PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award	MSc Social Enterprise The MSc Social Enterprise is a degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	Postgraduate Diploma Social Enterprise Postgraduate Certificate Social Enterprise
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Marylebone
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month	One year full time, two years part time day September start
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Business and Management (Postgraduate)
Professional statutory or regulatory body	n/a
Date of course validation/Revalidation	September 2020
Date of programme specification approval	October 2020
Valid for cohorts	2021/22
Course Leader	Dr Joy Tweed (Designate)
Course URL	westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate
Westminster course code	PMENT01F (FT) PMENT01P (PT)
HECoS code	1012221 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
UKPASS code	

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: westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certified or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information: westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning.

Aims of the course

The MSc Social Enterprise is designed for individuals who want to make a positive difference in the world. We welcome students from a diverse range of backgrounds, who have a shared interest in working within the social and solidarity economy and who are committed to managing and delivering sustainable social change. Students will ideally have had some work experience since graduating, although we recognise that the pathways by which people become interested in this sector will vary. The course is ideal for those working for or seeking a career in social enterprises, co-operatives or third sector/non-governmental organisations seeking to create social impact. Alternatively, you may already be a social entrepreneur who has set up your own venture and are looking to take it to the next level.

A wide range of key stakeholders within the social enterprise sector were involved in designing the course and will continue to be involved in shaping content and delivery. Key knowledge requirements, competencies and attributes were identified that will help students either embark on or progress in a career within the sector. The aims of the course are to provide the platform for students to explore the environment within which social enterprises operate, the strategic alliances they can build, and ways in which leadership and management competencies can be channelled to maximise social impact. They will learn from both theory and practice how 'impact versus income' can be converted into 'impact *and* income', and how synergies between competing interests can be harnessed in ways that produce shared good. The course welcomes both full-time and part-time students from the UK and abroad, and is structured to facilitate learning from each other as well from a range of visiting speakers and real case studies.

We are proud to be the first University in London to be awarded the Social Enterprise Gold Mark (www.socialenterprisemark.org.uk). Having met sector-agreed criteria for organisations operating as social enterprises, we are committed to sharing our knowledge, experience and expertise to enable future generations of students to create positive social change, wherever they are and whatever their background.

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.

From the outset, this MSc Social Enterprise has been designed with employability in mind. The course team worked with practitioners from the social enterprise sector, academics experienced in research and practice within the sector, and the Social Enterprise Mark CIC to determine together what skills and knowledge employers in this sector might look for, as well as the skills and knowledge a social entrepreneur might want to gain from the course. The course is therefore rooted in practice.

The 60-credit *Social Enterprise Development Project* will provide graduates with a range of important transferable skills. The project involves the practical application of essential research, analysis and advisory skills through the provision of business development or consultancy support to social enterprise organisations. It will encourage innovative thinking and creative problem solving and build project management, facilitation and presentation skills. There is also the opportunity to attain project management skills and the PRINCE2® certification, as an additional option at no extra cost, subject to availability.

Support will be available to students seeking placements and work opportunities in the social enterprise sector, both from the course team and the University Engage career hub.

The MSc in Social Enterprise offers graduates the flexibility to either progress with the development of their own enterprise, embark on a career change or further their career within the social enterprise sector or broader social economy. Recognising that needs and interests vary, there is space on the course for two optional modules, allowing students to gain additional knowledge and skills relevant to their chosen career pathway. Future employers may include existing social enterprises; NGOs; social impact consultancy; charities or businesses. Roles could include Impact Manager; Programme Manager; Investment Manager or Grant Manager, as well as acting as a consultant in these areas. Graduates will have developed their abilities as social entrepreneurs or intrapreneurs, able to bring about change within an organisation. Skills acquired on the course will place graduates in a strong position to take on more senior or leadership roles.

Some students may wish to continue their academic journey by pursuing a doctorate degree.

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on 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.

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the values, functions, operations (barriers, challenges, and opportunities), and impact that can be generated by social enterprises (knowledge and understanding – KU)
2. Critically identify the complexities surrounding social enterprises and the key issues facing them in the contemporary business environment (KU)
3. Critically evaluate social entrepreneurial thinking and the process of creating innovative opportunities. This entrepreneurial thinking will be equally deployable within existing social enterprises, and alternative organisational structures that seek to achieve social good (KU)

4. Analyse and synthesize laws, regulations, policies which govern social enterprises on a local, regional and global scale (specific skills - SS)
5. Drive social change through a social value proposition and social business opportunities, leveraging participatory management and democratic governance where appropriate (SS)
6. Demonstrate the ability to discover and create opportunities in the pursuit of social innovation, social value and impact creation (SS)
7. Integrate the wider principles of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) into the strategic and operational goals of social enterprise (SS)
8. Apply innovative and creative approaches to problem-solving in idea generation and social value creation (SS and a key transferable skill - KTS)
9. Develop and implement strategies which anticipate the risks and practical challenges of organisations which seek to achieve social good, identifying effective responses to maximise organisational effectiveness (SS and KTS)
10. Demonstrate enterprising competencies in social entrepreneurship, such as financial literacy, risk-taking, teamwork, perseverance, and resilience (KTS)
11. Develop leadership and management competencies which can be successfully applied in a variety of operational contexts (KTS)
12. Communicate and present ideas, problems, and solutions clearly and effectively in a variety of formats to multiple stakeholders in ways that promote their involvement in co-production, decision-making and governance. (KTS)

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning:

The approach to learning on this course is one where learning and teaching activities are designed to be delivered and engaged with onsite, with digital activities being an integral part of these activities. Most teaching and learning materials will be made available digitally, utilising the University's virtual learning environment (VLE).

This platform enables a range of approaches including live classes, recorded content, links to web-based materials relevant for each module, well as recommended reading. The VLE also supports discussion boards and teamworking, supplementing activities on campus. Teaching is mainly designed to be experienced by the students synchronously, but activities will be designed to allow asynchronous engagement. All materials will be digitally inclusive.

Activities on campus will focus on the development of problem-solving and decision-making skills. Students will collaborate with other students, lecturers and guest speakers to co-create learning and work on real case studies, facilitating the application of theory to practice and developing skills and knowledge.

Students are encouraged to work collaboratively, respecting others' learning styles and acknowledging different viewpoints and cultural differences. The University and course team are committed to ensuring an actively anti-racist, inclusive and safe environment to study and work in and these commitments will be embedded in the learning and teaching on this course.

Teaching:

Our approach to teaching acknowledges the wide range of preferred learning styles within the student body. A wide range of teaching methods on the programme will be utilised to enable key knowledge and skills development, including working in groups on practical challenges, short lectures and the use of real case studies. Active class participation is essential, with lecturers facilitating the sharing of prior experience, the application of new

knowledge and theory and the creation of a rich learning environment. Activities and assessment are designed to help students engage critically and reflectively, developing skills and knowledge, values and attributes to take them forward in their professional career.

Supporting the University of Westminster's Black Lives Matter Commitment Plan, the course has been developed using an inclusive approach where students will have a learning experience that respects diversity, encourages their participation, reduces barriers to learning and considers the varying needs of students. Where possible, social enterprise development will be examined from different social, cultural and geographical contexts providing students with a more robust and holistic conceptualisation of social enterprise. A range of case studies, authors, guest speakers, reading lists and critical perspectives are embedded within the course to diversify the curriculum and provide students with curricula that is inclusive and intersectional in design.

Assessment:

A wide range of individual and group assessment methods are used, including case study analysis, individual and group presentations, reflection and self-development reports.

Coursework assessments require students to adopt a robust approach which is theory-led and practice-driven. The development of key skills in group work, negotiation and communication are tested through the use of group presentation and then critical reflection on the process, identifying development needs. Innovative methods of assessment include the creation of the student's own tools for measuring social impact.

The type of assessment used is indicated in each module description. Each module gives an opportunity for students to receive formative feedback as part of the learning processes.

Course structure

This section shows the modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students' study 180 credits per year.

Credit Level 7. Full time study				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7ENTP011W	Exploring Social Enterprise	Core	20	10
7ENTP014W	Social Impact	Core	20	10
7ENTP012W	Leading for Purpose	Core	20	10
7ENTP013W	Social Finance and Funding	Core	20	10
7ENTP010W	Social Enterprise Development Project	Core	60	30
	Choice of one optional module from the following four:			
7ACCN018W	Financial Analysis for Managers	Option	20	10
7MARK024W	Marketing for a Sustainable World	Option	20	10
7DVST004W	Managing Development Interventions	Option	20	10
7SUEV001W	Innovation and Sustainability Management	Option	20	10
	Plus, one further optional module either from the above list or free choice across University (with Course leader permission)	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 do your first choice of modules.

Part time study over two years				
Module Code	**Module Title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
	Year one			
7ENTP011W	Exploring Social Enterprise	Core	20	10
7ENTP012W	Leading for Purpose	Core	20	10
7ENTP013W	Social Finance and Funding	Core	20	10
	Choice of one optional module from the following four:			
7ACCN018W	Financial Analysis for Managers	Option	20	10
7MARK024W	Marketing for a Sustainable World	Option	20	10
7DVST004W	Managing Development Interventions	Option	20	10
7SUEV001W	Innovation and Sustainability Management	Option	20	10
	Year two			
7ENTP014W	Social Impact	Core	20	10
7ENTP010W	Social Enterprise Development Project	Core	60	30
	Plus, an optional module either from the above list or free choice across University (with Course leader permission)	Option	20	10

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations. In some cases course specific regulations may be applicable.

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The Course Leader has responsibility for the academic integrity of the programme. This includes the everyday management of the course, development of the curriculum, and ensuring the delivery in terms of quality control and equivalence of experience for course participants.

The Head of the School of Organisations, Economy and Society is responsible for monitoring academic quality and organising assessment procedures for those modules falling under the School's courses at Conferment Boards.

The Associate Head of Westminster Business School (Education and Students) holds responsibility for the overall quality and delivery of the educational process.

The Head of College holds overall responsibility for the course and for other courses run by Westminster Business School.

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 westminster.ac.uk/blackboard.

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. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at 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[1] 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 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 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 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 in **2020**. 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 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 evidence of student achievement, reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course.

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?

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

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.

- 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.