

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award	<b>BA (Honours) International Relations and Development</b> <b>BA (Honours) International Relations and Development with International Experience</b> The BA Honours Degree is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
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, four years with International Experience. September start.
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a>	Politics and International Relations <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/Revalidation	October 2019
Date of programme specification approval	December 2019
Valid for cohorts	2020-21
Course Leader	Dr Farhang Morady
UCAS code and URL	LL12 <a href="http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>
Westminster course code	BAPIR01F

## 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](http://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](http://westminster.ac.uk/recognition-of-prior-certified-learning).

## Aims of the course

The BA International Relations and Development degree programme examines the changing frontiers of global order and how these are impacting on states, citizens and communities in the developing world. This exciting course allows students to understand questions of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment through a comparative lens. We focus on different regions, cultures and territories and look at the impact that key political, economic and social policies have had for individual states and societies. Students will analyse the distribution of power at the global, regional, and national levels and consider how these are linked to diverse historical, political and cultural forces which impact upon the Global South. We focus on the changing configurations of power, privilege and identity in world politics. We ask our students to deeply explore questions of governance, democracy and human rights in a post- colonial world.

International Relations and Development is a dynamic field of study concerned with examining the political, social and economic transformations that make an impact on our world. Our focus on international development is unique; with a comprehensive range of modules that are linked to opportunities that only studying in cosmopolitan London can offer. We use our London location as a base for exploring the rest of the world. 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 aim to inspire our students to make a difference to the worlds and communities in which they live. We do this through our internationally focused curriculum, which gives students a solid foundation to explore contemporary issues in international development and global politics. The course provides a structured exploration of politics and development issues in the extremely diverse world of the Global South as well as its interplay with the advanced, industrialised Global North. Students are offered the opportunity to specialise in different world regions including the Middle East, India, China, Africa, and Latin America. In examining these regions students consider the broader patterns contribution to under- development, especially as they relate to colonialism, neo-liberal economics, and financial markets.

More substantially, we consider the inbuilt assumptions of 'development' and encourage students to test key concepts of international development that are linked to trade, finance, markets and development aid. The BA International Relations and Development degree is

concerned with exploring the challenges of developing and developed states in the global political economy. This is achieved through close attention to the cultural, legal and global contexts of international development and global politics. As part of this process, we engage students with discourses of global responsibility and encourage graduate attributes that establish Westminster distinctiveness (employability, internationalisation, sustainability) at the heart of the learning experience.

Our teaching programme is structured to support your transition to higher education, with our first year designed to immerse you in the key concepts, issues and major themes in International Relations and Development. In the second year you will be encouraged to think about the operation of the global economic system through an in depth overview of international political economy. You will explore the contemporary challenges to developing states in the context of the world market and explore the origins of capitalism through detailed case studies in different regional settings. More significantly, you will be encouraged to think about the impact of global economic forces on individual states, territories and regions in world politics. In your third year, you will examine the regional constellations of development and how different regions of the world have been affected by developmental 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 development in the global system. We hope to encourage a new generation of global citizens who have the courage and vision to respond to the future challenges of our shared world. 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 different states, territories and regions affected by development. You will be encouraged to rethink the basic terms of international development within our global order by engaging with leading scholars in the field.

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 and Development 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)

**Level 4 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

**L4.1** - An ability to identify the primary characteristics of International Relations and Development as a scholarly <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub> discipline, informed by key theories and political concepts, in the context of cognate disciplines. (KU) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L4.2** - Knowledge and understanding of the politics, economies, societies and history of developing regions within the world. (KU) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L4.3** - An understanding of the basic issues, concepts and theories relevant to the interdisciplinary study of development. (KU)

**L4.4** - Sensitivity to the role of political culture and power in shaping our perceptions of political order within International Relations and Development, understood through different regional, theoretical and cultural frameworks. (KU) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L4.5** - Appreciation of the value of critical thinking for assessing concepts and theories in International Relations and Development. (KU) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L4.6** - Awareness of the importance of information literacy and library skills for studying and researching at university. (PPP) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L4.7** - 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) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L4.8** - A successful transition to the demands and expectations of university-level study. (PPP)

**L4.9** - The ability to develop and sustain well-justified arguments through a range of media including writing, public speaking, and visual presentations. (GA)

**Level 5 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

**L5.1** - A critical understanding of theories pertaining to Development Studies and their relationship to the global system. (KU) <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L5.2** - A critical understanding of policies and practices of international development. (KU)

**L5.3** - An awareness of the key traditions in international political economy and development and their implications for developing countries, especially since the end of the Cold War. (KU)

<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

**L5.4** - An understanding of the growth and emergence of new regional powers. (KU)

**L5.5** - An appreciation of the regional dynamics of development and their implications for countries in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and South America. (KU)<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

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

**L5.8** - An ability to locate, organise and successfully complete a form of work-based learning in an appropriate organisational setting. (PPP)

**L5.9** - Develop the skills to work collaboratively as well as individually in a learning and research environment. (GA)

**In addition, if you opt to gain international experience as part of a year abroad between your Level 5 and Level 6 studies, you will be able to demonstrate:**

**L5.10** – An understanding of the demands and opportunities of working and/or studying in an international context. (PPP)

**L5.11** – The ability to apply theories, concepts and research skills related to the field to the cultural and political context(s) of the society within which the experience takes place. (KU)

**Level 6 course learning outcomes:** upon completion of level 5 you will be able to demonstrate:

**L6.1** - An ability to identify and critically assess the contribution of theoretical perspectives with respect to future challenges of international politics and development. (KU)

**L6.2** - An understanding of the ethical dimensions in International Relations and Development. (KU)

**L6.3** - An awareness of continuity and change within global politics and developing states, especially as it relates to questions of violence, gender, race, nation and statehood within a geopolitical world. (KU)

**L6.4** - A command of a substantial body of empirical, theoretical and practical knowledge about development and international politics and an ability to clearly articulate this knowledge in both written and spoken form. (KU)

**L6.5** - A systematic understanding of geostrategic concerns pertaining to development and international politics. (KU)

**L6.6** - 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. (GA)

**L6.7** - An appropriate range of analytical and professionally relevant skills to facilitate access to employment or further study and an awareness of the potential opportunities open to graduates of social science disciplines (KTS).

**L6.8** - An ability to conduct their own political research, whether qualitative or quantitative, informed by appropriate research methodologies and theoretical frameworks. (KTS)

**L6.9** - An ability to reflect on individual performance and respond to constructive criticism, evidenced by engagement with feedback and guidance as part of a resilient learning culture fostered throughout the degree (PPP).  
guidance as part of a resilient learning culture fostered throughout the degree. (KTS)

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

The BA International Relations and Development 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 BA International Relations and Development 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 and Development degree. This is reflected in the comprehensive assumption that graduates from BA International Relations and Development 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 Department of Politics and International Relations 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 and/or 'blended learning' 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 and with small peer groups.

**Tutorials:** In a tutorial students meet with their tutor either individually or as a part of a small group. Tutorials provide an opportunity to discuss problems and issues and make informal presentations.

**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:** Students may undertake fieldwork or visit relevant international organisations or research establishments as part of their 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 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 and Development degree offers a variety of assessment methods that aim 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 would be transferred by 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 and Development the course team has sought to ensure a balance between traditional and innovative 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
- Role plays
- 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 BA International Relations and Development 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 final-year 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.

## **International opportunities**



Graduates with international experience are particularly valued by employers. Students on this courses have the opportunity to spend one year abroad in their third year. You may complete a work or volunteering placement, both of which provide valuable opportunities to boost your employability and ground your studies in an experiential setting. You may also undertake a study placement at one of our university partners in Europe, China, Hong Kong or Turkey (exact list subject to change). You can also undertake a combination of both study and work. A one-year period of residence abroad enhances your language skills and contributes experiences and contacts that can be valuable in your career. It also encourages intercultural awareness and capability, qualities of self-reliance and other generic skills which further enable you to become mobile and transnational citizens.

Students choosing to take the Year Abroad will register for the two “Global Politics Year Abroad” modules, one in Semester 1 and one in Semester 2. Upon successful completion of these modules you will be awarded 120 additional credits and qualify for your chosen degree “with International Experience”. The marks and credits of the year abroad are not exchangeable with Westminster credits and do not count towards the final degree classification.

### **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 and Development degree course aims to create graduates who are leaders in professional life, globally engaged and lifelong learners. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

#### **LEADERS IN PROFESSIONAL LIFE** <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Graduates from Politics and International Relations will acquire knowledge, both as academic researchers and as individuals with an informed and 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. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

**GLOBALLY ENGAGED** <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> 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. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

**RESOURCEFUL AND ADAPTABLE** <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> 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. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

## 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.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4PIRS003W	Dilemmas of International Development	Core	20	10
4PIRS010W	Political Ideas in Action	Core	20	10
4PIRS009W	Introduction to International Relations	Core	20	10
4PIRS004W	Global Governance and Development	Core	20	10
4PIRS001W	British Politics	Option	20	10
4PIRS002W	Democracy in Crisis	Option	20	10
4PIRS007W	The Politics of Migration	Option	20	10
4PIRS008W	Critical Perspectives on Global Politics	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
5PIRS006W	International Political Economy	Core	20	10
5PIRS011W	Rethinking Development	Core	20	10
5PIRS017W	Theorising Politics and International Relations	Core	20	10
5PIRS025W	Political Research and Practice	Core	20	10
5PIRS001W	Nationalism and the State in the Global South	Option	20	10
5PIRS003W	The Politics of Killing	Option	20	10
5PIRS005W	Geopolitics	Option	20	10
5PIRS007W	Global Security	Option	20	10
5PIRS008W	Governance in Europe	Option	20	10
5PIRS009W	Learning in an International Environment	Option	20	10
5PIRS010W	Middle East Politics	Option	20	10
5PIRS012W	Politics and International Relations Internship	Option	20	10
5PIRS014W	Power and the State	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
Award of Diploma of Higher Education				
<b>Optional Year Abroad available</b>				
<b>The modules below must both be passed to receive your award title “with International Experience”</b>				

5PIRS026W	Global Politics Year Abroad 1	Option	60	30
5PIRS027W	Global Politics Year Abroad 2	Option	60	30
Credit Level 6				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6PIRS019W	Energy and Development in the Middle East and Central Asia	Core	20	10
6PIRS024W	Learning from NGOs in an International Context	Core	20	10
6PIRS022W	Dissertation	Core	40	20
6PIRS002W	American Power in a Multipolar World	Option	20	10
6PIRS003W	Contested Sovereignty: Territory, Borders and Resistance	Option	20	10
6PIRS004W	Digital Politics	Option	20	10
6PIRS006W	Ethics, Morality and World Order(s)	Option	20	10
6PIRS007W	Equality, Justice, Citizenship	Option	20	10
6PIRS008W	Foreign Policy and Diplomacy	Option	20	10
6PIRS009W	Gender and Politics	Option	20	10
6PIRS010W	Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations	Option	20	10
6PIRS011W	Policy and Practice	Option	20	10
6PIRS013W	Postcolonial Politics and International Relations	Option	20	10
6PIRS015W	Radical Democracy	Option	20	10
6PIRS016W	Security and the Surveillance State	Option	20	10
6PIRS017W	The Politics of Protest: Social and Political Movements Today	Option	20	10
6PIRS018W	Special Topic in Politics and International Relations	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
BA available BA Honours available.				

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.

### Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

N/A

### 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 and Development:** Dr Farhang Morady

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

**Senior Tutor for Politics and International Relations:** Dr Bridget Cotter

## 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.

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