

# WESTMINSTER WORKING CULTURES

UK

JUNE 2022



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Thank you for being an integral part of Westminster Working Cultures UK in June, an experience our students will remember far beyond their time at University.

Since its launch in 2020, Westminster Working Cultures (WWC) UK has given over 690 undergraduates and recent graduates the opportunity to enhance their skills and experiences. For our students, WWC UK is a unique opportunity to build their employability, particularly for those facing difficult personal and financial obstacles. The programme encourages them to build their employability, learn new skills, and become intrinsically connected to our valued community of alumni and partners.

Thank you for dedicating your time and experience to Westminster Working Cultures and helping us to host this incredible hybrid programme. You have provided a sense of confidence and direction to our 61 participants, critical for overcoming their upcoming challenges.

We couldn't have done it without you.

With your support, we were able to host a 5-day programme, with 20 volunteer speakers and 15 insightful and engaging sessions, both in-person and virtual. It has been my utmost pleasure to welcome you back to Westminster and introduce you to our participants.

We are so grateful to Santander Universities UK for generously supporting the programme by offering each participant a £500 bursary to further support them throughout their employability journey. This programme has been key to our mission of empowering students who have faced significant barriers to their employability goals.

This report shares our participants' writings and reflections, expressing their personal thanks and recognition for your session and relaying the transformational effect of WWC UK on their confidence and professional development.

I hope that by sharing their thoughts, we are able to show you the true impact of your words, experiences, and interest on our students' mindsets, ambitions, and motivations. Thank you once again for joining us in June and investing your time and belief in our students' futures.

Tierney Holloway  
Senior Alumni Officer (WWC UK)

# WWC UK in numbers :



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Participants who identify as coming from a disadvantaged or under-represented group

**100%**

They are the first generation in their family to go to University

**68%**

They are a first generation English speaker in their family

**58%**

**36%**

Their family home is a housing association or council property

**9%**

They are a carer, care leaver, or estranged student (without family support)

They are a black, Asian or minority ethnic student

**62%**

**23%**

They are registered with Disability Learning Support

## Year of study

**Level 4 - 18%**

**Level 5 - 48%**

**Level 6 - 34%**

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

## Level of confidence

Each participant ranked their level of confidence in a range of skills and abilities throughout WWC UK. The numbers below reflect the increased percentage of participants who now rate themselves as very confident in the following skills...

Increase of perceived confidence in WWC UK participants' ability to...  
**work independently and take the initiative to start projects**

**75%**

Increase of perceived confidence in WWC UK participants' ability to...  
**lead, motivate and communicate virtually**

**100%**

Increase of perceived confidence in WWC UK participants'...  
**active listening capabilities**

**48%**

Increase of perceived confidence in WWC UK participants' ability to...  
**be resilient when faced with difficult situations**

**92%**

Westminster alumni and partner speakers

**20**

Unique sessions

**15**

Questions asked to speakers

**222**

Words written by participants during their reflections

**61,847**



# ITINERARY

London

DAY 1

**WWC UK Welcome**  
**Dr Peter Bonfield**  
Vice-Chancellor and  
President  
*University of Westminster*

**Building your  
dream CV**  
with the WWC Team

Zain and Rehan Latif in  
conversation with...  
**Zain Latif**  
Founder of TLG Capital  
*BA Commercial Studies,*  
*2002*

**Rehan Latif**  
Managing Director at  
Morgan Stanley  
*BA Commercial Studies,*  
*2002*

**Lorenzo Evans**  
CEO and Consultant at  
CLE Business Services

Online

DAY 2

**Amaya Eastman**  
Manager - UK & Ireland  
*VOLA UK Limited*

**Peter Almond**  
Director at PwC  
Consulting  
*BA Business Studies,*  
*1992*

**Making the most of  
LinkedIn with  
Remy Foucher**  
University Relationship  
Manager  
*Santander Universities*

**Mustafa Kanchwala**  
Senior Manager at  
Deloitte  
*MA Marketing*  
*Communications, 2008*

Margate

DAY 3

**Exploring the  
exhibition**  
Wayfinder: Larry  
Achiampong at Turner  
Contemporary

**Larry Achiampong**  
Artist  
*BA Mixed Media Fine*  
*Art, 2005*

**A talk with the  
Turner Contemporary**

**Dr Michelle Ulaytt**  
Owner and Founder of  
Roch PR  
*BA Politics, 2002*

Online

DAY 4

**Edmilson Angelo**  
Director at  
Change 1's Life  
*BA Politics and International*  
*Relations, 2016*

**Aleem Khan**  
BAFTA-nominated  
writer/director  
*BA Film and Television*  
*Production, 2003*

**Alexandra Penelope**  
Senior Partnerships  
Manager at Little Dot  
Studios  
*BA Contemporary*  
*Media Practice, 2016*

**Preparing for your next  
interview**  
with the WWC Team

London

DAY 5

**A visit to Havas People  
with...**  
**Sam Badcock**  
Junior Social Media  
Campaign Manager at  
Havas People  
*BA Marketing*  
*Communications, 2020*

**Charlene Campbell**  
Architect and Director,  
Green Tea Architects  
*BAH Architecture -*  
*Interior Design, 2007*

**Building your  
LinkedIn profile**  
with the WWC Team

**Final reflection session**  
With the WWC Team

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# WESTMINSTER WORKING CULTURES

We asked our WWC UK participants to reflect on their experiences throughout their programme: before they began, after each day, and a final reflective piece on the conclusion of WWC UK. Each student gained confidence, built their network, and developed their employability and professional experience. We'd like to share the journeys of one of our participants who was particularly inspired by the opportunity to listen to, and learn from, you and your experience.



BA Marketing Communications

## Melissa Harding

### Before the programme

I'm currently in my second year and have also studied at Copenhagen Business School. I have applied for this programme to further enhance my transferable skills, build my professional networking contacts.

**Day 1** Through the inspiring session with Zain and Rehan Latif, I have learnt how to own your own narrative and story when networking. You need to stand out, make an impression and be unique in order to get noticed, and make an effort to find common ground with the person you want to connect to.

**After the programme** This experience has enhanced my employability in various ways. I have advanced my networking skills by speaking to speakers across multiple industries and students from many different backgrounds. Previously, I had very little experience or confidence in networking, but through speaker advice and workshops provided by the WWC team, I have been able to utilise platforms such as LinkedIn to advance my professional portfolio of contacts. For example, I have made a contact in PR who has passed my name on for future opportunities within PR agencies which is fantastic!

**Day 2** Listening to our first speaker, Amaya Eastman, I was inspired that she has built her successful career as a manager by being inventive, constant, curious, and respectful. I loved the structure of Peter Almond's presentation and his meaningful advice. I felt my confidence had increased when he said that being yourself is key. Remy Foucher taught us how to showcase our work and achievements without feeling awkward, because we always have to celebrate small achievements. Mustafa Kanchwala finished the day and spoke about the importance of working hard but not to the point of mental exhaustion as consistency will support our success.

**Day 3** I had an amazing time at the Turner Contemporary. The exhibition itself was thought-provoking and Larry gave us a deeper understanding to his work. I learned how creativity and art can change lives and push for societal reform. The discussion with the Gallery staff gave me a great insight into community building and running projects that lift a town up and attract funds, investors and people. Dr Michelle Ulyatt spoke in detail about her career journey and navigating the industry. This informed my career interests as she gave me some personal advice and I appreciated the ways she explained how her interests (politics / public affairs) have worked their way into her current career as a PR agency owner and combining her passions with her career.

**Day 4** Edmilson Angelo inspired me to aspire to do something that is bigger than me. It was great to soak in all his advice and get inspired. The session with Aleem Khan was extraordinary. I admire his honesty and vulnerability. Alexandra Penelope's journey also really resonated with me. Her unconventional route into her job was really interesting to me and reminded me that our professional paths doesn't have to be linear for success!

**Day 5** One of my favourite sessions this week has been with Sam Badcock and Dan Gregory from Havas people. Sam studied the same course as me so to see where he has started out in his career at an amazing company is so inspiring. It was interesting to see how elements of his degree has been used practically in his everyday life for his work. Dan's creative session was really fun and a practical way for us to put our knowledge to the test and an exciting way for us to show our creativity. I loved Charlene Campbell's advice on pushing oneself out of the comfort zone and just going for things. She has encouraged me to follow my own path and be authentic.

**"I have advanced my networking skills by speaking to speakers across multiple industries and students from many different backgrounds."**

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## OUR STUDENTS' MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION



"Listening to alumni who studied courses similar to what I am now studying share their journeys and experiences has been comforting to me. I'd want to thank every single one of the speakers for their time and inspiring remarks and Santander Universities UK for sponsoring WWC UK; there was always something I learned from each speaker that I wouldn't have learned anywhere else."

**Olawale Awoyinka, BA International Relations and Development**



"I would like to give a huge thank you to the all the guest speakers throughout the week. I appreciate them setting aside some time to help encourage us in our personal, educational and career development. The knowledge we received was invaluable and inspiring, giving me a new outlook on the world of work and the possibilities available after graduation. Hearing the stories of our incredible alumni now makes so many possibilities seem with my reach."

**Grace Tayo, BA Fashion Design**



"I'm extremely grateful that I took the chance to participate in the WWC UK programme as the adrenaline and excitement I felt throughout these five days was something amazing that I never felt before. It has made me realize that joining a community that supports and encourages you is really key to elevate your mentality and attitude towards your future career. Thank you to our speakers and Santander Universities UK."

**Somaia Halawa, BA Digital Marketing**



"This week has been fantastic. WWC UK curated a fantastic combination of people to inspire students. The more I reflect, the more I come to realise how much it has helped me with my confidence and motivation. I feel so much more confident in presenting myself. As an autistic person this is so important for me. I always internalised that I could never perform as well as my neurotypical peers, and WWC UK and our speakers have impacted that and changed my mindset."

**Mia-Belle Thompson, BA Fine Art Mixed Media**



"I appreciate all of the speakers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to speak with us, share their knowledge with us, and assist us in re-evaluating and better understanding who we are. Every speaker touched my heart and stirred my mind. All of them are outstanding individuals whom I look up to. I would like to thank them for the inspiration and the encouragement! I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate and meet so many interesting people."

**Dan Mitu, LLB Law**



"I would like to say a huge thank you to the volunteer speakers who took part in the WWC UK programme. You really have built my confidence and I am looking forward to my future career growth. My career growth was something that I was always so anxious about but I can honestly say I have come out of this experience with a better mindset."

**Sumaya Jama, BSc Biomedical Science**

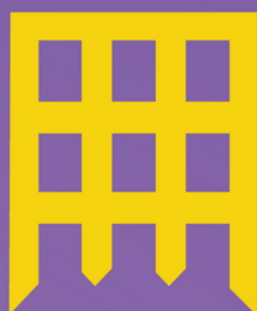


"This experience has shaped the way I will tackle future graduate roles and I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to experience it. Thank you again to all our speakers, Santander Universities UK and everybody at the University of Westminster who made this experience possible. I will be taking everything I have learned with me in my journey to become a Barrister."

**Sidrah Hussain, LLB Law**







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