PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	**MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture** The MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture is a masters degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture Postgraduate Certificate Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture
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 site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Full-time or Part-time
[QAA subject benchmarking group(](#)s):	n/a
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	n/a
Date of course validation/review:	November 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	November 2015
Valid for cohorts:	From 2016
Course Leader:	Dr Peter Ride
Course URL:	westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate
Westminster Course Code:	PMVCL02F (Full-time) PMVCL02P (Part-time)
JACS code:	P131
UKPASS code:	P045882

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

AIMS OF THE COURSE

Introduction

MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture examines how museums, galleries and other cultural organisations are developing to meet the needs of the 21st century. The MA has been designed for students who wish to work as curators, arts organisers, museum professionals and other cultural managers and who want to know in particular how these institutions face contemporary issues.

The course is grounded in a Visual Culture perspective that argues that culture is not static and that institutions and organisations play a crucial role in reflecting how contemporary society values, engages with and understands culture, from heritage to the arts. At the same time institutions and organisations play an important role in housing, funding, collecting, disseminating and interpreting cultural activities and products – they are a focal point for the consumption of culture. The MA also addresses the historical and theoretical debates on the significance of cultural institutions, in particular those written from the perspective of the museum and gallery sector itself, addressing how it relates and contributes to contemporary culture.

The MA has a strong vocational emphasis. It has been developed through partnership with major cultural organisations in London and professionals from a wide range of professional contexts. The fundamental approach of the course has been to structure teaching around the experience of professionals - using case studies that examine practice in museums and galleries. Students on the MA will be able to examine key issues and themes in museums, galleries and the cultural sector, and explore how these are dealt with not just in theory, but also on a day-to-day basis by leading institutions. The course demonstrates that it is the 'practices' in Museums and Galleries - the skills and activities of archivists, researchers, curators, programmers, and the web team - that actively produces our understanding of contemporary culture.

Students are encouraged to have a close involvement with institutions through internships and work placements and projects. The course is also designed to facilitate students who are currently in professional employment or working with cultural institutions. Therefore, wherever possible students are encouraged to focus

their learning on their own professional work and may base projects on their own work place.

Aims
MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture aims to:

- Examine the changing role of museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions and organisations through historical and theoretical debates and examples of contemporary professional practice.
- Combine academic teaching with instruction from museums and gallery professionals order to give students an understanding of vocational issues, contexts, practices and concerns.
- Assist students in gaining professional knowledge of professional institutions through direct contact, projects and to assist students in gaining internships and work placements.
- Give students a broad based curriculum that enables them to develop their own preferences and specialisms.

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 Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture 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 a range of professions in the creative and cultural industries, especially heritage and museum work and cultural policy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. They 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
On successful completion of the course, students will be expected to be able to:

- Demonstrate a wide knowledge of critical and theoretical concepts and debates, relating to museums, galleries and contemporary culture
- Critically examine the policies and strategies of museums and galleries.
- Critically evaluate the cultural programmes of museums and galleries
- Analyse different approaches to the use of online and digital media
- Critically examine museum collecting
- Critically examine museum displays
- Analyse different approaches to curating art
- Analyse different approaches to learning in museums and galleries

Specific Skills
On successful completion of the course, students will be expected to be able to:
- Undertake research using a wide range of academic and professional resources
- Critically apply methodologies that are relevant to their research
- Demonstrate practical research skills using exhibitions and specific site visits
- Demonstrate professional knowledge in museum curation
- Demonstrate how to manage collections
- Demonstrate how to plan museum and gallery exhibitions or displays
- Demonstrate how to design a learning programme or event
- Demonstrate how to organise art exhibitions

Key Transferable skills
On successful completion of the course, students will be expected to be able to:
- Demonstrate advanced skills of argument, synthesis, research and presentation
- Demonstrate interpersonal and team working skills
- Demonstrate competence in execution of essays, presentations and other kinds of work

Learning Outcomes matrix

Knowledge and Understanding	SMGC700 Dissertation	SMGC715 Current Issues	SMGC701 Art, Museums	SMGC702 Audience and Public	SMGC705 Museum Narratives	SMGC704 Collecting Today	SMGC703 Online Mus	SMGC706/7/8 Professional Work Proj	SMGC710 London Mus	SMGC711 Exhib Photography	SMGC712 Curating Contemporary Art	SMGC713 Education, Learn &	1VIS7A8 Work Plcmnt	1VIS7A5 Representing World Cultures
Demonstrate a wide knowledge of critical and theoretical concepts and debates, relating to museums, galleries and contemporary culture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Critically examine the policies and strategies of museums and galleries.		X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X	X	
Critically evaluate the cultural programmes of museums and galleries		X	X		X		X		X	X		X		
Analyse different approaches to the use of online and digital media		X				X	X							
Critically examine museum collecting		X				X			X	X				
Critically examine museum display					X				X	X				X

Knowledge and Understanding	SMGC700 Dissertation	SMGC715 Current Issues	SMGC701 Art, Museums	SMGC702 Audience and Public	SMGC705 Museum Narratives	SMGC704 Collecting Today	SMGC703 Online Mus	SMGC706/7/8 Professional Work Proj	SMGC710 London Mus	SMGC711 Exhib Photography	SMGC712 Curating Contemporary Art	SMGC713 Education, Learn & Evnt	1VIS7A8 Work Plcmnt	1VIS7A5 Representing World Cultures
Analyse different approaches to curating art			X							X	X			
Analyse different approaches to learning in museums and galleries			X		X							X		
Specific Skills		X												
Undertake research using a wide range of academic and professional resources	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Critically apply methodologies that are relevant to their research	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate practical research skills using exhibitions and specific site visits			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Demonstrate professional knowledge in museum curation				X	X									
Demonstrate how to manage collections				X										
Demonstrate how to plan museum					X						X			

and gallery exhibitions or displays														
Demonstrate how to design learning programmes or events												X		
Demonstrate how to organise art exhibitions											X			
Key Transferable skills														
Demonstrate advanced skills of argument, synthesis, research and presentation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate interpersonal and team-work skills	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Demonstrate competence in execution of essays, presentations and other kinds of work	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

- *Teaching*:

Modules are generally taught via seminars and are focussed on student-centred learning. Module sessions typically involve presentations or case studies, reading of specific texts and class discussion. Modules may also involve online learning, online discussion and guided independent study. Modules may be structured as weekly sessions taught across a semester, or taught in burst mode, depending upon the subject. Descriptions for each module will be found in the Module Pro formas in the Course Handbook, with suggested reading. Further details, and specific reading for each seminar class will be provided by seminar tutors.

- *Site visits and learning in the workplace:*

As well as seminars and tutorials, teaching will also involve the use of London's cultural institutions as a resource. Teaching on some of the modules will take place in these other cultural institutions, and involve staff of those institutions and involve participation in professional activities or demonstrations in the workplace. Students are also encouraged to visit particular museums or galleries, archives, events etc. outside class time, and may be given some specific direction as to particular visits that would be relevant to each module.

- *Work placement, projects and work integrated learning:*

Learning may also include self-reflexive analysis of professional work, through work placements or professional projects. In the latter, the student undertakes a substantial exercise that enables them to research, analyse and conduct a professional activity in a workplace, and through development and execution of the activity they achieve measurable knowledge and understanding.

- *Personal tutors:*

Each student is assigned a personal tutor from among the staff with whom they can have at least one tutorial per semester. Personal tutors will also assist students in setting out a personal development plan.

- *Assessment:*

Assessment methods used on the course vary across the modules, and include coursework in the form of essays, case studies, oral presentations, portfolios a 12,000-word dissertation and (for the Project module) a substantial project report and a critical analysis. If there are reasons why the nominated form of assessment is not suitable an alternative will be offered as long as it meets the learning outcomes of the module.

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. Requirements for award of The MA Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture

Credit Level 7				
Module code	**Module title**	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
7MUST016W	Major Research Project [S3]	Core	40	20
7MUST005W	Current Issues in Museums and Galleries [S1&2]	Core	40	20
OPTION MODULES to the value of 100 credits selected from the following:				
7MUST001W	Art Museums and Contemporary Culture [S1]	Option	20	10
7MUST011W	Online Museums and Galleries [S1]	Option	20	10
7MUST003W	Collecting Today: [S2]	Option	20	10
7MUST010W	Museum Narratives [S1]	Option	20	10
7MUST012W	Professional Work Project [S1,2,3]	Option	60	30
7MUST013W				
7MUST014W				
7MUST009W	London Museums [S1]	Option	20	10
7MUST008W	Exhibiting Photography [S2]	Option	20	10
7MUST004W	Curating Contemporary Art [S1]	Option	20	10
7MUST007W	Education, Learning and Events [S2]	Option	20	10
7CLST013W	Representing World Cultures [S2]	Option	20	10
7CLST018W	Work Placement in Cultural Institutions [S2]	Option	20	10

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

S1 = Semester 1; S2 = Semester 2; S3 = Summer period
Students taking 7MUST012W/7MUST013W/7MUST014W Professional Work Project 1, 2 or 3 cannot also take 7CLST018W Work Placement.

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

The Course is hosted in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, one of the Departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on the Regent Site, and modules are offered from a number of different disciplines and subject areas, both from within the Department and across the Faculty as a whole. The Course is directly managed by a Course Leader within the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, and will be overseen by a Programme Director with responsibility for the management and co-ordination of the Cultural, Critical and Literary Studies MAs suite as a whole. Each module on the course also has a designated Module Leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

The course teaching team consists of staff from the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies which is based within the Faculty of Social Sciences and 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 in each Department that is involved in the course undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or research and scholarly activity. Staff teaching on the course also attend events organised by Academic Standards and the Teaching and Learning Groups around current teaching, learning and assessment issues.

The MA course intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and research initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the Faculty, as well as the research seminar series hosted by the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, and the various events and collaborative ventures organised under the umbrella of the Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium.

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 Faculty Registry Office. 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

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[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 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 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 2011. 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 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.

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

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 peer. 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 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.