

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

**Course record information**

Name and level of final award	BA Honours English Literature & History BA English Literature and History with International Experience The BA English Literature and History and the BA English Literature and History with International Experience are BA degrees that are Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	Diploma of Higher Education English Literature and History Diploma of Higher Education English Literature and History with International Experience Certificate of Higher Education English Literature and History Certificate of Higher Education English Literature and History with International Experience
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Regent
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month	Three years or four (with optional year abroad) full time. September start.
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a>	English, History
Professional statutory or regulatory body	n/a
Date of course validation/Revalidation	March 2020
Date of programme specification approval	December 2021
Valid for cohorts	2021/2022
Course Leader	Dr Helen Glew
UCAS code and URL	QV31 <a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>
Westminster course code	BAENG05F
HECoS code	100319 (English Literature) 100302 (History)
UKPASS code (PG only)	n/a

**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.

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](https://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/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](https://westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning).*

### **Aims of the course**

The BA English Literature and History course has been designed to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of key periods, themes, styles and techniques in literary studies, and the ability to utilise that learning in critical form;
- develop a substantial body of knowledge and understanding of the modern history of London, Britain and Europe, including global contexts;
- give a detailed and coherent sense of the current priorities and debates in each discipline
- integrate the two subjects to allow them to inform each other in learning and teaching
- provide options of specialised study and practice that are drawn from research expertise; and
- develop advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication.

### **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 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 course learning outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:**

- L4.1 that you have successfully made the transition from the expectations of study at level 3 to the expectations of the subject at university, including awareness of employability (GA);
- L4.2 recognition of the characteristics of different literary forms and genres, and understanding of the significance of these characteristics (KU);

- L4.3 confident use of the full range of bibliographic conventions, including citation practices, the management of source material and scholarly presentation (PPP);
- L4.4 an understanding of a body of historical knowledge in London, British, European and world history (KU);
- L4.5 with guidance, an ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon secondary evidence, including historical writings and the interpretations of historians (GA);
- L4.6 emerging competence in discussing literary works in their social and historical contexts and in the context of theoretical debates (KU);
- L4.7 clear and confident communication of ideas in a variety of written and verbal forms and in an appropriate academic register (KTS);
- L4.8 developing research skills in an ability to locate, select and evaluate sources (KTS).

### **Level 5 Learning Outcomes**

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

- L5.1 increased resourcefulness in relation to your studies that is evident in study choices and selection of assessment (PPP);
- L5.2 an ability to use materials and concepts across modules (KU);
- L5.3 a detailed knowledge of at least one of the principal generic forms and at least one of the major historical periods of literature (KU);
- L5.4 an ability to use a thematic approach that goes beyond classroom discussion and set texts (GA);
- L5.5 a detailed understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past and, where relevant, a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences (KU);
- L5.6 awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods (KU);
- L5.7 active engagement with your own learning through the tutorial system (GA);
- L5.8 enhanced study skills, including written and oral expression, use of scholarly conventions and use of sources (KTS);
- L5.9 well-developed employability skills and a strong awareness of connections between subject knowledge and employment (PPP).

### **Optional International experience course outcomes (BA English Literature and History with International Experience only)**

- L5.10 The ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations and to function successfully in different cultural contexts (PPP).

### **Level 6 Learning Outcomes**

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

- L6.1 the development of your own specialised interests within the subjects of English Literature and History (KU);
- L6.2 ability to construct complex and sophisticated arguments across extended length with fluency, clarity and confidence (GA);
- L6.3 advanced independence of thought and critical judgement (GA);
- L6.4 thorough knowledge and systematic understanding of current critical debates in the study of English and of History (KU);
- L6.5 advanced reflexivity as students, on the evidence of the ability to make the fullest use of feedback and guidance (KTS);
- L6.6 an ability to address problems in depth, to formulate your own questions and the critical use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature (GA);
- L6.7 a command of comparative perspectives, including the ability to compare the histories and literatures of different countries, societies and cultures (KU);
- L6.8 confidence in self-presentation and evidence of preparedness for work or further study (PPP).

### **How will you learn?**

Central to success in your studies are the weekly tutorials. These are very small group classes, of five or six students, in which you receive detailed support in developing the skills and topics that are essential to your progress. The tutorials will also focus on employability skills and help you integrate your studies across the modules. Your modules are generally made up of weekly seminars. These allow informal student-led discussion, supported by a member of staff, of the themes of a module, provide opportunities for supervised group work (such as presentations), and are used to allow practice in the key skills of interpretation and analysis of primary historical sources and literary texts. This type of student-centered interactivity helps boost your self-confidence, oral communication and debating skills and a critical approach to literary and historical discussion. Some modules are furthermore supported by interactive lectures that capture your interest and excite your curiosity. They introduce and enable students to query key themes, debates and interpretations. In your final year, you will receive individual supervision and support for your dissertation.

However, life at university is less about teaching than about learning, and the great majority of your time will be spent working independently, reading, thinking and writing. All modules have been designed on the basis of 200 hours of study time for each 20-credit module (or 400 hours for 40-credit modules). Those hours include reading time, formative assessment, preparation of summative assessments and time for directed digital engagement activities as well as scheduled classroom time. As each module has been designed with different activities you will find varying amounts of scheduled 'contact' time between modules. At the beginning of each module your lecturer will share with you the detailed outline with indicative timing for each activity. This enables you to plan your work across modules and to personalise your study by adapting timings to your own learning style.

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

There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, critical analyses of primary/literary texts, reviews, examinations, presentations, briefing papers,

learning journals, exhibition pitches and portfolios. They are designed to be integral to your learning on each module and to allow you the opportunity to showcase your learning and understanding in innovative ways. All assessments are intended to develop your critical thinking, research and analytical skills and to foster the kinds of skills you will need as a graduate in the workplace.

The variety of assessment is designed to help as well as to measure your academic development. It aims to enhance your learning, not merely to test it, and helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. The assessments help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study. You will receive detailed, written feedback on each assignment you submit explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your grades in the future.

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. You will also be given formative assessments, which means you will be given work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those summative assessments, like all the other, will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

The variety of assessment means that you will find different word limits for written assessments, or time limits for presentations, between modules and across your degree. Each piece of assessment has been designed as appropriate to the module and its other learning activities, and to the course overall, in order to balance the study time that you dedicate to the module. All assessments have a full brief with guidance and marking criteria that will be shared with you at the start of each module so that you can be clear what is expected and how the assessment is contributing to your learning.

### **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 in communities
- Social, ethical and environmental awareness

Your course participates in the Employing Humanities programme, which has been designed to focus on highlighting the special skills and abilities that graduates in Humanities subjects possess and to extend your awareness of the wide range of their applicability to work. It is a staged and integrated programme that begins in Arrivals Week and builds through to graduation and beyond. The programme is tailored to the levels of your study and is anchored in your tutorial modules where you will be supported in planning your engagement and personalising your ambitions. Employing Humanities is underpinned by the Engage platform through which you can access training, one-to-one careers advice, notice of events and job opportunities, and create your individual career profile, but our programme also offers a planned schedule of work-based and work-related learning delivered by employers of Humanities graduates.

The BA (Hons) English Literature and History degree aims to produce highly employable graduates who are, in addition, equipped with a wide variety of employability attributes, including:

- the ability to work as a part of a team;
- the ability to work alone;
- numeracy and ICT skills;
- evaluative and analytical skills;
- problem-solving skills;
- assimilative skills;
- research skills;
- high-level written and oral communication skills;
- the ability to present yourself and to present an argument.

As a University of Westminster graduate in English Literature and History, you will be well placed to take advantage of employment opportunities in the 'knowledge economy'. Many of our graduates are currently pursuing successful careers in teaching, in the civil service, in the museums and galleries sector, in public relations and marketing, in higher education administration and in all sectors of industry. Many of our graduates go on to further study and a number are now pursuing successful academic careers of their own.

The optional year abroad helps you develop cultural and intercultural awareness of the country you visit and gives you an opportunity to gain experience in a different setting. Students are required to undertake either a Study or Work Placement at a partner institution abroad and to reside in the country of the placement for a total of at least 18 weeks. Support is provided throughout the process by experienced staff who will ensure that the Placement is suitable for your academic and personal development.

Graduates of the course go on to work in a wide variety of interesting fields, including further study at MA and PhD levels, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, charities, journalism, marketing and public relations.

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 Literature and History course aims to create graduates who:

- are able to engage in and promote informed, thoughtful dialogue about human life and society, both past and present;
- have a confident knowledge and understanding of key periods and movements in literature and history;
- show creativity in analysis of works and ideas, and in the relation of literature to its historical, political and social contexts;
- can show highly advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication;
- use the skills and knowledge that they have acquired for the betterment of themselves and others in their communities.

### **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 course 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.

<b>Credit Level 4</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credits</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
4HIST001W	The World Remade – Global Perspectives on the Long Nineteenth Century	Core	40	20
4ELIT003W	What Is Literature?	Core	40	20
4ELIT002W	English Literature and History Tutorial 1	Core	20	10
4ELIT004W	Keywords for Literary Studies	Option	20	10
4ELIT005W	Shakespeare and Performance	Option	20	10
4ELIT006W	Poetry and Politics	Option	20	10
4HIST013W	History Matters	Option	20	10
4HIST016W	Protests: From Bread Riots to Extinction Rebellion	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
<b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</b>				

<b>Credit Level 5</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credits</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
5HIST001W	The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century	Core	40	20
5ELIT013W	English Literature and History Tutorial 2	Core	20	10
5ELIT011W	The Novel	Core/Option	20	10
5ELIT009W	Romanticisms	Core/Option	20	10
5ELIT010W	The Victorian World	Core/Option	20	10
5ELIT005W	Writing Revolutions	Option	20	10
5ELIT007W	Making Memory: Culture, History and Representation	Option	20	10
5ELIT008W	Monsters	Option	20	10
5HIST002W	Transforming British Politics	Option	20	10
5HIST004W	Jack the Ripper: Cultural and Popular History	Option	20	10
5HIST005W	Civil War to Civil Rights	Option	20	10
5HIST007W	Age of Nationalism – A Case Study	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education available</b>				

International Experience year  
The below modules are core for students choosing the “with International Experience” award

Module code	Module title	Status	UK credits	ECTS
5ENGL006W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1)	Core*	60	30
5ENGL007W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 2)	Core*	60	30

Credit Level 6				
Code	Module title	Status	UK credits	ECTS
6ELIT008W	English Literature and History Dissertation	Core	20	10
6HIST017W	Special Subjects in History (20-credit Core)	Core	20	10
6ELIT011W	Reading the Present	Option	20	10
6ELIT003W	Tragedy: Ancient to Modern	Option	20	10
6ELIT004W	Fiction After 1950	Option	20	10
6ELIT005W	Issues in Culture	Option	20	10
6ELIT009W	The Modernist World	Option	20	10
6ELIT007W	Special Topic	Option	20	10
6HIST002W	The End of History: Crisis and Conflict since the Cold War	Option	20	10
6HIST018W	Special Subjects in History (20-credit Option)	Option	20	10
6HIST015W	Archives and Museums Internship	Option	20	10
6ENGL004W	Humanities Work Placement	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
<b>Award of BA available, Award of BA Honours available</b>				

## English Literature and History

Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Core modules</b>	
4ELIT002W English Literature and History Tutorial 1 (20)	
4ELIT003W What is Literature? (40)	
4HIST001W The World Remade – Global Perspectives on the Long Nineteenth Century (40)	
<b>Option modules</b>	
4ELIT005W Shakespeare and Performance (20)	4ELIT006W Poetry and Politics (20)
	4HIST013W History Matters (20)
4ELIT004W Keywords for Literary Studies (20)	4HIST016W Protests: From Bread Riots to Extinction Rebellion
Polylang (20) (yearlong)	4ELIT012W London Stories

Level 5	
Semester 1	Semester 2

<b>Core modules</b>	
5ELIT013W English Literature and History Tutorial 2 (20)	
5ELIT011W The Novel (20) OR 5ELIT009W Romanticisms (20) OR 5ELIT010W The Victorian World (20)	
5HIST001W The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century (40)	
<b>Options: choose two</b>	
5ELIT005W Writing Revolutions (20)	5HIST007W Age of Nationalism: A Case Study (20)
5HIST004W Jack the Ripper: Cultural and Popular History (20)	5ELIT008W Monsters (20)
5HIST009W A Sexual History of London (20) (Elective)	5SOCL010 Globalisation: Politics, Law and the Arts (elective) (20)
5HIST005W Civil War to Civil Rights	
5ELIT007W Making Memory: Culture History and Representation (20)	
Polylang (20)	
One elective may be chosen instead of one option (20)	
Optional International Experience year	
5ENGL006W Humanities Year Abroad Placement Semester 1 (60)	5ENGL007W Humanities Year Abroad Placement Semester 2 (60)

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Core modules</b>	
6ELIT008W English Literature & History Dissertation (20)	
6HIST017W Special Subjects in History (20)	
<b>Options: choose 100 credits in total, with at least 40 credits in English</b>	
6ELIT005W Issues in Culture (20)	6ELIT004W Fiction after 1950 (20)
6ELIT011W Reading the Present (20)	6ELIT003W Tragedy (20)
6ELIT009W The Modernist World (20)	
6ELIT010W Sexualities in Literature and Culture (20)	
6ENGL004W Work Placement for Humanities	
6HIST015W Archives and Museums Internship (20)	
6ELIT007W Special Topic (20)	6ELIT007W Special Topic (20)
6HIST018W Special Subjects in History (20 credit option)	6HIST018W Special Subjects in History (20 credit option)
6HIST002W The End of History? Crisis and Conflict since the Cold War	
Polylang (20)	

**Students may take only one of 6ENGL004W and 6HIST015W.**

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).

## How will you be supported in your studies?

### Course Management

Each module that you take has a module leader who is responsible for the management and the quality of the teaching and learning on that module, including the co-ordination of

all staff who teach on it. The module leader's name is on the module outline, on SRSWeb and on Blackboard.

The modules belong to courses and each course has a course leader. The Course Leader for the BA English Literature and History is Dr Helen Glew. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of your course and she reports to the Head of School. The Head of School is Prof. Alexandra Warwick and she is responsible for all the courses in 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).

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.

At Level 4 (year one), you will have a designated Academic Tutor to whom you may turn for academic advice. Your Academic Tutor will teach your English and History Tutorial group so that you will have the opportunity to meet him or her on a weekly basis. At Level 5 (year two), you will once again have a dedicated Academic Tutor who leads your weekly Tutorial group. At Level 6 (year 3), you will have a dissertation supervisor who will act more broadly as your Academic Tutor.

### **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 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 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 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 outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each School 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.
- 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 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.