Programme Specification: Pharmacology and Physiology BSc

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Bachelor of Science with Honours - Pharmacology and Physiology • Bachelor of Science with Honours - Pharmacology and Physiology with Professional Experience • Bachelor of Science with Honours - Pharmacology and Physiology with International Experience The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Bachelor of Science (BSc) - Pharmacology and Physiology • Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - Pharmacology and Physiology • Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - Pharmacology and Physiology
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London Secondary/Tertiary Locations: N/A
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Biomedical Sciences: https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-biomedical-sciences.pdf?sfvrsn=2bf2c881_4
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) https://www.rsb.org.uk/ (Reaccreditation pending spring/ summer 2022)
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• BSc Pharmacology and Physiology FT, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement
Valid for cohorts	From 2022/3

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: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/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:

https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/guides-and-policies/student-matters/recognition-of-prior-learning

Aims of the programme

The BSc Pharmacology and Physiology degree programme is for students who seek a sound understanding of the biological action of drugs and other biomolecules at the whole-body, tissue, cellular and sub-cellular levels, and their uses as medicines for the treatment of disease. It provides an ideal grounding for a career in the pharmaceutical industry or other areas of biomedical research, academia, the Scientific Civil Service and healthcare provision.

The BSc (Hons) Pharmacology and Pharmacology course has been designed to:

- Provide students with a comprehensive, current and relevant programme of study delivered in a rich learning environment that is inclusive, supportive and equitable, enabling and encouraging all students to achieve their individual potential without impediment.
- Provide students with a broad understanding of normal and abnormal physiological function, including the biology of representative disease states.
- Enable students to become proficient in explaining and applying information regarding the mode of therapeutic action, undesirable and toxic effects, absorption, distribution and elimination of exemplar drugs.
- Develop student's group working and problem solving skills, together with the research strategies necessary for the evaluation, critical appraisal and systematic review of pharmacology, physiology and associated scientific disciplines.
- Enable students to contextualise scientific knowledge and opinion within a historical, geographical and cultural framework, referencing current expected standards of equality, diversity and inclusivity.
- Enable students to confidently use and proficiently apply a broad range of appropriate laboratory-based skills, in accordance with Good Laboratory Practice.
- Enable students to communicate effectively, using a broad range of verbal, written and information technology based media.
- Develop student's transferable skills and awareness of how these can be applied in preparing for employment in a wide range of graduate careers and professional working environments.
- Prepare students for postgraduate study in related practical and theoretical disciplines.
- Include the flexibility to allow students to undertake a work placement or international study experience whilst studying for their degree and gain recognition of that experience through specific award titles

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 development of these graduate attributes is oriented towards employability upon completion of the course and these five attributes are aligned to various Course Learning Outcomes as shown in the table later in this document.

Whilst graduate attributes are acquired through a number of different modules throughout your course, all courses in the School of Life Sciences also have an integrated framework of employability skills and options running from level 4 up to level 6. This framework is intended to enable students to develop key skills which will prepare them for employment and/or further study following graduation. The specific modules for implementing this framework are Professional Development in Science (Level 4), Research Methods (level 5) and the Life Sciences Final Year Project (level 6). Along with subject specific knowledge and skills however, other modules in the course also incorporate Key Transferable Skills, which complement the employability skills in this framework and are applicable to a wide range of future careers, further study and many other activities. The key employability related skills students will develop through the course include subject specific skill applicable to the many branches of the life sciences and skills that are transferrable to a variety of scenarios. These include: the ability to critically analyse scientific literature and to discuss and correctly cite those sources; gaining competence in laboratory and other practical/ investigative techniques relevant to your specialism; the ability to process, analyse, interpret and present a variety of data types including the appropriate statistical analysis of that data using a variety of software packages including Microsoft office and dedicated statistical analysis software such as SPSS; teamworking and leadership skills from group work in practical classes/ workshops and group presentation tasks; presentation skills in a variety of formats (e.g. posters, oral presentations, infographics). All students undertake a final year project which also allows the development of important skills such as experimental design based on available resources (including budget), planning of day-to-day activities and keeping records. Skills such as these are important for a wide variety of jobs and activities both within the life sciences and in the wider context.

Successful graduates of the BSc.Pharmacology and Physiology programme will also be equipped with a rich skill set that goes significantly beyond acquisition and synthesis of theory-based knowledge and practical skills: Our students additionally have competency in elementary clinical diagnostics, due to the integral use of enquiry based learning modes and IT based Human Patient Simulator platforms within a number of core modules throughout the course. These additional competencies further enhance the preparedness of our graduates for employment in a wide variety of highly skilled settings, and also for further study opportunities (eg., MSc, MRes, DPhil, PhD, Graduate Entry Medicine). Typically, graduates might expect to follow careers in the pharmaceutical industry or other areas of biomedical research, scientific writing, academia, governmental science and clinical research bodies, and hospital departments. Opportunities exist for students to enhance practical and related transferable skills within our teaching and research laboratories. Teaching is informed by high quality research, in relevant cognate areas within the School of Life Sciences and the wider University community.

Also built into our courses is the flexibility to allow students to undertake a work placement or international study experience between levels 5 and 6 of their studies which will further enhance your employability prospects. Students who undertake a work-based placement benefit from real world experience in their chosen discipline and gain a clearer understanding of options open to them following completion of their degree. The completion of a work placement in a relevant area is often looked upon favourably by employers as an indication of practical experience in the ‘real world’ and indeed many students receive job offers post graduation from either their placement provider or similar employment within the sector. Whilst not necessarily related to a specific area of employment, completion of an international study period is also often looked upon favourably by employers as an indication of an international/ global mindset and independence, both of which are desirable characteristics in a connected world.

Should you elect to undertake a placement or international study period between levels 5 and 6, we would therefore encourage you to follow a path most appropriate to your personal career goals. Many students also amass a diverse range of professional experience at all levels of their course and are encouraged to integrate all such opportunities into their studies. Again, our location in London is a distinct advantage when looking for additional work experience. Our aim is to foster a culture of gathering expertise, building professional networks, and expanding academic learning with the knowledge and skills gained in working environments.

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:

- CLO4.1 demonstrate a key knowledge base in fundamental aspects of Pharmacology and related life science disciplines, in addition to the skills required for building this knowledge base for future success. Communicate about how understanding in these areas can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals for people and the planet now and in the future. (KU GA KTS CS)
- CLO4.2 identify core issues in, and questions relating to, biological problems and identify simple experimental protocols in order to resolve them. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO4.3 appreciate the roles of pharmacology and physiology in addressing global health issues, and gain some understanding of the work done towards overcoming ethical challenges, and health / social inequalities that result from them. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO4.4 enhance existing communication skills and become comfortable with using professional software platforms for academic success. (GA PPP KTS)
- CLO4.5 become confident in sourcing and communicating information linked to specific global issues in pharmacology, physiology and related disciplines, and to be aware of the limitations of any given resources. (KU GA PPP)
- CLO4.6 become familiar with basic laboratory protocols and to develop the skills necessary for presenting and communicating experimental data and their limitations. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO4.7 develop and maintain existing numeracy skills, through engagement with module assessments and activities, and utilising additional resources as required. (KU GA PPP KTS CS)

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

- CLO5.1 demonstrate an enhanced knowledge base in pharmacology and related life science disciplines, in addition to maintaining this knowledge base for future academic success. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO5.2 highlight and explain issues in, and questions relating to biological problems, and design a series experiments or devise strategies to resolve them, as applicable. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO5.3 articulate and explain the roles of pharmacology and physiology in global health issues, demonstrating understanding of work done towards resolving ethical challenges, and health / social inequalities that result from them. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO5.4 demonstrate enhanced communication skills and develop confidence in using professional software platforms for academic success, drawing upon diverse approaches and perspectives in communicating ideas. (GA PPP KTS)
- CLO5.5 reliably source and communicate information linked to global issues in pharmacology, physiology and related disciplines, treating all individuals and cultures with respect and acknowledging the harm that results, and has resulted, from not doing so. Identify the limitations of any information resources accessed. (KU GA PPP)
- CLO5.6 confidently use, and explain the use of representative laboratory protocols, refining the key transferable skills necessary for communicating experimental data and their limitations (KU GA)
- CLO5.7 further develop numeracy skills, through engagement with module assessments and activities, using experimental data and utilising additional resources as required. (KU GA CS)

Additional Year course learning outcomes: upon completion of Additional Year you will be able to:

- IEO.1 Enable personal development by devising a programme of international study that complements the content of the home degree programme and/or develops other interests. (GA PPP KTS)

- IEO.2 Appreciate the challenges and opportunities of studying/ working in an international context. (GA PPP KTS)
- IEO.3 Demonstrate an understanding of, and respect for, the cultural norms and differences of the host country at a societal level as part of an inclusive, global outlook (GA PPP KTS)
- PEO.1 Reflect upon your greater knowledge of the career opportunities available to life sciences graduates in the job market and your personal aptitude for those opportunities. (GA PPP KTS)
- PEO.2 Demonstrate the acquisition of a range of professional, practical and key-transferrable skills relevant to the fields of employment where life sciences graduates are valued. (KU GA PPP KTS)
- PEO.3 Take personal responsibility for directing your own learning and future career making the best use of the opportunities, experiences and people that were available to you during your placement year. Draw upon the diverse approaches, perspectives, knowledge and experience of a diverse workforce, treating all individuals with respect and recognising their contribution to the host organisation. (KU GA PPP KTS)

Level 6 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 6 you will be able to:

- CLO6.1 demonstrate a knowledge base which discloses a detailed understanding of pharmacology and related life science disciplines, whilst maintaining said knowledge base for future success. (KU GA KTS CS)
- CLO6.2 confidently explain core issues/questions relating to biological problems, and identify and propose new or novel approaches to their solution. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO6.3 confidently explain the roles of pharmacology and physiology in relation to global health issues, proposing possible solutions for resolving ethical challenges, and health / social inequalities resulting from these. (KU GA KTS)
- CLO6.4 effectively communicate scientific concepts with diverse audiences of peers and laity, incorporating the use of professional software platforms in order to further academic success, and future employability goals. (GA PPP KTS)
- CLO6.5 effectively communicate information linked to global issues in pharmacology, physiology and related disciplines, and to explain the limitations of any information resources, proposing resolutions to these limitations where possible. (GA PPP KTS)
- CLO6.6 demonstrate proficiency in the use of laboratory protocols and/or scientific method in research, and to refine the skills necessary for communicating experimental data and their limitations. (KU GA)
- CLO6.7 critically analyse data as a part of research activity, maintaining and improving such activity through engagement with internal and external resources. Demonstrate how such research activity might provide benefit to diverse global communities, and reflect upon the ethical and social implications of current and historical scientific research and knowledge. (KU GA PPP KTS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

You will study a broad range of key life/ biomedical science disciplines, providing a sound underpinning for cutting edge content. To this end, there will be a particular focus upon new and emerging technologies where appropriate, and how these are shaping both the drug discovery process and the emerging area of personalised medicine. In short, whilst the course seeks to teach fundamental pharmacological and supporting disciplines, it has its sights set firmly on the current and future contributions that pharmacology and physiology are making, and will go on to make, to our understanding of biology and to healthcare.

Online resources will be provided where possible to help support a wide range of learning activities and you will also be tasked with finding alternative resources for your academic development. You will be supported in working independently and in group settings to consolidate and enhance your understanding of the topics being taught, and to hone your problem solving skills.

Students will be encouraged to participate in as wide a range of activities as possible, both within the curriculum and extra-curricular, in order to enhance transferable skills and employability, personal enrichment and integration within the University community.

The School of Life Sciences is committed to the University of Westminster Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy with a local implementation based on three central elements:

- ***Our commitment*** *is to ensure an inclusive, safe and supportive learning, working and social environment which enables scientific research and teaching to flourish and encourages our future scientists to grow and realise their true potential.*
- ***Our goal*** *is to empower all students and staff to critically reflect on their understanding and positionality, with respect to the wide-ranging global scientific perspectives (past and present); encouraging the open debate of differing points of view.*
- ***Our pledge*** *is to respect and value our diverse Life Sciences community (within and beyond the University of Westminster) and foster an equitable culture as we move forward in the field.*

These three elements inform and direct all of our learning, teaching and research activities and have been central to our course design process as can be seen in the learning outcomes at module and course level. All staff and students in the school of Life Sciences are expected to embrace and respect these values.

Teaching methods

The learning and teaching opportunities offered within the BSc Pharmacology & Physiology programme will be a mixture of formal contact, independent work and online support activities. The formal contact element will consist of large and small group lectures, enquiry (problem) based learning, seminars, tutorials, workshops, laboratory practical sessions and demonstrations. Extensive use will be made of technologies that will facilitate a blended approach to course delivery, with a mixture of on site and on line activities as appropriate.

Assessment methods

Assessments within the BSc Pharmacology & Physiology programme have been designed to support learning of scientific concepts, deeper understanding of more applied content, and to enhance key employability skills, such as written and oral communication, numeracy, digital literacy, scientific literacy and scientific competency.

Assessment is an important tool for guiding your studies and helping you to improve your skills, knowledge and understanding. Your modules all use a mixture of 'summative' assessments (in which the marks contribute to your overall module mark and can contribute to your degree classification) and 'formative' assessments (which do not contribute to your mark, but provide a vehicle for feedback to guide you in furthering your studies and assist you in optimising your performance in the summative assessments). You will also receive informal feedback in discussions with academic staff, in tutorials and other sessions, in addition to formal written or oral feedback for summative assessments. This will include immediate guidance on how to improve your technical skills and laboratory practice during practical and small group sessions.

BSc Pharmacology & Physiology graduates are expected to display a wide range of skills and personal qualities, as well as an extensive knowledge of pharmacology and related disciplines. This is reflected in the use of a number of diverse assessment types during the course of your studies.

Some modules will make use of in-class tests and timed assessments as part of their formal assessment diet. These will usually be based on multiple choice questions and will be used when it is necessary to assess your knowledge and understanding. However, your skill in problem solving, analysing and interpreting data and carrying out calculations will be assessed in a variety of ways, including assessment modes that may be partly or wholly 'open book.'

Laboratory skills are a fundamental aspect of professional practice for bioscientists, and both formative and summative practical based assessments will test your ability to work accurately, effectively and safely, whilst using a number of key techniques. Your accounts of your work allow you to demonstrate that you can interpret data and report research clearly, concisely and honestly. This will sometimes be as a conventional scientific report, but in some modules you will be asked to use other formats such as posters, wikis, vlogs, presentations or passages in a laboratory notebook.

Other types of assessment will also be used to evaluate various graduate level skills and aspects of scientific understanding, communication and practice. These might include posters and other presentations, , expert or lay audience summaries, essays, wikis, vlogs and data analysis and interpretation exercises.

Working effectively in group settings or teams is an essential skill pertinent to most careers, whether in science or in other areas, and you will work with other students to complete some assessments to help you develop these skills.

In your final year project, you will plan and carry out a final year project investigating an appropriate subject. The primary assessment is a thesis written in the style of a short scientific paper or professional report, testing the design and conduct of the project, the quality of data obtained, their analysis and interpretation. You will form reasoned conclusions based upon the results in the context of previous work in the area, as well as demonstrate clarity and professionalism with which the work is communicated. Therefore, this brings together multiple aspects of your degree programme and provides direct evidence of your ability to work independently as a scientific professional.

Graduate Attribute	**Evident in Course Outcomes**
Critical and creative thinker	CLO4.1, CLO4.2, CLO5.1, CLO5.2, CLO5.7, CLO6.1, CLO6.2, CLO6.6, IEO.1, PEO.2
Literate and effective communicator	CLO4.4, CLO4.5, CLO4.6, CLO4.7, CLO5.4, CLO5.5, CLO5.6, CLO5.7, CLO6.2, CLO6.4, CLO6.5, CLO6.6, CLO6.7, IEO.3, PEO.2, PEO.3
Entrepreneurial	CLO4.4, CLO4.6, CLO5.4, CLO5.6, CLO6.4, CLO6.6
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO4.3, CLO4.5, CLO5.3, CLO5.4, CLO5.5, CLO6.3, CLO6.4, CLO6.5, CLO6.7, IEO.2, IEO.3, PEO.1, PEO.2, PEO.3
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO4.3, CLO5.3, CLO5.4, CLO5.5, CLO6.3, CLO6.4, CLO6.7, IEO.2, IEO.3, PEO.2, PEO.3

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.

Modules are described as:

- **Core** modules are compulsory and must be undertaken by all students on the course.
- **Option** modules give you a choice of modules and are normally related to your subject area.
- **Electives**: are modules from across the either the whole University or your College. Such modules allow you to broaden your academic experience. For example, where electives are indicated you may choose to commence the study of a foreign language alongside your course modules (and take this through to the final year), thereby adding further value to your degree.
- Additional information may also be included above each level for example where you must choose one of two specific modules.

Modules

Level 4

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4BICH001W	Biochemistry	Core	20	10
4BIOL002W	Cell Biology	Core	20	10
4PHYM002W	Fundamentals of Pharmacology	Core	20	10
4PHYM001W	Human Physiology	Core	20	10
4BIOM006W	Professional Development in Science (PRoDS)	Core	20	10
4BIOL001W	Applications of Biological Sciences	Option	20	10
4BICH002W	Biological Chemistry	Option	20	10
4BICH003W	Science: History Philosophy and Practice	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Level 5

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5PHYM003W	Experimental and Therapeutic Pharmacology	Core	20	10
5PHYM001W	Medical Physiology	Core	20	10
5BICH001W	Metabolic Biochemistry	Core	20	10
5PHYM007W	Neuroscience	Core	20	10
5BIOM010W	Research Methods	Core	20	10
5BICH002W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
5EVBI001W	Contemporary Global Challenges in Biology	Option	20	10
5BICH003W	Molecular Biology and Genetics	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Additional Year

Optional additional year available.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6BIOL005W	Life Sciences International Study Module (year-long)	Option	120	60
6BIOM009W	Life Sciences Work Experience Placement Module (year-long)	Option	120	60

Level 6

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6PHYM003W	Advanced Physiology and Pharmacology	Core	20	10
6PHYM004W	Drug Discovery: Bench to Bedside	Core	20	10
6BICH003W	Final Year Project in Life Sciences	Core	40	20
6CLCH002W	Neuropharmacology	Core	20	10
6BIOM007W	Cancer Biology	Option	20	10
6EVBI001W	Global Ethics	Option	20	10
6BICH005W	Pharmaceutical Drug Design & Development	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

BSc (Hons) Pharmacology and Physiology is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). RSB accreditation recognises degree programmes that fully prepare bioscience graduates to address the needs of employers and is an indication that the programme delivers up-to-date knowledge in the right learning, support and teaching environments. Graduates from this programme are entitled to one year of free membership of the RSB as an Associate Member of the Royal Society of Biology (AMRSB).

BSc (Hons) Pharmacology and Physiology has been designed around the core knowledge, skills and attitudes documented in the British Pharmacological Society undergraduate core curriculum.

Course management

Your course is one of a number of programmes in the School of Life Sciences, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences within the University of Westminster, and is managed by a designated course leader. In addition to the course specific role of the course leader, the Head of School, other senior school staff and the Associate Heads of College, also provide support and management at their respective levels. We also have a school employability director and global engagement coordinators who oversee work placement and international study arrangements respectively. The course leader is also collectively supported in the management and running of the course by the course teaching team through their responsibilities for individual modules and contributions to planning. You will meet your course leader, teaching team and members of the school senior management during arrivals week, a programme of events designed to help you with enrolment, registration, and orientation to the university, its processes and the culture of higher education.

The course is monitored each year by the course leader and senior members of the School and College to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Each course will have Course Representative meetings throughout the year and staff will consider the outcomes from these meetings, evidence of student progression and achievement and the external examiner's reports to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. All courses are reviewed annually as part of the School, College and University Annual Monitoring processes, reporting finally to the Academic Council of the University which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Academic regulations

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

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than

60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students1 can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university. a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students.

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