



Module Specification

Design Research

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Design Research

Module code: UBLMKS-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Architecture and the Built Environment

Module type: Project

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 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.

Features: Not applicable

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.

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.

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.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: 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.

Furthermore, the module will provide individual and group tutorials and seminars. It is structured to allow the individual student to apply the knowledge built in the lectures to a personal design research project. This design research project might typically be used to inform other design projects or similar, 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 project 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

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.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 224 hours

Face-to-face learning = 76 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmks-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublmks-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: 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:

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.

Assessment components:

Portfolio - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (equivalent to 6000-7000 word essay)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Portfolio - Component A (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (equivalent to 6000-7000 word essay)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Computational Architecture [Sep][FT][Frenchay][1yr] MSc 2021-22

Architecture [Sep][FT][Frenchay][2yrs] MArch 2020-21

Architecture [Sep][PT][Frenchay][3yrs] MArch 2020-21

Architecture {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] MArch 2020-21