

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award	MA English Language and Linguistics The MA English Language and Linguistics is a Masters degree that is 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	One year full time, two years part time day. September and January starts.
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a>	N/A
Professional statutory or regulatory body	N/A
Date of course validation/Revalidation	2018
Date of programme specification approval	December 2018
Valid for cohorts	From 2019/20
Course Leader	Dr Petros Karatsareas
Course URL	<a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate</a>
Westminster course code	PMENG04F (FT) PMENG04P (PT)
HECoS code	100318 / 100328 / 100314
UKPASS code	P052068/P052067/

## **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](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/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: [westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning](http://westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning).

## **Aims of the course**

The MA English Language and Linguistics is part of a suite of Masters programmes focusing on linguistic study offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Westminster's Regent Street site and it has particularly strong ties with various MAs taught at the School of Humanities, most notably MA English Language and Literature, MA TESOL, and MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions. The MA English Language and Linguistics provides a course that is wide-ranging, but also allows for further specialisation through its option modules. 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 and Linguistics has been designed 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
- provide an advanced, wide-ranging study of English language
- 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
- provide a route to further research.

## **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.

The MA English Language and Linguistics 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 School Employability Director, Dr Sean Sutherland ([S.Sutherland@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:S.Sutherland@westminster.ac.uk)).

### Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These 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 (KU)

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

- understand the major areas of language use and development **(KU1)**
- situate linguistic analysis within the dominant cultural discourses **(KU2)**
- understand the structures and features typical of a variety of spoken and written text-types **(KU3)**
- present a sophisticated understanding of relevant current theoretical positions and debates **(KU4)**
- understand what constitutes a well-formed linguistic research problem and solution **(KU5)**
- demonstrate that they have completed a dissertation involving substantial and detailed investigation of a particular aspect of English Language and linguistics **(KU6)**
- conduct further independent learning and professional development **(KU7)**
- deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of linguistic data **(KU8)**
- place their own experiences within a conceptual framework constructed from the plurality of developments and issues in linguistics **(KU9)**

#### Specific skills (SS)

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

- critical skills in the analysis of a variety of linguistic data **(SS1)**
- the ability to employ adequate quantitative and/or qualitative methods of data analysis **(SS2)**
- advanced skills in research, synthesis, argumentation and presentation **(SS3)**
- advanced use of appropriate scholarly terminology **(SS4)**
- an ability to articulate how different formal, linguistic and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning **(SS5)**

- the scholarly skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and use of bibliographical conventions **(SS6)**

### **Key transferable skills (KTS)**

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 **(KTS1)**
- the capacity to critically examine any form of discourse using close reading and analysis of texts **(KTS2)**
- the ability to acquire quickly substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured way, involving the use of sophisticated interpretive skills **(KTS3)**
- advanced skills in critical reasoning **(KTS4)**
- sophisticated research skills, including scholarly information retrieval **(KTS5)**
- information-technology skills such as word processing **(KTS6)**
- interpersonal and team skills, relating to the ability to work flexibly and creatively with other people and engage in rational debate **(KTS7)**
- rigorous self-discipline (including time-management, motivation and emotional balance) **(KTS8)**
- competence in planning and executing essays and other kinds of work **(KTS9)**
- capacity for independent thought and judgement **(KTS10)**
- mature ability to give and receive constructive criticism of their own and others' work **(KTS11)**
- creative thinking in diverse intellectual situations **(KTS12)**
- advanced professional skills acquired through problem and inquiry-based learning applied on real-life cases and/or simulated situations **(KTS13)**

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

#### **Learning and Teaching:**

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

#### **Assessment:**

Assessment methods include submitted coursework in the form of essays, reports and a dissertation. 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 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.

Students take one 40-credit core module, two 20-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 credits).

Credit Level 7				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7ENGL007W	English Worldwide	Core	20	10
7ENGL008W	Multilingualism, Past and Present	Core	20	10
7ENGL009W	Linguistic Description and Analysis	Core	40	20
7ENGL002W	MA English Language Dissertation	Core	60	30
7ENGL001W	Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	20	10
7ENGL005W	Sociolinguistics	Option	20	10
7ENGL010W	Language and Gender	Option	20	10
7TESL001W	Current Developments in Language Teaching	Option	20	10
7ELIT006W	Special Author/Topic	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.

## Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://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 MA English Language and Linguistics is hosted in the School of Humanities within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It is directly managed by a course leader within the School of Humanities. 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 School of Humanities. 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 MA English Language and Linguistics intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and cultural initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the School as well as both the English Language and Linguistics Research Seminar and the English Literature and Cultural Studies Research Seminar series hosted by the School of Humanities.

### 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](http://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](http://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<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 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](http://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](http://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 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 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?**

---

<sup>1</sup> 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. Student 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 student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions 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.

**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.

Copyright of University of Westminster 2018 ©