



Westminster Industry Exchange Network (IXN) FAQ's



About the University of Westminster

Since its inception as The Polytechnic Institution in 1838, the University of Westminster has been providing students with academic excellence and personal enrichment. With a student population of over 20,000 from over 160 nations, the University has one of the most diverse, multicultural student bodies in the world. The University of Westminster was ranked second for its contribution to social mobility¹. With our continued dedication to improving the outcomes of our students, the University has embedded work-based learning modules (WBL) into all our courses as part of our Employability Strategy.

The University has a wide range of both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Computing which receives fantastic academic support from staff who are experts in their subjects.

¹<https://ifs.org.uk/news/english-universities-ranked-their-contributions-social-mobility-and-least-selective-post-1992>



What is the Westminster IXN programme?

The Westminster IXN is a voluntary collaborative programme between the School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Westminster and participating organisations. The programme is designed to support our work-based learning strategy. It uses a project-based educational methodology, adapted from the UCL IXN methodology, that enables students to work on real-world problems as assessed components of their degree programmes.

What are some of the benefits for joining the Westminster IXN?

- Test your ideas by getting curious minds to develop proof-of-concept solutions.
- Promote your organisation to a diverse range of talented students who will soon join the workforce.
- Gain publicity through the communications of the University via their website, social networks and other media.
- Connect with academics to help support and shape the learning of the future workforce.

Who can be a part of the Westminster IXN?

Organisations of any type and any size can join the Westminster IXN, however, organisations must be registered with either Companies House or the Charity Commission. Companies must be able to assign one mentor from their organisation to each project that they are providing. The mentor needs to specialise in the project field or have the technical expertise for the project.

Organisations can join the network with a small number of projects (typically 1 or 2) as a pilot to ensure that the experience is beneficial to all parties involved. After the pilot, organisations may continue with the network with multiple projects.



What type of project(s) work for the Westminster IXN?

Projects around the following topics will be of interest to the students and academics:

- Big Data Analytics
- Cyber Security
- Data Exploration and Visualisation
- Data Mining and Machine Learning
- Games Development
- Systems Analysis and Design
- Systems Engineering and Robotics
- Web Application Development

What are the requirements for a project proposal?

All projects are part of a module in an undergraduate or postgraduate degree, that will typically take place during the student(s) second or final year. Depending on the level, these modules typically last one or two semesters during the academic year.

IXN projects must be recognised as proof-of-concept projects in planning, design or implementation, and not intended for deployment. The projects are undertaken by students who are learning, and not by qualified developers or teams. Therefore, the projects should be as low risk to the organisations as possible without the organisation depending on its success.

It is best practice to form project specifications that can be done by students remotely or at University sites.



How do I make a project proposal for the Westminster IXN?

Organisations that want to propose a project will need to fill in and submit the **Westminster IXN Project Proposal Form**. This form provides the details of the organisation and the proposed project.

The University's Ethics process and GDPR guidelines will be followed in all projects.

If you have any questions regarding IP, please email: ixn@westminster.ac.uk

Can I get help with writing a project proposal?

If you would like assistance aligning your project proposal(s) with our IXN programme, please email ixn@westminster.ac.uk and we will put you in contact with the appropriate member of the academic team.

What happens once I submit a project proposal?

Once we receive your project proposal, a member of the team will review it and will let you know the outcome. Should further revisions be required, you will be put in contact with a member of the academic team.

As soon as your project proposal has been approved, you will be invited to sign a Framework Agreement. The agreement is put in place to specify the responsibilities of the university and the organisation with respect to the project.

What is the deadline for submitting a project proposal?

For our Level 5 students, the deadline to submit a project proposal is mid October. For our Final-Year Project students the deadline is mid February.

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