



Module Specification

Achieving Design Quality

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Achieving Design Quality

Module code: UBGMLA-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

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: Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people. Knowing how to plan, encourage and secure high quality design is an essential skill for planners. Achieving good design is about creating places, buildings, or spaces that work well for everyone, look good, last well, and will adapt to the needs of future generations. Good design responds in a practical and creative

way to both the function and identity of a place, and the individual constraints and opportunities arising from a site.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module will allow students to define good design and the key ingredients that can contribute to the making of successful and sustainable places.

Outline syllabus: Students will be introduced to the language of design and offered experience in exploring how a variety of spaces can be designed and/or re-modelled. Students will explore, and be asked to reflect, on the processes through which good design can be secured, with reference being made to the potential for using different forms of design guidance.

Students will be introduced to the notion of public space and be asked to engage in relevant debates concerning its design and management.

The module takes an approach of 'learning by doing' and will require students to develop proposals for a street and / or square of your choice.

The context of this space will vary but should be suitably complex to enable students to appreciate the kind of factors that design teams need to consider.

The module will conclude by considering how design quality can be secured and maintained as planning projects are implemented.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning will comprise coursework and lectures, together with practical tasks, guest speakers and possible field visit(s).

Lectures will provide a framework for understanding the reading and the key issues covered by the module.

Independent learning will use directed reading via the online reading list and a selection of online resources, including appropriate case studies.

Project work will be progressively developed through module sessions with dedicated sessions being arranged to help with content and visual design.

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

MO1 Evaluate the principles and processes of design for creating high quality places and spaces, consolidating and developing knowledge previously gained

MO2 Explain the principles of inclusive design and evaluate the impacts of design decision making on the quality of life of the client and user

MO3 Demonstrate an understanding of good urban and building design and to apply design objectives in formulating proposals for improving streets and spaces

MO4 Use the vocabulary and terminology of urban and building design accurately and to appreciate the contributions made by other disciplines/professions

MO5 Gain experience in creating plans and drawings that can communicate and visualise a development proposal, both by hand and by using appropriate software

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 100 hours

Face-to-face learning = 50 hours

Total = 150

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 will be assessed by a single assessment that will require students to undertake a detailed appraisal of a street and / or square and to present ideas for a future re-design. The assessment will require students to apply, and extend, the range of skills developed elsewhere in years one and two.

Although each student's proposal will be shaped by group critique, each submission will be prepared and assessed individually. Submissions will need to be supported by evidence of relevant reading.

The assessment will enable students to create a product that is commonplace in urban planning practice. It will also provide a tangible output that can be shown to employers. In addition to responding to the knowledge-based learning outcomes, the assessment will enable students to further develop skills in visual communication achieved at level one.

Re-sit work will follow the same broad format. The assessment is felt to minimise the risk for plagiarism on the basis that each portfolio will focus upon a student's individual proposal, which will be developed under tutor supervision over a series of weeks. Students will be able to present their written assignment for formative review in advance of the deadline. Examples will be made available to the cohort for review, with care being taken to ensure that these relate to a different site and design brief.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Individual appraisal and concept statement (3000 words including visual material)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Individual appraisal and concept statement (3000 words including visual material)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [Feb][FT][GCET][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Urban and Regional Planning {Foundation} [Oct][FT][GCET][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22