



## **Module Specification**

### **Design Research Methods**

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Design Research Methods

**Module code:** UBLFB8-15-3

**Level:** Level 6

**For implementation from:** 2026-27

**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:** Architecture and the Built Environment

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** Creative Product Design Studio 2 2026-27

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

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

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Pre-requisites: students must take one out of UBLFGA-45-2 Product Design Technology Studio 2 or UBLLWA-60-2 Creative Product Design Studio 2

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** See learning outcomes

**Outline syllabus:** This module will be run on a compound learning model where the module's exercises/assignments/projects will be contextually carried out through the

initial research, concept development and report writing. This work will be subsequently used in Individual Project (product design). The subject matter will cover a range as follows:

#### Report structure

Overview of Harvard Style and where further information can be found. Specific topic areas of report structure, citation, referencing, and plagiarism, will be covered.

#### Research strategies and information accessing

Primary research strategies, ethics and legal responsibilities and accessing online and in-holdings secondary research information

#### Intellectual Property

Research and reading techniques for patents, trademark, copy write and other forms of intellectual property

#### Iterative design loop

The process of research, integration, synthesis, and evaluation in the design process

Note: all elements are not weighted equally in study or assessment time.

## Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching and Learning Strategy for this module is studio project based learning in which a topic lecture will introduce the students to the assigned or coming up contextual information, skills or general information which supports and frames their acquisition of topic specific knowledge, skills and supports their project work.

The exercises and projects are designed to facilitate competency acquisition through the didactic and applied learning, building knowledge through the introduction of new subject matter and reinvestment of gained knowledge and skills. The tutorial portion of the studio time is designed for the learner to have access to tutorial support, work in the close proximity of classmates and to self-assess his/her progress through the exercises and/or projects.

Exercise and Project work outside of scheduled hours is an essential component to the successful completion of the assigned work with an average time investment of 10+ hours per week. Students will be Expected to come prepared for the module sessions with in-process or completed work and supplies.

At times though the run, students are required to pre-read on topics and selected materials, research and orally present on the topic.

Projects and course work is assessed through viva (oral presentations) “pinup” and project demonstrations in front of the students peers and tutors.

Feedback will be in the form of direct verbal and/or written. Marking criteria and assessment format will be clearly indicated on the Project Brief made accessible to the students at the beginning of each project.

Knowledge and Skills reinvestment from parallel running modules are formative and essential for progression through the curriculum.

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

**MO1** Drafting Product Design Specification (PDS), design reports and present design ideas in a rational and coherent manner

**MO2** Researching and applying legal and statutory factors

**MO3** Researching, selecting, evaluating, manipulating and managing information relevant to the analysis and synthesis of product design solutions

**MO4** Objectively involving identified end users of a product or service as co-designers within the design process

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 48 hours

Project work (individual or group) = 66 hours

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

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment strategy in this module is based upon evaluations of the process and the outcomes of the completed projects and presentations (controlled conditions viva)

To best mimic professional practice the following assessment strategy has been adopted.

Summative Assessment: Projects are evaluated on subject specific criteria clearly stated on each project brief at the outset of each project:

Projects are evaluated in both peer critiques (controlled condition evaluations) and direct submissions. These presentation critiques are held during term time and during the examination period. Typical presentations are 10 minutes in duration including the formal presentation and feedback from peers and tutors. (Presentation)

Graphic/Written document, which represent and support the verbal presentation and 3D work, consist of student generated and cited graphic images and written content. In a typical submission the written content ranges from 500-2000 words. (Report)

Submission of a process book that demonstrates the depth and breadth of research

and synthesis in to the iterative process of developing a design concept.

(Presentation)

An overall mark percentage of professionalism is allotted to assess aspects of participation and engagement. (Report)

Formative Assessment: Regular “in-process” critiques and one-to-one tutoring is given throughout the development process of the projects.

Feedback: Peer and tutor feedback is provided during the development process of the projects, during the project critiques.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Report** (First Sit)

Description: Report (500-2000 words)

Weighting: 75 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Presentation** (First Sit)

Description: Oral presentation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Report** (Resit)

Description: Report (500-2000 words)

Weighting: 75 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Oral presentation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Product Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design Technology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design Technology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Product Design Technology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Product Design Technology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Product Design Technology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design Technology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Product Design Technology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Product Design [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Product Design [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Product Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Product Design Technology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

