



## **Module Specification**

### Implementation and Design Quality

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Implementation and Design Quality

**Module code:** UBGMP3-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2024-25

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**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:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module seeks to ensure that students have a practical and theoretical understanding of the approaches to managing development through the mechanisms and system of planning. The module will also provide students with a working and practical understanding of analytical skills needed to make decisions

based not on the output (i.e. a decision), but rather to be outcome focused. The module is therefore underpinned by the principles of the Development Management approach with an emphasis on the quality of the outcome and the effectiveness of the process.

**Outline syllabus:** The module will have three core threads running throughout:

The module will include an emphasis upon an exploration of the history, scope and nature of state intervention through, particularly, planning law, decision making processes, and implementation and delivery mechanism. The module will enable students to understand the nature of the management systems that exist and how they can be operationalised in an effective way. The module will be assessed and presented in a UK context, but importantly an international comparative analysis will be embraced within the module content. This aspect of the module content will also give the students the opportunity to understand the role of development management in planning implementation and effective decision making and delivery.

Importantly, in addition to the module providing content on the nature of decision making processes, mechanisms and delivery, an emphasis on design quality is also stressed. The module will allow students to understand the notion of design quality, its importance and value, and the need for a focus upon outcomes, not outputs. The content thread will consider design in the planning context, urban design theories and vocabularies, architectural styles and periods, and design and sustainability principle.

The third thread is directly associated with the second but is a significant thematic focus that will allow the students to expressly explore the issues surrounding movement in the urban environment. There is a growing recognition amongst the built environment professions that decades of planning which treated streets as corridors for high-speed movement rather than spaces for living has caused considerable damage to both the urban fabric and quality of life, and the status quo is a limiting factor on achieving an urban renaissance and more sustainable communities. The overall objective of this area of focus is to consider the variety of functions that streets serve and how a balance can be achieved between movement,

safety, sustainability and quality of life objectives.

The syllabus will therefore explore the following:

- Decision making processes and implementation mechanisms regarding the development and use of land to meet sustainability objectives within the context of the spatial planning approach.
- Decision-making in context: discretion in the British planning system and alternative approaches, and the role of delivery mechanisms, politics and the various decision making processes.
- The legislative context: the need for planning permission; the definition of development; permitted development rights; the use classes order; legal validity; design and access statements, planning enforcement.
- The development process and planning permissions.
- Consultation, participation and engagement within the context of development management.
- Development viability: collecting and understanding market data, costs and financing of development projects, appraisal techniques, contributions and obligations.
- Professional skills, including a focus upon negotiation, project management, understanding and creating plans and drawings, and viability.
- Making a decision; material considerations; the use of conditions; reasons for refusal; planning agreements; moral and ethical dilemmas.
- Appeals: written statements, hearings and inquiries; the role of the planning inspectorate; understanding how to produce evidence and justify argument.

- Policy, guidance and advice: understanding the development plan and other material considerations, including guidance case law.
  
- The development management approach to managing development and delivering effectively and efficiently with an outcome focus.
  
- Understanding design in the planning context.
  
- Urban design theories, vocabulary and architectural styles and periods.
  
- The value of good design and how it can be delivered.
  
- Design and sustainability principles.
  
- The multiple uses of streets and spaces including the importance of place-making.
  
- Traveller and traffic behaviour in the urban environment, including the nature and perceptions of different forms of movement (walking, cycling, driving, etc.) and the potential for urban design to influence sustainable mobility objectives, such as low-carbon travel choices.
  
- The relationship between urban/street design, with a particular focus on safety through urban design.
  
- The relationship between movement networks and urban form and design (including issues such as linkage, gain, permeability, legibility, activity, security).
  
- Consideration of the needs of the heterogeneity of people and the implications within the urban design context, including the less able movers and the mobility impaired (with reference to the Equalities Act 2011).
  
- Examining appropriate methods of communicating the intention of street design.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** Scheduled learning includes lectures, virtual/independent site study, discussion exercises, and supported group based activities.

Independent learning includes academic, practice and wider reading, assignment preparation and completion, site visits (actual or virtual, independent experiences), desktop research, and reflection. Independently managed group based learning will also be required.

Distance Learning students will be enabled through the use of appropriate software to create a quality student experience and ensure the delivery of module learning objectives.

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

**MO1** To demonstrate comprehension of planning law in the context of current planning principles, concepts and approach and evidence effective planning research and argumentation.

**MO2** Evidence effective decision making and design solution skills informed by the application of the development plan, available guidance, development viability, implementation tools, and the principles of good design

**MO3** Evidence an understanding of the multi-disciplinary approach to managing development and creating a good quality environment

**MO4** Evidence an understanding of the nature of the objectives of urban design and place making principles, and be able to apply these objectives to typical development situations

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 0

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmp3-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmp3-30-m.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The Assessment:

Report (2000 words) - requires students to demonstrate professional practice competence in site, context, policy and regulatory analysis with the need to present evidenced planning argumentation. This assessment requires written argumentation in line with a practice scenario. A development proposal for a unique and student selected site.

Portfolio (1500 words) - Design Planning Portfolio. This is positioned to focus around professional practice competence in site, context, policy and regulatory analysis with the need to present evidenced planning argumentation via effective visual communication techniques supported by a supporting embedded narrative.

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

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

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Report (First Sit)**

Description: Report (2000 words equivalent)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Planning portfolio (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

**Report (Resit)**

Description: Report (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Planning Portfolio (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Planning and Urban Leadership [Distance] MSc 2024-25

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

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