

## Course record information

<b>Name and level of final award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Science with Honours - Biochemistry</li> <li>• Bachelor of Science with Honours - Biochemistry with Professional Experience</li> <li>• Bachelor of Science with Honours - Biochemistry with International Experience</li> </ul> <p>The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible</p>
<b>Name and level of intermediate awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Science (BSc) - Biochemistry</li> <li>• Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - Biochemistry</li> <li>• Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - Biochemistry</li> </ul>
<b>Awarding body/institution</b>	University of Westminster
<b>Teaching institution</b>	University of Westminster
<b>Status of awarding body/institution</b>	Recognised Body
<b>Location of delivery</b>	Primary: Central London
<b>Language of delivery and assessment</b>	English
<b>QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</b>	Biosciences <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-biosciences.pdf?sfvrsn=21f2c881_4">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-biosciences.pdf?sfvrsn=21f2c881_4</a>
<b>Professional statutory or regulatory body</b>	Accredited by the Royal Society of Biology <a href="https://www.rsb.org.uk/">https://www.rsb.org.uk/</a>
<b>Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSc Biochemistry FT, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement</li> </ul>
<b>Valid for cohorts</b>	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

Biochemistry has become central to many modern biological and biomedical science disciplines, providing powerful tools for understanding the genetic and chemical basis of life and solutions to many of the problems humanity currently faces. The Biochemistry course at the University for Westminster is intended for students interested in the biochemical and molecular mechanisms by which living organisms function and the application of this knowledge in a range of areas, including healthcare, biotechnology, environmental science and food security. It will be of interest to students with an interest in both biology and chemistry who want a flexible degree that will equip them for a wide range of careers in science, as well as in other areas requiring analytical and problem solving skills such as teaching, industry and scientific communication.

The BSc (Hons) Biochemistry 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 solid grounding in biochemistry as well as the skills required to expand upon their subject knowledge and keep pace with new developments.
- Enable students to critically, rigorously and logically analyse problems and arguments.
- Enable students to contextualise scientific knowledge and opinion within a historical, geographical and cultural framework, referencing current expected standards of equality, diversity and inclusivity
- Develop student's ability to analyse and interpret numerical and non-numerical data using appropriate mathematical and statistical tools.
- Prepare students to apply their skills and subject knowledge to the challenges facing the world now and in the future, and to do this professionally, ethically and sustainably.
- Prepare students for postgraduate study and equip them to work as a researcher in the field of biochemistry by developing skills in an appropriate range of laboratory and other research techniques.
- Develop transferable skills and awareness of how these may be applied to a wide range of graduate careers and professional working environments.
- 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.
- Develop students as creative problem solvers in the design of solutions to help overcome global challenges by the application of their subject specific and transferable skills and knowledge to drive these solutions for sustainable development

## 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). Graduates from the BSc. Biochemistry programme will have also received hands on training in cutting edge techniques of gene editing, currently amongst the most powerful tools for research and innovation in the biological sciences. 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.

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.

The BSc (Hons) Biochemistry course aims to create graduates who are:

- Knowledgeable in their subject and able to expand upon that knowledge
- Problem solvers who are curious, flexible, rigorous and willing to trust to their own initiative
- Aware of the importance of their discipline in shaping the modern world and its role in providing solutions for the problems we face
- Able to consider all perspectives and to collaborate with others with different skills and areas of expertise
- Professional and principled in their outlook

This course will give you the skills and knowledge to establish yourself in a range of careers related to biochemistry, including the pharmaceutical, diagnostic and water industries and can form a foundation for further study or a career in the life sciences. However, Biochemistry graduates are also scientifically literate, capable of logical and critical analysis and numerate and these abilities as well as transferrable skills developed during your time at Westminster such as written and oral communication, use of information technology and the ability to work in teams will prepare you for a wide range of graduate careers and professions.

## 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 basic understanding of the molecules involved in biochemical processes and their underlying chemistry and relate this knowledge to cells and whole organisms. ( KU )

- CLO4.2 Understand the nature of scientific knowledge and the importance of designing research programmes to effectively and critically test hypotheses and to conduct simple experiments using key equipment and techniques. ( KU GA )
- CLO4.3 Recognise key issues in presenting and interpreting numerical data and correctly complete key basic chemical and biochemical calculations ( KU GA KTS )
- CLO4.4 Understand how scientists communicate their findings, and identify appropriate scientific sources related to specific problems. ( GA KTS CS )
- CLO4.5 Prepare short written pieces and presentations using clear and correct English appropriate to its context. ( GA PPP )
- CLO4.6 Understand how the knowledge and critical and analytical skills that a science degree develops can be used to generate creative solutions to wide range of problems in many career paths. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO4.7 Appreciate the importance of multidisciplinary approaches in the modern workplace and be able to work in groups to complete tasks effectively. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO4.8 Understand the principles of scientific practice including the importance of professional standards, ethical conduct and sustainability as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals in all aspects of scientific and professional life. ( GA PPP )
- CLO4.9 Understand that scientific theories are shaped by the historical and social context in which they are developed. ( KU GA PPP )

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

- CLO5.1 Demonstrate an understanding of key metabolic processes and of genes and gene expression in living organisms and of the evolutionary basis of gene and protein sequences. ( KU GA )
- CLO5.2 Plan a rigorous and thorough biochemical research programme to address a specific question and complete a short series of experiments to test a hypothesis. ( KU GA )
- CLO5.3 Apply the principles of statistical analysis to selection of appropriate mathematical and statistical tools and mathematical and graphical analysis of biochemical data. ( KU GA CS )
- CLO5.4 Identify and comprehend multiple scientific sources in the scientific literature and in databases and develop reasoned conclusions based upon the information they present. ( GA KTS CS )
- CLO5.5 Identify key points for communication and then to clearly and cogently present them in correct and appropriate English. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO5.6 Identify how scientific training and skills can be used to solve problems, and to plan a career based upon these skills. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO5.7 Work in organised and structured groups to plan and complete tasks. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO5.8 Work within the norms of the scientific and other professional communities and be aware of the social and ethical responsibilities that this involves. ( GA PPP )
- CLO5.9 Realise that progress in science requires questioning of assumptions, that this requires dialogue between different viewpoints, and therefore has often been a result of sharing of ideas between cultures. ( GA PPP )

**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 detailed understanding of the relationship between structure and function for molecules, reactions and processes that underlie life on Earth and place them in their biological context ( KU GA )
- CLO6.2 Design and execute a programme of work, selecting and utilising appropriate resources and techniques to solve a problem such as a biochemical research programme to test hypotheses and thereby expand upon current knowledge. ( GA KTS CS )
- CLO6.3 Analyse and interpret complex numerical and non-numerical data using appropriate mathematical and statistical tools and clearly present data so that they support reasoned conclusions. ( GA KTS CS )
- CLO6.4 Identify, critically evaluate and synthesise multiple sources of information to expand and develop knowledge and understanding in biochemistry and related disciplines. ( KU GA CS )
- CLO6.5 Communicate complex arguments in an accessible and accurate manner to both specialists and non-specialists in clear, correct and appropriate English. ( KU GA KTS )
- CLO6.6 Propose ways in which scientific knowledge and skills can be used to solve problems and how they will form a basis for developing a career. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO6.7 Plan and work in groups to achieve common goals dividing tasks and allocating roles to maximise efficiency and take full advantage of the diversity of skills, knowledge and creativity in the group. ( GA PPP KTS )
- CLO6.8 Treat all individuals and cultures with respect and acknowledge the harm that results and has resulted from not doing so, and act as a responsible and compassionate member of local and global communities. ( GA PPP )
- CLO6.9 Recognise and reflect upon the ethical and social implications of current and historical scientific research and knowledge. In turn, appreciate the value of drawing upon diverse approaches and perspectives in achieving goals. ( KU GA PPP )

## How will you learn?

### Learning methods

In this degree you will receive thorough training in biochemistry, molecular biology and in biochemical laboratory techniques and research tools. A core component will involve planning and undertake a project of your own, such as a short programme of biochemical research.

Biochemistry is a pivotal degree discipline in the modern world and is fundamental to most of the biological sciences. Therefore biochemistry is intrinsically multidisciplinary and central to research and technological advances in many areas including the pharmaceutical industry, medical research, environmental technologies and food security. This is reflected in a range of option modules that allow you to develop your own specific interests. Our Biochemistry graduates also possess a range of analytical and problem solving skills, as well as being able to communicate effectively and work within larger teams and are well prepared for a range of careers both in science and in other fields.

Online resources will be provided where possible to help support you in your learning and most modules will make substantial use of blended learning approaches. You will be also be expected to seek out resources beyond the taught material and will be supported in working independently to consolidate and enhance your understanding of the topics being taught and in completing exercises.

The scheduled / supervised time represents only a proportion of study for each module (approximately one third overall). The remaining time is self-managed. This will give you the scope to develop your own interests, knowledge and understanding as independent learners, and to gain the autonomy and initiative required of you in professional life.

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 for the BSc Biochemistry course will be a mixture of online and face to face teaching, independent work, laboratory work and training and online support activities, many of which will be recorded so that you are able to refer back to them. Teaching sessions will take the form of larger group lectures and smaller group activities such as enquiry (problem) based learning sessions, seminars, tutorials, practicals and and “flipped learning” sessions in which you use online material to prepare for tutorials in which academics guide you in the application of what you have learned.

Laboratory skills are critical for a biochemist and the Biochemistry course at Westminster includes a strong programme of laboratory sessions including an introduction to cutting edge gene-editing techniques in your final year. Such practical sessions will take place in the teaching laboratories at the New Cavendish Street site. Likewise, computer based techniques are increasingly important to biochemistry and related fields so you will also receive hands on training in bioinformatics.

In your final year project, you will plan and complete a "capstone" piece of independent work supported by focused tuition with your supervisor. This would often involve designing and carrying out a short programme of biochemical research at the New Cavendish Street site, but you will be able to choose from a range of alternatives to suit your aptitudes and career aspirations.

## Assessment methods

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 help you to do well in the summative assessments). You will also receive informal feedback in discussions with academic staff in tutorials and other sessions. This will include immediate guidance on how to improve your technical skills and laboratory practice during practicals and small group sessions discussing your final year project with your project supervisor.

Biochemistry graduates are expected to display a range of skills and personal qualities as well as knowledge of biochemistry and related disciplines and this is reflected in use of a number of diverse assessment types during your degree. Most of your assessments are based upon the types of activities required in professional life and include posters and other presentations, wikis and blogs and data analysis and interpretation exercises as well as essays and in-class tests. In-class tests will often be based on multiple choice questions and will be used when it is necessary to test your knowledge and understanding. However, your skill in problem solving, analysing and interpreting data and carrying out calculations are also sometimes tested in this way.

Laboratory skills are a fundamental aspect of professional practice for a biochemist and both formative and summative practical based assessments will test your ability to work accurately, effectively and safely while 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, presentations or passages in a laboratory notebook. Working in groups or teams is essential in 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 programme of work appropriate to your degree, such as a short research programme. This will bring together multiple aspects of your degree and provides direct evidence of your ability to work independently as a professional.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	CLO4.2, CLO4.3, CLO5.1, CLO5.2, CLO5.3, CLO5.4, CLO5.5, CLO6.1, CLO6.2, CLO6.3, CLO6.4, CLO6.5, IEO.1, PEO.2
Literate and effective communicator	CLO4.4, CLO4.5, CLO5.5, CLO5.7, CLO6.3, CLO6.4, CLO6.5, IEO.3, PEO.2, PEO.3
Entrepreneurial	CLO4.6, CLO4.7, CLO5.6, CLO5.7, CLO6.6, CLO6.7, PEO.3
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO4.4, CLO4.6, CLO4.7, CLO4.9, CLO5.8, CLO5.9, CLO6.6, CLO6.8, CLO6.9, IEO.2, IEO.3, PEO.1, PEO.2, PEO.3
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO4.8, CLO4.9, CLO5.8, CLO5.9, CLO6.7, CLO6.8, CLO6.9, IEO.2, IEO.3, PEO.2

## 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

Note that the majority of options offered will run as core modules in other cognate courses.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4BICH001W	Biochemistry	Core	20	10
4BICH002W	Biological Chemistry	Core	20	10
4BIOL002W	Cell Biology	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
4PHYM002W	Fundamentals of Pharmacology	Option	20	10
4BICH003W	Science: History Philosophy and Practice	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

## Level 5

Note that the majority of options offered will run as core modules in other cognate courses.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5BICH001W	Metabolic Biochemistry	Core	20	10
5BICH003W	Molecular Biology and Genetics	Core	20	10
5BICH004W	Proteins and Enzymes	Core	20	10
5BIOM010W	Research Methods	Core	20	10
5BICH002W	Bioinformatics	Option	20	10
5EVBI001W	Contemporary Global Challenges in Biology	Option	20	10
5PHYM003W	Experimental and Therapeutic Pharmacology	Option	20	10
5BIOL001W	Exploring the Microbial World	Option	20	10
5BIOM002W	Genetics in Medicine	Option	20	10
5BIOM009W	Human Parasitology	Option	20	10
5PHYM001W	Medical Physiology	Option	20	10
5BIOM003W	Molecular and Cellular Therapeutics	Option	20	10
5PHYM007W	Neuroscience	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

## Additional Year

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

Note that the majority of options offered will run as core modules in other cognate courses.



Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6BICH003W	Final Year Project in Life Sciences	Core	40	20
6BICH004W	Gene Editing and Genomics	Core	20	10
6BIOL002W	Life: Origins and Evolution	Core	20	10
6PHYM003W	Advanced Physiology and Pharmacology	Option	20	10
6BIOL003W	Applied Biotechnology	Option	20	10
6BIOM007W	Cancer Biology	Option	20	10
6BIOL001W	Designing a Sustainable World	Option	20	10
6PHYM004W	Drug Discovery: Bench to Bedside	Option	20	10
6EVBIO01W	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

The BSc (Hons) Biochemistry 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. At the time of publication students on an RSB accredited course are eligible for a free [Student Affiliate membership](#) for the duration of their studies and once graduated from an accredited degree, are entitled to a 50% discount on [Associate membership](#) of the RSB for two years.

## 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](http://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

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