

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	<b>MRes Creative Practice</b> The MRes in Creative Practice is a Postgraduate degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	University of Westminster Campuses as applicable
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.
<u>QAA subject benchmarking group(s):</u>	
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	April 10 <sup>th</sup> 2017
Date of programme specification approval:	August 2017
Valid for cohorts:	From 2017/18
Course Leader:	Lucy Reynolds
Course URL:	<a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate</a>
Westminster Course Code:	
JACS code:	
UKPASS code:	060401

## Admissions requirements

All candidates will be required to demonstrate an aptitude for creative practice research. They will present a draft of up to 500 words explaining their proposed creative practice research, and will also include details of previous creative and theoretical projects. They will present a draft of their proposed creative practice research, and will be interviewed face to face or by skype by a member or members of the course team.

All candidates must possess *either*:

- a) A good honours degree (1st, good 2.1 or equivalent) including a substantial amount of creative practice, *or*
- b) A good masters degree (distinction, merit or equivalent) in a creative arts, design or media subject, *or*
- c) Demonstration of substantial equivalent professional experience in creative practice

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. The eligibility of the candidate is also subject to the availability of appropriate supervision within the Faculty of Media, Arts and Design.

Candidates for whom English is not their first language, or whose primary and secondary education was not conducted in English, or who do not have a degree taught in English will need to have IELTS of 6.5 or higher, including at least 6.0 in each element (speaking, listening, reading and writing).

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 MRES in Creative Practice engages you in the research expertise and scholarship of Westminster University's internationally recognised practice-based research environment, to support you to realise a major creative research project. The course will enable you to:

- undertake and realise a substantial creative research project;
- utilise advanced critical and creative skills for the implementation of a practice-led creative research project;
- demonstrate at an advanced level the ability to identify the key requirements for the practical and critical implementation of a creative research project;
- attain in depth knowledge and understanding of key theories, methodologies and practices to support the implementation of a major work of creative research practice
- develop critical insights and a reflexive approach to independently manage and realise a substantial creative research project
- exercise the capacity to communicate knowledgeably, effectively and creatively to an advanced level through written and other presentational modes and exhibition;

## **Employment and further study opportunities**

Today's creative organisations need graduates who are both well qualified and possess a broad range of skills relevant to the workplace. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses;
- that opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students;
- potential employment routes in tertiary education
- 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 labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the educational service delivered to students.

## **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students will have achieved as the result of learning. These 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**

1. Critically assess and implement fundamental and specialist concepts and ideas in creative practice-led research to an advanced level.
2. Demonstrate a high level capacity for advanced critical thinking and awareness of current research and research-related issues in creative, critical and professional practice.
3. Prove ability to employ advanced and complex research methodologies in creative practice.
4. Autonomously develop and examine in-depth research questions through the production of a major creative project.

### **Specific skills**

1. Conduct a major piece of creative practice research to a standard of academic and professional excellence.
2. Formulate a thorough and well-developed rationale for undertaking a particular piece of creative practice research.

3. Articulate in-depth and conceptually rigorous research methodologies for the realization of a creative practice-led project
4. Explain and defend, both orally and in writing, a substantial piece of creative practice research

### **Key transferable skills**

1. Solve problems in a systematic and rigorous way, informed by relevant knowledge, and use of appropriate tools and techniques.
2. Act autonomously in initiating, planning and implementing a major creative project.
3. Apply interpersonal and collaborative skills to enhance performance.
4. Demonstrate advanced skills in creative research through applied critical thinking.

### **Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The course builds on the unique cross-disciplinary practice led research environment in the University of Westminster, in particular through the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM).

You will work alongside CREAM's doctoral level research community, access a module relevant to your research project selected from the range of the Masters programmes in the School of Media, Arts and Design, and engage with research professionals in your field and more widely.

The course provides:

#### **Learning**

- Independent research opportunities
- inductions and workshops;
- individual and group tutorials;
- presentations and discussion forums;
- peer-led reading groups;
- self critical and peer led evaluation;
- off site visits and fieldtrips;
- online and physical learning resources.

#### **Teaching**

- Lectures and seminars;
- Workshops;
- guest speakers;
- visiting practitioners;
- symposia.

#### **Assessment**

Formative and Summative via:

- project proposal development

- delivery of a project proposal document
- observation of research and preparatory work
- reflective essays
- verbal and visual presentations
- realisation and exhibition of final project
- critical reflection
- oral examination

## 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.

Credit Level 7				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7CTAD008W	Research Methods in Creative Practice (Semester 1)	Core	20	10
7CTAD007W	Creative Practice Research Project (Semester 1, 2 and 3)	Core	140	70
	<b>20 credit Masters level module selected from the PG Masters portfolio of options, chosen in consultation with and agreed by the course leader (Trimester 1 or 2)</b>	Option	20	10

Please note: 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?

- **Individual supervision**
- **Group seminars**
- **Lectures and symposia**
- **Workshops**
- **Research study days**
- **Reading Groups**

## Course Management

The MRes in Creative Practice is administered from within the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media (CREAM) and you will work closely alongside CREAM doctoral students and other postgraduate research and taught students from within the Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design. You will be allocated a supervisor from CREAM's team of

research professionals, taking account of your particular research project proposal, and will receive overall supervision and tutorial support from the MRes Course Leader.

The management structure supporting the course is as follows:

- Dr Lucy Reynolds is the Course Leader responsible for the day-to-day running and management of the course and review and development of the curriculum. Lucy can be contacted by email: [reynoll@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:reynoll@westminster.ac.uk)
- Professor Jonathan Stockdale, Associate Dean for Postgraduate holds overall responsibility for postgraduate taught and research degree programmes.
- Professor Kerstin Mey, PVC and Dean of the School, holds overall responsibility for the course and for the other courses run by Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design.

The Course Leader is responsible for:

- Admissions processes;
- approving students' programme of study;
- organising tutorials, supervisory support and pastoral care;
- organising and allocating project supervision;
- co-ordinating marks for assessment boards;
- general management of the course.

The Course Team reviews and develops the course and sets the framework within which all members of the course team participate. The course supervisory team for MRes Creative Practice includes: Dr Lucy Reynolds, Dr Roshini Kempadoo, Reader and Co-ordinator of the CREAM PhD programme, Professor Jonathan Stockdale, Associate Dean PG, and postgraduate course and module leaders as appropriate to your chosen options.

For more information about this course please contact the course leader Dr Lucy Reynolds.

## **Academic Support**

On 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, and other learning resources, and to the Faculty Registry Office. You will be issued with a copy of the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about all aspects of the course and study at Westminster. 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 will be allocated a personal tutor, who monitors progress and provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and enables communication and collaboration 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 can attend Study Skills workshops and one to one tutorials where necessary.

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 have access to 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 you during your 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 2017. 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 of the programme 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 a specific course committee 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 student representatives.

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

- 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 for enhancement.
- 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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