Module Specification

Introduction to Building Construction

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Introduction to Building Construction

Module code: UBLMAB-30-1

Level: Level 4

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: None

Excluded combinations: Construction Technology and Services 2026-27

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The module will introduce students to the evolution, principles and practices of domestic building construction. This will include domestic services technology. The module will also incorporate some environmental considerations and provide some basic insight into domestic framed construction.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: At the end of this module students should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of basic principles of existing and modern domestic construction, including simple structural principles, site constraints, typical structural elements, components, finishes, services and environmental considerations. In addition, students should be able to demonstrate that they can use this knowledge as the basis for rational professional judgements and communicate concepts and ideas graphically and in writing.

Outline syllabus: This is an indicative list of the key components likely to be studied although this may change to reflect programme requirements or contemporary issues at the time of delivery. The list does not represent the order of delivery.

Domestic Building Construction:

The context for and evolution of house construction

Drawn communication

Sites, soils and foundations

External load bearing walls

Framed domestic buildings

Internal partitions

Floors

Roof structure

Roof coverings

Internal and external finishes

The content for each building category will also include discussion of related resource and operational concerns as well as an introduction to analysis of various building site and design conditions that influence the choice of specific methods of construction.

Domestic Services:

Electrical installations and safety

Drainage and rainwater management

Space heating

Hot water

Water supply

Gas

Environmentally responsible design and low-carbon methods of construction are also a consistent theme both regarding construction and services.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Lectures are primarily used to introduce key concepts from the syllabus, and the interrelationship of these concepts. The lectures will also support the development of a group identity through interactions. Tutorials will incorporate activities and tasks to further develop the learning from the lecture.

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

MO1 Describe and explain the evolution and modern sustainable use of common materials, methods and approaches used in the construction of load-bearing and

simple framed domestic and smaller commercial properties, and produce well-constructed and accurate explanation of the nature of construction and its style based on accurate observation.

MO2 Read and interpret drawings and produce technical sketches and details of common construction methods and building services used in modern and older domestic and smaller commercial properties.

MO3 Describe and explain the common options, evolution and operating principles of building services typically used in modern and older domestic and smaller commercial properties within the context of sustainability and the net zero agenda.

MO4 Explain and discuss basic structural and load distribution principles associated with the construction of load-bearing and simple framed structures. Analyse site and design related characteristics for proposed housing and simple frame building projects and suggest appropriate materials, construction methods and building services that address these observed conditions. Describe the range of operations associated with modern construction, including considerations of health and safety.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 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/ublmab-30-1.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Assessment:

Task 1: Photographic Portfolio (equivalent to 1500 words)

The student is required to submit a series of digital images compiled into a professional quality report. This portfolio will identify and describe various building components on existing housing and identify houses from a series of specific periods. There is an early deadline for submission to allow an early feedback opportunity. To reduce the risk of academic offences, students will be required to provide addresses and a link to Google Maps for each image. Students will also be provided with guidance on the development and practice of good referencing techniques. This element requires early and sustained engagement. The task requires a degree of research, endeavour and provides a professionally relevant production task. It provides a straightforward task which measures students' knowledge and engagement.

Task 2: Portfolio Studio (equivalent to 1500 words)

Studio sessions will provide regular formative learning and feedback to students as the module progresses. Typically these will involve drawn and written exercises which test and explore the application of learning to various tasks and scenarios.

Each student is required to submit an individual portfolio comprising material covered in the studio sessions and responses to scenario based challenges. These context specific challenges are designed to reduce the opportunity for students to use AI in responses.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Task 1: Photographic and studio portfolio (equivalent to 1500 words)
Weighting: 35 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Task 2: Portfolio of studio work and responses to scenario based challenges
Weighting: 65 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Task 1: Photographic portfolio (equivalent to 1500 words)
Weighting: 35 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Task 2: Studio portfolio
Weighting: 65 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Real Estate {Foundation} [Frenchay] - WITHDRAWN BSc (Hons) 2025-26

Real Estate [Frenchay] WITHDRAWN BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Real Estate and Development [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27