

Section 1: Basic Data

Awarding institution/body: **UWE**

Teaching institution: **UWE**

Faculty responsible for programme: **FBE**

Programme accredited by:

Highest award title: **MA Architecture**

Default award title:

PG Diploma Architecture

Interim award title: **PG Certificate Architecture**

Modular scheme title: **Built Environment**

UCAS codes: **K10012**

QAA subject benchmarking group(s): **N/A**

Valid until:

Valid from: **2002**

Authorised by: **PG Modular Scheme Director** Date:

Version code: **1**

Version year: **2005**

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

The MA in Architecture provides an opportunity for students who are enrolled on UWE's BArch course (a second undergraduate degree in architecture designed to meet the requirements of the Royal Institute of British Architect (RIBA)) and the Architects Registration Board (ARB) for a Part 2 course in architecture) to extend their studies by the completion of a dissertation and achieve a Master's award. This will allow them to demonstrate their achievement of knowledge and skills at postgraduate level.

The course would also be attractive - as a stand alone entity - to graduates of courses in architecture and related design disciplines who wished to pursue postgraduate study.

The inter-professional ethos of the faculty and the particular academic character of UWE's first and second undergraduate architectural degree courses BA (Hons) Architecture & Planning and BArch set the context for the MA in Architecture. The three themes that underlie these two first degrees: People, Sustainability and Context are continued in this programme which draws extensively on the faculty's research in urban design, regeneration, urban policy and sustainability. There is a further emphasis on an appreciation of the wider professional and social setting within which the architect operates.

The aims may be summarised as follows:

- 1 to provide a systematic development of the creativity, knowledge, skills and practical experience in architecture leading to a further development of architectural design skills (including the application of environmental design, construction and architectural technologies) and a greater understanding of the social, economic, ecological, cultural and professional context of architectural design.
- 2 to ensure that the student's capacity for creativity is both deepened by carrying out complex designs and developing technical expertise to a high standard, and broadened by gaining greater knowledge of the physical, economic, social, political, environmental and intellectual context within which the activity of building and development takes place.
- 3 to build on the unique ethos of the BA (Hons) Architecture & Planning and BArch which emphasises the importance of an understanding of urban design and the study of context in the creation of successful architecture.
- 4 to refine aesthetic perceptions and skills and the ability to justify and communicate design decisions
- 5 to further develop professional attitudes, the professional ethos and practice techniques of an architect through study, through reflection on experience in practice and through maintaining a continuing dialogue with tutors
- 6 to heighten the understanding of management both in project management and in architectural practice, through the appraisal of approaches to management and building procurement and reflection on experience in practice.

7 to reinforce the awareness that architectural education is a continuous process throughout the life of the practising architect

8 to provide experience of advance independent enquiry in an aspect of architectural design or the context within which architecture exists, working near the boundaries of current knowledge

9 to develop students' higher level skills of research design, project management and communication

10 to develop the capacity to engage in sustained and rigorous inquiry into a topic

11 to foster a critical attitude towards the design and use of research in practice-orientated setting

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

A: Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the programme, the student should be able:	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
<p>1 to demonstrate a working knowledge of good and emerging practice in the construction of buildings in the UK</p> <p>2 to demonstrate a clear understanding of the influence of environmental structural and technological considerations on building and the influence of building design and specification decisions on the environment.</p> <p>3 to demonstrate a good awareness of the UK and EU law as it applies to the role of the architect, of methods of building procurement and building contracts, of the economics of building and the management of building projects and a professional office.</p> <p>4 to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the role of the architect and other professionals in society and of ethical issues as they relate to the architect's role in relation to clients, building users, the construction industry and the wider community.</p> <p>5. to demonstrate understanding of the relation of architectural production to contemporary culture and cultural traditions including the range of theories that inform architectural and urban design</p> <p>6. to demonstrate understanding of the relationship between people, building, the spaces between buildings and the environment</p>	<p>The central learning experience of the award is the dissertation which builds on the skills and knowledge developed in the design studio (with its focus on integrative design projects)the professional practice, technical and optional modules which are the vehicle for the planned exploration of key areas of knowledge through lectures, seminars and case studies.</p> <p>The dissertation is completed in the year following the completion of the BArch programme and is delivered through independent study under the supervision of a dissertation module tutor and specialist advisers.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Testing of knowledge and understanding is achieved through the dissertation, design project submissions, examinations, assessment of written coursework, and verbal presentations of design work.</p>

B: Intellectual skills

By the end of the programme, the student should be able:

1 to conceive and develop in selective detail a design for a complex building or group of buildings and outline the structural, construction and environmental control strategies

2 to demonstrate an ability to appraise critically the site and the context of a potential building

3 to demonstrate in the context of critical debate the ability to appraise an individual building or group of buildings in relation to the physical, intellectual and socio-economic context

4 to carry out a focused independent research project which includes the definition of the research question, the selection or devising of appropriate research strategy and methods, drawing of justified conclusions from evidence and communication of the findings in concise explicit written form with relevant and clear illustrations or other visual material

5 to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between scientific and social science research techniques and the professional practice of architecture and its cognate disciplines

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The core professional expertise of the architect is design and the key learning experience of the award is the project based design studio supplemented and deepened by the completion of the dissertation.

The studio experience consists of a series of design projects addressing closely defined briefs that address a range of cultural, functional, aesthetic technical and environmental issues. The projects are designed to integrate knowledge in technical and environmental areas.

The dissertation offers the opportunity to research in depth aspects of the cultural context, professional practice, technology, delivery and procurement methods or social context of architecture.

Assessment

Testing of knowledge and understanding is achieved through the dissertation, design project submissions, examinations, assessment of written coursework, and verbal presentations of design work.

C: Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

By the end of the programme, the student should be able:

- 1 to prepare a design brief in consultation with a client and real or potential users
- 2 to demonstrate in their designs a considered response to the physical, economic, social, cultural and environmental context of the project
- 3 to produce an effective review of existing literature, design precedents and other materials relevant to the topic
- 4 to show an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of their research strategy and a critical awareness of the research issues in the field of architectural design and building technology

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Design briefing as part of the relationship between the design team and the promoters and users of buildings is a key concern of the professional practice modules and is directly addressed in design studio modules.

The design projects briefs include technical and environmental elements that require students to explain the physical, economic, social, cultural and environmental context of design proposals.

The research skills are the focus of the two research modules and are delivered through a combination of lectures seminars, essays and individual presentations and the supervision and development of the dissertation itself.

Assessment

Briefing skills are tested through written submissions forming part design project work and verbal presentations.

The integration of technical and environmental knowledge is tested in design project work, including specific technical and explanatory submissions.

Research skills are assessed in the research based modules by examination, essay and verbal presentation and in the dissertation.

D: Transferable skills and other attributes

By the end of the programme, the student should be able:

1 to communicate to both technical and lay audiences the organisational, structural, constructional, and environmental control strategies and the experiential quality of a complex building or group of buildings through the use of a variety of media which will include drawings, models, text, verbal presentations and may also include CAD images, video presentations, computer simulations and other presentational techniques.

2 to work collaboratively with members of other professions and disciplines in a spirit of understanding and respect.

3 to produce a dissertation which meets specified requirements on word count, graphical representation and presentation and displays sustained high levels of critical analysis and expression

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The development of communication skills are an important part of the design studio learning. Students are required to make visual written and verbal presentations geared to the needs of a variety of audiences using a range of media including drawing, physical models, digital techniques and verbal presentation.

Team working skills are developed in the design studio especially in research and master-planning exercises and students will be given opportunities to engage with professionals in other disciplines in the role of clients and advisors

The dissertation is completed in the year following the completion of the BArch programme and is delivered through independent study under the supervision of a dissertation module tutor and specialist advisers.

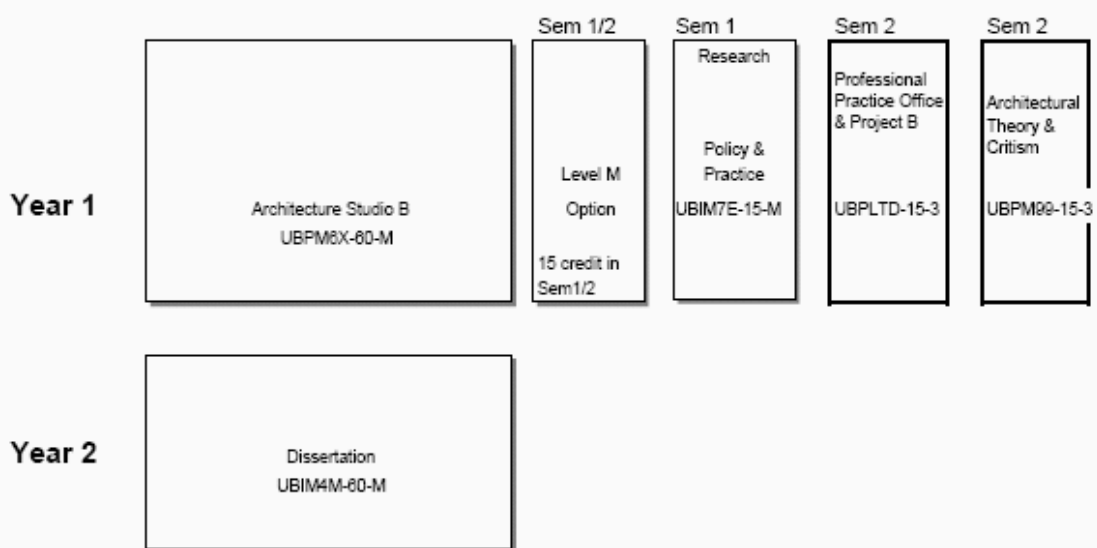
Assessment

Testing of presentation and team working skills is an integral part of the design studio assessment.

The dissertation is assessed in relation to well established criteria as agreed by the Faculty in terms of both method and content.

Section 4: Programme structure

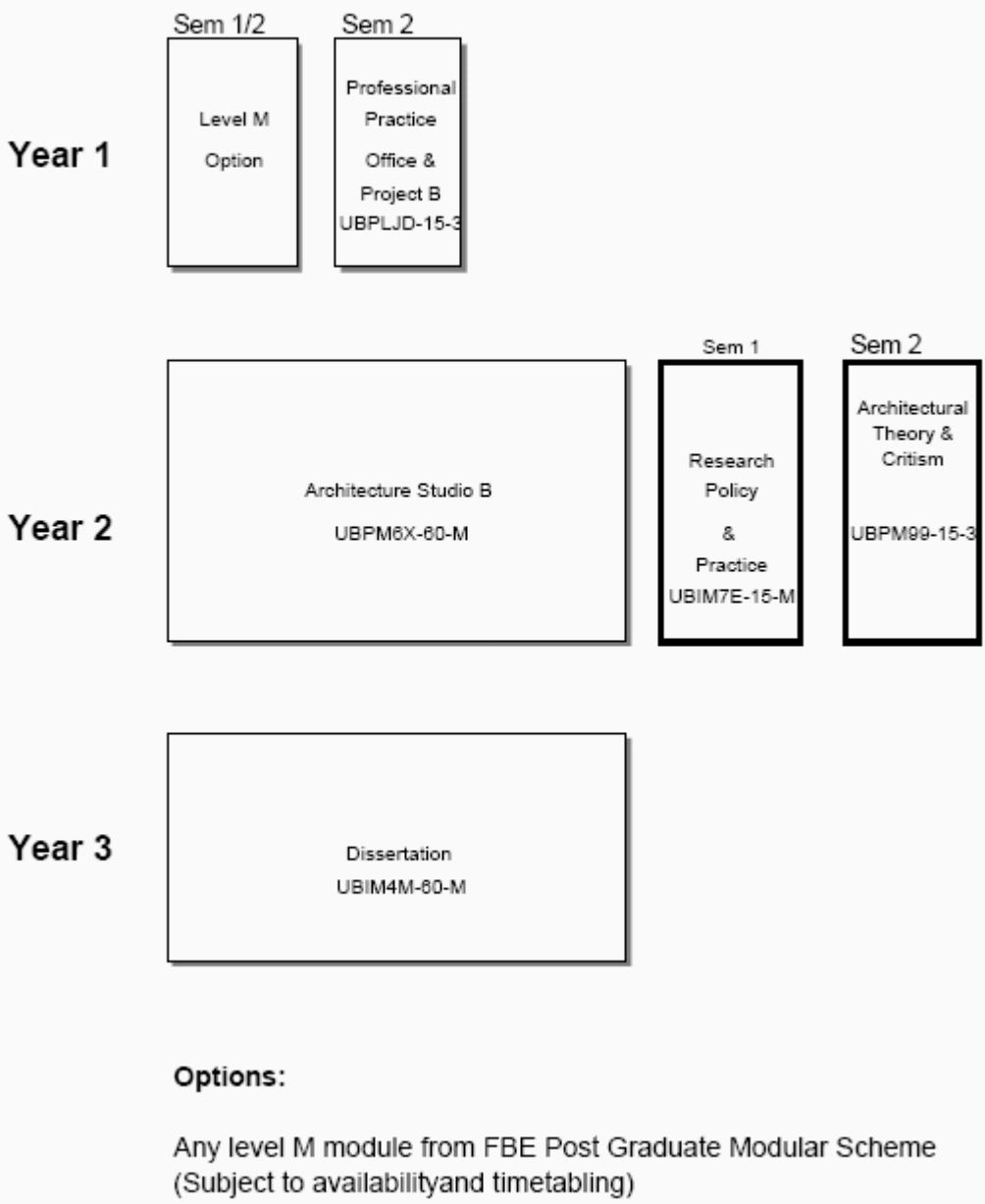
FIG 1: MA ARCHITECTURE K10012
Recommended routeway for full-time students



Options:

Any level M module from FBE Post Graduate Modular Scheme
 (Subject to availability and timetabling)

FIG 1: MA ARCHITECTURE K10012
Recommended routeway for part-time students



: Full-time structure
 : Part-time structure

The course diagrams (see Figure 1 for the recommended routeway for Full-time MA students and Figure 2 for the Part-time) indicate the overall structure of the awards.

4.1 Year One

A major design project is the focus of the first year of the MA Architecture award; it is located in the Architecture Studio B module (60 credits). It is an integrative design-based project that involves the students in the exploration of complex architectural issues and the subsequent production of a detailed design scheme. Students will be required to explain and justify their design scheme in both written and verbal presentations. Students will be required to produce a series of technical reports which explore the structural, environmental and procurement aspects of the final design. In parallel with design project work students complete the sequence of management studies with Professional Practice: Project & Office and complete the inter-disciplinary modules Research Frameworks and Conducting Built Environment Research in preparation for the dissertation which is completed in second year. Students also complete 20 credits worth of options from related courses within the PG Modular Scheme.

4.2 Year Two

The Students complete the PG Dissertation which considers in depth aspects of the cultural context, professional practice, technology, delivery and procurement methods or social context of architecture/architectural knowledge.

4.3 Recommended PT Routeway

The course has been designed to make it possible for students to study for the MA in Architecture while employed in professional practice.

In the first year of study students will enrol on two modules: Professional Practice: Office & Project and a level M option module.

In the second year they would take Architecture Studio B and the two 10 credit research modules (alternatively, they might choose to enrol on these modules in the first year).

The dissertation would be completed during the final, third year.

4.4 Modules

The award is made up of a series of modules specifically designed or selected to meet the needs of MA students.

The design project module (Architecture Studio B) provides the experience of architectural design which is at the core of the award. In this module, students working both collaboratively and individually develop the analytical and synthetic skills of design to the level necessary to contribute fully and creatively to the professional practice of architecture.

Investigation, analysis and appraisal of context and user needs, the study of precedent, understanding of building performance and knowledge of construction are brought together with developing creative skills of conceptualisation of form and structure to create well resolved proposals for buildings and other physical artefacts.

The dissertation is the culmination of the MA Architecture award and is completed in the second year of the full-time programme (third year of part-time programme).

4.5 Options

Students will choose (in consultation with and with the approval of the award leader) one 20 credit (or two 10 credit) optional module from a selection of those offered by the Faculty. These modules have been chosen from those offered by the Faculty at the appropriate levels to provide a range of specialised studies which complement the work of the studio modules and offer the opportunity to extend students' knowledge in related fields and have the potential to inform the definition of an MA dissertation research field.

Core modules

Level 3

UBPM99-15-3: Architectural Theory and Criticism (15)

UBPLJD-15-3: Professional Practice: Office and Project B (15)

Level M

UBPM6X-60-M: Architecture Studio B (60)

UBIM4M-60-M: Dissertation (60)

UBIM7V-20-M: Research for Policy and Practice (20)
(20)

Optional modules

Students should take 20 credits from the following options:

UBPM5U-10-M: Aesthetics and Urban Design (10)

UBPM5W-10-M: Design & Development In Historic Areas I: Design Scheme (10)

UBPM5X-10-M: Design & Development In Historic Areas II: Comparative Development Case Study (10)

UBCM39-10-M: Project Management Principles (10)

UBPM6A-20-M: Spatial Planning and Sustainability (20)

UBPM6B-10-M: Sustainable Development I: Principles (10)

UBPM6C-10-M: Sustainable Development II: Design (10)

Target Award

MA Architecture

180 credits of which at least 120 credits must be at level M

Default Award

Interim Awards

PG Certificate Architecture

60 credits of which at least 40 must be at level M, excluding the dissertation

PG Diploma Architecture

120 credits with at least 80 credits at level M, excluding the dissertation

Section 5: Entry requirements

See also the Standard faculty entry requirements apply.

Entry to the MA award will be available to students who are enrolled on the BArch award and have completed the 120 credits included in the recommended first year of that programme, or are the holders of other appropriate academic or professional qualifications in architecture or related design disciplines

All applicants must have completed a year's professional practice which is judged by the academic members of the award team to be relevant to the award prior to entry to the award.

Candidates are required to make a formal application for entry to the award. Applicants (other than those enrolled on the BArch award) will be invited to attend an Open Day at which the award aims, structure and teaching style will be explained and will be required to attend an interview and produce a portfolio of work for examination by the Admissions Tutor. In some circumstances the applicant may be asked to carry out an additional assignment or written test to demonstrate competence in particular areas.

NB The MA is not a degree which is validated or seeking validation by any profession body as part of a route to qualification or registration as an architect in the UK or elsewhere. The BArch award offered by this faculty has been designed to meet the requirements of RIBA/ARB for professional validation and candidate status has been applied for.

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

The regulations for this award are those set out in the current UWE Modular Assessment Regulations supplemented by Volume I of the PG Modular Scheme documentation.

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

This award has been designed to provide an opportunity for graduates of UWE's RIBA /ARB recognised Part I course (BA (Hons) Architecture and Planning) and its BArch programme to continue their education in architecture at postgraduate level through the completion of a dissertation for an MA award.

The award is also available to students with an appropriate academic background of study in architecture or a related design discipline at undergraduate level

7.1 Professional Accreditation

This award is not accredited by any professional bodies.

Section 8: Reference points/benchmarks

8.1 Research and Consultancy Underpinning

A fundamental principle which underpins this unique award in architecture is a strong link with the research centres of the faculty (The Centre for Environment & Planning, the Cities Research Centre, the Healthy Cities & Urban Policy Centre (linked with the World Health Organisation) and the Construction & Property Research Centre). The staff of these centres are involved in a wide range of research and consultancy project throughout the UK, Europe and beyond. Their current concerns will inform the themes chosen each year for Architecture Studio units and particular projects will be the starting point for design project work of the units and will offer opportunities for the development of relevant dissertation topics.

The research centres' activities are focussed on themes which cut across the interests of schools in the faculty and all have direct relevance to architecture. For example:

CE&P: sustainability and European spatial development; Cities: urban regeneration and housing; HC&UP: urban design, design and community safety; C&P: building conservation and sustainable building techniques