PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	**BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice** The BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice is a BA (Hons) degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	BA Contemporary Media Practice Diploma of HE Contemporary Media Practice Certificate of HE Contemporary Media Practice
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Westminster School of Media Arts and Design (Harrow)
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years (full time). September start.
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies with additional consideration of Art and Design
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	21 July 2016
Date of programme specification approval:	January 2017
Valid for cohorts:	September 2017
Course Leader	Chris Christodoulou
UCAS code	W900 / E900
Course URL	westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate
Westminster course code	BAPHT01F (FT)
JACS code	P300 (Media Studies)

Course Overview

Contemporary Media Practice is a unique course, built on our long tradition of teaching interdisciplinary media practice, working across moving image, photography and interactive media. Our approach combines the creative exploration of art school traditions with academic and professional excellence.

We are based in the Harrow campus of the University, allowing you to gain from the extraordinary vitality of the media and creative industries located in London. This allows you to experience the wealth of cultural life in London, and also gain work experience and build your professional networks (crucial for success in the media industries). We sustain a range of formal and informal partnerships with industry through visiting professionals, work experience, staff exchange and consultation.

To support you in your ambitions we have extensive industry-level facilities and equipment. The course is taught through a broad mix of lectures, group and individual tutorials, crits, and workshops, supporting the development of skills across media to a level equivalent to single-discipline courses. We use a variety of assessment methods, including practical projects, presentations, written work, blogs, websites, research tasks and portfolios. Approximately two thirds of assessments are practical work in various forms.

This course is designed to set high standards for professional achievement in specific media industry roles and prepare you for the challenge and opportunity of a multi-skilled portfolio career. The course sets a very positive value on your flexibility and creative capacity, and so our graduates have a high employment rate in many aspects of the media industries, including film direction, production, editing and visual effects; broadcast television; new media; commercial photography and photojournalism; curating and film programming; and fine art practice.

Graduates have gained employment or worked with numerous successful and high profile companies and organisations, including: BBC, Channel 4, ITV, Disney / Marvel, Mail on Sunday, The Times, Unruly Media, Guggenheim Museum, Red Bee Media, Vertigo Films, AirBnB and many more. Graduates have also gone on to postgraduate study at such prestigious institutions as: National Film and Television School, Royal College of Art, Columbia University (USA) and more.

The course has been in existence for over 25 years, and is continually updated to keep pace with the rapid change of the creative and media industries. Some illustrious graduates: Aaqil Ahmed (Head of Religion and Ethics, BBC); Anand Tucker (Film and TV Director and Producer); Ori Gersht (artist, exhibiting internationally); Holly Clarke (European Marketing Manager, AirBnB); Zed Nelson (photographer); Tom Roope (interactive and digital designer).

What are the minimum entry requirements for the course?

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate 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/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply

Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice has been designed to:

- Enable you to develop creative media production skills across a range of disciplines, such as film, video, photography and interactive media.
- Promote your ability to adapt to the creative opportunities that follow from the emergence of new media forms and hybrids.
- Develop your capacity to participate in contemporary cultural debates.
- Develop your awareness of the political, ethical & aesthetic implications of your work.
- Enable you to locate yourself within changing professional media contexts & practices globally, with an emphasis on the benefits of interdisciplinarity.
- Enable you to develop transferable skills applicable within a variety of media and other professional working environments.
- Prepare you for postgraduate study in related practical and theoretical disciplines.

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 (i.e. they describe the minimum pass level), and the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

- The overall **knowledge and understanding** 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. These are mapped against the Course Learning Outcomes below, in Table 1 (in the section Employment and further study opportunities).

Course learning outcomes are not delivered exclusively within individual modules, but the core modules identified in brackets below focus the delivery of particular course learning outcomes as shown.

We also offer a range of option modules (sometimes termed 'electives') at levels 4 and 5 to expand your skills and experience in specialised aspects of the course media. In addition most core practice (and some core theory) modules offer considerable choice and opportunity for specialisation within the same learning outcomes.

Note that individual modules have module-specific learning outcomes (identified in Module Proformas, which are published in the Course Handbook).

* Indicates an option module (a module that you choose)

Level 4 Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of level 4 you will be able to:

KU 4.1   Demonstrate awareness of a range of key media technologies, including for moving image, photography and interactive media (*Introduction to Contemporary Media Practice; Developing Contemporary Media Practice; Media Representations; Media Explorations**)

KU 4.2   Demonstrate awareness of the history of the media culture industries, and current developments arising from changing practices and technologies (*All level 4 modules*)

KU 4.3   Recognise the terminology and scope of theoretical study in the field of media culture (*Introduction to Contemporary Media Theory; Media Representations*)

PPP 4.1   Creatively employ a given range of media production practices, including moving image, photographic and interactive media (*Introduction to Contemporary Media Practice; Developing Contemporary Media Practice; Media Representations; Media Explorations**)

PPP 4.2   Employ given methods for the research, analysis and production of media products (*All level 4 modules*)

PPP 4.3   Develop and communicate ideas in response to defined themes and guidelines (*All level 4 modules*)

KTS 4.1   Communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, acknowledging academic standards, professional protocols and a range of audiences (*All level 4 modules*)

KTS 4.2   Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with external guidance (*All level 4 modules*)

KTS 4.3   Work effectively with other students as a member of a group, and meet obligations to your peers and to staff (*All level 4 modules*)

Level 5 learning outcomes: Upon completion of level 5 you will be able to:

KU 5.1   Demonstrate knowledge of one or more media technologies in depth, with an awareness of the interconnections between media practices (*Media Frontiers; Convergent Media; Transmedia Practices*; Art/Science Collaboration*; Creative Encounters*; Scriptwriting for Media**)

KU 5.2   Demonstrate awareness of current and emerging professional working practices and opportunities in the media industries (*Live Projects: Curating, Commissions and Work Experience*)

KU 5.3   Comprehend the major theories of media, culture and society, with some specialisation in one or more aspects (*Critical Perspectives on Media; Research & Synthesis*)

PPP 5.1   Creatively and proficiently use one or more negotiated media production practices, with an emerging ability to make use of the interrelationships between media (*Media Frontiers; Convergent Media; Transmedia Practices*; Art/Science Collaboration*; Creative Encounters*; Scriptwriting for Media**)

PPP 5.2   Employ planning strategies, conceptual development methods and critical tools which draw upon a range of traditions and media disciplines (*All level 5 modules*)

PPP 5.3   Identify a range of responses to broad themes and media-specific concerns, and select and communicate from this range (*Media Frontiers; Convergent Media; Transmedia Practices*; Art/Science Collaboration*; Creative Encounters*; Scriptwriting for Media*; Critical Perspectives on Media; Research & Synthesis*)

KTS 5.1   Effectively communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, engaging with academic standards, professional protocols and a range of audiences (*All Level 5 modules*)

KTS 5.2   Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, with limited guidance (*All Level 5 modules*)

KTS 5.3   Work effectively with others, demonstrating an ability to participate in an exchange of ideas and methods (*Media Frontiers; Convergent Media; Transmedia Practices*; Scriptwriting for Media*; Art/Science Collaboration*; Creative Encounters*; Live Projects: Curating, Commissions and Work Experience; Critical Perspectives on Media*)

Level 6 learning outcomes: Upon completion of level 6 you will be able to:

KU 6.1   Demonstrate knowledge of one or more media technologies in comprehensive depth, including a detailed awareness of the interdisciplinary overlaps between media practices (*Exploration & Pre-Production; Major Project*)

KU 6.2   Demonstrate awareness of graduation opportunities for employment or further study, including the requirement for adaptability in the changing media industries (*Professional Launchpad*)

KU 6.3   Understand encompassing and specialist theories of media, culture and society, with an awareness of the provisional nature of critical approaches in the discipline (*Extended Research Essay or Dissertation*)

PPP 6.1   Flexibly, creatively and enterprisingly apply one or more chosen media production practices, with an ability to appropriately make use of the interrelationships between media, and working to appropriate professional standards (*Exploration & Pre-Production; Major Project; Professional Launchpad*)

PPP 6.2   Use planning strategies, conceptual development methods and critical tools to produce work that is situated within and critically engages with contemporary professional media practices in diverse contexts (*All level 6 modules*)

PPP 6.3   Define themes, develop a range of complex and informed responses to those themes, and select and communicate appropriate solutions (*Exploration & Pre-Production; Major Project; Extended Research Essay or Dissertation*)

KTS 6.1   Effectively communicate in written, oral and audio-visual modes, meeting academic standards and professional protocols, and involving a range of audiences (*All Level 6 modules*)

KTS 6.2   Manage study time and information, taking responsibility for your own learning, and apply critical reflection to this process (*All Level 6 modules*)

KTS 6.3   Work effectively with others, recognising the varied contributions and roles that result in effective collaborative working, and offering of leadership or support as appropriate (*Exploration & Pre-Production; Major Project*)

How will you learn?

The course responds to the rapidly changing media industries, with their demand for multi-skilled professionals, and the emergence of new means to distribute media work. Our teaching and learning strategy is designed to reflect this, as the philosophy of the course is inherently *interdisciplinary*. We aim to provide you with a broad range of practical and conceptual knowledge and skills specific to the media studied, and also applicable to the wider skills required in the workplace. We also engage you with the broader ethical and social contexts that affect us all, and ask you to become an effective communicator through diverse media for local and global audiences. We thereby build your Graduate Attributes identified below, as well as your creative and technical skills as Contemporary Media Practitioners.

The teaching and learning methods on the course are directly related to the aims and learning outcomes identified above. We have designed the course to lead you from a broad understanding and skills across all course media and key theoretical concepts, to focused knowledge and skills in depth by the end of the course. At the point of graduation we also intend that you will have gained an ability to identify new and creative combinations of media, and importantly the professional opportunities open to you for your future careers.

To achieve these objectives we deliver a series of practical modules that support increasing depth of your skills and knowledge across the three years of the course. These develop innovative and creative possibilities both for specialisation within a chosen medium, or in the forging of new links across media and through interdisciplinary projects.

A parallel process in theoretical study accompanies the practical modules, with you being encouraged to integrate theory and practice throughout. Modules at levels 5 and 6 (2nd and 3rd

year) address work-related skills to support career development, including a period of work experience or working on live projects in level 5.

You can also apply to study semester 1 of your second year with one of our overseas exchange partners. More information on this opportunity can be found at our Exchanges and Study Abroad pages on the University of Westminster website.

At all levels teaching includes lectures and seminars on one hand, and practical media workshops, group activities and tutorials on the other, together with supervised use of facilities.

You receive continuous formative feedback through group and one-to-one tutorials and periodic reviews, designed to give you multiple points of guidance throughout your studies and before a final assessment. Most practical assessments are conducted as group crits, making these invaluable learning opportunities for all students involved.

The scheduled / supervised time represents only a proportion of study for each module (approximately one third overall). The remaining time is self-managed by you, so offering scope for creative experimentation, exploration and the emergence of the autonomy required of you in professional life.

Core lectures in levels 4 & 5 (years 1 and 2) address the whole year group, whereas practical workshops are generally limited to around twenty-five students or fewer. Your final year Dissertation and Major Project are supported through focused one-to-one tuition. Production groups for your projects vary from individuals to groups on moving image and complex media productions (typically with group sizes of up to 5 students).

We support our modules with online material through Blackboard, the University's Virtual Learning Environment. This material may include practical examples, technical support, key references, discussion groups, blogs, and many other functions.

How will you be assessed?

Our assessment strategy reflects the philosophy of the course, aiming to develop the creative, flexible and thoughtful media practitioners of the future. Assessment is integral to the overall learning process, and we offer a range of assessment methods on both practical and theoretical modules. This allows you to demonstrate your skills and understanding in a variety of ways. The benefit is that this provides a range of activities in which to excel, so supporting and encouraging a variety of preferred learning styles. All modules are assessed through coursework (we do not use exams).

Practical modules are typically assessed through a combination of crits (presentations of practical work to staff, normally with other students present), and submitted media artefacts and planning / research material (eg sketchbooks / production folders / blogs etc).

Theoretical modules (and some practice-theory modules) draw upon a range of assessment methods, including written work, seminar presentations, research plans, visual essays and online study tasks.

Clear Assessment Criteria are stated in module documents, and these are linked to the module Learning Outcomes.

You receive written feedback from all assessments, and this directly relates to the assessment criteria for each module. You also have an opportunity to discuss the outcome with module staff.

As already mentioned above, formative feedback is given throughout modules in tutorials, and group discussions, and in the final crit in practical modules. It is designed to inform you of areas for improvement, and of current strengths which are to be nurtured and developed.

Some modules may be partly or wholly peer assessed (by groups of your fellow students, but under staff supervision) to support you in developing skills in critical judgement and self-evaluation.

Some modules assess learning outcomes from another module (called 'synoptic assessment'). This allows you to combine elements of learning from different modules and show your accumulated knowledge and understanding of contemporary media practice and theory (especially the linkage of theory and practice). It also helps to reduce formal assessment and so ensure that you have as much time and opportunity as possible to develop your skills, knowledge and experience.

Over the whole course approximately 65% of assessments are practical work.

Employment and further study opportunities

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.

University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- Critical and creative thinker
- Literate and effective communicator
- Entrepreneurial
- Global in outlook and engaged in communities
- Socially, ethically and environmentally aware

These Graduate Attributes are oriented towards your employability after completion of the course, and are aligned to the Course Learning Outcomes as follows:

Table 1: Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Course Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Learning Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	KU 4.1, KU 5.1, **KU 6.1** KU 4.2, KU 5.2, **KU 6.2** KU 4.3, KU 5.3, **KU 6.3** PPP 4.1, PPP 5.1, **PPP 6.1** PPP 4.2, PPP 5.2, **PPP 6.2** PPP 4.3, PPP 5.3, **PPP 6.3** KTS 4.2, KTS 5.2, **KTS 6.2**
Literate and effective communicator	KU 4.2, KU 5.2, **KU 6.2** KU 4.3, KU 5.3, **KU 6.3** PPP 4.1, PPP 5.1, **PPP 6.1** PPP 4.2, PPP 5.2, **PPP 6.2** PPP 4.3, PPP 5.3, **PPP 6.3** KTS 4.1, KTS 5.1, **KTS 6.1** KTS 4.2, KTS 5.2, **KTS 6.2** KTS 4.3, KTS 5.3, **KTS 6.3**
Entrepreneurial	KU 4.2, KU 5.2, **KU 6.2** PPP 4.1, PPP 5.1, **PPP 6.1** PPP 4.2, PPP 5.2, **PPP 6.2** PPP 4.3, PPP 5.3, **PPP 6.3** KTS 4.2, KTS 5.2, **KTS 6.2** KTS 4.3, KTS 5.3, **KTS 6.3**

Global in outlook and engaged in communities	KU 4.3, KU 5.3, **KU 6.3**
	PPP 4.2, PPP 5.2, **PPP 6.2**
	KTS 4.1, KTS 5.1, **KTS 6.1**
	KTS 4.3, KTS 5.3, **KTS 6.3**
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	KU 4.3, KU 5.3, **KU 6.3**
	PPP 4.1, PPP 5.1, **PPP 6.1**
	PPP 4.2, PPP 5.2, **PPP 6.2**
	PPP 4.3, PPP 5.3, **PPP 6.3**
	KTS 4.1, KTS 5.1, **KTS 6.1**
	KTS 4.3, KTS 5.3, **KTS 6.3**

Graduates from Contemporary Media Practice have a high employment rate in many aspects of the media industries, including film direction, production, editing and visual effects; broadcast television; new media; commercial photography and photojournalism; curating and film programming; and fine art practice. Our location in London facilitates you in finding such employment, as this is a global hub for the media and cultural industries. We also sustain a range of formal and informal partnerships with industry through visiting professionals and established links with companies for work experience.

We also have a strong record in preparing graduates for postgraduate study across a range of both practical and theoretical disciplines, as well as postgraduate teacher training.

Graduate employment and opportunities in the media industries are constantly shifting, and graduates from this course have demonstrated their responsiveness to these changes. We regularly monitor graduate career destinations, and reflect on this information in the planning of the course curriculum.

Employability & Skills Strategy

The course has an Employability & Skills Strategy, published in the Course Handbook. This is intended to provide a framework to guide you through your studies and prepare you for employment and further study. The specific modules for implementing this are *Live Projects: Curating, Commissions and Work Experience* (level 5), and *Professional Launchpad* (level 6).

All course modules incorporate Key Transferable Skills, which are also integral to the course Employability & Skills Strategy. Key Transferable Skills support you in seeking entry into the media industries, as well as into a broad range of other professions & employment.

A further element of our Employability & Skills Strategy is the use of Personal Development Planning (PDP). This enables you to reflect upon personal and career goals, and the means by which these may be achieved. We build this process into the two modules already mentioned, as well as referring you to this through the Personal Tutorial system.

Work Experience and Live Projects

We require you to undertake work experience or a live project in the Level 5 module *Live Projects: Curating, Commissions and Work Experience*. We encourage you to ensure that this is in an aspect of the professions most appropriate to your personal career goals. Many students also undertake a very diverse range of professional experience at other stages of the course, often at a high professional level. Again, our location in London facilitates you in finding such work experience or live projects, with numerous opportunities available within the media industries of the city.

In recent years students have undertaken work experience with companies and organisations as diverse as: BBC, Miramax, Channel 4, Endemol, Framestore, The Light Surgeons, Rankin Photography, Mentorn Media, Vertigo Films, Working Title, Tiger Aspect, Unruly Media, IPC Media, ITV, Th1ng/Th2ng and many more.

You are also encouraged to successfully integrate all such opportunities into the general programme of study. Our aim is to foster a culture of gathering expertise, building professional networks, and expanding academic learning with the knowledge and skills gained in live media environments.

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. Note that course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Credit Level 4				
Module code	**Module title** (~ = offers choice or pathways *within* the module)	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
4MEST001W	Introduction to Contemporary Media Practice ~	Core	40	20
4MEST004W	Developing Contemporary Media Practice ~	Core	20	10
4MEST003W	Introduction to Contemporary Media Theory	Core	20	10
4MEST005W	Media Representations	Core	20	10
4MEST006W	Media Explorations ~ (*strands: Still image; Interactive Media; Moving Image*)	Option	20	10
Westminster elective, Faculty elective or Cluster option **		Option / Elective	20	10

Award of Certificate of Higher Education in Contemporary Media Practice available

Credit Level 5				
Module code	**Module title** (~ = offers choice or pathways *within* the module)	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
5MEST001W	Media Frontiers ~	Core	20	10
5MEST003W	Convergent Media	Core	20	10
5MEST004W	Live Projects: Curating, Commissions and Work Experience ~	Core	20	10
5MEST002W	Critical Perspectives on Media ~ (*strands: Moving Image Theory; Interactive Media Theory; Stills Image Theory*)	Core	20	10
5MEST016W	Research and Synthesis ‡	Core	20	10
5MEST005W	Transmedia Practices ~ (*strands will include: Animation; Code Art; Sonic Art; and more*) [offered across cluster]	Option	20	10
5MEST006W	Scriptwriting for Media	Option	20	10
5WSEL001W	Art/Science Collaboration	Option	20	10
Westminster elective, Faculty elective or Cluster option **		Option / Elective	20	10

	Award of Diploma of Higher Education in Contemporary Media Practice available			
Credit Level 6				
Module code	**Module title** (~ = offers choice or pathways *within* the module)	**Status**	**UK credit**	**ECTS**
6MEST002W	Exploration and Pre-Production ~	Core	20	10
6MEST005W	Major Project ~	Core	40	20
6MEST004W	Professional Launchpad	Core	20	10
6MEST003W	Dissertation * ‡	Option	40	20
6MEST011W	Extended Research Essay * ‡	Option	20	10
[Westminster elective](#), Faculty elective or Cluster option°		Option / Elective	20	10
Award BA Contemporary Media Practice available **Award BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice available**				

Elective and Option Modules – more information **
Elective modules listed below will be available subject to timetabling constraints and access restrictions. Elective choices must not clash in timetabling with core modules. Elective/option modules may not all run in any one year.

Level 4 Cluster Electives**: Visual Representation (4GPDS006W), Production / Collaboration Options Elective Module A (4ANIM006W), Television Drama: Past Present And Future (4TVPR005W)

Level 4 Faculty Electives**: Artist Development For Commercial Music Performance (4MUSH006W), Sound Cultures (4RDPR003W), Bulletins And Blogs (4RDPR004W), Internet Cultures (4MEST009W), Media And Globalization (4MEST015W)

Level 5 Cluster Electives**: Representation of Information (5GPDS004W), Alternative TV (5TVPR002W), Adverts & Promotional Shorts (5TVPR001W

Level 5 Faculty Electives**: Interdisciplinary Practice (5ILLU003W), The Creative Industries And You (5MUSH006W), Individual And Professional Development 2 (5MUSH004W), Talk Radio (5RDPR003W), Information Society (DMC) (5MEST012W), Theories Of Media And Communication (DMC) (5MEST007W), Cultural Industries And Media Markets (DMC) (5MEST011W)

At Level 6: * Indicates that you must take <u>one</u> of these modules. If you take *Extended Research Essay* you must also then take another option / elective module° of 20 credits from elsewhere in the Cluster, Faculty or University. If you take *Dissertation* then you will have reached your full 120 credits and do <u>not</u> then also take another option or elective module.

‡ Indicates modules with a pre-requisite (a module that must be passed first): *Research and Synthesis* (level 5) is a pre-requisite for both the *Dissertation* and *Extended Research Essay* modules.

*Cluster and Faculty Electives at Level 6 are to be confirmed.

Westminster electives for all Levels (4, 5 and 6) are listed at:
https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/westminster-elective-modules

Professional Body Accreditation or other external references

BA (Hons) Contemporary Media Practice is accredited by Creative Skillset, the industry skills body for the Creative Industries. This accreditation confirms that the course offers you industry focused and professionally oriented learning, high quality work experience, and maintains engagement with its graduates as they develop their careers.

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

Contemporary Media Practice is managed by a Course Leader, and is grouped with a number of other courses in the Faculty of Media, Arts and Design on the Harrow Campus. The Dean of Faculty and other senior Faculty staff provide support and management at their respective levels, enhancing the specific role of the Course Leader.

We also have Level Coordinators who oversee details of delivery at each level of the course (i.e. years one, two and three). The staff team also collectively support the management of the course through responsibilities for individual modules, workshop areas and contributions to planning.

The professional and research practice of course staff is employed in improving the delivery of the course to ensure that we reflect current and emerging real-world concerns and demands. Regular staff meetings ensure this, as well as formal and informal interaction between the staff and outside industry professionals. Key course staff are members of the Higher Education Academy, the professional body for academics in higher education. All course staff participate in annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues. This can inform staff development through course or conference attendance and research / professional activity.

The BA Contemporary Media Practice is taught within the Transmedia undergraduate cluster, Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design. The management structure supporting the course is as follows:
- Chris Christodoulou is the Course Leader responsible for the day-to-day running and overall management of the course and development of the curriculum. Peter can be contacted by email: C.Christodoulou1@westminster.ac.uk
- Sarah Niblock, Head of Undergraduate Studies, holds academic responsibility for the course and for the other undergraduate courses run within Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design.
- Kerstin Mey, Dean of the School, holds overall responsibility for the course and for the other courses run by Westminster School of Media, Arts and Design.

The Course Leader will be responsible for:

- Admissions
- Approving students' programme of study
- Organising tutorials, supervisory support and pastoral care
- Co-ordinating final project supervision
- Co-ordinating marks for assessment boards
- General management of the course.

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. 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

Learning Support

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.

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 at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their 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 students during their 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 2013. 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.

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[1] Students enrolled at Collaborative partners may have differing access due to licence agreements.

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 tables.

For more information about this course:

Course Leader:
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Admissions & Marketing Office:
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