Module Specification

Building Pathology

Version: 2026-27, v4.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Building Pathology

Module code: UBLLG1-15-3

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: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module investigates the pathology of buildings to provide analysis and evaluation of failures and defects in a range of buildings and components.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: To develop students' ability to engage with the pathology of buildings and undertake a full and comprehensive analysis and evaluation of failures and defects in a range of buildings and components.

Outline syllabus: The pathology of building defects is likely to include but not limited to:

Building movement

Dampness and condensation

External and internal walls

Internal and external finishes

Rot and insect attack

Roof structure and coverings

Foundations and floors

Cladding

Concrete failure.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module is delivered through a variety of scheduled learning contact sessions made up of lectures and interactive tutorials.

Delivery is designed to always include 'hands on' practical learning based on typical real life situations and circumstances that are encountered in industry. In all cases students are encouraged to explore, question and apply themselves and above all relate to and show respect to the views and opinions of others in forging their conclusions and recommendations.

A mixture of material is to be utilised including short videos which are both informative in deepening of the knowledge base as well as providing a pathway for

critical thought processes and further analysis.

Learning in this module will be supported by a parallel programme of site visits and/or visiting experts speakers to demonstrate and expand upon teaching and learning about various defects and building pathology.

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

MO1 Apply and demonstrate the process of building pathology in relation to the cause, origins and nature of building defects.

MO2 Diagnose and critically analyse a range of common building defects.

MO3 Critically evaluate past and current construction techniques, materials and standards of work performance, examining how they can contribute to premature building failure.

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 via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublg1-15-3.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Assessment:

Project (2000 words) - Students will be required to undertake a range of activities and tasks throughout the teaching weeks which will culminate in the submission of a portfolio of material and evidence that is expected to demonstrate their ability to identify, analyse and carry out extensive further reading on both the technical and pathological aspects of defects in buildings. Furthermore, the project allows the

student to identify defects in practice, critically evaluate literature for analysis. The Project viva (10 minutes) - exploring typical construction forms and their inherent defects through material performance and construction detailing, Providing rigorous and effective mechanism for measuring how effectively the students have attained wider defect and construction technology knowledge to achieve the learning outcomes through their project and are able to apply their comprehension of building pathology to current practice which aligns with the profession of building surveying and the core competencies required by professional bodies.

Students will be given formative feedback, group and in tutorials as their project of evidence is developed and reviewed to support and enhance the learning.

Resit project - a similar brief to that described above, which may include a summary of changes from any previously submitted project including a project viva - a similar structure to that described above, which may include some question changes.

Assessment tasks:

Project (First Sit)
Description: Task 1: 1650 word report.
Task 2: Project Viva.
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Project (Resit)
Description: Task 1: report 1650 words.
Task 2: Project Viva.
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:

Building Surveying {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Building Surveying [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Building Surveying {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Building Surveying [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Building Surveying [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Building Surveying [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27