



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	International Academic Placement Year (Architecture)		
Module Code	UBLLQ1-15-3	Level	Level 6
For implementation from	2021-22		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	
Department	FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ		
Module Type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co-requisites	None		
Module Entry Requirements	<p>Students are selected by competitive application (spaces are limited) and will take this module as an 'academic placement year' between years 2 and the final year of their standard degree programme.</p> <p>Only students who have passed all level 1 and 2 (FHEQ levels 4 and 5) modules (ie years 1 and 2) of their degree programme and are successful in their application are eligible to study abroad. There is therefore no guarantee that any student who so desires can automatically undertake a year of study abroad.</p>		
PSRB Requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Overview: This module is for students who successfully apply to study abroad for one ('academic placement') year from the following degree programmes:</p> <p>BSc (Hons) Architecture BA (Hons) Interior Architecture BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology and Design</p> <p>Note: A separate study abroad scheme operates for students from: BA (Hons) Architecture and Planning BEng (Hons) Architecture and Environmental Engineering</p> <p>Students taking this module will normally spend one academic year (or shorter as agreed) at a</p>

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university abroad with which UWE has an established agreement to host its students (often referred to as an 'exchange agreement.')

When abroad UWE students will study a range of subjects designed to enhance their design, technical and cultural understanding of architecture and/or architecture related subjects.

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Only students who have passed all level 1 and 2 modules (ie years 1 and 2) of their degree programme and are successful in their application are eligible to study abroad. There is therefore no guarantee that any student who so desires can automatically undertake a year of study abroad.

Features: This module offers students who successfully apply to participate the chance to explore architecture and architectural education in a different cultural setting to that at UWE. It enhances the cultural context in which students understand the discipline and brings new insights to learning and increased knowledge and skills.

Educational Aims: Provide the opportunity to study architecture and architecture related subjects in a different educational and cultural context (outside the UK) to that at UWE.

Manage an extended piece of work using a full range of resources including those which are specialised or advanced within the field of architectural study/practice.

Enhance confidence and self-responsibility.

Develop networking, employability and communication skills.

Outline Syllabus: The department sees great benefit for some students being able to undertake an academic placement year at a university abroad and the contribution another academic institution can make to a student's learning experience in architecture and related subjects.

To satisfactorily complete the module students must spend one academic year studying at a university abroad with which UWE has a formal agreement for hosting its students. The subjects studied whilst abroad must be approved by the module leader and /or the appropriate international academic exchange / placement coordinator.

The module requires students to display a high degree of autonomy in following a suite of learning activities abroad that will develop their design, technical and cultural understanding of architecture and architectural education. Along with that it also requires students to develop a critically reflective and comparative attitude to architectural education.

The main topic areas covered are: design, technology and cultural contexts related to architecture and associated subjects.

The students on this module will be expected to use a wide range of resources including those which are specialised or advanced within their field of study/practice, to produce evidence and explanations of their engagement as well as critically reviewing the year abroad and producing conclusions and recommendations.

Topic areas covered include:

Academic learning in the fields of architectural design, technology and cultures

Portfolio production (including graphic design and layout)

Critical reflection

Report writing

Professional practices (record keeping, time management, responsibility)

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Teaching and Learning Methods: As this module requires students to choose and then engage in learning delivered by universities abroad it draws upon a wide range of methods. This depends on student choice. All methods are complementary to those already used in the students' programmes at UWE.

In line with UWE ethos and mission this module, by the very nature of being based abroad in a different cultural framework to that normally experienced by a student, is inclusive and global in its approach and focus. This supports students to achieve added value whatever their starting point and the teaching and learning methods employed are such that they will enhance student employability by reflecting practitioner requirements.

Design studio teaching - this is enquiry, testing and solution based. Participating in a design studio in a foreign university includes group work, individual outputs, architectural reviews, site visits and other activity appropriate and relevant to particular projects being undertaken in the studio setting.

METHODS

Creating a personal design, technology and cultural programme for the year.

Lectures, seminars and tutorials as required by modules being followed.

Visits: self directed or as part of wider study programmes.

Assimilation and reflection on learning.

Preparation and submission of work for review / feedback / assessment.

Online contact with UWE to discuss progress.

Part 3: Assessment

The assessment strategy has been designed to support the student in working in a different academic environment to that normally experienced when at UWE.

Students will choose (with support from the module leader and host university) a suite of learning activities to follow at the host university. This will be balanced across the various learning activities required for the final portfolio (described below) and the student's justification of that choice will be included in that portfolio.

Each student will develop a portfolio of work based on his / her chosen suite of learning activities. There will be four parts to this, identified as: 'design' 'technical' 'cultural' and 'reflective'.

The portfolio will track the student's activity and outputs throughout the year abroad. Activities within it will be recorded by the host university and an official statement (transcript) of completion obtained for each activity. This will ensure a framework for learning and a check against plagiarism.

The host university will provide opportunities for work to be formatively reviewed during the course of the year and the module leader will also provide formative feedback as appropriate on the production of the final portfolio.

Along with the design, technical and cultural knowledge and skills section which are provided and taught by the host university, the portfolio requires a reflective section. Students will be guided on this by UWE staff. In semester one students will set up a framework for reflection which will be discussed with UWE staff to ensure that it is good, robust and fit for purpose when considered alongside the learning activity being undertaken. It will draw upon appropriate methods for academic critique and pedagogical understanding.

It is the portfolio that is assessed for 15 credits. This is assessed at the end of the year abroad and the assessment comprises a review of the portfolio plus an interview with the student. On top of the subject based skills this supports the development of communication skills which are an essential element of an individual's personal development.

The portfolio (and in particular the reflection section) provides evidence that the student can produce a critical

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analytical study relating to the academic experience of their chosen learning activities and relate them to his / her own professional development.

Resit assessment strategy

Students need to resubmit the portfolio (improved from the first sit as necessary / appropriate) and undertake the interview. A student who fails the first sit will receive feedback to help with the re-assessment.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A		80 %	Portfolio comprising four parts: (i) design, (ii) technical, (iii) cultural and (iv) reflective. A portfolio is a normally recognised method of assessing students in architectural disciplines and understood by all the relevant professional bodies.
Presentation - Component B	✓	20 %	A verbal 'examination' a set of questions enabling the student to explore their portfolio that follows the submission of the portfolio (20 mins). This allows for the demonstration of verbal communication skills and offers staff the chance to ask questions about the year abroad.
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A		80 %	Portfolio comprising four parts: (i) design, (ii) technical, (iii) cultural and (iv) reflective. A portfolio is a normally recognised method of assessing students in architectural disciplines and understood by all the relevant professional bodies.
Presentation - Component B		20 %	A verbal and visual presentation (20 mins) of the year abroad that follows the submission of the portfolio. This allows for the demonstration of verbal communication skills and offers staff the chance to ask questions about the year abroad.

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:	
	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference
	Demonstrate competence in architectural design and technical skills appropriate to the learning activities undertaken at your host institution, to include understanding of briefs, projects and development of suitable solutions	MO1
	Formulate and apply an appropriate framework for critically assessing your experience abroad and the different approaches encountered to architectural education	MO2

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	Comprehensively describe in detail and justify the academic activities undertaken in the year abroad and relate them to your UWE degree programme and your future professional practice	MO3
	Create a professional quality portfolio explaining the design, technical, cultural and reflective experience of the year abroad	MO4
Contact Hours	Placement Study Hours:	
	Placement	150
	Total Placement Study Hours:	150
	Hours to be allocated	150
	Allocated Hours	150
Reading List	<p>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubllq1-15-3.html</p>	

Part 5: Contributes Towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Interior Architecture [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Architecture [Sep] [FT] [Frenchay] [3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Architectural Technology and Design [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20