



## **Module Specification**

### **Commercial Development**

Version: 2026-27, v6.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Commercial Development

**Module code:** UBLMUS-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**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:** Construction Technology and Services 2026-27, Introduction to Building Construction 2026-27, Low Carbon Structures 2026-27

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This module enables students to explore and evaluate the design of medium-rise and medium span, skeletal framed buildings within the context of contemporary office developments. It places a particular emphasis on exploring the interconnected technologies of commercial building design and how they can best be used to ensure that buildings represent a sound investment on the part of the landlord / owner by allowing adaptability into the future but also to ensure that they

offer sufficient flexibility to support the business objectives of the occupier.

Pre-requisites: students must take one out of UBLMAB-30-1 An Introduction to Building Construction, UBLMYS-30-1 Construction Technology and Services or UBLLWH-30-1 Low Carbon Structures.

Co-requisites: Relevant Professional Experience.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** At the end of this module students should be able to appraise a case study building in terms of building elements, construction components, design strategies, building services installations and solutions. They should also be able to analyse appropriate strategies for the design of specific elements of construction demonstrating the benefits of adopting a holistic and sustainable approach to building design and services.

Furthermore, they should be able to conduct a comprehensive appraisal of proposed options within a development proposal including an analysis of efficiencies across a range of financial parameters.

**Outline syllabus:** The module content is studied within the evolving context of sustainable development and a raised awareness of the importance of building performance. Students will become acquainted with the range of components and installations that can be incorporated within a development but also the tools that are most frequently used to identify and evaluate their potential technical, economic and environmental performance.

The following provides an indicative list of headings that will help inform the syllabus although not necessarily in this sequence, or with equal measure.

Superstructure:

Building Envelope, including complete exterior wall design, facade and cladding approaches and commercial roofing.

Internal components and finishes.

Sound insulation and acoustics.

Fire Safety - passive.

Building Structure (skeletal framed approaches).

Substructure:

Excavation and ground retention.

Foundations.

Basements and basement enclosure (including water ingress protection).

Ground-bearing slabs.

Site analysis (brown field).

Services:

Heating.

Cooling.

Ventilation Strategies.

Lighting Strategies.

Fire Safety - active.

Security.

Lifts.

Best practice in multi-tenant office building design; landlord and occupier's perspectives.

Building form; co-ordination and layers of change.

Cost Planning.

Development appraisal; issues of cost, value and the market.

Sustainable development; impact, potential drivers and measurement.

Building performance and environmental assessment.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** This module will be delivered as follows:

72 hours contact time that includes lecture based sessions, workshop sessions, small group seminars / tutorials and application-based skills and general technical knowledge tutorials.

108 hours are scheduled for self-directed learning, assimilation and development of knowledge to be able to carry out the 2 assessment pieces proposed below.

48 hours technical report preparation.

#### Scheduled learning

As detailed above the module aims to gain knowledge of the technology of construction (structures and enclosure) and building services approaches for medium-rise commercial office buildings. This will be achieved mainly through the following methods: lectures, seminars, tutorials, demonstrations and practical classes and workshops. The tutorials during the module will have a different emphasis to help the students with the assimilation of knowledge. Some of the tutorials will focus in developing the application-based skills and general technical knowledge in preparation for the assessments, and others will guide the students to develop a small portfolio of exercises and analysis tasks that explore different situations and scenarios related to building services and financial applications in contemporary commercial office building projects.

#### Independent learning

In order to fulfil the requirements of the module a certain amount of independent learning is required. This time is used to support the taught contact sessions and in preparation for the assessments; the report and the group presentation. This will be achieved through the following methods: hours engaged with essential reading, formative tutorial sessions (group and individual tasks) which will contribute towards the two module assessments during the year.

These sessions constitute an average time per level.

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

**MO1** Appraise a case study building in terms of building elements, construction components, design strategies, building services installations and solutions.

**MO2** Analyse appropriate strategies for the design of specific elements of construction demonstrating the benefits of adopting a holistic and sustainable approach to building design and services.

**MO3** Conduct a comprehensive appraisal of proposed options within a development proposal including an analysis of efficiencies across a range of financial parameters.

**MO4** Interpret a client brief or technical scenario and present solutions in a comprehensive and professional manner with focus to site appraisal and financial viability.

**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](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublms-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublms-30-2.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessment strategy aims to build the knowledge and practice skills needed in the subject areas outlined in the syllabus to ensure the development transferable skills suitable for placements or graduate jobs.

Written Assessment - relating to technical principles and construction concepts of multi-storey commercial developments. Supported by formative tutorial tasks to be set and discussed during the tutorial sessions. This shall be undertaken midway

through the module.

Group Presentation - is assessment comprising a series of exercise tasks undertaken as a group and submitted as a group presentation late in the module. A group mark will be awarded although the marks of individual students may be adjusted if the teaching team decide an equal share is not warranted or poor attendance and engagement in class tutorials.

Resit Written Assessment – a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Resit Presentation – students shall undertake individual presentation to a similar brief as above, but with a reflective aspect that shows their role in the group activity.

**Assessment tasks:****Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Written coursework (1,500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Group presentation (25 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Written coursework (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Group presentation (25 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Building Surveying {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Building Surveying [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Architectural Technology and Design [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Architectural Technology and Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Building Surveying {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Building Surveying [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26

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

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

Architectural Technology and Design {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25