Module Specification

Dissertation

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Dissertation

Module code: UBLLY7-60-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 60

ECTS credit rating: 30

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 Dissertation module provides the student with the opportunity to pursue in-depth autonomous and independent study of a particular topic of their own choosing, which is relevant to their programme of study. The focus of the module is on the process and outcomes of this independent research and investigation. The syllabus is not, therefore, fully defined in advance but is formulated by the student with the support of the supervisor and other relevant tutors.

This module is primarily taken by masters programmes in construction and property, but also other related disciplines across the University.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The dissertation allows students to develop and demonstrate research skills. These are skills associated with finding and selecting or generating research evidence. It also allows students to develop and demonstrate other skills they are already familiar with, such as analysis, synthesis, critical judgment, and evaluation.

Outline syllabus: Outline Syllabus:
1. Research methods
Introduction to research: A review of the main philosophical perspectives associated with the production of knowledge and the validation of knowledge claims. Overview of theoretical tools and practical skills necessary for the design and execution of a research project.
Research planning: Understand and conceptualise the problem, define a research question or hypothesis, formulate research objectives, identify and evaluate methodologies, research design and project management.
Methods of data collection and analysis in qualitative and quantitative research: An overview of a range of research methods, for example, interviews, focus groups survey design, statistical analysis, presentation of data, research and experimentation by design, etc.
Constructing a research methodology: Evaluation and selection of relevant methods for data collection and analysis, interviews and questionnaires, experimentation, research design, and techniques for planning and managing the research process.
Reviewing the literature: Purpose and process of a literature review; use of library databases and the internet; characteristics of a convincing, critical literature review, relationship with the conceptual/analytical framework informing the research, attribution of sources, use of relevant software packages, use of design, fabrication and generative techniques in computational architecture and design, where appropriate.
Experimentation: Such as the use of experimental or explorative research methods, simulation, prototyping, fabrication and generative techniques in computational architecture and design, and the use of relevant software packages, where

appropriate.
Ethics, risk management and the validity of research: Consideration of issues of ethics, research risks, validity, trustworthiness and reliability in research.

2. Dissertation
Students undertake a piece of independent research that explores in depth a topic that is relevant to their studies. The research format may have a different scope and output depending on the programme concerned, and the Module Leader and Dissertation coordinators responsible for individual programmes will identify which format(s) are appropriate for each program. For all identified formats, the Learning Outcomes specified for the module remain and must be fulfilled by the student's submission in order to pass the module. The research format is to be appropriate to the scope and characteristics of research output expected for that student's programme and professional and academic field. The Module Leader and Coordinators will ensure that parity of scope and output is maintained between these different potential outputs and that all Learning Outcomes for the module are covered by all research formats used.
Under the supervision of a tutor, students are expected to select relevant research methods introduced in the earlier part of the module and develop these to enable them to produce a piece of work that contributes to existing research in their field of study.
The written research must take the form of a Standard Dissertation.
The written research output should make clear how the primary research was designed and conducted and discussion of the outcomes of primary research should be clearly related to existing literature.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: 1. Scheduled Learning
Students will be taught research methods on an intensive basis with the equivalent of a week of research methods training, which may be divided up across the academic year. The sessions will be divided between lectures, seminars and workshops, and the emphasis will be on student centred active learning. This taught

delivery will reflect upon and relate research methodologies to the disciplinary focus of relevant students enrolled on the module and introduce research methods as these are appropriate to the students concerned.
Upon completion of the research element of the module, students will work closely with academic staff to formulate their research question and /or hypothesis and identify key research objectives.
Students will be allocated a supervisor and it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they work closely with their supervisor and keep them informed of their progress.
Students will have 30 hours of contact time, the equivalent of a teaching week, divided as appropriate between lectures, seminars and workshop style sessions (Research Methods).
On completion of the Research Methods element of the module, students will have 12 hours of contact with their project supervisor. This time may be divided up in a range of ways and maybe with members of staff other than their supervisor. If appropriate there may be group sessions, where students researching in similar subject areas would benefit from contact with fellow students. There may also be some one-to-one sessions, and these could take place face to face or through some other medium such as telephone, email or the internet. Supervision may take place face to face or via different communication channels.
2. Independent learning
This is a project module and the dissertation is essentially a piece of independent work, so the majority of the study hours will be spent by students working independently, under the broad guidance of their supervisor.

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

MO1 Define or select a research question and/or hypothesis and provide a rationale for this which demonstrates a thorough grasp of existing literature on the subject.

MO2 Design an appropriate research strategy to examine the chosen question(s)and/ or hypothesis, demonstrating a critical awareness of the methodological problems posed by the investigation.

MO3 Collect, analyse and synthesise evidence using appropriate techniques and instruments.

MO4 Apply advanced research and analytical skills to an extended piece of writing, drawing on key theoretical perspectives in the relevant areas.

MO5 Present and communicate ideas and conclusions and or recommendations in a clear and accessible manner using language appropriate to academic writing.

MO6 Explore and understand the issues of ethics, validity, trustworthiness and reliability in research.

Hours to be allocated: 600

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 558 hours

Face-to-face learning = 42 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/ublly7-60-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Strategy:
The module assessment will include a number of non-graded compliance and formative feedback tasks to be completed prior to submission of the final assessed Dissertation.
Task 1: Topic choice form – This task will facilitate the allocation of supervisors - not graded.
Task 2: Topic and research question – This task will ensure that the student decides on the details of their research question / hypothesis - not graded.
Task 3: Ethical checklist and risk assessment – This task will ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with UWE Research Ethical requirements - not graded.

Task 4: Work in progress – This task will allow for supervisors' feedback on work in progress (2,000-3,000 words) - not graded.
Task 5: Final submission.

The Assessment:

Dissertation (equivalent to 12,000 words) - This will be submitted at the end of the module. This should take the form of a standard 12,000 written submission.

Resit Dissertation - a similar brief to that described above, which may include a summary of any changes from previously submitted work.

Formative feedback - this is a key part of this module and may include: Feedback and guidance in small group sessions with students investigating similar topics; Individual feedback in one to one sessions; Comments on draft work; Exhibition and discussion as a Design Review in a one-to-one or small group session.

Assessment tasks:

Dissertation (First Sit)
Description: Dissertation (equivalent to 12000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Dissertation (Resit)
Description: Dissertation (equivalent to 12000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Architecture [Frenchay] MA 2024-25

BIM in Design, Construction and Operation [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Construction Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Building Surveying [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Finance and Investment [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Computational Architecture [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN MSc 2025-26

Façade Engineering [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Management [Distance] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Finance and Investment [Distance] [DA] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Finance and Investment [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

BIM in Design, Construction and Operation [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Building Surveying [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Construction Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Façade Engineering [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Real Estate Finance and Investment [Distance] [DA] MSc 2026-27

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Real Estate Management [Distance] MSc 2026-27

Real Estate Management [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Construction Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26