



Module Specification

Design Research Development

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Contents

Module Specification	1
Part 1: Information	2
Part 2: Description	2
Part 3: Teaching and learning methods	4
Part 4: Assessment.....	5
Part 5: Contributes towards	6

Part 1: Information

Module title: Design Research Development

Module code: UBLM31-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: Faculty of Environment & Technology

School: 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: The Design Research Development module offers a student the opportunity to take an existing element of research work in architecture and design - developed previously in either an academic or a practice setting - and develop it to postgraduate academic standard with the aspiration for it to be submitted for potential dissemination at a national or international academic forum.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module will ask the student to define and declare a design research methodology and apply that methodology in the refinement and articulation of a research output.

Outline syllabus: Each student will bring to the module a research project they have previously completed in either a practical or an academic setting. The student is required to confirm their own authorship of that research project and that there are no legal restrictions on their right to progress its development. This project 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 review their previous research work, positioning it with reference to a research methodology, and define a proposition for their research output(s) and their research plan as to how they will achieve that output within the time allotted for the module.

The student will then undertake this research plan, 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 his or her own design work with reference to their research aims.

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 research output, contextualising it within a design research methodology and framing it in a way that is appropriate for dissemination as part of relevant academic discourse. This written explanation will outline 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: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the design 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 and articulate a research question/speculation or hypothesis and design a research process that aligns with that research question or hypothesis.

MO4 Demonstrate understanding and systematic ability in undertaking a piece of research that 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 in a refined manner appropriate for dissemination as part of a relevant academic discourse, including the design research process and its outcomes.

MO7 Identify and articulate the research context, including the architectural, theoretical and design context, of the design research project.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Lectures = 11 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/ublm31-15-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ublm31-15-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Students complete a portfolio comprising an artefact and academic commentary.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio (artefact and academic commentary)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio (artefact and academic commentary)

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 [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24