LIBERAL ARTS
WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

BA Undergraduate Programme
Thinking like a Liberal Arts student
In Liberal Arts at Warwick, the questions you ask matter as much as the answers. You’ll ask insightful, investigative questions, and you’ll cross disciplines in search of solutions.

Liberal Arts is about learning to draw on knowledge and expertise from different disciplines to make interventions in the problems that matter to you. It can be about asking questions from the viewpoint of a mathematician or a sociologist. You can clarify a problem by adopting an economics approach with added political insight. Or, it can be about taking the long view and exploring art, literature or film to highlight how a problem has developed over time in different social contexts.

“To be an innovator, one must understand the past in its best context to identify the needs of the future and develop the innovations to anticipate and meet them. I am interested in the biggest challenges facing the world: sustainability, Artificial Intelligence, globalisation, and my degree gives me the critical underpinning I need to face them.”

François | Liberal Arts graduate
Why study Liberal Arts at Warwick?

Our degree is radically different from other Liberal Arts programmes around the world. Here you’ll focus on developing high-level research skills to create interventions in complex problems. You’ll have the guidance of our experienced transdisciplinary academics each step of the way.

Problem-Based Learning

The best way to shape the intellectual leaders of the future is by training them to tackle the most difficult and pressing problems facing our world today. We do this through our unique Problem-Based Learning approach. This is where you understand a topic by examining complex problems from a variety of perspectives and develop your own distinctive stance.

For more information on how you’ll learn see page 06

Structure and focus

At the end of your first year you’ll choose a unique pathway through your degree. On your pathway, you’ll gain in-depth knowledge whilst working with experts across the University. You’ll have the opportunity to apply the skills developed in our core modules to your pathway modules. This will give you a deeper and more critical understanding of your chosen options.

Your pathway offers you flexibility when thinking about which modules fit your interests. Do you want to reinvent how we see the past? Or, are you concerned with how we build the future? You’ll put together modules that give you the knowledge, skills, and expertise to be a leader in your area of interest. We’ll work with you to help you construct a degree that aligns with what matters to you.

For more information on pathways see page 14

Study abroad partnerships

Do you want to extend your learning and broaden your perspective by studying overseas? If so, we can support you to apply for a year’s study abroad at a leading university. We’ve partnered with elite institutions in Europe and Canada, allowing our students to study Liberal Arts programmes that share our passion for rigorous interdisciplinarity and critical thinking.

For more information on studying abroad see page 19

Employability skills

We’ve embedded your professional development in our programme. You’ll have the opportunity to take certificates designed to develop skills identified by employers as being vital for success in the workplace. You’ll also have the opportunity to engage in work placements and begin to build your professional networks. Our department’s Employability and Placement Manager is here to support you, providing one-to-one careers guidance.

For more information on professional development see page 20

Dedicated expert academics

Our academics in the Liberal Arts Department are passionate about liberal education and are experts in a range of subject areas. They’re also specialists in research-led teaching and learning; they publish and lecture regularly on the teaching methods used here at Warwick. All of our academics in the Liberal Arts Department are accredited as Fellows or Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. Our experience in transdisciplinary learning means you’ll have expert support at every stage of your degree.

For more information on our academics see page 22

Research training

In Liberal Arts at Warwick, original knowledge generation is at the heart of what our students do. From your first year we’ll help you to build a toolkit of foundational primary and secondary research skills. We’ll support you in joining our previous students in producing, publishing, and presenting research beyond the bounds of the classroom.

Community-centred

You’ll join our friendly, supportive, and inclusive community. We have our own departmental base and dedicated student facilities. We’re committed to educational equity and providing a fair and accessible education. We value the unique combinations of experiences, interests, and perspectives that every student brings to the course.

As a student-focused department, we’re keen to support ideas and initiatives led by you. In the past this has included reform to our course design and the introduction of new pathways. You’ll have the opportunity to use your voice in staff-student forums and the student-led Liberal Arts Society.

"What I’ve really appreciated about Liberal Arts which I know doesn’t exist everywhere, is the constant care that they have for you as an individual. It’s not just your personality traits, it’s not just your pathway. It’s everything that encompasses you – your interests and your hobbies outside of Liberal Arts – that they genuinely care about.”

Freddie | Liberal Arts graduate
What will I study?

You’ll study core Liberal Arts modules and have the freedom to choose optional modules from across the University.

In your core modules, you’ll study a range of the most pressing and complex issues facing societies and the planet. Academics from a variety of backgrounds lead our core modules, all with a passion for transdisciplinary teaching.

As you progress through your degree and your interests solidify, you’ll have increasing freedom to tailor your own curriculum. Your degree will culminate in a final-year dissertation that will address an issue of your choice.

At every step of the way, we’ll help you reflect on your ambitions and the issues you care about. We’ll support you with choosing your optional modules to create a coherent degree that is unique to you and your interests.

Active learning

We deliver our core modules using Problem-Based Learning workshops. These are defined by student-led research-based inquiry. There are no formal lectures - instead you’ll spend your time in the classroom debating, framing, and presenting research questions and interventions. Your specific interests guide this learning method. So content, explored through in-depth case studies, changes depending on the student cohort.

“A Problem-Based Learning classroom is a lively space of discussion where students have gone out, conducted their own independent research, shared their ideas with each other and together worked as part of a team to produce a response which we then unpick collectively and explore further.”

Dr Kirsten Harris | Associate Professor and Deputy Head of School

Support

Undergraduate Office

Our Undergraduate Office will be the first port of call for any of your enquiries.

Advice and feedback hours

Our academics hold regular student advice and feedback hours where they’ll offer support for any of your academic enquiries.

Personal tutor

You’ll be assigned a personal tutor who’ll get to know you as an individual learner. You’ll be able to talk to them about any academic or personal issues impacting your studies. You’ll meet your personal tutor regularly and you’ll also be able to contact them at any point should you need to.

Director of Student Experience

We have a Director of Student Experience in our department who’s dedicated to helping you get the most out of your time at Warwick and reach your potential in your degree.

Employability and Placement Manager

Our Employability and Placement Manager will support you in developing your employability skills. You can find out more about the guidance they can offer on page 21.

Authentic assessments

Assessments for our core modules are designed to be authentic learning experiences. Our assessment types vary widely to support your development of a range of academic and professional skills, including creative submissions like policy proposals, videos, documentaries and podcasts.

How will I learn?

You’ll study core Liberal Arts modules and have the freedom to choose optional modules from across the University.

In your core modules, you’ll study a range of the most pressing and complex issues facing societies and the planet. Academics from a variety of backgrounds lead our core modules, all with a passion for transdisciplinary teaching.

As you progress through your degree and your interests solidify, you’ll have increasing freedom to tailor your own curriculum. Your degree will culminate in a final-year dissertation that will address an issue of your choice.

At every step of the way, we’ll help you reflect on your ambitions and the issues you care about. We’ll support you with choosing your optional modules to create a coherent degree that is unique to you and your interests.

“Problem-Based Learning is where students are surrounded by problems of actual societies and the planet and are then challenged to think critically about them. We create these problems through research and ask students to develop possible solutions. The key is to provide students with a safe environment where they can get excited, test the limits of their learning, make mistakes, and then learn from these mistakes.”

Dr Kirsten Harris | Associate Professor and Deputy Head of School

Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Final Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts: Principles and Practice</td>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Revolution</td>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Pathway modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Society, and the Media</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research (Optional core)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Sustainability Consultancy</td>
<td>Certificate of Professional Communication with Work Placement</td>
<td>Certificate of Coaching Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Digital Literacy</td>
<td>Certificate of Professional Communication with Work Placement</td>
<td>Certificate of Coaching Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free choice</td>
<td>Pathway modules</td>
<td>Pathway modules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Core modules

Liberal Arts at Warwick features core modules built around some of the world’s most fascinating and challenging scenarios. The core modules use our unique Problem-Based Learning approach. They aim to build your skills and confidence in designing effective interventions in difficult problems.

Year One

Liberal Arts: Principles and Praxis
This is your introduction to the history, thinking, and fundamental values behind Liberal Arts education. It’s where you begin to think beyond the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines and how these might be transgressed. We will question the purpose and outcomes of learning itself, and consider how education can be a key step towards achieving freedom (broadly defined).

Art and Revolution
On this module you’ll explore the ways in which art (the things we make) prompts, predicts, or responds to revolutions across history. You’ll learn how to apply a range of research skills to generate original approaches to complex historical scenarios. The core modules use our unique Problem-Based Learning approach.

Science, Society, and the Media
How is scientific knowledge produced? How is it different from the knowledge generated in the Humanities and Social Sciences? How is it transmitted to the public? To what extent do political, financial, philosophical, and linguistic frameworks transform that knowledge? This module will explore the generation and dissemination of scientific knowledge through peer-reviewed articles, public-facing media such as news reporting, science fiction, and popular science writing. It will support you in critically reflecting on received wisdom regarding society’s understanding of science, and how you can proactively and productively intervene in public discourse on scientific topics.

Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research
This module will introduce you to a range of methodologies used in social, historical, and cultural research. Qualitative research asks “why” and “how”, rather than “how many”. You’ll critically engage with theoretical debates and put what you learn into practice by conducting primary research using archival, text-based and interview methodologies. The hands-on research assignments in this module link to other core modules, so activities will always be relevant to your studies.

Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research
(Optional core)
How can we use quantitative data to understand the world around us? This module will introduce you to the foundations of quantitative analysis and the principles of quantitative research, descriptive statistics and data visualisation. You’ll begin to consider how we can use data at our disposal to draw conclusions about the wider world. This is a core module for our more technical pathways and will act as a prerequisite for more advanced analytical modules.

Year Two

Consumption
Consumption connects the local and the global. It is at the core of our lives: from the food we eat, to what we wear, to our cultural and leisure activities, to the services we use.
On this module you’ll examine the role that consumption plays in contemporary and historical societies. You’ll explore how consumption operates as an organising social force through the analysis of film, literature, music, advertisements, branding, case studies, social research and critical theory.

Sustainability
How do we define and understand sustainability? What are the opportunities and limitations in individual and collective action? What part do businesses and globalisation have to play in sustainability? How can we ensure the sustainability of the population and society?
On this module you’ll study sustainability challenges as complex interdisciplinary issues. You’ll have the freedom to explore different topics from a variety of disciplinary approaches. We’ll help you develop a detailed evidence-based understanding of current controversies, debates and theories. You’ll build the confidence to explore feasible policy approaches in the sustainability sphere.

Final Year

Dissertation
Your dissertation is a year-long project that marks the culmination of your experience at Warwick. You’ll design and carry out a significant piece of original research, the ideal opportunity for you to showcase what you’ve learned and what you can do next. You’ll be able to make a real contribution to an area of academic study, a policy debate, or a community issue that’s important to you. You’ll draw on subject experts from across the University, and you’ll work with a dedicated advisor who can help you achieve your project goals.

“In our Art and Revolution module, we’re looking at history but not just from a historical perspective. We’re looking through different frameworks, at different art forms and theorists, which I think offers a really engaging educational perspective.”

Olamide | Liberal Arts graduate
Still interested in a specific discipline? Our core modules will give you research and critical thinking tools to see a discipline in a new and different way. You'll be well-equipped to pursue careers and postgraduate studies in a range of subjects, but you'll have an interdisciplinary perspective that puts you at the forefront of the field.

Optional Liberal Arts modules

Liberal Arts at Warwick enables you to tailor your degree to answer the questions that matter to you, with the ability to study optional modules from across the University.

We hope that you will enjoy the multi-faceted approaches of our own specialist academic team. If so, we have a range of engaging optional Liberal Arts modules on offer and you can incorporate these modules into your chosen pathway. We have built these modules on the transdisciplinary principles of the programme.

For current students, optional modules within the Liberal Arts Department include:

The Apocalyptic Imaginary
Narratives about the end of the world are among some of humanity's most powerful stories. They stretch from our distant mythological past to imagined transhuman futures.

In this module, you'll explore how a range of apocalyptic narratives was generated and adapted for particular purposes. You'll also consider what the effects of those narratives were ranging from American extremist militias to the Haitian roots of the zombie apocalypse and the relationship between eco-narratives and science fiction.

Utopia: Text, Theory, Practice
Humans in different times and places have asked: How can we build a better society? At its simplest, the concept of 'utopia' can be understood as a way of responding to this fundamental question.

This module combines ideas, imagination, and activism. You'll explore social problems using creative texts, document sources, case studies and secondary readings. These problems may relate to politics, gender, "race", education, urban planning, sustainability, spirituality, and the wider problem of the colonial heritage of utopian studies.

Posthumous Geographies I: Underworlds
This transdisciplinary module examines conceptions of the underworld from the classical period to present day. The core issue explored in this module concerns how cultural anxieties about the afterlife embodied in imagined spaces of underworlds shape moral and intellectual values, and experienced social reality. Using an array of disciplinary approaches, the module critically considers the foundational tropes that underlie the idea of an underworld, and how constructions of underworlds critique the social, cultural, religious, and political values of a particular society.

Posthumous Geographies II: Paradises
Are all paradises already lost? This module employs a variety of complementary disciplinary approaches to explore how cultural anxieties about the afterlife embodied in imagined spaces of paradise shape moral and intellectual values, social realities, and built environments. You'll undertake an intellectual journey through otherworldly paradises in order to explore social, moral, political, and cultural problems. Among other questions, the module asks how conceptions of earthly paradises have served to legitimise colonial violence, to develop gendered geographies, and how they continue to influence us today in the promotion of music festivals, package holidays, and futuristic conceptions of cloud consciousness and transhumanism.

"I studied Utopia: Text, Theory, Practice and The Apocalyptic Imaginary. These optional modules cover a range of incredibly interesting, often unfamiliar topics and source materials, whilst also linking meaningfully to other core Liberal Arts modules. Classes are collaborative and interactive, encouraging creativity and independent thought, and the development and pursuit of your own research interests."

Frances | Liberal Arts graduate
All the staff in Liberal Arts show a real sense of care for students — we are recognised by name as opposed to by number, and our personal and academic wellbeing is clearly a huge priority. I have received amazing support in discovering my interests, exploring the different approaches to study them, and tailoring my degree to make it unique to me.

Magdalena
Liberal Arts graduate

Optional Liberal Arts modules continued

Quantitative Methods: Research Project
Are you interested in undertaking a hands-on research project from start to finish?
On this module, as part of a group you’ll choose your own research topic that can be done using a pre-selected high-quality UK dataset. You’ll follow the project process from a proposal to a final presentation and research element. You’ll carry out research and practice advanced statistical techniques, alongside learning and practicing project management, time management and teamwork.
This module is ideal for you if you’re keen to enhance your quantitative techniques. It is also suitable for students who may lack quantitative experience but are willing to put in the effort to support the group’s quantitative analysis.

Quantitative Research Methods: Understanding Relationships in Data
How can we use data to analyse the nature and strength of relationships between variables? On this module, you’ll build quantitative foundations by thinking about this question. You’ll develop a flexible toolkit of statistical skills and experience using specialist software. With this toolkit you’ll use data to explore ideas of correlation versus causality, test significance and develop multivariate models which can help explain the world’s phenomena.

The Quest I: Departure and Enchantment
How do we conceive of the quest in an age that Max Weber characterised as dominated by rationalisation, intellectualisation, and above all, a profound sense of “disenchantment”? You’ll use a transdisciplinary perspective to explore the problem that lies at the outset of all quests: the departure from emotional comfort and certainty to face unknown realms of fear and enchantments. You’ll explore how we construct heroes and the problems with such narratives across literary texts, films, business models, and video games. Why do we leave? What do we hope to gain? How can we truly depart and break down what holds us back?

The Quest II: Exile and Homecoming
This module explores the problem that lies at the end of all quests: moving from being in exile to one’s homecoming. How do we conceive of the relationship between ourselves and our home? How does our environment shape who we are and the stories we tell? Through a transdisciplinary perspective, you’ll explore case studies of diasporas, nostalgia, postcolonial literature, ecological exile, and the challenges in creating community in the modern world. Among other questions, we will explore what we hope to gain at the end of a quest, how we change along the way, and whether the concepts of home and homeland can ultimately offer any kind of comfort or certainty.

We are continually updating our list of optional modules to reflect the latest research and expertise within our Department. Please visit warwick.ac.uk/liberalarts for the most up-to-date list of options.

“All the staff in Liberal Arts show a real sense of care for students — we are recognised by name as opposed to by number, and our personal and academic wellbeing is clearly a huge priority. I have received amazing support in discovering my interests, exploring the different approaches to study them, and tailoring my degree to make it unique to me.”

Magdalena
Liberal Arts graduate
Pathways
Design a degree that answers the questions that matter to you.

To get the most from such an expansive degree, it helps to have some focus. At the end of your first year*, we’ll ask you to begin to design a degree that develops in-depth expertise in a chosen area of interest. You’ll select modules and a pathway that gives you the skills and knowledge to tackle the problems which matter most to you. We’ll guide and support you in making your decision about which pathway to follow.

Specialist Interest pathways
You may choose to follow a Specialist Interest pathway, selecting your optional modules from across the University. Your Specialist Interest pathway will be open to your interpretation, and determined by your interests and goals. For example, your Specialist Interest may be ‘Culture and Identity’. You will study this theme from your own perspective, choosing modules in arts, social sciences, or other disciplines.

Examples of Specialist Interest pathway titles:
- Apocalyptic Studies
- Business Ethics
- Conflict, Culture, and Society
- Culture and Identity
- Food Security
- Health and Human Society
- Imagination in Childhood Development
- Social Justice

The pathway titles listed above were designed by individual students in collaboration with our academics. You’re free to pursue your interests, whatever they might be: if one of the above pathway titles doesn’t reflect your passions and goals, we’ll help you design one that meets your needs.

“A lot of Liberal Arts courses tend to leave students on their own to decide what pathway they want to go down, but with Warwick there’s a focus on making sure you know exactly what pathway is right for you.”

Sara | Liberal Arts graduate

Disciplinary Interest pathways
If your passions lie in a specific subject, you may want to choose your optional modules from one of our partner departments. You can do this by following a Disciplinary Interest pathway.

Our Disciplinary Interest pathways are:
- Classics and Ancient History
- Economics
- Education
- English
- Film and Television Studies
- History
- Languages
- Life Sciences
- Philosophy
- Theatre and Performance Studies

The core Liberal Arts modules will give you the research and critical thinking tools to see a discipline in a new and different way. You’ll be well equipped to pursue careers and postgraduate studies in a range of subjects, and you’ll have a transdisciplinary perspective that puts you at the forefront of the field.

Which optional modules might I study on the Social Justice pathway?

Year One
- Ideas of Freedom (Philosophy)
- Sociology of Race (Sociology)

Year Two
- Posthumous Geographies I: Underworlds (Liberal Arts)
- The Apocalyptic Imaginary (Liberal Arts)
- War, Memory, and Society (Sociology)

Final Year
- Postcolonial Theory and Politics (Sociology)
- Human Rights and Social Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean (Global Sustainable Development)
- Feminism, Politics and Social Change in Modern Britain (History)
- State Crime, Human Rights and Global Wrongs (Sociology)

Social justice involves all people in all societies having equal access to wealth, health, wellbeing, justice and opportunity. Studying a Social Justice pathway allows you to delve into the social, cultural, political, historical, and economic issues that relate to this concept in the UK and on a global scale.

*Some disciplinary pathways such as Economics or History will require you to study specific modules in your first year to proceed onto the pathway in your second year. Please note that module offerings change year to year and so individual modules may vary.

“The freedom and encouragement to carry out independent research from the first year at Warwick, combined with my core Liberal Arts module ‘Art and Revolution’, inspired and developed my deep interest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). This experience massively shaped the Social Justice pathway I chose. Focusing on the MENA region, my pathway has allowed me to gain insight into the area from socio-political, economic, psychological, legal, and cultural angles through modules such as ‘Politics and Culture in the Middle East’ and ‘Violence, Rights, Justice, and Peace in the Middle East’. I hope to use the knowledge gained on the pathway, and the training I have received in Liberal Arts, to pursue the Warwick Master’s programme Humanitarian Engineering to pursue a career in the Middle East—tackling complex problems such as water scarcity by engineering effective solutions that take into account cultural, geopolitical, and infrastructural influences.”

Ceara | Liberal Arts graduate
Culture and Identity

This pathway was formed by a collection of our first cohort of students who wanted to turn their critical attention to the ways in which individuals and societies generate and interact with culture. Cutting across the arts and humanities, anthropology, geography, sociology, and politics, this pathway has supported students to focus on areas not otherwise offered at Warwick. Students on this pathway have combined modules on film, music, policy, and cultural theory, with modules relating to management, education and psychology.

Which optional modules might I study on the Culture and Identity pathway?

**Year One**
- Visual Cultures (Film and Television Studies)
- Life of Media: Past, Present and Future (Sociology)

**Year Two**
- Drama and Democracy (English)
- Utopia: Text, Theory, Practice (Liberal Arts)
- Television History and Criminology (Film and Television Studies)

**Final Year**
- Global Visions (Film and Television Studies)
- Public Opinion (Politics)

Food Security

Reliable and equitable access to a range of healthy foods is one of the major global challenges of the 21st century. On this pathway, you will draw on Warwick’s globally-leading interdisciplinary research expertise to bridge policy with ecology, and business with philosophy to understand and address aspects of this crucial issue. You may choose to take modules across the life sciences, business, politics, philosophy, and the arts and humanities.

Which optional modules might I study on the Food Security pathway?

**Year One**
- Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research (Liberal Arts)
- World Politics (Politics)

**Year Two**
- A Global History of Food (History)
- Security, Sovereignty and Sustainability in the Global Food System (Global Sustainable Development)
- Health and Sustainable Development (Global Sustainable Development)

**Final Year**
- Empire and Oil: BP and the Building of Global Oil Industry in Iran (History)
- The World of the Tavern in Early Modern Europe (History)
- The Sociology of Urban Life (Sociology)

Sustainability

Our Sustainability pathway lets you look at the ways in which systems function, and prompts you to make interventions to support sustainable solutions. Warwick is at the forefront of sustainability education, and our Department works closely with our partners in Global Sustainable Development (GSD) to support students on this pathway.

On this pathway you’ll take modules that cover sustainability and sustainable development from a range of disciplinary perspectives, including ecology, biology, geography, history, politics and governance, business and management, and education.

Which optional modules might I study on the Sustainability pathway?

**Year One**
- Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research (Liberal Arts)
- Economic Principles of GSD (GSD)
- Environmental Principles of GSD (GSD)

**Year Two**
- Security, Sovereignty and Sustainability in the Global Food System (GSD)
- Health and Sustainable Development (GSD)

**Final Year**
- Utopia: Text, Theory, Practice (Liberal Arts)
- Challenges of Climate Change (GSD)

“I chose Liberal Arts in part because of the freedom it provided when I first came to university, I really had very little idea of what I wanted to do with my life, let alone what I wanted to study. After studying modules from the GSD Department at Warwick, I realised that sustainability was something that had always interested me, but that I had never really been able to fully explore. As a result I ended up really enjoying my sustainability themed modules and chose the Sustainability pathway.

“In the future I definitely want my work to be based around sustainability, but it’s a very broad field so this can range from working for an NGO to working in politics. I still have many avenues to explore, but I believe the combination of Liberal Arts training and the Sustainability pathway will set me up well.”

Magdalena | Liberal Arts graduate
Beyond the classroom

The University of Warwick provides a lively and varied campus environment. You’ll have plenty of opportunities to engage with culture, explore your interests, and meet a diverse group of like-minded friends.

In your wider engagement with the University, you’ll have all the support you need to do well. This could be support with your studies, your health and wellbeing, or with your career. Warwick is also the perfect place to meet new people, make connections, and find a new hobby as you delve into the University’s thriving cultural scene.

Warwick Liberal Arts Society

If you’re interested in interdisciplinary learning, Warwick Liberal Arts Society is for you. This student-run society hosts social events, academic support workshops, and career development activities.

Research activities

There are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in research during your time at Warwick. Our students take part in a range of research activities, including:

- Contributing to the academic Reinvention journal;
- Presenting research at the International Conference of Undergraduate Research;
- Undertaking research projects through Warwick’s Undergraduate Research Support Scheme.

@warwickliberalartssoc

"Since I started in Liberal Arts I have found Warwick to have a unique, diverse, and friendly culture that manages to balance rigorous academic study with a real appreciation for the arts, sports, and the hundreds of other activities available to you through student-run societies."

Celine | Liberal Arts student

"The International Conference of Undergraduate Research is a chance to learn in multiple senses. You present your own research in an interdisciplinary setting, and you also learn from your peers presenting. I enjoyed learning things that lay outside the disciplines I have explored in Liberal Arts."

Ceara | Liberal Arts graduate

Study abroad

At Liberal Arts we believe that understanding difficult issues means seeing them from different angles—whether disciplinary, socio-cultural, or international.

A period studying abroad can be the defining experience of your undergraduate degree. You’ll have the chance to immerse yourself in another culture, learn a new language, and make new friends. You’ll also develop a new international perspective—enabling you to tackle problems as a global citizen. Your study abroad experience can even help you when applying for postgraduate courses and jobs.

We’ve established partnerships with elite institutions in Europe and Canada. Those partnerships allow our students to spend a year abroad on Liberal Arts programmes that share our passion for interdisciplinary and critical thinking. If your study ambitions lie further afield, you’re also welcome to apply for a place at one of Warwick’s many other partner institutions.

Our overseas partners:

Amsterdam University College (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Concordia University (Montréal, Canada)

Jacobs University (Bremen, Germany)

Leiden University College (The Hague, Netherlands)

Leuphana University Lüneburg (Lüneburg, Germany)

University College Freiburg (Freiburg, Germany)

"While studying abroad I developed an independent research project on Concordia’s smart city group looking at stakeholder engagement. I loved learning how urban innovation ecosystems differ and potential improvements that could be applied. I intend to present my research findings at the International Conference of Undergraduate Research and I am excited to use this to inform my studies."

Celine | Liberal Arts student

Intercalated study abroad at Concordia University
Professional development

There’s more pressure than ever on students to finish their degrees with a range of professional skills and experiences, ready for the world of work.

Our degree has been designed to develop the core professional skills that employers seek in graduates. These skills are embedded in our course content, teaching approach, and assessments. To complement this, we’ve created a series of professional development certificates that are exclusive to our students from the School for Cross-faculty Studies. You’ll also have the opportunity to engage in a range of different work placements.

Know exactly what you want to do? We’ll help you get there. Not sure exactly what path you’ll take? We can help you discover the career that’s right for you.

Professional development certificates

We offer a range of unique certificates outside of the curriculum as a way of continuing your professional development. These certificates are designed to develop skills that have been identified by employers as being vital for success in the workplace. Your attainment of these certificates will be recorded on your Higher Education Achievement Report.

Certificate of Digital Literacy

To succeed in a digital society, you need to be savvy about how it can be used to enhance your life and career, and aware of the potential threats that come with the territory. Workshops focus on issues including online identity, privacy and security, and digital etiquette. You’ll explore trends in digital literacy and how to market your social media presence professionally.

Certificate of Coaching Practice

This certificate aims to develop your ability and confidence to conduct effective coaching conversations. You’ll have the opportunity to practise the key skills — such as listening to understand, asking open questions, and building rapport and trust — that enable you to coach well. These skills are useful in many other contexts, including teaching, consultancy and managing people.

Certificate of Professional Communication

This certificate aims to develop your professional communication skills and promote your understanding of the working environment. It’s designed to make the link between communication and employability, which is pivotal for your personal and professional growth. Workshops will explore theories and concepts around communication in relation to the world of work. Using this preparation, you’ll undertake a short work placement which concludes the certificate.

Certificate of Sustainability Consultancy

On this certificate you’ll develop your consultancy skills by undertaking a sustainability-related audit. In a team, you’ll focus on one aspect of sustainability on campus and explore ways of addressing the problem. You’ll report findings and recommendations to the client, an internal University partner.

Work placements

We encourage you to undertake a work placement as part of your study programme. This will enable you to engage in the world of work and learn about the professional environment.

It’s an opportunity for you to apply theory to practice, develop skills, learn from industry professionals as well as explore a future career path. This ultimately supports you in developing your employability skills and prepares you for future employment. The two work placement options are:

1. Intercalated year-long work placement

You’ll complete a four-year degree and your work placement will take place in your third year. The work placement can take place in the UK or globally and after completion, you’ll return to Warwick for your final year.

Your year-long work placement will be formally recognised on your Higher Education Achievement Report.

“I chose to do an intercalated work placement because it provides the opportunity to apply and hone skills which you have learnt during your education, on a more practical level. It also offers the chance to learn new abilities, which might not be learnt through standard education systems.”

Eva Liberal Arts graduate, Intercalated work placement at N Brown

2. Short work placement

We also support students to undertake shorter work placements throughout the year.

Our students have been successful in securing work placements with employers from the private, public, and third sectors. These employers include research institutions, governmental bodies, NGOs, media organisations, fashion companies, environmental consultancies, financial consultancies, and many others. They have undertaken diverse roles such as Marketing Assistant, Researcher, Project Officer, and Editor.

Support

We have a dedicated Employability and Placement Manager who will provide you with one-to-one careers guidance. They work in collaboration with employers, so you’ll be supported in securing appropriate work placements.

You’ll have access to specialist pre-placement advice, guidance and preparation, as well as ongoing support during your placement.

You’ll also have access to the University’s Student Opportunity resources (including careers counselling, employment advice, and job fairs).

"Our experience with the placement students was fantastic. They absolutely blew me away.”

Iain Innovation Alliance for the West Midlands

Bodrun Nahar Employability and Placement Manager

Warwick is the 6th most targeted university by the UK’s top 100 graduate employers (The Graduate Market in 2021, High Fliers Research Ltd.)
Dr Lauren Bird | Senior Teaching Fellow

"With my background in social epidemiology and quantitative research and teaching, my aim is to help students develop practical and analytical skills to combine with their rich Liberal Arts experiences to take on the challenging issues facing the world. Whether a student has a quantitative background or not, the modules I teach build confidence in numbers and quantitative research methods. Quantitative methods modules provide highly complementary technical skills to the creative and critical skills you will develop in your arts and humanities modules — a strength of Liberal Arts at Warwick. I also enjoy teaching the second-year core module on Sustainability, where we analyse some of the leading global sustainability challenges, and student research and interests drive elements of the course."

Dr Kirsten Harris | Associate Professor

"I work at the intersection of literary studies, cultural studies, history and political philosophy. My main areas of expertise are the radical American poet Walt Whitman, the literary and cultural life of 19th century leftist political movements, and world-building in utopias from different times and places. I also enjoy teaching the first-year core module Qualitative Methods for Undergraduate Research, which introduces new students to hands-on interdisciplinary research skills in archival studies, digital projects, interviewing and interpretative methodologies, as well as the lively theoretical debates that underpin and inform them."

Dr Bryan Brazeau | Associate Professor

"Given my expertise in Renaissance Italian literature and philosophy, the subjects I teach focus on questions of cultural and scientific progress, translation, thinking across multiple languages, the reception of the classical world, and the application of poetics and poetic theory to complex real-world problems. My love of teaching rests upon the conviction that such interdisciplinary approaches deepen students’ awareness and enable them to develop critical lenses that will serve throughout their lives. As tutor on the first-year core module Science, Society, and the Media, I enjoy seeing our Liberal Arts students engage with different perspectives on the scientific method, use discourse analysis to critique the media, and engage in formal policy debates. I also advise dissertations and teach four Liberal Arts optional modules for second- and final-year students: Posthumous Geographies I: Underworlds, Posthumous Geographies II: Paradises, The Quest I: Departure and Enchantment, and The Quest II: Exile and Homecoming."

Dr Gavin Schwartz-Leeper | Associate Professor

"I look after students’ academic experience: advising on module choices, pathway decisions, and other activities. My research and teaching is primarily concerned with the ways in which we understand and use the past, but I also work on higher education theory and practices. For me, it’s a real thrill to see our transdisciplinary students arguing about early Soviet propaganda using primary sources they found (and I’ve never seen before) in Warwick’s Modern Records Centre, bringing in historiography, economics, linguistics, politics, colour theory – there’s no such thing as a dull class."

How do you see the next years of your life unfolding? How ready are you to embrace the freedom and responsibility that a liberal mode of education offers you?

On the Warwick Liberal Arts course you’ll be part of a culture of thoughtful and intellectually rebellious individuals, each pursuing their own academic pathway but all collectively united in the belief that the economic, social, political, and environmental future of our world can only be assured if different kinds of knowledge and perspectives are drawn on. Our course can open many doors and it’s up to you to choose what matters, which issues inspire you, which causes are worth pursuing and which areas of knowledge you need to acquire in order to effect change.

In a world full of uncertainty, distrustful of authority, fraught with conflict, you must be part of the generation that brings about change because the status quo is no longer feasible; and change, as former President Barack Obama said, “will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”
How to apply

Applications are made through UCAS ucas.com
If you are made and accept an offer, and meet any outstanding conditions, we will confirm your place and look forward to warmly welcoming you at the start of your life here at Warwick.
For more detailed information about how we process applications please visit:
warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply

Overseas applicants

At Warwick, we welcome applications from across the globe, and have dedicated teams available to advise and support, as well as a global network of Agents and Representatives.
For more information on applying from your country see:
warwick.ac.uk/io

Student fees and funding

We want to ensure that, wherever possible, financial circumstances do not become a barrier to studying at Warwick. We provide extra financial support for qualifying students from lower income families.
warwick.ac.uk/studentfunding

Entry requirements

A Level:
• AAA plus grade C/grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE
• For 2022 entry, we will make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at ABB, plus grade C/grade 4 in English and Mathematics at GCSE.

IB:
• 38 to include English and Mathematics

BTEC:
• We welcome applications from students taking BTECs alongside one or two A levels
• You will also need grade C/grade 4 in English and Mathematics at GCSE.

We welcome applications from students taking a wide range of qualifications. For more information please visit:
warwick.ac.uk/ugoffers

Accommodation

We believe that where you live underpins your University experience. Warwick Accommodation manages around 7,000 self-catering residences on campus. At Warwick, you’ll enjoy the freedom of independent living alongside your fellow students but with the security of knowing you’re surrounded by people who can support you should you need it. For more information please visit:
warwick.ac.uk/accommodation

Discover more

To find out more about the University, including opportunities to visit and engage with your department of choice, please visit:
warwick.ac.uk/undergraduate/visits

This course information was accurate at the time of publication (September, 2021). While the University tries to ensure that the information is accurate, it does not warrant that this is the case. The University may need to make changes including to the course content, syllabus, delivery, methods of assessment, or to comply with external accrediting or reviewing bodies. It is therefore important that you revisit the relevant course website before you apply and when you accept an offer to ensure you are viewing the most up to date information. This information should not be construed as an offer and nor does it create a contract or other legally binding relationship between the University and you or a third party. For full terms and conditions, please visit warwick.ac.uk/ugtermsandconditions