



## **Module Specification**

### **Researching the City**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Researching the City

**Module code:** UBGMFJ-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 Geography & Environmental Mgmt

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Frenchay Campus

**Field:** Geography and Environmental Management

**Module type:** Standard

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** A research based module in which students are prepared for subsequent independent study in their dissertation through exposure to GIS mapping techniques, presentation skills and a range of qualitative research methods.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module provides students with the research skills needed of planners in urban environments. It has an emphasis on digital mapping skills as well as the 'softer' qualitative research approaches that relate to the field. The module's assessment provides a very helpful 'bridge' to their dissertation in the final year. See Learning Outcomes for further details.

**Outline syllabus:** Generating ideas for research

Research design

Research strategies and questions

Values and ethical issues in urban planning research

Reviewing literature and secondary data sources

Questionnaire design, interviews, observation, visual approaches

Sampling techniques

Data analysis and statistical techniques

Digital mapping

Concepts and application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Scheduled learning will be split between lectures and associated, hands-on workshops. Lectures will be used to provide the background theories, concepts and examples from research and practice. The workshops will encourage both group and individual reflection on the key themes being discussed. Students will be asked to undertake some preparatory work to help support and underpin these workshop sessions, including elements of reading and personal research. Some of these references will be taken from the reading strategy but, given the dynamic nature of the subject matter and the broad nature of the students' research, additional and bespoke sources will also need to be found.

A key part of the module comprises a compulsory field trip (alternative arrangements will be put into place where necessary). During the fieldtrip, students will receive approximately 30 hours of contact time and will be required to engage with the tasks that they feel are necessary for developing their research projects.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading to support the lecture sessions and the reading that will be needed to underpin the workshops (as outlined above). The bulk of the independent work will be directed to developing the project work as described below. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below.

Three hours - on average - contact per week for each student. Contact will be in the form of lectures, practicals, tutorial/workshop groups and fieldwork.

Activity (Hours)

Contact time – Class-based sessions (20)

Contact time – field trip (30)

Student-led learning and assessment preparation (100)

Total study time (150)

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

**MO1** Search, organise and evaluate academic literature

**MO2** Formulate relevant and realistic research questions, based upon academic literature

**MO3** Develop, carry out and evaluate a variety of methods appropriate to urban planning research

**MO4** Work effectively to prepare and carry out research projects in a range of urban planning topics

**MO5** Orally and visually present proposals for, and findings of, research projects in a range of urban planning contexts

**MO6** Utilise geographic information systems and/or digital mapping in the application of urban planning research

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 100 hours

Face-to-face learning = 50 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/ubgmfj-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmfj-15-2.html>

## Part 4: Assessment

**Assessment strategy:** Component A requires students to undertake a research project on a chosen theme linked to a field trip (to Bristol and possibly elsewhere) and this will be assessed through an individual presentation (Powerpoint presentation with an embedded audio commentary) and submission of a publicity leaflet.

The research will be Bristol based and, although the destination of any additional field trip will vary, a series of issues will be presented to students early on to help them gauge the type of research that would be useful to the stakeholders and interests operating across the city.

The assessment forming Component B is underpinned by the contact sessions forming the first part of the module and will provide an important preparatory link to the extended research (via either the Final Year or Independent Project) that will need to be completed during their level three studies. The proposal will require individual students to present a summary of the context surrounding their research, and a specific research question (and a related set of aims and objectives) that they will respond to. An appropriate methodology will also need to be presented together with an indicative timeline for delivery.

Formative work

Component A: Proposals for the research will need to be agreed by module staff before work can begin. Advice and support will be available before, during and after

the field trip.

Component B: Students will be able to discuss and share their research ideas in class.

Opportunities for the review of draft work will also be provided. The submitted proposal form will be used in the allocation of project tutors.

Resit:

As per first-sit.

### **Assessment components:**

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

Description: Students undertake research around a topic in Bristol and then produce a publicity leaflet that they prepare using GIS during the semester. Students explain their work in a Powerpoint presentation file with an embedded audio commentary (10 mins).

Students therefore submit both the publicity leaflet and Powerpoint presentation file with audio commentary.

Both parts are submitted and marked together as one element.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

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

Description: Research proposal (1500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Poster - Component A (Resit)**

Description: Students undertake research around a topic in Bristol and then produce a publicity leaflet that they prepare using GIS during the semester. Students explain their work in a Powerpoint presentation file with an embedded audio commentary (10 mins).

Students therefore submit both the the publicity leaflet and Powerpoint presentation file with audio commentary.

Both parts are submitted and marked together as one element.

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)**

Description: Research proposal (1500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Urban Planning [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

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

Urban Planning Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][2yrs] CertHE  
2021-22

Geography and Planning [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Geography and Planning [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [Feb][FT][GCET][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Urban Planning {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Geography and Planning {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

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

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [Oct][FT][GCET][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Urban Planning {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21