



Module Specification

International Academic Year (Architecture)

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Part 1: Information

Module title: International Academic Year (Architecture)

Module code: UBLLQ1-15-3

Level: Level 6

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: This module is for students who successfully apply to study abroad for one 'academic' year from the following degree programmes:

BSc (Hons) Architecture

BSc (Hons) Architectural Technology and Design

Note: A separate study abroad scheme operates for students from:

BA (Hons) Architecture and Planning

BEng (Hons) Architecture and Environmental Engineering

Students taking this module will normally spend one academic year (or shorter as agreed) at a university abroad with which UWE has an established agreement to host its students (often referred to as an 'exchange agreement.')

When abroad UWE students will study a range of subjects designed to enhance their design, technical and cultural understanding of architecture and/or architecture related subjects.

Students are selected by competitive application (spaces are limited) and will take this module as an academic year between years 2 and the final year of their standard degree programme.

Only students who have passed all level 1 and 2 modules (ie years 1 and 2) of their degree programme and are successful in their application are eligible to study abroad. There is therefore no guarantee that any student who so desires can automatically undertake a year of study abroad.

Features: This module offers students who successfully apply to participate the chance to explore architecture and architectural education in a different cultural setting to that at UWE. It enhances the cultural context in which students understand the discipline and brings new insights to learning and increased knowledge and skills.

Educational aims: Provide the opportunity to study architecture and architecture related subjects in a different educational and cultural context (outside the UK) to that at UWE.

Manage an extended piece of work using a full range of resources including those which are specialised or advanced within the field of architectural study/practice.

Enhance confidence and self-responsibility.

Develop networking, employability and communication skills.

Outline syllabus: The department sees great benefit for some students being able to undertake an academic placement year at a university abroad and the contribution another academic institution can make to a student's learning experience in architecture and related subjects.

To satisfactorily complete the module students must spend one academic year studying at a university abroad with which UWE has a formal agreement for hosting its students. The subjects studied whilst abroad must be approved by the module leader and /or the appropriate international academic exchange / placement coordinator.

The module requires students to display a high degree of autonomy in following a suite of learning activities abroad that will develop their design, technical and cultural understanding of architecture and architectural education. Along with that it also requires students to develop a critically reflective and comparative attitude to architectural education.

The main topic areas covered are: design, technology and cultural contexts related to architecture and associated subjects.

The students on this module will be expected to use a wide range of resources including those which are specialised or advanced within their field of study/practice, to produce evidence and explanations of their engagement as well as critically reviewing the year abroad and producing conclusions and recommendations.

Topic areas covered include:

Academic learning in the fields of architectural design, technology and cultures

Portfolio production (including graphic design and layout)

Critical reflection

Report writing

Professional practices (record keeping, time management, responsibility)

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: As this module requires students to choose and then engage in learning delivered by universities abroad it draws upon a wide range of methods. This depends on student choice. All methods are complementary to those already used in the students' programmes at UWE.

In line with UWE ethos and mission this module, by the very nature of being based abroad in a different cultural framework to that normally experienced by a student, is inclusive and global in its approach and focus. This supports students to achieve added value whatever their starting point and the teaching and learning methods employed are such that they will enhance student employability by reflecting practitioner requirements.

Design studio teaching - this is enquiry, testing and solution based. Participating in a design studio in a foreign university includes group work, individual outputs, architectural reviews, site visits and other activity appropriate and relevant to particular projects being undertaken in the studio setting.

METHODS

Creating a personal design, technology and cultural programme for the year.

Lectures, seminars and tutorials as required by modules being followed.

Visits: self directed or as part of wider study programmes.

Assimilation and reflection on learning.

Preparation and submission of work for review / feedback / assessment.

Online contact with UWE to discuss progress.

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

MO1 Demonstrate competence in architectural design and technical skills, including the ability to understand briefs, develop suitable solutions, and critically reflect on learning activities undertaken at the host institution.

MO2 Formulate and apply a framework for critically assessing your experience abroad, including different approaches to architectural education, and relate these experiences to your UWE degree programme and future professional practice.

MO3 Produce a portfolio that comprehensively documents and justifies the academic, technical, cultural, and reflective activities undertaken during the year abroad.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Placement = 150 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubllq1-15-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubllq1-15-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy has been designed to support the student in working in a different academic environment to that normally experienced when at UWE.

Students will choose (with support from the module leader and host university) a suite of learning activities to follow at the host university. This will be balanced across the various learning activities required for the final portfolio (described below)

and the student's justification of that choice will be included in that portfolio.

Each student will develop a portfolio of work based on his / her chosen suite of learning activities. There will be four parts to this, identified as: 'design' 'technical' 'cultural' and 'reflective'.

The portfolio will track the student's activity and outputs throughout the year abroad. Activities within it will be recorded by the host university and an official statement (transcript) of completion obtained for each activity. This will ensure a framework for learning and a check against plagiarism.

The host university will provide opportunities for work to be formatively reviewed during the course of the year and the module leader will also provide formative feedback as appropriate on the production of the final portfolio.

Along with the design, technical and cultural knowledge and skills section which are provided and taught by the host university, the portfolio requires a reflective section. Students will be guided on this by UWE staff. In semester one students will set up a framework for reflection which will be discussed with UWE staff to ensure that it is good, robust and fit for purpose when considered alongside the learning activity being undertaken. It will draw upon appropriate methods for academic critique and pedagogical understanding.

It is the portfolio that is assessed for 15 credits. This is assessed at the end of the year abroad and the assessment comprises a review of the portfolio plus an interview with the student. On top of the subject based skills this supports the development of communication skills which are an essential element of an individual's personal development.

The portfolio (and in particular the reflection section) provides evidence that the student can produce a critical analytical study relating to the academic experience of their chosen learning activities and relate them to his / her own professional development.

Resit assessment strategy

Students need to resubmit the portfolio (improved from the first sit as necessary / appropriate) and where required undertake the interview. A student who fails the first sit will receive feedback to help with the re-assessment.

Assessment tasks:**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio comprising four parts: (i) design, (ii) technical, (iii) cultural and (iv) reflective.

A portfolio is a normally recognised method of assessing students in architectural disciplines and understood by all the relevant professional bodies.

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: A verbal 'examination' a set of questions enabling the student to explore their portfolio that follows the submission of the portfolio (20 mins).

This allows for the demonstration of verbal communication skills and offers staff the chance to ask questions about the year abroad.

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio comprising four parts: (i) design, (ii) technical, (iii) cultural and (iv) reflective.

A portfolio is a normally recognised method of assessing students in architectural disciplines and understood by all the relevant professional bodies.

Weighting: 80 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Presentation (Resit)

Description: A verbal and visual presentation (20 mins) of the year abroad that follows the submission of the portfolio.

This allows for the demonstration of verbal communication skills and offers staff the chance to ask questions about the year abroad.

Weighting: 20 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Interior Architecture [Frenchay] - Withdrawn BA (Hons) 2025-26

Architecture [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Architectural Technology and Design [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Architecture [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Architectural Technology and Design [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26