



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

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Part 1: Basic Data	
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England
Teaching Institution	University of the West of England
Delivery Location	Frenchay campus, University of the West of England A direct entry programme leading to the award of MA Architecture is also delivered at CSA, Sri Lanka.
Faculty responsible for programme	Environment and Technology
Department responsible for programme	Architecture and the Built Environment
Modular Scheme Title	FET Postgraduate Modular Scheme
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	None
Highest Award Title	MA Architecture umbrella programme which leads to the award of either: -MA Architecture, or -MA Urban Design
Default Award Title	MA Architecture Programme
Interim Award Titles	PG Cert; PG Dip; Masters (<i>Architecture/ Urban Design/</i>)
UWE Progression Route	
Mode(s) of Delivery	Full time or part time
Codes	UCAS: ISIS2:
	JACS: HESA:
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics 2010
CAP Approval Date	
Valid From	September 2016
Valid until Date	September 2019
Version	2

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The MA Architecture Programme is a one year full time postgraduate master's programme. The programme is open to graduates of UWE's undergraduate architecture programmes (BA (Hons) Architecture and Planning and BEng (Hons) Architecture and Environmental Engineering), holders of Part 1 qualifications offered by other UK higher education institutions and equivalent qualifications in architecture or a related discipline from universities in the UK or other countries.

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to educate critically engaged design and planning professionals with an ethically responsible attitude towards society, clients, users and the built environment. The inter-professional and multi-disciplinary ethos of the Department of Architecture and the Built Environment sets the context for the MA Architecture Programme. The three themes that underlie the architectural and urban-planning based degrees: people, sustainability and context are continued in this design-led programme that draws on the department's research in architecture, urban design, contextual studies, health and sustainability. The programme fosters understanding of the wider professional, cultural and social setting within which architecture, urban design and creative urban planning operates, the organisation of the construction industry and its inter-professional nature. Whilst the MA Architecture is not professionally accredited or validated by the RIBA/ARB and therefore does not qualify a graduate to be a registered Architect in the UK, the programme allows the development of a specialization and design focus that will enhance the employability of its graduates in the fields relevant to that specialism; whether those are within professional design practice, policy development, research, academia or industry within a variety of international contexts.

The knowledge and skills developed in the programme are:

1. ability to generate complex design proposals showing understanding of current urban issues, originality in the application of subject knowledge and, where appropriate, to test new hypotheses and speculations;
2. ability to evaluate and apply a comprehensive range of visual, oral and written media to test, analyse, critically appraise and communicate design proposals to a range of audiences;
3. ability to evaluate materiality, processes and techniques that apply to complex urban/architectural designs, and to integrate these into design proposals;
4. critical understanding of how knowledge is advanced through research to produce clear, logically argued and original written and design work relating to architectural/urban culture, theory and design;
5. problem solving skills, professional judgment, and ability to take the initiative and make appropriate decisions in complex and unpredictable circumstances.

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

Learning Outcomes

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

A Knowledge and Understanding

A Knowledge and understanding of

Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

1 Emerging practice in architectural and urban design, some of which is at or related to the forefront of either design discipline, in a specialised area of the student's choice within a range of options offered.

The central learning experience of the programme is the design studio which is focussed around a series of integrative design projects.

Design projects are key vehicles for the deepening

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme	
<p>2 The contingency of environmental, structural and technological considerations on buildings, cities and urban spaces and the influence of design and specification decisions on this environment.</p> <p>3 The role of the architect and other built environment professionals in society, and ethical issues as they relate to clients, building users, the construction industry and the wider community.</p> <p>4 The relation of urban theory, architectural history and contemporary culture, including the range of theories, methodologies and creative practices that inform architectural and urban design and influence its quality.</p> <p>5 The relationship between people, building, the spaces between buildings and the environment.</p>	<p>understanding of cultural, social and theoretical contexts of design.</p> <p>Design modules are supplemented by the taught modules, delivered through lectures, seminars and case studies, in design research and cultural studies.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>Testing of acquired knowledge is through design project and design research submissions, examinations, assessment of written and illustrated coursework, and verbal presentations of design work.</p>
B Intellectual Skills	
<p>B Intellectual Skills</p> <p>1 The ability to conceive and develop in selective detail a design for a complex building, group of buildings or at the city scale.</p> <p>2 The ability to critically analyse and appraise an urban site/context.</p> <p>3 The ability, in the context of critical debate, to appraise the design of an individual building or group of buildings in relation to the physical, intellectual and socio-economic context.</p> <p>4 The ability to critically appraise complex visual representation, built space, processes and techniques of design and architectural research and theory.</p> <p>5 The ability to evaluate alternative design and research strategies, techniques and methods, apply urban/architectural knowledge and understanding, and if appropriate propose new hypotheses.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>The studio experience consists of a series of design projects addressing defined briefs that address a range of cultural, functional, aesthetic technical and environmental issues. Projects are designed to integrate technical and/or social and/or cultural and/or environmental knowledge.</p> <p>The skill of critical analysis is at the core of modules covering advanced cultural studies, design studio and design research. The subjects considered range from specific buildings and urban areas to research methods, design theories and philosophical perspectives.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>Testing of these intellectual skills is through structured seminars, illustrated reports, extended essays, project presentations and design portfolio.</p>
C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills	
<p>C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills</p> <p>1 Ability to produce coherent and well resolved designs that demonstrate an integration of needs of clients and users, knowledge of technology and the environment and the cultural context of cities.</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <p>Design briefing is part of the relationship between the design team and the promoters and users of buildings.</p> <p>Design project briefs include technical and</p>

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme	
2 Ability to develop a design brief and thesis.	environmental elements that require students to explain the physical, economic, social, cultural and environmental context of design proposals.
3 Ability to produce urban/architectural designs that are considered responses to the physical, economic, social, cultural and environmental context of the project.	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>The integration of technical and environmental knowledge is tested in design project work, including specific technical and explanatory submissions.</p>
D Transferable Skills and other attributes	
D Transferable Skills and other attributes	Teaching/learning methods and strategies:
1 Ability to communicate to both technical and lay audiences strategies that may include the organisation, structure, construction and environmental control of a design and the experiential quality of a complex building or group of buildings through the use of a variety of media.	The development of communication skills is an important part of design studio learning. Students are required to make visual written and verbal presentations geared to the needs of a variety of audiences using a range of media which might include drawings, models, text, verbal presentations and may also include CAD images, video presentations, computer simulations and other presentational techniques.
2 Ability to work collaboratively with other students of architecture, architects, urban designers, members of other professions and disciplines in a spirit of understanding and respect.	Team working skills are developed in the design studio especially in research and master-planning exercises and students will be given opportunities to engage with professionals in other disciplines in the role of consultants and advisors.
3 Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences	Assessment:
4 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level	Testing of presentation and team working skills is an integral part of the design studio assessment.
5 Continue to advance knowledge and understanding, developing new skills to a high level.	

Part 4: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a **full time student**, including:
 level and credit requirements
 interim award requirements
 module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

MA Architecture [Full Time]

Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
UBLM6X-60-M Design Studio B (60 credits level M) UBLMKS-30-M Design Research (30 credits level M) UBLMJR-15-M Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Architectural Theory (15 credits level M) UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation (60 credits)	A 15 credit level M module of the student's choice from the following: UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities (15 credits level M) UBLMMB-15-M Professional Practice: 2 (15 credits level M)	60 Credits = PG Cert Architecture (must comprise Design Studio B module) 120 Credits= PG Dip Architecture (must comprise Design Studio B module) 180 credits (includes Dissertation) = MA Architecture

MA Architecture [Part Time]

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	Year 1	UBLM6X-60-M Design Studio B (60 credits level M)		60 Credits = PG Cert Architecture
	Year 2	UBLMKS-30-M Design Research (30 credits level M) UBLMJR-15-M Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Architectural Theory (15 credits level M)	A 15 credit level M module of the student's choice from the following: UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities (15 credits level M) UBLMMB-15-M Professional Practice: 2 (15 credits level M)	120 Credits= PG Dip Architecture (must comprise Design Studio B module)

	Year 3	Compulsory Modules UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation (60 credits)	Optional Modules	Interim Awards 180 credits (includes Dissertation) = MA Architecture
GRADUATION				

MA Urban Design [Full Time]

Compulsory Modules UBLM6X-60-M Design Studio B (60 credits level M) UBLMKS-30-M Design Research (30 credits level M) UBLMJR-15-M Advanced Cultural Studies: Narratives of Architectural Theory (15 credits level M) UBGMXN-15-M Healthy Cities (15 credits level M) UBLLY7-60-M Dissertation (60 credits)	Optional Modules <i>(students must gain 30 credits in total)</i>	Interim Awards 60 Credits = PG Cert Urban Design (must comprise Design Studio B module) 120 Credits= PG Dip Urban Design (must comprise Design Studio B module) 180 credits (includes Dissertation) = MA Urban Design
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Part 5: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions:

Entry to the MA Architecture Programme award will be available to students who are:

- 1. The holders of other appropriate academic or professional qualifications related to the discipline of the built environment*.**

There is a route to the MA Architecture Programme through the M(Arch) Part II for:

2. Graduates of the BA (Hons) in Architecture and Planning awarded by the University of the West of England holding a 2:1 degree classification or above.

3. Graduates who hold a 2:1 degree classification or above of a Part I qualification prescribed by the Architects Registration Board or graduates of courses recognised for exemption from the RIBA Part I examination*

4 graduates who hold a first degree in Architecture from an overseas institution if the candidate can demonstrate its equivalence in academic terms*. Where the candidate's native language is a language

Part 5: Entry Requirements

other than English, the candidate should be able to demonstrate an appropriate competence in the use of English and produce evidence to support this claim

5. students who have successfully completed the ARB Part I examination

Candidates in all five categories listed above are required to make a formal application for entry to the programme. Applicants will be invited to attend an open day at which the programme aims, structure and teaching style will be explained. Applicants in all categories will normally be required to attend an interview and produce a portfolio of work for examination by the programme team. In some circumstances the applicant may be asked to carry out an additional assignment or written test to demonstrate competence in particular areas.

Part 6: Assessment

A: Approved to University Regulations and Procedures

Part 7: Student Learning

Teaching, learning and assessment strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

The MA Architecture Programme contains a combination of specialist subject modules, where the student is encouraged to study certain topics in depth, and other modules, where the student is required to examine the wider context and assess how the knowledge of their own discipline interlinks with others.

Small tutorial groups meet on a regular basis. The students and the lecturer discuss conceptual and other problems that are normally identified by the students. Students with knowledge of a particular topic are expected to make a major contribution during these periods. Tutorials include material additional to that covered during lectures. This material allows the development of topics previously introduced in the lecture situation.

On the Master of Architecture programme teaching is a mix of *scheduled and independent learning*.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration and workshops; field courses and other external visits; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Description of Distinctive Features and Support

7.1 This programme has been designed to provide an opportunity for graduates to continue their architectural and built-environment education at UWE within the inter-professional context which is a distinctive feature of the Faculty.

7.2 The fact that the programme is offered in a flexible manner (full time or part time) facilitates part-time learning and provides opportunities to change the pattern of attendance during the course, making it attractive to students with Part I qualifications from other institutions and also the large cohort of students who currently work in practice or professionally and wish to study part-time.

7.3 Opportunities for international recruitment

Part 7: Student Learning

There are significant opportunities to recruit international students with first undergraduate architecture degrees (or equivalent) from universities outside the UK. On the basis of evidence of strong recruitment for specialist master's architectural design courses offered in universities within the southern UK region there is potential international demand for this MA – with a strong emphasis on the design of cities and urban areas within the developing economies in particular.

7.4 Professional validation

Not applicable.

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

8.1 Professional Context

Not applicable.

8.2 The Requirements of Professional Bodies

RTPI accredits the MA Urban Design route as a specialist planning route. The programme currently meets the RTPI requirements.

8.3 The research interests of the Faculty

The subject focus of the design studios and design research modules are closely related to the established and emerging research interests of the faculty. These areas include architectural research, urban design, city design, contextual studies, health and sustainability. In particular Architecture Studio B and Design Research modules are structured as frameworks to enable the intersection of current faculty research and teaching within projects and with live research agendas that can be offered as options to students. This develops the potential of architectural/urban design within the studio environment that is essentially speculative, innovative and contributes to the wider debate on contemporary cities.

8.4 QAA descriptors

The programme has been designed with reference to the QAA Masters descriptors 2010, which benchmarks the structure and learning outcomes for master's programmes.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications, available on the University's website.