Programme Specification: English Language and Linguistics BA

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER⌗

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Bachelor of Arts with Honours - English Language and Linguistics • Bachelor of Arts with Honours - English Language and Linguistics with International Experience • Bachelor of Arts with Honours - English Language and Linguistics with Professional Experience • Bachelor of Arts with Honours - English Language and Linguistics with Professional and International Experience The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Bachelor of Arts (BA) - English and Linguistics • Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - English and Linguistics • Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - English and Linguistics
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)	
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Linguistics and English https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-linguistics.pdf?sfvrsn=ecf3c881_4 https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-english.pdf?sfvrsn=47e2cb81_4
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• BA English Language and Linguistics FT, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement • BA English Language and Linguistics PT, Part-time day, September start - 6 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement
Valid for cohorts	From 2025/6

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 BA English Language and Linguistics will provide you with the opportunity to study human language in general and the English language in particular, its structure, use and evolution. The flexible degree design will allow you to build your understanding of both theoretical and applied language study with a high level of optionality, enabling you to build a bespoke course that includes core study of phonology, syntax, semantics, discourse analysis, alongside a focus on forensic linguistics, language and gender, language teaching, language history and psycholinguistics. The course aims to develop your analytic and critical skills to provide you with a comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of language and its practical application to real-world experiences.

International and Professional Opportunities

One of the highlights of our BA English Language and Linguistics is the opportunity to embark on a transformative international or professional placement, or indeed combine the two! The international and professional opportunities we offer can be tailored to your personal circumstances, meaning you can mix and match semester-long work placements in the UK with semester-long study or work placements overseas, or opt for a full year studying or working abroad or on a work placement here in the UK. You can even choose to study abroad for one semester in the second year, when you'll take equivalent subjects to those of your degree at one of our international partner institutions - organised by Westminster!

When you've successfully completed your second year of study, you'll be eligible for a yearlong sandwich year, which you can shape according to your personal circumstances and interests. You can choose between a year studying at an international partner institution (organised by Westminster) or arrange your own yearlong placement working or volunteering overseas (with support from Westminster). If you'd prefer to do both, then why not combine educational and professional experiences by studying for one semester at an international partner institution and working or volunteering abroad for the other semester? Alternatively, if you'd rather gain professional experience in the UK, you can opt for a UKbased year or semester in industry, with the possibility of spending the second semester working or studying abroad. Whatever combination you choose, this rare range of flexible international and professional opportunities offers an immersive experience in different working and/or learning environments, allowing you to acquire real-world skills, build a network of contacts and get a head start in your career.

For those seeking a shorter international experience, we also offer flexible opportunities in the form of field trips. Our international field trips usually last five days and are open to all students to apply. The destinations and activities change yearly, but past School-run field trips have included places as varied as Morocco, Marseille and Montreal. The field trips are organised in-house and led by academic staff members with cultural and linguistic knowledge of the destination. And the best bit? The trips are fully funded, so there's no need to worry about the cost!

As you embark on your BA English Language and Linguistics journey, rest assured that your international or professional experience, coupled with advanced linguistic and cultural competence, will set you apart in the eyes of employers. Graduates who have developed a global perspective are highly sought-after in today's interconnected world. Join us in our commitment to producing articulate, resourceful, creative, and critically aware graduates. We aspire to prepare you for success in diverse intercultural and professional environments, equipping you with the necessary tools to thrive in your chosen field. We look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant community, where cultures and opportunities converge to shape your future.

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.

At the heart of your BA English Language and Linguistics is the Employing Humanities programme. This is a staged and integrated pathway that begins in Arrivals Week and builds through to graduation and beyond. The programme is tailored to the levels of your study and is anchored in your tutorial modules where you will be supported in reflecting on your employability skills at different stages, planning the development of your portfolio of skills, including digital skills, and personalising your ambitions. The programme includes at level 5 the Humanities HACKathon when you will have the opportunity to engage directly with employers of Humanities graduates. At both levels 5 and 6 you are able to take modules that focus on teaching, which can be completed alongside the Explore Teaching scheme, and at level 6 you are able to take the Work Placement in Humanities module that is assessed by your reflections on your experience in a working environment.

The programme is underpinned by the university's Engage platform through which you can access further training, one-to-one careers advice, notice of events and job opportunities, receive help in finding a work placement, and create your individual career profile.

The embedded Employability programme importantly highlights the skills and abilities that graduates of your degree possess, and it helps you extend your awareness of the wide range of graduate work available to students with these skills. The degree creates graduates that are highly articulate in their use of the English language with an advanced ability to read critically and to interpret a variety of cultural texts. As a graduate of this course you will develop accurate and precise skills of data analysis, and have the ability to evaluate and use theory in your analyses, and your degree will foster strong skills of organisation and planning, all of which are much-prized transferable skills to employers. Engagement in small research projects ensures that you have experience of considering and complying with ethical requirements. Our graduates develop a strong grasp of the complexities of English as a global language with an awareness of and sensitivity to how it reflects and creates ideological structures in societies around the world. Such a high degree of awareness ensures that our graduates are engaged citizens of their communities and of the world.

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 Recognize the different demands and expectations at level 3 and university level in language studies to successfully make the transition (KU)

- L4.2 Present work in a scholarly way using relevant diagrams and graphs in an appropriate academic register and following bibliographic conventions. (KU)

- L4.3 Communicate ideas confidently and clearly in a variety of modes and formats. (PPP)

- L4.4 Describe language and the basic components of different theories of language structure using appropriate terminology (KU)

- L4.5 Demonstrate the ways in which words and sentences are related to each other and how they combine to

create texts of different types (KU)

- L4.6 Demonstrate developing research skills in the supervised collection and analysis of relevant language data and texts (KU)

- L4.7 Construct an argument in support of a hypothesis (PPP)

- L4.8 Identify digital and employability skills and engage with pathways for further development (KTS)

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

- L5.1 Employ an increased maturity in relation to your studies, evident both in study choices and the selection of assessment choices, and in the selection and analysis of data in assessment. (PPP)

- L5.2 Demonstrate an ability to use linguistic data of different kinds, analytic abilities and concepts across modules (KU)

- L5.3 Compare and analyse texts to demonstrate a knowledge of the features of English at different stages of its history (KU)

- L5.4 Apply a selection of theories in the analysis of discourse, phonology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics (KU)

- L5.5 Actively engage with the development of your own learning through the tutorial system (PPP)

- L5.6 Demonstrate enhanced study skills including written and oral expression, the collection and analysis of data, and the use of scholarly conventions and sources in their presentation of a suitably academic register (PPP KTS)

- L5.7 Evaluate the ethical issues involved in the collection of reliable data (KU KTS)

- L5.8 Reflect on the employability and digital skills you have developed in your course and identify areas for further improvement and development (KU PPP)

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

- L6.1 Demonstrate an ability to act autonomously in your own chosen specialized interests in sub-disciplines and areas of linguistics and the English language, taking responsibility for determining and achieving your personal outcomes. (PPP)

- L6.2 Organise and communicate specialist and inter-related information, and construct complex and sophisticated arguments within extended written work with fluency, clarity and confidence (PPP)

- L6.3 Design, plan and execute a specialist research project with minimal supervision, involving the collection and analysis of suitable data in compliance with ethical requirements, and applying an in-depth awareness of relevant specialist ethical and professional values and codes of conduct to the research (KU PPP)

- L6.4 Demonstrate advanced independence of thought and critical judgment in the analysis and evaluation of the reliability, validity and significance of in-depth data and evidence, and in the synthesis of specialist and inter-related information and ideas. (KTS)

- L6.5 Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the nature of theory and the criteria for evaluating competing theories, explanations and hypotheses and demonstrate the ability to select and apply relevant specialist principles, concepts and approaches from competing perspectives. (KU)

- L6.6 Reflect on feedback and guidance and develop action plans to further improve your skills, taking responsibility for the critical evaluation of your own capabilities and development (KTS)

- L6.7 Generate a plan for future employment or study, building on the linguistic and transferable skills developed over the course (PPP)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Learning activities at all levels aim to develop an increasingly high degree of student autonomy and promote the graduate qualities of effective communication, personal organisation, flexibility, analysis and problem-solving, team-work and originality. Modules vary in the nature of the classroom contact time, but across the degree students will learn in small group tutorials of 5-8 students, seminars and workshops of 15–25 students, and some traditional lectures in university lecture halls. At level 6, in addition to seminars and workshops, you will have individual supervision with a lecturer to support your work on a dissertation and in your studies generally. A standard seminar will consist of short explicit teaching interspersed with student activity individually, in pairs or as group work. In most classes, students will be engaged in the discussion of texts, some small formative problem-solving and analytic exercises (in groups and individually), small research projects, and in-class presentations. These activities help to develop the understanding of and ability to employ the content that is presented by lecturers in sections of teaching during the class time. The contact time in the classroom is designed to introduce new concepts, new information, and foster skills as a springboard for your increasingly independent academic and intellectual development.

As part of the development of that independence and autonomy, a substantial part of university-level learning takes place beyond the classroom, sometimes at home via the online learning system Blackboard or in the well-resourced and recently refurbished library. Materials for guided self-study are made available via Blackboard, online through the recommended reading list, or in the library, and include a range of multi-media and e-resources designed to enable student-centred learning.

At the heart of the degree is a commitment to the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) agenda of the university, both in the way in which we teach, but also in the content of the course. You will learn to interrogate and deconstruct common myths about language and common myths about specific languages and language use that often underpin wider prejudice and exclusion. You will engage with data from many different languages in your study of the nature of language and how they are used, and learn to appreciate the parity of linguistic structures across languages, while confronting the ways in which language reflects and creates ideological structures in society.

We take an inclusive approach to learning that ensures you will have a learning experience that respects diversity, encourages active participation, considers students' varying needs, encourages and enables you to tailor your learning according to your career and individual aspirations, and equips you with the skills to work in a changing and diverse world. Central to your learning experience is the written feedback that all your assessments on the course receive. This feedback is carefully worded and written to ensure you understand the quality of your submitted work, the reason for the grade you have been awarded, and crucially, how you could improve your work in future assessments.

Teaching methods

All modules have been designed on the basis of 200 hours of study time for each 20-credit module (or 400 hours for 40-credit modules). Those hours include reading time, formative assessment, preparation of summative assessments and time for directed digital engagement activities as well as scheduled classroom time. As each module has been designed with different activities you will find some variation between the amount of scheduled contact time between modules. At the beginning of each module your lecturer will share with you the detailed outline with indicative timing for each activity. This enables you to plan your work across modules and to personalise your study by adapting timings to your own learning style.

The staff and university are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the curriculum, in teaching, learning and assessment practices, and in our learning spaces. The staff pay careful attention to the nature and choice of assessment in each module, ensuring it is authentic and relevant, and does not indirectly disadvantage any student in its wording and design. Wherever possible, we provide a choice of assessment or assessment data. With your help, we aim to eliminate all arbitrary barriers to your learning and we will work with you to achieve that aim.

Assessment methods

The course offers a variety of authentic coursework assessment to students which aims to both assess and nurture your intellectual and academic development. There are no examinations. Overall, assessments will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding and ability to employ theory in relation to linguistic data of many different kinds, and to develop your analytic, critical and communicative skills. The type of assessments is notably varied, and includes the choice and collection of appropriate language data for analysis of specific questions; exercises involving the application of theory in the analysis of some language data that is provided or has been collected by you; written reports on small supported research projects; individual presentations; textual analyses; as well as some traditional academic essays that encourage you to synthesise your reading with a sustained and coherent argument. All summative assessments receive written feedback. Formative assessment may receive written or oral feedback. Synoptic assessments in the tutorial and dissertation modules link work from across modules, and so encourage you to demonstrate your deeper understanding of the subject as a whole.

The variety of assessment means that different tasks will include different word limits. Each piece of assessment is appropriate to the module and the other learning activities on that module and to the course overall, but also as part of our commitment to EDI. Well before the due date, a full assignment brief is provided containing clear guidance and detailed marking criteria that establishes exactly what is expected, how it will be marked, and how the assessment contributes to your learning.

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	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
4ENGL001W	English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 1	Core	1	20	10
4ENGL002W	Introducing English Language	Core	1	20	10
4LING001W	Exploring Language	Core	2	40	20
4ENGL007W	World Varieties of English	Core	Various	20	10
4ENGL003W	Language and Text	Option	Various	20	10
		Elective	Various	20	10

Level 5

In addition to the core Tutorial module, students must choose three out of the four 'core option' modules Language Structure, Spoken Discourse Analysis, History of the English Language, and Meaning in Language (= 80 total Core credits)

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
5ENGL003W	English Language and Linguistics Tutorial 2	Core	3	20	10
5LING004W	Language Structure	Option	3	20	10
5LANS010W	Spoken Discourse Analysis	Option	3	20	10
5LANS011W	History of the English Language	Option	4	20	10
5LING005W	Meaning in Language	Option	5	20	10
5LING003W	Child Language Acquisition	Option	Various	20	10
5ENGL004W	Language and Literary Style	Option	Various	20	10
5TEED001W	Teaching and Education 1: An Introduction	Option	Various	20	10
		Elective	Various	20	10

Additional Year

The two semester-long 'Humanities Year Abroad Study Placement', OR two semester-long 'Humanities Year Abroad Work Placement', OR one semester-long 'Humanities Year Abroad Study Placement' AND one semester-long 'Humanities Year Abroad Work Placement' module must be passed in order to receive the award title "with International Experience".

The two semester-long 'Humanities UK-based Work Placement modules below must be passed in order to receive the award title "with Professional Experience".

One two semester-long 'Humanities Year Abroad Study Placement' OR one semester-long 'Humanities Year Abroad Work Placement', AND one semester-long 'Humanities UK-based Work Placement' module must be passed in order to receive the award title "with Professional and International Experience".

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5HUMS001W	Humanities UK-based Work Placement (Semester 1)	Core	60	30
5HUMS002W	Humanities UK-based Work Placement (Semester 2)	Core	60	30
5ENGL006W	Humanities Year Abroad Study Placement (Semester 1)	Option	60	30
5ENGL007W	Humanities Year Abroad Study Placement (Semester 2)	Option	60	30
	Humanities Year Abroad Work Placement (Semester 1)	Option	60	30
	Humanities Year Abroad Work Placement (Semester 2)	Option	60	30

Level 6

Topics in Applied Linguistics (40 credits, semester 2) and Topics in Theoretical Linguistics (40 credits, semester 1) are 'core options'; students must choose at least one and combine this with one of the 'core option' modules Subjects in Theoretical Linguistics or Subjects in Applied Linguistics (both 20 credits) in the other semester. This, in addition to the dissertation module 6ENGL001W, constitutes 80 credits of core modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
6ENGL001W	English Language and Linguistics Dissertation	Core	Various	20	10
6LING007W	Subjects in Applied Linguistics	Option	Various	20	10
6LING006W	Subjects in Theoretical Linguistics	Option	Various	20	10

Module Code	Module Title	Status	PT Year (where applicable)	UK credit	ECTS
6TEED001W	Teaching and Education 2: Theory to Practice	Option	Various	20	10
6LING004W	Topics in Applied Linguistics	Option	Various	40	20
6LING005W	Topics in Theoretical Linguistics	Option	Various	40	20
6ENGL004W	Work Placement for Humanities	Option	Various	20	10
		Elective	Various	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

N/A

Course management

The degree has a designated course leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation during weekly student consultation hours throughout the year or by appointment. During March of the first and second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff. Individual modules each have a module leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module leaders are available during term-time during their student consultation hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA hons degrees in the department of English, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies. At levels 4 and 5 of the course (years 1 and 2), you will have a designated personal tutor to whom you may turn for general personal and academic advice. In the final year, you will be provided with a supervisor on your dissertation module with whom you will have individual supervisions.

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. 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 – 2022©

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