminars, practical sessions and workshops, together with independent student-led study, including work for the dissertation or writing project. 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.

Furthermore, each student will be assigned an academic tutor from among the academic staff with whom they will have at least one timetabled session in the first semester.

### **Assessment**

Assessment methods include submitted coursework in the form of essays, reports and a dissertation or writing project. 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 presents the core and option modules for each of the three pathways available to students of the English Language Programme 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.

### MA English Language and Linguistics

Students take two 40-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 linguistics (60 UK credits).

Credit Level 7				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7ENGL003W	English Language in Literary Contexts	Core	40	20
7ENGL004W	English Worldwide	Core	40	20
7ENGL002W	Dissertation	Core	60	30
7TESL010W	Intercultural Communicative Competence	Option	20	10
7TESL001W	Current Developments in Language Teaching	Option	20	10
7ENGL006W	Translation Studies	Option	20	10
7ENGL001W	Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	20	10
7ENGL005W	Sociolinguistics	Option	20	10

*NB: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.*

## MA English Language and Literature

Students take three core modules (totaling 80 UK credits) 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 UK credits).

Credit Level 7				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7ENGL003W	English Language in Literary Contexts	Core	40	20
7ELIT007W	Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature	Core	20	10
7ELIT002W	Materialities, Institutions and Contexts	Core	20	10
7ENGL002W	Dissertation	Core	60	30
7TESL010W	Intercultural Communicative Competence	Option	20	10
7TESL001W	Current Developments in Language Teaching	Option	20	10
7ENGL006W	Translation Studies	Option	20	10
7ENGL001W	Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	20	10
7ENGL005W	Sociolinguistics	Option	20	10
7ELIT003W	London and Modernism: Manifesto, Literature, Painting, Film	Option	20	10
7ELIT006W	Special Author / Topic	Option	20	10
7CREW010W	Experimental Women's Writing	Option	20	10

*NB: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.*

## **ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

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

## **HOW WILL YOU BE SUPPORTED IN YOUR STUDIES?**

### **Course Management**

The English Language Programme is hosted in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, within of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. It is directly managed by a course leader within the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies. 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 Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural studies. 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 English Language Programme intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and cultural initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the Faculty as well as both the writers' events series hosted by the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, by the IMCC, and by the various events and collaborative ventures organised under the umbrella of the Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium.

### **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. Students<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.



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.

### **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 2013. 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.

**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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