Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD005207	**Version:** 5 **Date Amended:** 13/Sep/2024

1. Module Title
Major Project or Dissertation for MSc Town Planning

2a. Module Leader
Nezhapi-Delle Odeleye

2b. School
School of Engineering and the Built Environment

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Project or dissertation (fine graded)

4a. Credits
60

4b. Study Hours
600

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The Major Project or Dissertation module represents the culmination of learning on the MSC Town Planning courses, and provides an opportunity for students to develop and resolve an area of critical enquiry. This module will support you in the preparation and submission of a Master's stage Artefact or Dissertation, in an area that is of interest, and relevant to the course. This is a self-directed research project negotiated with course staff, where you'll have the choice of negotiating, managing, coordinating and bringing to successful conclusion a critically engaged and complex, major project artefact or dissertation within the field of town planning theory and practice.

You'll begin the module by formally presenting your artefact research proposal / project brief to staff and peers, building on the research design and methods module having identified a complex area for investigation and enquiry, along with research methods appropriate to the study or project. Following negotiation with staff, peers, and where appropriate outside agencies, any refinement needed to your research proposal is presented.

You'll demonstrate the ability to apply theory, integrate solutions, think strategically and be sensitive to changing environmental, cultural and social climates.

Each project brief is unique and can originate from a variety of sources; you'll need to consider urban design and planning issues, and the relationship of your proposal to urban design / town planning theory and wider sustainability debates. Socioeconomic and environmental responsibility are key in relation to urban design and planning, you'll need to synthesise the aesthetic and technical aspects of urban design or planning - demonstrating the development of these through your research informed study or proposal. To complete this module successfully you must demonstrate confident familiarity with literature in the field, detailed knowledge of methods, analyses and/or appropriate application of design / planning processes and the mechanisms involved in realising / enabling built form. It will involve group and individual tutorial dialogue considering relevant approaches, methodologies and potential project solutions.

This module is exempt from the full ethical approval process in accordance with section 6 of the Academic Regulations (www.anglia.ac.uk/academicregs). Expires May 2029

6b. Outline Content

Development of a Dissertation or an Artefact (such as; an urban design proposal or framework, planning / development brief, design code, supplementary planning document, toolkit / guidance) – to include as appropriate:

Clear aims: clarity and reasoning behind objectives, area/site selection, degree of challenge in the project brief.

Review of literature and theory: demonstrating depth, coherence and relevance of theory – including analysis, evaluation and application of design and planning concepts, and how people, buildings or the topic, relates to contextual issues at an urban or rural scale.

Research methodology: strategy, methods and the relevance and reasoning behind their adoption – including

Consideration of ethical issues and guidelines within professional practice and design / planning criticism.

Critical analysis: appreciation of primary and secondary data quality / evaluation of site (or topic) contexts and understanding of the subject as evidenced by interpretation.

Communication of research and proposals through written, visual &/or other media representations, written and oral presentation.

Conclusions and Output (proposed solution): justification and relevance, overall presentation, clarity and literacy – Evidenced by the recommendation or creation of solutions that satisfy b technical &/or aesthetic requirements.

Critical Reflection: Examine their individual approach and develop a sense of personal and professional responsibility towards urban design or planning enquiry.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

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

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

May include use of spatial analyses (e.g. CAD, Space syntax, GIS) or other specialist software;

Model-making workshop, Field site visits and Case studies (e.g. AJ Building Database, Rudi.net).

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	With reference to a chosen significant and complex area for enquiry, establish a method for investigating / exploring key concepts, theoretical principles or models.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate critical awareness of complex issues in the development of urban design or planning practice.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate reflective and self-critical awareness in the development and resolution of visual practice.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically justify and rigorously apply appropriate methodologies, techniques and practical strategies, being sensitive to their technical, social, and environmental context.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate an awareness of professional issues in the exploration and production of urban design or planning proposals with emphasis on integrated solutions.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Reflect critically on the methodology of the investigation / enquiry and where appropriate, indicate how solutions to potential ethical dilemmas were addressed.

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	0	None	None
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-6	Up to 7 hours of group seminars, and up to 5 hours of Supervision. This could include in-person / online contact which may be comprised of individual meetings, group sessions, &/or communications by email and /or telephone.
Student managed learning	588	1-6	Self-directed study and ongoing development of artefact / dissertation on a weekly basis outside of supervised and group session.
TOTAL:	600		

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	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Major Project or Dissertation 15,000 words equivalent. Compensation does not apply.					

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]