

PART ONE: PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course Record Information

Name and level of final awards:	MA English Language and Linguistics MA English Language and Literature MA English Language and Creative Writing
	The Masters degrees named above are Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Postgraduate Diploma English Language Postgraduate Certificate English Language
Awarding body:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body:	Recognised body
Location of delivery:	Regent Street, University of Westminster
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Sara M. Pons-Sanz
Course URL:	To be advised
Mode and length of study:	Full time (1 year) or Part time (2 years)
University of Westminster course code:	LNLPLNL - Linguistics LNTPLNT - Literature LNCPLNC - Creative Writing
JACS code:	
UKPASS code:	To be advised
QAA subject benchmarking group:	Not applicable
Professional body accreditation:	Not applicable
Date of course validation/review:	2012-2013
Date of programme specification:	2014-2015

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are normally required to have a good first degree (2:1 or above) or equivalent in a relevant subject (e.g. English language, English literature, linguistics or creative writing). Students whose first language is not English must have an IELTS certificate with an overall score of 6.5, with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or be able to demonstrate an equivalent level of proficiency. Applicants will also be required to submit two academic references and they may be invited to attend an interview (either face to face or via Skype). Students wishing to pursue the MA English Language and Literature may also be asked to submit a 1500-word essay; students wishing to pursue the MA English and Creative Writing may also be asked to submit a portfolio of creative writing, which should not exclusively include poetry.

Applications from candidates without a first degree in English Language / Literature, Linguistics or Creative Writing are welcomed. These applicants can submit professional or academic references.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The MA English Language Programme is part of a suite of Masters programmes focusing on linguistic study offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Westminster's Regent Street site and it has particularly strong ties with various programmes taught at the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies: MA TESOL, MA English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions, and MA Writing the City. The MA English Language Programme provides a course that is wide-ranging, but also allows for further specialisation through its three pathways: English Language and Linguistics, English Language and Literature and English Language and Creative Writing. Thus, students can construct a programme of study in which they can follow particular themes in the areas that most interest them.

The MA English Language Programme aims to:

- provide an advanced, wide-ranging study of English language as well as linguistics, literature or creative writing
- promote an understanding of the nature of human language, and of the significance of this knowledge to the teaching of languages, particularly English as a second language
- foster an ability to apply theoretical perspectives to texts
- develop advanced skills in argument, synthesis and critical expression
- enhance advanced skills of research and presentation specific to English / creative writing
- provide a route to further research.

Additionally, the English Language and Linguistics pathway aims to:

- examine recent critical developments in linguistic studies
- give students a grounding in breadth and depth in linguistics, by exploring the central features of linguistic theory: its history, objectives, principal theoretical frameworks, methodologies, contested areas and uncontested results.

The English Language and Literature pathway aims to:

- develop and scrutinise the ideas of reading, re-reading and interpretation
- examine recent critical developments in literary studies
- set literary studies within an interdisciplinary contextual framework
- conduct specific examination of particular periods, movements and locations.

The English Language and Creative Writing pathway aims to:

- develop and scrutinise the ideas of reading and writing the city

- enable students to write in a variety of genres of their choice and to aim for a professional standard in their writing
- foster the use of focussed research as the basis for imaginative and original creative work
- encourage students to work as writers with other writers in an atmosphere of commitment and artistic ambition.

EMPLOYMENT AND FURTHER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements that will inform the service delivered to students.

The MA English Language Programme is intended to provide students with sophisticated critical skills and a widely applicable knowledge base. This enables further study at MPhil or PhD levels, but is also particularly relevant to teaching and a range of professions in the creative and cultural industries, such as freelance writing, journalism, theatre and performance-based writing, media, arts management, copy-editing, publishing, and research. Students in the course are also encouraged to attend the employability workshops designed by the departmental Employment Coordinator, Dr Sean Sutherland (S.Sutherland@westminster.ac.uk).

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes are statements of what successful students will have achieved as the result of learning. They are threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

Successful graduates of the MA English Language Programme will be able to:

- understand the major areas of language use and development
- situate linguistic analysis within the dominant cultural discourses
- understand the structures and features typical of a variety of written text-types
- use the appropriate terms and concepts for stylistic analysis

- present a sophisticated understanding of relevant current theoretical positions and debates
- understand what constitutes a well-formed linguistic research problem and solution
- demonstrate that they have completed a dissertation involving substantial and detailed investigation of a particular aspect of English Language, linguistics or literature, or a writing project with sophisticated use of the key elements of writing (voice, plot, character) and awareness of generic writing conventions
- conduct further independent learning and professional development.

Additionally, the students of the English Language and Linguistics pathway will be able to

- deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of linguistic data
- place their own experiences within a conceptual framework constructed from the plurality of developments and issues in linguistics.

The students of the English Language and Literature pathway will be able to

- deploy advanced theoretical approaches in relation to a variety of texts
- show familiarity with the interdisciplinary connections of literary studies.

The students of the English Language and Creative Writing pathway will be able to

- identify the key elements of urban writing
- develop sophisticated knowledge of current writing on London in comparison to other urban traditions

Specific Skills

Graduates of the MA English Language Programme will acquire a range of advanced scholarly and writing skills such as:

- advanced skills in research, synthesis, data analysis, argumentation and presentation
- advanced use of appropriate scholarly terminology
- an ability to articulate how different formal, linguistic and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning
- a sophisticated response to the central role of language in the creation of literary meaning
- the scholarly skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and use of bibliographical conventions.

Additionally, the students of the English Language and Linguistics pathway will develop skills such as:

- critical skills in the analysis of a variety of linguistic data
- the ability to employ adequate quantitative and /or qualitative methods of data analysis.

The students of the English Language and Literature pathway will develop skills such as:

- critical skills in the close reading and analysis of texts
- sophisticated awareness of generic conventions and of the shaping effects upon communication of context, authorship, textual production, and intended audience.

The students of the English Language and Creative Writing pathway will develop skills such as:

- advanced writing skills in a variety of genres
- advanced redrafting, editing and proof-reading skills.

Key Transferable skills

Graduates of the MA will be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to present sustained and persuasive written and oral arguments, advanced literacy and communication skills, and the ability to cogently and clearly apply these in appropriate contexts
- the capacity to critically examine any form of discourse using close reading and analysis of texts
- the ability to acquire quickly substantial quantities of complex information of diverse kinds in a structured way, involving the use of sophisticated interpretive skills
- advanced skills in critical reasoning
- sophisticated research skills, including scholarly information retrieval
- information-technology skills such as word processing
- interpersonal and team skills, relating to the ability to work flexibly and creatively with other people and engage in rational debate
- rigorous self-discipline (including time-management, motivation and emotional balance)
- competence in planning and executing essays and other kinds of work
- capacity for independent thought and judgement
- mature ability to give and receive constructive criticism of their own and others' work
- creative thinking in diverse intellectual situations.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Learning and teaching

Teaching methods include weekly 2-hour tutorials, seminars, practical sessions and workshops, together with independent student-led study, including work for the dissertation or writing project. All modules employ the University on-line learning system 'Blackboard' as part of their delivery in providing course materials, discussion fora and, where appropriate, additional exercises. Students are prepared for the dissertation via a series of academic writing and research workshops.

Furthermore, each student will be assigned an academic tutor from among the academic staff with whom they will have at least one timetabled session in the first semester.

Assessment

Assessment methods include submitted coursework in the form of essays, reports and a dissertation or writing project. As part of preparation for the dissertation, students have to do an oral presentation of their intended topic of research and methodology.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This section presents the core and option modules for each of the three pathways available to students of the English Language Programme and their credit value. Full-time postgraduate students study 180 UK credits in one year. Part-time students will normally complete 180 UK credits in two years.

MA English Language and Linguistics

Students take two 40-credit core modules and choose two 20-credit options from the list below. Students also submit a dissertation focusing on an area of English language or linguistics (60 UK credits).

Module code and name	Status	UK credits	ECTS
SLNG700 English Language in Use: Time, Texts and Contexts	Core	40	20
SLNG701 English Worldwide	Core	40	20
SLIN703 Dissertation	Core	60	30
1APP7A1 Intercultural Communication	Option	20	10
1APP7B1 Current Developments in Language Teaching	Option	20	10
1LIN7A7 Translation Studies	Option	20	10
1LIN7A8 Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	20	10
1LIN7B1 Sociolinguistics	Option	20	10

NB: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

MA English Language and Literature

Students take three core modules (totalling 80 UK credits) and choose two 20-credit options from the list below. Students also submit a dissertation focusing on an area of English language or literature (60 UK credits).

Module code and name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
SLNG700 English Language in Use: Time, Texts and contexts	Core	40	20
1ENL7A1 Subjectivities in Modern and Contemporary Fictions	Core	20	10

Module code and name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
1ENL7A2 Institutions and Histories in Modern and Contemporary Fictions	Core	20	10
SLIN703 Dissertation	Core	60	30
1APP7A1 Intercultural Communication	Option	20	10
1APP7B1 Current Developments in Language Teaching	Option	20	10
1LIN7A7 Translation Studies	Option	20	10
1LIN7A8 Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	20	10
1LIN7B1 Sociolinguistics	Option	20	10
1CUS7A4 Sexuality and Narrative	Option	20	10
1ENL7B2 London Vortex: the City and Modernism	Option	20	10
1ENL7A9 Reading Contemporary Culture	Option	20	10

NB: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

MA English Language and Creative Writing

Students take two or three core modules (totalling 80 UK credits), depending on their start date (see below), and choose two 20-credit options from the list below.

Students also submit **either** a dissertation on an area of English language (60 UK credits) **or** a writing project (60 UK credits).

Module code and name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
SLNG700 English Language in Use: Time, Texts and contexts	Core	40	20
SCRW700 Tales of the City (Prose Writing) (Sept. start)	Core	20	10
SCRW701 Conflict and the City (Sept. start)	Core	20	10
SCRW708 Portfolio: How to Write Creatively (Jan. start)	Core	40	20
SLIN703 Dissertation or SCRW706 Writing project	Core	60 60	30 30
1APP7A1 Intercultural Communication	Option	20	10
1APP7B1 Current Developments in Language Teaching	Option	20	10
1LIN7A7 Translation Studies	Option	20	10
1LIN7A8 Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse	Option	20	10
1LIN7B1 Sociolinguistics	Option	20	10
SCRW702 Language and the Imagination (Poetic Writing)	Option	20	10
SCRW703 Creative Practice	Option	20	10
SCRW705 The Writing Business	Option	20	10

NB: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

The MA English Language Programme and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with the *Modular Framework for Postgraduate Courses* and relevant sections of the current *Handbook of Academic Regulations*, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Award

To qualify for the award of **MA English Language and Linguistics / MA English Language and Literature / MA English Language and Creative Writing**, a student must:

- obtain a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7;
 - attempt modules worth no more than 240 credits;

Note: A first attempt of any module will count as an attempt, and a re-attempt of any module that a student has failed will count as a further, separate attempt. Re-assessment following referral at the first sit will not count as a further separate attempt.
- satisfy the requirements outlined in the course structure defined above.

The University may award a Masters Degree with Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across modules at Level 7 or a distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules at level 7.

Intermediate awards

The intermediate awards of a Postgraduate Diploma in English Language and Postgraduate Certificate in English Language are available for students who are unable to complete the course. To qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in English Language students must obtain 120 UK credits from the course structure above, including a pass in the core module English Language in Use. To qualify for the Postgraduate Certificate in English Language students must obtain 60 UK credits from the course structure above, including a pass in the core module English Language in Use.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook,

which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. 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 at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

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.

[Student Affairs](#) provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The Student Affairs Hub is located at 101 New Cavendish Street, Cavendish House (1st Floor), with an additional office located at the Harrow Campus.

westminster.ac.uk/study/new-students/when-you-arrive

The [University of Westminster Students' Union](#) also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University. <http://www.uwsu.com/>

KEY REFERENCE POINTS FOR THE COURSE

Internally

Primary internal reference points for teaching, learning and assessment policies on the MA are the University Handbook of Academic Regulations, the Quality Assurance Handbook, and the Guide to Higher Education and Career Management Skills produced by the Education Initiative Centre (EIC).

The course is designed to enhance and extend the resources offered by research in language (and literary) studies going on within the University, as well as by the kinds of interdisciplinary work across the areas of English language, linguistics, creative writing and literary, visual and historical studies, which are among the research and teaching strengths of the Faculty. The MA makes use of the wide range of cognate research interests and forms of expertise that exist across the various disciplines and staff members involved in the delivery of this programme.

The course structure meets the requirements of the modular frameworks and the academic regulations of the University, as well as of the Faculty Teaching, Learning

and Assessment Policy. At the same time, it is designed to take account of both the University Policies on skills development and employability and one of the key themes in the University strategic plan – creative and cultural industries – providing advanced theoretical and critical work relevant to these areas.

Externally

The primary external reference point for the academic infrastructure of the course is the Quality Assurance Agency (qaa.ac.uk); in particular, the Code of Practice for the assurance of quality and standards, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), and the details of programme specifications. For credit level descriptors (specifically 'M' level descriptors), the reference point is the South England consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer (seec-office.org.uk). Reference may also be made to the materials provided by various subject centres of the Higher Education Academy (heacademy.ac.uk).

QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

Course Management

The English Language Programme is hosted in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, within of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. It is directly managed by a course leader within the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies. Each module also has a designated module leader responsible for the administration and monitoring of its design and delivery.

Because of the wide-ranging topics covered by the MA, the course teaching team consists of a large number of staff in the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural studies. Key members of the course team meet regularly each year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of the course. Staff undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by colleagues leading to staff development through course attendance and/or research and scholarly activity. The Programme also recruits professional writers to facilitate specific parts of the English Language and Creative Writing pathway.

The English Language Programme intersects with, and draws upon, the institutional resources provided by the wider set of events and cultural initiatives co-ordinated by staff within the Faculty as well as both the writers' events series hosted by the Department of English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies, by the IMCC, and by the various events and collaborative ventures organised under the umbrella of the Westminster-Smithsonian Colloquium.

Course Approval, Monitoring and Review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2013. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure

that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each course committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student Involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken very seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the course committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course committee. All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback 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 elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with Review Panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

Please contact Dr Sara M. Pons-Sanz (s.ponssanz@westminster.ac.uk), the course leader.

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.

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