



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Design Research		
Module Code	UBLMKS-30-M	Level	Level 7
For implementation from	2018-19		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	Architecture and the Built Environment
Department	FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ		
Contributes towards	Urban Design [Jan][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MA 2018-19 Architecture [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MA 2018-19		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Overview: The Design Research module will offer an opportunity to pursue a piece of design research work that will typically relate to the areas of investigation being explored in the unit structure of Design Studio B. Within this general structure students will be able to explore their own more focussed interests and/or specialisms.</p> <p>Educational Aims: The module will introduce the research process and the key issues surrounding research in general, and begin to explore the ways in which design research in particular is undertaken.</p> <p>Outline Syllabus: Each student will develop a research question/speculation or hypothesis. This will then be used as the basis for the development of a rigorous design research process that is underpinned by theoretical understanding and the architectural and design work of others. This research design will acknowledge the ethical implications of the proposed research process.</p>

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Each student will undertake this focussed piece of research, utilising the process of design in order to experiment and explore the research question/speculation or hypothesis. This process will necessitate iterative and reflective working, continual analysis and critique by the individual student of their own design work with reference to their research aims.

The module will allow each student to develop a personal research exploration that will typically inform their work in other modules (in particular Design Studio B) and/or their professional practice. The outputs of the research exploration may be in many forms, but should be appropriate to the particular inquiry and its communication. Each student's body of work should be able to communicate the project aims, processes and the author's reflective thinking. The outputs will be accompanied by a supplementary written explanation of the stages of research questions/aims, theoretical context, methodology, ethical and practical implications of the research, analysis, key findings and conclusions.

Teaching and Learning Methods: Semester 1 is lecture and seminar based. Typically the teaching will involve a combination of information delivered through lectures, followed by exercises and discussion around key syllabus themes. Published research will be critically analysed, to understand different approaches to the research process. In addition there will be opportunities for students to develop and discuss their proposed research questions within the seminar sessions. Formative work for the module will consist of students generating a research question and developing a design research process (to include an acknowledgement of the ethical issues) to constructively align with that research question. This could include some research into the context of the area under exploration and reflection into research already undertaken by others.

Semester 2 is taught through individual and group tutorials and seminars. It is structured to allow the individual student to apply the understanding gained in Semester 1 to a personal design research project. This project might typically be used to inform the design project of the Design Studio B unit, although it will also be possible to undertake the project as an entirely independent piece of work. The seminars and tutorials will be a combination of specialist tutorials that relate to the focus of the Design Studio B unit and shared module specific tutorials and seminars. The individual student will initiate, plan and carry out the work with guidance from the tutor through tutorials. As part of the critical thinking and reflective working demanded by the module, seminars will be held at which a student will present their work for discussion with their peers.

Students' time will be allocated (as a guide) as follows:

Lectures: 11 hours

Tutorials/seminars and directed learning: 65 hours

Self Directed Learning and summative assessment: 224 hours

Total hours: 300 hours

Part 3: Assessment

The module will be assessed summatively by portfolio. The portfolio allows students to gather all their project work from the module to demonstrate overall that they have achieved the learning outcomes of the module. It is the most appropriate way of assessing design research work.

The portfolio of work will include the output of the design research project, including all iterative stages in the process, presented in an exhibition. This will be accompanied by an illustrated report outlining:

The research question/speculation or hypothesis,

The research process and critical reflections on that process, including the ethical and practical issues arising

The theoretical, research and architectural or design context for the research.

Criteria of assessment

At the end of the module, the student is expected to demonstrate within their portfolio of work that they can:

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Demonstrate a critical understanding of the research process

Acknowledge ethical and practical issues arising in the conduct of research, and take account of these issues when designing a piece of research

Develop a research question/speculation or hypothesis and design a research process which aligns with that research question or hypothesis.

Demonstrate understanding and systematic ability in undertaking a piece of research which uses design as a method of research enquiry.

Demonstrate an innovative contribution to architectural or design knowledge and/or culture.

Communicate a design research project, including the design research process and its outcomes using appropriate media in a refined manner.

Demonstrate an awareness of the research context, including the architectural, theoretical and design context, of the design research described above.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A	✓	100 %	Portfolio (equivalent to 6000-7000 word essay)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Portfolio - Component A	✓	100 %	Portfolio (equivalent to 6000-7000 word essay)

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods		
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to:	
		Module Learning Outcomes
	MO1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the research process.
	MO2	Acknowledge ethical and practical issues arising in the conduct of research, and take account of these issues when designing a piece of research.
	MO3	Develop a research question/speculation or hypothesis and design a research process which aligns with that research question or hypothesis.
	MO4	Demonstrate understanding and systematic ability in undertaking a piece of research which uses design as a method of research enquiry.
	MO5	Demonstrate an innovative contribution to architectural or design knowledge and/or culture.
	MO6	Communicate a design research project, including the design research process and its outcomes using appropriate media in a refined manner.
	MO7	Demonstrate an awareness of the research context, including the architectural, theoretical and design context, of the design research described above.
Contact Hours	Contact Hours	
	Independent Study Hours:	
	Independent study/self-guided study	224
	Total Independent Study Hours:	224
	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
	Face-to-face learning	76
	Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	76
	Hours to be allocated	300
	Allocated Hours	300
Reading List	The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:	
	https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmks-30-m.html	