



## **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:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**College:** College of Arts, Technology and Environment

**School:** CATE School of Architecture and Environment

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Geography and Environmental Management

**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:** 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 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.

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

**MO1** Formulate relevant and realistic research questions, based upon searching and evaluating academic literature, that facilitates the development, implementation and delivery of research projects using a variety of methods appropriate to urban planning research

**MO2** Orally and visually present material relating to research projects in a range of urban planning contexts

**MO3** 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

**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:** Poster - requires students to undertake a research project on a chosen theme linked to a field trip (to an urban location) and this will be assessed through an individual presentation (Powerpoint presentation either in-

person or submitted via Blackboard with an embedded audio commentary) and submission of a publicity leaflet.

Although the destination of any 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.

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.

**Written Assignment** - 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.

This work is directly informed by the taught contact sessions and will provide an important preparatory link for future research based studies.

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 Poster** - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

**Resit Written Assignment** - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Research proposal (1500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

#### **Poster (First Sit)**

Description: Poster with an embedded audio (10 mins).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Research proposal (1500 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

**Poster (Resit)**

Description: Poster with an embedded audio (10 mins).

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Urban Planning Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] CertHE 2023-24

Urban Planning [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Urban Planning Practice {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] CertHE 2024-25

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2022-23