LIBERAL ARTS

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

BA Undergraduate Programme
“In Liberal Arts at Warwick we encourage you to think in original ways, beyond disciplinary boundaries, and to develop your ability for self-awareness and self-governance. You’ll challenge yourself and those around you by questioning long standing practices in the fields of Economics, Politics, Behavioural Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities. All of this will prepare you to be an innovative leader of the future, with an advanced understanding of how the past impacts the present. You’ll be ready to design solutions to society's toughest problems.

“Your development will be underpinned by the strategy and resources we’ve put in place so that our expert academics can support you with building a toolkit you’ll draw on for the rest of your life. We’re committed to ensuring your success, and to supporting you in developing your intellectual and professional interests.”

Dr Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla, Head of the School for Cross-faculty Studies

What is Liberal Arts?

A Liberal Arts education is based on the idea of acquiring knowledge and understanding worthy of a free, active and engaged global citizen.

This core programme of thinking critically across disciplines has been used to train free-thinkers, visionary leaders, and intellectual revolutionaries for thousands of years. It’s been continually reinvented and reimagined in every historical period from antiquity to the present day in order to prepare future leaders to face the world’s most pressing concerns and difficult challenges.

Liberal Arts at Warwick

At Warwick, we’ve reimagined what a Liberal Arts education means for the 21st century, driven by the core values of critical thinking and the acquisition of adaptable expertise. We encourage you to think for yourself as you work alongside Warwick’s leading academic scholars to explore the historical and cultural basis of problems, engage with complex and multi-faceted ideas, and design innovative forward-thinking solutions.

Your degree in Liberal Arts will demonstrate the ability to inspire others, provide creative leadership, and to untangle the trickiest and most complex problems - all extremely highly-regarded skills that you can apply to any position in industry, creative endeavours, or future academic study.

“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 student
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 under the guidance of experienced transdisciplinary academics.

Problem-Based Learning

We believe 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, including the social, political, scientific, historic, artistic and cultural, and you’ll develop your own distinctive stance on that problem.

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 our degree which will allow you to gain in-depth knowledge working in collaboration with leading experts across the University. This flexibility empowers you to build a curriculum that is diverse, inclusive and stimulates your individual research interests. Whether you want to reinvent how we see the past or how we build the future, you’ll be supported by our Department’s Employability and Placement Manager, who’ll provide you with one-to-one careers guidance.

You’ll have the opportunity to apply the skills you develop through our core modules along with knowledge from various disciplines, giving you a deeper and more critical understanding of your chosen options. We’ll work closely with you to help you construct a degree that best suits your interests and future ambitions.

For more information on pathways see page 14

Bespoke study abroad opportunities

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

For more information on studying abroad see page 19

Professional development skills

We acknowledge the importance of employability skills and professional development has been embedded into our programme. We’ve created a series of certificates and you’ll also have the opportunity to engage in different work placements and begin to build your professional networks. You’ll be supported by our Department’s Employability and Placement Manager, who’ll provide you with one-to-one careers guidance.

For more information on professional development see page 20

Dedicated expert academics

Our academics are not only experts in a range of subject areas, but they’re also specialists in research-led teaching and learning; they publish and lecture regularly on the teaching methods used here at Warwick. We’re the only department at Warwick to have all of our academics accredited as Fellows or Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy; our experience in interdisciplinary learning means you’ll have expert support at every stage of your degree.

For more information on our academics see page 22

Research excellence

In Liberal Arts at Warwick, original knowledge generation is at the heart of what our students do. With a foundation of research training from your first year, we’ll support you in joining our previous students in producing, publishing, and presenting undergraduate research beyond the bounds of the classroom.

Community-centred

You’ll join our friendly, supportive, and inclusive community, with 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 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 student
Active learning
All of our core modules are delivered using Problem-Based Learning workshops, which are defined by student-led research-based inquiry. There are no formal lectures, and you will instead spend your time in the classroom debating, framing, and presenting research questions and interventions. This is a learning method that is guided by your specific interests, and 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 | Senior Teaching Fellow, Liberal Arts

Support
Undergraduate Office
Our Undergraduate Office will be your 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.

“Liberal Arts at Warwick balances your freedom to choose optional modules from around the University with the specific and real benefits of studying our own interdisciplinary core modules.

In your core modules, you’ll study a range of the most pressing and complex issues facing societies and the planet. Our core modules are led by academics from a variety of backgrounds, all with a passion for interdisciplinary teaching.

As you progress through your degree and your interests solidify, you’ll have increasing freedom to tailor your own curriculum, ultimately culminating in a final-year dissertation which addresses 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 which is unique to you and your interests.

Liberal Arts: Principles and Praxis | Certificate of Digital Literacy

Year One
Art and Revolution | Science, Society, and the Media | Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research

Year Two
Consumption | Sustainability | Pathway modules

Final Year
Dissertation | Pathway modules

Certificate of Coaching Practice | Certificate of Professional Communication with Work Placement

Opportunity for year-long study abroad/work placement

Free choice

(Optional core)
WHAT MIGHT I STUDY ON THE SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAY?

Core modules

Liberal Arts at Warwick features core modules built around some of the world’s most fascinating and challenging scenarios. All of our core modules employ our Problem-Based Learning approach and are designed 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 and thinking behind Liberal Arts. It’s where you begin to think beyond the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines.

**Art and Revolution**
This module explores the ways in which art (that is, the things we make) prompts, presages, or responds to revolutionary moments of crisis and change across history. You’ll learn how to apply a range of research skills to generate original approaches to complex historical and contemporary social, political, economic, and religious revolutions and the things we make in relation to those events.

**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, cultural and arts-based 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 will be linked to your other core modules, so activities will always be relevant to your studies.

**Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research**
(Optional core)
This module will help you to learn how we can use quantitative data to understand the world around us. You’ll be introduced to the foundations of quantitative analysis and we’ll cover the principles of quantitative research, descriptive statistics and data visualisation, and 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**
This module articulates cultural interventions and sociological and historical frameworks to investigate the role that consumption plays in contemporary society. Using a multi-disciplinary Problem-Based Learning approach, you’ll explore how consumption operates as an organising or driving social force. Through the analysis of film, literature, music, art, historical texts, social research and critical theory, you’ll consider questions of power, identity, protest, nation-building, citizenship and ideology.

**Sustainability**
By studying sustainability challenges as complex interdisciplinary issues, this module addresses difficult questions around defining and understanding sustainability, opportunities and limitations in individual and collective action, issues in business and globalisation, and the sustainability of population and society. With the freedom to explore these topics from a variety of disciplinary approaches, you’ll develop a detailed evidence-based understanding of current controversies, debates and theories, and 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 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 student
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.

The Apocalyptic Imaginary

Narratives about the end of the world are among some of humanity’s most powerful stories, stretching 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, and 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

This module examines the utopian tradition as it is situated in changing social and historical contexts. You’ll critically examine the historiography of utopian social theory as it relates to ideas of progress and good citizenship.

You’ll study utopian ventures in town planning, architecture and community building alongside fictional representations in art, film and literature. The module will explore how utopian projects, real and imaginary, comment on existing social structures in their attempt to construct a better life.

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 course 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 student
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 student

Optional Liberal Arts modules continued

Problems in Governance: The European Union

The European Union presents a paradox: on the one hand it has yielded unprecedented social and economic integration. Yet on the other hand, recent controversies such as the UK’s exit in 2020, following the 2016 referendum, have cast into stark relief the frictions present in the Union. In order to understand how the European Union can be at once a positive force, yet simultaneously problematic for many of its citizens, this module provides you with an in-depth understanding of its origins and institutions, theories of European integration, milestones in its development, and some of the key issues the Union currently faces.

Impact Evaluation: Frameworks for Implementing and Assessing Transdisciplinary Interventions

Building on our first-year module, Quantitative Methods for Undergraduate Research, this module will provide you with the skills and understanding to enable you to make informed decisions concerning both the design of policy interventions, and the evaluation of their impact. Through extensive hands-on use of a range of real-world examples and datasets, you’ll gain conceptual knowledge such as frameworks for effective policy design and core statistical knowledge. You’ll also develop a transferrable toolkit of practical analytical skills required for effective impact evaluation and other statistical analysis.

The Monarch: The Role of the Head of State in the British Political System (since 1952)

Have you ever wondered what a head of state does? Does having a hereditary head of state in a 21st century democracy raise questions for you? Is the role largely ceremonial, an unsatisfactory explanation? This module will answer the above questions by exploring a number of issues, including: the role of heads of state in political systems generally, and specifically in the 21st century; theories of political representation and representativeness; different types of heads of state; the responsibilities and rights of the Monarch in the British political system; and the role of the Monarch in the contemporary British society.

Quantitative Research Methods: Understanding Relationships

This module builds on your quantitative foundations by looking at how we can use data to analyse the nature and strength of relationships between variables. In developing a flexible toolkit of statistical skills and experience using specialist software, you’ll use data to explore ideas of joint probability distributions, correlation versus causality, and develop multivariate models which can help explain the world’s phenomena.

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.
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*, you’ll be asked to begin to design a degree which develops in-depth expertise in a chosen area of interest. Working with our dedicated team of interdisciplinary academics, you’ll choose modules and a pathway that gives you the skills and knowledge to tackle the problems which matter most to you.

**Specialist Interest pathways**

To help support these important decisions, we’ve developed Specialist Interest pathways. All of these pathways are open to your interpretation; for example you could study the Culture and Identity pathway from the perspective of your choice, choosing modules in arts, social sciences, or other disciplines.

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

All of these pathways have been 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, then we’ll help you design one that meets your needs.

**Disciplinary Interest pathways**

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

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.

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

"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."

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**Social Justice**

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.”

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Sara | Liberal Arts student

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

**Year One**

- Ideas of Freedom (Philosophy)
- Problems in Governance: The European Union (Liberal Arts)

**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)

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Ceara | Liberal Arts student
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)
- Cinema, Glamour and Mass Consumption (Film and Television Studies)

**Final Year**
- Eco-cinema: Environment and the Politics of Film (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**
- Medicine, Empire and the Body (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 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 student
Beyond the classroom

The University of Warwick provides a lively and varied campus environment, full 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, Warwick will give you all the support you need to do well; whether that means supporting your studies, looking after your health and wellbeing, or giving you the skills and opportunities to get a head-start in your chosen 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

Warwick Liberal Arts Society is an independent student-led society for people interested in interdisciplinary applications of knowledge and learning. The society regularly hosts social events, career development activities, and academic support workshops.

@warwickliberalartssoc

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, and undertaking research projects through Warwick’s Undergraduate Research Support Scheme.

“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

“Research activities

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 student

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. Crucially you’ll also develop a new international perspective - enabling you to tackle problems as a truly global citizen. The personal and professional relationships you make, and the international experience you gain on your year abroad will also serve you well when applying for postgraduate courses, and help you stand out when applying for jobs.

We’ve partnered with a number of elite institutions in Europe and Canada - allowing our students to spend a year abroad on Liberal Arts programmes which share our passion for rigorous interdisciplinary and critical thinking. If your study ambitions lie even further afield, you are also welcome to apply for a place at one of Warwick’s many other partner institutions spread across the globe.

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 skills that employers seek in graduates and your professional development has been embedded into our programme. 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, which you can show to employers.

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 required for effective coaching as well as the importance of building rapport with clients. These skills are useful in many other contexts, including teaching, consultancy and managing people.

Certificate of Digital Literacy

To succeed in an increasingly digital society, you need to be savvy about how it can be used to enhance your life and career, as well as the potential threats that come with the territory. Workshops for this certificate focus on issues such as online identity, copyright, the reuse of digital information, digital etiquette and digital forms of media.

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.

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. As part of your degree you’ll have the option to take part in both short and long work placements which are formally recognised on your Higher Education Achievement Report. 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.

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.

Support

We have a dedicated Employability and Placement Manager who’ll 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 on-going support during your placement.

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

warwick.ac.uk/studentopportunity

Eva | Liberal Arts student

“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.”

Intercalated work placement at N Brown

Warwick is the 3rd most targeted university by the UK’s top 100 graduate employers
With my background in economics research and teaching, my passion lies in developing in students the practical and analytical skills to see through difficult and challenging real-world scenarios—giving them the ability and belief to confidently approach and address complex policy-based and quantitative problems. In my view, this is the highlight of the curriculum offered by Liberal Arts at Warwick through its unique transdisciplinary approach—that our students are equipped with not just the creativity and critical eye that an arts and humanities education provides, but also a complementary technical grounding to apply to analytical and policy-related issues.

Dr Tim Burnett | Senior Teaching Fellow

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 Kirsten Harris | Senior Teaching Fellow

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.

Dr Gavin Schwartz-Leeper | Director of Student Experience and Deputy Head of School

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 opens 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.”

Dr Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla | Head of the School for Cross-faculty Studies

Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla has a PhD in Hispanic Philology and a background in teaching within the field of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Human Rights. Her current research focuses on the challenges of South-South cooperation and its impact on the participants of Humanitarian and Development Aid Programmes, specifically in the case of the Cuban Internationalist Solidarity Programme. Stéphanie is also the co-director of the Warwick Oral History Network, and the Latin America at Warwick Network.

Dr Bryan Brazeau | Senior Teaching Fellow

“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 poetic 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 module Science, Society, and the Media, I am excited to see 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 Stéphanie Panichelli-Batalla | Head of the School for Cross-faculty Studies

Dr Bryan Brazeau | Senior Teaching Fellow

Our people

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How to apply

Applications are made through UCAS ucas.com

When we receive your application it is considered against our entry requirements and other applications to the course. We don’t typically interview applicants. Offers are made based on your UCAS form, which includes predicted and actual grades, your personal statement and school reference.

For more information on writing your personal statement please visit:

warwick.ac.uk/liberalartsend

If you are made and accept an offer, and meet all 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/admissions

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 B/grade 6 in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE
- We make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances. For 2020 entry, contextual offers for Liberal Arts are made at A level AAB, plus grade B/grade 6 in English and Mathematics at GCSE. For 2021 entry, we will make differential offers to students in a number of circumstances at ABB, plus grade B/grade 6 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 B/grade 6 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

Warwick Accommodation has around 7,000 rooms across a range of well-managed, self-catering residences. We also have an excellent network of support staff in the Residential Life Team.

warwick.ac.uk/accommodation

This course information was accurate at the time of publication June 2020. Our course and module content and schedule is continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the relevant course website for the latest information before you apply and when you accept an offer.

For full terms and conditions, please visit warwick.ac.uk/ugtermsofconditions