



Module Specification

City Lab: Project Appraisals

Version: 2027-28, v1.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: City Lab: Project Appraisals

Module code: UBLLBS-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2027-28

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 module aims to appraise various kinds of project developments with appropriate assessment quantitative tools to help stakeholders' decision-making, including accessing the profitability from private project development, budget meet-up for social/affordable housing projects, and good value for money through public project implementations in the context of planning obligations and social-environmental sustainability.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The arch aim of this module is to develop students' understanding and skills required for appraisal of various projects in the wider economic, environmental and social contexts.

Outline syllabus: An indicative outline of syllabus is below:

Property development - risks, rewards, and good value for money;

Decision-making, sensitivity and variability analysis;

Planning, property and market information, research and intelligence;

Appraisal Valuation and Analysis Techniques: principles and practice;

Research/survey practices: appreciate the need for accurate, reliable and verifiable evidence in academic and market research and professional practice and consultancy;

Appraisal Case study examples (e.g. private commercial development, affordable housing, social housing, airport and ports; hospitals, schools; energy (nuclear power, wind farms; heritage and regeneration; sport stadia etc.).

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This will take the form of weekly lectures and tutorials, and computer practice sessions, which will incorporate a variety of activities in order to accommodate different learning styles.

Additional unscheduled contact time will be available to all students in the form of weekly office hours offered by programme tutors and tutors will also be available via email.

There will be formative work for the students to work on during the non-contact hours. Formative feedback will be given in order to help students develop and improve before they are assessed.

Hours

Contact time: 36 hours

Assimilation and development of knowledge: 74 hours

Exam preparation: 40 hours

Coursework preparation: 0 hours

Total study time: 150 hours

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

MO1 Apply financial feasibility and risk management techniques to urban development schemes, using quantitative tools to perform rigorous appraisals and justify project viability, building professional competence in evidence-based decision-making.

MO2 Critically evaluate planning regulations, socio-economic factors, and environmental considerations through structured analysis, developing the ability to construct coherent, well-reasoned arguments for new project initiatives in professional planning contexts.

MO3 Demonstrate collaborative and critical thinking skills in project development, recognising their importance in delivering sound judgement and fostering professional behaviours aligned with multidisciplinary teamwork and stakeholder engagement.

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/01F4AE5F-C8FF-4355-5113-F300AA53A89A.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/01F4AE5F-C8FF-4355-5113-F300AA53A89A.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The summative assessment is a Feasibility Appraisal report (2000 word) where students will select a site and produce a professional-style report assessing the viability of a proposed urban development. The report should include: Financial appraisal - using UK-standard valuation techniques, e.g., residual land

value, development cash flow, sensitivity analysis, to assess viability and risk

Planning and policy context - review relevant planning policies, e.g., National Planning Policy Framework, Local Plans etc. and other regulatory opportunities/constraints.

Socio-economic and environmental analysis - examine local demographics, market conditions and environmental factors using structured evidence and planning data e.g., ONS, NOMIS, Planning Portal etc.

Development Justification - present a coherent, evidence-based rationale for the proposed scheme including risk mitigation and aligning with planning objectives.

Resit brief is the same as that for the first sit.

Formative feedback takes place during the module and considers the development of the professional planner and nurtures a critical and reflective mindset.

Formative feedback will consist of:

Discussion between peers within the lectures, tutorials and other scheduled sessions

Comments on coursework drafts by the teaching team

Use of interactive online tools (e.g. Menti) for students to post ideas/questions relating to taught content/coursework

Use marking rubric both at the start to manage expectations of what 'good' looks like as well as facilitating students to use the rubric to evaluate their own drafts

Assessment tasks:

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)

Description: Feasibility Appraisal report (2000 word) where students will select a site and produce a professional-style report assessing the viability of a proposed urban development.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)

Description: Feasibility Appraisal report (2000 word) where students will select a site and produce a professional-style report assessing the viability of a proposed urban development.

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:

Urban Planning [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27