



## **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:** 2022-23

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**Faculty:** Faculty of Environment & Technology

**Department:** FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Frenchay Campus

**Field:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Module type:** Project

**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 components:

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

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

In order to pass the module both Components 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 Components A1 and A2.

### **Assessment components:**

#### **Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: Research synopsis (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both elements 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 Element A1 and A2.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO6

### **Report - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: Design report (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both elements 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 Element A1 and A2.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

### **Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)**

Description: Research synopsis (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both elements 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 Element A1 and A2.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO6

### **Report - Component A (Resit)**

Description: Design report (1500 words)

In order to pass the module both elements 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 Element A1 and A2.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

Interior Architecture [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

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

Interior Architecture [Sep] [FT] [Frenchay] [3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BEng (Hons)  
2021-22

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BEng (Hons)  
2021-22

Architecture and Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Architecture and Planning {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-  
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Architecture {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Interior Architecture {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Interior Architecture {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Interior Architecture (International) {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs] BA  
(Hons) 2020-21



Interior Architecture (International) {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons)  
2020-21

Architecture and Environmental Engineering {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][6yrs]  
BEng (Hons) 2020-21

Architecture and Environmental Engineering {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs]  
BEng (Hons) 2020-21