Programme Specification

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER⌗

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Bachelor of Arts with Honours - English Language and Linguistics • Bachelor of Arts with Honours - English Language and Linguistics with International Experience The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Bachelor of Arts (BA) - English and Linguistics • Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - English and Linguistics • Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - English and Linguistics
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)	
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Linguistics and English https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-linguistics.pdf?sfvrsn=ecf3c881_4 https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-english.pdf?sfvrsn=47e2cb81_4
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• BA English Language and Linguistics FT, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year abroad • BA English Language and Linguistics PT, Part-time day, September start - 6 years standard length with an optional year abroad
Valid for cohorts	From 2022/3

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: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated 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:

https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/guides-and-policies/student-matters/recognition-of-prior-learning

Aims of the programme

The BA English Language and Linguistics has been designed to develop your understanding and knowledge of language in general and the English language in particular to an advanced
and sophisticated level, whilst fostering and enhancing your skills in using English. The degree offers a rare combination of formal language study and theoretical approaches to discourse analysis, alongside an opportunity to learn about the history of the English language and the ways in which it currently varies around the British Isles and the world as a global language. A substantial optional component of the degree is a focus on the relation between language and literary texts. Overall, the course aims to prepare articulate, discerning and critically aware scholars of both the English language and human language in general.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinkers
- Literate and effective communicator
- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

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University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students. The BA English Language and Linguistics aims to create graduates who are articulate in their use of the English language, and sophisticated and discerning in their understanding of how language generally and the English language in particular is structured and used. Graduates of this degree have an array of important transferable skills involving their use of the language, the ability to critically evaluate and use theory, accurate and precise analytic skills, and strong skills of organisation and planning. They have in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of the role that language plays in society and in multi-cultural and multilingual contexts. They have a sophisticated awareness of English as a global language, and of how language and discourse reflect and create ideological structures in society. Engagement in small research projects and the associated ethical issues ensures that students of this degree have experience of considering and complying with ethical requirements. Graduates of the course go on to work in a wide variety of interesting fields, including further postgraduate study, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, the BBC, charities, journalism, public relations, and advertising.

What will you be expected to achieve?

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 4 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 4 you will be able to:

- L4.1 have successfully made the transition from the demands and expectations of language study at level 3 to the demands and expectations at university level; (KU)
- L4.2 confidently be able to employ the bibliographic conventions of the discipline and scholarly presentation of your work; (KU)
- L4.3 communicate your ideas confidently and clearly in a variety of both written and verbal forms, using relevant diagrams and graphs when appropriate, and in an academic register; (PPP)
- L4.4 be able to describe language using appropriate terminology and describe the basic components of different theories of language structure and use; (KU)

- L4.5 demonstrate the ways in which words and sentences are related to each other and how they combine to create texts of different types; (KU)

- L4.6 be able to recognise what constitutes an explanation and demonstrate developing research skills in the supervised collection and analysis of relevant language data and texts; (KU)

- L4.7 be able to follow and construct an argument in support of a hypothesis; (PPP)

- L4.8 demonstrate a knowledge of the extent and nature of linguistics and its relevance to the workplace. (KTS)

Level 5 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 5 you will be able to:

- L5.1 an increased sense of resourcefulness in relation to your studies, evident in study choices and the selection of assessment choices; (PPP)

- L5.2 an ability to use materials, analytic abilities and concepts across modules; (KU)

- L5.3 a knowledge of the features of English at different stages of its history; (KU)

- L5.4 an ability to utilise theory in the analysis of discourse, phonology and syntax; (KU)

- L5.5 an active engagement with the development of your own learning through the tutorial system; (PPP)

- L5.6 enhanced study skills including written and oral expression, the collection and analysis of data, and the use of scholarly conventions and sources; (PPP KTS)

- L5.7 an ability to recognise the ethical issues involved in the collection of reliable data. (KU KTS)

- L5.8 developing research skills in the collection and analysis of relevant language data and texts, and the ability to present their analysis in written and spoken formats of a suitably academic register. (KU PPP)

Level 6 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 6 you will be able to:

- L6.1 that you have developed your own specialized interests in sub-disciplines and areas of linguistics and the English language; (KU)

- L6.2 an ability to construct complex and sophisticated arguments within extended written work with fluency, clarity and confidence; (PPP)

- L6.3 an ability to plan and execute a small research project with minimal supervision, involving the collection and analysis of suitable data in compliance with ethical requirements; (KU PPP)

- L6.4 advanced independence of thought and critical judgment; (KTS)

- L6.4 an advanced understanding of the nature of theory and the criteria for evaluating theories, explanations and hypotheses; (KU)

- L6.6 a knowledge and understanding of current critical debates in several areas of linguistics; (KU)

- L6.7 an advanced reflexivity evidenced by the ability to understand and use feedback and guidance; (KTS)

- L6.8 a preparedness for work or further study in terms of effective time-management, personal organisation and planning. (PPP KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

The teaching of the course employs a variety of methods throughout the three levels depending on the nature of the module. These methods consist of small group tutorials on core modules (4-5 students), seminars and workshops of 15–25 students, traditional lectures in university lecture halls, and, at level 6, individual supervision of your dissertation. All modules employ the on-line learning system, Blackboard, for the dissemination of information, the accumulation of study materials, assessment, and in some cases on-line discussion. Videos, films and audio recordings all play a role in presenting the various aspects of language study to you. Teaching in linguistics and English language often incorporates problem-solving and analytic exercises in-class, small supervised research projects, and formative assessment that provide opportunities for feedback.

Teaching methods

Learning on the degree takes place in the classroom through small problem-solving exercises (both in groups and individually), through traditional lecturer-led dissemination of information, and via peer presentations and discussions. The vast majority of learning takes place beyond the contact time individually and in groups in the well-resourced and recently refurbished library, at home, and via the on-line learning provision. Contact time is designed to introduce new concepts, new information, foster your analytic skills, and supervise your own small research projects as a springboard for your own, increasingly independent academic and intellectual development. All summative assessment receives written and oral feedback to enable you to improve your work and thus plays a central role in your learning.

Assessment methods

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aims to both assess and nurture your intellectual and academic development. Assessment is particularly varied in linguistics and English Language, from small analytic exercises of language data at levels 4 and 5 through to the preparation and execution of your own research project for the level 6 dissertation. Different modules include small written reports, individual and group presentations, essays and exams. Synoptic assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper understanding of the subject as a whole. All assessment is designed to give you an opportunity to develop your analytic and critical skills and demonstrate your understanding of the topic. Both formative and summative assessment are given written feedback explaining the grade (when applicable), the strengths of the work, and ways in which you will be able to improve your work in future.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules are described as:

- **Core** modules are compulsory and must be undertaken by all students on the course.

- **Option** modules give you a choice of modules and are normally related to your subject area.

- **Electives**: are modules from across the either the whole University or your College. Such modules allow you to broaden your academic experience. For example, where electives are indicated you may choose to commence the study of a foreign language alongside your course modules (and take this through to the final year), thereby adding further value to your degree.

- Additional information may also be included above each level for example where you must choose one of two specific modules.

Modules

Level 4

The modules 4ENGL002W, 4LING001W and 4ENGL001W normally run year long.

The option module 4ENGL003W normally runs in semester 1 and 4ENGL004W in semester 2.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
4ENGL001W	English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 1	Core	1	20	10
4ENGL002W	Introducing English Language	Core	1	20	10
4LING001W	Exploring Language	Core	2	40	20
4ENGL003W	Language and Text	Option	Various	20	10
4ENGL007W	World Varieties of English	Option	Various	20	10
		Elective	Various	20	10

Level 5

The modules 5ENGL002W, 5LING002W and 5ENLG003W normally run yearlong.

The module 5ENGL004W normally runs in semester 1 and 5LING003W in semester 2.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
5ENGL003W	English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 2	Core	3	20	10
5ENGL002W	Discourse across Time	Core	Various	40	20
5LING002W	Language Structure and Meaning	Core	Various	40	20
5LING003W	Child Language Acquisition	Option	Various	20	10
5ENGL004W	Language and Literary Style	Option	Various	20	10

Additional Year

The following modules must be passed for the award "with International Experience":

5ENGL006W Humanities Year Abroad Placement Semester 1 (60 credits)
5ENGL007W Humanities Year Abroad Placement Semester 2 (60 credits)

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5ENGL006W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1)	Option	60	30
5ENGL007W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 2)	Option	60	30

Level 6

The level 6 core and option modules normally run yearlong.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
6ENGL005W	English Literature and Language Dissertation	Core	Various	20	10
6LING003W	Applied Language Studies	Option	Various	20	10
6ENGL003W	Language and Power	Option	Various	20	10

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
6LING001W	Language Contact and Change	Option	Various	20	10
6LING002W	Language Form	Option	Various	20	10
6ENGL002W	Studies in Literary Language	Option	Various	20	10
		Elective	Various	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 degree has a designated course leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation during weekly student consultation hours throughout the year or by appointment. During March of the first and second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff. Individual modules each have a module leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module leaders are available during term-time during their student consultation hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA hons degrees in the department of English, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies. At levels 4 and 5 of the course (years 1 and 2), you will have a designated personal tutor to whom you may turn for general personal and academic advice. In the final year, you will be provided with a supervisor on your dissertation module with whom you will have individual supervisions.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at 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.

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 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©