Programme Specification: English Language and Linguistics MA

UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER⊞

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Arts - English Language and Linguistics The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - English Language • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - English Language
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	N/A
Professional statutory or regulatory body	N/A
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• MA English Language and Linguistics FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length • MA English Language and Linguistics PT, Part-time day, September or January start - 2 years standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2023/4

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: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply.

Aims of the programme

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).

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

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 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- 001 Understand the major areas of language use and development. (KU1) (KU)

- 002 Situate linguistic analysis within the dominant cultural discourses. (KU2) (KU)

- 003 Understand the structures and features typical of a variety of spoken and written text types. (KU3) (KU)

- 004 Present a sophisticated understanding of relevant current theoretical positions and debates. (KU4) (KU)

- 005 Understand what constitutes a well-formed linguistic research problem and solution. (KU5) (KU)

- 006 Demonstrate that they have completed a dissertation involving substantial and detailed investigation of a particular aspect of English Language and linguistics. (KU6) (KU)

- 007 Conduct further independent learning and professional development. (KU7) (KU)

- 008 Deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of linguistic data.(KU8) (KU)

- 009 Place their own experiences within a conceptual framework constructed from the plurality of developments and issues in linguistics. (KU9) (KU)

- 010 Critical skills in the analysis of a variety of linguistic data. (SS1) (SS)

- 011 The ability to employ adequate quantitative and/or qualitative methods of data analysis. (SS2) (SS)

- 012 Advanced skills in research, synthesis, argumentation and presentation. (SS3) (SS)

- 013 Advanced use of appropriate scholarly terminology. (SS4) (SS)

- 014 An ability to articulate how different formal, linguistic and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning. (SS5) (SS)

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

- 016 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) (KTS)

- 017 The capacity to critically examine any form of discourse using close reading and analysis of texts. (KTS2) (KTS)

- 018 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) (KTS)

- 019 Advanced skills in critical reasoning. (KTS4) (KTS)

- 020 Sophisticated research skills, including scholarly information retrieval. (KTS5) (KTS)

- 021 Information-technology skills such as word processing. (KTS6) (KTS)

- 022 Interpersonal and team skills, relating to the ability to work flexibly and creatively with other people and engage in rational debate. (KTS7) (KTS)

- 023 Rigorous self-discipline (including time-management, motivation and emotional balance), (KTS8) (KTS)

- 024 Competence in planning and executing essays and other kinds of work. (KTS9) (KTS)

- 025 Capacity for independent thought and judgement. (KTS10) (KTS)

- 026 Mature ability to give and receive constructive criticism of their own and others' work. (KTS11) (KTS)

- 027 Creative thinking in diverse intellectual situations. (KTS12) (KTS)

- 028 Advanced professional skills acquired through problem and inquiry-based learning applied on real-life cases and/or simulated situations. (KTS13) (KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

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.

Teaching methods

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

Assessment methods

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. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

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).

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
7ENGL007W	English Worldwide	Core	1	20	10
7TESL003W	Language and Learning: Description and Analysis	Core	1	40	20
7ENGL008W	Multilingualism: Concepts and Applications	Core	1	20	10
7HUMS001W	MA Dissertation	Core	2	60	30
7ENGL001W	Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	2	20	10
7ENGL010W	Language and Gender	Option	2	20	10
7ENGL005W	Language in Society	Option	2	20	10
7TESL005W	Languages for Specific Purposes	Option	2	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 register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

N/A

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 regulations

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

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

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 https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

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 https://www.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 https://www.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. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university. a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

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 and make changes where necessary.

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. Course 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 course representatives.

- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience 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.