

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Honours) History The BA (Honours) History is a BA degree that is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of Higher Education in History Certificate of Higher Education in History
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Teaching Institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Mode, length of study and normal starting month:	Three years full time
QAA subject benchmarking group(s):	History <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements</a>
Professional statutory or regulatory body:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	February 2015
Date of programme specification approval:	April 2019
Valid for cohorts :	2019/20
Course Leader	Dr Patrick Smylie
UCAS code and URL:	V100 <a href="http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>

## 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: [westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply](http://westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/how-to-apply)

## Aims of the course

The BA (Hons) History degree has been designed as a structured and coherent course, to develop your knowledge and understanding of the history of the modern world to graduate level. It aims to provide you with a range of personal attributes, qualities of mind and modes of behaviour which will make you a highly employable and valuable member of the community. You will be inducted into and trained in an academic and research culture, which emphasises professional, ethical and socially responsible values and behaviour. We aim to train you to be tolerant and open to the opinions of others, while not being afraid to challenge prevailing assumptions or orthodoxies. Indeed, we encourage you to question everything, to form your own opinions and argue your own case, but always to base your reason arguments on soundly based and professionally sourced evidence.

The degree offers the opportunity to examine in depth, the factors which have helped shape the modern world, including war and revolution, nationalism and liberalism, dictatorship and democracy, socialism and fascism. You will also examine the vast panoply of societal and technological changes which have characterised the last two hundred years of world history. There are two core modules, one at each of levels 4 and 5, which are designed to help you understand these key developments and to provide a sound basis for more detailed study on your other modules. At these levels also, we offer a range of modules on London, which are unique to Westminster, and are designed to make the best of our outstanding location at the heart of London and at the nexus between east and west.

At levels 4 and 5, you will take a methodology and research skills training modules, designed to equip you with the attributes you will need in your third year, to conduct your own primary research, as a practising historian. Once again, these modules are designed to make the most of the unique array of archives, libraries and repositories which London has to offer.

The degree offers a range of core and optional modules, which will allow you to study the histories of a variety of countries, including the UK and Ireland, Germany and France, the United States and the wider world.

You will progress through your studies via a well-defined series of Levels from 4 to 6, with increased specialism and option choice throughout. Modules at level 6 are very specialised and are delivered by staff who are themselves actively researching the subject matter. You will also have the chance to take a credit-bearing work-placement module in one of London's hundreds of archives, museums, galleries, libraries and other repositories, as you become an expert in the use of London as a source for historians.

You will build upon and deploy the skills you have acquired in a self-selected and self-directed final- year dissertation. This is the culmination of your three years' study and the final demonstration that you are ready to graduate as a well-trained, self-confident and accomplished autonomous historian.

## 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)

## Course Learning Outcomes

The degree is designed to allow you to progress in a structured and coherent fashion through each of the levels, building on your knowledge, skills and attributes, and independence and specialisms as you do so. Modules at level 4 provide a strong knowledge and conceptual as well as skills base, with introductory work on sources and methodologies. Modules at level 5 continue with the examination of the forces which made the modern world, specifically on twentieth-century developments. The focus of the sources and methodologies training moves towards encouraging you to think about your own interests, and how you can convert your ideas into a viable dissertation topic. At level 6, much of your own efforts will be dedicated to your dissertation, while you take optional modules on staff research specialisms.

### Course Learning Outcomes at Level 4

On the successful completion of Level 4, you will be able to demonstrate:

- 4.1. command of a body of historical knowledge in London, British, European and world history;
- 4.2. the ability to develop and sustain historical arguments in a variety of literary forms and to utilise evidence;
- 4.3. the ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon secondary evidence, including historical writings and the interpretations of historians;
- 4.4. the ability to gather and deploy evidence and data and to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information;
- 4.5. a familiarity with a number of principal historical repositories in London and the ability to locate and access materials therein;
- 4.6. clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression;
- 4.7. an understanding of the ethical dimensions of historical study, writing and research;
- 4.8. an ability to work collaboratively and to participate in group discussion;
- 4.9. a developing awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods.

### Course Learning Outcomes at Level 5

On the successful completion of Level 5, you will be able to demonstrate:

- 5.1. command of a significant body of historical knowledge, in British, European and world history from the late eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries;
- 5.2. an ability to interrogate, read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources;
- 5.3. an understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past and, where relevant, a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences;
- 5.4. awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods;
- 5.5. an understanding of the development of history as a discipline and an awareness of different historical methodologies;
- 5.6. clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression.

### Course Learning Outcomes at Level 6

On the successful completion of Level 6, you will be able to demonstrate:

- 4.1. command of a substantial body of historical knowledge, in British, European and world history from the mid-eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries;

- 4.2. an enhanced ability to read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources;
- 4.3. an ability to address historical problems in depth, formulating own questions, involving the critical use of contemporary sources and advanced secondary literature;
- 4.4. an appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past, and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence;
- 4.5. a command of comparative perspectives, including the ability to compare the histories of different countries, societies and cultures;
- 4.6. the ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently-conceived piece of historical writing (dissertation).

## **How will you learn?**

Teaching and learning in History at Westminster are organised to help you meet the learning outcomes of the course and to fulfil your potential. We encourage you to become an active learner, taking increasing responsibility for your own learning as you move through the levels with appropriate support.

You are provided with detailed documentation for each module which explains what the module is designed to achieve, and the means to attain it. You are given clear guidance on module structure, on the nature and amount of assessment, assessment and grading criteria, guides on how to tackle different forms of assessment, and avoid plagiarism. Each module booklet contains a detailed bibliography with links to our electronic Reading List system (Talis Aspire).

Most modules are structured around lectures or lecture-type arrangements, which are designed to capture your interest and excite your curiosity. They also provide a broad framework to define the module, while introducing you to its main themes, debates and interpretations.

However, much learning takes place in seminars which allow informal student-led discussion of the issues raised in the lectures, provide opportunities for supervised group work (such as presentations), and are also used to allow practice in the key skills of interpretation and analysis of primary historical sources. Seminars are designed to improve your understanding rather than at the acquisition of knowledge per se. This type of student-centred interactivity helps boost your self-confidence, oral communication and debating skills and a critical as well as self-critical but tolerant approach to historical discussion.

As well as offering a unique curriculum, which you cannot study at any other UK university, some distinctive features of the History degree at Westminster are our use of London as a teaching and learning resource, and our commitment to offering you the chance to experience other cultures through fieldwork. A number of modules make use of Westminster's central London location to facilitate 'off-site' learning, with visits to archives and repositories and for field walks. One of the 'core' modules at level 5 includes a field trip to Paris, while other modules at levels five and six include trips to Ireland and elsewhere. Student costs for these fieldtrips are provided out of the Department's own funds. But life at university is less about teaching than about learning, and the great majority of your time will be spent working independently, reading, thinking and writing. A standard 20-credit module will normally involve round 200 hours of study time of which over three quarters will be independent study. History is a literary discipline, and you must expect to undertake a great deal of reading and of writing. You will be guided, encouraged and facilitated by your tutors and lecturers, but the responsibility for undertaking the work lies with you.

By year three, you are expected to be a self-confident trainee historian with a variety of skills and competencies at your disposal and there is a wide variety of quite narrowly-focused and specialist modules at level six to allow you to study your chosen subjects in some depth. In addition, you will write a 12,000-word dissertation on a subject of your own choosing which will be based largely on contemporary source materials. You will be supported throughout by a dissertation supervisor, but the dissertation represents your opportunity to demonstrate that you have acquired the skills of the historians and have mastered the historical technique. It is the culmination of your three years' hard work and will be your crowning achievement.

## How will you be assessed?

The course offers a variety of assessment to students which aims to nurture as well as assess your academic development. Assessment helps you to demonstrate what you have learned in particular modules and across the range of your degree. There are many different forms of assessment for our modules: coursework essays, critical analyses, documentary analyses, individual and group presentations, examinations, statistical analyses and the dissertation. The assessments all aim to enhance your learning, not merely to test it. They help you build up your knowledge and skills, linking issues and knowledge within and between modules, while also developing and reinforcing your independent study initiative.

“Synoptic” assessments link work on more than one module, and so they encourage you to demonstrate your deeper and more connected grasp of the subject as a whole. You will also be given “formative” assessments, which means you will be given guided work to help you prepare the module assessments that count towards your final grade. These may take the form of online tests in Blackboard, quizzes and debates in seminars, short written exercises, and the opportunity to submit drafts of extended work, such as your dissertation. In these formative assessments, you will receive feedback on your progress, allowing you and your teachers to take action to help you improve. “Summative” assessments are those assignments the marks for which are used to determine your final grade for the module and which are used to calculate your final degree classification. For these assessments, you will receive written feedback explaining the grade (where applicable), the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your grades in the future.

All written coursework in History is submitted online via our Blackboard system, marked anonymously (i.e. the marker does not know the identity of the student whose work is being marked) and detailed feedback is returned online. All history modules, and each individual form of assessment, is marked using an agreed marking rubric, to help ensure clarity for you, the student, in terms of what is expected of you, and consistency of marking standards for and across the teaching team.

## Employment and further study opportunities

As well as being subject experts, University of Westminster graduates will be able to demonstrate the following five Graduate Attributes:

- critical and creative thinking;
- literate and effective communication;
- an entrepreneurial attitude;
- a global outlook and engagement in communities;
- social, ethical and environmental awareness.

The BA (Hons) History degree aims to produce highly employable graduates who are in addition, equipped with a wide variety of employability attributes, including:

- the ability to work as a part of a team;
- the ability to work alone;
- numeracy and ICT skills;
- evaluative and analytical skills;
- problem-solving skills;
- assimilative skills;
- research skills;
- high-level written and oral communication skills;
- the ability to present yourself and to present an argument.

As a University of Westminster History graduate, you will be well placed to take advantage of employment opportunities in the ‘knowledge economy’. Many of our graduates are currently pursuing successful careers in teaching, in the civil service, in the museums and galleries sector, in public relations and marketing, in higher education administration and in all sectors of industry.

Many of our graduates go on to further study and a number are now pursuing successful academic careers of their own.

### 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.

#### Credit level 4

Module Code	Module Name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
4HIST001W	Blood and Iron. The Making of the Modern World Part One: 1750-1914	Core	40	20
4HIST002W	Rule Britannia. Researching Britain and the Empire 1750-1914	Core	20	10
4HIST012W	History Tutorial	Core	20	10
4HIST013W	History Matters	Core	20	10
4HIST005W	Swinging London: Revolution and Legacy	Option	20	10
4HIST006W	The Blitz: Image, Impact, Legacy 1940-1951	Option	20	10
4LANS005W	Objects and Meaning: World Cultures in London Galleries and Museums	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	20
	<b>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</b>			

#### Credit level 5

Module Code	Module Name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
5HIST001W	Democracy and Dictatorship. The Making of the Modern World Part Two: 1914-1990	Core	40	20
5HIST008W	Writing History: Approaches and Methods for History Dissertations	Core	20	10
5HIST002W	New Liberals to New Labour: British Politics 1906-2010	Option	20	10
5HIST004W	Jack the Ripper: Myth, Reality, Culture and Popular History	Option	20	10
5HIST005W	Civil War to Civil Rights: Race, Society and Politics in the USA 1850-1970	Option	20	10
5HIST006W	History Internship	Option	20	10
5HIST007W	Fenians to Free State: the Making of Modern Ireland 1868-1923	Option	20	10

5HIST010W	Democracy and Dictatorship. The Making of the Modern World Part Two: 1914-1945 (outgoing Study Abroad students only)	Option	20	10
5HIST011W	Democracy and Dictatorship. The Making of the Modern World Part Two: 1945-1990 (outgoing Study Abroad students only)	Option	20	10
5HIST0013W	The Cinema as a Source for Historians	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
	<b>Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available</b>			

#### Credit level 6

Module Code	Module Name	Status	UK Credits	ECTS
6HIST001W	History Dissertation	Core	40	20
6HIST002W	The End of History? Crisis and Conflict since the Cold War	Option	20	10
6HIST004W	Divided Society: a Social History of Britain in the Twentieth Century	Option	20	10
6HIST005W	The Troubles: Britain and Northern Ireland 1968-1998	Option	20	10
6HIST006W	Vichy: War, Occupation and the Holocaust in France 1940-1944	Option	20	10
6HIST008W	Transatlantic Feminisms: the Women's Movement in Twentieth-century Britain and Canada	Option	20	10
6HIST009W	"Don't Mention the War!" Britain and Germany since 1945	Option	20	10
6HIST010W	New World Order: International Organisations in an Age of Global Conflict and Change	Option	20	10
6HIST013W	Unruly Colossus: Churchill, Politician and Writer 1874-1965	Option	20	10
6HIST014W	Sex, Race and the Making of Modern Britain, 1800-1912	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10
	<b>Award of BA available Award of BA Honours available.</b>			

#### Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

#### How will you be supported in your studies?

## Course Management

The degree has a designated course leader whom you will meet during Orientation Week and who is available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. During March of the first and second year, you will have the opportunity to choose your option modules for the following year after consultation with academic staff. Individual modules each have a module leader who is responsible for the smooth running of that module. Module leaders are available during term-time in their office hours or by appointment. The degree is part of a suite of BA Hons degrees in the School of Humanities, for which the Head of School is ultimately responsible. At Level Four (year one), you will have a designated Personal Academic Tutor to whom you may turn for academic advice. Your Tutor will be one of the Seminar Leaders on one of your 'core' modules, so that you will have the opportunity to meet him or her on a weekly basis. At Level Five (year two), you will have a Year Tutor from amongst your Course Team, while in your final year, your dissertation supervisor will act as your Personal Academic Tutor.

## 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 [westminster.ac.uk/blackboard](http://westminster.ac.uk/blackboard).

## 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. 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<sup>1</sup> 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 [westminster.ac.uk/student-advice](http://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 [westminster.ac.uk/students-union](http://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 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 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.

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. Student 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 student representatives.
- There are also School Staff Student Exchange meetings that enable wider discussions 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.

**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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