

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BSc Honours Business Economics BSc Honours Business Economics with international experience BSc Honours Business Economics with professional experience The BSc Business Economics is a BSc degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards:	BSc Business Economics Diploma of Higher Education in Business Economics Certificate of Higher Education in Business Economics
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time. Four years full time if including one year international or one year professional experience. September start.
<u>QAA subject benchmarking group(s):</u>	Economics
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	
Date of course validation/review:	March 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	March 2021
Valid for cohorts :	from 2021-22
Course Leader	Karen Kufuor
UCAS code and URL:	http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

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.

westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

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: westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

Knowledge of economics and the unique insights it offers into how individuals, firms and organisations operate and interact is invaluable in a complex and rapidly changing world; as is the ability to communicate this understanding, in different formats and using a range of tools, to specialists and non-specialists. This course combines a thorough grounding in the discipline of economics, with a range of practical skills required in professional life and for postgraduate studies. The course also reflects the increasingly significant role that economics plays in analysing and informing management decisions in business, industry, public and voluntary sectors. You will develop your ability to apply economic reasoning to real-world business and public policy issues. You will become confident in applying modern methods of economic and business analysis to inform business and organisational decision making, solve practical business and economic problems, undertake research and consultancy, and to contribute to the design and implementation of economic policy by government agencies. You will also extend your skills in data gathering and interpretation, quantitative analysis and forecasting, become global in outlook and socially, environmentally and ethically aware.

The Course aims to:

- develop the knowledge, skills and capabilities you require to respond proactively and creatively to contemporary business issues and the challenges of the global business environment;
- provide a theoretical and conceptual platform which will equip you for progression into a programme of specialist postgraduate study;
- help you to develop a range of intellectual, professional attributes and transferable skills such as team working, problem-solving, research, critical and creative thinking and communication that will enable you to gain employment in economic or related business fields;
- help you to develop the resilience to perform under pressure, to continue to strive towards a solution in adverse circumstances and to use feedback to find a way through to a successful outcome;
- produce graduates who understand historical and current debates in economics and have an appreciation of the significance of past events in shaping contemporary economic thought and policy approaches so have the flexibility to adapt to the rapid changes in society;
- equip you with a critical understanding of global diversity in business practice, culture, social responsibility and ethics.

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** of how businesses operate that you will gain from your course (KU).

- **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)
- **Graduate attributes** are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA).

Level 4 Course Outcomes

Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to:

- L4.1** Work effectively in a group, meeting obligations to other group members while demonstrating an understanding of the characteristics, functions and processes of business organisations and economies in a global context (KU)
- L4.2** Demonstrate an understanding of the efficient allocation and utilisation of scarce resources by households, enterprises and governments in a globalised world and critically evaluate the consequences of related decisions for business and social outcomes (KU)
- L4.3** Show an understanding of historical and current debates in economics and an appreciation of the significance of past events in shaping contemporary economic thought and policy approaches (KU).
- L4.4** Apply research skills including the ability to collect, categorise and analyse economic, financial and social data from a variety of sources and structure a coherent argument with conclusions linked to evidence (KTS)
- L4.5** Use the tools of economic analysis, including an understanding of mathematical techniques and the impact of risk and uncertainty, to solve real world economic problems (KTS)
- L4.6** Communicate effectively in an appropriate format, and in a clear and concise manner using a range of communication tools, which are widely used in business (KTS)
- L4.7** Access and use a range of information tools and understand how to work safely and securely in an online environment (KTS)
- L4.8** Develop logical economic thinking and the ability to identify an economic problem and frame an economic argument, even if it is presented in language typical of another discipline. (KTS)
- L4.9** Explore different cultures, values, beliefs and conventions and show an awareness of ethical constraints and dilemmas in relation to personal beliefs and values.

Level 5 Course Outcomes

Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to:

- L5.1** Apply microeconomic analysis to assess the consequences of decisions on the allocation of resources on firms' outcomes and the impact of those decisions on consumers (KU)
- L5.2** Compare and contrast the economic performance of different countries, by critically evaluating the options available to government agencies and by making rational policy choices based on the application of economic principles and an appreciation of past historical economic events (KU)
- L5.3** Apply the tools of economic analysis to a range of problems and identify the economic dimension in a real world problem.
- L5.4** Mobilise appropriate tools of analysis to tackle issues and problems of economic decision making and policy through a range of generic skills, analytical skills and the selection and use of appropriate techniques.
- L5.5** Manage and plan for risk, uncertainty and complexity when solving real world problems in a logical and systematic way (KTS).
- L5.6** Communicate effectively in an appropriate medium and style with regards to audience and desired emotional effect including the presentation of economic, social and financial data (KTS)

- L5.7** Demonstrate confidence in the handling of economic, social and financial data and the application of quantitative techniques to solve real world problems and make intelligent inferences based on the results (PPP).
- L5.8** Identify career opportunities and critically assess your own skills and attributes against requirements for future employment in economics (GA)
- L5.9** Demonstrate the ability to reflect on your own experience and learning, and apply this to planning future development (GA)

Level 6 Course Outcomes

Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to:

- L6.1** Work collaboratively to apply a cross-cultural perspective on the operational and strategic position of organisations and critically examine policies and strategies that managers may adopt to help organisations adapt in increasingly complex internal and external environments in a global context (KU)
- L6.2** Critically apply appropriate tools of analysis to tackle real world economic problems using a range of generic and analytical skills, and by managing and planning for risk, uncertainty and complexity in conditions of limited knowledge.(KTS)
- L6.3** Challenge, critique and synthesise existing economic theories and analysis to create new approaches to economic problem-solving. (KTS)
- L6.4** Demonstrate competence and confidence in the application of quantitative techniques, including appropriate mathematical and statistical methods and econometrics, using actual economic, financial or social data.(PPP)
- L6.5** Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make your own judgements and formulate a complex argument within a given theoretical and contextual framework (KTS)
- L6.6** Apply modern methods of business and economic analysis, and display a high degree of digital literacy, numeracy and confidence in data handling, in order to inform business and organisational decision making, and the design and implementation of economic policy by government agencies. (PPP)
- L6.7** Reflect on outcomes, processes, the experience of others and your own experience to improve performance and to effectively manage personal development (GA)
- L6.8** Demonstrate professional oral, written, communication and interpersonal skills which are directly relevant to employment in the field of economics and business (GA)

How will you learn?

The BSc Business Economics emphasises *active* student learning through seminars, workshops, problem-based and blended learning designed to engage your interest. Employability and enterprise are strongly embedded in the modules through the use of practical activities. Course material will be provided electronically through the virtual learning environment platform (Blackboard) which means you can access learning material when and where you want. Blackboard also allows you to communicate with your group members and your module leader through wikis and blogs.

You will be encouraged to work in groups with other students (we often call these 'learning sets') during seminars and for any non-assessed purpose, including revision and examination preparation. This gives you the opportunity to learn from one another and helps you to value the views of others and to learn to give and receive constructive feedback.

The Level 4 core module 4BUSS008W Global Business Environment is an integrating module which draws together your knowledge to see the bigger picture of how businesses operate locally and globally. It uses problem-based learning: working in teams, you identify what you need to know, what you already know, and how and where to access new information that may lead to a solution of the problem. This helps you to develop flexibility, knowledge, effective problem-solving skills, self-directed learning, collaboration skills and intrinsic motivation. We use a blended learning approach which combines the best of traditional face to face teaching methods such as seminars with the use

of on-line resources such as videos, tests and quizzes to improve your learning experience. Blended-learning is used by leading universities world-wide as it enables you to:

- have a degree of flexibility regarding when you study
- become an independent learner
- clarify confusing topics by reviewing videos of topics (as many times as required)
- help you to revise using multi-media resources and not just your own notes

Similarly, the final year module 6MNST008W Strategic Perspectives helps you to integrate and apply your knowledge from all areas of your degree through an online business simulation.

Employability and enterprise are strongly embedded in the core modules with the Level 5 core module 5ECON004W Applied Economic Research and Appraisal allowing you to reflect on your skills in relation to the current graduate labour market and to articulate personal goals and your personal development plan.

At Level 6 you will be expected to undertake substantial reading on all specialist subjects; this is good practice for the continuing professional development expected by employers as well as for those of you who may be planning to continue on to postgraduate study.

Teaching will be informed by our research so giving you the benefit of the knowledge of current theories and, where appropriate, their practical application.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is an integral part of your learning process. It is designed to promote initiative and creativity, critical thinking, structure of coherent arguments, evaluation, research and analysis, professional communication skills, effective group work, personal reflection, time- management, the ability to meet deadlines, and ability to work under pressure. It is not merely about giving and receiving a mark: rather to ensure that your competences and abilities in economics are enhanced.

Every module incorporates 'formative assessment' which you are expected to complete as it provides you with useful feedback, so you can reflect on your progress and act on the feedback to prepare for the assessments that count. Formative assessments are important to you as they help you to identify ways in which you can improve and areas of strength to be developed further.

Summative assessment will measure your individual learning and achievement. You can expect to be assessed on the learning outcomes of your course in core modules through coursework in the form of essays, reports, presentations, case studies as well as time-constrained in-class tests and exams. Weightings for each assessment element will vary to reflect the nature and level of the module.

Exams show a future employer your ability to work under pressure, so you are expected to complete them. Exams will normally be unseen and involve analysis and not merely repeating factual information. Papers may include multiple choice, short answer, essay or data handling sections. Some may use a seen case study. Others require you to complete time-constrained assessments closely linked to professional practice; for example, Econometrics uses an online in-tray exercise to reflect the type of work you will meet as an Economist. This allows you to demonstrate your learning in a variety of ways.

Our employers tell us that the ability to work effectively as part of a team is an essential skill which they expect graduates to have. In relation to your degree, assessed group work is useful to you as it:

- helps you to become more self-aware, self-critical and self-analytical
- improves the quality of your work by benefiting from the integration of diverse perspectives
- allows you to tackle tasks of greater complexity or carry out tasks in greater depth or breadth than would be the case if you had tackled it on your own

Consequently, assessed group work has been incorporated where it reflects the working practice in that professional area. However, there will be group assessment at level 6 only in the business simulation of the module 6MNST008W Strategic Perspectives.

In each year of your Course, you will complete ‘synoptic’ assessments which will encourage you to appreciate and apply the full breadth and depth of your knowledge by drawing connections between what you have learnt on different modules. At Level 4, in 4BUSS008W Global Business Environment, you will draw together your knowledge to see the bigger picture of how businesses operate locally and globally. At Level 5, in 5ECON004W Applied Economic Research and Appraisal, you will draw together your learning and skill development on the course and in your life experience. At Level 6, in 6MNST008W Strategic Perspectives, you will integrate and apply your accumulated knowledge from all areas of your degree through a business simulation.

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 and forward looking
- Global in outlook and engaged in diverse communities
- Social, ethically and environmentally aware

These Graduate Attributes are designed to help you enhance your employability when you leave with a degree in Business Economics. They are aligned to the Course Outcomes as follows:

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

University of Westminster courses capitalise on the benefits that London as a global city and as a major cosmopolitan creative, intellectual and technology hub has to offer for the learning environment and experience of our students.

The course will enhance your employability as business analysts or specialist economists, as well as equipping you for careers in management, in an international organisation, in banking, the financial sector more broadly, or the voluntary or public sector.

Organisations increasingly operate with teams of specialists, so require people who can

communicate effectively and can interact effectively within a team recognising and supporting leadership, being proactive in leadership, negotiating, and managing conflict. Organisations also rely on people who can work independently and remotely, using technology to overcome the traditional constraints of location, time and national boundaries. Graduates of the BSc Business Economics degree will be well equipped to meet these challenges.

Employers of our graduates expect you to have skills of critical thinking, analysis and synthesis; effective communication using varied technology and media; quantitative aptitude and effective problem solving; reflective, adaptive and collaborative learning; motivation and initiative. Employability and enterprise are strongly embedded in the core modules.

We provide the opportunity for all students to undertake an optional one-year work placement to add value to the student experience. Every student is allocated a Personal & Professional Development Tutor (PPDT) in their first year who will not only provide tutorial guidance from the start of your degree but will work with you to identify, develop and articulate your employability skills in your Personal Development Plan which will be closely linked to activities in core modules. The aim is to help you to gain an internship or work placement and future graduate employment. There is also a designated team of advisors who have effective links with industry and will support you to find a relevant placement.

You will also have the opportunity to spend a year studying at one of our overseas partner Universities or you may combine a semester of study with a one-semester work placement overseas. This is not only an exciting experience for you; it helps you to develop a global outlook which is valued by most employers.

Graduates of the BSc (Hons) Business Economics course are equipped to follow a variety of careers in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Past graduates have found successful employment as: management trainees, investment bankers, professional accountants and the Government Economic Service.

Increasing numbers of students progress to further study on graduation: either taking professional qualifications (in accountancy, finance, for example) or proceed to a specialist Masters degree in the Economics area.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students usually study 120 UK (60 ECTS) 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 ones that must be undertaken by all students on the course.
- **Option** modules are related to your specific course from which you must choose at least one at Level 5 and one at Level 6.
- **WBS UG Programme options** include: the course options and options from other courses (subject to pre-requisite requirements and availability).
- **Westminster electives:** are modules from across the whole University which allow you to broaden your experience. For example, 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.

BSc (Hons) Business Economics.

COURSE STRUCTURE TABLE				
Credit Level 4				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4BUSS008W	Global Business Environment	Core	20	10
4ECON001W	Exploring Microeconomics	Core	20	10
4ECON002W	The Macroeconomic Framework	Core	20	10
4ECON003W	Quantitative Economic Analysis	Core	20	10
4ECON004W	Crises and Controversies in Economics	Core	20	10
Select 1 from:				
4ECON015W	Introduction to Financial Economics	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
<i>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</i>				
Credit Level 5				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5ECON009W	Applied Economic Research and Appraisal	Core	20	10
5ECON002W	Managerial Economics: Firms and Markets	Core	20	10
5ECON003W	Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	Core	20	10
5ECON004W	Analysis of Economic and Business Data	Core	20	10
Select 1 or 2 from:				
5ECON005W	Money Banking and Financial Markets	Option	20	10
5ECON006W	Global Economic Issues	Option	20	10
5ECON007W	Information and Digital Economics	Option	20	10
Max 1 from:	Elective	Elective	20	10
<i>Award of Diploma of Higher Education available</i>				
Optional Year Abroad or Placement Year				
The following modules must be passed for the award title 'with International Experience'				
5BUSS013W	WBS International Experience Year Semester 1	Option	60	30
5BUSS014W	WBS International Experience Year Semester 2	Option	60	30
The following modules must be passed for the award title 'with Professional Experience'				
5BUSS011W	Professional Placement Project Part 1	Option	60	30
5BUSS012W	Professional Placement Project Part 2	Option	60	30
Credit Level 6				
6MNST008W	Strategic Perspectives	Core	20	10
6ECON001W	Economics of Public Policy	Core	20	10
6ECON002W	Contemporary Debates in Macroeconomics	Core	20	10
6ECON003W	Applied Econometrics	Core	20	10
Select 1 or 2 from:				
6ECON004W	Development Economics	Option	20	10
6ECON005W	International Economics	Option	20	10

6ECON006W	Forecasting for Managers	Option	20	10
6BUSS004W	Dissertation	Option	20	10
Max 1 from:	Elective	Elective	20	10
<i>Award BA available</i>				
<i>Award BA (Hons) available</i>				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one academic year

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

N/A.

Academic regulations

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

How will you be supported in your studies?

Course Management

The BSc (Hons) Business Economics degree has a designated Course Leader whom you will meet during your first week and who is available for consultation during weekly office hours throughout the year or by appointment. You take modules, normally in common with students from your course, which each have a Module Leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module Leaders are usually available during term-time during their office hours or by appointment. The degree is one of a number offered by Westminster Business School and you will be part of a vibrant academic community with access to a full programme of additional seminars and social events organised by our student societies. At all levels of your university study you will have a Personal and Professional Development Tutor who will help and guide you through the complexities of life at University.

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 Faculty Registry Office. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Your course has a designated course leader, who provides advice on course academic enquiries. 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 you access your course materials and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

Learning Support

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, you have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments.

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). You can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. You 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 Westminster Business School. You can also securely connect your own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student Affairs 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. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support you during your time at the University.

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

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2015. The panel included internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university and a representative from industry. This helps to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers.

The course is also monitored each year by the Faculty 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 outcomes from Course Committees, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. Each Faculty puts in to place an action plan. This may for example include making changes on the way the module is taught, assessed or even how the course is structured in order to improve the course, in such cases an approval process is in place.

A Course review 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 review panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years e.g. from Course Committees 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 Course Committees students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Student representatives are elected to Committee to expressly represent the views of their peer. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the student representatives.
- Each Faculty also has its own Faculty Student Forum with student representatives; this enables wider discussions across the Faculty. Student representatives are also represented on key Faculty 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.
- The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey which seeks the opinions of students about their course and University experience. Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league table.

Please note: 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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

