Module Specification

Sustainability in the Built Environment

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Sustainability in the Built Environment

Module code: UBLMR4-15-M

Level: Level 7

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 aims to provide a foundational understanding of the ways in which our towns and cities influence the health and well-being of both people and the environment. As urban areas continue to grow, it is essential that the built environment is developed and adapted to allow current and future populations to live in a sustainable manner. This module explores these critical issues and understand the strategies needed to achieve a sustainable built environment.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: To provide students with a critical understanding of the concepts, drivers, and principles of sustainability and sustainable development within the built environment

To enable students to appreciate and evaluate the key drivers and trends affecting built environment and how they relate to the concepts of sustainable development

To enable students to demonstrate their understanding of the different measures and features in the built environment that contribute to sustainability at different spatial scales

To enable students to critique the mechanisms through which sustainable built environments are delivered, including legislation, targets, and accreditation schemes.

To equip students with the ability to apply evidence from academic research and professional practice in order to design, justify, and communicate sustainable solutions.

To foster transferable skills in critical thinking, analysis, and professional communication that support future study and practice in sustainability-related fields.

Outline syllabus: Module themes will include, but not limited to:

Background and drivers for sustainable development: This will explore the development of the sustainability agenda, different conceptual models of sustainable development and the key trends in society that affect, and are affected by, the built environment.

Sustainable resource use: This will explore how the built environment contributes to and addresses climate change, energy demand, air quality, water management, and the sustainable use of materials and waste.

Delivering sustainable developments: This will explore how the built environment

supports healthy places, social infrastructure, strong local economies, and sustainable development in the Global South.

Sustainable urban neighbourhoods: This will explore how sustainable neighbourhoods are planned and designed with examples, different aspects of sustainable buildings, green and future infrastructure, and alternative models of housing delivery.

Assessing sustainability: This will examine the built environment assessment methods, performance issues with sustainable buildings, sustainable behaviours and valuation of sustainable developments.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module adopts a flipped classroom approach, combining asynchronous teaching (pre-recorded lectures), face to face sessions, independent study, and support via e-mail.

Scheduled Teaching and Learning

Asynchronous Teaching (Pre- recorded lectures):
Asynchronous teaching, delivered through pre-recorded lectures, introduces students to key background theories, concepts, and examples drawn from research and practice.

Face to Face sessions:
Face-to-face sessions are used to consolidate lecture material, apply knowledge to practical scenarios, and critically evaluate examples from practice. These sessions also provide opportunities to receive feedback on draft assignment reports. Activities include group discussions, peer critique, and application exercises.

Independent Learning

Directed study and reading:
Directed study and reading involves revisiting lecture notes, completing tasks set during tutorials, and engaging with recommended literature.

Assignment preparation:
Assignment preparation requires students to draw on material from scheduled sessions and independent reading in order to support assessment preparation and completion.

Distance learning students will have access to all the recorded lectures, lecture materials and a webinar conducted fortnightly via Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs).

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

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of sustainability and sustainable development concepts including key drivers, trends and principles within the built environment, and apply appropriate measures at different spatial scales , with an appreciation of the environmental, social, and economic contexts, while recognising associated limitations and challenges.

MO2 Evaluate the mechanisms for delivering sustainable built environments, including legislation, targets, accreditation schemes, and environmental management systems.

MO3 Apply evidence from research and practice to develop and justify sustainable solutions in the built environment.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 120 hours

Face-to-face learning = 30 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/ublmr4-15-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module has a single assessment, which accounts for 100% of the overall module mark. Students will produce a report (maximum 3000 words) exploring the guiding principles for the delivery of a sustainable development of a brownfield site. The task requires students to engage with a specific scenario and develop original guiding principles for a sustainable development proposal, necessitating critical application rather than reproduction of existing sources.

The assessment is designed to enable students to demonstrate achievement of Module Learning Outcomes (MLOs) 1, 2 and 3 by requiring them to critically apply theoretical knowledge, analyse real-world challenges, and communicate a coherent, evidence-based proposal for sustainable development.

The task has been structured to minimise opportunities for plagiarism through the requirement for scenario-based, student-led responses.

The report format develops transferable skills in research, critical evaluation, academic writing, and professional communication, reinforcing the programme's emphasis on applied sustainability within built environment contexts.

Resit Assessment
Students required to resit will complete a report based on a similar brief to the one described above, which may include some topic changes

Formative Feedback
Formative feedback is embedded throughout the delivery of the module. During face to face sessions, students will have the opportunity to share their developing ideas and receive informal guidance. Dedicated time will also be allocated in the final

session for structured feedback on draft work, enabling students to refine their submissions in response to academic and professional expectations. These formative stages support student confidence and promote higher-quality summative submissions.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)
Description: Report (2000 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Report (Resit)
Description: Report (2000 words)
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:

Real Estate Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Management [Distance] MSc 2025-26

Real Estate Management [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

Construction Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Construction Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Real Estate Management [Distance] MSc 2026-27

Real Estate Management [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

Construction Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2026-27

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