

ENGLISH, LINGUISTICS AND CULTURAL STUDIES

There is an established and lively postgraduate and research culture in English, Linguistics and Cultural Studies at Westminster, which embraces a range of different subject areas, critical approaches and professional practice.

We offer taught Masters courses in English Literature, Art and Visual Culture, Cultural and Critical Studies, Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture, English Language, Linguistics, Creative Writing, and TESOL and we also supervise PhD students working on doctoral projects ranging across the arts and humanities.

Our diversity is our strength. It means that there is always a stimulating interchange of ideas within and across the different fields, and a wonderful range of expertise available in our staff, which includes academics, writers, curators and artists who are all well-known in their fields. We have some great collaborative relationships with universities in Europe and the Americas as well as with cultural institutions closer to home, such as Tate, the Museum of London and the Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC.

All our MA and PhD programmes are intellectually ambitious – perfect for aspiring academics and researchers – but are also geared towards preparing you professionally for life beyond university. Situated in our central London location, our researchers enjoy ready access to a wealth of scholarly resources in London.

As a cosmopolitan institution in one of the world's great cities, we offer a uniquely stimulating and productive environment in which to work and study.

The course is interdisciplinary so it can be tailored to diverse interests. Its central location provides access to cultural events and makes you feel part of a vibrant community.

Shemonty Monjari, Cultural and Critical Studies MA



In the most recent UK Government's assessment of Research Excellence, **79%** of the published work of our staff was ranked as world-leading or internationally excellent

Source: REF (Research Excellence Framework) 2014



ART AND VISUAL CULTURE MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/art-and-visual-culture-ma

This interdisciplinary, visual theory-based course is established around the belief that visual literacy and the impact of visual forms of thinking and working play significant roles in our society.

On the course, we interrogate visual perception and representation in high and popular culture, explore how these produce meanings, and how such meanings shape societies and individuals. The course introduces you to a wide range of historical and contemporary debates that inform the theories and practices of visual culture, and supports you in developing a conceptual framework within which to evaluate the role of the visual arts, and other forms of visual production, in contemporary society and culture.

The course gives you a solid grounding for careers in the art and cultural sectors as well as academia, and it is also suitable for practicing artists wishing to further their research.

Course content

This MA balances historical and theoretical debates in the field of visual culture studies with a rigorous interrogation of cultural practices across a range of topics, including: contemporary visual arts; the visual and material culture of the city; modernism in art and architecture; popular and avant-garde cultures; fin de siècle visual culture; digital culture and new media technologies; migration, identity and gender as represented in cultural practices; activism and popular politics; theory and practice of archive research; and critical theories of modern and contemporary culture, among others.

Many of our modules include class visits to leading museums, galleries and archives in London. This provides a fantastic opportunity to engage directly with the city's cultural institutions and intellectual resources, in doing so providing you with sophisticated critical thinking skills as well as practical knowledge of how the cultural sector operates.

Core modules

- Dissertation
- Visual Culture: Production, Display and Discourse
- Visual Culture: Theoretical and Critical Perspectives

Option modules

Choose four from:

- Art Museums and Contemporary Culture
- Capitalism and Culture
- Digital Cultures
- Engaging the Archive
- Museum Narratives
- Representing World Cultures
- Urban Cultures
- Work Placements in Cultural Institutions

The Art and Visual Culture MA is part of the Cultural and Literary Studies Suite, a cluster of four MAs that bring together academics, curators and practitioners who share a commitment to investigating modern and contemporary culture from aesthetic, critical, literary, and experiential perspectives. You will share classes with students from the Cultural and Critical Studies MA, the English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions MA and the Museum, Galleries and Contemporary Culture MA, joining a fruitful and intellectually rigorous environment designed to facilitate the sprouting of interdisciplinary thinking. As part of our Suite, you may also have the option to choose from the modules taught within the other three MA programmes, a fantastic opportunity to explore a facet of culture outside of your chosen MA programme.

Associated careers

The Art and Visual Culture MA prepares students for careers in the art and cultural sector as well as academia. The combination of seminars, workshops and field trips that the course offers equips students with sophisticated critical thinking skills as well as practical knowledge of how the cultural sector operates. As a result, many of our students have gone on to pursue successful careers as curators, artists, cultural consultants, events and communications managers, media arts project managers, editors and public relations specialists.

Many others have gone on to MPhil/PhD study in fields such as art history and visual culture, cultural studies and media. As part of the course, students have an opportunity to take a work experience module, which involves placements in art and cultural institutions in London and a chance to build a career profile. We work with the University Careers and Employability Service to help students prepare for entering the job market.

CREATIVE WRITING: WRITING THE CITY MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/creative-writing-writing-the-city-ma

This course is the first to focus entirely on the city of London. It will allow you to explore the city as subject matter from a range of perspectives and across all genres. It will also give you a theoretical and practical platform from which to develop your understanding and become part of the London writing scene.

Taught by professional writers and researchers, the course offers plenty of opportunities to network with other writers, agents, TV producers and performance poets. You will be based at one of the University's central London campuses, which means you will be writing about the city from the very heart of it, with ready access to the capital's excellent academic, social and cultural opportunities, including the vibrant West End theatre scene.

Course content

To receive your Masters award, you will need to complete taught modules for a total of 120 credits, covered by three 40-credit core modules, and the 60-credit Writing Project (giving a total of 180 credits). If you do not meet the requirements for a Masters award, you will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate.

The workshop-based structure of the course will allow you to learn through interactive practice. Modules are taught by two-hour or three-hour seminars/workshops per week. Teaching will also include visits to selected London institutions to support certain aspects of writing, and you will be encouraged to use various archives, theatres and galleries. Assessment methods include coursework portfolios, reflective logs, essays, and workshop leadership, as well as the 10-12,000-word writing project. There are no formal examinations.

Core modules

- Creative Practice
- Tales of the City
- The Writing Business
- The Writing Project

Associated careers

The course has a strong emphasis on employability, and students will gain hands-on work experience as they will be part of the publishing team behind *The Wells Street Journal*, our in-house creative writing magazine. The course will enable you to develop sophisticated critical and creative skills and a widely applicable knowledge base that can be adapted to various fields of creative practice and writing business.

This course is intended to move you to a new level in your career as a writer by developing your skills as a sophisticated critical practitioner, and your knowledge of literature about the city as well as the writing business. You will be encouraged to network with other writers and identify useful opportunities for career development, partly through a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including writers' events and talks. The critical and practical skills you will acquire by the end of the course will make you a strong candidate in many areas, including arts management, copy editing, education, freelance writing, journalism, media, publishing, theatre and performance-based writing and research and academia.



CULTURAL AND CRITICAL STUDIES MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/fees)
Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/cultural-and-critical-studies-ma](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/cultural-and-critical-studies-ma)

This interdisciplinary course offers you the rare opportunity to study contemporary critical and cultural debates across a wide range of fields. Exploring a variety of different visual, textual and popular forms of culture, the course will particularly appeal to those with wide-ranging interests in the arts and humanities, as well as those interested in cutting-edge theoretical debates.

We also draw upon a long tradition of practical engagement with the applied arts and culture. Our location in the cultural heart of London offers a unique educational experience and as one of the most internationally diverse universities in the UK, you'll also be studying alongside students from a wide range of different cultural backgrounds.

Modules are taught by expert staff from a number of different disciplines, giving you the flexibility to follow particular themes in the areas that most interest you. The published work of our staff is at the forefront of radical and experimental interdisciplinary areas such as memory studies, urban culture, digital culture, migration studies and contemporary critical theory. As postgraduate students, you will also become members of the Institute of Modern and Contemporary Culture and enjoy the opportunity to engage with a rich and diverse program of research events.

This MA is part of the Cultural and Literary Studies Suite, a cluster of four MAs that bring together academics, curators and practitioners who share a commitment to investigating modern and contemporary culture from aesthetic, critical, literary, and experiential perspectives. You will share classes with students from the Art and Visual Culture MA, the English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions MA and the Museum, Galleries and Contemporary Culture MA, joining a fruitful and intellectually rigorous environment designed to facilitate interdisciplinary thinking.

Course content

The course consists of two core taught modules, Problems and Perspectives in Cultural Studies and Capitalism and Culture, which establish a theoretical framework for the close analysis of central debates around the production of culture. A core dissertation of 12,000 words, which can be written on an appropriate topic of your choice, will also be completed at the end of your studies. Students are supported on the course through a series of academic skills workshops on subjects such as improving academic

writing and undertaking research projects, which are designed to support you in your progression to essay and dissertation writing at postgraduate level.

You will also be able to choose four additional modules, of which the list below is indicative of the kinds of topics covered. As part of our Cultural and Literary Studies Suite, you may choose option modules not only from the list below but from the other three MA programmes, a fantastic opportunity to explore a facet of culture outside of your chosen MA programme.

Core modules

- Capitalism and Culture
- Dissertation
- Problems and Perspectives in Cultural Studies

Option modules

Choose four from:

- Digital Cultures
- Engaging the Archive
- Experimental Women's Writing, Photography and Film
- Queer Now
- Representing World Cultures
- Trauma in American Modernity: The Nation and its Limits
- Urban Cultures
- Work Placement in Cultural Institutions

Associated careers

The course is intended to give you sophisticated critical skills and a widely applicable knowledge of contemporary culture. This enables further study at MPhil or PhD levels, but is also particularly relevant to a range of professions in the media, creative and cultural industries. A number of alumni of the course currently work as academics within higher education institutions, with several more currently completing doctoral research. Others have pursued careers in English language education, the creative industries, including art institutions, film production and journalism, public relations and marketing. Our Work Placement in Cultural Institutions module is designed to enable students to gain direct experience within a professional context, transferring theoretical knowledge into practical and professional skills. The option to choose modules from more vocational programmes on the Suite also provides the flexibility to tailor the course to your own career interests.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and [westminster.ac.uk/fees](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/fees)
Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: [westminster.ac.uk/english-language-and-linguistics-ma](https://www.westminster.ac.uk/english-language-and-linguistics-ma)

The English Language and Linguistics MA aims to provide you with a thorough understanding of the linguistic features of English from a wide range of perspectives: theoretical and applied, synchronic and diachronic.

It will enable you to understand and evaluate critically a wide spectrum of ideas put forward in the study of the English language (particularly in connection with linguistic variation in terms of space, time, communicative context and linguistic contact) and will equip you with the intellectual perspectives and the scholarly skills that will prepare you to conduct independent research.

Course content

The course is suitable for you if you have taken English language and/or linguistics modules at undergraduate level, and others who have taken allied disciplines such as psychology, philosophy or TESOL. It is of particular interest if you wish to pursue further study through investigating recent and current developments in the field or if you wish to teach English and gain a further qualification.

If pursuing the degree full-time, you will study 180 credits in one academic year; if part-time, you will normally complete 180 credits in two academic years. You will study three core modules (including a 60-credit dissertation on a topic of English language and/or linguistics), as well as two modules from the list of options.

The core module Linguistic Description and Analysis equips you with all the necessary theoretical and analytical tools you need to tackle linguistic problems and analyse complex sets of linguistic data. Multilingualism, Past and Present and English Worldwide examine linguistic variation and contact in English and other languages from a wide range of perspectives, both historical and present-day, and many of the options complement this approach. You can explore TESOL issues as part of your options.

There is also independent self-directed study, and you will be prepared for the Dissertation via structured sessions in research methodology. Assessment methods include submitted coursework such as essays, reviews and exercises; there are no formal examinations.



Core modules

- Dissertation
- English Worldwide
- Linguistic Description and Analysis
- Multilingualism, Past and Present

Option modules

- Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse
- Sociolinguistics
- Language and Gender
- Current Developments in Language Teaching
- Special Author/Topic

Associated careers

The English Language and Linguistics MA will provide you with sophisticated analytical skills and a widely applicable knowledge base, which will enable you to study at MPhil or PhD levels with a view to pursuing an academic career.

The course is also particularly relevant to teaching English as a first or foreign language, and to a range of professions involving language and communication.

While studying the MA, you will also benefit from the careers workshops organised by the School's employability coordinator.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/english-language-and-literature-ma

The English Language and Literature MA allows you to explore the interconnections between language and literature. It will provide you with a thorough understanding of the linguistic features of English from a wide range of perspectives (theoretical and applied, synchronic and diachronic), as well as leading you to explore a wide array of texts in connection with the social, historical and political circumstances from which they emerge. Furthermore, the MA will equip you with the intellectual perspectives and the scholarly skills that will prepare you to conduct independent research.

Course content

The MA is suitable if you have taken English language and/or literature modules at undergraduate level, or have taken allied disciplines such as TESOL. It is of particular interest if you wish to pursue further study through investigating recent and current developments in the field or if you wish to teach English and gain a further qualification.

If pursuing the degree full-time, you will study 180 credits in one academic year; if part-time, you will normally complete 180 credits in two academic years. You will study five core modules (including a 60-credit dissertation on a topic of English language and/or literature), as well as two modules from the list of options. The core modules Materialities, Institutions and Contexts and Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature examine classic and contemporary critical texts on literature in relation to ideas in larger contexts, such as history, the visual image, gender, psychoanalysis and post-colonialism. Multilingualism, Past and Present and English Worldwide examine linguistic variation and contact in English and other languages from a wide range of perspectives, both historical and present-day.

The teaching is mainly through weekly two or three hour sessions for each module, which include tutorials, seminars, practical sessions and workshops. There is also independent self-directed study, and you will be prepared for the Dissertation via structured sessions in research methodology. Assessment methods include submitted coursework such as essays, reviews and exercises; there are no formal examinations.

Core modules

- Dissertation
- English Worldwide
- Materialities, Institutions and Contexts
- Multilingualism, Past and Present
- Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature

Option modules

- Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse
- Sociolinguistics
- Language and Gender
- Current Developments in Language Teaching
- Experimental Women's Writing, Photography and Film
- London and Modernism: Manifesto, Literature, Painting and Film
- Special Author/Topic

Associated careers

The English Language and Literature MA will provide you with sophisticated analytical skills and a widely applicable knowledge base, which will enable you to study at MPhil or PhD levels with a view to pursuing an academic career. The course is also particularly relevant to teaching English as a first or foreign language, and to a range of professions involving the study and use of language and literary texts.

While studying the MA, you will also benefit from the careers workshops organised by the School's employability coordinator.



ENGLISH LITERATURE: MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY FICTIONS MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January
Location: Central London (see map p196)
Fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees
Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/english-literature-modern-and-contemporary-fictions-ma

This course gives you the chance to study English literature in a modern university environment, while taking advantage of the wealth of resources offered by London's rich cultural life. You will examine literary texts in the wider context of cultural production and relate them to the social, historical and political circumstances from which they emerge.

The course team consists of academic specialists who make use of the many nearby museums, galleries and libraries in their teaching. The course will be of particular interest to those wishing to prepare for further study at MPhil or PhD level, and those teaching English who want to gain a further qualification and investigate recent and current developments in the field.

Course content

The English Literature: Modern and Contemporary Fictions MA is designed to offer a coherent programme of postgraduate study that allows for both chronological range and specific topical focus. It gives you the opportunity to revisit and reinvestigate the texts, critical practices, institutions and periods that make up the discipline in order to see it in new and exciting ways. It consists of three core modules.

Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature examines a range of issues in contemporary literature and critical theory and philosophy, such as capitalist crisis, failed states, surveillance culture, political activism, human movement, the politics of representation, petroculture, the Anthropocene and catastrophe.

Materialities, Institutions, Contexts looks at the institutional and material conditions that produce our ideas of what literature is and the way literary texts are determined by them. Topics covered include the institution of publishing, questions of history, and globalisation, and a critical investigation of the premises and assumptions of academic study.

The Dissertation, which can be written on an appropriate topic of your choice, is also a core module. The option modules provide an opportunity for you to deepen and extend your knowledge of a range of periods, issues and forms across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

Core modules

- Materialities, Institutions, Contexts
- Themes and Problems in Modern and Contemporary Literature
- Dissertation

Option modules

Choose four from:

- Experimental Women's Writing, Photography and Film
- London and Modernism: Manifesto, Literature, Painting, Film
- Queer Now
- Trauma in American Modernity: The Nation and its Limits
- Urban Cultures
- Work Placement in Cultural Institutions

Associated careers

The course is particularly relevant to those employed in a range of professions, including English teachers wishing to update their professional skills, and professional researchers.

The part-time course would appeal to those interested in studying English literature for career development and general interest.

MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture MA

Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience MA

This course looks at the way that museums, galleries and other cultural institutions are changing to meet the needs of the 21st century. The MA has been designed for students who wish to work as curators, arts organisers, museum professionals and other cultural managers and who want to know in particular how these institutions face contemporary issues. It looks at the changing role of cultural provision and how agencies, festivals and flexible organisations shape, house, fund and disseminate culture today.

The course also gives you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the contemporary debates about working practices in cultural institutions and the changing context in which organisations operate. The course concentrates on professional practice and you will work closely with institutions such as Tate Britain and the Museum of London, and conduct case studies into creative projects run by organisations as diverse as the Victoria and Albert Museum, smaller independent galleries and London-based festivals and arts organisations.

Classes are taught off-site at other institutions, and involve professionals from the sector as much as possible to give you an understanding of vocational issues and a close involvement in the workplace.

You have the option to enrol on the two years Museums, Galleries and Contemporary Culture with Professional Experience MA and take an integrated 60 credits Extended Work Experience module. Students taking this module will undertake a work placement or internship in a museum or an art organisation. The placement will be a minimum of 550 hours, last from between three to twelve months and will take place in the second year after the taught modules have been completed.

Course content

You will examine key issues and themes in the museums and gallery sector, and explore how these are dealt with not just in theory, but also on a day-to-day basis by leading institutions. You will learn about the challenges faced by museums and galleries, how they confront them and how they are developing innovative practices in relation to their collections, exhibitions and audiences.

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January. The course with Professional Experience is two years full-time, starting in September.

Location: Central London (see map p196)

Fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees

Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/museums-galleries-and-contemporary-culture-ma

Gaining professional knowledge is an important part of the course and you will be able to meet curators and museum professionals. The University also assists you to gain internships, work placements and to work on professional projects.

The teaching team are curators, museum and gallery professionals, as well as university academics. You will be taught through seminars, tutorials, practical sessions and workshops, together with independent, student-directed study where you develop your own project. If you are interested in studying the broader theoretical context of museum and gallery issues you can also take modules from other courses taught in the Department, such as the Art and Visual Culture MA.

Core modules

- Current Issues in Museum and Gallery Studies
- Major Research Project
- Extended Work Experience ("with Professional Experience" MA only)

Option modules

Choose five modules from:

- Art Museums and Contemporary Culture
- Collecting Today: Curating, Presenting and Managing Collections
- Curating Contemporary Art
- Education, Learning and Events
- London Museums
- Museum Narratives
- Online Museums and Galleries
- Representing World Cultures
- Work Placement

Associated careers

Graduates will have the skills to work in a variety of positions in the cultural sector, including in the post of curator, consultant, arts and media strategists and advisers, funding officers or education and interpretation officers.

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES MA

Length of course: one year full-time or two years part-time, starting in September or January

Location: Central London (see map p196)

Fees and funding: see course web page and westminster.ac.uk/fees

Entry requirements: see page p192

For full and most up-to-date information, see course web page: westminster.ac.uk/teaching-english-to-speakers-of-other-languages-ma

This course provides you with a specialist combination of theoretical academic study and robust practical application and skills development in English language teaching. It provides advanced training for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) professionals, and examines the latest developments in TESOL methodology and related issues.

You will develop the practical and professional skills involved in TESOL, along with the ability to analyse and apply theoretical perspectives to practical situations.

The course enables you to develop your skills in argument, synthesis and critical expression of TESOL issues and apply them in different teaching contexts. You will also enhance your advanced skills of research, presentation and analysis in TESOL contexts.

Nurturing ongoing professional development and skills in pursuing further independent research is an important aspect of the course, enabling you to make a full contribution to professional development in your specialist area.

Course content

The course consists of three core modules and a range of option modules.

The Language and Learning: Description and Analysis core module introduces in-depth exploration of the core concepts in the description and analysis of language and language learning with specific reference to English language teaching and second language acquisition.

The Current Developments in Language Teaching core module examines a wide range of current practice and developments, including communicative competence in language learning and teaching, language teaching methodology, and discrete and integrated skills. The Dissertation is the third core module.



Core modules

- Current Developments in Language Teaching
- Language and Learning: Description and Analysis
- Dissertation

Option modules

- Analysing Spoken and Written Discourse
- Educational Management in TESOL
- Intercultural Communicative Competence
- Materials Development
- Sociolinguistics
- Testing and Assessment

Associated careers

The course enables you to make substantial progress as advanced English Language Teaching practitioners and managers in a variety of national, regional and cultural educational systems.

You will have the training and preparation to make significant contributions as instructors, managers and researchers.