

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA Creative Writing and English Language
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time, September
QAA subject benchmarking group(s) :	English
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2016
Valid for cohorts :	2016/17 level 4/5, 2017/18 level 4,5 and 6
Course Leader	Matthew Morrison
UCAS code and URL:	QW38 westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

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.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

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/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The BA English Language/Creative Writing course has been designed to:

- Develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of the structure, history and usage of the English language;
- develop creative techniques in writing;
- integrate the two subjects to allow them to inform each other in learning and teaching;
- give a detailed and coherent sense of the current priorities and debates in each discipline
- provide options of specialised study and practice that are drawn from research expertise; and
- develop advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication.

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 and 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 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L4.1 successful transition from the expectations of the study of English and/or creative writing at level 3 to the expectations of the subject at university;
- L4.2 ability to describe language using appropriate terminology and describe the basic components of different theories of language structure and use;
- L4.3 confident use of the full range of bibliographic conventions particular to English, including citation practices, the management of source material and scholarly presentation;
- L4.4 ways in which words and sentences are related to each other and how they combine to create texts of different types;

- L4.5 clear and confident communication of ideas in a variety of written and verbal forms and in an appropriate academic register; and
- L4.6 developing research skills in an ability to locate, select and evaluate sources.

5 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L5.1 increased resourcefulness in relation to your studies that is evident in study choices and selection of assessment;
- L5.2 an ability to use materials and concepts across modules;
- L5.3 a knowledge of the features of English at different stages of its history;
- L5.4 an ability to utilise theory in the analysis of discourse;
- L5.5 a good understanding of forms of writing and the ability to use that critical understanding in the creation of texts;
- L5.6 enhanced study skills, including written and oral expression, use of scholarly conventions and use of sources; and
- L5.7 active engagement with your own learning through the tutorial system.

Level 6 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L6.1 that you have developed specialised critical knowledge in chosen aspects of the English language;
- L6.2 confident techniques in the production of creative work;
- L6.3 ability to construct complex and sophisticated arguments across extended length with fluency, clarity and confidence;
- L6.4 advanced independence of thought and critical and creative judgement;
- L6.5 knowledge and understanding of current critical debates in the study of English;
- L6.6 advanced reflexivity as students, on the evidence of the ability to make the fullest use of feedback and guidance; and
- L6.7 preparedness for work or further study.

How will you learn?

The BA English Language and Creative Writing is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the current state of each discipline. In keeping with this, innovative and imaginative methods of learning and teaching are used which will engage you and inspire in you a keen sense of the lively and mobile nature of your subjects. These methods are focused particularly in developing in you a critical self-reflexivity and an awareness of your own

learning experience throughout the modules, not just when engaging in summative assessments.

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 (3 – 4 students), writing workshops, seminars of 15 – 25 students, some formal lectures and, at level 6, individual supervision of your writing project.

The principal mode of learning and teaching is the seminar/workshop format. In English modules seminars may involve small problem-solving exercises (both in groups and individually), presentations by your lecturer or by other students or whole-class discussions. Writing workshops will often involve presentation of drafts of your work and discussion of drafts with staff and other students. Much of your learning is independent, conducted beyond the classroom individually and in groups in the library, at home, and via the on-line learning provision. Study visits to galleries, museums and other London locations are also used as a context for your creative development.

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 assessments receive written feedback to enable you to improve your work and thus plays a central role in your learning.

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, and for creative writing can act as stimulus for your own creativity.

How will you be assessed?

There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, creative exercises, analysis of language data, examinations, presentations, journals, blogs and portfolios. They have been designed to match the content of the modules and to provide experience of different forms.

The variety of assessments is designed to help as well as to measure your academic development. It aims to enhance your learning, not merely to test it, and helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. The assessments help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study.

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. You will also be given formative assessments, which means you will be given work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those summative assessments, like all the others, will receive written and oral feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

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

Graduates of the course go on to work in a wide variety of interesting fields, including further study at MA and PhD levels, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, charities, journalism, marketing and public relations, and writing and publishing in their chosen literary field.

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 Creative Writing aims to create graduates who:

- are able to engage in and promote informed, thoughtful dialogue about human life and society, both past and present;
- have a confident knowledge and understanding of the history and principles of English and are able to transfer that to their writing practice;
- show creativity in analysis of works and ideas, and in the practical production of writing;
- can show highly advanced skills of research, evaluation and synthesis of information, and communication; and
- use the skills and knowledge that they have acquired for the betterment of themselves and others in their communities.

Course structure

This section lists the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. The course is not available in part-time mode. Diagrams showing the pattern of modules across the academic year are in the second part of this section.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4ENGL002W	Words, Meaning and Text	Core	40	20
4CREW002W	Beginnings in Writing	Core	40	20
4CREW001W	Reflective Writing 1 (<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>)	Core	20	10
4ENGL003W	Intro to Language and Literature	Option	20	10
4ENGL004W	Language Myths	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective	Elective	20	10

Award of Certificate of Higher Education available

Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5CREW001W	Reflective Writing 2 (<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>)	Core	20	10
5ENGL002W	History and Discourse	Core	40	20
5CREW002W	Forms of Writing	Core	40	20
5CREW003W	Writing Life	Option	20	10
5LING001W	Literary Linguistics	Option	20	10
5LING003W	Child Language Acquisition	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education available				
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6CREW001W	Individual Writing Project (<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>)	Core	40	20
6CREW003W	Special Topic: Genres in Writing	Option	20	10
6CREW002W	Screenwriting	Option	20	10
6ENGL002W	Studies in Literary Language	Core	20	10
6LING001W	Language Contact and Change	Option	20	10
6ENGL003W	Language and Power	Option	20	10
6LING002W	Language Form	Option	20	10
6LING003W	Applied Language Studies	Option	20	10
	Westminster Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of BA available				
Award of BA Honours available				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

English Language and Creative Writing

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
4ENGL002W Words, Meaning and Text (40)	
4CREW002W Beginnings in Writing (40)	
4CREW001W Reflective Writing 1 (20)	
<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>	
Options: choose one	
4ENGL003W Intro to Language & Literature (20)	4ENGL004W Language Myths (20)
WMIN elective (20)	
Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
5ENGL002W History and Discourse (40)	
5CREW002W Forms of Writing (40)	
5CREW001W Reflective Writing 2 (20)	
<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>	
Options: choose one	
5LING001W Literary Linguistics (20)	5LING003W Child Language Acquisition (20)
5CREW003W Writing Life (20)	
One WMIN elective may be chosen instead of one option	
Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core module	
6CREW001W Writing Project (40)	
<i>Westminster Writers Seminar Series</i>	
6ENGL002W Studies in Literary Language (20)	
Options in Language: choose at least 40 credits	
6LING001W Language Contact and Change (20)	
6ENGL003W Language and Power (20)	
6LING002W Language Form (20)	
6LING003W Applied Language Studies (20)	
Options in Creative Writing	
6CREW002W Scriptwriting (20)	6CREW003W Special Writing Topic (20)
One WMIN elective or 5SOCL003W Work Experience may be chosen instead of one option	

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

Each module that you take has a module leader who is responsible for the management and the quality of the teaching and learning on that module, including the co-ordination of all staff who teach on it. The module leader's name is on the module outline, on SRSWEb and on Blackboard. The modules belong to courses and each course has a course leader. The Course Leader for the BA English Language and Creative Writing is Dr Matt Morrison. He is responsible for the day-to-day running of your course and he reports to the head of the department. The Head of Department is Dr Alexandra Warwick and she is responsible for all the courses in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an orientation 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 gives detailed information about the course. You have a course leader, and you will be assigned to both an academic tutor to support you in your studies and a personal tutor who can provide guidance on other matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where you can access your 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 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 work, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. You can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the course. You can also securely connect your 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 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University and academics from other universities. 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 into 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. There is an approval process for such changes.

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 and to further study. 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 peers. 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 of the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.

The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

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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