

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) Modern Languages (umbrella award) BA (Hons) French and Spanish BA (Hons) Arabic and Global Communication BA (Hons) Chinese and Global Communication BA (Hons) French and Global Communication BA (Hons) Spanish and Global Communication
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:	<u>Modern language</u> and English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three or four years full time (with optional year abroad) Six or eight years part time (with optional year abroad)
<u>QAA subject benchmarking groups:</u>	Languages and Related Subjects <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Languages-and-related-studies.pdf">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Languages-and-related-studies.pdf</a>
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 Levels 4 and 5; 2017/18 Levels 4, 5 and 6
Current Course Leader:	Dr Elizabeth Waters, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures

UCAS code and URL: BA (Hons) French and Spanish RR14  
[westminster.ac.uk/french-and-spanish](http://westminster.ac.uk/french-and-spanish)  
BA (Hons) Arabic and Global Communication G101  
[westminster.ac.uk/arabic-and-global-communication](http://westminster.ac.uk/arabic-and-global-communication)  
BA (Hons) Chinese and Global Communication N46K  
[westminster.ac.uk/chinese-and-global-communication](http://westminster.ac.uk/chinese-and-global-communication)  
BA (Hons) French and Global Communication H047  
[westminster.ac.uk/french-and-global-communication](http://westminster.ac.uk/french-and-global-communication)  
BA (Hons) Spanish and Global Communication D0D2  
[westminster.ac.uk/spanish-and-global-communication](http://westminster.ac.uk/spanish-and-global-communication)

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### **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](http://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](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

### **Aims of the course**

These courses (from here referred to as BA Modern Languages) have been designed to develop your understanding and knowledge of two foreign languages or one language and global communication, depending on route. The courses aim to enable you to develop a high level of language competence in oral and written communication, proficiency in language transfer skills and ability to function linguistically in diverse cultural situations. You will achieve a thorough knowledge of culture through comparative, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches and analysis of the forms and practices of cultural transmission. You will develop the linguistic resources and strategies and intercultural awareness and flexibility essential for effective communication in professional and globalised environments. The opportunity to study for a year abroad offers you the valuable experience of participating in the academic and cultural life of another country.

### **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**

Upon successful completion of Level 4 students will be able to demonstrate:

1. factual and conceptual knowledge of one or two modern languages and cultures and/or pertaining to intercultural communication theories;
2. the ability to collect, categorise and analyse ideas and information in a predictable and standard format;
3. competence in the application of knowledge of language and culture in a variety of well-defined contexts;
4. preparedness to work effectively with others as a member of a group and meet obligations to others (peers and academic staff);
5. the ability to manage information and appropriate data from a range of sources (in one or two foreign languages) and undertake simple research tasks with external guidance;
6. responsibility for own learning with appropriate support; developing an awareness of own communication strategies;
7. appropriate communication in one or two modern languages as well as lingua franca in both spoken and written modes;
8. developing strategies to overcome practical or conceptual problems.

## **Level 5**

Upon successful completion of Level 5 students will be able to demonstrate:

1. detailed knowledge of one or two modern languages and cultures and an understanding of a variety of ideas, contexts and frameworks, including those pertaining to intercultural and global communication;
2. ability to analyse a range of information with minimum guidance and reformat towards a given purpose;
3. increased competence in the application of knowledge of one or two modern languages and cultures in a variety of contexts;
4. preparedness to interact effectively within a learning or professional group or team giving and receiving information and ideas and modifying responses where appropriate;
5. ability to manage more complex information, to select appropriate data from and a range of foreign language and English sources and develop appropriate research and communication strategies
6. responsibility for own work with limited direction;
7. effective communication in English and the foreign language(s) in both spoken and written modes;
8. ability to identify key areas of problems and develop strategies to overcome practical or conceptual problems;

## **Level 6**

Upon successful completion of Level 6 students will be able to demonstrate:

1. comprehensive and detailed knowledge of language and culture and an in-depth understanding of areas of specialisation, including intercultural and global communication;
2. analysis of new or abstract data and situations without guidance and their transformation towards a given purpose;
3. confident and flexible application of knowledge of language and culture in a variety of contexts;
4. preparedness to interact effectively within a learning or professional group or team, to recognise, support or be proactive in leadership, and negotiate in a professional context and manage conflict;
5. ability to select and manage information in one or two foreign languages as well as lingua franca and competently undertake reasonably straightforward research and communication tasks with minimum guidance;
6. responsibility for own work and capacity to criticise it;
7. effective professional and academic communication in one or two foreign languages and lingua franca in both spoken and written modes;
8. confidence and flexibility in identifying and defining complex problems and applying appropriate strategies to resolve them.

## **How will you learn?**

In Modern Languages teaching and learning takes place through a combination of formal lectures, seminars and practical workshops; exposure to professionally relevant simulations and real-work environments and guided self-study and preparation. 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. 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. 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.

It is particularly important that you are aware that the extent to which you will benefit from formal language teaching and workshop discussion and analysis is directly proportionate to the thoroughness of the independent preparation and review work you undertake, individually or through group work, before and after timetabled events.

Learning activities at all levels and in modules of the combined degree aim to facilitate a high degree of student autonomy and promote the graduate qualities of communicative effectiveness, personal organisation, flexibility, analysis, team-work and originality.

### **How will you be assessed?**

In Modern Languages you will encounter a range of formative and summative assessments which aim to both assess and foster your intellectual and academic development. Assessment helps you build up your knowledge and skills and link knowledge and concepts within and between modules and within and between disciplines, while at the same time developing and reinforcing your independent study initiative. 'Formative' assessment helps you with your learning and prepares you for the 'summative' assessments which count towards your module grade. You may receive written or oral feedback for 'formative' assessment, as appropriate, from peers and lecturers. 'Summative' assessment will receive written feedback explaining the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future. 'Synoptic' assessment tests learning across in more than one module or in both disciplines, enabling you to appreciate and apply the full breadth and depth of your knowledge. In the final synoptic assessment taken at Level 6 you will undertake a research project on an interdisciplinary topic, drawing on the learning acquired over the course of your studies in the two disciplines and demonstrating your interlingual and intercultural understanding and perspective.

Assessments typically comprise a mixture of formative in-class coursework and summative projects, oral presentations and unseen written examinations. You will be asked to translate and adapt texts, undertake detailed comprehension exercises, grammatical analysis and critical reading and write reviews and essays. You will also take part in simulations and mediations to practice your intercultural communication skills in the foreign language(s) and lingua franca.

## 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

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 degree aims to produce graduates who have strong communication and organisational skills, are flexible and adaptable and capable of working collectively and autonomously. The degree combination of disciplinary and interdisciplinary learning will ensure that you graduate with an array of important transferable skills involving use and understanding of language, cultural insight, ability to evaluate and apply theory, and creative and precise analytic skills. Engagement in small research projects and the associated ethical issues ensures that students have experience of considering and complying with ethical requirements. The range of cultural competences and critical abilities and language skills taught in the degree will allow you to function with a high degree of linguistic and cultural autonomy, and develop the interlingual and intercultural competences and sensitivities associated with an international outlook and global citizenship.

## Course structure

### BA French and Spanish

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. 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
4FRNC001W	The French World and the Word 1	Core	20	10
4SPAN001W	The Spanish World and the Word 1	Core	20	10
4FRNC002W	The French World and the Word 2	Core	20	10
4SPAN002W	The Spanish World and the Word 2	Core	20	10
4LANS001W	Introduction to the Study of Language and Culture	Core	20	10
4COMM002W	Intercultural Communication: an introduction	Option	20	10
4CLST001W	Objects and Meaning: World Cultures in London Galleries and Museums	Option	20	10
	Westminster Electives			
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				

<b>Credit Level 5</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
5FRNC001W	Expressions of French Culture 1	Core	20	10
5SPAN001W	Expressions of Spanish Culture 1	Core	20	10
5FRNC002W	Expressions of French Culture 2	Core	20	10
5SPAN002W	Expressions of Spanish Culture 2	Core	20	10
5LANS001W	Language, Power and Institutions: Decoding Dominant Narratives	Option	20	10
5CLST002W	Screening Memory through Food, Music and Childhood	Option	20	10
5LANS002W	Work Placement/Work Shadowing Experience in a Language/Culture Setting	Option	20	10
5COMM001W	Multilingual e-Collaboration: Transposing Current Affairs	Option	20	10
5CLST001W	Culture(s) and Conflict(s): Representations of War, Conflict and Revolution across World Cultures	Option	20	10
	Westminster Electives			
<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education available</b>				
<b>Optional Year Abroad Available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 6</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
6FRNC001W	Themes in Contemporary French and Francophone Studies	Core	20	10
6SPAN001W	Themes in Contemporary Hispanic Studies	Core	20	10
6LANS001W	BA Dissertation/Professional Project	Core	20	10
6CLST003W	People and Things on the Move: Identity, place and memory in and across diasporic spaces	Option	20	10
6GNST003W	Gender Matters: Femininities, Masculinities and Trans-Cultural Practice	Option	20	10
6CLST002W	Dreaming the Same Dream? Concepts of Happiness across Cultures	Option	20	10
6PROF001W	Developing Career Competences for Linguists	Option	20	10
6COMM002W	Narrating the Other: Politics and Literature	Option	20	10
	Westminster Electives			
<b>Award BA available</b>				
<b>Award BA Honours available</b>				

#### Level 4

<b>Semester 1, 20 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 20 credits</b>
The French World and the Word 1	The French World and the Word 2
The Spanish World and the Word 1	The Spanish World and the Word 2
Introduction to Language and Culture Study core	Option/Elective

#### Level 5

<b>Semester 1, 20 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 20 credits</b>
Expressions of French Culture 1	Expressions of French Culture 2
Expressions of Spanish Culture 1	Expressions of Spanish Culture 2
Option	Option/Elective

#### Year Abroad (optional)

<b>Semester 1, 60 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 60 credits</b>
5LANS003W	5LANS004W

## Level 6

Semester 1, 20 credits	Semester 2, 20 credits
Themes in Contemporary French and Francophone Studies (20 credits yearlong)	
Themes in Contemporary Hispanic Studies (20 credits yearlong)	
MLC Synoptic Dissertation (20 credits yearlong)	
Option/Elective	Option MLC
	Option MLC

## BA Arabic/Chinese/French/Spanish and Global Communication

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. 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
4ARAB001W, 4CHIN001W, 4FRNC001W, 4SPAN001W	The Arab/Chinese/French/Spanish World and the Word 1	Core	20	10
4ARAB002W, 4CHIN002W, 4FRNC002W, 4SPAN002W	The Arab/Chinese/French/Spanish World and the Word 2	Core	20	10
4LANS001W	Introduction to the Study of Language and Culture	Core	20	10
4COMM001W	Interpersonal Global Communication: Concepts and Strategies	Core	20	10
4COMM002W	Intercultural Communication: an introduction	Core/Option	20	10
4CLST001W	Objects and Meaning: World Cultures in London Galleries and Museums	Option	20	10
	Westminster Electives			
<b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</b>				
Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5ARAB001W, 5CHIN001W, 5FRNC001W, 5SPAN001W	Expressions of Arabic/Chinese/French/Spanish Culture 1	Core	20	10
5ARAB002W, 5CHIN002W, 5FRNC002W, 5SPAN002W	Expressions of Arabic/Chinese/French/Spanish Culture 2	Core	20	10
5COMM002W	Complex Narratives: Representation, Meaning and Identity	Core	20	10
5LANS001W	Language, Power and Institutions: Decoding Dominant Narratives	Core/Option	20	10
5CLST002W	Screening Memory through Food, Music and Childhood	Option	20	10
5LANS002W	Work Placement/Work Shadowing Experience in a Language/Culture Setting	Option	20	10
5COMM001W	Multilingual e-Collaboration: Transposing Current Affairs through	Option	20	10
5CLST001W	Culture(s) and Conflict(s): Representations of War, Conflict and Revolution across World Cultures	Option	20	10
	Westminster Electives			



<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education available</b>				
<b>Optional Year Abroad Available</b>				
<b>Credit Level 6</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
6ARAB001W, 6CHIN001W, 6FRNC001W, 6SPAN001W	Themes in Contemporary Arabic/Chinese/French and Francophone/Hispanic Studies	Core	20	10
6COMM001W	Professionalising Global Communication	Core	20	10
6LANS001W	BA Dissertation/Professional Project	Core	20	10
6CLST003W	People and Things on the Move: Identity, place and memory in and across diasporic spaces	Option	20	10
6GNST003W	Gender Matters: Femininities, Masculinities and Trans-Cultural Practice	Option	20	10
6CLST002W	Dreaming the Same Dream? Concepts of Happiness across Cultures	Option	20	10
6PROF001W	Developing Career Competences for Linguists	Option	20	10
6COMM002W	Narrating the Other: Politics and Literature	Option	20	10
	Westminster Electives			
<b>Award BA available</b>				
<b>Award BA Honours available</b>				

A/C/F/S in the tables below indicates Arabic, Chinese, French or Spanish.

#### Level 4

<b>Semester 1, 20 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 20 credits</b>
The A/C/F/S World and the Word 1	The A/C/F/S World and the Word 2
Introduction to Language and Culture Study core	Option/Elective
Interpersonal Global Communication	Intercultural Communication

#### Level 5

<b>Semester 1, 20 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 20 credits</b>
Expressions of A/C/F/S Culture 1	Expressions of A/C/F/S Culture 2
Option	Option/Elective
Talking to the World	Language, Power and Institutions

#### Year Abroad (optional)

<b>Semester 1, 60 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 60 credits</b>
5LANS003W	5LANS004W

#### Level 6

<b>Semester 1, 20 credits</b>	<b>Semester 2, 20 credits</b>
Themes in A/C/F/S Studies 20 credits yearlong	
Option / Elective	Option MLC
Professional Communication	Option MLC
MLC Synoptic Dissertation 20 credits yearlong	

## **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?**

### **Course Management**

**Course Leader and Senior Tutor:** Dr Elizabeth Waters, Principal Lecturer in Modern Languages and Cultures

**Head of Department, Modern Languages and Cultures:** Dr Gerda Wielander, Reader in Chinese Studies

The degree has a designated course leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation during weekly office 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 office hours or by appointment. The degree is one of a number of several BAs offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and students on it are part of the department's vibrant academic community with access to a full programme of extra-curricular seminars and social events. At all levels of your university study you will have a designated personal tutor to whom you may turn for general personal and academic advice.

### **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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