

# Programme Specification: Creative Writing and English BA

## Course record information

<b>Name and level of final award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor of Arts with Honours - Creative Writing and English</li> <li>• Bachelor of Arts with Honours - Creative Writing and English with International Experience</li> <li>• Bachelor of Arts with Honours - Creative Writing and English with Professional Experience</li> <li>• Bachelor of Arts with Honours - Creative Writing and English with Professional and 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 Arts (BA) - Creative Writing and English BA</li> <li>• Diploma of Higher Education (Dip HE) - Creative Writing and English BA</li> <li>• Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) - Creative Writing and English BA</li> <li>• Undergraduate Credits - Creative Writing and English BA</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>	
<b>Language of delivery and assessment</b>	English
<b>QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</b>	
<b>Professional statutory or regulatory body</b>	
<b>Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Writing and English, Full-time, September start - 3 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement</li> <li>• Creative Writing and English, Part-time day, September start - 6 years standard length with an optional year abroad or placement</li> </ul>
<b>Valid for cohorts</b>	From 2025/6 New course title available to level 4 students from 2025 onward

## Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all undergraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/how-to-apply>

## Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning at the same level of the qualification for which they wish to apply are advised to visit the following page for further information:

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/guides-and-policies/student-matters/recognition-of-prior-learning>

## Aims of the programme

The BA (Hons) Creative Writing and English has been designed to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of key periods, themes, styles and techniques in both Creative Writing and English studies, and to develop the ability to utilise that learning in both creative and critical forms;
- integrate the two subject areas to allow them to inform each other in learning and teaching;
- give a detailed and coherent sense of the current priorities and debates in each subject area, including developments in AI;
- provide options of specialised study and practice that are drawn from research expertise;
- develop advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication.

## 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.

Graduates of the course may go on to work in a wide variety of fields, including further study at MA and PhD levels, teaching, arts organisations such as theatres and museums, charities, journalism, marketing and public relations, as well as going on to write and publish in their chosen literary forms.

The BA Creative Writing and English course aims to create graduates who:

- are able to engage in and promote informed, thoughtful dialogue about human life and society, both past and present;
- have a confident knowledge and understanding of key periods, themes, styles and techniques of literary and other writing;
- show creativity in analysis of works and ideas, and in the practical production of writing;
- can show highly advanced skills of research, analysis, evaluation and communication;
- use the skills and knowledge that they have acquired for the betterment of themselves and others in their communities.

## 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:

- 001 Demonstrate that you have successfully made the transition from the expectations of the study of English and/or Creative Writing at level 3 to the expectations of the subject at university ( GA )
- 002 Identify the characteristics of different literary forms and genres, and begin to utilise them in creative contexts ( KU )
- 003 Relate your own creative work to the history and traditions of English Literature and Language studies ( PPP )
- 004 Discuss literary works (including your own) in the context of broader debates about race, gender, sexuality, power, class, and belief ( KTS )
- 005 Clearly communicate ideas across a variety of written and verbal forms and in appropriate registers ( GA )
- 006 Appropriately select and evaluate sources, including those generated by AI, and to deploy basic bibliographic conventions particular to English ( KTS )

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

- 001 Demonstrate increased resourcefulness in relation to your studies and work-readiness that is evident in study choices and selection of assessment ( GA )
- 002 Reflect critically on your own work and use materials, concepts and techniques across modules in both creative and analytic fashion ( KTS )
- 003 Apply a sophisticated knowledge of key generic forms and a critical understand of features of the English language; ( KU )
- 004 Demonstrate critical understanding of at least three specialised areas of literary study and practice ( CS )
- 005 Actively engage with your own learning through the tutorial system and seminar series ( GA )
- 006 Deploy enhanced study skills in areas such as research, written and oral expression, and use of sources ( PPP )

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

- 001 Develop your own specialised interests in literary study and practice of Creative Writing and English ( SS )
- 002 Write at extended length, both creatively and critically, with fluency, clarity and confidence ( KTS )
- 003 Apply advanced independence of thought and critical judgement ( GA )
- 004 Understand in a sophisticated way how the study of Creative Writing and English relates to critical debates in areas such as genre, sexuality, race, class and sustainability ( KU )
- 005 Reflect on and respond to feedback and guidance in a sophisticated way ( PPP )
- 006 Manage a creative and professional profile, showing confidence and preparedness for work or further study ( PPP )

## How will you learn?

### Learning methods

The BA Creative Writing and English is constructed around a clear and rigorous sense of the current state of each study area. In keeping with this, innovative and imaginative methods of learning and teaching are used which will engage you and inspire in you a keen sense of the lively and mobile nature of your subjects. These methods are focused particularly in developing in you a critical self-reflexivity and an awareness of your own learning experience throughout the modules, not just when engaging in summative assessments.

These learning and the teaching methods on the course vary according to the nature of the modules and their materials. This is to ensure effective development of knowledge and skills while being matched to the particular nature of the subjects. There are very few formal lectures and the principal mode of teaching and learning is in two-hour seminar sessions, in which groups of around 20 students participate in a flexible range of activities. This format allows for teacher and student presentations, for analysis, discussion, teacher and peer feedback, and group work and group debates, and you will find all these activities, and many others, in our literature seminars. Creative writing seminars are often in the form of a workshop on drafts of your writing. Many modules also arrange field trips to museums, galleries, libraries, or the theatre. In addition to these types of class, we also offer tutorials. These are very small group classes, of three or four students, in which you will be offered detailed, personalised help and support in the skills and topics that are central to success in your studies. At level 6, you will receive individual supervision for your writing project.

## **International and Professional Opportunities**

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

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

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

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

## **Teaching methods**

All modules are augmented by activities in the online learning environment, Blackboard, for the dissemination of information, the accumulation of study materials, for assessment, and interaction with teachers and other students. Many modules will offer video, film or other recordings among their materials as well as links to other sources.

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

Contact time is designed to introduce new concepts and information, to help frame debates, to focus your analytical and critical skills, and to guide your own further study and to support your increasingly independent academic and intellectual development. The great majority of learning time takes place in guided and independent study beyond the contact time, both individually and in groups, whether in the well-resourced and newly refurbished library, at home, or via the online learning provision.

Assessment plays a central role in developing your learning and skills, rather than merely testing it. Formative assessments help you with feedback on your ongoing studies, while all summative assessments receive full, written and

oral feedback which will enable you to improve your work.

## Assessment methods

There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, creative exercises, critical analyses, reviews, examinations, presentations, journals, blogs and portfolios. They have been designed to match the content of the modules and to provide experience of different forms.

The variety of assessment is designed to help as well as to measure your academic development. It aims to enhance your learning, not merely to test it, and helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. The assessments help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study.

You will also be given formative assessments, which means you will be given work to help you towards the module assessments that count. Those summative assessments, like all the other, will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your work in the future.

The variety of assessment means that you will find different word limits for written assessments, or time limits for presentations, between modules and across your degree. Each piece of assessment has been designed as appropriate to the module and its other learning activities, and to the course overall, in order to balance the study time that you dedicate to the module. All assessments have a full brief with guidance and marking criteria that will be shared with you at the start of each module so that you can be clear what is expected and how the assessment is contributing to your learning.

Graduate Attribute	Evident in Course Outcomes
Critical and creative thinker	001, 002, 002, 003, 004, 005, 005
Literate and effective communicator	002, 002, 005, 006
Entrepreneurial	001, 001, 006
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	003, 003, 004, 004, 006

## Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules are described as:

- **Core** modules are compulsory and must be undertaken by all students on the course.
- **Option** modules give you a choice of modules and are normally related to your subject area.
- **Electives**: are modules from across the either the whole University or your College. Such modules allow you to broaden your academic experience. For example, where electives are indicated you may choose to commence the study of a foreign language alongside your course modules (and take this through to the final year), thereby adding further value to your degree.
- Additional information may also be included above each level for example where you must choose one of two specific modules.

## Modules

### Level 4

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
4CREW007W	Genre, Style and Form	Core	20	10
4ELIT004W	Keywords for Literary Studies	Core	20	10
4CREW001W	Reflective Writing 1	Core	20	10
4CREW006W	Writing the City	Core	40	20
4ENGL002W	Introducing English Language	Option	20	10
4ELIT006W	Poetry and Politics	Option	20	10
4CREW008W	Working with Texts 1	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

## Level 5

At Level 5, students must take at least one of the two 'core option' modules – Language and Literary Style and Romanticisms - to make up a minimum of 80 Core credits. The remaining 40 credits are chosen from the list of Option modules. Students may take one elective instead of an Option module.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
5CREW002W	Forms of Writing	Core	40	20
5ENGL004W	Language and Literary Style	Core	20	10
5CREW001W	Reflective Writing 2	Core	20	10
5ELIT009W	Romanticisms	Core	20	10
5ELIT007W	Making Memory: Culture History and Representation	Option	20	10
5CREW004W	Screenwriting	Option	20	10
5ELIT010W	The Victorian World	Option	20	10
5CREW005W	Working with Texts 2	Option	20	10
		Elective	20	10

## Additional Year

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

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

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

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

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
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## Level 6

At Level 6, students must take at least one of the three 'core option' modules – Reading the Present, Subjects in Theoretical Linguistics, and Subjects in Applied Linguistics - to make up a minimum of 80 Core credits. The remaining 40 credits are chosen from the list of Option modules. Students may take one elective instead of an Option module.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
6CREW001W	Individual Writing Project	Core	40	20
6ELIT011W	Reading the Present	Core	20	10
6LING006W	Subjects in Theoretical Linguistics	Core	20	10
6CREW004W	Writing Life	Core	20	10
6ELIT001W	English Literature Dissertation	Option	20	10
6CREW003W	Special Topic: Genres in Writing	Option	20	10
6LING007W	Subjects in Applied Linguistics	Option	20	10
6ELIT009W	The Modernist World	Option	20	10
6ENGL004W	Work Placement for Humanities	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

## Course management

### 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](http://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 Module Handbooks provided to students. Copyright in this document belongs to the University of Westminster. All rights are reserved. This document is for personal use only and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the University of Westminster. All copies of this document must incorporate this Copyright Notice – 2022©

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