



## **Module Specification**

### **Housing and the Built Environment**

Version: 2025-26, v2.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Housing and the Built Environment

**Module code:** UZVYBD-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2025-26

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

**Partner institutions:** University Centre Weston

**Field:** Health, Community and Policy Studies

**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 module introduces students to the properties of houses and other buildings by virtue of their construction and materials used. Students will therefore consider how houses are constructed from foundations to roof, and will also develop a familiarity with the services electricity, drinking water and drainage. Sustainability and emerging technologies in construction are considered.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module aims to introduce students to the range of options available within the law to achieve compliance and improvement in the context of health and safety risks associated with dwellings, including specific risks of multi-occupied dwellings. It also introduces risk control through regimes such as licencing, including an emphasis on fire safety.

The module aims to facilitate discussion relating to the complexity of housing tenure and also facilitates practical inspections, evaluation of plans, and monitoring techniques to assess the suitability of buildings, and to ensure that risks to the health and safety of current and future occupants are controlled.

**Outline syllabus:** Subjects included in the module are:

Construction materials and techniques (foundations, floors, walls, roofs, etc.);

Tenure;

Sustainable construction;

Housing Act 2004;

Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS);

Fire safety;

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and licensing.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** The module may consist of the following activities:

Lectures (hybrid)

Seminars

Tutorials

Guest speakers

### Field based activity

Independent study will be organised with a series of both essential and further readings and preparation for practical workshops. It is expected that students prepare themselves for lectures by completing set tasks.

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

**MO1** Demonstrate knowledge of past, present and emerging construction materials, techniques and building services.

**MO2** Undertake a Housing Health and Safety Rating System assessment of an existing dwelling in compliance with current legislation and guidance.

**MO3** Demonstrate an understanding of strategic approaches to housing interventions, housing tenure and occupancy.

**MO4** Understand and evaluate the breadth of legislation, guidance and legislative options that apply to fire 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](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** This module has two assessment tasks; a report and an essay.

The Assessment Strategy has been designed to support and enhance the development of both subject-based and generic key skills, whilst ensuring that the

Learning Outcomes are achieved.

Assessment task 1: Report based on Housing Inspection (maximum 2000 words)

Students will undertake a housing inspection using the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), and will produce a detailed report identifying the major hazards found. The report will include an electronic record of the inspection and will also incorporate a statistical analysis of the major hazards. This will result in the classification of the hazards by using the HHSRS statistical formulae or algorithms. The report will detail construction techniques and materials, an area survey, HHSRS assessment and potential legal action. This assessment is controlled through tutorials based on the housing inspection.

Assessment task 2: Essay (maximum 1500 words)

Students will write an essay which reviews and evaluates current standards of fire safety legislation and guidance in relation to both single and multi-occupied dwellings.

Students are able to discuss formative work and obtain feedback in assignment tutorials within the module.

### **Assessment tasks:**

#### **Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Fire safety essay (maximum 1500 words)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4

#### **Report (First Sit)**

Description: Report based on Housing Inspection (maximum 2000 words)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Fire safety essay (maximum 1500 words)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4

**Report (Resit)**

Description: Report based on Housing Inspection (maximum 2000 words)

Weighting: 60 %

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:

Environmental Health Practitioner {Apprenticeship-UCW} [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Public and Environmental Health [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Public and Environmental Health [UCW] BSc (Hons) 2024-25