Module Specification

Research and Design Strategies

Version: 2024-25, v6.0, 21 Aug 2024

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Research and Design Strategies

Module code: UBLMNV-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2024-25

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: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess the following:

Professional habits of work, time-keeping and punctuality.

Shown an awareness of the presentation skills required to write up their research to combine investigative, creative and organisational skills

Outline syllabus: The central concern of this module is the development of analytical tools by which answers can be found to the difficult and complex questions posed by the built environment. The tools introduced and developed include methods of design analysis and research. The module explores the use of strategies and intellectual methodologies to define and analyse a research problem using clear methods of intellectual enquiry. It will concentrate on the strategies for design, diverse forms of research in architecture, data gathering, theses development and critical thinking.

These aspects of architectural design thinking and making will be explored through thematic areas of architectural research, together with their related body of academic literature, design research projects and relevant research methods in taught sessions. Students will be required to research and evaluate a selection of these approaches to architectural research and design, and to identify a specific thematic area of their interest to develop a Research Synopsis that leads to the formulation of a research question, methodological approach and research strategy to be used for the development of a subsequent study. In the case of some of the participating awards this research study may become the basis of a Dissertation or Special Study taken forward i n a separate Module in the following year. This study introduces the students to research methodologies, literature review and the development of a reading strategy for a research proposal.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will deliver key information in lecture-based sessions that are supported by workshops and seminars. These taught sessions will prepare students for the two sections of the written assignment. Within this teaching model the hours allocated are as follows:

36 hours contact time that includes lecture-based sessions, workshop session exploring analytical techniques related to project work, small-group seminars offering specific tutorial support on project work, and skills workshops led by technical support staff.

52 hours are scheduled for the assimilation and development of knowledge through coursework preparation in the form of the research strategy and the synopsis.

62 hours are identified for final preparation of the assessed elements.

Total 150hrs

Teaching will be focussed around the identification and analysis of key architectural areas of inquiry and prominent debates in the field of architecture and built environment. Skills and analytical frameworks will be introduced in taught sessions including discussion and participation by the students so as to enable a deeper understanding and develop the students' confidence in articulating informed positions on key architectural issues. The development of an individual research trajectory will be supported by seminar discussions and group tutorials with a tutor. The tutor's role here is to direct studies, and provide advice and constructive critical commentary on the student's work.

Scheduled learning may include: lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork; external visits; work based learning; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc. These sessions constitute an average time per level as indicated in the table below. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make.

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

MO1 Analyse design problems (that may be urban planning, architectural, design, compositional or technical in nature) and select and apply an appropriate design strategy or method by which a solution may be found

MO2 Appraise and understand a range of strategies through which a design problem may be approached

MO3 Formulate a research question and rationalise a methodology appropriate for the answering of that question

MO4 Write a synoptic proposal for an extended study that defines the topic and question, sets out the method of enquiry and reading strategy for that extended study

MO5 Review architectural precedents (both historical and contemporary) and analyse these designs to formulate a written and drawn critique of that architectural strategy

MO6 Reference literature accurately, applying conventions of academic referencing, and through written argument place academic literature within historical and thematic contexts

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 0

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/ublmnv-15-2.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The central concern of this module is the awareness and understanding of the range of design-led and text-based research methods by which

answers can be found to the difficult and complex questions posed by the architectural thinking and making and its impact on society and the built environment. The assessment is contained within a single written assignment, the RADS Book, which includes two parts:

1- A critical reflection on and evaluation of selected research and design strategies.

2- A Research Synopsis setting out a research proposal, method and bibliography for future study

This assignments constitutes an illustrated and designed document that must aid and reflect the visual and spatial qualities of the subjects it examines.

In order to pass the module this assessment is required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: RADS Book (2000 words)

In order to pass the module this assessment task is required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: RADS Book (2000 words)

In order to pass the module this assessment task is required to be passed at a minimum of 40%. This passing threshold mark is a PSRB requirement.

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:

Interior Architecture [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Frenchay] BEng (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Architecture and Planning [Frenchay] MDes 2023-24

Architecture and Environmental Engineering [Frenchay] MDes 2023-24

Interior Architecture {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Architecture and Planning {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Architecture and Environmental Engineering {Foundation} [Frenchay] BEng (Hons) 2022-23