



## **Module Specification**

### **Design in Practice**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Design in Practice

**Module code:** UBLMMQ-30-M

**Level:** Level 7

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Environment & Technology

**Department:** FET Dept of Architecture & Built Environ

**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 provides a critical academic framework for work-based learning of architectural design. As part of a summer internship, or a 'year out' in practice, students are required to develop an architectural project as part of their host-Practice's portfolio. This Practice-based project should be defined as a discreet package of work that is the equivalent of a minimum of 6 working weeks (225-hours) of architectural practice. The project can be for an aspect of a building design or a particular Work Stage (as defined by the RIBA). The majority of the project must

constitute design practice in which an architectural problem is investigated and resolved through creative and iterative design development. The student is required to develop a portfolio account (Component A2) of this Practice-based project that reports on the student's process for developing design proposals for the project. This portfolio must also reflect on the design methodology, working processes and technical, social, economic and environmental contexts within which this project has been developed. The portfolio should also include a critical and self-reflexive analysis of the learning experienced by the student in developing this Practice-based project.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** In parallel with the development of this reflective portfolio, the student is required to develop an independent and separate Design Study that responds to the brief of the Practice-based project. This exercise in independent design will be of a more limited scope (as demonstrated by the weightings for the two Elements of Assessment) but it will build on and take benefit from the architectural knowledge developed by the student in their investigation of the Practice-based project.

**Outline syllabus:** The work-based aspect of the module can be conducted within an 8-week timeframe, with a minimum of 6 of these weeks being spent in full-time Practice, with two-weeks anticipated for the independent design project. The module could also be developed as a discreetly defined aspect of an extended period of Practice – as part of a 'year out' for example.

As this is a work-based learning module the majority of the work is undertaken as part of a placement or internship in architectural Practice. The student's Practice is invited to participate by identifying an aspect of their work that can become the subject of student's work for the module. This should be a discreet scope of work that is predominantly undertaken by the student, with mentorship by the Practice, and which can also be used as the subject of a related but separate design study by the student.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching will be delivered as seminars and individual design tutorials during the project. These taught sessions should serve two purposes. Firstly, they will contextualise the student's own experience of practice within a wider landscape of architectural practice to assist the student in the compilation of their portfolio of project work and the student's reflection on their design practice. These seminars will also direct students to readings and examples of reflective practice that can assist the students in developing their portfolio and reflections. Secondly, seminars and tutorials will support that student in identifying the nature of their independent Design Study; and in the development and critique of that study. Teaching in support of this Design Study will take the form of a number of formative and one summative design review.

Development of the Reflective Portfolio and independent Design Study will be supported by seminars and individual design tutorials and the host-Practice will also be asked to contribute as Practice Mentor for the project.

Students will be enrolled on this module while working in Practice. The majority of their time will be spent in Practice; and the Design Study will be undertaken as independent learning.

Tutorials/Seminars/Formative Reviews: 10 hours

Practice Mentoring: 3 hours

Summative Assessment: 2 hours

Work Placement: 225 hours (minimum 6 working weeks)

Self-directed learning: 60 Hours

Total student hours: 300 hours

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

**MO1** Critically evaluate the development of a Practice-based design project and explain and critically analyse the decision-making process through which this design has developed.

**MO2** Develop the evidence base for a Practice-based project and apply and expand this architectural knowledge, in the development of a complex creative design proposal, using research by design methodologies.

**MO3** Demonstrate an academically rigorous and deep professional understanding of technical, social, economic and environmental contexts as these have been integrated into a Practice-based design project.

**MO4** Produce an independent design proposal that demonstrates critical thinking, originality and that develops a well-resolved and sophisticated reflective spatial solution to an architectural brief.

**MO5** Critically assess a variety of methods of representation and modelling used in a Practice-based design project and apply suitable methods to the final presentation of an independent design proposal.

**MO6** Effectively explain, how suitable methods of assembly, integration of services and compliance with regulatory frameworks have been investigated and subsequently achieved in the design process for a Practice-based project.

**MO7** Critically explain and analyse the professional context within which the student's Practice operates and identify and evaluate the working relationships with other built environment professionals involved in the student's Practice.

**MO8** Critically and searchingly reflect on her/his design praxis as an architectural practitioner.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 60 hours

Placement = 225 hours

Face-to-face learning = 15 hours

Total = 300

**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:** The module is assessed in two elements: a Design Strategy and a Reflective Practice Portfolio. Students must pass both elements separately in order to pass the module.

Details of the Reflective Practice Portfolio will be specified as part of the Module Guide and all candidates will be required to develop their individual submissions with reference to this specification.

The Design Study will be individual to each student and the topic and scope of a Design Study will relate to the nature of the Practice-based project each student has identified. The student will be required to demonstrate that they have achieved the learning outcomes, but the precise scope of design work and presentation of it will be the subject of discussion between student and staff. The output for the Design Study must be in the form of a design project to meet professional requirements.

As noted above, during the module seminars and tutorials will support the student in identifying the nature of their independent Design Study; and in the development and critique of that study. Teaching in support of this Design Study will take the form of a number of formative and one summative design reviews. These tutorials and reviews will act as review points of academic oversight to confirm the student's sole and independent authorship of the design work to be assessed. A final presentation and review of the Design Study performs a similar function and provides an opportunity for the student to explain their work in detail.

### Assessment tasks:

#### **Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Design Study (Presentation and portfolio submission)

For reasons of PSRB compliance all Assessment Tasks must be passed individually at 50% (no compensation to 45%).

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Reflective Practice Portfolio (portfolio submission).

For reasons of PSRB compliance all Assessment Tasks must be passed individually at 50% (no compensation to 45%).

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Design Study (This will be a reworked submission of the work presented at first sit).

For reasons of PSRB compliance all Assessment Tasks must be passed individually at 50% (no compensation to 45%).

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO4, MO5, MO6

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Reflective Practice Portfolio (This will be a reworked submission of the work presented at first sit).

For reasons of PSRB compliance all Assessment tasks must be passed individually at 50% (no compensation to 45%).

Weighting: 70 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

## **Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: