Module Specification

AP Studio 2.2

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Part 1: Information

Module title: AP Studio 2.2

Module code: UBLL76-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2026-27

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: Architecture and the Built Environment

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Studio 1.1 - Form and Context 2025-26, Studio 1.2 - People and Environment 2025-26

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: Studio 2.1 - Living 2026-27

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The module is taught as a design studio where students consider how to unify the development of a site within a specialist Architecture and Planning studio.

This masterplan design project encourages students to solve a prescribed set of design problems through experiential learning and with the support of staff, who

coach key skills as well as offering comment and suggestions for improvement (as both formative feedback and summative assessment).

Features: The module emphasises an urban masterplan that is contextually responsive, exploring how architecture and spatial planning serve communities, enhance social value, and foster vibrant, inclusive public spaces. It focuses on designing at the intersection of the built environment and public realm, promoting social equity and sustainability.

Integration of GIS and Physical Urban Design Tools:
Students will engage in GIS workshops to analyse spatial data, map urban patterns, and evaluate site-specific opportunities. This is alongside physical model making to visualize urban design proposals effectively.

Integrated Site Analysis for Sustainable Urban Design Solutions
As the module evolves students will engage collaborative and share their site analysis to explore environmental, cultural, and social factors critical to creating sustainable urban design solutions. This an appreciation of these perspectives, students will develop contextually responsive strategies that address competing community needs, recognise social value, and promote long-term environmental resilience. This approach fosters professional skills in teamwork, critical analysis, and the application of holistic design principles to create an individual masterplan at the end of the module.

Educational aims: The module aims to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and critical understanding required to evaluate and design a sustainable and contextual responsive masterplan. It emphasizes the integration of architecture and spatial planning to create vibrant, inclusive, and healthy urban environments. By engaging with environmental, cultural, and social factors, the module prepares students to address complex urban challenges using evidence-based design methods and innovative tools.

Key aims include:
Developing the ability to conduct comprehensive site analysis using GIS and physical modelling tools.

Fostering skills in creating masterplans that balance social, cultural, and environmental considerations.

Promoting collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to urban design.

Enhancing communication skills through effective visual, verbal, and written representation techniques.

Encouraging critical appraisal of design decisions in terms of sustainability, health, and social equity.

Outline syllabus: Syllabus
The syllabus is designed to support students in mastering the concepts, tools, and techniques required for masterplan design and analysis. Key topics and activities include:

Principles of urban design and placemaking.
Case studies of sustainable urban design practices.

Introduction to GIS tools and spatial data interpretation.
Model-making and visualization techniques.

Contextual Analysis, Place-Making and Masterplanning

Evaluating contexts to addressing topography, built context, orientation, and access.

Critical Evaluation and Reflection
Assessing the impact of design proposals on health, well-being, and sustainability.
Documenting the iterative design process and decision-making rationale.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module employs a blend of studio-based learning, workshops, and independent study to support students' design development. Studio tutorials and feedback sessions provide regular, constructive input to guide students' iterative design processes. Lectures and seminars cover topics such as urban analysis, social value, environmental challenges, and creative representation techniques. Workshops focus on hands-on design techniques, including model-making, visualisation, and digital media. Independent study encourages students to deepen their research, refine their designs, and develop a cohesive portfolio.

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

MO1 Evaluate key parameters for urban design using digital and physical tools, addressing social, cultural, and environmental challenges through iterative design development.

MO2 Create well-organised masterplan proposal that integrate contextual analysis, user needs, and environmental performance, while addressing social and cultural challenges.

MO3 Integrate spatial other diverse evidence sources, to develop a masterplan design that respond to socio-demographics, health, and well-being considerations.

MO4 Effectively communicate a masterplan through drawings, models, and verbal presentations; critiquing design options for their impact on health, well-being, and sustainability.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 192 hours

Studio sessions = 108 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/AD121269-ED43-252C-6973-553B62D0C180.html?lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment 1: Site Analysis
Presentation – (record live or pre-recorded)
Students will demonstrate foundational planning knowledge and principles through a collaborative presentation, with individual work assessed separately. The task involves a comprehensive site analysis for a proposed masterplan site, using GIS and physical modelling to evaluate, for example, locational, environmental, historical and socio-cultural factors. Submissions will include maps, photos, diagrams, and a reflective commentary.
Assessed Learning Outcomes: MLO 1 and MLO 3
Assessment Criteria:
Rigour of analysis as well as the reflection of the challenges and opportunities.
Effective use of GIS and other analytical tools.
Clarity and quality of visual representations.

Assessment 2: Report - Masterplan Proposal
Report:
Students will create a written and visual report addressing a spatial challenge, showcasing planning, communication, and research skills. The project requires iterative work, with formative studio support, and includes group collaboration while assessing individual contributions.
Description:
Students will develop a detailed sustainable urban community masterplan based on site analysis, incorporating drawings, models, and diagrams. The report must critique design options regarding health, sustainability, and user needs, demonstrating an iterative process and personal research.
Assessed Learning Outcomes: MLO 2 and MLO 4
Assessment Criteria:
Integration of contextual analysis into the masterplan design.
Quality and clarity of visual, verbal, and written communication.

Evidence of iterative design development.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)
Description: The task involves a comprehensive site analysis for a proposed masterplan site, using GIS and physical modelling to evaluate, for example, locational, environmental, historical and socio-cultural factors. Submissions will include maps, photos, diagrams, and a reflective commentary.
Weighting: 40 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Report (First Sit)
Description: Students will develop a detailed sustainable urban community masterplan based on site analysis, incorporating drawings, models, and diagrams. The report must critique design options regarding health, sustainability, and user needs, demonstrating an iterative process and personal research.
Weighting: 60 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4

Presentation (Resit)
Description: The task involves a comprehensive site analysis for a proposed masterplan site, using GIS and physical modelling to evaluate, for example, locational, environmental, historical and socio-cultural factors. Submissions will include maps, photos, diagrams, and a reflective commentary.
Weighting: 40 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Report (Resit)
Description: Students will develop a detailed sustainable urban community masterplan based on site analysis, incorporating drawings, models, and diagrams. The report must critique design options regarding health, sustainability, and user needs, demonstrating an iterative process and personal research.
Weighting: 60 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26