



Module Specification

Research and Design Strategies

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Research and Design Strategies

Module code: UBLMNV-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: Faculty of Environment & Technology

School: FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ

Partner institutions: None

Field: Architecture and the Built Environment

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:

Professional habits of work, time-keeping and punctuality.

Shown an awareness of the presentation skills required to write up their research to combine investigative, creative and organisational skills

Outline syllabus: The central concern of this module is the development of analytical tools by which answers can be found to the difficult and complex questions posed by the built environment. The tools introduced and developed include methods of design analysis and research. The module explores the use of strategies and intellectual methodologies to define and analyse a research problem using clear methods of intellectual enquiry. It will concentrate on the strategies for design, research, data gathering and problem analysis that are necessary to begin an intelligent and informed process of problem-solving. The module includes two teaching themes.

Firstly, methods of design analysis will be introduced in taught sessions and students will be required to apply these to produce a Design Report that informs their related work in design studio. Where appropriate, these taught sessions will make specific links to design projects carried out in the related second and third year studios being taken simultaneously by students on this module.

Secondly, thematic areas of architectural research, together with their related body of academic literature and relevant research methods will be introduced in taught sessions and students will be required to apply these to produce a Research Synopsis in a thematic area (that may be planning, architectural or technical in character) that leads to the formulation of a question, methodological approach and research strategy to be used for the development of a subsequent study. (In the case of some of the participating awards this research study may become the basis of a Dissertation or Special Study taken forward in a separate Module in the following year). This study introduces the students to research methodologies, literature review and the development of a reading strategy for a research proposal.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will deliver key information in lecture-based sessions that are supported by workshops and seminars. These taught sessions will prepare students for two extended elements of coursework. Within this teaching model the hours allocated are as follows:

36 hours contact time that includes lecture-based sessions, workshop session exploring analytical techniques related to project work, small-group seminars offering specific tutorial support on project work, and skills workshops led by technical support staff.

52 hours are scheduled for the assimilation and development of knowledge through coursework preparation in the form of the research strategy and the synopsis.

62 hours are identified for final preparation of the assessed elements.

Total 150hrs

Teaching will be problem-led and focussed around the identification and analysis of a design problems and research questions. Skills and analytical frameworks will be introduced in taught sessions in order that a deeper learning of these can develop through their application to the central problem. A more formal delivery may be used for these key design and research skills. Scheduled learning will include analytical studies where syllabus elements are introduced with reference to the problem at hand. The development of an individual research puzzle will be supported by seminar discussions and group tutorials with a tutor. The tutor's role here is to direct studies, and provide advice and constructive critical commentary on the student's work.

Scheduled learning may include: lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork; external visits; work based learning; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study

preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Analyse design problems (that may be urban planning, architectural, design, compositional or technical in nature) and select and apply an appropriate design strategy or method by which a solution may be found

MO2 Appraise and understand a range of strategies through which a design problem may be approached

MO3 Formulate a research question and rationalise a methodology appropriate for the answering of that question

MO4 Write a synoptic proposal for an extended study that defines the topic and question, sets out the method of enquiry and reading strategy for that extended study

MO5 Review architectural precedents (both historical and contemporary) and analyse these designs to formulate a written and drawn critique of that architectural strategy

MO6 Reference literature accurately, applying conventions of academic referencing, and through written argument place academic literature within historical and thematic contexts

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmnv-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmnv-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The central concern of this module is the design and development of design tools and research methods by which answers can be found to the difficult and complex questions posed by the built environment. Two assessment vehicles are posited that follow the central models by which planning, architectural and engineering professionals develop these analyses - the vehicles of the Design Report and Research Synopsis.

The assessment will therefore include two assessment tasks:

Design Report - 1500-word illustrated report that investigates a series of architectural problems and their contexts using design analysis to critically appraise design proposals.

Research Synopsis - 1500-word synopsis setting out a research proposal, method and bibliography for future study.

In order to pass the module both assessments are required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement and a student cannot pass the module without passing both assessment tasks.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)

Description: Design report (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both assessment tasks in the module are required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement and a student cannot pass the module without passing both assessment tasks.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Research synopsis (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both assessment tasks are required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement and a student cannot pass the module without passing both assessment tasks.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO6

Report (Resit)

Description: Design report (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both assessment tasks in the module are required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement and a student cannot pass the module without passing both assessment tasks.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Research synopsis (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both assessment tasks in the module are required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement and a student cannot pass the module without passing both assessment tasks.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Interior Architecture [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Frenchay] BEng (Hons) 2022-23

Interior Architecture (International) {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] -
Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2021-22

Interior Architecture (International) {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] -
Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdraw BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Interior Architecture {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Interior Architecture {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture and Environmental Engineering {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs]
BEng (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture and Environmental Engineering {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs]
BEng (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture and Planning {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-
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