

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA English Language and Linguistics
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 groups:	Linguistics; English https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2019
Valid for cohorts :	2019/20
Course Leader	Andrew Caink
UCAS code and URL:	Q100 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 and Linguistics has been designed to develop your understanding and knowledge of language in general and the English language in particular to an advanced and sophisticated level, whilst fostering and enhancing your skills in using English. The degree offers a rare combination of formal language study and theoretical approaches to discourse analysis, alongside an opportunity to learn about the history of the English language and the ways in which it currently varies around the British Isles and the world as a global language. A substantial optional component of the degree is a focus on the relation between language and literary texts. Overall, the course aims to prepare articulate, discerning and critically aware scholars of both the English language and human language in general.

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:

- L4.1 have successfully made the transition from the demands and expectations of language study at level 3 to the demands and expectations at university level;
- L4.2 confidently be able to employ the bibliographic conventions of the discipline and scholarly presentation of your work;
- L4.3 communicate your ideas confidently and clearly in a variety of both written and verbal forms, using relevant diagrams and graphs when appropriate, and in an academic register;
- L4.4 be able to describe language using appropriate terminology and describe the basic components of different theories of language structure and use;
- L4.5 demonstrate the ways in which words and sentences are related to each other and how they combine to create texts of different types;
- L4.6 be able to recognise what constitutes an explanation and demonstrate developing

research skills in the supervised collection and analysis of relevant language data and texts;

- L4.7 be able to follow and construct an argument in support of a hypothesis;
- L4.8 demonstrate a knowledge of the extent and nature of linguistics and its relevance to the workplace.

Level 5 learning outcomes

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

- L5.1 an increased sense of resourcefulness in relation to your studies, evident in study choices and the selection of assessment choices;
- L5.2 an ability to use materials, analytic abilities 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, phonology and syntax;
- L5.5 an active engagement with the development of your own learning through the tutorial system;
- L5.6 enhanced study skills including written and oral expression, the collection and analysis of data, and the use of scholarly conventions and sources;
- L5.7 an ability to recognise the ethical issues involved in the collection of reliable data.
- L5.8 developing research skills in the collection and analysis of relevant language data and texts, and the ability to present their analysis in written and spoken formats of a suitably academic register.

Level 6 learning outcomes

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

- L6.1 that you have developed your own specialized interests in sub-disciplines and areas of linguistics and the English language;
- L6.2 an ability to construct complex and sophisticated arguments within extended written work with fluency, clarity and confidence;
- L6.3 an ability to plan and execute a small research project with minimal supervision, involving the collection and analysis of suitable data in compliance with ethical requirements;
- L6.4 advanced independence of thought and critical judgment;
- L6.5 an advanced understanding of the nature of theory and the criteria for evaluating theories, explanations and hypotheses;
- L6.6 a knowledge and understanding of current critical debates in several areas of linguistics;
- L6.7 an advanced reflexivity evidenced by the ability to understand and use feedback and guidance;
- L6.8 a preparedness for work or further study in terms of effective time-management, personal organisation and planning.

How will you learn?

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 (4-5 students), seminars and workshops of 15–25 students, traditional lectures in university lecture halls, and, at level 6, individual supervision of your dissertation. 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. Teaching in linguistics and English language often incorporates problem-solving and analytic exercises in-class, small supervised research projects, and formative assessment that provide opportunities for feedback.

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. 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. 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 assessment receives written and oral feedback to enable you to improve your work and thus plays a central role in your learning.

How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aims to both assess and nurture your intellectual and academic development. Assessment is particularly varied in linguistics and English Language, from small analytic exercises of language data at levels 4 and 5 through to the preparation and execution of your own research project for the level 6 dissertation. Different modules include small written reports, individual and group presentations, essays and exams. 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. All assessment is designed to give you an opportunity to develop your analytic and critical skills and demonstrate your understanding of the topic. Both formative and summative assessment are given written feedback explaining the grade (when applicable), the strengths of the work, and ways in which you will be able to improve your work in future.

Employment and further study opportunities

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Literate and effective communication
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- Global outlook and engagement with communities
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness

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 Linguistics aims to create graduates who are articulate in their use of the English language, and sophisticated and discerning in their understanding of how language generally and the English language in particular is structured and used. Graduates of this degree have an array of important transferable skills involving their use of the language, the ability to critically evaluate and use theory, accurate and precise analytic skills, and strong skills of organisation and planning. They have in-depth knowledge and critical awareness of the role that language plays in society and in multi-cultural and multi-lingual contexts. They have a sophisticated awareness of English as a global language, and of how language and discourse reflect and create ideological structures in society. Engagement in small research projects and the associated ethical issues ensures that students of this degree have experience of considering and complying with ethical requirements. Graduates of the course go on to work in a wide variety of interesting fields, including further postgraduate study, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, the BBC, charities, journalism, public relations, and advertising.

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 degree 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
4ENGL001W	English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 1	Core	20	10
4ENGL002W	Words and Meaning	Core	20	10
4ENGL003W	Language and Text	Option	20	10
4LING001W	Exploring Language	Core	40	20
4ENGL004W	Language Myths	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Certificate of Higher Education available				

Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5ENGL003W	English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 2	Core	20	10
5ENGL002W	Discourse across Time	Core	40	20
5LING002W	Language Structure and Meaning	Core	40	20
5ENGL004W	Language and Literary Style	Option	20	10
5LING003W	Child Language Acquisition	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education available				

Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6ENGL005W	English Language and Linguistics Dissertation	Core	20	10
6ENGL002W	Studies in Literary Language	Option	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
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of BA available				
Award of BA Honours available.				

English Language and Linguistics

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
4ENGL002W Words and Meaning (20)	
4LING001W Exploring Language (40)	
4ENGL001W English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 1 (20)	
Options: choose two	
4ENGL003W Language and Text (20)	4ENGL004W Language Myths (20)

One elective may be chosen instead of one option.

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core modules	
5ENGL002W Discourse across Time (40)	
5LING002W Language Structure and Meaning (40)	
5ENGL003W English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 2 (20)	
Options: choose one	
5ENGL004W Language and Literary Style (20)	5LING003W Child Language

One elective may be chosen instead of one option.

Level 6	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core module	
6ENGL005W English Language and Linguistics Dissertation (20)	
Options: choose five	
6ENGL002W Studies in Literary Language	
6LING001W Language Contact and Change (20)	
6ENGL003W Language and Power (20)	
6LING002W Language Form (20)	
6LING003W Applied Language Studies (20)	

One elective 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

The degree has a designated course leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation during weekly student consultation 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 student consultation hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA honours degrees in the department of English, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies. At levels 4 and 5 of the course (years 1 and 2), you will have a designated personal tutor to whom you may turn for general personal and academic advice. In the final year, you will be provided with a supervisor on your dissertation module with whom you will have individual supervisions.

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.

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.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students¹ 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 in 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. 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.

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, 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 the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and 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?

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.

- 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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