

Liberal Arts at Warwick - Undergraduate Live Chat

An opportunity for you to speak to our tutors and current students about studying Liberal Arts and life at Warwick.



Hello everyone, and welcome to today's Live Chat about Liberal Arts at Warwick. We'll get started in a few minutes, but do say hello or use this time to think of any questions you have for us.



Welcome slide



My name is Dr Kirsten Harris, and I'm an Associate Professor here in Liberal Arts. I'm also the Director of Admissions and the Director of Undergraduate Studies - which means that I have oversight of the course and your studies.



Welcome to our Liberal Arts live chat, we're looking forward to speaking to you today! 😊 I'm Jess and I'm a Recruitment and Communications Officer in the Liberal Arts Department. Today's live chat is a straight forward questions and answers question, so when you're ready please feel free to ask us your questions. No question is too small!



hiya!! just wondering what sort of things you look for in a good personal statement of someone looking to study liberal arts? or if you could give any advice on what to write? many thanks!!



Hey everyone, my name is Arya and I am a recent graduate from Liberal Arts! I studied a disciplinary pathway in Economics. I would love to answer any questions you have for me about my experience with Liberal Arts at Warwick or even about the general student experience at the university :)



hiya!! just wondering what sort of things you look for in a good personal statement of someone looking to study liberal arts? or if you could give any advice on what to write? many thanks!!

Hi Libby. That's a great question, and the answer changes a little depending on whether you're applying only for Liberal Arts courses, or whether you're applying for a mixture of course (e.g. all your other applications are for English Lit but you also want to apply for one Liberal Arts course) 1/



hiya!! just wondering what sort of things you look for in a good personal statement of someone looking to study liberal arts? or if you could give any advice on what to write? many thanks!!

But if you're applying to all Liberal Arts courses, the best thing that you can do is show that you've understood what a liberal education is (i.e. that you see the value in learning in a way that goes beyond the boundaries of disciplines) 2/



Mentions critical thinking - most critical thinking courses I have seen are based on enlightenment ideas, reason, evidence, sources, bias, but none that I have seen include any systems, feedback loops, network analysis, dynamic modelling. Which of your core modules cover critical thinking and does it include any systems analysis?



hiya!! just wondering what sort of things you look for in a good personal statement of someone looking to study liberal arts? or if you could give any advice on what to write? many thanks!!

Any examples you have that evidence your intellectual curiosity, or critical thinking, or problem-solving, or where you've taken the initiative would be useful. 3/



hiya!! just wondering what sort of things you look for in a good personal statement of someone looking to study liberal arts? or if you could give any advice on what to write? many thanks!!

But, from my perspective anyway, intellectual curiosity and a willingness to engage with lots of different kinds of knowledge/ways of thinking are some of the things I value the most when looking at applications. Hope that helps!



brilliant!! thank you :)



While Arya is answering John, if anyone has any other questions please do pop them in the chat!

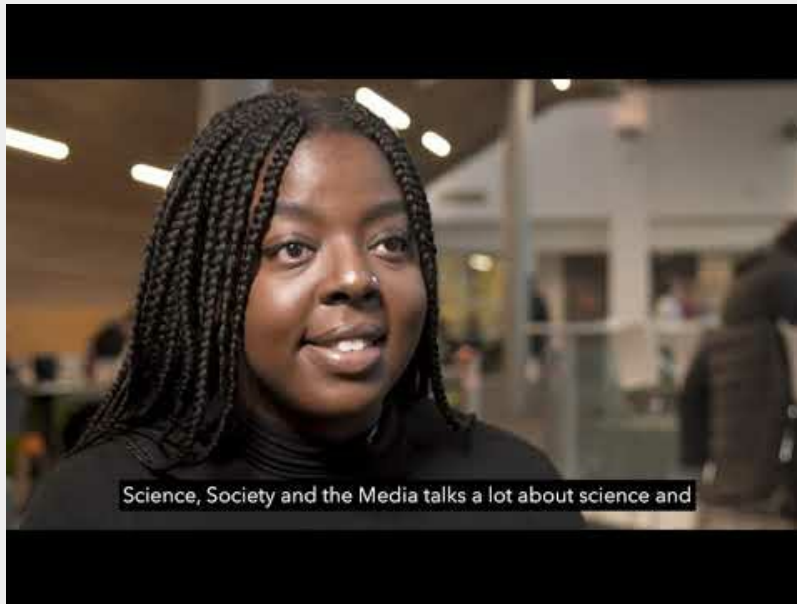


Or introduce yourself, and share maybe what interests you about Liberal Arts :)



While you're thinking of your next questions, we'll play a short video featuring some of our students

Liberal Arts: Student Experience



Student experience video

<https://youtu.be/c5VY11fW8Vk>



hiya!! just wondering what sort of things you look for in a good personal statement of someone looking to study liberal arts? or if you could give any advice on what to write? many thanks!!

I should add that if you are only applying to one Liberal Arts option and all your other choices are a more traditional subject, you should write your personal statement for the more traditional subject. The Liberal Arts course will understand your predicament! (And will get in touch if they need to know anything more about your interests in Liberal Arts)



Mentions critical thinking - most critical thinking courses I have seen are based on enlightenment ideas, reason, evidence, sources, bias, but none that I have seen include any systems, feedback loops, network analysis, dynamic modelling. Which of your core modules cover critical thinking and does it include any systems analysis?

Hi John. Personally, I really enjoyed learning about system thinking and modelling and we did this mainly in the Year 2 Core module Sustainability (IP201). In my experience this module was very focussed on this method and I enjoyed taking this and applying it to my assignments in other core modules. In this way even in modules where systems thinking was not the focus I found that professors really valued it when I was able to apply it to the discussions in class and the coursework.



Often, potential students want to know about teaching style, assessments, the community of students here in Liberal Arts, the relationship between students and teachers, etc. If you want to know anything more about those things just let me know!



Thanks



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<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/aro/dar/quality/modules/undergraduate/ip/ip201/> Here is a link to the module description page for IP201 Sustainability if you would like to know more about this particular module. Please do follow up if you would like me to clarify anything else :)

IP201 - Sustainability: Frameworks, Challenges and Opportunities

Module information for IP201 (Sustainability: Frameworks, Challenges and Opportunities) for academic year 18/19

Liberal Arts Core Module: Sustainability



Sustainability video

<https://youtu.be/YBWqWfoV9Hk>



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Hi John, I can see that Arya has mentioned our second-year core module, Sustainability, in his reply. Here's a video from Arya talking about this module



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Yes, this is specifically covered in the Y2 Sustainability module (although, as a disclaimer, the content/curriculum of any module in the University may change in the future). But students practice on a weekly basis doing systems analysis. A number of students become very interested in this, and choose to approach assessments in other core modules (e.g. the Y2 module on Consumption, the Y3 dissertation, other optional modules) using these approaches and strategies.



Do you have any more questions for us? For example, are you interested in hearing about how the teaching style in Liberal Arts at Warwick differs from what you're probably used to at school/college?



Something to think about with Liberal Arts courses is that they look very different from university to university. It's worth having a careful look at how the course is structured, whether it has a physical department or not, how big it is, etc. to make the decision about what course is the best match for you



Do you have any more questions for us? For example, are you interested in hearing about how the teaching style in Liberal Arts at Warwick differs from what you're probably used to at school/college?

Or, we can tell you more about how the course is structured, and what you'll be studying in each year of the degree. Feel free to ask away!

Liberal Arts: Undergraduate Work Placements



Work Placements

<https://youtu.be/aW6ylWCBDvQ>



We're a relatively small programme which means that we get to know our students really well, and they get to know each other really well. This is obviously great from a social point of view, but it also has real academic value: it means that students come to know and trust each other, which makes classroom discussion really rich. And students can be really supported to develop their own area of academic expertise, while being supported by their peers.



The slide that's on your screen now shows our course structure



As you can see, over the whole course of the degree you do at least 50% of your modules with us (you can choose to also take our optional modules, as many students do - but this isn't a requirement). The other half you can choose from modules throughout the University (and our optional modules)



Please could you explain what the 'certificates' are?
Thank you!



As you can see, the optionality isn't evenly distributed across the years. This is because we think it's really important to give you the skills that you need to be able to move into different kinds of classrooms rather than dropping you in the deep end. So you spend the most time with us in Y1, where we have lots of modules to give you that training, and you get to know the other students in the programme. Then, as you become more skilled and confident, you get more and more freedom to create the kind of degree you want - and become an expert in whatever it is that interests you.



Please could you explain what the 'certificates' are?
Thank you!

Excellent question Ruby. They're optional short courses that you can take in the department 1/



Please could you explain what the 'certificates' are?
Thank you!

Hi Ruby, while Kirsten is answering your question, here's a link to our certificates web pages:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/certificates/>

Certificates - The School for Cross-faculty Studies

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.



Please could you explain what the 'certificates' are?
Thank you!

They don't count for credit (i.e. they're not marked towards your degree) but they complement what you do in your academic sessions. They're oriented around professional skills and signal to future employers/internships that you have knowledge/practice in these areas 2/



Please could you explain what the 'certificates' are?
Thank you!

Jess has sent a link to the certificates currently on offer (though these may change). Overall, we get really good feedback from students who enjoy having the opportunity to evidence some specific professional skills.



Just thought I would write up a small bit about why I chose Liberal Arts and what I really enjoyed about the department. I was really interested in issues of Sustainability, Economics and in Psychology. I liked the sound of Liberal Arts because it offered the flexibility I needed to pursue each of these and I liked that the trans-disciplinary, problem solving approach meant that I would be encouraged to blend my knowledge in these three areas in meaningful ways to solve problems. One of my favourite things about the department came to be its small size, which meant that there was always someone you could talk to about any issues, uncertainties and about your interests. The professors always made the time and energy to show genuine interest in your interests and encourage you to pursue what you are interested in. For me this was a particular help during the lockdowns where I often found myself short of motivation.



If anyone has any questions for Arya about being a student at Warwick, please do fire away!



Or any other Liberal Arts questions :)



I've just posted a slide on the Liberal Arts pathways. Rather than just picking a series of random modules from across the University, we help you to craft a degree programme that's coherent, with modules that speak to each other



We're now in the final 15 minutes of this live chat. If you would like to ask us anything else please do let us know - we're here until 1pm 😊



I did mean 2 pm ... :D



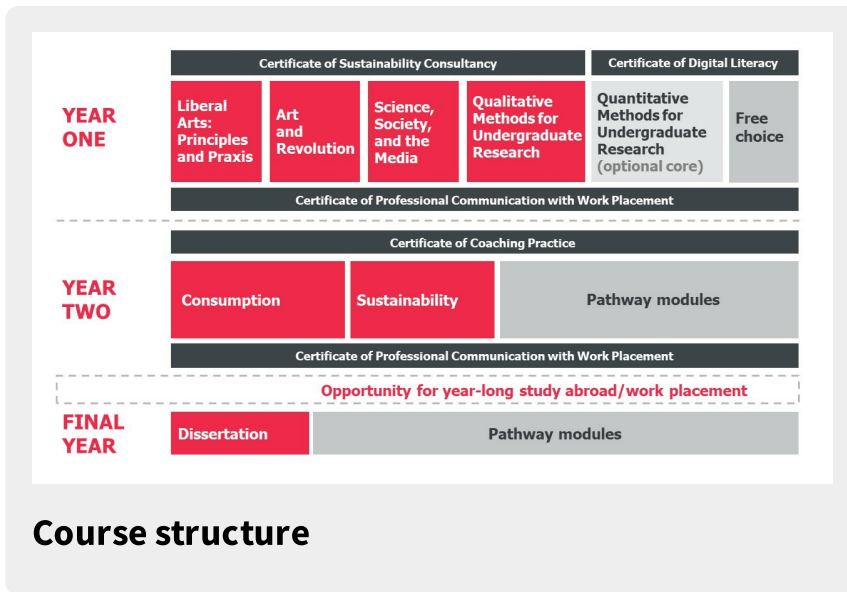
Just under a third of our students choose to take a disciplinary pathway (i.e. they choose to take all their optional modules from one other subject; e.g. English, Economics...). The others take what we call a "Specialist Interest Pathway". This means that students have free choice in Y1 with their optional modules, and in Y2 begin to work out where their academic interests lie. For example, some students are interested in issues of "race" and gender, and might take modules from History, Sociology, Politics and Liberal Arts to develop a well-rounded understanding of this area of inquiry; others might be interested in issues of sustainability and entrepreneurship, so might take modules from Global Sustainable Development, Business and Economics.



Hello, I am very interested in this course, however I do not know much about it. I was just wondering about the modules in the course; would I choose the modules I take in the 'pathways' or is there a list that I must do all of them from? Thank you



Hi Tanitoluwa. Good question! (I'll respond in chunks) 1/



If anyone has any questions for Arya about being a student at Warwick, please do fire away!

Yes! Please feel free to ask me any questions you have. I know how useful it can be to hear a student's experience while trying to figure out whether a department will be well-suited to you and I would be delighted to share my experience.



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There are core modules that you have to do (I've put that slide back up). But then the modules that you take depends on your pathway and academic interests. 2/



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Hi Tanitoluwa, we hope you're well! While Kirsten is responding to your question, after this live chat it might be worth you taking a look at the following web page - it features our brochure, a recording of one of our Open Day presentations, and videos from our staff and students. We hope this might be helpful! -

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/prospectivestudents/usefulresources>

Useful Resources

Our undergraduate brochure provides information about our Department, our course, modules, studying abroad, and professional development opportunities.



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For example, if you want to do an Economics pathway (or indeed any other Economics modules for the rest of your degree) then you **MUST** do a specific Economics module in Y1. A few other subjects have requirements like this, although not many.



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And if you want to do a specialist interest pathway then the choice is even wider. For example, there is no set list of modules on the "Culture and Identity" pathway. You can choose from across almost all of the modules that the University has to offer (your personal tutor will help you to do this). 4/



Okay, I think I understand. That sounds good, because I was also interested in doing an economics degree but from what I understand, I can do a few different pathways that include different subject areas?



Hello, I am very interested in this course, however I do not know much about it. I was just wondering about the modules in the course; would I choose the modules I take in the 'pathways' or is there a list that I must do all of them from? Thank you

So, if you're interested in Culture and Identity, you might be mainly interested in creative expressions, so might take modules mainly from English Literature and Film and TV. Or, you might be more interested in modules in Sociology, Politics and Law, for example. There are no set requirements.



Hello, I am very interested in this course, however I do not know much about it. I was just wondering about the modules in the course; would I choose the modules I take in the 'pathways' or is there a list that I must do all of them from? Thank you

And if you're not interested in any of the specialist pathways named on the slide - we can help you identify your own pathway. We have a finalist doing Critical Sport Studies, for example; other examples include pathways around communication and child development.

PATHWAYS

DESIGN YOUR OWN UNIQUE PATHWAY

Specialist Interest pathways are open to your interpretation. You're free to pursue your interests, whatever they might be. We'll help you design a pathway that meets your needs.

SPECIALIST INTEREST EXAMPLES

<u>Apocalyptic Studies</u>	<u>Culture and Identity</u>	<u>Imagination in Childhood Development</u>
<u>Business Ethics</u>	<u>Food Security</u>	<u>Social Justice</u>
<u>Conflict, Culture, and Society</u>	<u>Health and Human Society</u>	<u>Sustainability</u>

Specialist Interest Pathways



Okay, I think I understand. That sounds good, because I was also interested in doing an economics degree but from what I understand, I can do a few different pathways that include different subject areas?

Yes, absolutely. So, you could do a Liberal Arts degree and take the Economics pathway (i.e. half your modules would be with Liberal Arts, half with Economics) or you could be even more flexible and take a range of modules from e.g. Economics, Business, Psychology....depending on what your interests were.



Is this course full for the 2021 entry?



We're showing our pathways slides now. As Kirsten has mentioned, we have two different pathways - Specialist Interest pathways and Disciplinary Interest pathways. The slide at the moment tells you a bit more about the Specialist Interest pathways - this type of pathway will allow you to study modules from across the university that allow you to address a specific area of interest

PATHWAYS

DISCIPLINARY INTEREST PATHWAYS

If your passions lie in a particular subject, you're also free to follow a single-discipline pathway. You'll choose your optional modules exclusively from one of our partner departments.

PARTNER DEPARTMENTS

English	Economics
History	Languages
Life Sciences	Philosophy
Classics	Theatre and Performance Studies
Education	

Disciplinary Interest Pathways



And here is our slide on the Disciplinary Interest pathways. As you'll see on the slide, if you have a particular interest in a specific subject, for example History, you will take all of your optional modules in the History Department



Is this course full for the 2021 entry?

As far as I know it is....the Admissions team are still crunching the final numbers, so it might be worth calling the Clearing Hotline, but I think it would be unlikely that there are any places open for this year. If you're interested for next year though, we have Open Days coming up in October which give a more detailed overview of the course....



Any final questions?



Is this course full for the 2021 entry?

Just adding to what Kirsten has said, you can find out more about Open Days here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/prospectivestudents/getintouch/>

Get in touch - BA Liberal Arts - University of Warwick

Get a better feel for Liberal Arts at Warwick by visiting us during one of our Open Days. If you can't make it to campus or want to get in touch in the meantime, find out how best to contact our Department.



Thank you very much for the insight into this course



I will read more about it on the Warwick website as the live chat will end soon.



Thank you very much for the insight into this course

No worries at all. Please do get in touch with me or the department if you want any other information.

I'd be happy to chat! Here are my contact details:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/schoolforcross-facultystudies/liberalarts/lapeople/drkirstenharris/>

Dr Kirsten Harris - Liberal Arts - University of Warwick

Dr Kirsten Harris is an Associate Professor in the Liberal Arts division of the School for Cross-faculty Studies at the University of Warwick. Kirsten is also the School for Cross-faculty Studies' Equality and Diversity Officer.



I will also try to call the admissions team for this year entry, in case I can get a place.



Thank you all for joining us and for your questions! We encourage you to keep in touch - you're very welcome to join our next live chat which will be in September, join us for our October Open Days, or get in touch with us at any time:

LiberalArts@warwick.ac.uk



THANK YOU!

- WARWICK.AC.UK/LIBERALARTS
- OUR.WARWICK.AC.UK
- LIBERALARTS@WARWICK.AC.UK
- @WARWICKLIBARTS

End slide



I will read more about it on the Warwick website as the live chat will end soon.

Great!