



## **Module Specification**

### **Future Practice in Architecture**

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, 28 Jan 2025

#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>10</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Future Practice in Architecture

**Module code:** UBLL4B-15-M

**Level:** Level 7

**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:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

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

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** The Future Practice in Architecture module provides students with a practical understanding of project lifecycle management, regulatory frameworks, and professional responsibility within the context of the RIBA Plan of Work. The module uses a theoretical project approach, allowing students to explore architectural projects of varying scales and follow them through each stage of the RIBA work plan. Students gain insights into key aspects of practice, including fees, contracts, procurement, and management, focusing on how these elements interact across a

project's lifecycle.

By following the RIBA stages, students will learn to navigate the complexities of contractual and regulatory requirements, cost management, and ethical responsibilities. Through this framework, they will understand the architect's evolving responsibilities at each stage of a project, from concept design to project handover, and develop skills essential for professional practice and leadership. Students gain an understanding of how architectural practices operate within the construction industry and how their emerging specialisms can be incorporated into practice models that serve both clients and communities.

This module reflects RIBA's values in business ethics (E6), professional responsibility, and social impact (E2). Through practical applications, students learn the fundamentals of ethical practice management and gain insights into RIBA's standards for responsible project delivery and effective business operations within architectural practice.

**Features:** RIBA Plan of Work Structure: Guides students through each RIBA stage, from strategic definition to handover, exploring how responsibilities and processes evolve throughout a project's lifecycle.

Theoretical Project Application: Using a theoretical project model, students explore architectural management concepts in practice, such as contracts, fees, regulatory compliance, and ethical considerations, with an emphasis on real-world applications.

Responsibility and Professional Conduct: Examines what it means to practice responsibly, covering topics like public accountability, safety, and ethical practice within the regulatory and contractual framework.

Regulatory Framework and Cost Management: Introduces key regulations, including building regulations and planning requirements, alongside cost-focused considerations, such as fee structures, cost control, and procurement strategies.

**Educational aims:** The aim of this module is to develop students' understanding of the regulatory framework, professional responsibilities, and project lifecycle

management in architecture, with a strong focus on the RIBA Plan of Work. By the end of the module, students will be able to:

Apply the RIBA Plan of Work to a theoretical project, demonstrating understanding of project lifecycle stages and responsibilities.

Understand key construction contracts and cost management principles, including fee structures, cost estimation, and contractual obligations.

Evaluate the regulatory framework, including planning, building regulations, and procurement requirements, and their impact on project delivery.

Critically assess the architect's professional responsibilities within the context of regulatory compliance, client relations, and public safety.

**Outline syllabus:** The Future Practice in Architecture module provides students with the foundational knowledge and practical experience needed to navigate the professional landscape of architectural practice. The syllabus is structured around both theoretical knowledge and practical applications.

Students explore the RIBA Plan of Work as a comprehensive project lifecycle management tool, developing an understanding of the goals, deliverables, and responsibilities associated with each stage. Emphasis is placed on how the Plan of Work structures the architectural process and connects to the regulatory framework.

Through this process students study and apply concepts in fee structuring, cost estimation, and the role of contracts within the RIBA stages. Through an examination of different contract types students learn effective strategies for managing project costs while ensuring compliance and upholding ethical standards. Students are introduced to procurement routes, including traditional, design and build, and construction management, examining how these align with project goals and contractual arrangements. This exploration includes the roles of different team members, with a focus on collaboration, stakeholder management, and contractual relationships.

In the later stages study is directed toward building regulations, planning requirements, and safety standards. Students examine the regulatory framework governing projects, understanding how regulations apply across various stages and affect decision-making, project risk, and public accountability.

The module also addresses the ethical and professional obligations of architects, placing particular emphasis on public safety, client accountability, and adherence to the Architects Code of Conduct. Students learn to apply ethical principles to both contractual and regulatory scenarios, reinforcing a foundation for responsible practice.

Throughout the module students work on a theoretical project to apply the concepts learned across the RIBA stage analysing each work stage to understand the evolving responsibilities, regulatory requirements, and financial implications associated with the project lifecycle.

#### Alignment to ARB Competency Outcomes

In this module the following ARB Academic Competency Outcomes are met and assessed to passing standard:

CK2: The role of architects in society, the design team and the construction industry.

RE2: Work with clients and other stakeholders to gain a mutual understanding of constraints and opportunities, identify immediate and long-term interests, set project agendas, define desirable and feasible project outcomes, and develop appropriate briefs for projects.

M1: Make use of the principles of sustainable, responsible and ethical practice, and recognise how they relate to running an architect's practice.

M4: Manage and structure projects, administer construction contracts and resolve common construction-related challenges.

M5: Manage the inter-relationships of individuals, organisations, statutory bodies, and professions involved in procuring and delivering architectural projects, recognising how these are defined through contractual and organisational structures.

M6: Select appropriate procurement routes and means of delivery, recognising their relative risks to contractual parties, their implications for sustainable design outcomes and how these influence the selection and management of construction contracts.

M7: Apply the principles of risk management, liabilities, and insurance to architectural projects.

M8: Apply the principles of cost management, control, and budgeting to architectural projects.

M9: Plan, manage, monitor and communicate health and safety arrangements for construction projects as required by current legislation.

M10: Resource, plan, implement and record project tasks to achieve stated goals, either individually or within a team.

PE8: Acknowledge and work within the limits of their competence, expertise, and experience.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module combines lectures, practical workshops, and group activities to support students' understanding of architectural practice fundamentals:

Lectures: Provide foundational knowledge on the RIBA Plan of Work, regulatory frameworks, and project lifecycle management. Lectures cover key concepts related

to contracts, procurement, and cost management, ensuring students have a solid grounding in project delivery principles.

**Workshops:** Students engage in interactive workshops focusing on specific areas such as contract selection, fee structuring, risk management, and procurement methods. These hands-on sessions allow students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, gaining practical skills in collaborative and ethical project management.

**Theoretical Project Application:** Students work through a theoretical project, applying the RIBA Plan of Work to explore each stage of the project lifecycle. This project-based approach helps students understand how responsibilities, regulatory requirements, and financial considerations evolve across different project phases, reinforcing the practical application of module content.

**Reflective Exercises:** Reflection is incorporated to encourage students to assess their competencies and identify areas for growth, particularly in regulatory knowledge, project management, and professional ethics. This element ensures students actively engage in self-assessment and plan for continuous professional development.

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

**MO1** Apply the RIBA Plan of Work to analyse project stages, lifecycle responsibilities, and regulatory considerations within a theoretical project.

**MO2** Demonstrate understanding of key construction contracts and cost management principles, including fee structures, cost control, and contractual obligations.

**MO3** Exhibit accountability and professional responsibility in their approach to project management, procurement, and risk management applying reflective and adaptive strategies for ongoing professional development.

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F4F18BD3-0628-E817-BD92-2676C967107D.html) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/F4F18BD3-0628-E817-BD92-2676C967107D.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Project Lifecycle Analysis Report (100%)

This report requires students to analyse a theoretical or real project across its entire lifecycle, from concept through to project close-out, using the RIBA Plan of Work stages as a guide. Within the report, students will address:

**Project Planning and Procurement:** Outline the approach to planning, selecting appropriate procurement methods, and structuring contracts. Students should explain how these decisions align with project goals, regulatory requirements, and ethical considerations.

**Cost and Risk Management:** Provide an analysis of cost estimation, fee structures, and risk management strategies appropriate to the project scale and type. The report should demonstrate an understanding of budgeting constraints, contractual obligations, and the balance between cost efficiency and quality.

**Regulatory Compliance and Safety:** Document how relevant building regulations, planning permissions, and safety standards are met at each project stage. This section should cover health and safety considerations, building code adherence, and procedures for ensuring public and occupant safety.

**Professional and Ethical Responsibility:** Reflect on the architect's role in ensuring ethical practice, public accountability, and client engagement throughout the project. Students are encouraged to integrate sustainability frameworks and discuss how



ethical considerations shape design and delivery decisions.

**Assessment Objectives:** The report assesses students' understanding of project lifecycle management through the RIBA Plan of Work, with a focus on regulatory adherence, cost and risk management, and ethical practice. This assessment encourages students to apply theoretical knowledge to a real-world project framework, demonstrating critical thinking and practical application. Students are evaluated on their ability to integrate project management principles, regulatory frameworks, and professional responsibility into a cohesive project approach.

**Formative Feedback:** During workshops and tutorials, students receive feedback on project stages, allowing them to refine their approach and deepen their understanding of each RIBA stage. This iterative feedback process supports the development of a comprehensive final report and ensures students engage actively with the project lifecycle framework.

**Resit Assessment:** If required, the resit assessment will follow the same brief and submission format as the main assessment, allowing students to develop and submit a revised report that meets the original assessment objectives.

### **Assessment tasks:**

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

Description: Project Lifecycle Analysis Report

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

#### **Report (Resit)**

Description: Project Lifecycle Analysis Report

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture [Frenchay] MArch 2025-26

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE}[Frenchay] MArch 2025-26