

Programme Specification: Psychology and Counselling BSc

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science with Honours - Psychology and Counselling • Bachelor of Science with Honours - Psychology and Counselling with Professional Placement • Bachelor of Science with Honours - Psychology and Counselling with International Experience <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
Name and level of intermediate awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science (BSc) - Psychology and Counselling • Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - Psychology and Counselling • Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - Psychology and Counselling
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-psychology.pdf?sfvrsn=6935c881_13
Professional statutory or regulatory body	This programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved, and the empirical project has been passed. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc Psychology and Counselling 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 honours Psychology and Counselling has been designed to provide you with a broad contemporary education in Psychology and Counselling within a vibrant global learning environment situated in the heart of London. What you study has been designed to meet the requirements for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) of the British Psychological Society. This aspect prepares our graduates for postgraduate training on the path to becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

The exciting combination of psychology and counselling is designed in such a way that in the first year (level 4), you will receive a firm grounding in all the core areas of psychological knowledge. Then, at levels 5 and 6, you will start taking specialist modules that apply this psychological knowledge to areas of counselling and psychotherapy. Thus, in addition to Psychology, you will study counselling and psychotherapeutic theories and approaches, along with practical skills, for example active listening, clarification and effective questioning skills. The BSc honours Psychology and Counselling has also been designed to offer you the opportunity to follow your own interests through an attractive range of option modules. A distinctive feature of the option modules we offer is that the majority are focussed on professional practice. This provides you not only with a chance to specialise, but also with a better understanding of potential career paths available to you as a graduate psychologist.

Importantly, we do not assume that all our graduates will wish to become a Chartered Psychologist. For this reason, the BSc honours Psychology and Counselling course has also been designed to help you to think creatively and critically, developing the problem-solving skills that enable you to apply psychology and counselling to address a wide range of personal, professional and societal needs.

Please note: This degree does not qualify or entitle you to work as a practising counselling psychologist, psychotherapist or counsellor. What it does provide is a robust grounding to go on to train at a more advanced level, for example in the doctorate in counselling psychology accredited by the BPS, or postgraduate professional training in counselling or psychotherapy accredited by the BACP or UKCP.

The degree is designed to equip you with the graduate attributes that are highly sought by employers. Psychology and Counselling graduates from the University of Westminster will have a rich blend of attributes: they will be numerate, creative and effective communicators, enterprising in outlook, and engaged global citizens equipped to help shape a better future for all.

A unique identity

Although you will be interacting with students on other psychology degree programmes, especially in your first year and when you take various option modules at levels 5 and 6, you will also experience your unique identity as a Psychology and Counselling student throughout your studies. For example, there will be trips organised specifically for Psychology and Counselling students, such as a visit to the Freud Museum, the Wellcome Trust, and the Bethlem Museum. There will also be movie nights organised for students on this course that broadly reflect the themes of psychology and counselling.

The BSc Psychology and Counselling course team is fully committed to the School of Social Sciences Manifesto on diversification and decolonisation of the curriculum:

Our commitment to diversify and decolonise the curriculum and teaching practices in the School of Social Sciences is aimed at challenging prejudices that exist in all societies, celebrating plurality of identities and perspectives, and empowering our students and colleagues to explore their full potential.

This is being implemented with 2 dedicated course level learning outcomes. At the end of your course, you will be able to:

1. Recognise and reflect upon the ethical and social implications of current and historical psychology research and knowledge. In turn, appreciate the value of drawing upon diverse approaches and perspectives in achieving goals.
2. Treat all individuals and cultures with respect and acknowledge the harm that results and has resulted from not doing so. Act as a responsible and compassionate member of local and global communities.

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.

To enhance employability, students are provided with a wide range of work experience opportunities, both as part of the formal curriculum as well as through extra-curricular provision. All students undertake the Workplace and Employability module and complete 35 hours of vocational experience in their second year. We have extensive connections with a diverse range of organisations encompassing a variety of settings including Victim Support, various mental health organisations, school settings, hospital settings, and working with specific populations. We are continually striving to add to our list of potential work experience settings for students to explore.

In addition, we provide the optional Professional Placement Experience for those students who want to spend a whole year in a work setting, at the end of their second year of studies. Students taking this opportunity have the opportunity to develop their employability skills over a prolonged period and develop connections with other professionals. Students taking the Professional Placement work Experience do a 4 year degree.

There are also opportunities to engage in the international, study abroad experience outside of the UK.

In addition to the workplace module and the optional professional placement experience, career development skills are embedded in modules in all levels of your course.

The university has a very active careers and employability service (CES) that regularly provides information on career-related events such as talks presented by former students of the university, external visitors from professional backgrounds such as counselling and psychotherapy, mental health, coaching and related settings.

Successful completion of the BSc Psychology and Counselling degree also provides opportunities for postgraduate study and training in, for example, the Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology, postgraduate diploma/Masters in Counselling and Psychotherapy, academic research through a PhD, or branching out to training and working in other disciplines such as schools, human resources, social work, advertising and marketing, coaching, health and fitness, among many other areas.

The BSc (honours) Psychology and Counselling degree aims to create graduates who embody these graduate attributes. In the following list, course learning outcomes that develop these attributes are identified. Our graduates will be distinctive in being:

critical thinkers – employing evidence-based reasoning, possessing deep and expansive knowledge of core domains of psychology, and applying multiple perspectives to psychological and counselling issues (L4.1, L4.2, L4.6, L4.7, L5.1, L5.3, L5.4, L6.1, L6.3);

creative thinkers – making connections within and beyond the discipline, recognising distinctive contribution of psychology to real-world issues, and constructing knowledge by framing and developing lines of enquiry (L5.2, L5.3, L5.8, L6.4, L6.7, L6.9);

enterprising in outlook – tackling problems resiliently and confidently both independently and in groups, reflecting and learning from own performance, with an appreciation of the routes of professional development to psychological practice (L4.4, L6.2);

numerate, and effective communicators – reasoning about data, presenting research findings effectively, and able to explain ideas clearly and fluently orally, in writing, and through the creation of artefacts such as posters or campaign materials (L4.3, L4.5, L5.5, L5.6, L5.9, L6.8);

global in outlook, and community engaged – respecting diversity, promoting equality, and showing awareness of cross-cultural variance in psychological constructs (L6.9);

socially, environmentally and ethically aware – practising psychology in accordance with ethical codes, behaving with integrity, and aware of the potential application of psychology to the promotion of social justice and environmentally sustainable behaviour (L5.2, L5.7, L 5.8, L6.6);

the possessor of a qualification recognised by the British Psychological Society that confers the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, the first step to becoming a Chartered Psychologist (all Learning Outcomes).

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:

- L4.1 Describe and explain key concepts and theories across the breadth of five core areas of the discipline: biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology and individual differences (KU GA)
- L4.10 L4.10: Recognise the role of psychology in the understanding of societal issues across a variety of settings. (KU PPP)
- L4.2 Identify and discuss basic research methodologies, their strengths and weaknesses, and ethical issues relating to research. (KU GA CS)
- L4.3 Demonstrate ability to conduct and interpret data analysis using basic analytic techniques, and to report the results using conventions of the discipline, with support, grounded by participation in empirical studies. (GA PPP)
- L4.4 Ability to work collaboratively on clearly defined tasks. (GA KTS)
- L4.5 Demonstrate ability to communicate ideas clearly and fluently orally, visually, and in writing. (GA KTS)
- L4.6 Identify and discuss conceptual and historical issues relating to five core areas of the discipline: individual differences, biological, cognitive, developmental and social psychology. (KU GA)
- L4.7 Demonstrate ability to use evidence-based reasoning to evaluate a claim. (GA PPP)
- L4.8 Demonstrate ability to gather information on a given topic, with guidance, using a range of resources, and to use this information with appropriate regard to the quality of the source, and to principles of information usage including plagiarism and copyright issues (GA KTS)
- L4.9 Demonstrate ability to use statistical analysis software, and to use productivity tools for writing and for presenting information visually. (GA KTS)

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

- L5.1 Analyse and evaluate knowledge about selected topics drawn from each of the core areas of psychology and counselling theory and practice. (KU GA CS)
- L5.2 Discuss the potential contribution of psychology, counselling and psychotherapeutic approaches to contemporary issues, such as diversity, social justice, and personal and professional ethics. (KU GA PPP)
- L5.3 Apply a range of perspectives to psychology and counselling-related issues and problems, and to create connections to aspects of everyday experience (KU GA PPP)
- L5.4 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the conceptual and theoretical basis of qualitative, and multi-factorial quantitative research methodologies. (KU GA)
- L5.5 Devise, conduct and report the results of empirical research studies, using a variety of specialist psychological tools, under supervision. (GA PPP)
- L5.6 Select and conduct appropriate data analytic techniques, and draw inferences warranted by these analyses (GA PPP)
- L5.7 Think and behave ethically, respecting codes of ethical conduct, in the planning and execution of psychological research. (GA PPP)
- L5.8 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of reflective practice and ability to engage in experiential learning. (GA PPP KTS)
- L5.9 Communicate ideas clearly and fluently orally, visually and in writing in a range of formats. (GA KTS)

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 psychology/counselling and neuroscience 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:

- L6.1 Apply psychological theory and evidence to domains of professional practice. (KU GA)
- L6.10 L6.10: Synthesise distinctive contributions of psychology to real-life issues, by making connections and evidenced-based recommendations within and beyond the discipline (GA). (GA)
- L6.2 Appraise several types of psychological practice that are potential routes of professional development available to graduate psychologists. (KU GA)
- L6.3 Consolidate and extend a body of knowledge through independent primary research, under supervision. (KU GA)
- L6.4 Plan and carry out an independent empirical research project, under supervision. (GA PPP CS)
- L6.5 Generate and critically explore research questions. (GA PPP)
- L6.6 Identify and mitigate ethical issues relating to an independent research project. (GA PPP)
- L6.7 Frame and develop lines of enquiry (GA KTS CS)
- L6.8 Communicate ideas clearly and fluently to diverse audiences. (GA KTS)
- L6.9 Critically evaluate a range of psychotherapeutic theories and practice. (KU GA)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

The course has been designed to enable you to develop deep and expansive knowledge about psychology and counselling, along with the tools with which to apply this knowledge to real life. Your first year of study (level 4) provides a broad foundation in the discipline of psychology, and supports your transition into higher education by facilitating the development of the subject-specific and key transferable skills that will be important during your degree and beyond. Your second year (level 5) will enable you to consolidate and focus your understanding of psychology, counselling and psychotherapy. In your final year (level 6), the focus is on applying this knowledge to complex issues and problems that include the sorts of issues dealt with in professional practice.

Teaching methods

You will be taught in a wide variety of settings. Lectures are used to impart core knowledge, introduce theoretical concepts, and to delineate the syllabus being studied. Seminars will enrich your learning in smaller groups through discussion, or through participation in other activities. Practical classes allow you to experience research first hand, working collaboratively to collect and interpret data. Participation in the Counselling Skills and Practice module will enable you to develop your reflective and listening skills. Technology is used to enhance learning: You will make extensive use of Blackboard, our virtual learning environment. Your experience will be further enriched by opportunities for research participation, counselling skills practice and work-based learning.

An important feature of how you will learn on BSc honours Psychology and Counselling is through a focus on active, and often collaborative, learning through project work. This includes carrying out research practicals, allowing you to engage first hand with research practice and the knowledge base of our discipline. It also includes other kinds of enquiry-based learning, in which you learn through tackling realistic problems similar to those faced by practising therapists.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Employability-focused Curriculum

The BSc Psychology and Counselling degree is a distinctive course that we hope you will find stimulating, challenging and inspiring. The curriculum is designed to develop the capabilities that will enable you to become (following further training) a highly employable and effective practitioner in a constantly evolving professional world.

Learning Communities

As a student on the BSc Psychology and Counselling course we hope that your experience is one of belonging to a learning community where you have an active role in the development of your knowledge and understanding. A learning community is one where your study takes place in a social and practice-based context. We provide an environment for community-based learning in several ways, including participation in course committee meetings where you have the opportunity to continue to develop the course through communication and collaboration with both staff and your fellow students. We are also keen to expand the learning environment beyond the walls of the University. This includes harnessing other resources and media for the purposes of learning, e.g. visits to other institutions, museums, the cinema and the theatre, as well as encouraging students to gain relevant work experience through the work experience module.

Research, Inquiry and Practice

Learning informed through research and inquiry is an important focus of the course. This is reflected in modules such as Data Analysis and the final-year research project, and the opportunity to prepare literature and critical reviews as part of the assessment process. This approach to learning and an emphasis on working both ethically and professionally is augmented further by our engagement with professional bodies such as the British Psychological Society and the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Inclusivity and Flexibility

The BSc Psychology and Counselling course offers an inclusive curriculum that takes into account the requirements and expectations of the diverse learning backgrounds of the students who study at Westminster. Issues of diversity, difference and inclusivity are embedded in the course modules, where we consider closely, for example, working as a therapist in a multi-cultural community and working with people from diverse backgrounds.

Teaching and Learning

The principal course team is comprised of psychologists, psychotherapists and counsellors with many years' teaching experience in higher education. We are therefore able to provide an excellent experience in education that is grounded in our expertise in academic and practice-based settings.

Technology and Infrastructure

The Psychology subject area provides excellent technical facilities for students to enhance and advance their learning experience. This includes state-of-the-art psychophysiological tools such as EEG, eye-tracking and electrodermal activity measurement equipment, and research/practice labs that will provide an excellent environment for students to engage in active learning exercises.

Assessment methods

You will be assessed using a range of methods that have been carefully selected to provide a reliable and valid measure of the knowledge that you have acquired and the skills that you have developed. We use a variety of authentic coursework-based assessments, and there are a few modules that use end of module examinations or in-class tests. Various coursework tasks have been designed to assess the diverse range of skills and knowledge acquired on BSc honours Psychology and Counselling. These include academic essays, reflective essays, research reports and presentations, as well as authentic assignments designed to resemble real-world tasks that you might encounter in your professional life, such as demonstration of counselling skills, case formulations, reflective accounts to assess self-awareness and personal development.

We strive to ensure that you are assessed fairly. Clear assessment criteria (indicating the minimum threshold required to pass the module) are set out in module documents that are explicitly linked to what we set out to teach you - the module Learning Outcomes. Marking rubrics are also attached to assessments. This means that you will know in advance what is required to do well. The feedback you receive on coursework assignments relates back to these assessment criteria, so that you understand how the mark awarded was determined.

Every module incorporates formative assessments that provide you with useful feedback on how you are doing. Formative assessments do not count towards your overall grade. What they do, however, is to allow you to prepare for the assessments that do count towards your overall module grade. As such, formative assessments are an important and integrated aspect of the teaching and learning methods we employ. They help you to diagnose areas for improvement, and identify areas of strength to be nurtured and developed further.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	IEO.1, L4.1, L4.2, L4.6, L4.7, L4.8, L5.1, L5.4, L5.8, L6.1, L6.3, L6.4, L6.5, L6.7, L6.9, PEO.2
Literate and effective communicator	IEO.3, L4.3, L4.5, L4.9, L5.5, L5.6, L5.9, L6.8, PEO.2, PEO.3
Entrepreneurial	L4.4, L6.2
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	IEO.2, IEO.3, L4.10, L6.10, L6.8, PEO.1, PEO.2, PEO.3
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	IEO.2, IEO.3, L4.10, L4.8, L5.2, L5.3, L5.7, L6.6, 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

Please note that all modules at Level 4 are core (compulsory). There are no options available at Level 4.

Award of Certificate of Higher Education available.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4PSYC003W	Biological Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC002W	Cognitive Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC004W	Developmental Psychology	Core	20	10
4PSYC006W	Individual Differences	Core	20	10
4PSYC005W	Introduction to Psychological Research Methods	Core	20	10
4PSYC001W	Social Psychology	Core	20	10

Level 5

Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available.

Progression to Level 5

Please note that students must pass ALL Level 4 modules (120 credits) in order to progress to Level 5. This means that even if a student meets the University-stipulated regulations of a pass of 100 credits, they will still not be able to progress if, for example, they have been deferred in an assessment element or deferred in a whole module.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5PSYC015W	Counselling Skills and Practice	Core	20	10
5PSYC001W	Data Analysis for Psychology	Core	20	10
5PSYC016W	Humanistic approaches in psychotherapy	Core	20	10
5PSYC017W	Psychodynamic and cognitive behavioural approaches to therapy	Core	20	10
5PSYC005W	Work-Based Learning and Employability	Core	20	10
5PSYC026W	Diverse and Alternative Approaches to Psychotherapy	Option	20	10
5SOCL006W	Emotional Life	Option	20	10
5PSYC025W	Societal Responses to Climate Change	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

Additional Year

Optional Sandwich Year Credit Level 5 leading to BSc Psychology and Counselling with Professional Placement

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
5PSYC031W	Psychology International Experience Year	Option	3	120	60
5PSYC030W	Psychology Professional Experience Year	Option	3	120	60

Level 6

Award BSc Hons Psychology and Counselling available.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6PSYC019W	Client Issues and Processes in Therapy	Core	20	10
6PSYC014W	Professional Issues in a Critical Context	Core	20	10
6PSYC001W	Project in Psychology	Core	40	20
6PSYC008W	Clinical Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC004W	Cognitive Disorders	Option	20	10
6PSYC021W	Consciousness	Option	20	10
6PSYC007W	Forensic Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC006W	Health Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC011W	Music and the Mind	Option	20	10
6PSYC003W	Occupational and Work Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC018W	Political Psychology	Option	20	10
6PSYC013W	Psychology of Education	Option	20	10
6PSYC016W	Sexology	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

This programme is accredited by the British Psychological Society as conferring eligibility for the Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership, provided the minimum standard of a Lower Second Class Honours is achieved, and the empirical project has been passed. This is the first step towards becoming a Chartered Psychologist.

Course management

The course is based in the School of Social Sciences, which is part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The management of the course includes the following roles:

Course Leader: who is responsible for the day to day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum.

Head and Assistant Head of School: who hold overall responsibility for the course, and for the courses run by the School of Social Sciences.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](https://www.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](https://www.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 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. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2021©

Additional Details

Managing risks due to unforeseen adverse consequences of reflective practice activities

This course not only provides grounding in the conceptual understanding of counselling and psychotherapy, it also provides an opportunity for your own experiential learning and self-growth throughout. This is likely to happen through a variety of contexts such as the theory lectures, practical skills activities, reflective practice sessions, reflective log, diary work, and other activities.

All of these elements have the potential to bring to the surface insights about ourselves that we may find concerning or troubling. As you learn on the course, you may come across issues of a sensitive nature about yourself, about your personality, about your life-experiences. There may be elements that you are worried or anxious or concerned about. In such cases, there are a range of resources that students are encouraged to make use of:

Contact your personal tutor/module leader/course leader as soon as you experience any issues that you are concerned about.

Alternatively/additionally, you can contact the university Counselling service for free and confidential advice and counselling. The website address is:

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/counselling>

You can contact various helplines and other external agencies for support. Examples include: -

- The Samaritans
- Gamcare
- Gay and Lesbian: London Friend
- London Nightline
- Muslim Youth Helpline

Details of these and numerous other resources can be accessed through the university counselling website:

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/counselling>

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