

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

**Course record information**

Name and level of final award	BA (Hons) History BA (Hons) History with International Experience The BA (Hons) History and the BA (Hons) History with International Experience are BA degrees that are Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.
Name and level of intermediate awards	Diploma of Higher Education History Diploma of Higher Education History with International Experience Certificate of Higher Education History Certificate of Higher Education History with International Experience.
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 or four (with optional year abroad) years full-time, September start
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmarking group(s)</a>	
Professional statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
Date of course validation/Revalidation	September 2020
Date of programme specification approval	December 2020
Valid for cohorts	Levels 4-6, September 2021
Course Leader	Patrick Smylie
UCAS code and URL	V100 <a href="http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate">http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate</a>
Westminster course code	BAHIS03F (FT)
HECoS code	100310
UKPASS code (PG only)	

## 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 is designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of the history of the modern world to an advanced level. The course combines the examination of global developments over extended periods of time with more focused work on smaller social groups, shorter periods and particular places. It develops awareness of the interrelated social, cultural, political and economic structures that shaped past societies. The History BA combines rigorous attention to the source material with vigorous debate over questions of interpretation. We aim to train you to be 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 reasoned arguments on soundly based and professionally sourced evidence. The course makes extensive use of London, its galleries, libraries and museums, for its learning and you will have the opportunity to take a 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. The History BA cultivates a global outlook in our students and aims to develop advanced Employability skills. The optional year abroad allows students to complete an employment or study placement overseas. Employability workshops and events are run across the degree as an integral part of the tutorial system.

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

## 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 and 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 successful completion of level 4 you will be able to demonstrate:

- L4.1 command of a body of historical knowledge and a developing awareness of continuity and change over extended time periods, including an understanding of the development of history as a subject (KU);
- L4.2 the ability to gather, read and analyse secondary evidence and data, including historical writings and the interpretations of historians (GA);
- L4.3 a familiarity with a number of principal historical repositories in London and the ability to locate and access materials therein (PPP);
- L4.4 the ability to work successfully as part of a small team, actively listen and participate constructively in group discussion (KTS);
- L4.5 an understanding of the ethical dimensions of historical study, writing and research (GA);
- L4.6 awareness of different types of historical questions and methodologies, and an emerging ability to frame your own questions (KU);
- L4.7 a developing appreciation of how your studies will develop your own skills and work-related attributes and the ability to evolve strategies to address weaknesses (GA);
- L4.8 engagement with feedback and the willingness to utilise it in improving your work (KTS);
- L4.9 clarity, fluency and coherence in written and oral expression (KTS).

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

- L5.1 command of a significant body of historical knowledge and the ability to use it as evidence to develop and sustain cogent historical arguments in a variety of forms (KU);
- L5.2 an ability to interrogate and reflect critically and contextually upon contemporary texts and other primary sources (GA);
- L5.3 a critical understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past and a knowledge of concepts and theories derived from the humanities and social sciences (PPP);
- L5.4 an ability to locate, retrieve, sort and exchange new information (KTS);
- L5.5 an ability to frame, develop and sustain your own historical questions (KU);
- L5.6 evidence of the development of your own skills and work-related attributes and engagement with strategies to address weaknesses (KTS);
- L5.7 clarity, fluency and coherence in written and oral expression (KTS);

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L5.8 the ability to adapt to unfamiliar situations and to function successfully in different cultural contexts (PPP).

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

L6.1 command of a substantial body of historical knowledge and the ability to use it systematically as evidence to develop and sustain cogent historical arguments in a variety of forms (KU);

L6.2 an advanced ability to locate, retrieve, sort and exchange new information (KTS);

L6.3 an ability to address problems in depth, formulating your own questions and involving the critical use of contemporary sources, data and advanced secondary literature (GA);

L6.4 an appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past, and the problematic and varied nature of historical evidence (KU);

L6.5 a command of comparative perspectives, including the ability to compare the histories of different countries, societies and cultures (KU);

L6.6 clarity, fluency and coherence in written and oral expression (KTS);

L6.7 professionally presented evidence of work-related learning and preparedness (KTS);

L6.8 the ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing (dissertation) and engage with the supervisory process (GA).

### **How will you learn?**

Central to success in your studies are the weekly tutorials. These are very small group classes, of five or six students, in which you receive detailed support in developing the skills and topics that are essential to your progress. The tutorials will also focus on employability skills and help you integrate your studies across the modules. Your modules are generally made up of seminars and lectures. Much learning takes place in seminars which allow informal student-led discussion of the themes of a module, 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. This type of student-centered interactivity helps boost your self-confidence, oral communication and debating skills and a critical but tolerant approach to historical discussion. Most modules are furthermore supported by interactive lectures that capture your interest and excite your curiosity. They introduce and enable students to query key themes, debates and interpretations. In your final year, you will receive individual supervision for your dissertation. 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.

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.

History is a literary discipline, and you must expect to undertake a great deal of reading and of writing. Much of your teaching and learning will benefit from digital resources both for module content and your own independent research using digitized archives and repositories. Module content and learning resources are supplied via Blackboard and some classes are also held online.

### **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 is varied in History from short review exercises at level 4 through to the preparation and execution of your own research-based dissertation at level 6. Different modules include policy briefs, individual and group presentations, reviews of online resources, UN simulators and the classic source analysis and essay assessments. They are designed to encourage the development of strong analytical and communication skills. Modules include “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), outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the work, and offering clear advice on how you can improve your grades in the future.

All written coursework is submitted online via our Blackboard system, where it is marked anonymously, and detailed feedback is returned online. Each piece of assessment is marked using an agreed marking rubric, a set list of criteria which students see in advance. Rubrics help ensure clarity about what is expected of you and consistency of marking standards across the teaching team.

### **Employment and further study opportunities**

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

- Critical and creative thinking
- Literate and effective communication
- Entrepreneurial attitude
- 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. The optional year abroad helps you develop cultural and intercultural awareness of the country you visit and gives you an opportunity to gain experience in a different setting. Students are required to undertake either a Study or Work Placement at a partner institution abroad and to reside in the country of the placement for a total of at least 18 weeks. Support is provided throughout the process by experienced staff who will ensure that the Placement is suitable for your academic and personal development.

Your course participates in the Employing Humanities programme, which has been designed to focus on highlighting the special skills and abilities that graduates in Humanities subjects possess and to extend your awareness of the wide range of their applicability to work. It is a staged and integrated programme that begins in Arrivals Week and builds through to graduation and beyond. The programme is tailored to the levels of your study and is anchored in your tutorial modules where you will be supported in planning your engagement and personalising your ambitions. Employing Humanities is underpinned by the Engage platform through which you can access training, one-to-one careers advice, notice of events and job opportunities, and create your individual career profile, but our programme also offers a planned schedule of work-based and work-related learning delivered by employers of Humanities graduates.

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

<b>Credit Level 4</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
4HIST001W	The World Remade: Global Perspectives on the Long Nineteenth Century	Core	40	20
4HIST015W	History Matters	Core	40	20
4HIST012W	History Tutorial 1	Core	20	10
4HIST016W	Protests: From Bread Riots to Extinction Rebellion	Option	20	10
	Elective	Option	20	10
<i>Award of Certificate of Higher Education available</i>				
<b>Credit Level 5</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
5HIST001W	The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century	Core	40	20

5HIST014W	History Tutorial 2	Core	20	10
5HIST002W	Transforming British Politics	Option	20	10
5HIST004W	Jack the Ripper: Cultural and Popular History	Option	20	10
5HIST005W	Civil War to Civil Rights	Option	20	10
5HIST007W	Age of Nationalism: A Case Study	Option	20	10
5HIST009W	A Sexual History of London	Option/ Elective	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10

*Award of Diploma of Higher Education or Foundation Degree available*

Core for students choosing the International Experience Year				
5ENGL006W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1)	Core	60	30
5ENGL007W	Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 2)	Core	60	30

<b>Credit Level 6</b>				
<b>Module code</b>	<b>Module title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>UK credit</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
6HIST001W	Dissertation for History and History and Politics	Core	40	20
6HIST016W	Special Subjects in History (60-credit-core)	Core	60	30
6HIST018W	Special Subjects in History (20-credit-option)	Option	20	10
6HIST002W	The End of History?	Option	20	10
6HIST015W	Archives and Museums Internship	Option	20	10
6ENGL04W	Humanities Work Placement	Option	20	10
	Elective	Elective	20	10

*Award of BA available, Award of BA Honours available*

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

<b>Level 4</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Core modules</b> (credits in brackets)	
4HIST012W History Tutorial 1 (20)	
4HIST015W History Matters (40)	
4HIST001W The World Remade: Global Perspectives on the Long Nineteenth Century (40)	
<b>Option modules</b> (all 20 credits)	
	4HIST016W Protests: From Bread Riots to Extinction Rebellion
<i>One elective may be chosen instead of the option</i>	
<b>Elective modules</b> (all 20 credits)	
Polylang (yearlong)	
	4LANS005W Objects and Meaning: World Cultures in London Galleries and Museums
	4ELIT012W London Stories
	4SOCL008 Migrant London

<b>Level 5</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Core modules</b> (credits in Brackets)	
5HIST014W History Tutorial 2 (20)	
5HIST001W The World Renewed: Global Perspectives on the Twentieth Century (40)	
<b>Options: choose one</b> (all 20 credits)	
5HIST002W Transforming British Politics	5HIST004W Jack the Ripper: Cultural and Popular History
5HIST005W Civil War to Civil Rights	5HIST007W Age of Nationalism: A case study
<i>One elective may be chosen instead of an option</i>	
<b>Elective modules</b> (all 20 credits)	
Polylang (yearlong)	
5HIST009W A Sexual History of London	5SOCL010W Globalisation: Politics, Law and the Arts

Core for those choosing the optional International Experience year

5ENGL006W Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1) (60 credits) (core)	5ENGL007W Humanities Year Abroad Placement (Semester 1) (60 credits) (core)
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<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Core modules</b> (credits in Brackets)	
6HIST001W Dissertation for History and History and Politics (40)	
6HIST016W Special subjects in History (60)	
<b>Options: choose one</b> (all 20 credits)	
6HIST002W The End of History: Crisis and Conflict since the Cold War	
6HIST015W Archives and Museums Internship	
6ENGL004W Humanities Work Placement	



6HIST018W Special Subjects in History
<i>One elective may be chosen instead of an option</i>
<b>Elective modules</b> (all 20 credits)
Polylang (yearlong)

## 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 Arrivals Week and who is available for consultation either by email, during weekly office hours throughout the year, or by appointment. 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.

### Academic Support

Upon arrival, there is a full programme of activities to support you in making the transition to university life and study. You will meet the course leader and other lecturers on the course, be given a tour of the campus, the library and IT facilities, and naturally you will meet your peers.

At levels 4 and 5 of the course (years 1 and 2), you will have a designated academic tutor to whom you may turn for general academic advice. In the final year, you will be provided with a supervisor on your Dissertation module, with whom you will have individual supervisions. You will also have a personal tutor who can support you with pastoral issues throughout the three years of your degree.

The course leader will be there throughout your degree to coordinate module choice events, staff/student forums, 'socials' and to ensure the smooth running of the course. Your course leader and all other teaching staff have designated times when they are available for drop in, either in person or online.

Each module has a dedicated and dynamic on-line site that facilitates interaction and contains essential information such as reading lists, details of assessments and seminar materials.

### 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 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 1998. 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. 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.

**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.