Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD003662	**Version:** 2 **Date Amended:** 17/Jun/2019

1. Module Title
Site Studies and Urban Design

2a. Module Leader
Negar Ahmadpoor

2b. School
School of Engineering and the Built Environment

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	MSc Urban Design MSc Town Planning		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The module has been designed to give students an understanding of the inseparable nature of the place and its context – a 'sense of place', and how this affects the design for new buildings and placemaking that are to contribute to the built environment. Apart from examining the influences of the primary elements that form the physical environment in its historic, present and future context, the relative legal and planning constraints that affect the built environment will be studied. Students will have the opportunity to survey, study, investigate and evaluate a real site/building and will learn how to develop an ability to analyse and evaluate elements of townscape. In particular the design elements that contribute to urban form and place shaping will be explored. As part of this process, students will be expected to develop/enhance their drawing and sketching skills, providing an enhanced understanding of the place, spaces between buildings, and the urban environment. Design procedures and processes will be examined and a development brief/proposal will be developed to suit a particular site. The proposed development will be for a new building(s) and place within the context of the existing townscape. 'Sense of Place' will be explored with contextual investigations of design proposals. Planning policy and guidance and the way in which they are implemented will be explored. The importance and implications of environmental criteria and financial targets will also be considered. The module is project based with introductory lectures, site visits, and tutorial teaching. Students will work both in groups and individually. Joint staff and student critic and presentations occur.

6b. Outline Content

Knowledge Based
- Detailed knowledge of the primary elements that form the physical environment in its historic, present and future context. (Criteria A1, A2, A4, B1 and B2)
- The legal and planning constraints that affect the Built Environment. (Criteria A3, A8, B2 and B16 – B20)
- Understanding of planning policy and guidance and how they affect the design new buildings and place shaping. (Criteria A8 and B2)
- Design Procedures and processes. (Criteria A3 & C9)

Skills Based
- The ability to critically analyse and evaluate elements of townscape. (Criteria A5, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B10 & C1)
- To identify the legal and planning determinants that affect buildings and place. (Criteria A8 and B2)
- The identification, analysis and evaluation of place and of existing buildings and sites that would benefit from improvement. (Criteria B11, B12, B13, B14, B15, C1 and C2)
- The identification of design constraints and opportunities. (Criteria A8, B10, & C4)
- The planning, selection, development, justification and presentation of alternative strategic proposals within a group and individually. (Criteria A9, A10, C2, C5)
- Effectively communicating to a good professional standard in the form of drawings, reports and oral presentations. (Criteria A9, A10, C5, C6, C7 and C9)

(Criteria indicated above relates to Capacitycheck checklist – Urban Design Alliance)

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Design Studio

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a systematic understanding of a range of analytical tools and techniques to appraise the urban environment.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically analyse development opportunities and to evaluate, select and apply appropriate urban design skills.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate problem-solving skills to identify, define and critically analyse constraints, then to synthesis a range of opportunities, both recognised and innovative.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Communicate effectively in graphic, written and oral forms, together with working continuously and autonomously on a design task.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	15	1-5	Lectures, tutorials/workshop sessions, site visits, group presentations and criticisms
Other teacher managed learning	15	1-5	Lectures, tutorials/workshop sessions, site visits, group presentations and criticisms
Student managed learning	120	1-5	Preparation of tutorial sessions, presentations and coursework
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1 3 4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
A4 illustrated 2400 words					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1-4	50 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
A3 illustrated 1,600 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]