

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Name and level of final award:                      | BA International Relations (Honours)  |
| Name and level of intermediate awards:              | Diploma of Higher Education<br>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   |
| <a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a> : | Politics and International Relations<br><a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a> |
| Professional statutory or regulatory body:          | n/a   |
| Date of course validation/review:                   | 2013  |
| Date of programme specification approval:           | March 2019  |
| Valid for cohorts:                                  | 2019/20   |
| Course Leader                                       | Dr Sam Raphael  |
| UCAS code and URL:                                  | L250<br><a href="https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>   |

## **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**

The BA International Relations programme provides a comprehensive toolkit to understand the changing dynamics of global order in world politics. We primarily examine the distribution of power at the global, regional, and national levels and consider how our global order is the product of geopolitical forces across time, place and space. We aim to engage our students in a lifelong discussion about the fundamental concepts, policies and practices of states and citizens in an era of rapid globalisation.

The BA International Relations course is concerned with exploring the challenges of traditional and emerging geopolitics within contemporary international relations. We focus on the changing configurations of power, privilege and identity in world politics. We ask our students to explore in depth questions of governance, democracy and human rights in a post-colonial world. With a focus on the applied dimensions of international politics we examine the interaction between states, international institutions and political actors. Our students are equally at home debating specific details of UN Resolutions as they are at evaluating principles of governance within the European Union. Put simply, a degree in International Relations allows you to see questions of global politics from a fresh perspective.

Our teaching programme is structured to support your transition to higher education, with our first year designed to immerse you in key concepts, case studies and questions in politics, international relations and development studies. In the second year you will be encouraged to think about the global dimensions of international security, examining the contemporary challenges to states, citizens and the globe in the post-Cold War era. You will be encouraged to think imaginatively about ideas in international relations, especially as it relates to the geopolitics of states, regions and territories within world politics today. In your third year, you will examine the ways in which sovereignty has been transformed through recent debates about human rights, humanitarian intervention, ethics, and state responsibility within the new era of global politics.

As our students are motivated to make the world a better place to live, we also encourage students to debate 'the big' ethical questions of international politics. We fully embrace the idea that our students are co-creators of knowledge and this is reflected in the range of extracurricular activities offered to students at the University of Westminster. We encourage students to become entrepreneurial in their approach to global issues and world politics, especially through our established international exchanges and our international fieldtrips. Students are encouraged to think about the contributions that they can make as part of an academic community, both within the university and the global community more broadly.

Our students join us from all over the world and our academic community encourages students to ask important questions about the future opportunities as well as challenges of the international system. We aim to encourage a new generation of global citizens who have the courage and vision

to respond to the future challenges of global order. Our policy relevant modules give students the chance to work in areas that will make a considerable impact in our world, especially as it relates to considering the role of emerging powers in world politics (e.g. China, India, Brazil). You will be encouraged to rethink the basic terms of international politics and global order by engaging with leading scholars in the field.

We have a longstanding tradition of innovative research and high quality research-engaged teaching. Being in the political heart of London, we regularly invite leading intellectuals, policy-makers, officials and political activists to our well-established series of seminars, public lectures and conferences.

We encourage our students to be cosmopolitan leaders and to accept the responsibilities of global engagement as part of their future professional life. With excellent links to employers, the BA International Relations programme offers you the opportunity to advance your knowledge of international relations within an applied setting. Our graduates go on to develop careers in various sectors, including the Civil Service, NGOs, international organisations such as the EU or UN, policy and research, teaching, journalism and many can be found working in the field of politics.

### **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)

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

**L4.1** - An ability to identify the primary characteristics of International Relations as a scholarly discipline, informed by key theories and political concepts, in the context of cognate disciplines. (KU)

**L4.2** - Competence in understanding rival accounts of the international system and the historical dimensions of global order. (KU)

**L4.3** - Sensitivity to the role of political culture and power in shaping our perceptions of political order within International Relations, understood through different regional, theoretical and cultural frameworks. (KU)

**L4.4** - Appreciation of the value of critical thinking in assessing the diverse range of scholarly traditions within International Relations. (KU)

**L4.5** - Awareness of the importance of information literacy and library skills for studying and researching International Relations. (PPP)

**L4.6** - An ability to take responsibility for their studies and professional development, especially as it relates to personal development planning (PDP) within a digitally networked world. (PPP)

**L4.7** - A successful transition to the demands and expectations of university level study in International Relations. (PPP)

**L4.8** - The ability to develop and sustain well-justified political arguments through a range of media including writing, public speaking, political debating and online blogging forums. (GA)

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

**L5.1** - Detailed understanding of the contemporary agenda of global security and the key issues that have dominated International Relations in the post-Cold War era. (KU)

**L5.2** - An awareness of the key traditions in international political theory and an ability to differentiate between specific thinkers and debates within the various traditions of International Relations. (KU)

**L5.3** - An ability to critically identify the geopolitical dimensions of International Relations and key events into a broad narrative on post-Cold War politics. (KU)

**L5.4** - An appreciation for the regional dynamics of International Relations, with specific focus on the politics of Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. (KU)

**L5.5** - An understanding of the responsibilities of global citizenship, especially as it relates to conceptions of civic responsibility and global engagement through cross-cultural and cross-national perspectives. (GA)

**L5.6** - An understanding of the role of social science methodologies and political research skills in the research process, including the ability to use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information. (GA)

**L5.7** - An understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the international system, especially through concepts and theories derived from the social sciences. (KU)

**L5.8** - An ability to locate, organise and successfully complete a work placement or internship in an appropriate organisational setting. (PPP)

**L5.9** - The ability to synthesise material from a wide range of sources in academic and professionally relevant tasks. (KTS)

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

**L6.1** - Understanding of the primary characteristics of sovereignty as a contested practice within International Relations and the ability to link these to the changing frontiers of 'identity' and 'belonging' within global politics. (KU)

**L6.2** - An understanding of the ethical dimensions of International Relations and the role of ethical discourse in addressing global political problems. (KU)

**L6.3** - An advanced ability to apply International Relations theory to 'real world' events and to think creatively about the applied dimensions of the discipline. (KU)

**L6.4** - The ability to critically interrogate key concepts in International Relations and identify the contribution of theoretical perspectives for the future challenges of international politics. (KU)

**L6.5** - An awareness of the burden of responsibility in documenting continuity and change within global politics, especially as it relates to questions of violence, gender, race, nation and statehood within a geopolitical world. (GA)

**L6.6** - A command of a substantial body of empirical, theoretical and practical knowledge about international politics and an ability to clearly articulate this knowledge in both written and spoken form. (KU)

**L6.7** - An ability to conduct their own political research, whether qualitative or quantitative, informed by appropriate research methodologies and theoretical frameworks. (KTS)

**L6.8** - A preparedness for work or further study with an enhanced portfolio of skills and a knowledge of the current potential opportunities for graduates within the social sciences. (PPP)

**L6.9** - An advanced reflexivity as evidenced by the ability to understand and use feedback and guidance as part of a resilient learning culture fostered throughout the degree. (GA)

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

The BA International Relations course is designed to place student discovery at the heart of the curriculum. Our learning environment is structured to enable students to think independently and imaginatively about social, political and international problems. Our active learning sessions are less about the transmission of 'facts' and more about evaluating the very logic of political discourse at the local, national and global level. For this reason, we have nurtured a learning environment that provides rich opportunities for thinking about key concepts, issues and problems beyond the formal classroom environment. We like our students to own the classroom and this is reflected in the fact that we have adopted a model of learning which values student-enquiry as the primary focus on all our modules.

Students on the BA International Relations programme will be encouraged to take responsibility for their academic and professional choices throughout their studies. Each undergraduate module will offer a different experience of learning, with academic staff designing the teaching activities to suit the particular learning outcomes of each subject rather than following a standardised formula. Our Learning Futures curriculum is designed to demonstrate clear progression in knowledge and understanding at each of the key stages of the BA International Relations degree. This is reflected in the comprehensive assumption that graduates from BA International Relations will be globally engaged graduates who take responsibility for their lifelong learning and professional development upon completion of their studies.

Each module on the undergraduate programme has its own characteristic teaching and learning features that are appropriate to the particular subject matter (e.g. small group work, problem-based tutorials, review sessions, workshops, symposia, debates, Q&A sessions, document analysis sessions, structured role-plays). The School of Social Sciences seeks to encourage both staff and peer-led activities where students learn from one another within a co-operative and intellectually exciting atmosphere. We want our students to take intellectual risks, based on their informed judgments of International Relations and their desire to dissect the underlying principles at work in the broader arena of international politics. Although many of our undergraduate modules include formal lectures (including many from scholars, partners and leaders beyond the University), the emphasis throughout is on learning through interactive group work in seminars, tutorials, workshops and symposiums. Many of our modules are designed to establish authentic learning tasks and we model many of our learning activities on 'real world' approaches.

Our approach to learning and teaching enables students to develop a series of key transferable skills that will benefit them in their future professional life. Our teaching philosophy is oriented to developing student capacity to work independently as well as in groups, to enable students to make use of a full range of resources and techniques in developing graduate level skills. Students are thus encouraged to evaluate their own development and performance in a supportive and constructive learning environment.

A number of innovative and distinct learning environments and experiences are offered to students on the BA International Relations, including:

**Lectures:** *Lectures involve presentations by academic staff, policy-makers and/or external speakers. Many lectures involve an interactive element and we encourage students to participate fully in lectures, either by responding to questions or posing their own questions.*

**Seminars:** *Seminars are informal teaching/discussion sessions in smaller groups and involve greater interaction with the lecturer.*

**Tutorials:** *In a tutorial you will meet with your tutor either on your own or as a part of a small group. This is a good opportunity to discuss any problems you may have. You may also need to prepare work to discuss or present.*

**Workshops:** *Many modules will offer interactive workshops that allow students to explore a topic, theme or subject through their own knowledge and informed analysis of a problem.*

**Symposiums:** *Allow students to present an authoritative position in relation to a topic, theme or subject. Students are asked to take an active lead in planning a symposium and key transferable skills are developed (e.g. communication, time management, planning).*

**Reading groups:** *Provide students with the opportunity to respond and interact with a set text or reading. These semi-structured discussions are an excellent opportunity for students to evaluate key ideas, texts and concepts.*

**Role-plays and political simulations:** *Offer students the opportunity to apply theory to practice. Students are encouraged to explore key ideas, themes, and concepts through games and simulations.*

**Fieldtrips:** *You will also have the opportunity to undertake fieldwork or visit relevant international organisations or research establishments as part of your studies.*

**International exchanges:** *Students will be able to take part in international exchanges through our study abroad programme and/or our international fieldtrips.*

**Internships and work placements:** *With an accredited internship programme students can complete a work placement for credit. In addition, we are able to offer students further support in developing their work profile through the University's Career Development Centre.*

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

The BA International Relations programme offers a variety of assessment methods that aims to develop graduates who are open to critical thinking, effective at communication, independent and reasoned in professional life, and ethical in their global outlook.

Varying assessment activities can help to motivate students with an increasingly diverse range of experiences, learning styles and competencies. We have adopted a mixture of assessment types in an attempt to reduce over-assessment and ensure that students develop a broader range of skills for professional success than traditional assessment methods.

Our external examiners routinely comment on how successful and innovative our portfolio of course assessments are. We have developed our assessment framework to ensure that learning outcomes are 'joined up' to reflect the importance of formative, summative and synoptic approaches. We achieve this through a rich palate of assessment types.

In designing the assessment strategy for BA International Relations the course team has sought to ensure a balance between traditional and non-traditional forms of assessment. In this regard, our students would typically be exposed to the following forms of assessment:

- Essays
- Examinations
- Blogs/Wikis
- Policy Reports
- Individual Presentations
- Group Presentations
- Debates
- Roleplays
- Interviews
- Project Work
- Critical Reflections
- Journals and logbooks
- Self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Oral defences
- Dissertations
- Professional Reports
- Book reviews
- Posters
- Simulations/Games
- Multimedia Films
- Learning Portfolios

A unique feature of our assessment strategy for the BA International Relations degree is its emphasis on authentic engagement with 'real world' tasks. Our authentic assessment strategies are strongly linked to policy tasks, research skills and the development of graduate attributes that enable a student to develop 'job ready' skills alongside traditional academic skills. For this reason, we have mapped our assessment on both core and optional modules to ensure a good balance between formative, summative and synoptic methods.

Academic staff recognise that traditional exams/essays are sometimes not the only means by which module leaders could assess higher order analytical, diagnostic, comprehension, imaginative, and critical thinking skills. We still acknowledge the importance of exams, but our assessment strategy is about developing a rich smorgasbord of options for students as they progress through the programme from Level 4-6. As a result, we have designed sensitive methods of continual assessment that allow us to synoptically achieve broader course aims and objectives. Continual assessment methods include delivering written project work, marked oral and written presentations, book reviews, essays, and the dissertation.

We have made a conscious effort to standardise assessment within the programme and benchmarked our assessment strategy. As a result of this, each 20-credit module will contain similar assessment expectations and students are informed of the typical time and effort expectations for completing coursework.

### **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 BA International Relations course aims to create graduates who are leaders in professional life, globally engaged and lifelong learners.

#### **LEADERS IN PROFESSIONAL LIFE**

Graduates from Politics and International Relations will acquire knowledge, both as an academic researcher and as an individual with a global outlook. This knowledge encompasses a broad and diverse range of scholarly perspectives and actively engages with the contemporary agenda. Graduates leave with a commitment to the continuation of knowledge, appreciating its intrinsic value and as a tool within professional life.

#### **GLOBALLY ENGAGED**

Studying in a diverse, creative and challenging environment, allows students to leave the University of Westminster with a critical outlook. By working alongside scholars who are leaders in the field of politics and international relations the inclusive and dynamic research culture encourages a global outlook.

#### **RESOURCEFUL AND ADAPTABLE**

Our graduates gain the attributes of ambitious and confident thinking, enabling innovation and achievements. Leadership qualities are evident in the diversity of pathways graduates take. Self-discipline allows graduates to attain professional standing and exercise their initiative. Graduates in politics and international relations are adaptable and are able to respond to the new challenges faced within economic, social and global political life.

### **Course structure**

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

| <b>Credit Level 4</b> |                           |               |                  |             |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Module code</b>    | <b>Module title</b>       | <b>Status</b> | <b>UK credit</b> | <b>ECTS</b> |
| 4PIRS006W             | POLITICAL IDEAS IN ACTION | Core          | 40               | 20          |



|   |   |               |                  |             |
|---|---|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 4PIRS005W   | INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND GLOBAL POLITICS             | Core          | 40               | 20          |
| 4PIRS003W   | DILEMMAS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT                                   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 4PIRS002W   | DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 4PIRS004W   | GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND THE STATE   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 4PIRS001W   | BRITISH POLITICS  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 4PIRS007W   | THE GLOBAL POLITICS OF MIGRATION  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
|   | Electives   | Elective      | 20               | 10          |
| <b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</b> |   |               |                  |             |
| <b>Credit Level 5</b>                                     |   |               |                  |             |
| <b>Module code</b>  | <b>Module title</b>   | <b>Status</b> | <b>UK credit</b> | <b>ECTS</b> |
| 5PIRS017W   | THEORISING POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS                         | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS005W   | GEOPOLITICS   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS007W   | GLOBAL SECURITY   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS018W   | DOING POLITICAL RESEARCH: PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES     | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS010W   | MIDDLE EAST POLITICS  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS016W   | THE EUROPEAN UNIONS AS A GLOBAL ACTOR                                   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS003W   | THE POLITICS OF KILLING   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS001W   | ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA: DYNAMISM AND CHANGE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS013W   | POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN 21 <sup>ST</sup> CENTURY AMERICA                | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS015W   | QUESTIONING RIGHTS  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS002W   | DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS014W   | POWER AND THE STATE   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRSE008W  | GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE: COMPARATIVE AND MULTILEVEL PERSPECTIVES           | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS012W   | INTERNSHIP  | Option        | 20               | 10          |

|  |   |               |                  |             |
|--|---|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5PIRS009W  | LEARNING IN AN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: A SHORT- BURST MODULE   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS006W  | GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 5PIRS011W  | POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEVELOPMENT  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
|  | Electives   | Elective      | 20               | 10          |
| <b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree 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> |
| 6PIRS003W  | CONTESTED SOVEREIGNTY: JURISDICTION AND POWER IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS                   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS006W  | ETHICS, MORALITY AND WORLD ORDER(S)   | Core          | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS0022W /6PIRS023W  | DISSERTATION <u>OR</u> PROFESSIONAL REPORT IN POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES | Core          | 40               | 20          |
| 6PIRS004W  | DIGITAL POLITICS  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS017W  | SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN A GLOBALISING WORLD   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS016W  | SECURITY AND THE SURVEILLANCE STATE   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS002W  | AMERICAN POWER IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS012W  | POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS009W  | GENDER AND POLITICS   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS015W  | RADICAL DEMOCRACY   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS008W  | FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY IN A CHANGING WORLD  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS001W  | ADVANCED READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY  | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS010W  | HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS007W  | EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND CITIZENSHIP   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS011W  | POLICY AND PRACTICE   | Option        | 20               | 10          |
| 6PIRS019W  | OIL, GLOBALISATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MIDDLE  | Option        | 20               | 10          |

|   |  |          |    |    |
|---|--|----------|----|----|
|   | EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA  |          |    |    |
| 6PIRS013W   | POSTCOLONIAL POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS            | Option   | 20 | 10 |
| 6PIRS018W   | SPECIAL TOPIC MODULE IN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Option   | 20 | 10 |
|   | Electives  | Elective | 20 | 10 |
| <b>Award /BA/BSc/LLB available</b><br><b>Award /BA Honours/BSc Honours available.</b> |  |          |    |    |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year; a core module from another course within the Programme offered by the Department (BA Politics, BA IR, BA Politics and IR, and BA IR and Development) may be taken as an option.

### 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 for BA International Relations:** Dr Sam Raphael

**Head of School, Social Sciences:** Dr Dibyesh Anand, Professor of International Relations.

**Senior Tutor for Politics and International Relations:** Rob Macmaster, Principal Lecturer in Politics.

#### 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).

#### 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](http://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. Students<sup>1</sup> 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](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 2013. 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.

**Copyright of University of Westminster 2019©**